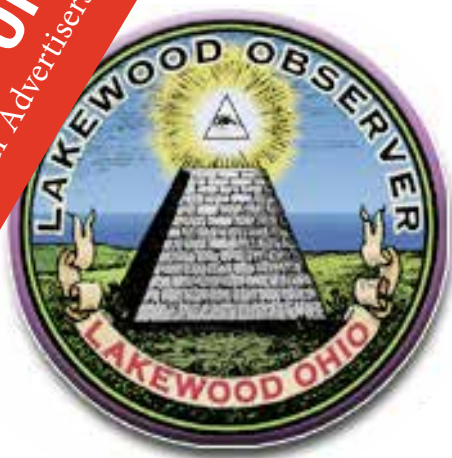


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"It looks to me like any man that wants to be in politics in times like these lacks something." - Will Rogers

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 14, Issue 10, May 16, 2018

Skindell And Antonio Win Primaries

by Matt Kuhns

Nickie J. Antonio and Michael J. Skindell will be Democrats' nominees to represent Lakewood in the Ohio General Assembly, following last Tuesday's primary.

Lakewood voters' overwhelming preference for Antonio over Martin Sweeney settled a fight between two state representatives, each seeking a nomination to run for Ohio Senate District 23. In recent weeks the matchup drew repeated notice from local media.

Sweeney closed Tuesday with modest leads in most of the senate district, which includes Lakewood, Parma, and other western suburbs as well as parts of Cleveland. But an outlier result in Lakewood, which voted more than 3-to-1 for Antonio, gave her an overall victory of more than 54%.

At the same time, state Senator Michael J. Skindell defeated Lakewood City Council member Tom Bullock to be Democrats' nominee for Ohio House District 13. Skindell won slightly more than 55%,

both in Lakewood and the two Cleveland wards which constitute most of the district.

The result is the second such for Bullock, following a primary loss to Antonio in 2010, when both sought Democrats' nomination for the Ohio House.

Antonio as well as Skin-

dell are now ineligible to run for their current offices, owing to term limits, and both will seek to move between the two chambers of the General Assembly in November.

Each nominee will face a Republican opponent in the November election.

Democrats' sizable voter-

registration advantage in each district, however, will favor Antonio's and Skindell's campaigns.

If elected, Antonio will be the first woman to represent the 23rd Senate District, and the first openly gay member of the Ohio Senate.

LakewoodAlive To Host Day Of Festivities In Historic Birdtown On June 16

by Matt Bixenstine

Birdtown Picnic, Battle of Birdtown Softball Game Highlight Fun-Filled Day

It's a celebration of all things Birdtown and you're invited to partake in the fun.

LakewoodAlive will host the 4th Annual Birdtown Picnic and 2nd Annual "Battle of Birdtown" Softball Game on Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Madison Park. Sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Citizens Bank and First Federal Lakewood, this community event is an initiative of LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Community Engagement Program.

The fun-filled day kicks off with the "Battle of Bird-



The 4th Annual Birdtown Picnic takes place from noon to 3 p.m. at Madison Park.

town" Softball Game from 10 a.m. to noon at George Usher Field in Madison Park. This friendly, coed game will feature Lakewood community leaders, residents and business owners - including many representing the Historic Birdtown Neighborhood - participating in a seven-inning match-up that

New Public Art Mural Beautifies Downtown Lakewood



by Matt Bixenstine

The installation of a public art mural took place on May 1 at the corner of Detroit Avenue and Warren Road in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. Designed by Lakewoodite artist Derek Brennan, this unique mural entitled "Imagination on the Lake" depicts a Lake Erie Loch Ness Monster through the lens of children's imagination. This mural serves as a centerpiece of the Warren Road Beautification Project that LakewoodAlive has undertaken in partnership with the City of Lakewood and Cuyahoga County.

LHS Earns Bronze As One Of US News' Best High Schools

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School has been named one of U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools and a Bronze Medalist for 2018. The magazine awards Gold, Silver and Bronze medals according to college readiness, math and reading scores and graduation rates.

Overall, the nation's high schools are scored on state proficiency standards, performance of historically

underserved student groups, students' participation and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) tests and graduation rates. More than 20,000 public schools were evaluated and the schools scoring in the top 30% overall make the list. Lakewood High was ranked 134th in the state (up from 167 from last year), which falls in the top 20% of the 822 Ohio schools awarded medals.

"We are grateful for this recognition," said LHS Princi-

pal Keith Ahearn, "however, we also feel that Lakewood High's quality of education and student success is measured by much more than the criteria used to determine this award."

Ahearn continued: "This award recognizes our commitment to providing rigorous coursework and the necessary supports for our most vulnerable students to succeed and for all our students to graduate. For that, we are proud."

PTA Year-End Awards Include Educator Of Year For Csongei

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Council of PTAs handed out its annual awards at a ceremony on May 2 at Harding Middle School. The ceremony included awarding four senior scholarships, honoring teachers of the year at each building, and recognizing the District's Educator of the Year, Sarah Csongei, who also was named Ohio PTA's District 11 Educator of the Year.

Csongei works as an Intervention Specialist in the MILES special education classroom at Lakewood High. The other PTA Educator of the Year honorees for their respective school buildings were also recognized: Sonja Kreps, Harding Middle School; Colleen Moran, Garfield Middle School; Molly Dyke, Lincoln Elementary School; Julie Said, Roosevelt Elementary School and Sean McGuan, Grant Elementary School.

"I am so honored to be rec-



Lakewood High Intervention Specialist and PTA Educator of the Year Sarah Csongei (right) with PTA Council President Joanne Schwark.

ognized for the work that I do with such a unique population of students," said Csongei. "I would not be able to do my job without the amazing support of my fellow MILES teachers, Rachel Bonsky, Jess David, and Cory Streets, or the tireless help of all of the paraprofessionals in the MILES unit."

