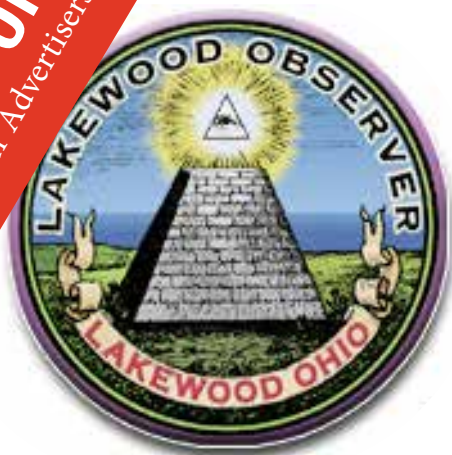


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"My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth." - Abraham Lincoln

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 14, Issue 14, July 18, 2018

## Nominate A Beautiful Lakewood Home Today!



While not a KLB "Beautiful Lakewood Home" winner (yet), we are invited in to one of the most beautiful and amazing transformations in Lakewood homes by its owners. See page 14 for full article and more

## The City Of Lakewood's Peak Party Season



July in Lakewood is always a party and we have our photographers out working the events taking pictures for your enjoyment. From the Independence Day Parade, to...



... concert and fireworks at Lakewood Park. To...



... people cooling off and acting silly at LakewoodAlive's great street party Summer Melt Down. The LO has the best professional and amateur photographers out working for your enjoyment. You can see them throughout this edition of the Lakewood Observer and see them with another million Lakewood photos online FREE for your enjoyment at [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com)

by Ruth Gilett

(To the tune of "Summertime and the Liv'in is Easy"...) "It's summertime,

Lakewood liv'in is easy, Pools are open,

Meltdown Fever is high .... Adopt-a-Spots are

bloom'in, and Lakewood homes are good look'in Beautiful home nomination time now... is nigh!"

With deep apologies to George Gershwin, I have borrowed the tune from "Porgy and Bess" to grab your attention to announce the opening of the Keep Lakewood Beautiful, (KLB) BEAUTIFUL HOME AWARD NOMINATION opportunity!

Yes, between this very moment when you are reading

this article and Friday, August 17th, you can nominate one or more residential properties in Lakewood that make you turn your head in awe and admiration as you walk, bicycle, run, or drive by!

What qualifies a home for nomination? ... The residence should be well-maintained with eye-popping landscaping, good use of color, a variety of plants...and that extra something that is indefinable but you know it when you see it!

How do I submit a nomination?! It's easy! There are 2 ways to nominate: a) email the address of the property to Luann Baker at [luann.baker@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:luann.baker@lakewoodoh.net) or b) leave a message on Luann's voicemail with the address of the prop-

erty. That number is (216) 529-6601. KLB will do the rest of the work which includes taking a picture, judging the entries, and honoring the winners at a City Council meeting in the Winter of 2019.

For inspiration of Beautiful Homes, check out the seven winning properties from 2017 located throughout the City: 1336 Edanola, 1263 Bonnieview, 1557 Belle, 1537 Lakeland, 2162 Wyandotte, 1542 Olivewood, and 1438 Grace Avenue. ...and keep humming..."Summertime, Lakewood liv'in is easy....".

For more information on KLB please see: <http://www.onelakewood.com/keep-lakewood-beautiful/>

Ruth Gilett is a Lakewood resident and a KLB volunteer board member.

## Harding Asst. Principal To Replace Walter At Garfield

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education at its July 16 meeting approved Harding Middle School assistant principal Robin Beavers as the next principal for Garfield Middle School. Beavers will replace Mark Walter, who will be moving to Lakewood High School as principal.

Prior to being named assistant principal at Harding last year, Beavers spent four years at Garfield as a science teacher. She has also served as the District's summer school coordinator the past two summers.

Beavers, a Lakewood resident, is currently studying the District's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) system and its effects on our students as part of the Ph.D. dissertation she is pursuing at Cleveland State. She earned her bachelor's degree from Miami University and her master's in educational administration from Cleveland State.

"I am completely humbled and honored at the opportunity to return to Garfield as the principal. My experiences as a teacher in the building taught me not only to appreciate the rich diversity of the staff and students but to embrace the



Robin Beavers, Garfield Middle School Principal

bright future surely ahead for them all. Holding my colleagues in high esteem, I am

**continued on page 6**

## Looking Back With Superintendent Jeffery Patterson



The Lakewood Observer has always had a strong relationship with Lakewood City Schools. Here retiring Superintendent Jeffery Patterson (center), ex-Assitant Superintendent Roxann Ramsey, now Superintendent of North Ridgeville Schools, and ex-BOE President Matthew Markling hold up one of the many tributes to the schools. This one was for Joe Madak who was honored at the July 16th Board meeting. More on page 6.

## Superintendent Joe Madak Honored



Plaque of Dr. Joe Madak to be hung at Lakewood Civic Auditorium.



# Hot Off The Deck

## Homicides Cleveland Police Need Your Help



Saturday at 8pm, a person in what is believed to be a gray vehicle pulled up next to the blue Chevy shown above, walked up and fired 15 shots into the vehicle killing Andre Williams (age 35) and Malachia Perez Stewart III (age 35) shot in the head and chest. A stray bullet grazed a 24-year-old woman from Franklin Ave who remains in Metro Hospital. Police need your help in solving this crime. Contact Cleveland Police at Crime Stoppers - 216.252.7463 or the Homicide Unit - 216.623.5464.

## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!



