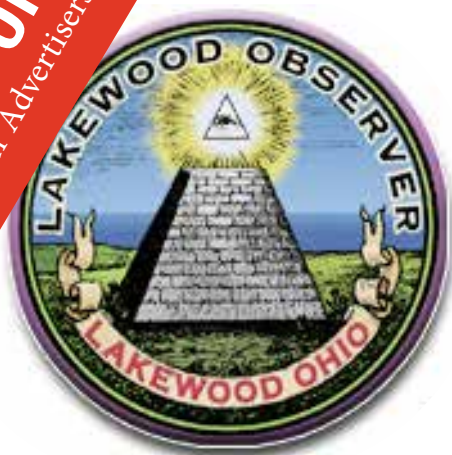


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Volume 14, Issue 04, February 21, 2018

"I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people." *Maya Angelou*

Judge Patrick Carroll Criticizes Dog Policy As Costly, Divisive

by Matt Kuhns

Lakewood Municipal Court Judge Patrick Carroll recently dismissed a lawsuit filed on behalf of a local dog, "Charlie," but sternly criticized the City of Lakewood's role in the proceedings.

The lawsuit objected to a city order calling for Charlie's removal from Lakewood, under local breed-specific legislation that bans pit-bull type dogs. Judge Carroll ruled that his court was not the right venue to decide the issues at hand, which are currently before the County Court of Common Pleas as well.

In the conclusion to his ruling, however, Carroll took the City of Lakewood to task for its handling of the controversy.

"In reviewing the number of court decisions involved



Photo by Greg Murray

in this case, I am awed by the staggering amount of public funds spent on attorney's fees to dispute conflicts between

a state statute and a municipal ordinance that covers the same area and with the same goal of public safety," he wrote.

(Ohio removed breed-specific language from state animal control law in 2015.)

Carroll suggested that the city's resources could be better spent on other problems. Additionally, he criticized "long term costs to the community," as a result of "continuing to maintain divisive policies, regardless of the validity of an ordinance, which pit neighbor against neighbor and fosters

greater division in this community."

Lakewood's breed-specific dog restrictions have generated numerous protests since their introduction in 2008.

Citizens have repeatedly objected to the policy, which bans all pit-bull type dogs as inherently dangerous. In 2017, opponents of breed-specific

continued on page 3

Ramsey-Caserio Leaving To Head N. Ridgeville Schools

by Christine Gordillo

Assistant Superintendent Roxann Ramsey-Caserio has been named the next Superintendent of the North Ridgeville City Schools. She will leave her position with the District on July 31 after serving Lakewood City Schools for nine years in various administrative positions.

Ramsey-Caserio begins her new position in North Ridgeville on August 1. The North Ridgeville Board of Education gave unanimous approval of her selection at a special meeting on February 10.

"It has been a blessing to work in Lakewood, where I have forged great relationships with all stakeholder groups and truly experienced the value of collaboration and solid leadership," Ramsey-Caserio said. "I have been incredibly fortunate



to have spent this time in the Lakewood community, and all of my experiences here have prepared me to take this next step in my career as a Superintendent."

Ramsey-Caserio joined the District in 2009 as Coordinator of Teaching & Learning.

continued on page 7

LakewoodAlive Kicks Off 2018 "Knowing Your Home" Series With Two March Workshops

by Matt Bixenstine

"Creating A Sound Investment" on March 8; "All About Fireplaces" on March 15

Ready to think spring and tackle home improvement projects? We're here to help. LakewoodAlive will commence the fifth season of its popular "Knowing Your Home" home maintenance educational series by hosting a pair of useful workshops during March.

"Knowing Your Home: Creating A Sound Investment" takes place on Thursday, March 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Bottlehouse Brewery Lakewood (13368 Madison Avenue in Lakewood) and "Knowing Your Home: All About Fireplaces" takes place on Thursday, March 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Hearth Shop (27303 Center Ridge Road in Westlake). As always, both workshops are free and open to the public.

The kickoff workshop for 2018 will feature a panel discussion focused on the process



LakewoodAlive kicks off its 2018 "Knowing Your Home" series with workshops on March 8 and March 15.

of undertaking larger home improvement projects. "Creating A Sound Investment" aims to equip homeowners with knowledge and confidence to succeed with taking on a major project. Panelists will share wisdom and insights to make the construction process more streamlined and effective, saving you time and money.

Moderated by Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive, the panel of experts for "Creating A Sound Investment" consists of:

Dana Paul, Prairie Stone
Vince Valentino,
Cleveland Lumber Co.

Chuck McGettrick, Architects C.A. McGettrick, Inc.

Bill Gaydos, William J. Gaydos & Associates, LLC

New to the "Knowing Your Home" lineup, "All About Fireplaces" seeks to address everything you need to know about your fireplace. For many homeowners with older homes, the fireplace can represent both a source of comfort and an enigma.

Led by our friends at The Hearth Shop, this presentation will cover a wide range of topics including:

How to ensure your fireplace is working safely

How a fireplace system works

Proper fireplace maintenance

Upgrading or converting your fireplace

Options for installing a new fireplace

To reserve your free spot for either or both workshops, visit LakewoodAlive.org/Events or call 216-521-0655.

Now in its fifth year, LakewoodAlive's "Knowing
continued on page 15

Eleven Is Lucky Number For BEER ENGINE And LCAC!

by Celia Dorsch

BEER ENGINE, Lakewood's premier draft beer bar, says, "Thank You, for your business," by giving back to the community!

In celebration of its 11th anniversary, BEER ENGINE, will dedicate March 1st - 18th, in support of Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. - LCAC. During that time, patrons are invited to purchase personalized taps, mugs, growlers and kegs to paper the walls of BEER ENGINE. Prices vary from

\$1.00 to \$100.00. Purchases of growlers and kegs include the chance to win one of four \$50 BEER ENGINE gift cards. Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation will receive 100% of the money raised during the anniversary campaign. BEER ENGINE additionally pledges to match the week's earnings up to \$4,000!

BEER ENGINE has a long-standing commitment to great service, great food, and fresh craft beer. Located
continued on page 3

Hot Off The Deck



Hip Hop Superstar Ezri was shooting his latest video at Lakewood High.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!



Dan Slife, Tom Bullock, Jim O'Bryan (by Chris Trapp)

| Thread Title | Author | Posts | Reads | Date |
|--|----------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Hercule Poirot Where Are You? | Bill Call | 11 | 224 | Mon Feb 19 |
| Student speech against gun violence | Dan Alaimo | 3 | 175 | Mon Feb 19 |
| Build LKWD Trolls, Fake Personas, Impersonators Mirror Russian Meddlers' Tactics | Brian Essi | 5 | 497 | Mon Feb 19 |
| The Photo Tom Bullock Doesn't Want You to See | Michael Deneen | 37 | 1666 | Mon Feb 19 |
| Historical or Hysterical? | Jim O'Bryan | 10 | 744 | Mon Feb 19 |
| Lakewood Sends Their "Building Hate" | Jim O'Bryan | 4 | 428 | Sun Feb 18 |
| It's Fish Fry Season Again!! | Gary Rice | 8 | 418 | Sat Feb 17 |
| Free Speech Still Welcomed Here | Jim O'Bryan | 2 | 189 | Sat Feb 17 |
| Trinity Lutheran | Michael Loje | 36 | 2202 | Fri Feb 16 |
| LHF Now Three Arches Foundaton | Jim O'Bryan | 43 | 2827 | Fri Feb 16 |
| NEWS FLASH! Bullock Buddy, JAY CARSON, Closed Mouthed on His Campaign Against Open Govt in House District 13 | Brian Essi | 21 | 1038 | Tue Feb 13 |
| Jennifer Scott vs City Of Lakewood Legal Conclusion | Jim O'Bryan | 6 | 4507 | Tue Feb 13 |
| Starbucks : is it official they are replacing Burger King? | Matthew Lee | 9 | 506 | Mon Feb 12 |
| Lakewood's New Motto | Michael Deneen | 0 | 304 | Mon Feb 12 |
| Lakewood Voters No Longer Needed | Jim O'Bryan | 25 | 1149 | Sun Feb 11 |

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| March 1, 2018 | March 7, 2018 |
| March 15, 2018 | March 21, 2018 |

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City

Friends Of The Lakewood Dog Park Think Spring

by Karen Karp

Got cabin fever? Longing for spring? Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP) has the answer.

Please join us for our annual rite of spring, Photos with Hoppy Paws. The FLDP fundraiser is on Sunday, March 4, 2018, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pet's General Store, 16821 Madison Avenue, in Lakewood, OH.