Csongei's nomination form state that she "creates a positive and engaging learning environment for all her

continued on page 11

continued on page 8

Hot Off The Deck



Emerald Canyon Bald Eagles are doing great this year. Both eaglets are about the size of chickens and growing every day. This week they started hopping around and stretching their wings. By July they will be in the air above Lakewood.

AROUND THE

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MONDAY - FRIDAY 11:30A.M. - 2:30 A.M.
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OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!

Lakewoodites headed to Mid-Ohio racetrack for the IMSA Weather Tech Challenge.

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Prop. Tax Reappraisals Coming Soon	Bridget Conant	15	902	Mon May 14
How Do You Make a Precinct Dry?	Bill Call	5	528	Mon May 14
Another Heroin Overdose	Jim O'Bryan	3	379	Mon May 14
Honesty In Local Government V	Mark Kindt	37	1594	Sun May 13
Time To Heal The City	Jim O'Bryan	4	627	Sun May 13
Should Tom Bullock Be Recalled?	Michael Deneen	11	871	Sun May 13
Fire Shuts Down I-90 Eastbound	Jim O'Bryan	0	679	Fri May 11
New Bar/Restaurant errrrrrr Beer Garden - Hottest Rumor In Town		29	2324	Fri May 11
Questioning The Redevelopment of the Former Hospital Site	Mark Kindt	26	2120	Fri May 11
Courts Dismiss Residents' Case To Save Lakewood Hospital	Jim O'Bryan	0	349	Fri May 11
Winners & Losers From The Democratic Primary	Michael Deneen	8	698	Thu May 10
Election congrats and questions	Dan Alaimo	9	729	Thu May 10
Little Free Library update	mjkuhns	13	1578	Thu May 10
Skindell & Antonio primary success	mjkuhns	2	298	Wed May 09
Redevelopment FAQ - DEBUNKED	Mark Kindt	37	1757	Wed May 09
Losing Lakewood Hospital - Online Document Archive	Mark Kindt	32	1650	Wed May 09
"Wobbly Weebles" Bullock & Carson Fall Down Hard After Being Exposed by LKWD OBSERVER	Brian Essi	4	419	Wed May 09

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Upcoming Submission Deadline

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June 20, 2018

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

City

Cox Business Signs On As 2018 Sponsor Of StartUp Lakewood

by Jeff Lavery

In what promises to be an exciting year for StartUp Lakewood, Cox Business has signed on as an official sponsor of the 2018 program. With numerous startups among its local client base and a vibrant entrepreneurial community in its backyard, supporting StartUp Lakewood was a natural fit for a company like Cox Business.

StartUp Lakewood is a dynamic engine for business creation, and a comfortable place for entrepreneurs to share ideas. Businesses such as Little Lakewood Pasta Company, PlayGrounds, Good-Kind Coffee, and Nosotros were born out of the Startup Lakewood program and many others are poised to become the next entrepreneurial success story in metro Cleveland.

“Our community relies on the garage inventor, the side hustle millennial and everyone in between who takes a chance on launching a new venture,” said Rob Brill, market vice president for Cox Communications. “We’re proud to support StartUp Lakewood and applaud their efforts to usher in the next generation of Cleveland’s vibrant innovation economy.”

The organization recently announced its new Entrepreneur-in-Residence for 2018. Front Porch Media Network CEO Michael DeAloia, who previously served as the city of Cleveland’s “Tech Czar,” will oversee the launch of a new incubator space. Expected to open in May, the incubator will give startups access to DeAloia’s counsel, as well as office amenities such as a conference room, printing facilities and internet access. The goal of the incubator is to create jobs in Lakewood by partnering with businesses and community organizations to support and launch local startups.

“What makes this so innovative is we’re launching this incubator with LaunchHouse, a co-working community that will create a new location in Lakewood,” said DeAloia. “It’s a provocative idea for a city like ours, and will provide additional resources to support its thriving startup economy. We’re grateful to companies like Cox Business for their support.”

About Cox Business

Cox Business provides voice, data and video services for more than 300,000 small and regional businesses, including healthcare providers, K-12 and higher education, financial institutions and federal, state and local government organizations. The organization also serves most of the top tier wireless and wireline telecommunications carriers in the U.S. through its wholesale division. According to Vertical Systems Group, Cox Business is one of the largest providers of business Ethernet services in the U.S. based on customer ports and has been consistently recognized for its leadership among small/midsize business data service providers. Cox is currently the seventh largest voice service provider in the U.S. and supports one million phone lines. For more information about Cox Business, visit www.cox.com/business or call 1-800-396-1609.

An Open Letter Of Gratitude From Nickie Antonio

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to thank all of our incredible voters who showed up on May 8th and cast a vote for me in the State Senate Democratic Primary. After months of grueling work, we had to wait until the late hours of election night to view the final results as they slowly trickled in and finally declared our campaign victorious. In what has been dubbed a “nail biter” by many, in the end I received almost 55% of the vote to win the election as the Democratic

party nominee. This victory is the result of the hard work and dedication of countless volunteers, supporters and a few part-time amazing staff. We truly could not have done this without the outpouring of support from people throughout SD 23, but especially in Lakewood, Cleveland, Parma, and Parma Hts. Lakewood voters produced an especially strong showing with over 5,000 of the last votes posted.

This win would not be possible without my family; Jean, Ariel and Stacey and the members of the greatest campaign team ever!!! The “All In for Antonio” Campaign Team includes: Nicole (Coco) Parke- Campaign Manager, Colleen Clark-Sutton-Campaign Coordinator, Sarah Kepple-Digital Communication Guru, with help from Matt, Eric, Erik, Donna, Diane, Dave, Molly, Maureen, Rebecca, Steve, Tom, Gerry and scores of volunteers too numerous to mention but each and every one important to the campaign.