“Sunset” from Homewood Point, by Jim O’Bryan

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Jay Carson Campaign?	Michael Deneen	34	2651	Mon Jul 16,
Questioning The Redevelopment of the Former Hospital Site	Mark Kindt	61	4235	Mon Jul 16
Just TRY to make an appointment at the Lakewood Family Health Center	Bill Call	3	205	Mon Jul 16
Appointments	mjkuhns	6	396	Mon Jul 16
Saturday night on the cliff edge?	Marguerite Harkness	1	281	Sun Jul 15
Phantasy slated for “removal”	michael gill	5	403	Sun Jul 15
Disastrous “Economic Development” Policies Coming From First Suburbs Consortium	Jared Denman	3	430	Sun Jul 15
Clouds got in the way...	Jim O'Bryan	395	74298	Sun Jul 15
Lebron James or the research triangle?	Bill Call	12	531	Sat Jul 14
Signs, Signs, Everywhere	Jim O'Bryan	129	22294	Thu Jul 12
Democratic Establishment Doubles Down on Corruption	Michael Deneen	4	459	Thu Jul 12
Jammy Buggar’s Closes	Jim O'Bryan	6	946	Thu Jul 12
Lakewood Healthcare Data Study	Mark Kindt	3	510	Tue Jul 10
New Buzzword “Active Living”	Bridget Conant	0	226	Tue Jul 10
Baby You Can Drive My Car...	Jim O'Bryan	62	16462	Sun Jul

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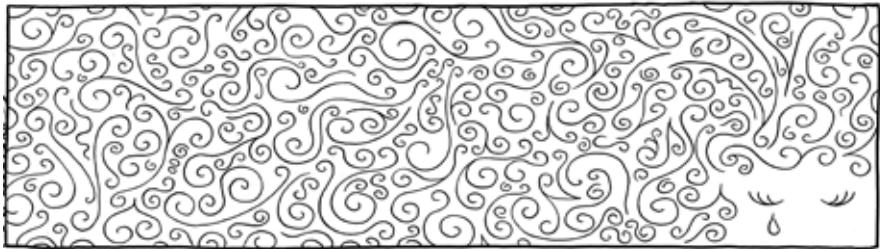
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City



## Tease Family Thanks The Community

by Michele Deluca

Nora Swift was the type of person that only comes along once in a lifetime. Her presence felt warm and inviting, yet she emulated a mystery that made people gravitate towards her. She was one tough chick and had that ability to leave you fearing if you were ever foolish enough to cross her.

The people that she loved, she loved entirely and would do anything to protect them. That motherly love extended beyond her own children, who were her heart and soul, to the family she had at Tease. She created a sense of belonging, a pride of getting close enough to have known her.

Her fiery passion for the industry and unique creativity can still be felt throughout the salon even without her physical presence. Nora's unapologetic hustle, infectious sense of humor, lavishly lived lifestyle and love for her

business are all things we will always remember about who she was. Her legacy will continue to live on through us, her memories we will forever cherish. Everyone at Tease Hair and Body Parlor wants to thank the community of Lakewood for its outpouring of love and support.

*Nora was larger than life + so was her hair. She had red lips big lashes + a mesmerizing stare.*

*Her heart was gold + if you just met her once you were sold.*

*Hustle was her game + tease hair + body parlor was the name.*

*Her babies were her everything + in them she'll always remain.*

*Her family + friends were her reason + they were always in season.*

*Legacy is what she left + her village will carry it; you can bet.*

--Belle

## Rep. Antonio Comments On Final Session Before Summer Recess

by Nickie Antonio

With the commencement of Session Wednesday, June 27th, summer recess for the Ohio Legislature officially began Monday, July 2nd. The last Session before summer saw a flurry of bills voted on the House Floor, both good and bad legislation.

The Ohio Republican Majority attempted to write discrimination into law through the anti-LGBTQ legislation, House Bill (HB) 36. HB 36, authored by Rep. Nino Vitale, would allow ministers not to solemnize marriages that are contrary to their personal beliefs. This bill took an even more disturbing turn when Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) introduced an amendment that would give priority to protecting pastors if a conflict arises between pastor protection and public accommodation law. This bill is unnecessary as the U.S. Constitution already protects clergy people and pastors.

The GOP also passed legislation out of the House giving a free pass to Ohio's out of control charter schools. Senate Bill (SB) 216 is a Republican-led education reform bill that protects Republican's flawed charter school design—a design that has proven to lack accountability and cost taxpayers money. I believe Ohio taxpayers deserve a full and complete accounting for every one of their hard-earned dollars invested in education, whether the money is directed to public school districts or charter schools. Charter schools and their management companies shouldn't be able to hide their spending of taxpayer funds behind closed doors.

Fortunately, it is not all bad news. A whole host of smart, public policy

passed through Session Wednesday, including HB 126, HB 511 and HB 479. All three of these bills will move to the Senate for consideration.

HB 126 would create a statewide system of kinship navigators that will help keep families together and provide needed assistance for Ohio's most vulnerable populations. Kinship caregivers are family members other than a parent who are taking care of a child. More often than not, the parents of these children are facing incarceration, addiction and substance abuse, and even death.

Current Ohio law provides that minors may marry with proper consent at the age of 16. HB 511 would require that individuals be 18 years old for a marriage license without consent of a parent, guardian or juvenile court. The bill provides an exemption for a 17-year-old to marry if they obtain consent from a juvenile court, provided their partner is not more than four years older.

HB 479, the Prescription Drug Co-Pay Integrity Act, would save consumers money by prohibiting gag rules that prevent pharmacists from informing consumers when they are overpaying for prescription drugs.