The guest of honor, Hoppy Paws, a super-size Easter bunny, will be posing for pictures with his canine friends and their human peeps. No appointment is necessary, just hop on over.

Photographer Martha Widdowson, of Portraits by Martha, will be behind the camera to capture all the fun. Traditional portraits begin at \$12 for one 5 x 7 or two 4 x 6 photos. She will have many additional photo accessories and packages available. A portion of each sale will benefit Friends of Lakewood Dog Park, Inc.

Sit, stay and enjoy human treats provided by Pet's General Store and Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park. While you are nibbling, browse through an assortment of colorful, handmade fleece toys, perfect for all very good dogs.

Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park



is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that works with the City of Lakewood to care for the dog park and raises funds for dog park improvements.

Visit the FLDP website, lakewood-dogpark.com, or find us on Facebook, Lakewood Dog Park - Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, to learn more about FLDP, sign up for email and check for upcoming events.

Eleven Is Lucky Number For BEER ENGINE And LCAC!

continued from page 1

at 15315 Madison Ave. in Lakewood, BEER ENGINE features two beer hand pumps, also known as a beer engine. The beer is pumped from a cask in the basement cellar to the bar upstairs. Cask beer, while relatively uncommon, is naturally carbonated and unfiltered. In addition to the casks, 27 quality drafts and a wide variety of bottles are available..

BEER ENGINE is proud to partner with LCAC in serving Lakewood. LCAC's volunteer board, assisted by hundreds of event volunteers, provide food and cleaning supplies for over 750 disadvantaged families and seniors each year. Since its inception, LCAC has provided over 5,000 Lakewood families with holiday food bags at Thanksgiving and Christmas - www.lcac.info.

We Can Be Heroes, If Just For One Day

by Jim O'Bryan

Hero [heer-oh]
noun, plural heroes; for 5 also heros.

1. a person noted for courageous acts or nobility of character:
2. a person who, in the opinion of others, has special achievements, abilities, or personal qualities and is regarded as a role model or ideal:

One of the hidden strengths in any community are the heroes who reside there. Special people, often quiet and unsung and without the need for kudos or special thanks, that do extraordinary things to make the lives of those around them better, safer, and more enjoyable.

We all know/knew heroes that have affected our lives or the lives of others. Teachers, police, fire, are common heroes in everyday life. But there are others: the neighbor that helps look after the people around them. A

shop owner that reaches out to help an employee or stranger on the street. It can be as easy as helping an elderly person cross the street, buying someone coffee on a cold winter day to help them stay warm, giving a handicapped person a ride home. Whatever.

This past issue we had three stories submitted about heroes, so in keeping with the heartbeat of the Lakewood community, let's hear more. Send in a short call-out or story about a hero in your neighborhood or life, and if we print it, the person gets a gift certificate from one of the many restaurants we work with, and you will get the same.

"We can be heroes, if just for one day! Though nothing, will keep us together We could steal time, just for one day We can be heroes, forever and ever"

David Bowie, "Heros"

See our first hero story on page 11

Judge Patrick Carroll Criticizes Dog Policy As Costly, Divisive

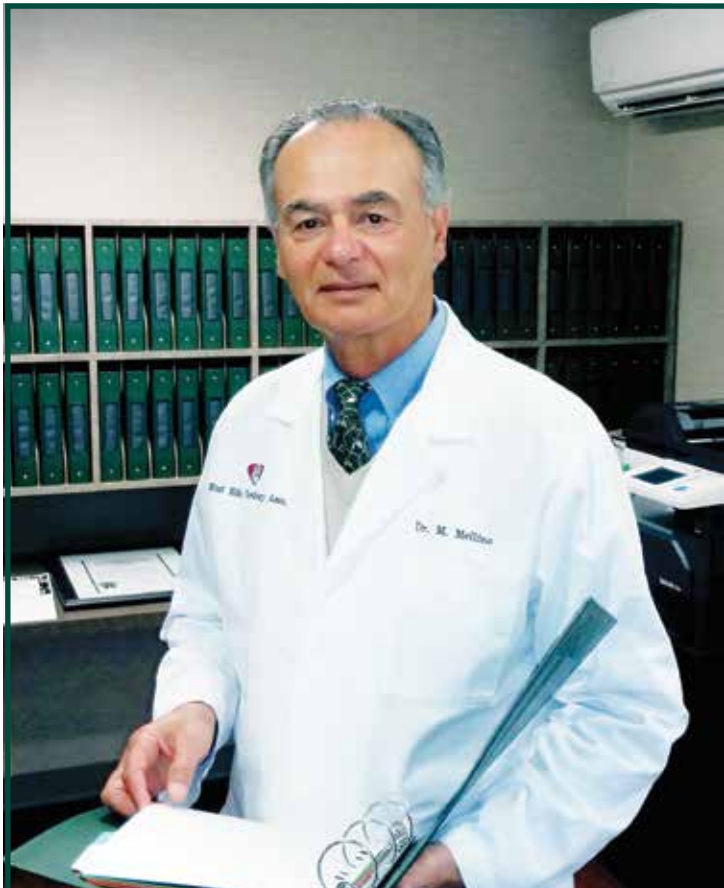
continued from page 1

legislation intensified their campaign in response to the threatened banishment of Charlie, a dog owned by Lakewood resident Jennifer Scott. After previously approving Charlie to live in Lakewood, when Charlie got loose from the Scott home last year, Lakewood animal control picked up the dog and reversed the earlier judgment.

Scott brought actions against the city in both Lakewood Municipal Court and the county Court of Common Pleas. Scott's lawsuits, the second of which remains before the Court of Common Pleas, are the latest in a series of legal fights over Lakewood's ban.

Recently some of Lakewood's elected officials have gestured toward amending the ordinance. At the end of December, Mayor Mike Summers and three members of City Council proposed an update that would permit pit-bull type dogs, but retain some breed-specific restrictions. A few days later Summers added in an e-mail to council 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."

City Council has tentatively scheduled a discussion of Lakewood's dog ordinances for its next Committee of the Whole meeting, at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 26.



Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 | 11:30 a.m.

Marcello Mellino, M.D.
Medical Director of Cardiovascular Services
at O'Neill Healthcare
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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, February 22, 2018

Performance – Great Lakes Theater Classics on Tour “Huck Finn”

Great Lakes Theater’s Classics on tour presents Huck Finn. Adapted by Eric Schmiedl and based on the novel The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. Two runaways – a boy and a slave – team-up for adventure on the mighty Mississippi! On the journey, they learn lessons of integrity, dignity, and friendship.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Film - “To Kill a Mockingbird” (1962)

In a dusty Depression-era Southern town, a white woman (Collin Wilcox) accuses Tom Robinson (Brock Peters), a black man, of rape. Atticus Finch (Gregory Peck) serves as the defense attorney for the case and finds his distinguished reputation at stake. His children Scout and Jem turn their attention from spying on their elusive neighbor Boo Radley (Robert Duvall) to the tension-filled trial.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Jazz Clinic Series Led by Chris Vance

Each concert consists of performances by a wide array of artists, a brief lecture dealing with the topic at hand, and a Q & A session where audience members can engage with the performers.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Documentary - The Last Trailer Park (2016) Directed by Raychel Brightman, Presented by Cleveland Tenants Organization

Inside the last trailer park in Nassau County, a tight-knit community has dispersed after a nine-year legal battle. Now the last remaining family struggles against a deadline to find an alternative to becoming homeless. Harvard University professor Matthew Desmond made a trailer park his home and watched as families were evicted and forced into shelters. His research, “the most comprehensive, detailed data on American urban poverty, housing and eviction” is the foundation of his book Evicted. Following The Last Trailer Park, we will also show an interview with Desmond.
6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Author Event - “Imagine a Forest: Designs and Inspirations for Enchanting Folk Art” Book by Dinara Mirtalipova

From the inspired mind of Dinara Mirtalipova comes Imagine a Forest, a drawing and design guide to creating your own Eastern European folklore inspired artwork. The lush and captivating illustrations and encouraging, easy-to-follow advice featured in these step-by-step tutorials will guide you through Mirtalipova’s gorgeous folk-art drawings and inspire you to create your own. She uses a wide range of materials and tools, including lino blocks, gouache and acrylics. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Film - “Double Indemnity” (1944) Directed by Billy Wilder

An ordinary house call to a client turns sinister as soon as Walter Neff (Fred Mac Murray) meets the client’s conniving wife, Phyllis Dietrichson (Barbara Stanwyck). Phyllis intends to take out a life insurance policy on her husband, kill him, and collect the payout. Walter falls under her spell and is roped into her murderous scheme. The perfect plan turns complicated when Phyllis’s stepdaughter Lola (Jean Heather) begins to suspect foul play.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Concert - Wallace Coleman

As a youth in eastern Tennessee, Wallace Coleman was captivated by the sounds he heard from Nashville’s WLAC; they were playing the Blues. He says, “I would be sittin’ in class and hear Howlin’ Wolf singin’ just as clear in my head.” Cleveland Blues royalty Robert Lockwood Jr. said he would never hire a harmonica player, then he heard Coleman play. Coleman toured with Lockwood for the next ten years before forming his own band.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Talk - Hospice 101

Presentation by Nancy Miller, RN

Hospice care not only provides a team-oriented approach to expert medical care and pain management, but hospice care goes further than that and gives emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient’s needs and wishes. Find out more about Hospice Care Services for yourself or your loved ones from Nancy Miller, RN at Hospice of the Western Reserve. You will learn the steps to receive care including how to get referred, how it is paid for and the types of services available.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Friends’ Spring Book Sale Preview

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host the spring book sale preview. Memberships may be purchased at the door for as little as \$3.00.
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Friends Book Sale Room.

