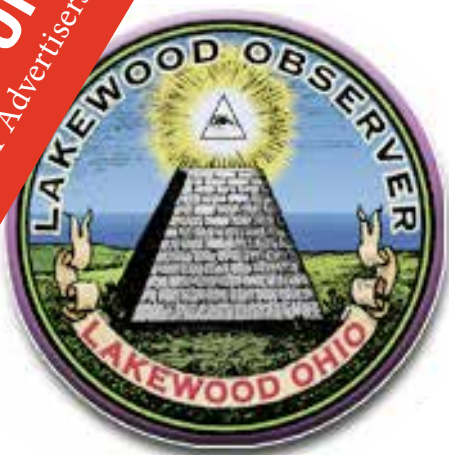


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"Many a politician wishes there was a law to burn old records."
- Will Rogers

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 14, Issue 07, April 4, 2018

Dr. Michael Barnes Selected To Be Next Superintendent

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education, at a special meeting March 28, approved Mayfield City School District Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Barnes as the next Superintendent of Lakewood City Schools.

Board Vice President Linda Beebe said Barnes met many of the criteria the Board was looking for in a leader.

"A priority in the superintendent search was to find a leader who is an effective communicator with a strong vision to facilitate the goals of the District. Someone who is creative and knowledgeable. Dr.



Dr. Michael Barnes

Michael Barnes is all of this," Beebe said. "He is service oriented and collaborative. He is committed to supporting the

needs of every child and educating the entire child. He is a leader for the 21st century."

With Superintendent Jeff Patterson's retirement announcement coming so early in the school year, the Board was able to take its time in finding the right candidate and was able to solicit substantial feedback from all stakeholders via interviews, listening sessions and an online survey. More than 800 parents, staff and community members responded to the survey. The Board when interviewing candidates took heed of the qualities community members expressed that they

wanted to see in the next leader for their schools.

"From the start, the Lakewood Board of Education was committed to listening to its main stakeholders, and sought and reviewed extensive input about the future needs of the District, prior to interviewing candidates," Beebe said.

"Lakewood's stakeholders expect a superintendent to be an active learner, as well as a strong leader. Common themes that arose highlighted

the importance of a superintendent who prioritizes collaboration, empathy, strategy, financial management, appreciation of all people, and, as important as any, making sure the District teaches the whole child," Beebe said.

"The stakeholders' vision sets a high standard for the next superintendent, but it is a standard the Board of Education is confident Dr. Barnes

continued on page 8

LakewoodAlive's Paint Lakewood Program Kicks Off 2018 Season

by Matt Bixenstine

Calling Lakewood homeowners and residents: Now's the perfect time to add a splash of color to your home's exterior.

LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program announces the return of its Paint Lakewood Program for the 2018 season. This innovative program is designed to help make it more affordable for qualified Lakewood homeowners and residents to beautify their homes through exterior whole-home painting.

Paint Lakewood will provide a grant of up to \$3,500 to



LakewoodAlive's Paint Lakewood Program Kicks Off 2018 Season

Lakewood homeowners and residents for exterior paint, supplies and professional labor costs to paint their home. The program has been designed to

offer a grant on a sliding scale to help reduce the cost of an exterior paint job.

The Paint Lakewood Program's primary goal involves revitalizing Lakewood's neighborhoods while reducing lead hazards and educating residents on lead safety issues.

"We're excited to be able to once again offer Lakewood homeowners and residents the opportunity to participate in our Paint Lakewood Program," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Director. "This program serves as an invaluable tool for helping low-to-moderate income residents to improve their homes through affordable exterior painting."

Lakewood Ends BSL



photo by Jim O'Bryan

As we went to press news came in that Lakewood City Council has voted unanimously to end our Breed Specific Law. "The people of Lakewood have spoken," said Ward 4 Councilman Dan O'Malley.

continued on page 15

Packed House For Cordray - Kucinich Q&A

by Matt Kuhns

A capacity crowd of well over 100 attended the Lakewood Democratic Club's March meeting, to hear from candidates for governor Richard Cordray and Dennis Kucinich. Both took questions from the audience after opening remarks, as did candidates for Ohio House and Senate. Topics ranged from gun safety to public schools to single-payer healthcare.

The club expects to host a third candidate for governor, Bill O'Neill, at its next meeting on April 26. State senator Joe Schiavoni, also running for governor, addressed the January meeting.



Dennis Kucinich



Richard Cordray



As politics in Lakewood heats up, standing room only at the Lakewood Democratic Club meeting.

Hot Off The Deck



Photo posted from Lakewood’s Ambassador to Cuba, the Lakewood Observer’s Cuba Travel writer, and owner of The Root Cafe, Julie Hutchison. Stop by the Lakewood Observer Deck, and share your stories, photos, questions, comments whatever. Lakewood’s gold standard for community involvement since 2004!

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OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!



From the Observation Deck thread, “They’re back!”

| Thread Title | Author | Posts | Reads | Date |
|---|-----------------|-------|-------|------------|
| A Measure of Civic Leadership | Mark Kindt | 4 | 550 | Mon Apr 02 |
| The Celeste Martin House | Joe Ott | 5 | 974 | Mon Apr 02 |
| Lakewood spending \$50,000 for data study targeting improved healthcare | pj bennett | 36 | 2262 | Sat Mar 31 |
| It's Fish Fry Season Again!! | Gary Rice | 11 | 775 | Fri Mar 30 |
| Co-Existing with Coyotes | Bridget Conant | 5 | 374 | Fri Mar 30 |
| Dr. Barnes Hired In 4-1 Vote By BOE | Jim O'Bryan | 3 | 625 | Fri Mar 30 |
| Power Outage West Side | Jim O'Bryan | 0 | 178 | Fri Mar 30 |
| Fire Judge FitzGerald | | 1 | 275 | Thu Mar 29 |
| Missing Person? LOCATED! | | 1 | 452 | Thu Mar 29 |
| Do Not Use Lakewood's Emergency Room | Bill Call | 26 | 1739 | Thu Mar 29 |
| IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD | Jim O'Bryan | 290 | 48922 | Wed Mar 28 |
| The Vision Thing | Mark Kindt | 103 | 3201 | Wed Mar 28 |
| Cyberattacks - is Lakewood City Gov Prepared? | cmager | 2 | 173 | Wed Mar 28 |
| Lakewood Board to Consider Mayfield Asst. Supt. for New Supt. | | 1 | 959 | Wed Mar 28 |
| Are The New Foundations Just Political Action Committees? | Bill Call | 4 | 281 | Tue Mar 27 |
| Back Again Year 6(?) | Jim O'Bryan | 5 | 672 | Tue Mar 27 |
| COW recommends Ordinance 1-18 for adoption | Peter Grossetti | 2 | 345 | Mon Mar 26 |
| America's Top Healthiest Cities, Damn Missed Again! | | 5 | 501 | Mon Mar 26 |
| Crime Stoppers Needs Your Help - Robbery Lakewood | Jim O'Bryan | 0 | 659 | Mon Mar 26 |
| Goodbye, Moses Cleaveland Tree | Betsy Voinovich | 1 | 419 | Thu Mar 22 |

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Upcoming Submission Deadline

Publish Date

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May 2, 2018

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City

The Observer Is Given A Tour Of Lakewood Fire Department Headquarters

by Jacob Chabowski

Nearly everyone who has needed the services of the Lakewood Fire Department will attest to the professionalism and compassion they received from the men of LFD. On the Observation Deck, our online message boards, residents and visitors of Lakewood frequently offer their praise of Lakewood’s firefighter/paramedics.)

The Lakewood Observer was recently offered the opportunity to tour LFD’s headquarters at Station 1 with the assistant chief, Darren Collins.

