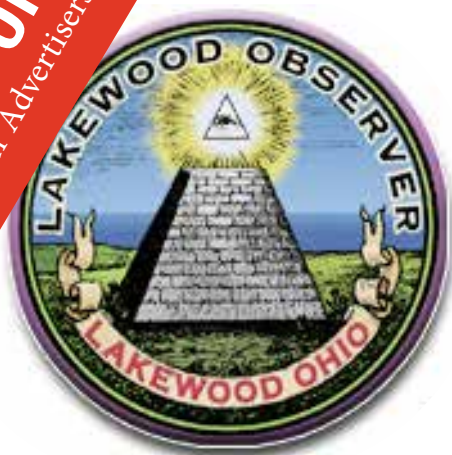


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 14, Issue 13, July 4, 2018

Lakewood Observer Celebrates 13 Years In Print

by Betsy Voinovich

The Lakewood Observer-- the printed newspaper-- has been in existence for 13 years as of this July 4. The 24/7/365 online message board known as The Observation Deck, has been around for 15 years

Happy Anniversary to us. When I say "us," I mean all of us. I'm referring to myself as an editor and writer on this paper, other editors, our publishers, sales staff, delivery people, and advertisers, but most importantly, I'm talking about you, our readers, writers, and writ-

ers of the future.

If you haven't heard, the Lakewood Observer is a community written paper. Every story you read was written by a member of the Lakewood community who wanted to share something with you. This person sat down at a laptop, or picked up a notebook and a pen, and wrote down something they wanted the rest of Lakewood to know about. The idea to take away here, is that they are not paid professional

continued on page 13



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood's new emergency room! The Cleveland Clinic unveiled their new Lakewood Family Health Center this past weekend. Dr. Jim Heckman, Director of the LFHC, is dedicated to giving Lakewoodites the best health care they can offer. See more photos on page 7.



photo by Brian Fox, Lakewood Observer

It's About To Get Hot:

Lakewood Summer Meltdown Returns July 14

by Matt Bixenstine

Much-Anticipated Festival to Celebrate Summertime in Downtown Lakewood.

The biggest block party in the neighborhood is right around the corner. Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2018,

sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled and presented by LakewoodAlive, returns to Downtown Lakewood for its ninth year on Saturday, July 14 from 4 to 10 p.m.

The Summer Meltdown represents one of the region's

most highly-anticipated street parties. A summertime celebration of our city's vibrancy, this free community event draws more than 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. The Summer Meltdown is a "something for everyone" event, offering seemingly endless recreation and celebration opportunities, including a 5K race, 1 Mile Kids Fun Run, street festival, outdoor activities, games, food vendors, beer garden, live music and more.

Families will love the street festival component, which features vendor tents



to 7:00 p.m.

The Lakewood Historical Society is offering free craft
continued on page 10

Fun Historical Society Events For Children And Adults In July

by Greg Palumbo

The Lakewood Historical Society has some new and exciting events coming up in July. New this year are Crafty Fridays starting July 6 and Templar Motor Company Display Family Day on July 7.

Crafty Fridays Every Friday in July at the Oldest Stone House in Lakewood Park

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00

Lakewood Loses One Of Our Brightest Lights, Nora "Lizzy" Swift-Kakuska In Two-Car Accident



photo provided by the family

Nora (center) surrounded by her amazing family.

by Jim O'Bryan

I had the pleasure of meeting Nora Swift-Kakuska and her husband Mwale while they were working on opening what has become one of the hottest salons on the West Side of Cleveland, Tease Hair Salon at 15112 Detroit Avenue.

Nora always greeted me with a smile, and an amazing attitude. She was a true force of nature. Over the years I became friends with Mwale, and had the pleasure meeting their family.

Thursday at 5:45pm her life ended in an automobile accident at the intersection of Marlowe and Franklin which is still under investigation. Whatever the outcome of the investigation Lakewood, her family, friends and all of us lost one of the bright lights in Lakewood, Ohio.

While I was speaking with her brother Iggy, he told me to make sure it was mentioned that Lakewood Police, especially Officer Jamison, and Officer Kruk, along with Lakewood Fire Dept. Supervi-



Follow QR Code to Go-Fund-Me page created to help family.

sor Matt Burke and B Company were not just great, but went far beyond in helping his sister, and her family. Thank you.

Nora is survived by her husband Mwale, their children Logan, Liam, Moses, Kyebo and Lola and her family Iggy, David, dearest niece, aunt, cousin and friend of many.

Visitation Friday July 6th, 4 - 8pm at Craciun Berry Funeral Home 7200 Detroit Ave. Cleveland. Funeral Mass Saturday at 11am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church 6928 Detroit Ave. Cleveland.

Hot Off The Deck



Lakewood always has a great fireworks display on the 4th of July! One member asks other Observers, “Is it just exploding dollars in the air?” Isn’t it time you joined the discussion? Lakewoodobserver.com/forum (real names only)

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OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!



“Bad Accident” at Marlowe and Franklin that closed Franklin down for hours.

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Board Selection Committee Slate	Jim O'Bryan	2	207	Mon Jul 02
Final Walk Through CCF Lakewood Family Health Center	Jim O'Bryan	8	419	Mon Jul 02
Dollars Exploding In The Air	pj bennett	1	115	Mon Jul 02
Lakewood Healthcare Data Study	Mark Kindt	2	237	Mon Jul 02
New LGBT Facility Will Have a Surgery Center.	Bill Call	16	1160	Mon Jul 02
Jay Carson Campaign?	Michael Deneen	30	2059	Mon Jul 02
The City of Lakewood Owns A Cell Tower?	Jared Denman	1	303	Fri Jun 29
Bad Accident Closes Down Franklin Between Lincoln and St. Charles	Jim O'Bryan	2	5529	Fri Jun 29
Interesting Political PAC	Jim O'Bryan	4	378	Fri Jun 29
Mixed Use / Mixed Results	mjkunhs	31	2307	Thu Jun 28
Team Summers' Newest Propaganda Outlet	Michael Deneen	3	1337	Wed Jun 27
Cuyahoga Community College to Where Are CDBG Monies Going?	Bill Call	1	264	Wed Jun 27
City Hall Continues To Drag Its Feet In Truth Finding	Jared Denma	5	854	Mon Jun 25
Murder Suspect Arrested	Jim O'Bryan	11	1064	Thu Jun 21
	Jim O'Bryan	0	895	Thu Jun 21

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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August 3, 2018

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August 8, 2018

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City

Healthy Lakewood Makes Public Their Recommendations For The Board

by Michael Bentley

After over 18 months of dedicated work, Lakewood’s Foundation Planning Task Force (FPTF) has made recommendations for the future Healthy Lakewood Foundation. The recommendations include a proposed Code of Regulations, mission and vision, and a slate of board candidates. All of these documents can be found online at onelakewood.com/wellness-foundation-task-force.

The Foundation Planning Task Force was established in 2017 to develop recommendations for a future health and wellness foundation in Lakewood, arising from the closure of Lakewood Hospital. The task force consisted of 15 volunteer residents of Lakewood. Over time, the task force consulted experts in the fields of philanthropy and health. With this information, the task force worked together to craft careful recommendations that reflect the voice of the Lakewood community. The proposal outlines a foundation that will serve the health and wellness needs in Lakewood for years to come.

The proposal is currently under review by designated regulators, including the Mayor of Lakewood, Lakewood City Council, and the Lakewood Hospital Association. Upon approval, the documents will be adopted and the Healthy Lakewood Foundation can become operational. For more information, visit onelakewood.com or call the City of Lakewood at 216-521-7580.

Lakewood Foundation Planning Task Force

- **Roland Anglin, PhD**
Dean, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs (CSU)
- **Becca Baas, MPA**
Special Projects Coordinator, Onslow County Partnership for Children
- **Curt Brosky**
President and CEO, LSC Service Corp
- **Kirstin Craciun, MPP, MSW**
Director of Community Outreach, Center for Health Affairs

- **Melissa Federman, MPH**
Treuhft Chair for Health Planning & Director, AIDS Funding Collaborative, Center for Community Solutions
- **Jeanine Gergel, MBA**
Program Officer, Foundation Management Services
- **Heidi Hilty**
Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch
- **Kate Ingersoll**
Program Officer, The Brush Foundation
- **Rick Kemm, MNO**
Executive Director, May Dugan Center
- **Peter Kuhn, MBA**
Chief Investment Officer, Park-

- land Management Company (ret.)
- **Erin Rechin Murphy, MPH**
Program Manager, Lorain County General Health District
- **Courtney Noster, MEd, LPC**
Early Childhood Mental Health Therapist, Applewood Centers, Inc.
- **Chitra Walker, MBA, MA**
Director, External Provider Relations, CareSource (ret.)
- **Khalilah Worley, MS**
Senior Organizer, Greater Cleveland Congregations
- **Sharonda Whatley, MA**
District Planner, City of Cleveland

Council To Decide Budget Priorities This Summer

by Matt Kuhns

Lakewood City Council is starting work on the next budget, months ahead of their traditional schedule. The extended process could mean greater involvement by residents.