We ran an energetic, positive campaign of the people, for the people. I am especially proud of our campaign during the time when our opponent went low and negative- we took the high road and continued to focus on the important issues facing our communities. We need quality, fully funded public schools for our children, increased senior services, good paying jobs-necessary to sustain our communities and fairness and equality for all. Together we will keep fighting for these important issues.

The voters of our district stepped up, turned out and made your voices heard. I am so grateful for your vote of confidence and support. Know that I will stand up for all the people of our district to move our communities and Ohio forward. And our office will continue to serve the entire district with superior constituency services. I hope you will all return to the polls in the November general election where I have a Republican opponent.

Sincerely,
Nickie J. Antonio
State Rep. 13



Nickie Antonio and Jean Kosmac (spouse) on election night at Deagan's in Lakewood.

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Monday, May 21, 2018 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Janet Montoya, MetroHealth Medical Center

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Friends' Summer Book Sale Preview

Memberships may be purchased at the door.

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Friends Book Sale Room

Booked for Murder: Reader's Choice

If you share a passion for mystery, join the group each month to discuss your favorites and selections made by group members. Tonight we will discuss: "Louisiana Longshot: A Miss Foutune Mystery" by Jana Deleon.

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

Saturday, May 19, 2018

Friends' Summer Book Bag Book Sale

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Friends Book Sale Room

Film - "In a Lonely Place" (1950)

Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill

At any given moment, screenwriter Dix Steele (Humphrey Bogart) can explode into a rage. So far he's been given a pass, but when a woman last known to be in his apartment is murdered, suspicion falls upon him. Neighbor Laurel Gray (Gloria Grahame) saw her leave Dix's place alone and tells police. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

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

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Concert - Moustache Yourself

Moustache Yourself is a gypsy jazz and swing band based in Northeast Ohio. Band members (nearly all of whom wear moustaches, a staple in the gypsy jazz lifestyle), are on a mission to incorporate the entire history of gypsy jazz into an eclectic mix of songs ranging from the style's beginnings to present day.

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

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Documentary - "Resilience: the Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope" (2016), Directed by James Redford

Presented by Recovery Resources

Toxic stress can physically change the human body; it's the result of abuse or neglect during childhood. This stress puts children at greater risk of disease, prison time, becoming homeless or even an early death. Resilience features those who are beginning to fight back to protect children from the effects of toxic stress. Experts Jim Sporleder and Dr. Nadine Harris demonstrate the facts of trauma and stress and offer solutions to this epidemic. We are joined by a representative from Recovery Resources to discuss the facts of mental health.

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

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Literature Series - To Ban a Mockingbird in 2018

Presented by Barbara Parr

The third in our four-part literature series. Previous registration required.

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

Embracing Diversity Community Forum

Presented by LakewoodAlive

The benefits arising from societal diversity are well-documented. But how exactly can we succeed with cultivating a more diverse community in Lakewood? Co-hosted by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission, this community conversation will offer insightful dialogue regarding how we as Lakewoodites can further our commitment to embracing and celebrating diversity within our city.

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

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Author Event - "The Baby Thief: The Untold Story of Georgia Tann, the Baby Seller Who Corrupted Adoption"

Book by Barabara Bisantz Raymond

Presented by Adoption Network

Georgia Tann, nationally lauded for arranging adoptions out of her children's home in Memphis, Tennessee, was actually a baby seller who terrorized poor, often unwed mothers by stealing their children and selling them to wealthy clients. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

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

Saturday, May 26, 2018

Film - "Partition" (2007)

Directed by Vic Sarin

In 1947, the Partition of India displaced millions as the fight for religious freedom led to violence and crisis. Determined to leave the ravages of war behind, Gian Singh (Jimi Mistry) resigns from the British Indian Army in pursuit of a quieter life. When he unexpectedly comes across Naseem (Kristin Kreuk), a young Muslim refugee in hiding, he must decide whether to let cultural taboos or human kindness dictate his decisions.

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

Sunday, May 27, 2018

Library Closed in Observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, May 28, 2018

Library Closed in Observance of Memorial Day.

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Literature Series - To Ban a Mockingbird in 2018

Presented by Barbara Parr

The fourth in our four-part literature series. Previous registration required.

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

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Author Event - "Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Twilight Zone: A Fifth-Dimension Guide to Life" by Mark Dawidziak

Can you live your life by what The Twilight Zone has to teach you? Yes, and maybe you should. The proof is in this lighthearted collection of life lessons, ground rules, inspirational thoughts and stirring reminders found in Rod Serling's timeless fantasy series. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

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

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Sunday, May 20, 2018

This Land is Your Land: Family Story Times about Diversity

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

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

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Lakewood LEGO® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

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

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

Mondays, June 4, 2018 through July 9, 2018

Otaku Café

For students entering sixth through twelfth grade

A fun club to explore Japanese culture, trading cards, video games, cosplay, drawing, and more. Great for meeting new friends. No prior knowledge required. Registration required.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Let's Make Music For you and your 2 to 7 year-old child

Join Ed Gallagher of the Beck Center and his guitar to sing and dance your favorite children's tunes. No registration required.

11:30 a.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.



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Lakewood Public Library

This Land Is Your Land: Family Storytimes About Diversity

by Nicole Born-Crow

Spring is finally here, and so is the next session of Lakewood Public Library's diversity and inclusion storytime- This Land Is Your Land- Body Positive edition. What is body positivity you might ask? Body positivity is recognizing that all bodies are equally valuable and worthy of acceptance and love, regardless of size, shape, gender, race or ability. It's about letting others decide what is good and healthy for their bodies, and that no one deserves bias or prejudice because of their size.