I was disappointed to not be able to vote on these common-sense bills or outwardly protest the terrible pieces of legislation. In the eight years that I have been in the Ohio House of Representatives, last week marked a rare session absence as I was in the hospital following hip surgery and will be home recovering for the next few weeks. I look forward to getting back to work in the community this summer and returning to Columbus for Session after the summer recess.

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# Aging Well

Friday, July 27, 2018 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Fatima Perkins, MNO, MSLIS  
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

Complimentary lunch

Assisted Living  
4th floor education room

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert  
216-912-0800 by July 25, 2018

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

### Thursday, July 19, 2018

#### 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: “May We Be Forgiven: A Novel” by A.M. Homes.

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

### Friday, July 20, 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 Mimi Arden.

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

### Saturday, July 21, 2018

#### Film - “Night Must Fall” (1937)

#### Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill

A woman who went missing is found murdered in a peaceful English village. Her killer is at large. Cantankerous invalid Mrs. Bramson (Dame May Whitty) owns and lives on a nearby estate with niece Olivia (Rosalind Russell). One of the maids introduces handsome Welshman, Danny (Robert Montgomery) to them as her fiancée. Then and there, Danny wins the job of Mrs. Bramson’s live-in companion. Far from thrilled, Olivia dislikes and distrusts him. 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, July 22, 2018

#### Concert- Jody, John and George with Special

#### Guest Wallace Coleman Wallace

Coleman joins Jody, John and George for this special summer concert.

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

### Wednesday, July 25, 2018

#### Lakewood Historical Society, Talk - Normandy to the Netherlands:

#### A Fighter Pilot’s View, Presentation by James Frolking

James Frolking has a good reason to remember D-Day. It was on June 6, 1944, that he flew his first mission as a fighter pilot in World War II. In all he would fly fifty-two combat missions with the 479th Fighter Group of America’s 8th Air Force—fifty missions in the P-38 “Lightning” and two in the P-51 “Mustang.” It came to a crashing end when anti-aircraft fire brought him down on October 7, 1944, over German-occupied territory in the Netherlands. Fortunately the Dutch underground got to him before the Germans, and advancing Canadian troops liberated him a few weeks later. Come and hear this story of the “greatest generation” from one of the men who made it great.

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

### Thursday, July 26, 2018

#### Author Event - “Fifty Must-Try Craft Beers of Ohio”

#### by Rick Armon

Meet Author Rick Armon and Lakewood Brewer Rick Skains  
In “Fifty Must-Try Craft Beers of Ohio,” veteran beer writer Rick Armon picks the can’t-miss brews in a roundup that will handily guide everyone from the newest beer aficionado to those with the most seasoned palates. Some are crowd pleasers, some are award winners—some are just plain unusual—the knockout beers included here are a tiny sample of what Ohio has to offer. Lakewood brewer and owner of Working Class Brewery in Lakewood, Rick Skains will join Armon. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

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

### Friday, July 27, 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 Drumplay.

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

### Saturday, July 28, 2018

#### Film - “The Sea Inside” (2004)

#### Directed by Alejandro Amenábar

Former sailor Ramón Sampedro (Javier Bardem) is left living as a quadriplegic after a diving accident. For Ramón, this is not a dignified way to live, and he embarks on a campaign for the right to end his own life. Julia (Bélen Rueda) is a lawyer suffering from a degenerative fatal disease who fully supports his cause while blue-collar worker Rosa (Lola Dueñas) is determined to convince him that life is worth living. In Spanish with English subtitles.

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

### Sunday, July 29, 2018

#### Concert - Victor Samalot

Victor Samalot is an acoustic guitar instrumentalist mixing Latin, Jazz, Light Rock, World, improvisations and live looping from Cleveland. He reinvented his sound in 2010, launching his solo career after cofounding a Jazz Rock Fusion instrumental group called Rare Blend. Samalot switched from electric to acoustic guitar and this time called upon his Latin roots but kept his fusion sensibilities by incorporating the fundamentals of Jazz and Rock. Fresh and contemporary, he appeals to listeners of world fusion music.

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

### Tuesday, July 31, 2018

#### Genealogy Workshop

#### Taught by Deborah Abbott, PhD

How far back would you like to trace your family tree? Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop. Unravel your history with professional results. Space is limited at the workshops, but you are welcome to register with a partner and share a computer. Registration is required. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

### Wednesday, August 1, 2018

#### Coast Line: Poetry Reading Series

#### Readings by Kazim Ali, Sarah Gridley and Mary Owen

Kazim Ali is a poet, editor, and prose writer. His volumes of poetry include “Sky Ward,” winner of the Ohioana Book Award in Poetry and “The Far Mosque,” winner of Alice James Books’ New England/New York Award. Sarah Gridley is the author of “Weather Eye Open, Green is the Orator and Loom.” Mary Owen is a poet, musician, performance artist, fine artist assistant, autodidact and audiophile.

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

### Friday August 3, 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 Corner Store Funk Band.

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

### Saturday August 4, 2018

#### Friends Arts Festival Book Sale

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

9:00 a.m. in the Friends Main Book Sale Room

## Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

### Friday, July 27, 2018

#### The Magic of Michael Mage, For the whole family

Comedy and audience participation highlight a hilarious show you have to see to believe. No registration required. Free and open to public.

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


### Monday, July 30, 2018 through Thursday, August 2, 2018

#### Get Ready for Kindergarten

#### For you and your 3 ½ to 6 year old child

Four days of fun stories and acclimating to activities in preparation for kindergarten. No registration required, come any or all days.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.