Council holds formal budget hearings in November and December, in Lakewood. Last year, however, council explored adding a preliminary process to weigh priorities ahead of time.

This year the city’s finance committee began the budget-priority process on June 11, and for the next two months, council members will be developing priority lists for the next budget.

Finance committee chair Dan O’Malley (Ward 4) says, “My hope is this will be done with input from residents, hearing from them about areas we may have overlooked.”

At-large council member Tristan Rader says he is “very happy this process is taking place now, [well] before the budget is submitted back to council for passage.”

By the end of the priority-setting process, council members intend to substantiate each priority at length, with cost estimates, input from relevant city staff, and explanations of how it supports Lakewood’s Community Vision, capital investment criteria, and other existing goals.

The finance committee will hold hearings on proposed budget priorities in September. Then in early October, council hopes to vote on a final list as a resolution. “The goal is to pass this with enough time for the administration to incorporate them into the budget, which will be introduced in mid-November,” says O’Malley.


In the meantime, residents interested in what their members of council are considering or in suggesting additional priorities have until September. Council members’ contact information is listed at tinyurl.com/lkwdcouncil

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

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Documentary - “1 in 3” (2010)

Directed by Lagueria Davis

Presented by Laura Cowan of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority
One in three women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. This film features Ophelia Metz, mother of two, as she escapes her own violent situation. When she leaves, the only place for her family is a shelter. Through the eyes of Ophelia and her Advocate, Sydell Thomas, the intricacies behind this largely undiscussed problem are revealed. Laura Cowan is a long-time activist for survivors of domestic violence; she launched the Laura Cowan Foundation, which raises money to help women and children escaping abusive situations.

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

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Library Closed

Library closed in observance of Independence Day.

Friday, July 6, 2018

Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. Tonight we welcome The Rough and Tumble.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, July 7, 2018

Film - “King Kong” (1933)

Directed by Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack

Filmmaker Carl Denham (Robert Armstrong) travels with his crew to an exotic tropical island to shoot his latest blockbuster. Skull Island is home to a massive gorilla who becomes infatuated with the film’s leading lady Ann Darrow (Fay Wray). When the islanders kidnap Ann and offer her as a sacrifice to the mighty Kong, it is up to the ship’s first mate Jack Driscoll (Bruce Cabot) and Carl to rescue her. Kong is captured and brought back to New York City as a publicity stunt but instead of creating a spectacle, he wreaks havoc on the Big Apple.

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

Sunday, July 8, 2018

Concert - Brian Henke

Brian is considered by many to be the guru of fingerstyle guitar, but his talent doesn’t stop there. He is also a solo acoustic guitarist, harp guitarist, singer, songwriter and instrumental composer. His unique guitar style has been called everything from folk to new age to neo-classical to pastoral, or as Henke likes to call it, “a big stewpot of everything, stirred up and served to taste.” His music appeals to anyone who likes music lyrical, thought provoking and performed with virtuosity.

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

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Author Event - “Lethal Licorice”

Book by Amanda Flower

Harvest, Ohio is a long way from New York City, where Bailey King left a coveted job as a head chocolatier to take over Swissmen Sweets, her Amish grandparents’ candy shop. Now, while caring for her recently widowed grandmother, she plans to honor her grandfather’s memory by entering the annual Amish Confectionery Competition. But between lavender blueberry fudge and chocolate cherry ganache truffles, Bailey may have bitten off more than she can chew when the search for a missing pot-bellied pig turns up a body suffering from sugar overload—the fatal kind. 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 “Man’s Search for Meaning” by Viktor E. Frankl.

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

Friday, July 13, 2018

Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. Tonight we welcome The Lakewood Music Collective.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, July 14, 2018

How to Repair a Bike

Presentation by Ryan Sheldon

As any cyclist knows, one pothole or flat tire can put the brakes on an otherwise enjoyable ride. Learn the basics of bike repair, from fixing a flat tire to adjusting a popped chain. Learn what you need to assemble an emergency kit and how to prevent minor issues while out on the road. Bring your bike and learn how to utilize the bike repair station on the Main Library Front Porch.

11:00 a.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

Film - “Tootsie” (1982)

Directed by Sydney Pollack

Struggling New York actor Michael Dorsey (Dustin Hoffman) poses as a woman to land a job on a daytime soap opera. His new alter ego “Dorothy Michaels” fools his agent and lands him a long-term contract. Michael fully embodies his new persona and inadvertently inspires women around the country to break free from the control of men. Complications arise as Michael finds himself in an unwelcome love triangle and struggles to maintain his feelings for his co-star Julie Nichols (Jessica Lange) while staying true to his new identity.

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

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Performance - Twain by Two

“Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn’t.” - Mark Twain. Mark Dawidziak has produced this one-act collection of material by Mark Twain, performed by Largely Literary Theater Company co-founders Dawidziak and Sara Showman. It features excerpts from Huckleberry Finn and Eve’s Diary, and the performance promises to be all fiction of the strange variety. No less an authority than Ken Burns has said, “Nobody gets Mark Twain the way Mark Dawidziak does.” It’s not an exaggeration -- Mark Twain is coming to the Library.

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

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Knit & Lit Book Club

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stich, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss “The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympics” by Daniel James Brown.

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

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Monday, July 9, 2018

Gemini Jams, For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade

Learn about musical instruments played by astronauts in space then make a harmonica to take home in this program put on by the Armstrong Air & Space Museum. Registration required.

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Sounds of Science, For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade

Explore, tinker, and create your own music in this program put on by the Armstrong Air & Space Museum. Registration required.

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Afternoon at the Movies: “The Good Dinosaur”, For the whole family

Movies shown on the Library’s big screen. Free and open to the public. Remember: No food or drink in the Library. No registration required.

1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Friday, July 13, 2018

Xtreme Magic with David, For the whole family

Juggling and magic by an alumni member of St. Ignatius Circus Company. No registration required. Free and open to public.

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



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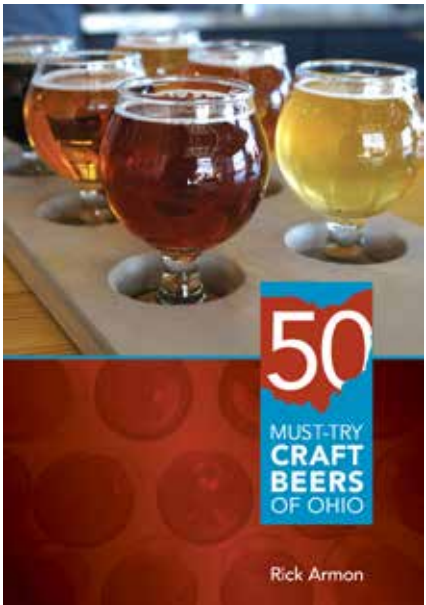
Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com in the Main Library Auditorium.