So how does this translate to a storytime for children? A child's ability to notice differences and form bias starts at an early age, especially as it pertains to how they look compared to other children. Dolls, clothes, even the media directed at children, plants the idea of what a "normal" body should look like. Children's literature, once again, presents us with a perfect tool to teach children both self-love and acceptance for the unique bodies of others.

Join us on Sunday, May 20th at 3:30 p.m in the Main Library Multipurpose Room, where we will explore



Children playing a recycling game during April's Environmental Storytime. Courtesy of Danielle Sulzer

body positivity through books, videos, songs and a craft!

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

You Are Entering The Twilight Zone: Life Lessons From A Timeless Show

by Sarah McKinsey

You may have watched an episode of "The Twilight Zone" and laughed, shaken your head, cringed, cowered (in my case,) or been amazed at its ingenuity. But did you ever think of "The Twilight Zone" as a body of work from which you could draw countless life lessons? Author and critic Mark Dawidziak was inspired to do just that, resulting in his book, "Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Twilight Zone: A Fifth-Dimension Guide to Life."

Dawidziak draws the reader in immediately with a welcoming and familiar tone. After an introduction that includes a biography of the show's creator Rod Serling, we are given a series of fifty life lessons, each using one or more "Twilight Zone" episodes to illustrate a point. For example, the importance of standing together as friends and neighbors, rather than letting ourselves be divided by chaos or change, is shown in the episode "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street."

Mark Dawidziak has been a theater, film, and television critic since 1979, and has been on staff at The Plain Dealer since 1999. He is also a prolific author, having published fiction and non-fiction books on topics ranging from horror to Mark Twain to television history. Dawidziak is coming to discuss his newest book at the Lakewood Public Library's Main Library Auditorium on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Come join us and learn something new, but take care, or you might find yourself inside the Twilight Zone...

Baby Thief Author Will Sign Books At Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

It sounds like a nightmare: renowned social worker accused of kidnapping and selling babies. But this is no horror story; it's the true account of Georgia Tann, written by Lakewood author Barbara Bisantz Raymond.

For years, Georgia Tann was lauded as a Tennessee social worker who arranged adoptions from her children's home in Memphis, Tennessee. She was praised for matching poor orphans with loving adoptive families. In reality, Tann was far from kind-hearted. She terrorized young unwed mothers into relinquishing their babies and even stole babies from some families. Tann would then sell the babies to wealthy clients including Joan Crawford and Dick Powell. Tann altered the babies' birth certificates, ostensibly to protect the adoptive families, but actually to make her crimes nearly impossible to trace.

An adoptive mother and investigative journalist, Barbara Bisantz Raymond recounts Tann's horrifying tale in her



Author Raymond stands with Oscar Winner, Octavia Spencer, who has optioned the film rights to Raymond's book.

book, "The Baby Thief: The Untold Story of Georgia Tann, the Baby Seller Who Corrupted Adoption." Raymond initially wrote about Tann in a magazine article which led to a 60 Minutes exposé on Tann. The film rights for "The Baby Thief" have been optioned by Academy-Award winning actress Octavia Spencer, who won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2012 for her portrayal of Minny Jackson in "The Help."

Raymond will discuss her book on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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Lakewood Schools

District Trio Earn Recognition For Impact In Special Ed

by Christine Gordillo

The 39th Annual Excellence in Education Awards recognizing students with disabilities, peers, and educators was held May 4 and included recognition for two Lakewood Schools students and staff member Neil Rupright. The event is planned by the ESC of Northeast Ohio and the State Support Team – Region 3 to recognize the great work being done by educators, teachers, students, and community members in special education.

Three awards are given to each district in Region 3:

- The Outstanding Student Achievement Award acknowledges achievements of school-age children and youth with disabilities in Northeast Ohio.
- The Outstanding Peer Achievement Award recognizes students without disabilities who have established positive relationships and who have assisted other students with disabilities, serving as exemplary role models.



Garfield Middle School paraprofessional Neil Rupright received the Outstanding Educator Achievement Award and the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award.

- The Outstanding Educator Achievement Award honors educators and educational teams who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs.

Rupright, a paraprofessional at Garfield Middle School, earned the Outstanding Educator Achievement Award for the District. In addition, he was awarded the Franklin B. Wal-



Garfield Middle School 8th grader Declan Markling received the Outstanding Peer Achievement Award.

ter Outstanding Educator Award. This award is presented to one educator from each of Ohio’s 16 State Support Team regions, who has made extraordinary contributions to the education of students with disabilities.

In her nomination form for Rupright, colleague Patti Witri said: “Neil treats all students with kindness and respect. He meets the students where they are functioning and works diligently to help them move forward to success in the classroom, school and their academics.”

Garfield eighth-grader Declan Markling earned the Outstanding Peer Achievement Award. Witri also nominated Declan for his award. She said of the Garfield eighth-grader: “Declan is a caring and compassionate person. He reads and socializes with the students



Lakewood High School senior Johnnesha Johnson received the Outstanding Student Achievement Award.

in our BRIDGES unit.... Declan is an exceptional role model for the students in the BRIDGES program and the whole student body of how to treat everyone with kindness and concern.”

Finally, Lakewood High senior Johnnesha Johnson earned the Outstanding Student Achievement Award.

Intervention Specialist Carrie Sullivan nominated Johnnesha for her award. Said Sullivan about Johnnesha: “Johnnesha is one of the hardest working students I think I have seen in my career as a teacher...She is a student that has gone above the call of duty in all she has done at Lakewood High!” Sullivan noted that Johnnesha has accomplished a 3.7 GPA while also working 20 hours a week.

Congratulations to all our honorees for these deserved awards!