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# Lakewood Public Library

## Summer Reading “Libraries Rock!” Party At Madison Park

by Eric Knapp

Calling all summer readers! Get ready to celebrate the end of another great summer with games and goodies galore. The Lakewood Public Library Summer Reading Club, "Libraries Rock!," which celebrates music this year, is drawing to a close. That means it's time for a party! Our summer readers have done a fabulous job, and now it all pays off. All children ages birth through fifth grade can participate in a variety of fun games and activities, and might even win a prize. Those who completed their reading records can participate in our “dunk a librarian” contest. Bring your completed reading record for your chance to soak the staff!



The party will be held on Wednesday, August 8th, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Madison Park Pavilion behind the Madison Branch Library at 13229 Madison Ave. This family event is free and open to the public. No registration necessary. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140 for more information.



NCW will perform “Of Mountains and Rivers” in the Main Library Auditorium.

## North Coast Winds Performs Summer Concert

by Elaine Rosenberger

Escape the summer heat for the tranquility of mountain streams when North Coast Winds performs “Of Mountains and Rivers” in the Main Library Auditorium on Sunday, August 5, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Five Cleveland Institute of Music alumni formed North Coast Winds (NCW), a woodwind quintet, with the goals of making inspired music, offering memorable educational programming, and connecting with the broadest audiences possible. In pursuit of this latter goal, NCW established a weeklong residency in Sitka, Alaska, where the group introduced hundreds of people in both educational and recital settings to its instruments, skills, and musical storytelling.

NCW Members include Arleigh Savage, principal bassoonist with the Cleveland Opera Theater; clarinetist Benjamin Chen who made his American concerto soloist debut at the Kennedy Center; Emily Rapson, second horn of both The Wheeling Symphony in West Virginia and the Erie Philharmonic in Pennsylvania; Mary Kausek, the principal oboist of CityMusic Cleveland; and Madeline Lucas Tolliver, the Large Ensembles and Woodwind Chamber Program manager at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

NCW’s performance “Of Mountains and Rivers” will feature Cleveland composer Eric Ewazen’s Roaring Fork Quintet as well as other evocative music relating to nature landscapes.

## Arts Festival Book Sale

by Genevieve Jaskulski

On August 4, 2018, the Annual Lakewood Arts Festival will be held in downtown Lakewood.

The Library will be joining in on these festivities by hosting our Friends of the Library Book Sale.

The sale will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Friends Book Sale Room, come on inside to enjoy a little air conditioning and to browse all of our bargain priced treasures waiting for you here.

The support we receive from our community, not only in proceeds but also in thoughtful donations, helps the Library bring you the spectacular entertainment and educational pro-

gramming, of which we are so proud, including the famous front porch concerts and our Sunday with the Friends events.

We have permanently reduced the price of audio CDs to 25 cents, and offer so much great material, all hand selected for the convenience and happiness of our customers.

You would truly be hard-pressed to walk away from our sale without something for yourself, or your family. Our eclectic and expansive collection of wonderfully accessible materials for you to enjoy has been meticulously sorted by our amazingly dedicated Friends of the Library, who spend countless hours in preparation for our sales, and who donate their time and energy to the quality of our selection.

Although this is the only book sale we have without a preview sale, for those who wish to sign up and become a member of the Friends; the membership fee is only \$3.00 a year and may be purchased at our Main Circulation desk, through the mail, through the library’s website at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or at the door of the book sale.

Happy summer everyone!



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## Enjoy The Magic Of Michael Mage

by Marge Foley

Known as a comedian stuck in a magician’s shoes, Michael Mage incorporates comedy and endless audience participation into his hilarious shows. With years of professional experience, Michael is able to develop his show based around the people in attendance. Come to the Lakewood Public Library and enjoy a child-friendly presentation as the audience becomes the highlight of this comedy magic spectacle. National award winning magician Michael Mage will delight all who attend. Come and be amazed. This entertaining performance will take place on Friday, July 27, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.



This comedy magic show will fill the room with laughter.

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Lakewood Schools

## Supplies 4 Success Kicks Off 8th Year Of Collecting For Students In Need

by Christine Gordillo

Supplies 4 Success, a committee of the Lakewood Area Collaborative, has kicked off this summer's school supply collection drive. Started in 2011, S4S has been instrumental in getting needed school supplies to Lakewood students in financial need. The committee's goal is to have a supply closet in each of our schools for guidance counselors and teachers to access throughout the school year.

Chair Karen Lee says, "We have been so very lucky to be in such a giving community. Thousands of students have been helped since the inception of

the program." Students from grades K-12 are able to go to their guidance office and receive new supplies - from a pack of pencils to a fully stuffed backpack, depending on their need.

This year's collection runs through September with the bulk of supplies being sorted and distributed to schools on Monday, August 13. Suggested supplies can be dropped off at any the following local businesses: Pet's General, Lakewood Hardware, Nature's Oasis, The Beck Center, Breadsmith, The Root, Sweet Designs, First Federal Bank, KB Confections, Rebound Physical Therapy/Urgent Care, The

Coffee Pot, Becks/Foster Pools and the Lakewood Recreation Department (year round). Financial donations can be made through the Lakewood Foundation at [thelakewoodfoundation.org](http://thelakewoodfoundation.org) or The Lakewood Foundation, 16024 Madison Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107 (write S4S in the subject line).

S4S is thrilled to have such long-time support from other local groups:

The Lakewood Foundation, Lakewood Community Service Center (LCSC), Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation (LCSC), Help to Others (H2O), Trinity Lakewood Community Organization (TLCO), Gifts from Grandma, Hospice of the Western Reserve and Cox Communication as well as many of our local churches and Girl Scout troops.

## Harding Asst. Principal To Replace Walter At Garfield

continued from page 1

excited and proud to work alongside them once again. Behind the exceptional leadership of Mark Walter, I am charged to make this journey worthy and purposeful," Beavers said.