Lakewood Public Library

Meet The Author Of "50 Must-Try Craft Beers Of Ohio"

by Lisa Calfee

If you ask Rick Armon, your bucket list is not complete without trying all fifty of his carefully selected Ohio-made craft beers. The hours of exhausting research might have broken any other man, but Armon has endured to bring you his latest, aptly titled book, "50 Must-Try Craft Beers of Ohio." The author will be visiting

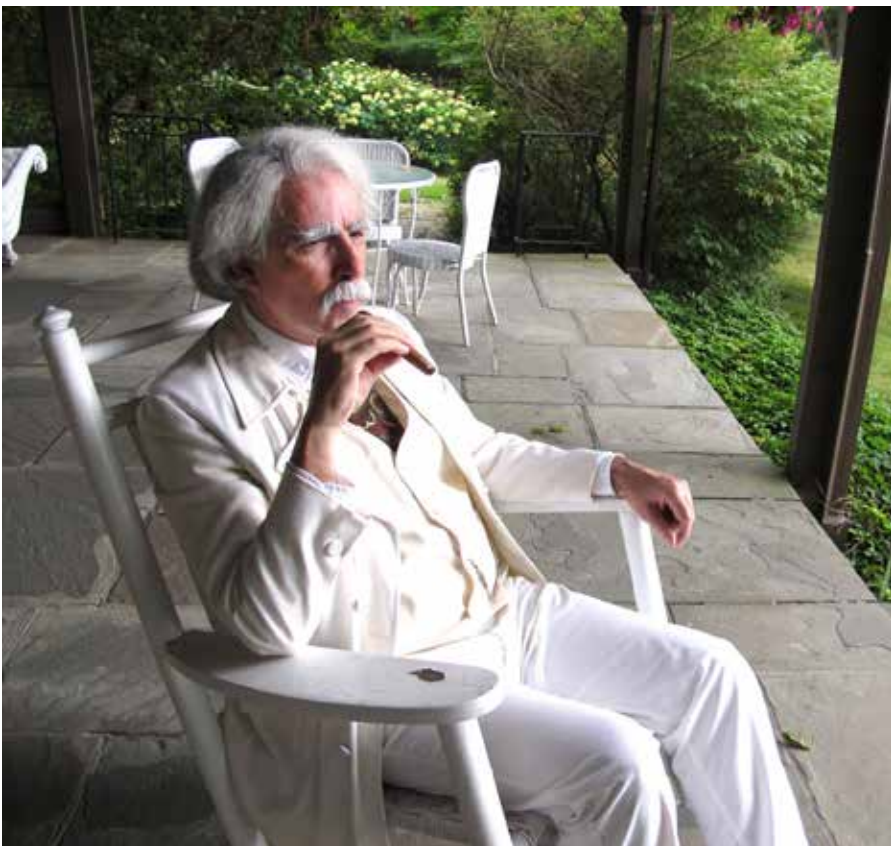


Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Many would argue that a nice cold beer is pretty fun on its own, but Armon's handy guide makes the experience even more enjoyable with insights into each prominent pint. He highlights the personalities, histories and flavor profiles behind his selections, whether it's a Fruit beer, American porter or Double India pale ale.

Joining the author on Thursday is Richard Skains from Working Class Brewery and taproom which is located in the Kamm's Corners area at 17448 Lorain Avenue. Skains is an award-winning brewer with a passion for making and tasting great fresh local craft beer.

If you simply enjoy a good beer or consider yourself a full-fledged aficionado, "50 Must-Try Craft Beers of Ohio" is a great, glossy paged, well-photographed read. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event which will be held in the Main Library Lower Level Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue.



Mark Twain Lives At Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

How does a performer collaborate with a writer who's been dead since 1910? Ask Mark Dawidziak, television critic for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, who's been portraying Mark Twain on stage for thirty-eight years.

Dawidziak and his wife, Sara Showman, will appear in "Twain by Two" in the Main Library Auditorium on Sunday, July 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Founders of the Largely Literary Theater Company, these actors have been touring the United States since 2002, promoting literacy, literature and live theater. Mark Twain may have written the material, but Dawidziak and Showman bring his words to life.

A recognized Twain scholar, Dawidziak is the author or editor of several Twain-centric books, has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Mark Twain Studies and has presented academic papers on Mark Twain at national conferences. In addition, Dawidziak has worked as a theater, film and television critic since 1979 and been an adjunct faculty professor at Kent State University since 2009.

Join the Largely Literary Theater Company at Lakewood Public Library on July 15 and see Mark Twain brought to life. The performance will be followed by a question-and-answer session and a book signing.

This Land is Your Land: Family Storytimes About Diversity

by Nicole Born-Crow

The final session of "This Land is Your Land: Family Storytimes about Diversity" will be coming up on July 15th, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. The series will

conclude with a storytime about poverty and economic justice, an issue that effects over 16 million American children today. The issue, then, is best tackled with books about children, but in a way that humanizes the issue and creates empathy. After all, if 1 in 5 children in this country experiences hunger, then poverty is a very real issue facing young people today. Songs, videos and a craft will round out the storytime, along with a discussion on how children and families can help those experiencing poverty. "Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice." - Nelson Mandela

Join us on Sunday, July 15th, 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.





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Xtreme Magic With David

by Marge Foley

Children and their families are invited to the Lakewood Public Library to enjoy a performance of Xtreme Magic with David. This versatile entertainer's love for magic and the performing arts started at a young age. David Anthony received his first magic kit, given to him by his uncle, when he was just five years old. He started performing at various functions throughout the city when he was twelve. While in high school he became a member of the St. Ignatius Circus Company. This opportunity helped him hone his magic and juggling skills. David attended his first magic convention when he was fifteen years old. Since then he has entered many competitions and won several awards with his winning act. From New York to Las Vegas, David has entertained thousands. You can be one of the many who have been awed by David Anthony's show!

This amazing performance will take place on Friday, July 13, 2018



at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room. For details about other youth programs at the Lakewood Public Library, please call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth.

Lakewood Schools

Charter Schools--A New Form Of Colonialism

by Chuck Greanoff

Manifest Destiny and Charter Schools—two seemingly disparate phenomena with no obvious parallels. Yet, that didn’t stop New Mexico’s Education Secretary-designate Christopher Ruszkowski from extolling the virtues of both, as quintessentially American. “This is a country built over the last 250 years on things like freedom, choice, competition, options, going west, Manifest Destiny — these are the fundamental principles of this country,” he was reported as saying by the Albuquerque Journal and The Answer Sheet in the Washington Post. “That’s why charter schools make so much sense — high-quality options — in the context of where we are as a country.” Now, if you are an Arapaho or Cheyenne whose ancestors were slaughtered at Sand Creek—or, perhaps a human with empathy—you might not celebrate Manifest Destiny and all that it entailed. But maybe Ruszkowski has a point. In fact, I think he does; “Manifest Destiny” and Charter Schools do have quite a bit in common.

At base, both seek the dispossession of local, community resources to be liquidated and/or turned over to private entities seeking profits. Both promote a neoliberal agenda—shared by elites in both of our major political parties—that removes the public from any meaningful decision-making about the allocation of public resources. Stu-

dents, families, teachers, schools and communities are treated like economic resources to be colonized, rather than respected as sovereign, human entities. When the Treaty of Fort Laramie was disregarded by the US —after gold was found in the Black Hills—Lakota Tribal sovereignty and resources were brazenly taken, with no regard for people, only profits and land possession. Unfortunately, public schools are among the 21st Centuries’ newer frontiers for colonization.

Today’s colonizers are hedge fund managers, who “invest” in charter schools as real estate, playing an insiders speculation game at the expense of our local taxpayers and the students they support. They are Charter School “entrepreneurs” who see public education as a cash cow. For example, ECOT, an online charter school with a low graduation rate and shady accounting practices, managed to drain over \$8,000,000 dollars from the Columbus City Schools alone, money that should have been spent according to community needs and priorities—school nurses, music programs--rather than profits for founder William Lager to partially “reinvest” in state representatives. ECOT diverted \$294,420 from the Lakewood City Schools last year, and total losses to charter schools were \$1,196,974. (<https://knowyourcharter.com/?view=searchDistrict&term=Lakewood%20City>)

Within this context, today’s locally elected school boards lose their “sovereignty”--lost to the God of the neoliberals: the mythical “free market.” In fact, both Charter Schools and Manifest Destiny present a grand ideological imperative to justify the theft of land/community resources. Evoking a self-serving interpretation of God’s will, the “Manifest Destiny” mantra justified slaughters, treaty violations, etc. Has Mr. Ruszkowski ever heard of the Trail of Tears? The Dawes Act sought to eviscerate tribal life, an act of cultural genocide, an implementation of the “Kill the Indian, Save the Man” approach that replaced outright extermination. These grand narratives have one goal--the justification, even celebration, of community dispossession.

Public schools are now planned for extinction, dispossessed from the public. Yet, ultimately, the colonization wrought by Manifest Destiny and Charter Schools goes deeper than valleys, hills, sacred lands, budgets, the school nurse or a music program. It aspires for more than simply stripping communities of their resources. Our minds are targets of colonization, the goal being the replacement of any sense of a common good and shared responsibility with the neoliberal axiom that economic self-interest is the only right and natural course of action. You are to

think like consumers, not citizens. You are to shop for the best schools for your student, not invest your time and effort in improving them for everyone.