Non-Fiction Book Club

Come and join the conversation during our newest book club. There are sure to be serious and thought-provoking discussions about many subjects inspired by these non-fiction works. Tonight we will discuss Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President by Candice Millard.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Saturday, March 10, 2018

Friends’ Spring Book Sale

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host the Friends Spring Book Sale at Lakewood Public Main Library, 15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH.
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Friends Book Sale Room.

Strokes Of Genius Fun

by Marge Foley

Do you enjoy art? Do you like to use markers, oil pastels and paint? Are you in the second, third or fourth grade? If you answered “yes” to these questions, sign up for the Strokes of Genius program at the Lakewood Public Library. You will have the opportunity to learn about renowned artists and then have fun creating your own masterpiece in each artist’s style. Register for this program online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. You can also register at the Children’s and Youth Services desk at the Main Library or the Madison Branch.



Fun art projects allow students to explore their creativity.

Strokes of Genius will meet in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on Tuesdays, March 6, 2018 through April 17, 2018 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify telecommunications equipment on the rooftop of an existing building located at 14312 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Dina Bazzill, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. Comments must be received within 30 days. For questions please call Dina Bazzill at 770-667-2040 x.111. T4399/JDT



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Lakewood Public Library

Spring Into The Spring Book Sale!

by Genevieve Jaskulski

It's time for our spring book sale, and we are so excited to once again showcase one of our biggest highlights here at Lakewood Public Library. We have an amazingly large selection of materials for our beloved patrons. This time around, our special attraction for the Spring sale is in the Big Better Book area located in the main library's lower level lobby. They will all be half price, even including new materials. We will also have a nice selection of military history and transportation books for our patrons to peruse. This will be one of the featured areas in the Big Better Book section.

Our sale will take place on Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Main Library Friends Book Sale Room and as always; for our Friends of the Library members,

Hospice 101:
Help Is Available

by Lisa Calfee

Hospice provides care for individuals and families when they need it the very most. On Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7 p.m., Nancy Miller, RN at The Hospice of the Western Reserve will visit Lakewood Public Library for an informative discussion about end-of-life and palliative care services that are available and how to access them.

For 40 years, The Hospice of the Western Reserve has been working to



the preview sale will be on Thursday, March 8 2018 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. It should be noted that It's time to renew Friends memberships, for patrons who have not already done so it will be \$3.00

for an individual membership.

We have permanently reduced the price of audio CDs to 25 cents, we have so much great material that has been hand selected for the convenience and happiness of our customers to be assured.

You would truly be hard pressed to walk away from our sale without something for yourself, or your family, in our treasure trove of lovely, and affordable

surprises. Our eclectic and expansive collection of wonderfully accessible materials for you to enjoy has been meticulously sorted by our amazingly dedicated Friends of the Library, who spend countless hours in preparation for our sales, and who donate their time and energy to the quality of our selection.

With summer coming up, the Library is so especially grateful to our Friends of the Library, and the time they put in. Their effort to bring you the best quality; at an insanely affordable price, is actually what funds a good majority of the programs we are so thrilled to be a part of here.

Summer concerts are just around the corner, and there is so much to anticipate as the season warms up. We are looking forward to every single program, and not to mention welcoming a little more sunshine here and there.

If you have any questions about our book sale, or any of the other fantastic programs coming up, please feel free to ask one of the helpful and enthusiastic staff members behind one of our service desks. Happy spring everyone!

understand and adjust to the needs of patients, caregivers and the bereaved in Northeast Ohio. The list of services is comprehensive, from specialized care for specific illnesses such as COPD to a Pet Therapy Program. Whether physical, emotional or spiritual in nature, The Hospice of the Western Reserve strives diligently to provide for the needs of clients.

During the talk, you will learn about the wide range of services and how they are paid for, the steps for receiving care and how to get referred. The meeting takes place in the Main Basement Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue.



Nancy Miller, RN from The Hospice of the Western Reserve



Illustration Creation And Art Connection

by Jeffrey Siebert

Calling all artists in kindergarten through first grade! Do you love to look at the illustrations in picture books? Create your own masterpieces in Illustration Creation, an engaging art program featuring picture book illustration at the Lakewood Public Library. This six week program will feature a different children's book illustrator and author each week for project inspiration and will culminate in an art show for family and friends.

Illustration Creation will be on Thursdays, March 8 through April 12, 2018 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room of Children's and Youth Services. The art show will be on April 19, 2018 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room. Space is limited and registration is required.

Art Connection is a one day program for students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Fun and engaging art activities let you express your view of the world. Create your own unique piece of art to take home and show off to family and friends. Art Con-

nection will be on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room. Registration is required. To register for either program, stop by the Children's desk or call 216-226-8275x140.



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City News And Politics

City Council Supports County’s Proposed Fee On Plastic Bags

by Matt Kuhns

Lakewood City Council formally supports a county-wide fee on plastic shopping bags, which Cuyahoga County Council has been considering since late last year.

Council members Tristan Rader (At-large) and Sam O’Leary (Ward 2) introduced a resolution in favor of the county proposal, at the February 5 City Council meeting. Council members approved the resolution by a 6-1 vote.

The vote “strongly encourages the honorable council of Cuyahoga County

to adopt the ordinance O2017-0006, a pollution-control measure which creates a 10¢ bag fee charged for disposable bags at retailers,” said Rader.

The resolution was covered by local media, and spurred a variety of questions at the meeting and in the community. One station’s coverage may have created a false impression that Lakewood plans its own plastic bag fee; in reality council’s vote was a nonbinding resolution in support of action at the county government level.

O’Leary noted that the county’s

proposal itself remains up for debate, and that “it is likely that this iteration of the legislation will have to change” in some way to win a majority on County Council. Rader says that he and O’Leary introduced the resolution in part to encourage County Council, where legislation introduced by members Sunny Simon and Lakewood’s representative Dale Miller has been stalled for several weeks.

The proposal’s general outlines, however, are: a county-wide plastic shopping bag fee of 10¢, with the proceeds mostly funding retailers’ expenses for participation, environmental cleanup efforts, and a program to promote and distribute free reusable shopping bags. Smaller stores and people on public assistance would be exempt from the fee, as would plastic bags for meat and other items where food safety is a concern.

Advocates of the proposal describe it as mainly a means to promote a cultural shift toward reusable bags, through free bags and a promotional effort funded by the fee. They point toward similar efforts by other regional governments, and some entire countries, which have produced a substantial decrease in plastic bag use.

Nonetheless bag fees and bans have proved controversial, particularly in the United States. An industry-funded campaign called the “Progressive Bag

Alliance” has lobbied fiercely against them.

Lakewood City Council member David Anderson (Ward 1) voted against the resolution, after questioning the county proposal on various points. Anderson suggested that the fee could create problems for cities which collect recycling using bags, instead of carts or bins.

Environmentalists themselves have had mixed reactions to bag-reduction measures, as well.

The recycling rate for plastic shopping bags is low, and discarded bags indisputably contribute to plastic contamination in waterways and the food chain. Rader pointed to this issue in his comments. “This is just something that’s very important to me and I think it’s... crucial to our environment,” he said. “Lakewood particularly has 3½ miles of coastline if I’m not mistaken, and we also have about a mile of river line. So protecting these resources is really incumbent upon us.”