Nanze Happy Hour Fundraiser To Benefit Malawi Children

by Christine Gordillo

Nanze invites you to join us for an evening of food, fun, and festivities at its happy hour fundraiser on Saturday June 2 at Around the Corner, 18616 Detroit Ave.! The \$25 ticket price includes unlimited beer, & well drinks, as well as assorted appetizers. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the bar will be open 7-9 pm. There will also be a Chinese raffle, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle.

Nanze currently operates a nursery school and in September of 2017 opened its doors to Nanze Primary in the village of Chikwasa located in Malawi. Children in grades 1-4, will no longer have to walk 7 kilometers one way

to receive an education. In addition to building a primary school, Nanze constructed a borehole to provide safe drinking water and has also constructed sanitation facilities and 3 teacher housing units. While our donors were great to us last year, Nanze is still in need of funds to complete Phase Two of our education initiative. With your help, we look to construct three additional classrooms, four sanitations facilities and teacher housing units. We hope that you can continue to help improve the lives of children in one of the poorest countries in the world. See you June 2nd!

Tickets can be purchased at <https://nanze.eventbrite.com>

LHS Junior Rangers 2018 Summer Soccer Camp

by Rick Harvey

Join LHS Varsity Coach Andrew Toth and the Ranger team for their annual LHS Junior Rangers Summer Soccer Camp!

The camp will be held Mon-Thurs June 11th-14th at LHS First Federal Lakewood Stadium.

This popular soccer camp is focused on developing footskills and game tactics in a fun and encouraging environment! Players get lots of touches during skill development and game play throughout the camp.

This camp is open to boys and girls from 1st (U08) to 8th(U15) grades. A camp tshirt is included for those that register early!

U08-U10 is 9:00am-10:30am \$45.00/residents, \$55.00/nonresidents
U11-U15 is 11:00am-1:00pm \$60.00/residents, \$70.00/nonresidents

Players can be registered for this team fundraising event at the Lakewood Recreation Dept or on their website www.lakewoodrecreation.com

LHS Junior Rangers MINI-CAMP Fall Warm-Up

Join LHS Varsity Coach Andrew Toth and the Ranger team for their LHS Junior Rangers MINI-CAMP Fall Warmup!

Enjoy 3 evenings of footskill development as your player gets ready for the Fall season! Campers will focus on footskills, soccer drills and game tactics designed to improve overall player skill and confidence on the ball.

This camp runs August 6, 7 and 9th at Madison Park and is open to boys and girls from 1st (U08) to 8th(U15) grades.

U08-U10 players are 6:00pm-7:00pm \$20/residents, \$30/non-residents
U11-U15 players are 7:00pm-8:30pm \$30/residents, \$40.non-residents

You can register for this team fundraising event at the Lakewood Recreation Dept or on their website www.lakewoodrecreation.com



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www.eycweb.com

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

Lakewood Schools

Staff Spotlight Honorees: Breckel & Fleming

by Christine Gordillo

ALISON BRECKEL

As a traveler from a young age, Lakewood High School Intervention Specialist Alison Breckel knows the value of exploring the world. Her passion and commitment to sharing that wanderlust with students is something that drives her and has led to her earning recognition as one Lakewood City Schools' May Staff Spotlight honorees.

Alison and her fellow chaperones recently returned from a Spring Break trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with 19 students. They hiked volcanoes, sailed on the Pacific, and interacted with myriad friendly tropical animals. Students learned about history, ecology, the Spanish language, and about the expansive nature of our world community. The trip is the sixth she has taken with students. She has opened students' eyes to such places as Peru, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

"Alison is an engaged teacher who creates transformative learning experiences for Lakewood High School students," said her nominator, LHS teacher Matt Heslep, who accompanied Alison to the Galapagos.

"I get great joy watching students experience new situations," said Alison.

Since Alison joined the District in 2002, she has been finding ways to engage with students outside of the classroom. She was instrumental in getting the girls' rugby club up and running and coached the club during its most successful years, including a national championship. She has been a class adviser, Student Council adviser, and a key member of the early Fresh Start orientation days.

In the classroom, Alison feels great satisfaction helping students overcome hardships that may prevent them from being successful in school and life. She prides herself on being someone many students feel welcome to share concerns or just talk. "I like being that trusted adult," she says.

Says Matt about Alison: "Like



Alison Breckel

many of our educators in Lakewood, Alison has the ability to make learning come alive in real and meaningful ways for students by looking for experiences that transcend the classroom walls all the way to South America."

Alison volunteers many hours to making the Travel Club trips a success. She is already into planning next year's adventure – to Ireland. It will be just one more time that Alison has helped open the world to our students.

MANDY FLEMING

Starting in a new workplace often takes some time to adjust to your new surroundings and colleagues. Lincoln Elementary Reading Intervention Specialist Mandy Fleming turned that notion on its head when



Mandy Fleming

she landed at her new school this past fall. The swift impact she has made with her Lincoln Leaders of Service Club has helped earn her a spot as one of Lakewood City Schools' May Staff Spotlight honorees.

"This club is what first made me realize the impact that she has had on this school in such a short amount of time," said Mandy's nominator, Laura Strauss.

Mandy, who joined the District in 2009, said that as soon as she heard she was headed to Lincoln, she knew she wanted to start a club that would focus on helping others. When she found out that the idea of a service club had been batted around at the school but never realized, she took the reins and ran with them.

Each month a specific grade

leads the service project with Mandy's guidance. The club has collected hats and gloves, filled a crib with baby items to help a local shelter and even had West Shore Construction Trades students build a doghouse for the club's pet supplies collection for the Lakewood Animal Shelter. Her collection displays in the hallway are always bright and creative.

Mandy is buoyed by the students' enthusiasm for service. "They are motivated and want to help others," she said. She is also grateful for the support she has received from Principal Sandy Kozelka and her colleagues. "Our teachers really value and promote (the club)," she said.

Mandy doesn't stop at the Lincoln Leaders club, she also serves as a coach on the Girls on the Run team.