This system of community disengagement is antithetical to the mission of public education, and is especially in conflict with our Lakewood values and traditions that have been nurtured by our ancestors. Yes, Mr. Ruszkowski, there are indeed parallels between Manifest Destiny and Charter Schools: the settler colonial imperative to “remove to replace” --in this case our school board, our votes and our agency as citizens. The only role left for the public and their elected representative is to fund privatization.

It’s up to all of us to reject this impulse as “quintessentially American” and instead commit ourselves to the “beloved community” that Dr. Martin Luther King imagined during the Civil Rights movement. As he stated, "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right."

Dr. Chuck Greanoff is an LHS graduate, 1977. He teaches History and Psychology at LHS.



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Street Festival 4-7:30 p.m. Beer Garden 5-10 p.m. 1-Mile Kids Fun Run 6 p.m. Start time Meltdown 5K 7 p.m. Start time

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Lakewood Cares



Above: Emergency Room Entrance



Below, typical exam room.



Above, 2nd floor waiting area.



Below Cat-Scan Room

It's About To Get Hot: Lakewood Summer Meltdown Returns July 14

continued from page 1

from nearly 100 businesses and non-profit organizations, many of which offer interactive opportunities. Activities range from the “Water Moose” sprinkler park to the Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle sponsored by Beat Cycles to a skateboard park sponsored by West Side Skates.

The ever-popular Meltdown 5K sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center serves as a fundraiser for LakewoodAlive. This staple of the Summer Meltdown draws hundreds of participants annually, as it features a fast course, chip timing, a t-shirt for participants and prizes for top finishers. Both this running event and the 1 Mile Kids Fun Run sponsored by Lakewood Family YMCA afford participants a rare opportunity to partake in an evening race.

Local brews available in the Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden sponsored by First Federal Lakewood will complement dining options from vendors and food trucks. Live music by alternative rock band Front Porch Lights on the Meltdown Stage sponsored by The Exchange, The Ferry Cap and Set Screw Company and Textbook Painting will delight the crowd as dusk turns to nightfall in beautiful Downtown Lakewood.

Lakewood Summer Meltdown Schedule:

- 4-7:30 p.m. – Meltdown Street Festival
- 4 p.m. – Race-day registration begins at the intersection of Detroit and Belle Avenues
- 5-10 p.m. – Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden sponsored by First Federal Lakewood
- 6 p.m. – 1 Mile Kids Fun Run sponsored by Lakewood Family YMCA begins at the intersection of Detroit and Belle Avenues
- 7 p.m. – Meltdown 5K sponsored

by Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center begins at the intersection of Detroit and Belle Avenues

7 p.m. – Live music by alternative rock band Front Porch Lights on the Meltdown Stage sponsored by The Exchange, The Ferry Cap and Set Screw Company and Textbook Painting

9:30 p.m. – Drawing for Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle presented by Beat Cycles takes place on the Meltdown Stage

For more information regarding Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2018, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/Meltdown.

The Lakewood Summer Meltdown is generously supported by the following sponsors:

- Title Sponsor:** Melt Bar and Grilled
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Lakewood Police

The Lakewood Observer Hits The Streets With Lakewood’s Finest For A Shift Welcome To Jacob’s “The Ride-Along”

Story and Photos by
Jacob Chabowski

The Lakewood Observer gets a front row seat as the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department serve and protect

It’s just after 7:30pm on a summer Friday night and I am at Rising Star Coffee on Detroit Road. I am riding along with Officer Jakub Mejstrik for a story for The Lakewood Observer.

“Did you bring your mug?” the man behind the counter asks Mejstrik.

“Nah, I forget it today,” he replies.

Mejstrik likes to start his shift off with coffee whenever he can, but today things got busy for him. He has already taken a call at the very start of his shift before picking me up at LPD headquarters. Unlike most employees, Mejstrik does not have the luxury of putting off work until he gets his coffee. When his shift starts at 7pm Mejstrik is ready to go -- coffee or not.

As the barista hands Mejstrik the “usual” - with almond milk - Mejstrik runs into a man and a small child. Mejstrik has seen the duo before.

The child immediately runs over and greets Mejstrik. It is obvious she is full of energy and outgoingly friendly.



Officer Jakub Mejstrik and I hit the streets during a ride-along with Lakewood Police on June 15, 2018.
Photo by Jacob Chabowski /The Lakewood Observer

usual,” and a friendly conversation with a couple of regulars. And with that, we hit the streets.

Just Another Shift

As we patrol Mejstrik, a 5 year veteran of the force, has stories from calls

just seemed off”) and later learned one of them had felony warrants. Or the time a man punched the window of a bus requiring officers to apply a tourniquet to prevent him from bleeding to death. There are also more tragic stories involving death or serious injury.

As much as Mejstrik sees on the job he still seems to have fun with it. Mejstrik is from Czechoslovakia and came to the United States in 1999. He spent several years as a top chef (he is a vegan, and yes he is very excited about The Vegan Donut Company that is soon to open on Detroit Road). He makes quick-witted jokes with his fellow officers and is quick to wave and greet people.

Hypervigilance

While Officer Mejstrik might at first appear to be laid back and casual his mindset is anything but. From the moment we hit the road Mejstrik is hypervigilant. We engage in conversation but the entire time Mejstrik’s mind appears to be in several places at once. As we cruise down Detroit Road towards the west end of town he is monitoring his radio, watching his computer to see what his fellow officers are doing, and running plates of nearby vehicles. Above all else he is watching everything that goes on around him.

A lot of people think when we are on patrol we are just cruising around the neighborhoods,” Mejstrik tells me. “But I am watching everything that

continued on next page



Traffic stop on Detroit Ave. Photo by Jacob Chabowski/The Lakewood Observer

“Man, I don’t know how you do it. She keeps you on your toes,” Mejstrik jokes with the man.

Small town policing at its finest: a stop at the local coffee shop for “the

he has handled nearly all over town. There is the time he spotted people attempting to purchase alcohol without an ID (“the interaction they were having with the gas station employee

For Mejstrik, these stories are just another day on the job. For most of us, experiencing just one of these situations ourselves would be more than we could handle in a lifetime.

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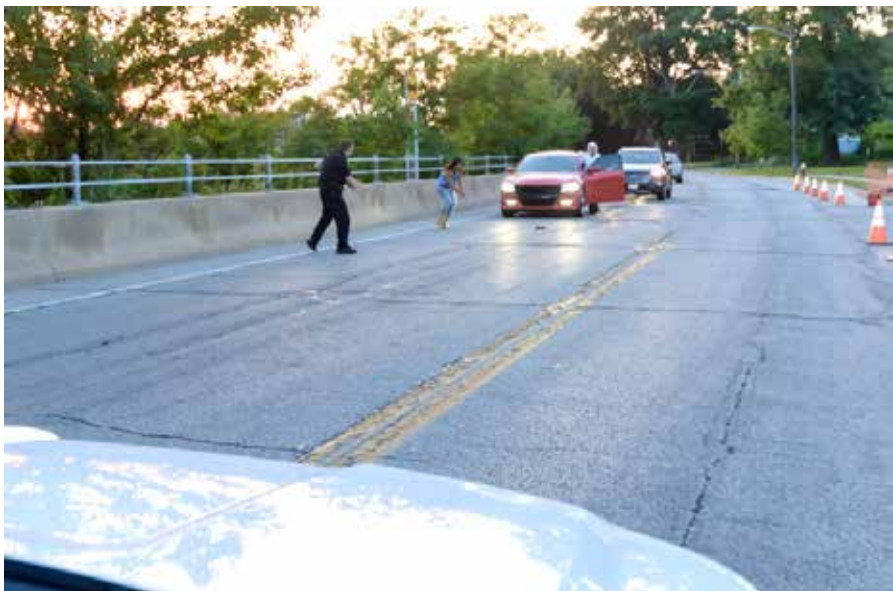
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A rabbit is helped across the street. Photo by Jacob Chabowski/ The Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Police

continued from previous page

goes on around me. I like to know where people are at and what people are doing here.”

His hypervigilance pays off early in the shift. As we are on patrol he spots a small bunny running along Riverside Drive. He circles back and instantly spots the bunny again. I still don’t yet see the small creature, but as Mejstrik activates his emergency lights to stop traffic I finally spot it. In a few seconds and with the help of a passing motorist the bunny is escorted away from the concrete wall and across the street to safety.

This time Mejstrik’s vigilance helped out a rabbit but in the past it has helped him nab individuals with felony warrants, apprehend drunk drivers, and spot criminal activity. No matter how big or how small, if it’s happening in Mejstrik’s beat chances are he’ll spot it.