Collins is a veteran of the Lakewood Fire Department and could not see himself doing anything else. Collins, like the rest of the staff, truly loves his job and takes pride in serving the community.

Collins is a supervisor at LFD, meaning much of his time is spent keeping his firefighters up to date on training and also responding to emergencies to supervise and direct the response. Major scenes, such as structure fires, vehicle accidents with people trapped, and heart attacks often require the response of multiple firefighters or even multiple fire departments. Collins’ most important role is to ensure crews stay safe and coordinate with each other effectively.

FIREFIGHTERS / PARAMEDICS

Nearly all of Lakewood’s firefighters are cross-trained as paramedics. This means that they all able to provide advanced medical care (starting IVs, performing Defibrillation, and inserting airways) on-scene. In the unusual event that Lakewood’s ambulances are not available and/or responding to other emergencies, the Department can dispatch an engine



Truck 1 is a Quint capable of fulfilling five fire fighting functions.

company or other vehicle and begin to administer life-saving treatment on-scene until an ambulance arrives to transport the patient to the hospital.

APPARATUS

Station 1 located is centrally located in the city on Madison Ave and it is often the busiest station in Lakewood. In addition to serving as the department’s administrative headquarters, it also houses several emergency vehicles (frequently referred to as “apparatus” by firefighters). Two advanced life support (ALS) ambulances are stationed here, as well as a reserve engine, and a command car.

Perhaps the most impressive piece of apparatus is Truck 1. This piece of apparatus is a Quint, meaning it serves five key firefighting functions: water tank, water pump, aerial ladder, ground ladders, and hoses. Another key purpose it serves is protecting first responders at an accident scene. In January of 2017, Cleveland police offi-

cer David Fahey was tragically killed while working at the scene of an accident on I-90. The tragedy could have been much worse if Rocky River Truck 66, which is similar to Lakewood Truck 1, had not been on the scene. Rocky River Truck 66 was totaled when a reckless driver slammed into it, but it served as a barrier and prevented other first responders from being struck. This is why Lakewood Fire Department frequently dispatch Truck 1 or an engine company to nearly all accident scenes, especially those on I-90

Also housed at Station 1 is the Westshore Hazmat/Technical Rescue Truck. This truck contains equipment used in Hazmat incidents and building/structure collapses. It serves not just Lakewood but also Rocky River, Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted and Westlake. Those cities make-up a joint response team for such incidents and all of them contribute manpower, funds, and equipment.

MUTUAL AID

As evidenced by the shared use of a Hazmat/Technical Rescue response team, the Lakewood Fire Department takes collaboration with surrounding fire departments very seriously. Suburban fire departments often lack the manpower to a handle structure fires or major incidents by themselves (the National Fire Protection Association suggests an absolute minimum of 15 firefighters for an active structure fire). In densely populated cities like Lakewood, large responses are often necessary to prevent the spread of fires to nearby structures.

To address this, Lakewood has “mutual aid” agreements with surrounding suburbs. For example, Lakewood often requires an additional engine company from Rocky River for a fire. In turn, Lakewood will assist Rocky River with similar incidents in their city. Collins estimated that the Lakewood Fire department gives mutual aid as much as it receives it.

The mutual aid agreements allow residents of suburban communities to receive first-class, large responses to major incidents and also helps fire crews stay safe.

TRAINING

When not responding to calls, Lakewood’s firefighters are often in training. Station 1 has a classroom for training on tactics and responses, and crews will also conduct training exercise in the field. Next month, LFD members will work the MetroPark rangers for training on water rescues in the Rocky River. Training is ongoing for members of LFD as they work to keep their skills sharp and ensure they are capable to responding to any

continued on page 8



Coffee in the Neighborhood

Monday, April 9, 2018 | 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Meet & greet your neighborhood
Lakewood police officers

Free danish and coffee with travel mug!

Skilled Nursing Facility Main Dining Room

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Saturday, April 7, 2018

Film - “Goodfellas” (1990), Directed by Martin Scorsese

Mobster Henry Hill (Ray Liotta) begins his life of crime as a gofer for local mob boss Paul “Paulie” Cicero (Paul Sorvino). Upon initiation into the crime family he is introduced to his partners Tommy DeVito (Joe Pesci) and Jimmy Conway (Robert DeNiro).
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, April 8, 2018

The Chris Vance Quartet

Longtime Lakewood musician Chris Vance leads an all-star quartet as they play on existing melodies and rhythms with the goal of creating something new together. Using their unique interpretation of a wide selection of the jazz repertoire, as well as their own compositions, Vance and other Cleveland greats will fill the afternoon with excitement.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Talk - Staying Independent through Aging

Presentation by Peggy Lee-Tocco

The second in our six-part series on aging led by Peggy Lee-Tocco. Previous registration required.
1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Documentary - “Louder Than a Bomb” (2010)

Directed by Greg Jacobs, Presented by Damien Ware

Every year, students across Chicago compete in the largest youth poetry slam in the world. From junior high to college age, this event showcases voices from all walks of life in their most honest form. Follow the teams and individuals as they prepare and perform original pieces, and tell their stories drawn from experience and hardship. Ware is a co-founder of the Buckeye poetry group, The Griot Project, which works to uphold African culture through art and community outreach, and a partner of the installations of public art in the Buckeye neighborhood, Love Lunes Over Buckeye.
6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Poetry Workshop, Led by Leanne Hoppe

The second workshop in our four-part series. Writing poetry is about the journey, not the destination. Part of that journey is seeing what you’ll discover, surprising yourself and enjoying the bumps in the road. During this four part series, Leanne Hoppe will be your poet tour guide on this adventure—all abilities and experience levels are welcome.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Author Event - “Clouds Pile Up in the North: New & Selected Poems” by Major ‘Maj’ Ragain

Maj Ragain is the author of seven chapbooks of poetry and five book-length collections, all of which contribute to Clouds Pile Up in the North: New & Selected Poems. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

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

Non-Fiction Book Club

Come and join the conversation during our newest book club. There are sure to be serious and thought-provoking discussions about many subjects inspired by these non-fiction works. Tonight we will discuss “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis” by J.D. Vance.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Talk - How to Coupon

Presentation by Joe the Coupon Guy®

Learn how to consistently save 70% or more on grocery and toiletry shopping. Using coupons and other methods, find many new ways to save on utilities, gas, restaurants, travel, smartphone plans, and clothes. Joe the Coupon Guy® has taught thousands of people across Ohio how to save money.
11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Film - “The Trouble with Harry” (1955)

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock

Presented by Terry Meehan

The “trouble” is that Harry’s dead body inconveniently appears one autumn afternoon on a hillside in scenic New England. How did he die? How did his body get there? And what should be done about it? The colorful cast is led by Sam Marlowe (John Forsythe), an eccentric artist who wants to undress and paint Jennifer Rogers (Shirley MacLaine). Terry Meehan continues his series on Hitchcock in the Fifties Part 2, introducing each film with an original video presentation, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Performance - WordStage: d.a. levy

In 1960’s Cleveland, poets haunted coffee shops, printed zines with mimeographs and frequently ran into trouble with the law. There were many talented yet troubled writers in Cleveland, but none more infamous than d.a. levy. Though charged with distributing obscene writing in 1966, levy was a strong believer in Buddhism and a champion of justice. levy continued to document Cleveland’s gritty charm and rough interior through his poetry, founding Cleveland’s first underground newspaper. WordStage is a chamber music reader’s theater, dedicated to the presentation of works with special literary, historical and musical merit.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Staying Independent through Aging

Presentation by Peggy Lee-Tocco

The third in our six-part series on aging led by Peggy Lee-Tocco. Previous registration is required.
1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Poetry Workshop, Led by Leanne Hoppe

The third in our four part series. Leanne Hoppe will be your poet tour guide on this adventure—all abilities and experience levels are welcome.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Knit & Lit Book Club

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss “The Train to Crystal City: FDR’s Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America’s Only Family Internment Camp during World War II” by Jan Jarboe Russell.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, April 7, 2018

Art Connection, For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Create your own unique piece of art to take home. Registration required.
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Sew Your Own Library Tote, For anyone age 8 and up

Create your own unique and stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. Registration required.
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Homework Room.