"I am grateful for my experiences at Harding Middle School and will miss all of the wonderful people I had the pleasure of working with during that time. A very special thank you to the Board of Education, our current and incoming Administrative team of Superintendent Patterson, Assistant Superintendent Roxann Ramsey-Case-

rio, Dr. Michael Barnes, and Mrs. Maggie Niedzwieck for the opportunity to continue as an educational leader in the Lakewood community."

Incoming Superintendent Barnes said: "Robin is a visionary. She is student-centered and interested in supporting and helping staff to grow. While the District is undergoing many changes, Robin's familiarity with Garfield will help maintain stability within the school community. We are all excited for her."

Beavers begins her new position on August 1.

## Looking Back With Superintendent Jeffery Patterson



Superintendent Jeffery Patterson had many good days and great days as the Superintendent of Lakewood City Schools. From the first day one of Jeff's biggest supporters was then Board of Education President Matthew Markling. This is a photo of Markling and Patterson at the ground breaking of Grant School.

## In Agreement And Response To Charter Schools – A New Form of Colonialism

by Christina Grassia

Public education may not be a fundamental right under our constitution, but it is protected by The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. However, as Dr. Greanoff stated, public schools seem to now be on the road to extinction, and it is frightening. A large component of this problem, stems from many politicians and their promotion of the charter school system. The public has been repeatedly misinformed about charter schools. Some think they are private schools, others think children will receive "safer," or "better" education by attending such institutions. Sadly parents are being manipulated and misled.

While working in a charter school run by an Akron Industrialist (no educational background), I quickly found that our students' safety was not a concern. Many of my students' families were under the impression that their child was attending some type of private school, and that it was safer from the local public school. However, many of our students enrolled because they were expelled from the local public school system. Expulsion is serious and good kids were put into classes with others who had been "kicked out," and mostly for physically violent offenses. The worst part was that these poorly-behaved children were accepted

because the charter would receive more money for that individual child. Although months later, after the funds were used and if that same child continued his/her negative behavior, they could be expelled from the charter too. Unfortunately, the behaviors usually did persist but the student couldn't be expelled again until close to the end of the school year. The other students already had suffered significant disruption to their education, the damage was done.

During my years at the charter school I met many hard-working teachers. Since the job market was very competitive many of my colleagues were certified teachers who just had a passion for teaching, but you can only take so much abuse. After years of experiencing an inadequate income, poor health benefits, mandatory extended hours and students that were a physical danger to you, many of those teachers left. The turnover was constant and who could blame the teachers! As a parent, it would concern me to see teaching staff change constantly like a revolving door, that says something! Since there was such a problem with turnover, I found that this particular charter would hire teachers who were

continued on page 9

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Lakewood Cares

Asian Services In Action, Inc. (ASIA)  
Helps Refugee Women Domestic Abuse Victims

by Joon-Li Kim

Asian Services in Action, Inc. Reaches out to Immigrant and Refugee Women Dealing with Domestic Abuse

Northeast Ohio, continuing a proud history, welcomes refugees and immigrants from around the world. Yet, as anyone moving to a new neighborhood, a new school, a new job, a new city knows, such transitions are challenging and stressful. Now, imagine that stress compounded by having to flee your home because of civil unrest or religious persecution or political chaos, arriving at your new home and not having any friends, and, on top of it all, not being able to speak the language that everyone else around you speaks.

Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA) offers a variety of classes to assist newly arrived immigrants and refugees with help to ease that transition. Some of the services it offers are English language classes; parenting classes; citizenship classes; and self-sufficiency classes.

In spite of these services, however, the stress that many immigrants experience can be even worse for the women. Most speak no English and must rely on their children and spouses to be their only gateway to the wider

community. This isolation makes immigrant and refugee women especially vulnerable to domestic violence, especially if they belong to communities where a strong stigma surrounds such issues.

For these reasons, ASIA has developed a Domestic Violence program for women who find themselves in a violent relationship. Any woman who contacts ASIA will be given confidential and free services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, regardless of country of origin or nationality. In 2017, for example, ASIA assisted women who were Jordanian, American, Nepali, Bangladeshi, Saudi Arabian, Taiwanese, Moroccan, Iraqi, Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Burmese, and Bhutanese. ASIA helps these women find safe housing, legal and medical assistance, financial planning, as well as counseling and support.

Though ASIA is able to help many women, not every story has a happy outcome. A particularly gruesome tragedy impacted the people at ASIA last year when media reports surfaced of a Chinese woman who was found dead in her apartment. In July 2017, Qihong Chen was decapitated, allegedly by a man she was in a relationship

with. She had been receiving help from ASIA before her death.

According to Kitty Leung, Senior Manager of Children, Youth, and Family Services Department, one of the most difficult obstacles to overcome is the difference in cultural values and expectations for women. In some communities, women are not allowed much independence or choice. They have little control over their own finances or their own futures. Often, they may not have the family support network here to be able to make the right decisions for themselves or to understand what a healthy relationship is.

For these reasons, Leung believes that combatting domestic violence must also involve all members of the community. She leads a Bystander Intervention program that elevates awareness in the community at large of the many behaviors that constitute domestic violence. In addition to identifying unacceptable behavior, the program also teaches people about the resources that bystanders can go to when they witness instances of domestic violence. By reaching out not only to victims and perpetrators but also to their family, friends, and neighbors, Leung hopes that she can help the people who want to help but don't know how. And that she will never again read about a horrible tragedy like what happened to Qihong.