But experts have warned that reducing bag waste could worsen other environmental problems, including greenhouse gas emissions, depending on what takes disposable bags’ place. Producing and distributing cotton

Read the rest of this great article online at:
<http://lakewoodobserver.com>

Final Call For Nominations For Lakewood’s Women Honoring Women Event

by “Kristy Feyedelem

The Lakewood Women’s Club annual event, Women Honoring Women, is fast approaching on May 10th, 2018. The main focus of this event is to honor women who work or live in the community and whom are making notable contributions to it. The application deadline was recently extended from January 26th to February 23rd in the hopes to receive a few more applications for the two categories; Emerging and Distinguished leaders.

All the event information and application is on our website:
<https://lakewoodwomensclub.weebly.com> under the Events tab.

Last years event at Georgetown/ Vosh was a huge success and raised money for our then charity recipient,

Trinity of Lakewood and a high school graduate who was selected from our scholarship program.

Among all of the fabulous attendees last year, Lakewood Representative, Nickie Antonio, was the events MC along with Author Laura Ponticello who was the inspirational guest speaker.

This years speaker will be revealed soon and will also be presenting a powerful and uplifting story that guests will surely enjoy. This year we are raising money for our charity recipien, Gigi’s Playhouse. Tickets will be available soon and will more than likely sell out so keep an eye on our social media accounts for the latest updates.

Website: <https://lakewoodwomensclub.weebly.com>

Beware Of New IRS Refund Fraud

by Marguerite Harkness

The 2018 “Scam de Jour” has been identified and is already rearing its ugly head this filing season.

In a new twist, the fraudulent returns in a few cases used the taxpayers’ REAL bank accounts for the deposit. A woman posing as a debt collection agency official then contacted the taxpayers to say a refund was deposited in error and asked the taxpayers to forward the money to her.

This could happen in several ways: if YOU filed your return and had a refund coming; or if a fraudster filed on your Social Security number and set up a refund coming; and in either case, had it deposited to your own bank account. Even if your real return has you OWING IRS, a fraudster could have filed a fake return with a fake refund coming.

NEVER EVER ASSUME THIS REQUEST IS LEGITIMATE. Never send money to someone who says you owe taxes or need to repay it.

ESPECIALLY IF IT IS A PHONE REQUEST.

Always forward the written correspondence to your CPA who can check it out. The CPA who has prepared your tax return, knows if there is a refund expected, and how much it should be. A true IRS letter will say what changes they made to your return and explain why your refund will be different than

expected.

In my years of practice, I have NEVER known or heard of IRS refunding the money and then calling to say they want some of it back.

Even though IRS has recently hired debt collection agencies to collect past-due taxes – they will never contact you out of the blue for a brand-new issue. You would already know that you owe money and have to make payment arrangements. EVEN IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE – never assume this request is legitimate. Have your CPA check it out.

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Schools

LHS Course Guide Provides Something For Everyone

by Christine Gordillo

Students at Lakewood High School and middle school 8th graders are busy poring over the latest LHS Course Guide in preparation for filling out schedule requests for next school year. They are likely finding that the hardest part of the process is narrowing down the choices from a course selection that is arguably the broadest in the state with more than 200 courses.

Of course have your basics like

English, Algebra 1, U.S. History and Biology, but how many other schools offer Horticulture, Fantasy/ Science Fiction in Literature, Fashion Design & Global Foods? Not to mention the four foreign languages, 16 Advanced Placement classes and the 12 West Shore Career-Tech programs housed at Lakewood High. West Shore includes such diverse options as Theatre Arts, Cisco Networking, Automotive Technology and Culinary Arts, where students have the opportunity to run their

own restaurant.

The music curriculum will wow you with its performance classes of five orchestras, five choirs and three bands in addition to Music Theory and AP Music Theory, Piano and Music History. And it doesn't stop there. Students can join extracurricular ensembles as well such as the Ranger Marching Band and The Lakewood Project. The same wide selection can be found in the Arts Department.

Junior Frankie Bruening said she feels fortunate to have such an array of choices at her school. "Lakewood High offers a myriad of courses that allows every student to find something they are truly interested in," she said. "My personal favorite class has been Human Rights and Conflict with Mr. Loboizzo because

the content was intriguing and Mr. Loboizzo is very passionate about what he teaches."

The thick Course Guide also lights a fire under 8th graders getting their first glimpse of all the high school has to offer.

"I am super excited about the variety of so many classes that you can pick and choose from," said Harding Middle School's Ellie Humphrey. "It makes me even more excited for the fall."

With the variety of classes and extracurricular activities available, it's true that there is something for every student.

It's also true what Board of Education Vice President Linda Beebe is fond of saying: "I don't know how anyone can say they are bored at Lakewood High."

Grant Elementary Math Teams Bring Home Honors



photo by Jim O'Bryan

by Christine Gordillo

A dozen Grant Elementary fifth-graders won honors for their performance at the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics competition on February 10. The students are part of the school's Math Club, which meets biweekly to practice math problems just for fun.

Teachers Sean McGuan and Christine Masgras are advisers of the club, which is open to any fifth-grade math student. Teacher Jessie Holland also helped in preparing for the competition. The club entered three teams in the competition.

The event is a five-part competition, each part timed. The first two rounds are solving challenging multi step word problems from a variety of skill sets. The third round is following specific directions to construct

a geometric design -precisely. The fourth round is mental math..no writing anything! The final round is called pile of 10 and is a very short quick round of quick word problems let challenging than the first two rounds.

"We are so proud of all of them and are already looking forward to participating again next year," Masgras said.

The following Math Club students earned recognition:

Trophy team:

Cal Holland, Anna Daso, Daniel O'Brien and Colton Moran

Champions (blue ribbon):

Anna Maurer, Shannon Katzenberger, Georgia Young, Iris Wright, Wyatt Crouch, Alessio Matera, Ian Molinski and Matthew Calleri

Ramsey-Caserio Leaving To Head N. Ridgeville Schools



continued from page 1

In 2010, she took the helm of Grant Elementary School as principal. Under her leadership, Grant earned the prestigious distinction of being one of only 141 schools in the Ohio named as a 'School of Promise' by the Ohio Department of Education for closing the achievement gap. In 2013, she returned to the Board of Education

administrative office as Director of Teaching & Learning, K-12. Finally, in April 2014, Ramsey-Caserio was named Assistant Superintendent.

"We wish Roxann the best as she takes this well-deserved next step as an educational leader," said Superintendent Jeff Patterson. "She has been a valuable member of our team these past nine years and she will be missed."



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LHS Dance Show February 23 & 24

by Christine Gordillo

It's time to boogie away those winter blahs! Come see the Lakewood High Dance Group performance of "Boogie! A Showcase of Student Choreography" one Friday, February 23 or Saturday, February 24 at the Civic Auditorium and enjoy an evening youthful energy and enthusiasm as our talented students entertain you with a variety of dance styles. It's always a fun show for all ages.

Tickets are \$5 or \$3 for students. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

Sports

Rangers Top Demons To Stay In Conference Title Chase

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood boys hoops team defeated Westlake 57-32 on Tuesday night at LHS, retaining their spot in first place of the Southwestern Conference with only two conference games remaining. The Rangers swept the season series from the Demons, and boosted their overall record to 17-2 on the season.

Lakewood jumped out to an early lead, going up 6-0 within the first three minutes of the game. Westlake eventually got its offense going, and the Rangers led 11-9 after the first period. Senior Jacob Sala was the key factor in the first quarter, scoring eight points. Lakewood rebuilt the lead in the second quarter, taking a 25-16 lead into the locker room. The period featured a 9-2 Ranger run that included a three pointer by senior Noah Stadler.

Westlake hung around in the third quarter, reducing the lead to as little as five points. However, the Rangers were able to keep the Demons at arm's length, and carried a 37-29 lead into the final period. Lakewood dominated the fourth quarter, wearing down the

Demons and outscoring them 20-3. Junior Tommy Sala stepped up in the final period, scoring eight points to help the Rangers pull away. Jacob Sala led the Rangers with 14 points on the evening. Tommy Sala had 12 points; junior Tim Smith had 8; Stadler, junior Zion Kolodynski-Darby, and senior Andy Garcia each had six points. Junior Anthony Rego led the Demons with 13 points.

The victory raises the Rangers conference record to 15-1 with two games remaining. They remain tied with Olmsted Falls for first place in the league. The teams split their regular season series 1-1 and will not meet again in the regular season. Lakewood travels to Midview Friday night for another conference game against the Middies at 7:15pm. Their next home game will be the season-ending senior night game against North Ridgeville on Friday. Varsity tipoff is scheduled for 7:15pm.