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Jump to Jupiter, For students in first through third grade

Jump from planet to planet... literally! Learn about planets and walk on the moon. Registration required.
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, April 14, 2018


Tail Waggin’ Tutors, For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, April 15, 2018

Happily Ever Crafter, For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Make a new project each month while learning fun new skills. Registration required.
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.



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Lakewood Public Library



Poet, artist, and publisher d.a. levy

A Cleveland Counterculturalist: Celebrating d.a. levy

by Sarah McKinsey

Do you have an interest in Cleveland's history, in literature, in music, or in the 1960s counterculture movement? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you will be excited to learn that the Lakewood Public Library is hosting a program that incorporates all of these things. On Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m., the performance group WordStage will bring a production on d.a. levy to the Main Library Auditorium.

Over the course of his short life (1942-1968) d.a. levy was influential as a poet, artist, and alternative publisher. Though born Jewish, he became a believer in Buddhist principles. An important figure in Cleveland's underground literary scene in the 1960s, levy had a small press and published his own and others' works. He also founded Cleveland's first underground newspaper, the Buddhist Third-Class Junkmail Oracle.

Much of levy's work was dedicated to writing about Cleveland. His relationship with the city was complicated

and sometimes contentious. He wrote about the city's charm and its rough edges, but sometimes felt that Cleveland had let him down, declaring in one poem, "cleveland, i gave you/the poems that no one ever/wrote about you/and you gave me/NOTHING." levy was a believer in justice and a critic of the politics of his time. In 1966 and 1967 he was arrested for distributing obscene writing, though the charges were dropped. In 1968 levy died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound.

WordStage is a chamber music reader's theater, using the spoken word and music to celebrate literature and the performing arts. This group has performed widely around the Cleveland area. Audience members rave, commenting that the performances are "lovely, educational, and delightful... the poetry and music enhance each other," and requesting "more programs like this!" In our upcoming program, members of WordStage will turn their talents to words and music that celebrate d.a. levy's life and works.

This Land Is Your Land: Family Storytimes About Diversity

by Nicole Born-Crow

Earth Day is April 22nd, and what better way to celebrate than with the Environmental Justice Storytime at Lakewood Public Library!

Part of the "This Land is Your Land: Family Story Times about Diversity" series, April's storytime will be all about caring for the planet in ways that are equitable for all people.

So what is Environmental Justice, and how is it different than just talking about the three R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle? The National Institute of Health defines it as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." In simpler terms, it just means that everyone gets the fair chance to live a healthy life. And a healthy life means a

safe place to live, work, and go to school free from air pollution, mercury contamination, and with access to healthy food and clean water.

This seems like a fairly easy thing to achieve, especially in the United States, right? Unfortunately, there are huge disparities in safe living environments for racial and ethnic minorities and for those who are poor or in poverty.

April's storytime will introduce the concepts of Environmental Justice through age appropriate stories, videos and songs, and will finish with a recyclable seed-planting craft. This story time is open to families with children of all ages and abilities.

The next session will be Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

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

The Beloved Bard Of Kent At Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

In "Clouds Pile Up in the North," Maj Ragain describes "the enduring life of poetry, how it can link what is here with the past, how scratchings on a page can come alive, how that voice extends far beyond our brief time." Ragain's voice will undoubtedly extend beyond his time; it will also be heard in Lakewood on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. when this acclaimed poet visits the Lakewood Public Library.

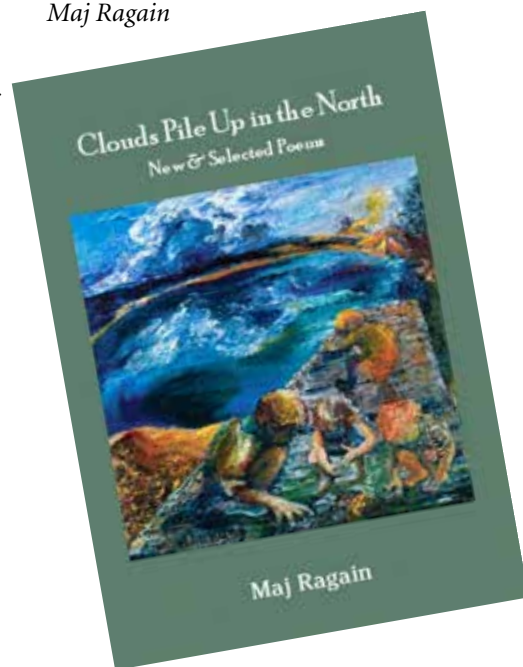
Author of seven chapbooks of poetry and five book-length collections, Ragain will grace the stage of the Main Library Auditorium to discuss his latest book, "Clouds Pile Up in the North: New & Selected Poems," published in 2017. Ragain, who was born in a small farm town, earned a BA at Eastern Illinois University, an MA at the University of Illinois and a PhD from Kent State University, where he has taught since 1969. For over thirty years, he has hosted open poetry readings in Kent.

Reading his work, what stands out is his deep connection with the world and compassion for others. Admiration and affection come through clearly when people talk about Ragain, who has been both teacher and mentor for so many. In addition to his position at Kent State University, Ragain also gathers together a weekly writing group for veterans to guide them in expressing themselves, using the healing power of putting words on paper to conquer the demons that often haunt military veterans.

"Clouds Pile Up in the North" contains traditional style poetry and also prose poems, small stories that reveal Ragain's deep insight and intense concentration on the world around him. Ragain delves into memoir, social commentary and the connection among things living and dead. In



Maj Ragain



"Strip Mining Memory," he tells a story from his childhood in southern Illinois about heating their small cottage. The coal that Ragain gathers from beside the railroad tracks and his father loads into the cast iron stove is "blind, buried sunlight." Ragain describes the deep-earth origins of the coal and the fear that his father would have to enter the mine to make a living. The three-page story reveals both the poverty of Ragain's early surroundings and the richness of his imagination.

Join us at the Main Library on April 12, 2018 to meet this extraordinary poet and hear him read from his new book. "Clouds Pile Up in the North" will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Sew Your Own Library Tote

by Fran Storch

In observance of Earth Day later this month, go green and sew your own tote at Lakewood Public Library. The Library stopped handing out plastic bags years ago out of a concern for the environment and as a way to save a little money but that doesn't mean we want you to stop checking out more materials than you can carry.

Library patrons eight years and older are invited to register for the Sew Your Own Library Tote program on Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Homework Room. Create your own unique and stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. All of the materials you need are provided and a master seamstress will be on hand to guide you through it.

This program is free for participants but space is limited and registration is required. To register,



Sew a sturdy, but stylish, book tote at the Library.

call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit <http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/event/sew-your-own-library-tote-9977/>.

Lakewood Schools

Rotary Recognizes 15 Outstanding West Shore Career-Tech Students

by Lynn Donaldson

West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student Award recipients were honored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River at its noon luncheon on March 19 at the Don Umerley Civic Center.

The 15 students, top performers in their Career-Technical programs, were chosen for their exemplary accomplishments in the classroom, school activities, clubs, athletics and service in the community. Each student exemplifies traits of leadership, dedication, responsibility, caring, community involvement, and initiative.

“The Rotary Outstanding Students represent the “best of the best” in the West Shore Career Technical District. Our teachers and staff work tirelessly to give all of our students rich academic, technical and real world experiences,” remarked Bill DiMascio, West Shore Career-Technical District educational coordinator.