For free and confidential assistance with domestic violence issues, please call (216)369-7616 or contact Kitty Leung at [kitty@asiaohio.org](mailto:kitty@asiaohio.org).



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# Lakewood Is Art

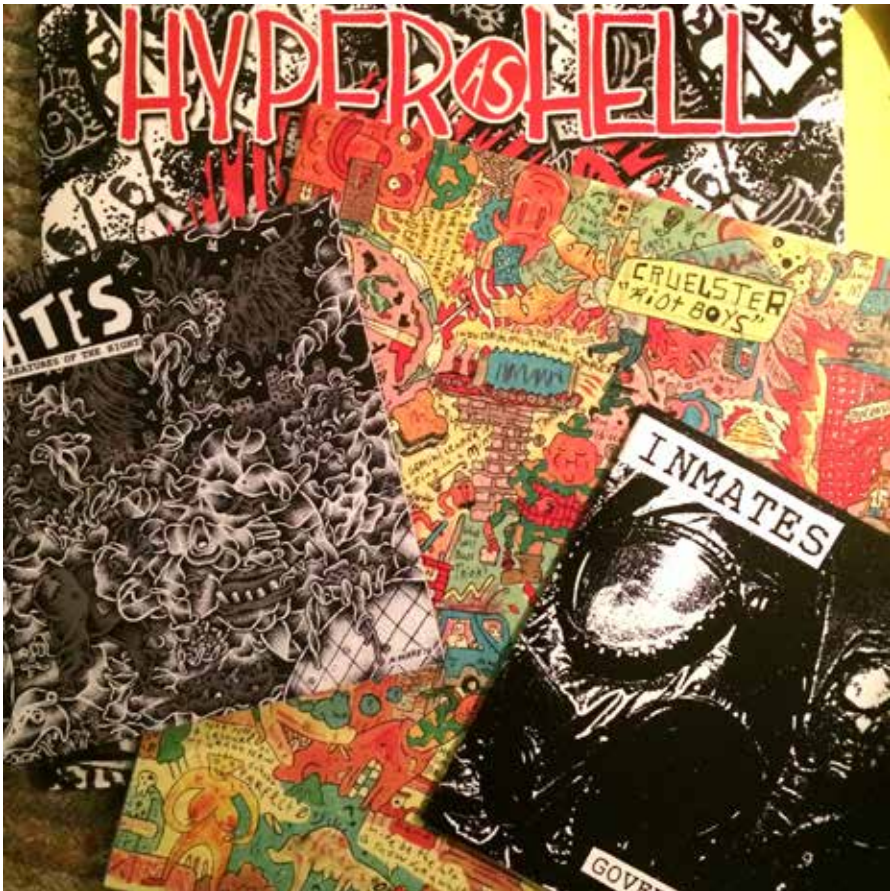
## Something In The Water: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 74

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.*

**Cruelster - Riot Boys - Lumpy Records - 14 songs - LP**

I'd like to come out and make the claim that I was more excited to hear about a new Cruelster record than almost anyone else. I like everything these guys do, but Cruelster just holds a special place in my heart. This brand new LP kicks off with a clip of someone talking at great length about Captain America, and I won't go any further to avoid spoiling it, but it's pretty funny. I wanna know whether they found this somewhere or created it themselves. The problem I have is it does go on for a pretty long time and sometimes I just wanna skip to the music. Kinda like that one Uranium Club album, ya know? Hold on, I'll say Devo right now and then stick "something in the water" in at the very end, just to make sure I cover all my bases. I would not call Cruelster a hardcore band, though I know some would, because musically I don't think they're that hardcore. Other people would probably call this "Jimmy punk" or whatever that's been renamed to this week, but I don't know about that either, because I find a lot of those bands completely boring and Cruelster is anything but boring. I'm just going to say it's punk. That satisfies me plenty. I mean, we can do a whole analysis here: on the famous Lumpy label; goofy lyrics; band photo contains lots of Rancid memorabilia. It's punk, I don't care what imaginary subgenre it is. I'm glad the first song here is "Crisis In Local Government Part III," which is mostly a remake of "Crisis In Local Government Part II." It's quite a powerhouse of a song, but I'm really going to raise a fuss that they cut the "digging up skulls at Kiddie Park, murder in the ferris wheel long after dark" bit, which is probably my favorite Cruelster lyric. Points docked for that, sorry. As



that line would imply, this band can be at times pretty locally specific— I'm not sure how "Cox Triv and Rover" will fly in, say, Los Angeles, but I like it. Interspersed throughout the record are short synth-based interludes, my favorite of which is the delightfully creepy "Laminate It Later," which actually brings to mind another point. At the end of "Why Did They Do That To Me Back Then," there's a bit where Piss and Runt (or maybe just one of them doubled, but that seems like a waste of resources) say "we thought you were in China, Yes Yes...we can sound just like you." Then "American Boots For Who" starts and I started thinking "wait, this actually sounds more like Nathan than it does Mike" and then that cast doubt over the whole thing. I'm not sure who it is in the lead on "Laminate It Later." My guess would've been Alex, but now I really don't know. It's gotta be Yes Yes on "Dum Fuk," that "we!" at the end is too perfect. I'm pretty sure Yes isn't on "Coco's Secret" at all, but again, I'm completely confused. "The Pipeline Could Work" is a phenomenal tune (that "chorus" melody is perfectly

obnoxious; the spoken "I think it could work!" in the middle is perfect; etc.), and along with other great songs like "Gold Studded Citizen" and the outstanding closer "Benghazi Mommy," really get into an important point. I think Lumpy included something like this in his description on his website, but this really is the perfect answer to people who said, "well, now that Trump is president, we'll get some great new punk!" Well, yes, because you got a new Cruelster record, that's very correct. I don't know if this is the political punk you were hoping for, but it's the political punk we all deserve. I really could go on about this record all day, but this review is getting really long anyway. Wonderful artwork as one would expect of Nathan and friends; I think I could spend a good hour or so just taking it all in. Huge thanks to whoever put my name on there. 4.5/5 ([lumpyrecords.com](http://lumpyrecords.com))