See all of the photos at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs/jacob-chabowski/gallery-lakewood-tops-westlake-5732>



Liam Doup nails a three-pointer for Lakewood.



Noah Stadler plays it cool after knocking down a three-point basket.



The Sparkles, always a fan favorite, performed with the LHS cheerleaders at halftime.

Lakewood Falls to Strongsville 6-0 in OHSAА Tournament



Lakewood Goalie Rob Holden scrambles to cover the puck.



Lakewood's Mat Malfarlin tries to beat out an icing call.



Rob Holden covers the puck.



Tim Smith drives through traffic.



Evan Budzar takes a shot from downtown for Lakewood.

Lakewood Cares

Estate Planning For Seniors

by Barry Wemyss

Whether you have a lot, or a little, it is never too late to make sure your personal and financial affairs are in order. Take the time to learn about which decisions need to be made to properly address your own unique life circumstances.

Attorney Linda Beebe will be offering “Estate Planning for Seniors,” an presentation to help you think through the issues related to long-term financial planning.

This talk will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2108, at the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave. at 10:45 a.m. We serve lunch at 11:45 a.m. If you are sixty years of age or older, why not plan on joining us?

LNLC Young Adult Coffee Night

by Ellen Stephens

On February 24, 2018 Lakewood New Life Church (LNLC) will be hosting a coffee night event to officially launch their new young adult ministry called HEARTBEAT. It is going to be a fun night of food, games, live music, and of course lots of coffee. This event will take place from the hours of 6 – 9 p.m. at 14224 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

HEARTBEAT strives to build a family of Young Adults that are connected, authentic, influential, and fully

devoted to God. They want to see young people transformed and renewed by the love of God, so they can influence the world around them and be leaders in their homes, jobs, and communities. They believe the world can be changed one HEARTBEAT at a time.

If you would like to attend their weekly gatherings, they meet every Wednesday at 7pm at 14224 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. You can also follow them on Instagram at HEART-BEATLNL.

Lakewood Recreation Now Hiring

by Matt Demaline

As winter (hopefully) turns to spring, many thoughts shift to warm summer days. For many in Lakewood, those warm summer thoughts include playing t-ball, learning to swim, or making new friends at summer camp. Lakewood Recreation is hiring seasonal employees to make all those summer memories continue for a new generation.

Available positions include learn-to-swim instructors, lifeguards, pool attendants, pool cashiers, baseball scorekeepers, summer camp counselors and more.

There is no better summer job than a job with Lakewood Rec. Have fun this summer and make a difference!

Applications preferred by March 31, 2018. Find application details at www.lakewoodrecreation.com/summerjobs.

Reduce Your Risk Of Falls With "A Matter Of Balance"

by Barry Wemyss

For all too many older adults, the fear of falling leads them to unduly limit their physical activity. Unfortunately, this tendency leads to some undesirable results. The more people restrict their activities, the weaker they become. This, in turn, leads to an increased risk of falls. There is now a better way of reducing the risk of falls, while also increasing personal activity.

The Lakewood Division of Aging and Fairhill Partners will be offering an award-winning fall prevention program, "A Matter of Balance" at the Lawther Senior Center. This eight-week

course is designed to manage falls and increase activity levels of at-risk older adults. This is accomplished by teaching practical strategies to manage falls.

“A Matter of Balance” will be held on eight consecutive Mondays, beginning March 5, 2018, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The class will be offered at the Division of Aging’s Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave. Transportation is available for Lakewood residents, sixty years of age or older. This class is free, but reservations are requested. Call the Activities Office at 216-529-5005 to make your reservation, or for more information.



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A smiling woman with long blonde hair, wearing a blue sleeveless top, is holding a bunch of pink and purple balloons. The background is a solid teal color.

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Lakewood Cares

Burning River Baroque To Perform At Lakewood Congregational Church On Friday, March 23

by Malina Rauschenfels

Cleveland-based early-music ensemble Burning River Baroque will return to Lakewood this March with a performance of their Suppressed Voices: Music of the Banished. You can see this compelling program on Friday, March 23, in the chapel of the Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 West Clifton Boulevard; performance begins at 7:30 p.m.).

Music has long offered a space for outsiders to find a voice, and classical composers have often been at the forefront of political and social change. From the character of Agrippina, a political exile in G.F. Handel's cantata, to composers like Johann Rosenmüller, Evaristo Felice dall'Abaco, and Peter Philips who were forced to flee their homelands for various social, political, and religious reasons, this program will challenge audiences' expectations and highlight the accomplishments of those who overcame great adversity. Performers will include co-directors Malina Rauschenfels (soprano), Paula Maust (harpsichord) and guest artists Sarah Elizabeth Cranor (baroque violin), Reynaldo Patiño (baroque violin), and Jessica Korotkin (baroque cello). Burning River Baroque will be partnering with the Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater Cleveland for this concert.

Praised by the Boston Musical Intelligence as a group that "left an indelible imprint on my psyche," Burning River Baroque is an innovative artist-run ensemble founded in 2012 with the goal of bringing the drama, passion, and vitality of Baroque music to life for contemporary audiences. Their name connotes the fiery passion they bring to their performances, connects them to Cleveland's history, and exemplifies their desire to create programs that inspire dialogue about contemporary social



Photo by Alex Bellisle

Malina Rauschenfels and Paula Maust of Burning River Baroque perform at Trinity Cathedral during their 2017 program *On the Brink of Insanity*

issues. When the sludge-filled and polluted Cuyahoga River burned in 1969, it was the catalyst for broad environmental policy reform. Burning River Baroque's high-energy performances educate and involve audience members from seasoned concert-goers to those just discovering classical music. They encourage a participatory concert atmosphere in which the fourth wall is broken and audiences are involved in the drama that is occurring onstage. They strive to create an inclusive and open concert environment where high-quality music is used as a vehicle to raise questions about relevant social issues, challenge beliefs, and inspire thought-provoking conversation. Equally comfortable in both traditional and non-traditional concert venues, they have performed on regional concert series throughout the midwest and have self-produced concerts in urban and rural libraries, coffee shops, and cafes. Since 2012 they have released three live CDs and DVDs and present 15-20 concerts each season. For more information, visit burning-river-baroque.org.

Buddhist Center Now Open

by Angie Simone

Songsten Gampo Buddhist Center of Cleveland has opened this past weekend in Lakewood. Here at Songsten Gampo, we provide opportunities for all, Buddhist or not, to discover the importance of wisdom and compassion in everyday life through meditation, classes, and more.

Our resident teacher, Buddhist nun, Ani Palmo Rybicki, is one of the most highly trained instructors in the country and has been teaching in the Greater Cleveland area for the past 12 years.

"While we provide a home for Buddhists, we are open to those of any faith and to those of no faith at all," says Ani Palmo. "We offer the tools to transform the mind and heart. However people choose to use them is up to the individual."

One of those tools is meditation. "Every act, positive or negative, begins in the mind, with a thought, an idea. Our



Songtsen Gampo Buddhist Center at 14023 Madison Avenue

aim is to provide a way for people to find peace in their own heart, to strengthen their loving mind, so they can create a more peaceful and loving world. That's what meditation is really about."

Songtsen Gampo Buddhist Center is the only Buddhist group in Greater Cleveland to have programs specifically for families and children. "We are so excited to be working with kids and it's wonderful to see them meditate. It can help them deal with their emotions

Something New Is Growing In Lakewood & Rocky River

by Mark Rollenhagen

There's a new ministry in town: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries is one of the newest congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), created through the consolidation of Faith Lutheran Church in Lakewood and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rocky River.

A community celebration of the new congregation will be held Saturday, February 24, beginning with a worship service at 10:30 a.m. that will begin Lakewood and conclude in Rocky River, followed by a chili cook-off lunch.

Bishop Abraham D. Allende of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA will preach and will install the Rev. Mark Rollenhagen as the first pastor of Good Soil.

The cook-off is supported by Thrivent Financial, and donations – welcomed, but not required -- will support Good Soil's work in the community.

All are welcome to the celebration – and to walk off that chili at a 3 p.m. "Holy Hike," one of the ministries supported by Good Soil.

The name of the new congregation is rooted in the Biblical parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23) and emphasizes that Good Soil purpose of providing opportunities for people to grow in their relationship with God and one another.

Good Soil will maintain campuses at 16511 Hilliard Road, Lakewood (the former Faith building) and at 20300 Hilliard Blvd., in Rocky River (the former Our Savior's building), where it is exploring potential uses for an acre of vacant land.