“These students have taken full advantage of the opportunities afforded to them. No matter what path they chose to follow for future success, we know they possess the relevant knowledge and skills to achieve to their fullest potential.”

School administrators, parents, and guests were among those in attendance. According to Rotarian Nancy Ralls, West Shore Career-Technical District career development coordinator, this is the 21st year the club has honored the Outstanding Student Award winners.

The Rotary club will present each student with a gift card and a plaque to honor their achievements at West Shore’s annual Career Passport and Student Recognition Assembly on May 17. Each award recipient is automatically nominated to receive the “Career-Technical Student of the Year Award” which will be announced at West Shore’s Career Passport and Student Recognition Assembly.

West Shore districts are Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River and

Westlake. This year West Shore is serving 526 students in its workforce development programs.

The 2017-18 Outstanding Student Award recipients are: Kevin Slemc, automotive technology; Chelsea Inak, business management; Waheeb Zahriyeh, community-based training at GFS; Haley Wlodarczyk, community-based training at the Marriott; Matt Wick, community-based training at Rae Ann; Alexander Markham, construction trades; De’Vryon Gray, culinary arts; Johnnesha Johnson, early childhood education; Omar Mansour, electronic technology; Alexander Gerakis, health careers technology; Micah Inak, media art and design; Natalie Pape, medical office management; Andrew Van Auken, networking/Cisco; Akosh Raffai, engineering/Project Lead the Way; and Melinda Warren, theatre arts.

Order Spring Flowers Now, Support PTA!

by Christina McCallum

Do you like begonias? Are you an impatiens person? Or, are you partial to peppers and parsley? Lakewood Council of PTAs has them and more for sale as part of its 2018 Dean’s Greenhouse Spring Flower and Plant Sale!

Dozens of varieties of quality flats, 4.5” pots, hanging baskets of flowers, herbs and vegetables are available for order just in time for Mother’s Day, or to fill in your own flower beds or vegetable garden. A portion of sales supports Lakewood Council of PTAs.

Lakewood Council of PTAs provides collaboration, leadership training and coordination of the efforts of its member PTAs and PTSAs within the Lakewood City School District. It is a key communication link between these local school groups and the district, state and National PTA as well as Lakewood City School District’s Board of Education and Administration.

The Lakewood Council offers stu-



The crowd at the March 24 March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C.

Students' March For Our Lives Trip A Community Effort

by Christine Gordillo

Forty students and their adult chaperones traveled to Washington, D.C. on March 24 to participate in the March for Our Lives event, a trip that was made possible by the nearly \$7,000

donated by the Lakewood community.

What had started out as four students wanting to buy bus tickets to D.C. bloomed into a community project.

When the founding members of the newly formed Student Committee for Activism realized the interest in students attending the march would fill a charter bus, the group raised the cash needed to reserve the bus in just a few days through a GoFundMe account and the generosity of fellow students, teachers, parents, business owners and the community in general. The giving did not stop there, a call out from chaperone and LHS teacher Autumn Sabin for snacks for the trip led to cartons of donations of water, Gatorade, chips and more being left on her porch.

“Our community really came together for our kids,” Sabin said.

Added one of the founders of the Student Committee for Activism Isabella Bryson: “I feel so proud to be a part of a community where supporting social activism and helping out young people is a priority. To pull together our trip to DC it took so many people donating food, money, their time-- and we genuinely could not do it without them.”

The students’ effort in mobilizing to make the trip happen caught the attention of media outlets nationwide from The Wall Street Journal, to NPR to our local Plain Dealer and ideastream.



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What's Our Plan:

A Community Conversation About School Safety

Thursday, April 12
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

LHS Cafeteria
Lakewood High School
14100 Franklin Blvd.
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Discussion Moderator:
Joe Lobo
Social Studies Department
Facilitator at
Lakewood High School
(Accompanied by
LaNiqua Jones, LHS senior)

For more info, contact:
LakewoodAlive
216.521.0655
LAKEWOODALIVE.ORG



It's a topic that warrants immediate and serious discussion both across the country and within our own backyard: What can be done to ensure safety within our schools?

Discussion Panelists:

- Angelina Amato, Lakewood High School junior
- Brian Donahoe, Lakewood High School senior
- Patrick Fiorelli, Lakewood Police Department
- Jeffrey W. Patterson, Lakewood Schools Superintendent
- Michael P. Summers, Lakewood Mayor
- Dr. Molly Wimbiscus, M.D., Cleveland Clinic Medical Clinic at Lakewood High School

This forum is free and open to the public.

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City News

The Observer Is Given A Tour Of Lakewood Fire Department Headquarters



Inside one of Lakewood Fire Department's Ambulances.



Life saving equipment that needs to be handy, in good working order every time they pull up on a fire or accident.



It takes a lot of training to learn the proper way to use a modern fire truck.



Lakewood Fire Station One's classroom.

continued from page 3
type of emergency in the city.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

- Total responses - 6728 of which -
- 151 fire responses, 66 listed as building fires
- 5387 rescue and EMS incidents (including 11 water/ice rescue type incidents, 34 stalled elevator incidents, 152 motor vehicle accidents)
- 246 service calls (lock-outs, lock-ins, water leaks, police assists, unauthorized burning (fire pits in back yards), etc.)
- 452 hazardous condition incidents (gasoline spills, natural gas leaks, carbon monoxide investigations, power lines down, etc.)
- 299 false alarms
- 6 Weather related incidents (sometimes this falls under downed power lines when a storm rolls through)
- 32 Special incident types
- 135 Good intent calls (assist residents, cancelled in route, etc.)

MORE INFORMATION

For more on the services provided by the Lakewood Fire Department, including information relating to emergency preparedness, ambulance billing, and FAQs visit the department's website at www.onelakewood.com/community-vision/safety/

Dr. Michael Barnes Selected To Be Next Superintendent

continued from page 1

can meet and exceed," Beebe said.

Dr. Barnes began his educational career as a Social Studies teacher for 11 years at Mayfield High School and continues to teach as an adjunct instructor for both Ursuline College and Cleveland State.

Dr. Barnes moved into administration when he was hired as an Assistant Principal for Euclid High School in 1998. He held that job for two years before taking the same position at Charles F. Brush High School for a year. Later, he returned to the Mayfield Schools as Director of Athletics. Before becoming Mayfield's Assistant Superintendent, he held the position of Director of Human Resources and Business Operations.

He is the president-elect of the

Ohio Association of School Personnel Administrators Association and the current president of the group's Northeast Ohio chapter.

Dr. Barnes holds a doctorate degree in Leadership & Organizational Development from Nova Southeastern University, a master's in Secondary School Administration from Cleveland State University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Edinboro University.

Dr. Barnes said he and his family couldn't be more excited and thankful about coming to Lakewood.

"The Board of Education has been tremendous throughout this process and I am so very grateful to be the next Superintendent of the Lakewood City School District," he said. "I am especially excited to meet the students,

staff, administrative team, parents, and community members of this great city. I am looking forward to serving the District and continuing the great traditions and educational excellence that are already present within the Lakewood Schools."

Dr. Barnes, who signed a 3-year contract, will replace Jeff Patterson, who will be retiring July 31 after seven years as Superintendent and 12 years with the District. Dr. Barnes will also have 15 transition days before his August 1, 2018 start date to work with Superintendent Patterson.

The Board will hold a meet-and-greet reception for Dr. Barnes prior to its regular Board meeting on April 9 at Horace Mann Elementary. The reception will begin at 6 pm in the cafeteria and the public is invited to attend.



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Lakewood's Heroes

The Celeste Purple Martin House

by Joe Ott

Last Fall with permission from Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers and help from Lakewood Park staff, project leader, long time Lakewood resident, L.H.S Graduate, and Lakewood Urban Bird Society founder, Jim O'Reilly PhD. removed the large Purple Martin House that has been at the park since February of 1989.