Inside the classroom, Mandy's room is always abuzz with active learning.

Says Laura of Mandy's success with her third- through fifth-graders: The work that kids do in her room is amazing. They lead book club discussions, work independently on individually created projects and help each other with such kindness. She even gives up lunch hours to help kids who need a little extra support.... She has really made a huge impact her first year at Lincoln."

Centennial Celebration For LHS Alum

by Christine Gordillo

Not many live to see their 100th birthday, but Barbara Clarke, Lakewood High Class of 1936, did so in style! A party was held on March 31 in Chicago, where she moved after graduation to be near grandparents. Barbara worked as an accountant until she retired. In her retirement, she volunteered at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, which dedicated a rosebud tree in her honor for her birthday. Barbara, who currently lives in Wilmette, IL, received letters of congratulations from Lakewood High Principal Keith



Ahearn and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Cheers to Barbara, and here's to many more!

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Lakewood Is Art

Hey, What's That You Got There? Huh?: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 70

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.

Cheap Clone - EP - Just Because Records / Peanut Butter Records - 4 songs - 7"

From what I gathered, there's not really an official title for this one. Is it self-titled? Is it "EP?" Is it "4 Songs?" Drew told me I could make up whatever I wanted, so make sure you visit a local record store and ask for "430 Eyes, One That Smiles." Anyway. The record kicks off in a real good way with "Barely Smile," which is a great power pop tune. Pretty harmonies, a tasteful guitar solo, a nice bridge; what more do you want? "This One/That One" has a total Replacements vibe. Does Roseanna sing the bridge or did Drew's voice get even higher? Speaking of other people singing, I believe Kevin takes the lead on "Isaac Newton's Eye," which reminds me a lot of "Isolation Drills." Jaworski has a knack for singing in a key that sounds like it's not quite in tune but still somehow works (listen to that Cripple Kid 7"). "430 Miles" closes it out with another great power pop tune. I like the stop-start bits, that's a nice touch. Maybe it's just because of the other members stepping up to the mic on certain songs here, but this one feels more like a group effort than previous efforts. Did you know I saw the phrase "cheap clone" out in the wild somewhere the other day? About a guitar or something? Huh. Nice cover art, too. The Just Because/Peanut Butter

collaboration strikes again. Members of 9 Shocks Terror and Counter Intu- its. 4/5

(probably available at pbrates.bandcamp.com or justbecauserecords.bandcamp.com)

ITEM - Sad Light - Bands Of The Dealer - 8 songs - CD, cassette, down- load

I think I may have reviewed some other ITEM release a few years ago, but I cannot remember what I thought of it. Anyway, I guess that doesn't really matter since this is the new one. I can tell you it's indie rock, but that doesn't really mean anything and it also prob- ably sounds completely different from whatever I called indie rock last week. But it is a sort of reverb-heavy, mostly clean "alternative rock." If I say this sounds like a Mahall's band, does that mean anything to anybody? Probably not. Per the group's Bandcamp page, they're "art rock for depressed cowboys who love modulation," and once you combine that with a line from "Som- ersault" about a "bottle of absinthe, I spilled it on your synth," you'll probably get a feel for what these guys are about. Something makes me want to say that this sounds like Captured Tracks, but I also don't think I have ever listened to a single Captured Tracks release, so I have no idea why I would want to say that. My biggest gripe with this is that a lot of the tempos are in the same area (and it's a pretty slow area) and a lot of the instrumentation is similar. I'm not saying that it's samey so much as that they have a style that they stick to, and perhaps it's not my style. I don't wanna call it emo, but at the same time I know some of my emo-liking friends would

totally dig this. Sorta shoegazey at times, some artsy moves...I think you have to be in a certain mood to really feel this. One of my notes said "rainy day music." I think I could write this review on a different day and I would say entirely different things. But is that true of almost anything? I don't know. My highlights were the Beatlesque/60s psychedelia of the coda of "Somersault," "Witching Hour," which had a part that almost reminded me of Pulp but not quite, and "Green Bridge," which picks up the pace, has some nice jangly guitar that reminded me of "Tonight She

Comes" by The Cars and some song off of "Isolation Drills" (two things that ITEM sounds nothing like), and just serves as a good closer for the record. Overall, a decent release. I wish them the best. 3.2/5

(banditem.bandcamp.com, try an area store for physical copies)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreat- ening@gmail.com or send it directly to Observer headquarters: The Lakewood Observer, c/o Buzz Kompier, 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107.

PTA Year-End Awards Include Educator Of Year For Csongei

continued from page 1

students....is a strong advocate for her students -and an inspiration within LHS and LHS PTA."

The PTA Council also honored the overall success of four seniors. Earning \$1,000 scholarships each this year were Joseph Burtzloff, Calvin Dolatowski, Veronica Lee and Eva Wynn.

The Helping Hand award goes to a staff member in the school buildings other than a teacher who goes above and beyond in helping students and staff. Lincoln PTA member and volun- teer extraordinaire Patricia Barley was awarded this year's District Helping Hand Award. Barley also earned the award for the Ohio PTA for District 11.

The Golden Apple award is reserved for special recognitions of ser- vice. It is given to individuals for their outstanding efforts to improve or make a difference on the behalf Lakewood City Schools students and who have been instrumental in supporting and aiding in the success of PTA. This year, LHS head custodian Randy Hatmaker was awarded the Golden Apple.

Council also honored a number of programs around the District for their impact on students and families as well as the community at large. The follow- ing awards were given:

Family Engagement Award: The Lincoln Family Book Club, founded by teacher Laura Strauss

Outstanding PTA Program Award: LHS PTA's LHS 101 program

Community Engagement Award: LHS History Club

The final award is the PTA Coun- cil President's Award, which was presented to the Harrison PTA for its perseverance and dedication to sus- taining a meaningful and impactful PTA despite membership and budget challenges.