The Lakewood campus is also known as the Lakewood Abbey, providing co-work and office space for organizations involved in com-



Pastor Mark Rollenhagen

munity health and well-being. The Rocky River campus is home to Meals on Wheels, serving both Rocky River and Lakewood, and Suburban Co-Op Preschool. Both campus also offer venues for community events.

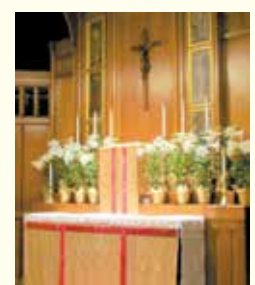
Good Soil's Sunday morning worship services are held at 10 a.m. – in Rocky River on Sundays falling on odd dates and in Lakewood on even dates. It also holds the only monthly pet-friendly worship service in Northeast Ohio at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the Lakewood campus.

Good Soil is an inclusive congregation that conducts its affairs and manages the Lakewood Abbey and all of its facilities and community affairs with the following Affirmation of Welcome:

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

News and schedules are available at GoodSoilLutheran.org and lakewoodabbey.org or on Facebook.

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We Can Be Heroes

Snow Blowing Man - Rob Spargo

by Jim O'Bryan
One Shovel Wide - Not Enough For Snow Blowing Man

Gary Rice years ago started a concept called "One Shovel Wide." Simply put, if you cannot get out to clean all of the snow from your walks, people should try to at least clear one shovel wide. A low effort, take your time, do not overwork yourself, but make an effort to give people a clear walk way past your property. It was immortalized in song and video on You-Tube=<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cwxxvkzasY>. It would seem that it has caught on for the most part in the city. I myself try to get out early before the snow is walked on and clear the houses around me, either because they are older, sicker, or have no kids. It has also been put out through LakewoodAlive in their efforts.

BUT, another person, a hero to many, has taken it much further, Rob Spargo, aka "Snowblowing Man" hits the streets errr sidewalks.

I like to clear my walks early, so I didn't notice it at first, but as I slept in I heard a snowblower going by. I just lay in bed and smiled, figuring it was a neighbor, helping me as I have helped them. When I walked out later I noticed tire tracks I had never seen before, "Hmmmmmm I thought, must be a new snow blower." I generally feel one of the nice things you can do for a neighbor is to shovel or snow blow their sidewalks. First it is great for walkers, joggers and dog walkers, but to be able to stay in your robe, enjoy coffee, and not have to get into it, is great. Also you find elderly who simply cannot, sick, people not home and on and on. One of the secrets is to get the snow cleared before the afternoon sun, which will both help melt it and dry it. If not, people walk on it and it turns into uneven ice with slippery spots.

A couple days later I heard the "snow blowing man" again and hurried to get dressed and out to see who it was. I was not in time, probably Freudian, but at the same time I was interested. As I looked down the street I noticed, he wasn't a neighbor. So I started tracing the wheel tracks back,



"Snow Blowing Man" Rob Spargo

one house, two houses, four house one block, two blocks three blocks four! I still couldn't tell where they started, and now it was a mystery I wanted to solve. I asked around, and everyone was grateful matter of fact positively gleeful, over the job he had done. But how, with what, the snow blower was damn near big enough to do the entire sidewalk in one pass. Far more than one shovel wide.

This past week, winter came back and it snowed again. I put on my boots, gloves, hat and coat and went outside and grabbed my shovel. Suddenly there was the now familiar sound of a snow

blower. I ran inside to grab my phone, so I could ask him some questions, find out who he was and thank him, and before I got back out he was gone! Down Franklin, north on Riverside, as I went walking after him, there was no break in his stride, and he had a great pace going. "Hey Snowblower man!!! Hey snowblower dude!" I yelled as he continued clearing walks.

Finally, at West Clifton and Crest Lane he slowed for a second, and I screamed, "STOP!!! Snow Blower guy!" And he paused and looked behind him, where I stood waving frantically. As I walked up, he idled back his

snow blower, and leaned over to hear me. "Hey, what are you doing?" I said. "Clearing the walks," he answered with a smile. "Why?" "Well it is good exercise, gets me out of the house..." and he proceeded to explain how he had a small snow blower that broke, and while looking for a new one he spoke to a friend who told him, "Figure out what you can spend, go look at them, and then spend 10% more, and this is what I ended up with. I thought my wife would kill me, but boy is it a nice snow blower!" And it is multiple speeds, multiple blade speeds, powers itself, lights for working in the dark, it is a damn fine snowblower, but nowhere as nice as the man running it. Depending on snowfall and time, Rob regularly clears Spring Garden, Roycroft, Rockway, Wayne, and the east side of West Clifton and the north side of Franklin Blvd.

Rob Spargo of Spring Garden, is a great guy with a nice yard, and interest in motorcycles and who now gets his exercise helping hundreds of neighbors stay warm, stay safe, and helps to bring the community plows together visually and in other ways. Many people walk their dogs, and jog safely because of Rob. I stopped one jogger who wanted to remain anonymous who said, "I head this way as they are the safest sidewalks to jog on." I spoke with neighbors who were shocked and pleased to finally find out who was behind the mystery. The LO is giving a gift certificate for dinner for two from Woodstock to Rob, and his wife, and we hear other neighbors are looking at various ways to thank this hero of the neighborhood.

I would ask all to take time and thank him, and never be afraid to clear your own walks, and those around you, if only one shovel wide. But I will always remember the big smile, the kind nature, and the enthusiasm of our "Snow Blowing Man," Rob Spargo.

If you have a hero in your neighborhood, send us a note, or a story about them. Let's shine the light on the heroes of Lakewood together, and let's all work together to be a part of and celebrate community spirit.

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El-Hitti, MD

Lakewood Is Art

Does This Please You: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 64

by Buzz Kompier

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.

Cotton Ponys - Daddy Stitches - Quality Time Records - 8 songs - cassette, download

People really seem to like this band around here. I have just been unable to get into the whole thing. "40 Watt Twat" is a decent punker. Musically, I kinda like it. Lyrically, it's okay. The thing that really bothers me is the screaming vocal style, a recurring issue I have throughout this tape. I don't mean like hardcore screaming, I mean just like using your voice at the highest pitch possible for no real reason other than you can. It's the same reason I have trouble getting into BB Eye. If you're doing it on every song, it ends up being kinda one-note, ya know? I think the topic of "Vicky Shreds The Cowbell" is pretty lame (okay, so I did laugh at "she sounds just like Jimi Hendrix on the cowbell"— that's absurd enough that I like it) and the same vocal problem continues. Again, I don't dislike it musically.

"Bloody Mary" adds a bit of a country feel and Miss Macy tones down the vocals. In fact, the raspy quality of her voice works pretty well here, especially in conjunction with the "ooh ooh" harmonies. I also like how amateurish it sounds— drummer Nat Cherry is playing something that's basically a disco beat instead of, I don't know, something that makes a little more sense. Some cool accordion on here too, you don't hear that everyday. I think "Sweet Release" is pretty listenable as well— I believe Macy and Jenna share vocals on this one. It sounds like it's got a nice, sloppy guitar solo, too, but it's buried in the mix so I can't say for sure. I keep going back and forth on the title track. Musically, it's nice and ominous. The lyrics are pretty dark. But again, the vocals get on my nerves a little bit and the baby noises get on my nerves a lot. There's just something about...I don't know, the aesthetic, I guess, of this band that I just can't get into. The one song where the screaming works really well is "Bitch Bun," because it gets so hysterical. If this had been the only song with that, I would have no problem with it. "Teenage Nightmare" brings back the cowpunk flavor, which works pretty well. And then "Honey Brown" is the last track, which really just brings to the forefront all I dis-



like about this group. It's very annoying. Even musically, this one doesn't do it for me. Oh well. My opinion on this doesn't really matter, I guess. I know most people seem to really love this band, so good for them. I just can't dig it to that extent, I guess. 3/5
(qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com)

The Exploding Lies with help from The New Planet Trampoline - Obscured By Cloud Nothings - Davenport / Merciful Tape - 5 songs - CD, download