Jim put together a small group of volunteers to assess the condition of the Purple Martin House and put together a plan to make repairs and get the house back up in early Spring when Purple Martin return from Brazil looking for nesting sites.

After the Purple Martin House was brought down from the pole (park employees used a crane – the winch for lowering and raising the house appears to have been broken for many years and needs to be replaced or repaired) it became clear a lot of repairs were needed to the structure after nearly 30 years of not being maintained.

The 54 room Purple Martin House, which is much bigger than it appears high up on the pole, is made of aluminum and was built by Stephen Dubiel beginning in the late 1960's and took approximately three years to complete. Mr. and Mrs. Dubiel donated the



Before the The Celeste Martin House was brought down. (photo by Joe Ott)



Lakewood sculptor Stephen Yusko (photo by Jim O'Reilly)

Purple Martin House to the city in February of 1989 in memory of former Mayor Frank Celeste.

After the house was thoroughly cleaned, it was taken to the studio of renowned Lakewood sculptor Stephen Yusko where it was repaired and missing parts were custom fabricated and replaced. He replaced and repaired railings as well as re-welding broken joints.

After the renovations to the house were completed, the old coats of paint were removed at Newbury Sandblasting. The house then received a fresh coat of paint from Jim Mossbruger and Jack Craddock at Miracle Auto Body located in Lakewood.

Jim Mossbruger at Miracle Auto Body has generously donated their time and materials for the paint job on the The Celeste Martin House.

Currently the entire house has a base coat of white. The plan is to paint it further with additional colors as it was originally but the base coat needs to cure for a minimum of 30 days. However, we need to get it reinstalled at the park soon, so it will be brought back down in the Fall after the Purple

Martins leave for Brazil, and have additional painting done to it.

To date, several thousand dollars of private funds have been used for these repairs and associated costs. With the help of The Lakewood Foundation, a page has been set up where you can donate to keep this project moving forward.

Please see the links below for much more interesting history and information regarding Mr. Dubiel, the Purple Martin House, and the Lakewood Urban Bird Society.



The Celeste Martin House with a fresh coat of paint. (photo Jim O'Reilly)

To donate: Stephen and Margaret Dubiel Lakewood Urban Bird Fund



To join: Lakewood Urban Bird Society



Jim Mossbruger and Jack Craddock of Miracle Auto Body located in Lakewood. (photo Jim O'Reilly)

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Supporting Mike Skindell For State Representative

by Meghan George
Lakewood Councilwoman-At-Large

As Mike Skindell’s campaign for State Representative gains momentum, I wanted to take a minute and state my support and endorsement of his candidacy. I am endorsing Mike for a multitude of reasons. First and foremost, he has clearly demonstrated his commitment and passion for our community.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mike Skindell for a number of years. I first met Senator Skindell when he was representing the City of Lakewood as an At-Large Councilman back in the late 90s/early 2000s. As a Councilman, Mike worked hard to establish our dog park as well as to preserve the cultural and historical makeup of Lakewood. Following his tenure on Lakewood City Council, Mike continued his service to

our district by representing Lakewood and other Westside communities in both the State House and State Senate. During his tenure, Mike was a strong voice and advocate for seniors and working families and has a proven track record of working hard on behalf of his constituents. Most recently, Senator Skindell introduced Senate Bill 260, which would establish an assault weapons ban throughout Ohio.

Mike is one of the most honest and trustworthy people that I have had the pleasure of working with and is dedicated to our community. He has tirelessly worked on behalf of hard working families throughout his elected career. I encourage the residents of Lakewood and surrounding communities to join me and the George family in voting for Michael J. Skindell for State Representative on May 8th.



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Spring Sale At Nicholson House

by Heidi Murray

Mark your calendar for Friday, April 20th, 1:00 – 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 21st, 10:00 am – 3:00 p.m., because you won’t want to miss the Lakewood Historical Society’s special event, Tabletops & Trifles. This elegant sale will feature displays of:

- Sterling Silver Flatware, trays and serving pieces as well as candlesticks, frames and trinkets.
- Rosenthal, Limoge, Noritake and many more china sets and decorative items.
- Waterford, Stueben and Tiffen sparkling stems, vases and more.

• Fine Jewelry, gifts, artwork, linen, perfume bottles, ladies purses, hats, gloves and slippers.

Bring your friends and pamper yourselves by perusing beautiful items of yesterday and today. If it is collectible or beautiful you will find it at the Historic Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit Ave, April 20 and 21. Just browsing will be a pleasure, but you’re sure to find a trifle you must have for yourself! Can’t make this sale? Save the Date for Sale on the Grounds May 4,5,6!

More information at www.lakewoodhistory.org

A Concert For Mike: Raising Funds For The Family Of A Lost Local Legend

by Ben Burdick

You have to understand that he was being humble when he said he could play fourteen musical instruments fluently. Mike Jacobs could make beautiful music on anything—from a broken toy saxophone to an orchestral bassoon—but he never liked bragging so he only gave himself credit for the tools into which he’d really put some work. He was so unassuming and generous with the spotlight that you probably never heard of him before, but to many of your favorite local musicians he was a legend. (Mike would have hated that word, but it tells the story.) In addition to being a well-kept secret who could rock harder than Syd Barrett and John Denver put together, he was the most joyous person most people ever met, a warm and caring friend, a crazy-eyed collaborator, an inspirational teacher and a devoted father.

Mike Jacobs passed away in his sleep on December 8, 2017 after a long illness, leaving behind his partner of twenty years, their eight year old daughter and hundreds of broken-hearted artists, writers, musicians and friends. He was 41 years old.

Rather than sit around and surrender to the darkness, a ragtag collection of his friends, drawn from bands across many musical genres and several decades, are getting together to play a concert fundraiser on what would have been Mike’s 42nd birthday.

The Mike Jacobs Legacy Fundraiser



will take place on Sunday, April 29 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Around the Corner Saloon & Cafe located at 18616 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20. You can also buy your tickets online—or just make a donation—by searching for “Mike Jacobs” at eventbrite.com. All proceeds will go the education, musicianship and general welfare of his beloved daughter, Izzy.

In addition to four hours of music from Smiley Baldazar, Tracy Marie, Dead Ahead, Colorado Biosphere, Jotnar, Up All Night Alien Scum and more, there will be free food, a cash bar, raffles and a real-life cardboard cutout of our dear friend who will be happy to take selfies with all well-wishers. Musical guests are being added every week to play some of Mike Jacobs’ greatest compositions and favorite freakin’ songs. Everyone is welcome. Take a chance! If you love free-flowing, genre-busting rock and roll, it’s not too late to catch the Mike Jacobs spirit.

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Gordon Tower Insurance In Lakewood 4th Year to Sponsor Hunger Relief Event: All You Need Is Love (And Food!) On April 21

by Mary Bodnar

Gordon Tower Insurance Agency at 14701 Detroit Ave Suite #362 is the Corporate Sponsor for our 4th year, along with Auto Owners Insurance, for “All You Need is Love (And Food)” Hunger Relief Benefit on Sat. April 21st, 2018 at 6 pm at Vosh at 1414 Riverside Dr, in Lakewood.

“All You Need is Love (And Food)” brings together the incredible innovative music of the Fab Four as area musicians perform Beatlemania tunes while we raise \$\$ for this worthy cause! All proceeds benefit Trinity Lakewood Community Outreach (TLCO), a dynamic and fast-growing hunger relief organization.

Please join Mary & Michel Bodnar & Melanie Johnson of Gordon Tower Insurance at this wonderful event. Tickets are only \$10 at the door and bring a canned good. Support local Hunger Relief! All funds raised go to support the hunger relief efforts of TLCO, which include four monthly hot meals, a monthly produce distribution during the summer/fall months, a food pantry and a community garden that provides fresh food for the meals during the growing season.