**Hyper As Hell - Primer At This End / Rock 'N' Roll Liberation Front / Mr. Fixit / Demos 1987 - My Mind's Eye - 19 songs - 2xLP**

First complaint: wow, what an unnecessarily long title! Just make it self-titled, or call it "Primer At This End Plus!" or pick out a choice song title or something. Come on. Hyper As Hell were from Kent and would I guess be called "crossover," that is to say, hardcore but also metal. I can decidedly say that this is not my favorite genre of music. However, I think that description kinda sells HAH short. Yes, they're that, but they've got some other stuff going on. A couple more interesting elements thrown into the mix. I was also told that they were "heavily inspired by anarchy...and acid" and I think that's pretty fair, especially lyrically. Even I, a noted curmudgeon, have to say that the "Primer At This

End" material is pretty good. There's some real shredders and burners and all that in there, and I like that several of the songs have at least three separate intros. I particularly enjoy the Wayne Kramer / Rick Nielsen on "Ain't That A Shame" lead guitar at the start of "Parasite Human." Bet you didn't think you'd be seeing a reference to Cheap Trick in this review, huh? I can't really say much more about "Parasite Human" other than I think it rules. "Hyper As Hell" lives up to its name, and I like to think that the "pieces of pie" lyrics are a Devo reference, being from Kent and all. Closing with the hard rock moves of "Spy Vs. Spy" into the crushing "Dead Next Door" is the icing on the cake. Now, the second LP. Side 3 here is later material, from 1993, and it's kinda iffy. Double LPs always tend to drag around C, so take that into consideration, but I think it's also just not as good, to be rather blunt. I like the weird surf bits on "White Plague," but I lose track of whatever the metaphor is supposed to be in "Merry Goats." Side 4 is demos for most of the "Primer" material, plus the similarly-styled "Get Up, Stand Up." I think that the way to take this in is kind of as the deluxe edition of "Primer At This End" (though that doesn't explain the '90s material, but ignore that for the sake of my argument), in which case it's cool to have "Primer At This End" on vinyl and the second LP as bonus material for the fans. Overall: a pretty decent piece of Kent music history, worth checking out for "Primer At This End" at least. 3.5/5 ([mymindseye.bigcartel.com](http://mymindseye.bigcartel.com))

**Inmates - Government Crimes - Saucepan Records / Ultra Sonido - 7 songs - 7", down-load**

Here it is, the long-awaited reissue of the first record by the Inmates. I don't know what more can really be said other than it's truly a hardcore classic. These songs are just ragers through and through. The record starts off with "Riot," which goes by so fast you've barely even processed what's about to happen to you before you get hit with the ever-timely "Government Crimes" and the anthemic "I'm So Scummy" and the side finishes up with the apocalyptic "Burning (Kuso)." Side B doesn't let up, starting with "Falling Down Drunk" (any time Paul E. Wog really goes into hysterics with the vocal performance is great) and followed by a wonderful poem entitled "I Wreck," which serves as an intro to "Pipebomb," another violent assault on the senses, the world, and your teeth. Closing the platter out is a cover of Chaos U.K.'s "Victimized." I mean, I truly don't know what more can be said. An all-time top hardcore EP, undeniably. Saucepan and Ultra Sonido did a good job here as well. I think this is pressed from the original stampers (and uses the original labels) so it sounds good, the cover looks decent, and there's a nice (if perhaps unnecessary) insert included. 4.5/5 ([saucepanrecords.bigcartel.com](http://saucepanrecords.bigcartel.com) / [inmatesncr.bandcamp.com](http://inmatesncr.bandcamp.com))

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## Lakewood Is Art

Witness "Gypsy":

# The "Mother" Of All Musicals At Beck Center

by Belle Mercurio

Beck Center for the Arts proudly presents "Gypsy" July 6 through August 12, 2018 on the Mackey Theater main stage. "Gypsy" is often regarded as "the greatest American musical" and one of Broadway's all-time triumphs. Based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the musical follows an overbearing stage mother, Mama Rose, and her two daughters who travel across the country during the 1920's when vaudeville was dying and burlesque was born. Gypsy received multiple Tony Awards® for both the original production and its revivals. The show celebrates nearly 60 years of iconic performance. Its memorable score features songs that have become standards and helped launch the career of Stephen Sondheim.

Beck Center's Artistic Director, Scott Spence returns to direct the tremendously talented cast of 33 actors. Natalie Blalock stars as the domineering Mama Rose. She is joined by Allen O'Reilly as Herbie, their easily-swayed



manager. Blalock and O'Reilly both appear courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA). Under the musical direction of Larry Goodpaster and choreographed by Martín Céspedes, "Gypsy" is sure to entertain you. "It's been called the perfect musical, and I'm not going to argue with that," remarked Spence.

Tickets for "Gypsy" are now on sale! Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. "Gypsy"

may not be appropriate for young audiences. Tickets are \$31 for adults, \$27 for seniors (65 and older), and \$12 for students with a valid I.D. A \$3 service fee per ticket will be applied at time of purchase. The recently announced SMART SEATS® are also available for this production. SMART SEATS® are not subjected to the \$3 service charge. Preview Night on Thursday, July 5 is \$10 with general admission seating.