Council also said farewell to Superintendent Jeff Patterson, who is retiring in July, and Assistant Super- intendent Roxann Ramsey-Caserio, who will become the Superintendent of North Ridgeville Schools August 1.

Congratulations to all the honor- ees! and to the newly installed Council officers for 2018-2019, led by president Joanne Schwark.



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Lakewood Is Art

Rotary Honors Speech, Music, Visual Arts Contest Winners

by Lynn Donaldson

Winners of Rotary’s annual Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contest were honored at an awards ceremony April 9 at the Beck Center for the Arts.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River, the competition annually showcases the incredible talents of students attending one of five high schools – Lakewood, Lutheran West, Magnificat, Rocky River, and St. Edward.

Speech contest first place winner is Nicholas Cleary. Also honored were Taylor Heckel, second place, and Gabby Murray, third place. All three students were from Lakewood High School.

Speech contest finals were at the Rotary club’s March 26 meeting. Speeches must be of original content and be based on “The Four-Way Test of Rotary” which asks, “Is it the truth, Is it fair to all concerned, Will it build goodwill and better friendships, and Will it be beneficial to all concerned?”

This is the 73rd year for the club’s speech competition.

Music contest first place win-



Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River Four-Way Test Speech Contest winners are (from left) Taylor Heckel, second place; Nicholas Cleary, first place; and Gabby Murray, third place.

ner is Angeliki Cintron, flute, Rocky River, performing “Flute Fantaisie” by Hue. Hannah Cogar, Lakewood, voice, placed second, performing “Gia il Sole dal gange” by Scarlatti. Emily Erhardt, Lakewood, flute, placed third, performing “Sonate pour Flute et Piano” by Poulenc.

Honorable mentions were awarded to Grace Cooper, Lakewood, string bass, performing “Sonata 1, Movement 1 & 4” by Vivaldi, and Dan Tomazin, Rocky River, French horn, perform-

ing “Third Horn Concerto” by Mozart. The music competition follows the judging standards set by the Ohio Music Education Association.

Visual arts winners were Elyza Mihalski, first place, Lakewood, “My Sisters,” oil on canvas; painting; second place, Mikah Inak, Lakewood, “Deep Cleaning,” watercolor and colored pencil; and third place, Chloe Becker, Magnificat, “Hello, Yellow Dress,” oil on canvas.

Honorable mentions went to Phoebe Dunn, Rocky River, “Rhea,” colored pencil; Riley Geyer, Lakewood, “Love Notes in Concrete Sky,” print-making/gel; and Andrew Lewis, St.



Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River visual art contest winners received recognition at the Beck Center April 9.

Edward, “Temptation Tea,” clay.

Over 90 pieces, of numerous styles employing various media, were submitted by all five schools. A jury of artists selected outstanding works of art that met the contest requirements. From this gallery, judges chose the award winners. The selected entries were displayed in the Jean Bulicek Gallery at the Beck Center.

“This annual event is a wonderful way to acknowledge the talents of our youth,” stated Ed Gallagher, Beck Center director of education, “and the quality work of the participants truly shows that the arts and creativity are alive and well in our community.” This is the twenty-first year that the Beck Center has collaborated with the Rotary club for this competition.

All winners received congratulations and prize money from Rotarian and master of ceremonies Charles Eversole. Sponsor support for the event was provided by FFL Investments Services at First Federal of Lakewood.



Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River music contest winners were honored at the Beck Center April 9.

Barton Center To Host Annual Fundraiser May 18

by Curt Brosky

Caribbean Cocktail Party is the theme of Barton Senior Center’s 12th annual spring fundraiser, to be held Friday, May 18 from 5:00-8:00 PM. This indoor/outdoor event will be held

in Barton Center’s outdoor Courtyard and indoor Rotunda, on the lower level of the Westerly Apartments. The evening includes island music, heavy hors d’oeuvres and tropical concoctions, along with wine and beer. A Silent

Auction will include two dozen terrific gift baskets donated by great local merchants along with Indians Club seats. A Wine and Dine Raffle guarantees everyone wins a bottle of wine or a restaurant gift certificate. There is also a raffle for a 40” TV and side boards. Good weather is forecast so wear your favorite island attire and flip flops.

Tickets are \$40 (\$25 tax deductible). A \$125 sponsorship (\$95 tax deductible) includes two tickets and a listing in the program. Make your check payable to Barton Center at 14300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107. Or phone 216-221-3400 for more information.

Proceeds will be used to fund the many services and activities for seniors offered by the nonprofit Barton Center, including transportation throughout Lakewood. Barton Senior Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments and is open M-F 9am–3pm.

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Lakewood Living

Lakewood's Bethany Toth Earns Degree After 'Clicking' With The Tri-C Public Safety Program

by John Horton

Bethany Toth randomly clicked on a link and opened the website for the Public Safety Center of Excellence at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®).

Someone may eventually owe his or her life to that simple decision.

That online exploration two years ago reawakened Toth's childhood dream of working in law enforcement. The 20-year-old from Lakewood will graduate from Tri-C on May 17 with an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice.

The degree marks the start of her planned career climb to become a police crisis negotiator, the person called in to defuse potentially deadly situations.

"Tri-C is my steppingstone," Toth said. "This is how I'm going to become that officer."

Toth enrolled at the College after that online search introduced her to the Public Safety Institute. She immersed herself in the criminal justice program and became a fixture at the KeyBank Public Safety Training Center.

Her work in and out of the classroom earned her a KeyBank Public Safety Scholarship from the College and an internship with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, where she spent last summer organizing evidence.

"I couldn't have asked for more from my experience at Tri-C," Toth said.