TLCO is the community outreach arm of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Funds are also used to purchase food for the pantry and hot meals over the course of the year. This is important because the need for hunger relief services continues to grow and resources continue to shrink. Vosh is kicking back 10% of all food sales proceeds, Dr Z Amps is donating amps for use for the musicians, and Chuck Davis of Adkins Printing is donating printing services for our flyers. Raffle items have been generously donated by local restaurants, businesses and sports/entertainment venues.

The mission of TLCO is fostering a healthier community through collaboration, education and meeting basic needs. With the help of over 200 volunteers, TLCO offers hunger relief to hundreds of individuals and families from Lakewood and all over Northeast Ohio each year.

Preferred food donations include peanut butter, canned tuna, canned fruits/vegetables, cereal and beef stew.



Brett Luengo, Tim Collingwood, Jennifer Collins, Tristan Rader, Maya Camhi, Mariely Luengo

Jewish Lakewood Alliance Premiere Event- Havdalah

by Maya Camhi

Last summer, poorly-drawn Nazi swastikas were spray painted on the driveway of a house on Belle Avenue. Born out of this hate was a community effort called “Sidewalks of Love.” Lakewood residents spread messages of love, welcome, and acceptance through sidewalk chalk art. Lakewood held a rally just as the momentum peaked, where Rabbi Enid Lader (Beth Israel-West Temple in Cleveland, Ohio) praised the “Sidewalks of Love” effort, sharing her daughter’s experience of anti-Semitism in the Lakewood City Schools when they first moved to Lakewood, 35 years ago.

In the wake of Nazi vandalism, Jewish people living and working in Lakewood found many allies who supported and welcomed diversity. Though, more surprisingly, Jewish west-siders found that there are actually other Jewish people on

the west-side! Jewish Lakewood Alliance (JLA) aims to increase visibility and break down any fear and stigma about being Jewish in public life. JLA was formed with the hopes of inspiring other Jewish Lakewood-ers to feel comfortable expressing their unique Jewish practice in the city we love, and proudly share this culture openly with the community.

JLA will host its first Havdalah on April 21, 2018. The event is free and open to the public at the Bottlehouse Brewery at 13368 Madison Avenue at 7pm. Rabbi Enid Lader will lead a short service and Deb Rogers and Robin Selinger will lead us with music. JLA members will provide a potluck; kosher meals are available upon request. JLA will also be collecting food and personal care items for donation to Lakewood Food Bank. We do hope you can make it - all are welcome!

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| 4 Items | \$9.00 | \$11.50 | \$15.00 | \$18.00 |
| Deluxe | \$9.50 | \$12.25 | \$16.00 | \$19.50 |
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Lakewood Is Art

Don't Kill The Fill-Ins

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 67

by Buzz Kompier

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

Great Plains - The Mark, Don & Mel E.P. + 4 - Rerun Records - 12 songs - LP

I don't know if this is common knowledge amongst readers of this column or just people who actually know me, but I love Great Plains. It's kinda hard to write any review other than "Ron House 5/5" but I acknowledge that to do so would be to fail my audience, who might actually want to know something more about this. This is a reissue of the very first Great Plains record from 1983, with some additional live tracks stuck on at the end (which made this into a 33 instead of a 45, which may be cause for concern for some, but we won't dwell on that). It's pretty great. I guess at its heart it would be called "garage rock," but there's a very distinct '80s indie feel to it as well. You know, if that means anything to you. There's some upbeat garage-poppers, such as "When Do You Say Hello?" and "Pretty Dictionary" along with a mix of kind of more ominous, almost haunting songs, like "The Way She Runs A Fever" or especially "It's Dying." I kinda wanna take the whole thing with me on my next spooky road trip. The keyboard part on "Confetti" is real cool, as are the weird reverb-heavy parts. I don't think there's a single iffy or even just-okay lyric in "The Night Won't Live To See The Day," and it also has 1. the greatest opening lines ever and 2. some really nice sloppy harmonies on the chorus. The all-time classic "Cave-In" sounds like it's about to fall apart from the opening seconds of the song on, and I love when we get to the bridge and Ron just misses every note. Both of those points actually illustrate another great quality about this, which is its amateurishness, which can especially be heard on some of the live bonus tracks, which really gives the band a lot of heart. I don't believe "Seven Days All Night" or "Cause Without The Rebel" were ever studio-recorded (which is a real shame about the former, given the sound quality of the live recording here doesn't quite do it justice-- "Cause" sounds pretty good though). I mean, unless you want to count the Moses Carryout (or was it Twisted Shouts?) version of the latter...but was that even a studio version? I can't remember. I think the live version of "Hamburger Boy" here blows away the one from "Naked At The Buy, Sell & Trade." "I Must Have Made It All Up" provides us with some of the backstory of the mysterious bassist Hank O'Hare (actually Don Howland, who apparently was embarrassed by these recordings and didn't want his real name on them, which is ridiculous), and it's really great to hear Ron switch from being a smart-ass to singing this

really sincere, sad song, and then during the bridge switch right back to "I wanna say hi to all my kids out there" and then right back into the song. The true dual-nature of Great Plains, right there. I could go on and on about this all day, but I wanna save some of my good lines for the "Born In A Barn" review. 4.5/5 (rerunrecordsstl.com)

Great Plains - Born In A Barn - Rerun Records - 13 songs - LP

This one is Great Plains' second record (their first full-length) and their debut for the seminal Homestead label. People are fond of using the description "smart" for certain bands, to the point where it ceases to have real meaning. Well, Great Plains really are smart. There's a good amount of lyrics on here that I'm certain mean something or are a reference to something else, but I am too stupid to get more than, let's say, 30% of them. "Lincoln Logs," with its "presidential" guitar riff and backing shouts of "Abraham! Abraham!" is obviously about our 16th president, that's an easy one. Even Ron House's typically sarcastic tone sounds emotional and sincere on the rather sad "I Must Have Made It All Up," and just to give the listener some mood whiplash, it's followed by "Love To The Third Power," which a friend of mine would almost certainly call a "banger," though I would prefer to describe it as a "ripper," between the cool keyboard line, the enthusiastic vocal performance, the backwards guitar solo, the amazing sloppiness of the ending...it's pretty darn good. There's (of course) some amazing lyrics on here. If Lincoln makes a mistake, "it's a mistake that someone had to make," meanwhile the narrator of "Love To The Third Power" is "counting every finger on her hand" while "her eyes change the color of my scream." Going back to the historical nature of the tracks, "Rutherford B. Hayes" (which discusses not only Hayes, but Mark Hanna and Woody Hayes, who according to the lyrics is Rutherford's grandson-- I don't think that's actually true-- I think the verse about the assassination is about William McKinley as well-- lots to take in here) is followed by "Black Sox Scandal/ What Are You Living On," which starts as a pretty morose song about Shoeless Joe Jackson before following a rather psychedelic transition into a more upbeat (though still minor) second part. I have a hard time following "The Knotted One," between its references to Blake and Rimbaud, but it's a good song nonetheless. After beginning with a goofy takeoff of "Let's Dance" (the Chris Montez song, not the David Bowie song), "Columbus Dispatch" provides a pretty savage indictment of the titular newspaper-- "if the streets are cold, the bums have a use for you"; "I read the Plain Dealer too soon, saw something that looked like news." I certainly would never want to be on the receiving end of a Ron House-penned diss track. To further the sort of nostalgic (if not all