An interesting release in that it doesn't sound much like the Exploding Lies, New Planet Trampoline, or Cloud Nothings. I guess it kinda sounds like Pink Floyd in places, but to be completely honest, I don't know that much of the PF discography past the Syd Barrett stuff. Oops. There's an instrumental "Theme From Obscured By Cloud Nothings" that starts and ends the disc (the second one is a reprise) that's...I don't know, jamming? To be completely honest again, most of this release is operating within a genre that I'm not quite up to snuff on. "Feel" is a bit folkier and melancholy, and is decent enough as a song but goes on too long. "Oaxaca In Stavros" is pretty short, with just a mandolin and acoustic guitar and a bit of a Spanish feel. "Passing Time" is probably the track I like the most here, though it's a bit too Santana for my tastes. It is, however, uptempo and it features Matt Cassidy on guitar, so there ya go. The thing that this leaves me wondering the most is in regards to

the title; is it a playful tribute or is it older guys (I'm sorry for insinuating you're old, everybody, I'm just trying to make my point) making fun of moderately successful younger people? For some reason, I feel like it's the latter, which I don't like, but then on the other hand, I think Ben Gmetro (who is on here as a member of NPT) is in a band with TJ Duke (you may know him from Cloud Nothings), so I'm probably wrong. I don't know, man. 3/5
(explodinglies.bandcamp.com)

Glass Traps - Glass Traps - self-released - 8 songs - LP, download

Vinyl debut from Glass Traps, featuring members of Tonawandas, The Missed...I don't know, 30 other bands, probably. Scarcity Of Tanks, there's a good one. Glass Traps play a pretty poppy, catchy brand of post-punk. Plenty of hooks. The guitars are chorus-heavy (good interplay between Chuck Cieslik and Matt Hallaran too), the vocals are dramatic as the style seems to demand, but not overly so (this is a complaint I have about certain Pleasure Leftists songs (don't tell Steve I said that)). Decent stuff. I don't usually go for this genre, but I liked this record well enough. "Cold Cut" is tense and pretty good. On the first listen, I didn't have the lyric sheet in hand and on the song "Line" I was thinking, "ha, it kinda sounds like she's saying 'Billy Idol' at the end." Then I looked at the lyric sheet on the second listen and she is, in fact, saying 'Billy Idol.' Huh. Lamont Bim Thomas provides backing vocals on "Freight Elevator," so you Obnox completists should grab a copy. If Matt Hallaran didn't come up with the opening riff of "Super Protected," I'll be shocked. It's very much in his style. I shall say no more. "Oboron" totally sounds like The Cure, which is cool, I like The Cure. Enjoyable post-punk / gothy stuff. 3.5/5
(glasstraps.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.

Grand Opening For Private Entertainment House Studios (All Artists Are Welcome) !!

by Breana Sweeney

Private Entertainment House will be throwing a grand opening event that is open to the public on March 10, 2018. Private Entertainment House is a Hip Hop and R&B label which also provides studio time to the general public. You do not have to be under the label to set up studio time. There will be hors d'oeuvres and refreshments from 1pm-5pm at 12736 Lorain Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44111.

This is an opportunity to preview studio quality, set up studio time and/or interview for a position under the record label. We are looking to meet



with Lakewood residents to collaborate and elevate talents. All singers, Rappers, Audio Engineers, and producers are welcome. We are offering paid employment for artists 18 and up.

Spring is just around the corner!

My First Time
March 30 – April 29, 2018 | Studio Theater
REGIONAL PREMIERE! This play features hysterical and heartbreaking stories about first sexual experiences written by real people. *Contains adult content
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Arts Education: Session 2
Begins through out the week of April 9, 2018
There's still time to discover your inner artist this spring! Classes are offered for all ages and abilities on different days and times of the week to accommodate your schedule. Full catalog at beckcenter.org.

The Laramie Project
March 2 - 11, 2018 | Studio Theater
Beck Teen Theater presents the true story of Matthew Shepard. In 1998, Shepard was kidnapped and beaten for being gay in Laramie, Wyoming. He died days later. The play explores the aftermath of his tragic death. *PG-13 (Parental discretion advised)

The Fairy Doll
4 & 7 p.m. March 17 | 1 & 4* p.m. March 18
Beck Dance Education presents this family-friendly ballet based on the 1897 Russian ballet, Die Puppenfee. Also features excerpts from Paquita. *Indicates sensory friendly
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17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107
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Lou and Jim

(MR.) HERO! Local Customer Service

by Renee Lavelle

It was your average work day like any other when I made a last minute stop after work for some quick dinner. I remember a week earlier my husband telling me the Mr.Hero owner was so nice and the place was so clean so I figured I'd stop there. There were a few people ahead of me in line and so I sat down. As a previous storefront owner I pay attention to the small details just out of habit sometimes. I looked up from scrolling my phone to notice that the owner was waiting on the customers. How did I know he was the owner? I just had a feeling by the way he was thanking everyone when he handed them their meal. "Thank you very much, you have a wonderful evening, and I hope to see you again very soon." Aw, how nice, I thought. I looked around and also noticed how spotless everything was, impressive, then we began to chat. This man was so friendly, we talked about small business, and he spoke very highly of "his customers," It was refreshing and of course, when he handed me my meal, he also thanked me and invited me back real soon.

After dinner, very yummy by the way, commence to the mindless Facebook scrolling on my phone. I decided to just give a shout out to the Mr. Hero guy on Facebook: " The owner at the Mr. Hero on Detroit is so pleasant and polite to his customers." I posted. Many times people give a shout out on these pages, its nice and usually garners a few responses some kind, some not so kind. Continue to scroll a bit and set phone down and relax for the evening and bam the phone lights up with notifications over and over in reply to my little post. Within a 24 hour period there were 160 plus "reactions" and at least 50 POSITIVE comments about the wonderful customer service this Mr. Hero owner gives.

Here are just a few below.
Lola Dobbelaer "They're always super friendly and the food is delicious."
Carmen Becker "He's great, I live on that side street so I see him often and he's always so pleasant and nice"
John Stojs III "When I delivered their mail, he always offered me a free meal...had to leave that route while I could still walk and see my feet"
Tamra Faulhammer "That's the only Mr Hero I will go to such a nice man."
Anthony Artuso "I agree. I live alot closer to the one on 117th but i drive to the one on detroit for the service"
Christa Lumby "Jumping in here too! He's the best. Wish I could go there more often just to support him. I hope he knows that we all notice..."
Annette Manco "Brady I adore the Mr. Hero owner! He's SUPER KIND, always smiles and treats me with such patience and we have such nice conversations."
Ulrike Haviland "He told my husband to get back into the car and he'll bring his order to him when its ready and to just call next time and they'll bring it out. They saw he has difficulty walking and made take out easy! Super nice!"
Then there were the people really hoping he would see this post so he knows how appreciated he is. One reader went to see him as did I to show him and he was so appreciative- The reader took and shared this photo of him
The owner insisted I take a free pop to go and I explained I was not here to get anything free just to let him know people appreciate kindness. I could tell he was truly overjoyed and grateful. We have many restaurants and small businesses here in Lakewood, whether its casual or high end. mom and pop or chain, in the end the one thing that always wins is kindness and great customer service.



Goodkind: A New Neighborhood Cafe On Madison Avenue

by Marc Mannheimer

I stopped in at Goodkind Coffee for the first time the other day. Located in a storefront at 15526 Madison Avenue, the place impressed me enough to write the poem below. Kudos to friendly barista Kevin who answered my questions about the store and intuitively asked if I needed some cold water after I'd finished my cup of coffee.



15526 Madison Avenue

Goodkind bared down enough
from the outside
to draw in the aspiring Zenster
once inside,
understated wood tables
and panel floor
mood, hushed and hip
music, unobtrusive, slung down cool
people talking quietly, serene
in 20-something self-contained,
self-command, lend-a-hand
tiny flowers in fat glass bowls
glass cases with pastry
smooth coffee from Cleveland and
Seattle
den of surrender
from daily battle
*Marc Mannheimer is a Lakewood
mental health peer supporter who loves
coffee and poetry.*

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Lakewood Living And Lifestyle

Eight Looks GREAT For The Westshore YLN

by Noreen Kyle

January 2018 is the 8th year the Westshore Young Leaders Network students have been serving the six-western suburbs (Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake) as communities united together for healthy living. Established in 2010 through the support of the Westshore Council of Governments and the Westshore Enforcement Bureau the group has grown its student and adult mem-

bership to foster young leaders who promote healthy, safe drug-free and addiction free lifestyle choices.

A snapshot of the recent months include the September Leadership Training Conference at the Westlake Recreation Center. Ninety middle and high school students spent the day fine tuning their best asset--themselves--under the direction of the Effective Leadership Academy (www.effectiveleaders.org)

November's teen meeting hosted

Trooper Patrick Reagan and Trooper Alejandro Giraldo from the Ohio State Patrol Brook Park Station. Trooper's Reagan and Giraldo spoke to the students about the dangers of distracted driving, the importance of seat-belts, drug and alcohol facts and entertained many student questions. Including "What was the strangest thing you had to remove from the highway while on patrol?" The crowd was amazed to discover "a toilet" was the answer!