Diplomacy

If the rabbit tested Mejstrik’s vigilance the first call of my ridealong tested his diplomatic skills. We are dispatched for a noise complaint. Upon arrival all is quiet, but Mejstrik lingers in the area for a bit. Within a few minutes he identifies the source of the noise; a couple of young children are blowing on plastic whistles. Mejstrik approaches the children and politely asks if their parents are home. The children -- the young boy especially -- are fascinated by Officer Mejstrik (and



Mejstrik speaks with the driver during a traffic stop. Photo by Jacob Chabowski/The Lakewood Observer

who are violating traffic laws or engaging in criminal activity, he never seems to talk down to them.

As we are assisting another officer who is citing a highschooler for skateboarding on city streets Mejstrik strikes up a conversation with the young man. Mejstrik, too, is an avid skateboarder. He understands why the highschooler was skateboarding on the recently paved smooth street but “it just ain’t worth the risk” he tells him.

The Unknown

Perhaps the most eye-opening experience of a police ride along is the unknown. This is not your bedroom



Mejstrik checks for a prowler. Photo by Jacob Chabowski/The Lakewood Observer

officer for some foot patrol on Detroit Road near Around the Corner. Just as he prepares to exit his cruiser a call comes out for a man that was spotted peeping in to a neighbor’s bedroom window. It takes us less than four minutes to respond to the apartment complex on Clifton Avenue, but three cruisers are already on scene. We walk up along with another officer. In the back they join other officers in the search for the perp. They shine their lights under cars and in garages while other officers speak with the shaken women.

Mejstrik spots a small basement with an unlocked door. Not knowing who or what is on the other side, Mejstrik and a fellow officer yell out “Lakewood Police!” as they head down the stairs. They reemerge a few minutes later.

The woman, now on the brink of tears, explains to officers how she is

not sure if she feels safe tonight and she does not know what to do.

“I will be in the area,” one officer reassures her. “I will make sure to swing by a few times.”

Mejstrik assists another officer as they move the bench away from her window.

A third officer suggests she purchase curtains that are not see-through.

The woman now seems much calmer. A female officer stays on-scene with the woman to gather additional information as the other officers start to head back.

The response from LPD was impressive; multiple officers were searching the back of the apartment complex within minutes of the call.



Mejstrik checks the inside of an illegally parked vehicle. Photo by Jacob Chabowski/The Lakewood Observer

his gun in particular).

Mejstrik explains to the grandmother the children cannot be blowing on the whistles. She seems agitated as she claims that other neighbors make noise all the time. Mejstrik hears her concerns and asks her to call next time she feels her neighbors are too loud. He strikes the right balance of firmness and empathy with this woman before she heads inside.

“I understand her concerns,” he tells me. “But if I was trying to catch some sleep before my shift that whistle would bother me too. You have to look at it from both ways.”

Building Rapport

Mejstrik always seems to strike the right balance as he talks with people. Despite his badge and gun, and despite his frequent interactions with people

and you are not watching YouTube videos of police interactions. Every call is an unknown and the environment is not controlled.

The vehicle Mejstrik stopped for no visible plate? We had no clue who the driver was nor what their intentions were when they popped open the driver’s door. Traffic stops often present some of the greatest threats to law enforcement especially when the vehicle has no visible plate.

Throughout the night we respond to several complaints of loud noise. Mejstrik walks up the driveway of each residence not knowing who is back there nor how they will react to the unexpected sight of a police officer.

Prowler

It’s now after 1am and Mejstrik is preparing to meet up with a fellow

The Shift Continues

It is nearing 2am and my ridealong has come to an end but for Mejstrik his shift is only a little over half over. Lakewood Police Officers work 12 hours shifts, and Mejstrik’s shift runs for 7pm to 7am This cuts down on the need for overtime as the long shifts give officers the chance to finish paperwork and handle majors calls. It also gives them the opportunity to have every other weekend off, a privilege in public safety.

The Lakewood Observer would like to thank Police Chief Malley, Sergeant Hassing who made this ride-along possible. We would like to thank all of Lakewood Police for their hard work and dedication to keeping us safe. You are one of the reasons we love the City of Lakewood.

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History

Mid-Ohio Goes Historic

by Jim O'Bryan

This past weekend some Lakewoodites and the Lakewood Motoring society headed to Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio for the SVRA Historic Races which are in their 40th year.

As always it was a great weekend to walk around one of the nicest race car courses in America and check out some of the best cars of the past.
See all 200 photos and read the story online!



A 1974 Shadow DN4 Can-Am car powered by a 7 liter Dodge engine.



A 1966 Lola T70 MKII driven by David Jacobs.



A 1973 Lola T332.

Fun Historical Society Events For Children And Adults In July

continued from page 1

instruction every Friday afternoon in July from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the evening outside of the Oldest Stone House. The Historical Society used to have quilting bees in years past and we are continuing that legacy through hands on craft events that children and adults can enjoy together.

Friday, July 6 - Make your own quill pens and ink. Practice writing with pens like our founding fathers did when they signed the Declaration of Independence. They could also order ink from the general store. Make goose feather pens and even make your own ink from berries.

Friday, July 13 - Practice weaving with burlap and wool. Younger children will also card and spin wool with a drop spindle. Pioneer children used burlap to practice needlepoint as well as their ABC's.

Friday, July 20 - Make a community quilt, or create your own six square mini quilt to take home. We will have materials available for you to either hand sew or use glue to make quilting squares to add to the quilt. Join our old-fashioned quilting bee, which is open for all ages and skill levels!

Friday, July 27 - Learn the craft of loom beading, making your own bookmarks or jewelry to take home. The Wyandotte Indians who lived in this area in the 1700s used porcupine quills to stitch designs with beads.

Templar Motor Company Display Family Day

Saturday, July 7 at the Lake Erie Screw Factory 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Car enthusiast David Buehler has collected thousands of photographs, newspapers and other Templar Motor Company memorabilia and is excited to partner with the Lakewood Historical Society to offer free guided tours of his cars and ever growing Templar collection on several Saturdays throughout the year, starting with this Saturday, July 7, 2018.

Tour a vintage collection of Templar cars in the original factory where they were first produced. From 1917 to 1924 the Lake Erie Screw Factory produced ammunition for World War I as well as thousands of cars. There are a dozen antique cars on display for you to see, along with video of these cars in action. This is a free event, located in the Screw Factory Artist Lofts.

Greg Palumbo is the Executive Director at The Lakewood Historical Society.

Silhouettes of four children jumping over a banner. The banner is blue and white with the text 'LAKWOOD NEW LIFE CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL' and 'ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE'.

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A green alien in a red apron with the text 'KISS THE' on it, holding a knife. The alien is standing in front of a wooden fence and a red grill.

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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood Democrats
Welcome Betty Sutton To
July 19 Summer Supper

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

The Lakewood Democratic Club will host Betty Sutton, candidate for lieutenant governor, at El Carnicero for the club's 2018 Summer Supper. Sutton is running alongside Democratic candidate for governor Richard Cordray.

"Betty Sutton has prioritized main-street issues throughout her career," says club president Grant Mackay. "In the US House, she was an effective advocate for veterans, jobs and fair trade policy. She's ready to reform the culture of corruption down in Columbus."

The Summer Supper takes place at El Carnicero, 16918 Detroit Ave, from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 19. Tickets for the evening begin at \$50 per person, and include dinner and one drink ticket.

The annual event helps fund the Democratic Club's programs for the year, and is open to all. Tickets may be purchased at lakewooddemocrats.com/supper, or by mailing a check to the Lakewood Democratic Club at PO Box 771263, Lakewood, OH 44107.

For more information, contact lkwdohdemclub@gmail.com.

Lakewood Women's Club
Hosts Second Annual
Women Honoring Women

by Kristy Feyedelem

Nancy Gianni, Chief Belief Officer at GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers, was the keynote speaker Thursday, May 10 at this year's Women Honoring Women, Lakewood Women's Club 2nd annual spring fundraiser hosted at Georgetown Vosh.

"One hundred thirty of the most distinguished women in Lakewood attended our event," said Jessica

Sloan, president, Lakewood Women's Club. "The crowd is testament to the inspiration Nancy bestows onto our community."

When Nancy, a mother of four from South Barrington, Illinois, gave birth to her fourth child in 2002, GiGi was diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Nancy could have been stifled by fear, but instead, GiGi's birth sparked a remarkable journey of miracles, hope, and unconditional love that is now helping hundreds of thousands of people every day.