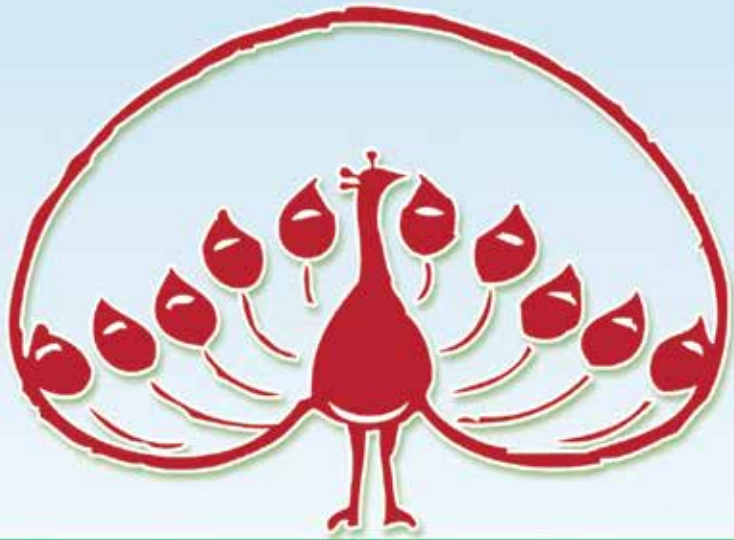
that positive) looking back that a lot of the lyrics do, there's a good line in here: "with my open eyes, I saw the world that my parents' blew." Kicking off the second side, "Serpent Mound" continues that trend of looking into the past, but at the same time juxtaposing that with modern times. We almost immediately go from the streets of revolutionary Paris to the narrator hoping his car doesn't get towed, and that trend continues throughout the lyrics, as kind of described by the line in the first verse, "to see time perform." It's really kind of a beautiful song, including the semi-haunting harmonica solo. Enthusiastic drumming, too: they don't call him Dave Manic for nothing! Besides the great title, "When Honesty Gets Old" also features a good reverb-heavy guitar riff and more good lyrics. "Death Of A Thought Returns" kicks off with some pretty crunchy guitar and features Matt Wyatt on lead vocals during the verses, who, while he's no Ron House, does a very good job at driving home the emotion of the (great) song. The last three tracks on the record prove, above all, that these guys can really set a mood. Between Ron's panic attack of a vocal performance on the bridge of "Black Like Me," the chaotic instrumental performance of the same song, the really menacing vibe of "Old 3C" (Ron and co-lead vocalist Mike Rep almost sound scared themselves) (though perhaps all

is not so bad-- driving the Old 3C, they set out to "find some hope and take it back to my home" (though who knows if they will succeed)), and the haunting sound of "Town's Got A Widow" (the way Ron mumbles the last verse, culminating in the repetition of "there's more stars than I've ever seen tonight" gives me chills, along with the feeling that the calmness of the song is about to give way to something bad at any second) it's kind of a harsh last 10-or-so minutes of the album (but in a good way). I could spend hours doing detailed lyrical and musical analyses of each song here, but that's not what a review is for, and besides, I do not have time to do so. All you really need to know is that this is a great album (despite the negative review printed on the inner sleeve) and a great band. Rerun did a really great job on these two as well (my one complaint is that the lyric sheet for this one was shrunk down to fit on the inner sleeve, but seeing as I am young, I am still able to read it). Also, the download contains lots of bonus material, for true believers like me. 4.5/5

(rerunrecordsstl.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.

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Lakewood Is Art

The Open Suitcase Exhibit

by Inese Abol

Commemorating Latvia's 100 years of independence, The Cleveland Latvian Welfare Association proudly presents "The Open Suitcase Exhibit." It will take place on Sunday, April 8th from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Cleveland Latvian Hall 1385 Andrews Avenue, behind the Latvian Church (the oldest church in Lakewood, originally The Church Of The Redeemer).

The exhibit will feature items those fleeing occupied Latvia during WWII managed to take with them. Unique items such as a wedding dress, sewing machine, Bible, musical instruments, jewelry, documents and much more. Attendees will also enjoy samplings of Latvian food and drink.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome at the door.



"My First Time" Makes Regional Premiere At Beck Center

by Beth Kretschmar

Beck Center for the Arts proudly presents the regional premiere of "My First Time," March 30 through April 29, 2018 in the Studio Theater. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. There is no performance Sunday April 1. Tickets are now on sale. Buy early and save with promo code: LUCKY to receive \$5 off each adult/senior ticket purchased by March 29. This smart and revealing comedy contains strong language and content.

Written by famed Broadway Producer Ken Davenport, "My First Time" features hysterical and heartbreaking stories about first sexual experiences written by real people. Before blogging technically began there was myfirsttime.com. It allowed people to anonymously share their own true stories about their First Times. The website became an instant phenomenon and stories poured in from around the globe that were sweet, sad, absurd, funny, heterosexual, homosexual, shy, sexy, and everything in between. "My First Time" brings these true stories to life, and you may be able to share your first time – anonymously of course. "One of New York's best new plays! Phenomenal!" - EdgeNewYork.com

Directed by Beck Center Artistic Director Scott Spence, the talented cast of four includes Heidi Harris, Miguel Osbourne, Chris Richards, and Victoria Zajac. Harris and Richards appear courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA).




Tickets are \$31 for adults, \$27 for seniors (65 and older), and \$12 for students with a valid I.D. A \$3 service fee per ticket will be applied at time of purchase. Preview Night on Thursday, June 1 is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of four or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of My First Time is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. It is generously sponsored by the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

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LakewoodAlive

Mark Your Calendar: LakewoodAlive Unveils 2018 Schedule Of Community Events

by Matt Bixenstine

Front Porch Concert Series, Summer Meltdown, Spooky Pooch Parade, Chocolate Walk and Light Up Lakewood to Celebrate City's Vibrancy

It's shaping up to be another fun-filled year in our city. LakewoodAlive announces its schedule of community events for 2018 – a collection of five events spanning 15 dates that will afford attendees plenty of opportunities to celebrate Lakewood's vibrancy.

The Front Porch Concert Series, Lakewood Summer Meltdown, Spooky Pooch Parade, Lakewood Chocolate Walk and Light Up Lakewood encompass a diverse slate of events that offers something for everyone. Collectively, this quintet of LakewoodAlive events drew 40,000 attendees to Downtown Lakewood during 2017.

The event schedule kicks off on Friday, June 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. with the first of 11 performances comprising the 8th Annual Front Porch Concert Series sponsored by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James. This popular summer series features a wide variety of free, live music on the front steps of Lakewood Public Library for 11 consecutive Friday evenings. Each week showcases a different style of music while Lakewoodites and visitors enjoy an entertaining evening at an open-air venue. Attendees are encouraged to bring family, friends, snacks, blankets and chairs.



LakewoodAlive's Front Porch Concert Series at Lakewood Public Library, sponsored in part by Bentley Wealth Management.

Sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled, the 9th Annual Lakewood Summer Meltdown on Saturday, July 14, from 4 to 10 p.m. represents one of the region's most highly-anticipated street parties, drawing 10,000 attendees from across Northeast Ohio to the heart of Lakewood each July. This fixture on our city's summer calendar takes place on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood between Marlowe and Mars Avenues and includes the Meltdown 5K race, 1 Mile Kids Fun Run, street festival, outdoor activities, games, food vendors, beer garden, live music and more.

Dogs will rule the day on Saturday, October 20, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. during the 11th Annual Spooky Pooch

Parade. Sponsored by Discount Drug Mart, this canine-centric community event consists of a festival in Kauffman Park, a parade through Lakewood's Downtown business district on Detroit Avenue and an awards presentation. A favorite Halloween tradition for Northeast Ohio dog lovers and their families, the Spooky Pooch Parade represents one of the only events of its kind in the region, providing a tail-wagging good time for canine and human guests alike.