December was double the fun for

our young leaders. The high school young leaders partnered with Ohio SADD (Student's Against Destructive Decisions) and the Cleveland Cavaliers to facilitate the Annual SADD Seminar at the Q. Resource tables and keynote speaker Jim Basketball Jones reached five hundred North East Ohio high school students on the importance of Three Pointers for Life: Personal Development (Character Education). (<http://www.jimbasketballjones.com>) Bringing home a Cavs victory over the Sacramento Kings was icing on the cake!

The end of 2017 found the young leaders meeting at the Bay Presbyterian Food Pantry. Students learned about the needs and services provided by the Food Pantry. As part of a community service project the WYLN youth unpacked and assembled paper products, personal items and cleaning supplies for the Bay Village Holiday Caring & Sharing venture.

The Westshore Young Leaders Network is open to all middle and high school students from the six western suburbs. Check out our website: www.westshoreyoungleaders.org to learn about our projects, events, meeting dates and times.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE REST OF 2018 OUR WYLN TEEN MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT BAY WAY CABIN, 27400 Wolf Rd, Bay Village, OH 44140

Candidates For Judge Take Spotlight On February 22 At Lakewood Democratic Club Meeting

by Paige Robar

Ohio voters elect our judiciary, but many skip that section of their ballot. Most say that they don't know enough about the candidates, according to a 2014 survey.

The Lakewood Democratic Club hopes to help change that this month, by featuring candidates for judge at its free meeting on Thursday, February 22.

"This is the first time that the Lakewood Democratic Club has featured candidates for judge as part of the program," says Club Vice President Kristine Pagsuyoin. While candidates often attend meetings in their effort to build some familiarity in the community, February's meeting will be a unique opportu-

nity to hear from them in person and compare in a single evening, says Pagsuyoin.

This unique one-stop event is designed to help voters get to know the candidates. Well over a dozen judicial races will confront Cuyahoga County voters this year, the majority of them for the Court of Common Pleas.

Knowing where candidates for judge stand is particularly important because although Ohio's judges are nominated through a partisan primary in May - their party affiliation won't appear on the ballot in November.

Pagsuyoin says that in keeping with the club's mission to support Democratic candidates for office, the February meeting will focus on Democrats. But this will encompass the

majority of Cuyahoga County candidates. (In one court of common pleas race, for example, seven candidates filed for the May 8 primary.)

"More people are taking interest in our courts lately," says Pagsuyoin, "but with the large number of contests and candidates, figuring out whom to support can still be challenging. We hope that this candidate night helps more people feel empowered to participate in judicial elections."

The Lakewood Democratic Club's February meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 22. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Meetings take place in the Woman's Club Pavilion in Lakewood Park, and are always free to attend as a guest.



Dermott Hill, age 62 has passed away. Dermott grew up on Rockway Avenue, going to St. James, Madison, Horace Mann, and later Lakewood High School.

He was a very talented artist, and musician (piano) and later worked as a private bartender at Stouffer's Inn on the Square, where he became a favorite for the stars that often stayed at Stouffer's.

Dermott had become one of Lakewood's many street snoids, but always had a twinkle in his eye, and a story or two about the old days.

A couple weeks ago he fell, broke a rib, caught pneumonia and in his weakened condition passed away.

Dermott, you are already missed.

Image from "like the settin's sun" by Jim O'Bryan

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LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive Spearheads Downtown Lakewood Bench And Waste Receptacle Program

by Matt Bixenstine

Collaboration Results in Placement of 17 Benches and 12 Waste Receptacles

Dashing through the snow to Downtown Lakewood this winter? You may notice some new public amenities.

A collaborative effort led by LakewoodAlive's Design Committee resulted in the placement of 17 benches and 12 waste receptacles within Lakewood's downtown district, which extends along the Detroit Avenue commercial corridor from Bunts Road to Arthur Avenue. The collaboration involved the City of Lakewood, Lakewood residents, local businesses and civic organizations,



as well as LakewoodAlive's merchant association, the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance.

The initiative originated nearly five years ago when an elderly resident of the Westerly Apartments in Downtown Lakewood expressed a need for a place to

stop and rest during her regular walks from her home to Cleveland Clinic Lakewood for treatment. A partnership between the City of Lakewood and LakewoodAlive soon followed to seek a solution.

After LakewoodAlive's Design

Committee conducted a survey to identify appropriate locations for the placement of new benches, the City of

Read the rest of this great article online at:
<http://lakewoodobserver.com>

LakewoodAlive, ESOP Join Forces To Offer Free Tax Preparation On March 3

by Matt Bixenstine

Call 211 Today to Schedule Your "Super Saturday" Appointment

LakewoodAlive has teamed with Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) to offer free tax preparation and filing to working low-income families and individuals on Saturday, March 3. "Super Saturday" takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harrison Elementary School in Lakewood's Historic Birdtown Neighborhood (2080 Quail Street).

Call 211 today to schedule your appointment to have your taxes done for free by one of ESOP's certified tax preparers. Walk-ins are welcome but will be seen after all scheduled appointments.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program provides free tax preparation to working low-income individuals and families by trained, certified volunteers through the Vol-

unteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Tax preparers will help participants receive their full income tax refund – as much as \$6,318 in refund monies utilizing electronic filing and direct deposit.

Tax Credit Eligibility Guidelines for Tax Year 2017:

- Families with three or more qualifying children who earned less than \$48,340 in 2017 (or less than \$53,930 for married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$6,318.
- Families with two qualifying children who earned less than \$45,007 in 2017 (or less than \$50,597 for married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$5,616.
- Families with one qualifying child who earned less than \$39,617 in 2017 (or less than \$45,207 for married

Read the rest of this great article online at:
<http://lakewoodobserver.com>

LakewoodAlive Kicks Off 2018 "Knowing Your Home" Series With Two March Workshops

continued from page 1

Your Home" series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome to learn more. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company, First Federal Lakewood, Remax Beyond 2000 and Third Federal

Savings & Loan.

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



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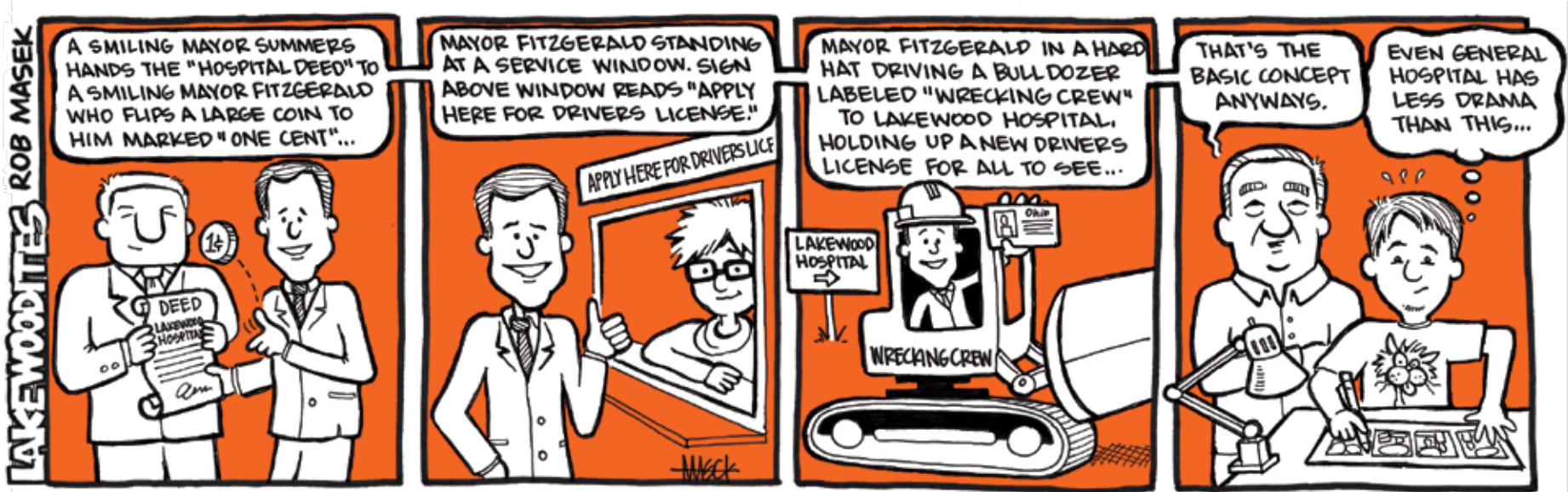
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The Back Page



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