"What began as a mom's simple vision to change the perception of people with Down syndrome has evolved into a global movement and acceptance for all," said Nancy Gianni.

There are currently 36 GiGi's Playhouse locations across the U.S. and Mexico, and demand to open 200 more worldwide. GiGi's Playhouse is the ONLY international network of Down Syndrome Achievement Centers created to provide FREE life-changing therapeutic and educational programs to help hundreds of thousands of people of all ages every day.

The Women Honoring Women ceremony recognized three outstanding women from the Lakewood community. Emerging Leader and

Neighborhood Leadership Development Program Seeks 2018 Applicants

by Sandra Kluk

In 2006, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, along with former Cleveland Mayor Michael White, established a leadership training program for engaged neighborhood leaders. The Neighborhood Leadership Development Program is a free, 16 session community engagement training program for residents of Cleveland, and its inner ring suburbs, who are working on projects within the City of Cleveland and who are determined to make a positive impact on their communities.

After the application process, 20 committed individuals are chosen for the program year. NLDP participants and graduates are a diverse group with many interests and are working on a wide variety of issues to improve life in their communities.



Lakewood resident, Kirby Suntala was a participant in the Neighborhood Leadership Development Program and says that the program allowed him to gain needed skills.

Kirby Suntala, a Lakewood resident, was a participant this past year.

Kirby's passion revolves around his work at the Rainey Institute in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland.

Rainey is an arts organization dedicated to performing and visual arts education and participation for Cleveland youth. It is a model in how nonprofit community arts programs can collaborate with an urban public education system to provide arts and music education. A musician himself, Kirby firmly believes in the power that

music and the arts have in changing lives. His dream is to expand mastery based art and music education opportunities for underserved children and youth regardless of income and geographic location. Rainey has several outreach programs such as "El Sistema", a Venezuelan program for youth using a holistic approach through music designed to create healthy human beings and strong citizens and not just great musicians.

Kirby says his time with NLDP allowed him to gain the skills needed to help in his work by strengthening

Read the rest of this story online at lakewoodobserver.com

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Distinguished Leader awards, as well as a college scholarship, were to be presented to three Lakewood women who demonstrated a variety of accomplishments and contributions to our community.

State Representative Nickie J. Antonio presented the awards for the ceremony. Sixteen nominees were recognized in the two award categories for their outstanding achievements.

"We were here tonight to inspire the next generation of women in Lakewood," said Antonio. "These three remarkable women exemplified each and every woman in that room."

The Emerging Leader was awarded to Joannah Lynch, a Family

Read the rest of this story online at lakewoodobserver.com

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Lakewood Is Art



Rockport Miracles Part 1: Episode 3 " The Big Man In The Sky"

Fiction by Scott MacGregor

The sun is rising over the east end of Rockport and I'm hunkered down inside the old coal room of my grandfather's wrecked mansion where I sleep the deepest. 30 years ago Rags Johnson cast his vengeful Creole curse upon Rockport and very little in the way of normal has occurred since. Soon, the dark shifting clouds that stalk our town will appear on Lake Erie's northern horizon and wait patiently to attack us. Whatever it is that has turned the fates against all who live in the path of these ruinous storms one thing seems certain, we are experiencing events beyond the control of mere mortals.

The day after Rags Johnson was beaten up and unceremoniously run out of town, strong thunderstorms rolled in off the lake. I'm told a calm preceded the storm and the air all around was tinged with a strange reddish hue. Then, like Thor's Hammer, a sudden, vicious tornado smashed into the middle of Rockport.

On the western edge of town, the giant "Welcome To Rockport" sheet metal man atop of the Owego Brothers Heating and Cooling Company became unhinged. Strapped upright to the roof with steel cables, the iconic colossus was being rocked from its moorings by strong swirling winds coming from all directions. Both of the Owego brothers rushed to stabilize the cables holding onto "Donald Duct", as he was called, when a funnel cloud passed over them and lifted the

big man into the sky with the Owego brothers holding on for dear life.

Meanwhile, a ferry boat transporting 50 Divinity students from Buffalo to Toledo capsized off Rockport's coast and sank. All passengers and crew made it out alive but struggled to remain afloat in the storm-tossed waters. The students screamed, "Heavenly Father-SAVE US!!" Just then, a giant metal man streaked across the sky and plummeted into the storm tossed waters with the screeching Owego brothers still holding on to him. 'Donald Duct' proved to be amazingly buoyant and the survivors climbed aboard his massive face until they were rescued by the crew of an ore freighter.

No one died in that furious storm and churches of all denominations declared that fact a miracle. Today, our local agnostics would assign terrestrial explanations while I prefer to believe that the curse of intolerance prescribes its own fate. And, since I believe in fate, then by definition, I believe in miracles. Welcome to Rockport.

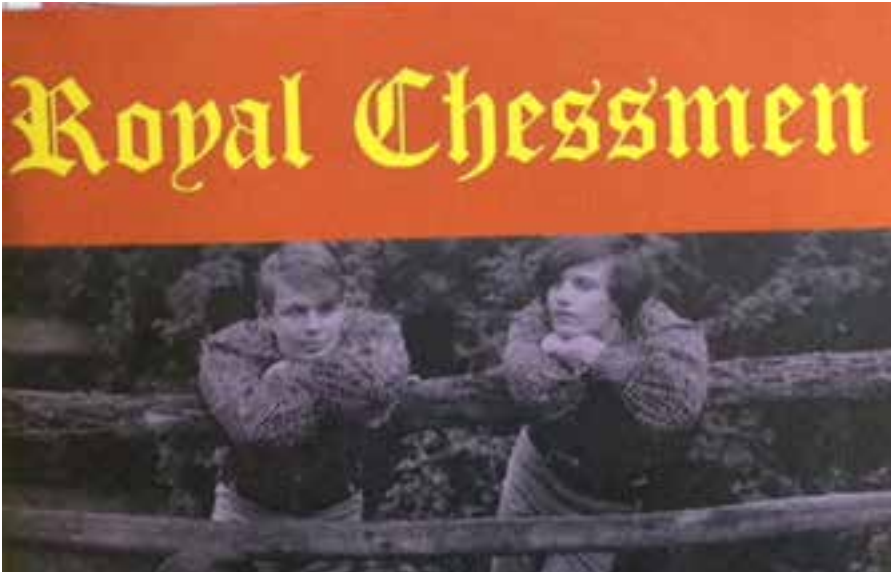
NEXT:
Part 2: "A Girl Named Wren Mathews"

Illustrations by Greg Budgett
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Nothing To Say, I Got Nothing To Say...: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 73



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.

Counter Intuits - Vietnamese Lighter - Total Punk Records - 2 songs - 7"

Two new ones from the only Ohio supergroup I respect. And now they're on the massively popular and influential Total Punk label, so they've got that going for them. They're back to just the senior division with Ron and Jared on this one. "Vietnamese Lighter" is I guess a sorta post-punky one that really just runs the riff into the ground over the course of its "about two and a half minute" lo-fi shuffle. This is gonna shock a lot of regular readers of this column, and it shocks me too: I don't think it's the greatest thing ever. Obviously, I love everything Ron House does, but this one just seems a little weak, especially for him. I can't make out most of the vocals, I suppose maybe that would make a difference. The flip, "Edge," on the other hand (side), is the superior cut for sure. The semi-acoustic and weirdly-instrumented nature of it puts it fully within "the Columbus sound"—for some reason, I kinda wanna say it reminds me of Creeper Ohio, or some other Mike Rep thing. I heard one critic somewhat derisively say it sounds like Guided By Voices, which I guess I can hear, though I think that sells it a little short. Pretty good tune. I think both songs here would feel perfectly in place on a Counter Intuits LP, I just don't know how well they stand as a single. Maybe if the sides were flipped I would feel differently and I'm just thrown off by "Vietnamese Lighter" being consid-

ered A material by someone. All that said, "Edge" is pretty great and even the crummiest of Ron House songs (which "Vietnamese Lighter" isn't, I just don't think it's the band's best) is better than almost everything else. Of course, that statement suggests that Ron has any crummy songs, which he doesn't. 3.5/5
(floridasdying.com)

Royal Chessmen - Don't Tread On Me - My Mind's Eye / B-W Records - 2 songs - 7"