On Thursday evening, October 25, Downtown Lakewood will turn downright chocolatey, and even those with a discerning sweet tooth will go home happy. The 10th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk is a delectable and decadent evening all about chocolate, with participants visiting a variety of shops and eateries serving as "Sweet Stops" that each provide a unique chocolate treat. This fundraising event supports the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance and LakewoodAlive's programming.

The spirit of the season will come to life with holiday cheer when the 12th Annual Light Up Lakewood sponsored by First Federal Lakewood takes place on Saturday, December 1, from 4 to 8 p.m. within the city's seasonally-illuminated downtown district. A signature event on LakewoodAlive's calendar, this free, family-friendly festival along Detroit Avenue features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter fireworks, live music, ice carv-

ings, hot chocolate, food trucks, children's games and more. Additional festive activities will take place throughout the day.

"On behalf of our entire organization, we're thrilled to announce our schedule of community events for 2018," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "Our wide range of community events offers something for everyone, improving quality of life for our residents and staying true to our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood."

For more information regarding LakewoodAlive's calendar of community events for 2018, visit LakewoodAlive.org/Events.



LakewoodAlive's Spooky Pooch Parade (photos by Jim O'Bryan/The Lakewood Observer)



LakewoodAlive's Front Porch Concert Series at Lakewood Public Library, sponsored in part by Bentley Wealth Management.



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LakewoodAlive's Light Up Lakewood (photo by Jacob Chabowski/The Lakewood Observer)

LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive’s “A Team” Volunteers Build Porches, Camaraderie

by Matt Bixenstine

Everybody’s working for the weekend...that is, everybody except for members of LakewoodAlive’s most experienced team of volunteers. The weekend, after all, is when this ultra-dedicated group springs to action.

Lakewood residents Aaron Cooper, Jeff Davis, Jim Hayes, Carl Orban and Dana Paul comprise the all-star squad of volunteers known as the “A Team.” This quintet spends various Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year tackling major volunteer housing projects on behalf of the LakewoodAlive Housing Outreach Program.

Although they vary in age (ranging from early-thirties to upper-sixties) and employment (ranging from corporate professionals to retirees), all five members of the A Team share two distinct traits: A general level of expertise with building projects and a strong desire to use their talents to help fellow community members in need.

2017 proved a banner year for the A Team. Not only did this volunteer group gain two new members (Davis and Hayes), but it also soared to new heights with its volunteering productivity. This year saw the A Team complete three major volunteer housing projects, accumulating 312 total volunteer hours and generating \$11,445 worth of economic impact for homeowners within our community.

“I don’t like to just sit around and I don’t play golf – this is what I like to do,” said Orban, a retired engineer. “It’s really a wonderful team, and the key word is ‘team.’ We all speak the same language and we take a great deal of pride in helping other people. We’ve been known to drive our spouses by the houses where we complete projects to show off our work.”

The year began with the A Team completing a two-story porch replacement they started last fall. Thanks to their efforts, an elderly resident on Elmwood Avenue has seen her once-unsafe rear entranceway transform into a newly-designed porch.

When this resident was referred to LakewoodAlive by the City of Lakewood’s Building Department due to the poor condition of her rear porch, the A

Team agreed to tackle this challenging project. The resident was presented with an opportunity to have her porch reconstructed through LakewoodAlive’s 80/20 Volunteer Project Supply Fund, whereby the homeowner pays 20 percent of the project cost and LakewoodAlive covers the remaining 80 percent using funding provided by First Federal Lakewood. The labor was completed free-of-charge.

Equipped with design assistance courtesy of LakewoodAlive board member Jim “JP” Ptacek, the A Team set about tearing down the unsafe porch and constructing a new two-story porch. This process entailed everything from crafting a porch design and obtaining a building permit to digging a foundation and constructing two separate levels of the porch.

For Hayes and Davis, the Elmwood Avenue porch reconstruction project marked their indoctrination into the A Team.

“My wife and I had downsized to a townhome so I no longer needed to get as much done around my own house and I wanted to do more to give back,” said Hayes. “This is exactly what I was looking for, where you can build something tangible that makes a difference in someone’s life. And the people on the A Team are phenomenal – I really enjoy working with them and learning from them.”

Following the Elmwood Avenue porch reconstruction project, the A Team completed two additional projects that were less time-intensive yet made significant impacts on the lives of their respective homeowners. A project on Lakewood Avenue resulted in a step replacement, while a project on Dowd Avenue in Lakewood’s Historic Birdtown Neighborhood involved repairing a grateful homeowner’s front porch.

Despite the large volunteer workload, members of the A Team also made time on two occasions during 2017 to host get-togethers to celebrate their successful projects and meet each other’s families.

“This group of people, we not only volunteer and help people out, we have fun doing it,” said Cooper. “It’s just a really fun group and it’s an honor to be a part of this team.”

2017 A Team By The Numbers
Volunteer Housing Projects: 3
Number of Members: 5
Total Volunteer Hours: 312
Volunteer Hours Value: \$6,753
Total Economic Impact: \$11,445

LakewoodAlive’s Paint Lakewood Program

continued from page 1

Qualified Paint Lakewood Program applicants must meet HUD-established income guidelines, and other restrictions do apply. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/PaintLakewood for more information or contact the LakewoodAlive office at 216-521-0655.

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

LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: How To Contract A Repair” Workshop On April 26

by Matt Bixenstine

We’re known as the “City of Beautiful Homes,” yet as many residents have discovered, maintaining our renowned-yet-aging housing stock requires more than some basic elbow grease on the part of homeowners.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair on Thursday, April 26, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library. The fifth workshop of 2018 for this popular home maintenance educational series will focus on the process of working with a home repair/improvement contractor.

Led by Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Director, this free workshop will cover the basics of understanding your repair, including navigating the process of obtaining estimates, scheduling the job and ensuring the project is completed properly in a timely manner.

The goal of this presentation is to help remove the guesswork from

the daunting task of home repair and improvement projects. When your project is done correctly the first time, you save precious time, money and sanity.

To reserve your free spot for “Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair,” visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome or call 216-521-0655.

Now in its fifth year, LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home” series draws hundreds of attendees annually. 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.

The Benefits Of Maintaining Your Plaster Walls And Ceilings

by Linda Jancik

Your unique, historic house was originally designed with plaster and lathe as an integral component of the structure. When those supporting structures are removed, the integrity of the structure is compromised. Wood lathe serves to strengthen the walls with additional racking resistance.

Plaster often varies in thickness to accommodate for irregularities in framing. When replacing with drywall over the existing framing, you may have to correct the framing by either sistering the framing members with all new pieces or strap and shim the existing framing to achieve straight, flat surfaces.

Lime and gypsum plasters allow buildings to breathe. The plaster absorbs and releases moisture and does not mold. When exposed to leakage, less damage will occur than with drywall.

Lime plaster is unmatched in strength and durability, providing thicker, denser walls. As lime plaster

ages, it hardens through the process of carbonation. Plaster and lathe are usually at least one inch thick; if not more...drywall is usually half an inch.

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Plaster and lathe walls and ceilings mean double the R-value of ordinary drywall.

Plaster increases the historic authenticity and therefore resale value of a historic home.

The plaster and lathe are already there, thus it is “greener” to retain these existing elements.

Come and learn more about the plaster and lathe walls and ceilings in your Lakewood home at the LakewoodAlive “Knowing Your Home” workshop on May 10th at the Lakewood Sherwin Williams at 7 pm.

Linda Jancik is a plasterer. She owns Wall to Wall Transformations and has enjoyed raising her 7 children in Lakewood over the past 26 years.

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The Back Page



photo by Jim O'Bryan

If you like birds and wildlife, check out Lakewood Observer’s Deck and Photo Galleries! Photos from many of Lakewood’s finest birders and wildlife photographers. Isn’t it time you joined the Lakewood Observer and shared your photos, and stories? Lakewoodites will be back next issue!

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