Bethany Toth

She plans to continue her studies with Tiffin University through a partnership that will allow her to complete a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration while taking classes at Tri-C's Brunswick University Center.

After that, Toth intends to enroll in Tri-C's Police Academy to become a commissioned officer, putting her in a position to achieve her ultimate goal of becoming a crisis negotiator.

"I know that I'm someone who can bring a sense of relief to people and talk them off a ledge," Toth said. "When someone is in the worst situation, I want to be there for them. That's where I think I can make the biggest difference."

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LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: Exterior Prep & Paint” Workshop On June 14

by Matt Bixenstine

A fresh exterior paint job can make all the difference for your home, boosting your property value while giving you personal satisfaction. But what exactly does it take to achieve a freshly-painted home?

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Exterior Prep & Paint on Thursday, June 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Sherwin-Williams’ Lakewood location (14711 Madison Avenue). The eighth workshop of 2018 for this popular home maintenance educational series will cover best practices for exterior preparation and painting of your home, equipping you with the knowledge and confidence you need to succeed with your paint project.

Led by our friends at Sherwin-Williams, this workshop features paint experts who will walk us through proper techniques and processes for painting your home from prep to finish. Our presenters will highlight the proper tools, products, safety practices and clean-up process that will ensure a job that will last for years to come.

If you’re considering painting your home this season, then you won’t want to miss this workshop. Much of your project’s success, after all, depends on the quality of your prep work.

To reserve your free spot for “Knowing Your Home: Exterior Prep & Paint,” 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. 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.

LakewoodAlive To Host Day Of Festivities In Historic Birdtown On June 16

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Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Director. “It’s a prime example of how we are committed to our ongoing mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods here in Lakewood.”

Through community outreach and engagement initiatives aimed at residents in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Community Engagement Program seeks to cultivate a heightened sense of pride and ownership. To learn more regarding this program, contact LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655 or visit LakewoodAlive.org/HousingOutreach.



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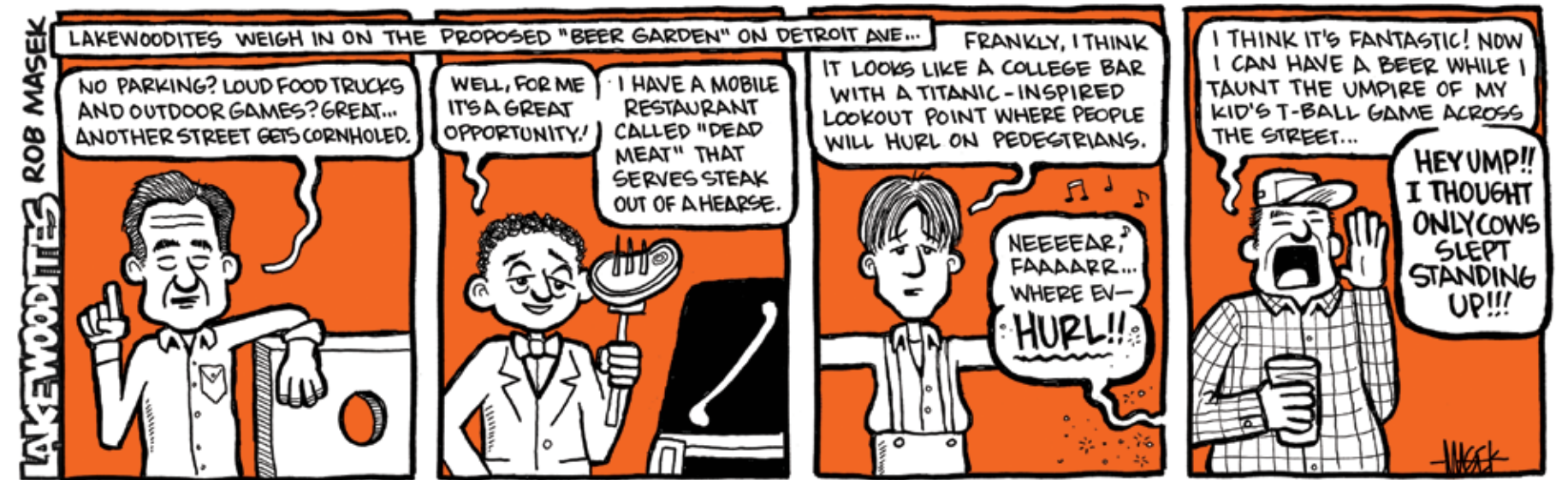
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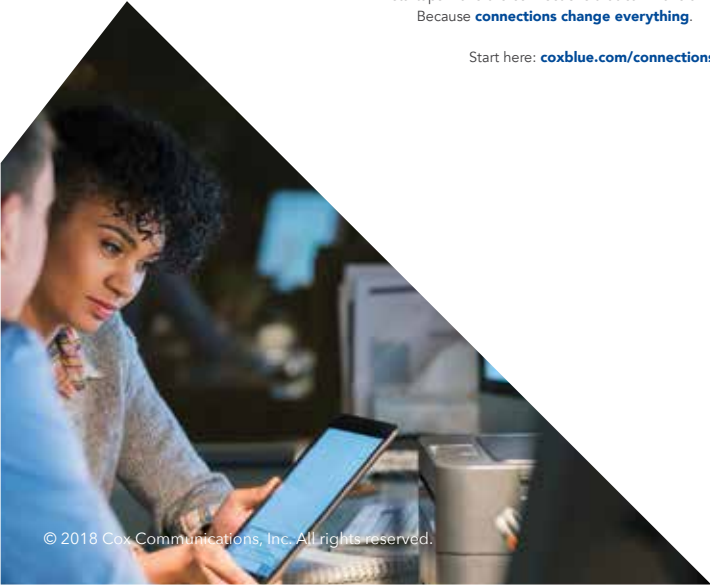

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