The latest installment in My Mind's Eye's Ohio archival series, and the third garage rock one (after Piccadilly Circus and The One Way Street, both also on B-W). "Don't Tread On Me" is good, spooky garage with an organ. It sounds a little bit like the Zombies. I really like that as soon as they're out of the first chorus, it's time for the guitar solo. That's real garage rock. "I'll Find A Way" on Side B is a little more upbeat. It's still definitely '67 garage (with psych creeping in) and not hard rock, yet for some reason it reminds me a bit of the Damnation of Adam Blessing (pick up those reissues as well, by the way, if you haven't already). Who knows, it's probably something to do with the harmonies and the bassline. Maybe you'd have to hear it. There's also a definite Monkees feel there, I'd say. Two good tunes, a sharp looking pic sleeve with informative and entertaining liner notes by Tom Fallon, and the promise of more in this series. What more can you want? 4/
(mymindseye.bigcartel.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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Forum

Lakewood Residents Give To Feed Need, Lakewood Government Gives To Feed Greed

by Edward Graham

Over the years numerous citizens of Lakewood have given generously to help the less fortunate among us. Our time, perhaps the most valuable thing we possess, has been contributed by many individual Lakewood citizens to help others. How many of our citizens have helped to man the Lakewood Christian Service Center to feed the hungry? How many have helped Lakewood Fish to provide transportation to those in need? How many have helped deliver food for Meals on Wheels? How many have mowed a neighbor's lawn when they were not able to, or taken in their mail when they are away? For most of our citizens, that's just doing the right thing.

On the other hand, there is the giving, or should I more correctly say, the giving away by our city officials. Our city administration enjoys giving to those who are NOT in need. Take for example the latest giveaway of Lakewood's assets currently underway. Lakewood's mayor is anxious to give away for one dollar (yes, for only \$1!) our Lakewood Hospital property estimated by the administration to be worth five million dollars. (Yes, \$5,000,000!) To top that off, the mayor wants to spend seven million dollars (yes, \$7,000,000!) of our money to destroy our \$5,000,000 property for the benefit of a greedy developer. The mayor thinks it is good for Lakewood to start out owning

real estate worth \$5,000,000 plus \$7,000,000 cash, and wind up owning nothing! Or, perhaps you might want to give the mayor credit for acquiring the \$1 and say our citizens start with \$12,000,000 in assets and wind up with a whole \$1! The mayor calls this giveaway an investment. Expecting people to believe that giving away \$12,000,000 of our property for \$1 is an investment is what most would call chutzpah!

A rationalization of the mayor for this giveaway to the greedy developer is that it will create jobs that will pay income tax. He likes to ignore the loss of \$900,000 annual income tax that had been paid by the employees at Lakewood Hospital before it was shut down due to the mayor's rigged deal with the Cleveland Clinic. The mayor wants us to forget that the Clinic was under an obligation to run the hospital until 2026 at no cost to the city and return it to the city as a going concern. The mayor also likes to ignore that the developer is being sued by the City of Beachwood for unpaid income taxes.

In her article "The values behind government ethics laws" Hana Callaghan notes that "The concept that government officials have special ethical obligations to the public is actually quite old. In Ancient Greece Plato called for death for public officials who took bribes." Callaghan also points out that "Without a duty of accountability, the public's ability to monitor the

behavior of public fiduciaries would be severely limited. From the duty of accountability flow the duty of transparency and the concepts of disclosure, open meetings, and accessibility of public records." (Hana Callaghan is the director of the Government Ethics Program at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.)

Lakewood's problem is that the mayor doesn't want the city officials' behavior monitored. The idea of disclosure and accessibility of public records is anathema to him. How many thousands of dollars has the administration wrongfully spent on lawyers to prevent Brian Essi (a concerned Lakewood resident and lawyer) from access to public records? Lakewood's mayor obviously doesn't agree with the Director of the Government Ethics Program in the matter of "accessibility of public records."

In Lakewood's last amended charter is a provision that "The mayor, councilmembers, director of law and director of finance owe a fiduciary duty to the city." Spending taxpayers' dollars to prevent citizens from finding out how our government is being conducted is not ethical! Giving away city property to those not in need is not ethical! Lakewood has been without accountability for too long!

Ed Graham is an attorney, and former president of Lakewood City Council.



Lakewood Observer Celebrates 13 Years In Print

continued from page 1

writers, they aren't usually professional writers, and many wouldn't characterize themselves as writers at all. They are neighbors and friends, business owners, or representatives of community institutions like the schools, city hall, the Beck Center, Lakewood Public library, etc. This week's forum section features Dr. Chuck -- known to many here in Lakewood as the longtime teacher of APUSH-- Advanced Placement U.S. History at Lakewood High School examining the rise of charter schools, a ride-along with Lakewood Police, and reviews of local music releases by a columnist who created his column based on the fact that he loves locally produced music and there was nowhere to read about it.

If you've been reading this paper for a while, you know that our readers and writers are not afraid to take on controversial and contentious issues like the decanting and closing of Lakewood Hospital or the constitutionality of the many executive sessions in which both our city council and school board make their decisions. The project was born because of a need for Lakewoodites to share their opinions with each other during difficult times, when getting an honest look at what's happening is crucial and can be difficult to come by. From the beginning the paper has existed as an online website and a free printed newspaper, available throughout the city, which makes it possible

for everyone to participate, including those with no internet access.

Some of our writers have spent hours investigating issues in order that our city might have a chance to understand what is happening around them. Their motivation? They want to inform, protect and improve the city in which they, their children and their neighbors live. Not so easy to be a community journalist sometimes, especially when "killing the messenger" or at least harassing the messenger is literally true in the world we live in. The paper has weathered frivolous lawsuits, bans by City Hall, efforts at intimidation of our advertisers and contributors, all designed to shut down the paper in order to take away the chance our citizens have to talk to, and learn from each other.

But through all of these years, residents have held fast and continued to write and submit the content of this paper, confident that their words were necessary and appreciated. So congratulations and thank you! Thanks to you, this is the oldest community written paper in the country. 334 papers, 5,344 pages later, we are still going strong.

Interested in getting involved? Join us for an Observer Party where you can meet writers, share ideas and eat a lot of cupcakes. Check next paper for details. If you'd like to just get started, go to our website, click on Member Center, and start writing. Can't wait to hear what you have to say.

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Lakewood Living

Electing The Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Chair: A Post-Mortem

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

On June 9, the Cuyahoga County Democratic Central Committee voted to retain its current leadership for the next four years.

I cast my votes for the Honorable C. Ellen Connally and Mayor Trevor Elkins because I believe they would bring experience, accountability, and equity to the process by which we elect our county party leaders and endorse Democratic candidates. They ran on a solid platform of much needed process reforms, including shifting from an appointment structure to an election structure for the executive committee (who are akin to super-delegates

for those who aren't familiar with their role in the endorsement process); shifting the policy for county party endorsements until after the candidate filing deadline (ensuring that new and emerging candidates have a fair shot at running for office); and ending endorsements for open seat primaries.

These policy and process reforms could do much in unifying a Democratic party whose current structure deeply divides and disenfranchises Democrats whose politics aren't directly in line with the establishment system and want to see a change in how things are done.

The rise of progressive sentiment in Democratic politics since the 2016

Presidential election is significant because it indicates that what constituents need, want and expect from their elected leaders has changed. And change, though generally looked upon negatively by establishments, is essential to the core of our nation's Democracy. The last Presidential election loss and the scandals that befell the Democratic National Committee indicate that politics-as-usual, and the means that have been traditionally employed to justify those ends, is dead.

Instituting reforms from the Connally/Elkins platform would signal to Democrats from all walks of life that the current leadership, while firm in

the values they champion (i.e., fairness, inclusiveness, and compassionate politics) retains the flexibility to adapt how the county party incorporates changes that voters have signified are needed to bring the Democratic Party in line to win elections.

The need for change does not simply disappear with the re-election of the current party chair. The post-mortem between Cuyahoga County Democrats of different ideologies should focus on reforms that acknowledge the shift of Democratic politics and social thought. It should also take an honest and retrospective look at its recent election losses and identify an inclusive path forward to the next Gubernatorial and Presidential elections.

LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: Generators 101” Workshop On July 28

by Matt Bixenstine

If you need the ability to power up when the power goes down, then a home generator might be right for you. But how exactly should you go about finding the right solution for your home?

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Generators 101 on Saturday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Cleveland Lumber Company (9410 Madison Avenue in Cleveland). The 10th workshop of 2018 for this popular home maintenance educational series will cover everything you need to know about generators, including how they work, performing basic maintenance and ensuring safe use of a generator during an emergency.

Led by our friends at Cleveland Lumber Company, this workshop will focus on educating attendees regarding the basics of generators for residential use:

- What exactly is a home generator?
 - What different styles are available?
 - In what situations do they work best?
 - How much can they energize within your home?=
Ultimately, the goal of this workshop is to equip attendees with the knowledge and confidence they need to determine if a generator is right for them and, if it is, what type of generator would work best for their situation.
- To reserve your free spot for “Knowing Your Home: Generators 101,” 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.

Laura Rodriguez-Carbone is a member of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Central Committee representing Lakewood's Precinct 1B; Winner of Crain's Forty Under 40 Award, 2017; Longtime community advocate, leader and public administrator. Currently, Community Outreach Coordinator for Lifebanc.

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LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive's Warren Road Beautification Project Rejuvenates Gateway Into Downtown Lakewood

by Matt Bixenstine

Project undertaken in partnership with City of Lakewood thanks to a grant from Cuyahoga County.

It's been said that beauty becomes magnified when shared with others. That's certainly the case in the community-minded city of Lakewood, and perhaps nowhere is this more noticeable than in the heart of Downtown Lakewood.

Venture north along Warren Road towards Detroit Avenue these days and you'll notice a transformation has taken place for the sake of community beautification. Thanks to a \$50,000 Community Development Supplemental Grant from Cuyahoga County and a partnership with the City of Lakewood, LakewoodAlive's Warren Road Beautification Project has resulted in a rejuvenated gateway into Lakewood's downtown district.

This well-traveled stretch and main artery into Downtown Lakewood now incorporates a new public art mural, a complementary

bus shelter wrap, bike lanes, planter boxes and other beautification features. What started in 2016 as a conceptual vision is now a beautification reality for Lakewoodites and visitors, alike, to enjoy.

"The Warren Road Beautification Project has been two years in the making, and the successful completion of this project is a credit to our many terrific partners in making this collaborative effort possible, including the City of Lakewood, Cuyahoga County, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, local artist Derek Brennan, NEO Realty Group, First Federal Lakewood, Keep Lakewood Beautiful, Lakewood Garden Center, Scherba Industries and many outstanding volunteers," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "I also want to recognize LakewoodAlive's volunteer Design Committee chaired by Rob Donaldson for helping to guide the vision for this project."

Project Timeline

In preparation for the Warren Road Beautification Project, a group of volunteers from First Federal Lakewood spent a day last fall beautifying the targeted area of Warren Road by weeding sidewalks and mulching tree pits. Implementation of the project then commenced last November with the restriping of Warren Road between Franklin Boulevard and Detroit Avenue. This initial phase resulted in the addition of bike lanes and a center turn lane, creating an entranceway to Downtown Lakewood designed to better accommodate drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians and buses.

Following the long winter, the first day of May saw the installation of

a new public art mural 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 eye-catching mural pays homage to Lakewood's proximity to Lake Erie and also incorporates the Cleveland skyline.

A sleek new bus shelter that's adjacent to the new public art mural soon followed. Brennan designed an aquatic-themed bus shelter wrap to complement his mural, and the City of Lakewood installed the bus shelter on May 21. Downtown Lakewood's newest bus shelter – the product of a partnership with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority – features night-time illumination made possible by solar cells on the roof.

Beautification efforts continued later the same week on May 23, when LakewoodAlive partnered with a group of volunteers from PNC and Keep Lakewood Beautiful to fill 14 newly-installed planter boxes along Warren Road in Downtown Lakewood with dogwood shrubs, geraniums and zinnias from Lakewood Garden Center. This key step in the Warren Road Beautification Project has added a splash of greenery and color to the downtown district.

A final phase to the project saw the recent installation of five additional bike racks along this same stretch of Warren Road.

About The Mural Artist

Derek Brennan, 27, is a Sandusky native who has called Lakewood home for three years. He's had a passion for art for as long as he can remember. "My father worked for a printing company," said Derek, "so as a kid I always had stacks of paper to sketch on."

Derek honed his craft while working as a caricature artist at Cedar Point and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Bowling Green State University. Post-graduation, Derek



Artist Derrek Brennan poses with his "Imagination on the Lake" public art mural located at the southwest corner of Warren Road and Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood.

worked for a clothing company as a graphic designer before transitioning to a full-time art career.

For his "Imagination on the Lake" public art mural at the corner of Detroit Avenue and Warren Road in Downtown Lakewood, Derek sought to play off Lakewood's family-friendliness and proximity to Lake Erie. "I wanted something light-hearted and fun that spoke to children about the power of imagination and promoted the importance of reading with your kids."



Volunteers from PNC and Keep Lakewood Beautiful assisted with filling the new planter boxes with dogwood shrubs, geraniums and zinnias from Lakewood Garden Center.

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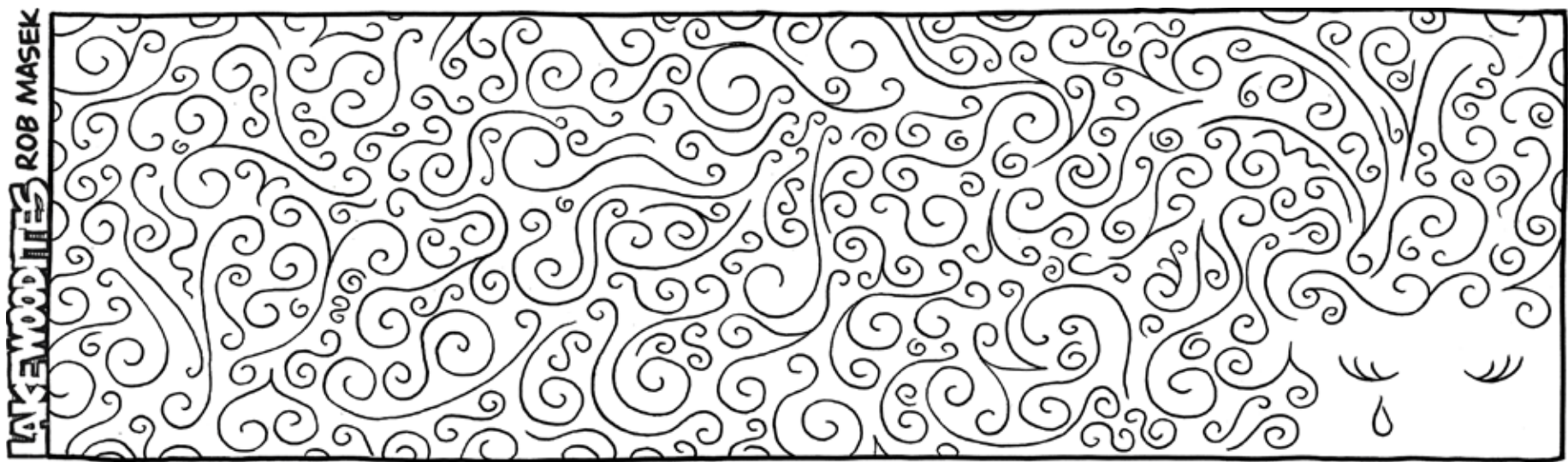
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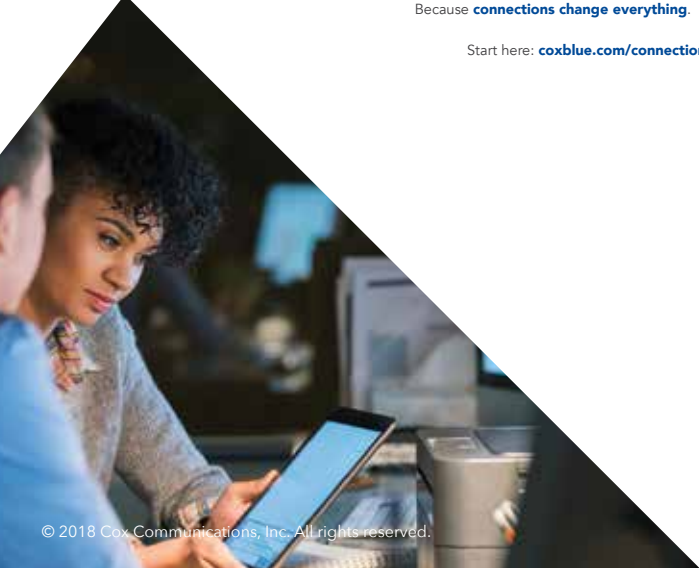

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