Group discounts are available for parties of four or more. Purchase tickets online at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of "Gypsy" is presented through special arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc. It is generously sponsored the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education programming for all ages and abilities, including dance, music, theater, visual arts, and creative arts therapies for individuals with special needs, outreach education, and free gallery exhibitions.



## Beck Starts Smart Seats

by Belle Mercurio

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to announce the adoption of the popular Smart Seats® program introduced by Playhouse Square. The program offers Beck Center guests the chance to experience exceptional theater for just \$10.

Playhouse Square launched Smart Seats® in 2006 and since then thousands of people have taken advantage of the program. Beck Center is proud to be the next chapter in the wildly successful platform, and to be able help make the transformative power of art experiences more accessible to the community.

Beck Center will reserve a limited number of Smart Seats® for each performance in both the Mackey and Studio Theaters. These seats are available on a first come first served basis. Smart Seats® for Beck's upcoming production of "Gypsy," running July 6 through August 12, are on sale now, and the program will continue through the recently announced 2018-19 theater season.

"Beck Center is thrilled that our friends at Playhouse Square are allowing us to share in this tremendous program," remarked Artistic Director Scott Spence. "It's such a great opportunity to get even more arts patrons to see the fine work we are doing."

Tickets for "Gypsy," including Smart Seats®, are on sale now. For more information visit [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org). Season Tickets and Flex Passes for the 2018-19 season are on sale now. For more information call Beck Center Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Individual 2018-19 season tickets, including Smart Seats®, may be purchased beginning Wednesday, August 1, 2018 with ticket prices ranging from \$10 to \$33. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sunday, unless otherwise noted. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Programming at Beck Center for the Arts is made possible through the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council. Beck Center gratefully acknowledges the generous funding provided by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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**Beth Kretschmar is the Director of Marketing, Beck Center for the Arts.**

## In Agreement And Response To Charter Schools – A New Form of Colonialism

continued from page 9

not certified. Not only were students frequently experiencing inconsistencies in the classroom, but now their new teacher may be an accountant with no educational background. He/she might be good with numbers but doesn't have a clue of how to work with kids. Most of my public school teaching colleagues have at least two degrees in education; an education degree, and a master's degree in a specialty area (math, reading, etc.). In addition to this experience, public school teachers must continue their education classes to keep their teaching license. Public schools require this of their teachers, some charters do not. This school was also allowed to hire administration that had no experience in teaching or administration. While working at this charter, I had a 22 year-old vice principal who had taught for a year and had absolutely no administrative experience. She was still in the resident educator program for beginning teachers. Most public schools require administration, such as principals, to have some teaching experience and a degree in educational administration.

At this point, I am sure you're asking yourself if these schools are so corrupt, why are folks like Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education (promoter of charters with little education background) and Christopher Ruszkowski, New Mexico's Education Secretary praising the phenomena that is the charter school system. First, they are promoting charters with false advertising, "they function on less money than the public school."

What they don't share is that charter schools receive federal funds like the public schools, and continuous donations from the founder of the institution, large local business and board members. They use these donations as tax write-offs. In actuality they are receiving a lot more money than public education. Most of these charters are for-profit schools, so why are they receiving donations and federal funding? Although, even the non-profits are receiving this funding. The local businesses making donations and the company that initially started the school gets continuous breaks. Another myth selling the charter school trend is that they are "better performing" schools. The Ohio Department of Education lists the state report cards for each district, now the report card is much more stringent than it use to be for all schools, but look at the reports for the charter schools most of them in the Cleveland area are not good, many are significantly lower than our public schools (<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Report-Card-Resources>). Furthermore, there are some folks who think teachers make too much money and that our benefits should be cut to save federal monies. These folks figure we can cut teacher's salaries and benefits and hire educators for a whopping 25k a year. However, they don't think about what kind of teaching force they will attract with this lack of support, our children will pay the price. Ironically, most of these individuals send their children to private schools, so why are they interfering with our families that depend on public education?



# Forum



## Thank You Lakewood !

After 40 years in business at 14534 (2005) and 14528 Detroit Avenue, Curry Copy Center has closed. Owner and operator, Dennis Little, is looking forward to retirement. “It is a very bitter sweet feeling. I was hoping that I could find a buyer to take over the existing operation and keep it in Lakewood to continue serving the community. After having a few potential buyers, that never materialized, I had an offer to merge my business with a business in North Olmsted. The only negative was that the buyer wanted to operate in North Olmsted, a larger facility where he could expand the operation and offer more services, and the parking was much better. The proposed merger was to take effect at the end of December 2017. However, the buyer had a clause in the agreement where he could terminate the agreement up to the final day. He could either transfer payment to confirm the purchase, or he could terminate the deal. So with these terms to deal with, I felt it was best not to “broadcast” that I am retiring and that my business is being merged with another in North Olmsted, because if the buyer had backed out, I would have created both business and personal regrets. It would have been great if my daughters Jenny and Debbie, who were with me since day one, and with me full time for the last 15 years, could have

taken over and continued the business. But with obligations to young children, the hours available for operation would have been limited and thus creating an inconvenience to customers and putting a financial burden on the business surviving. I took printing in high school and I personally printed all of the 1965 diplomas for my graduating class at Lakewood High School. I worked for American Greetings (American Color Process), a local plant that at the time did 82% of total A.G. printing. After 13 years at A.G., I decided to go into business for myself. Having four young children (3-10 yrs.) and the unknown ahead, many of my co-workers told me that it is a “daring” move. But I told myself that I did not want to be looking back later in life saying “what if” or “I should have”, do it, give it your best shot and see what happens. It has been a great run. There are pros and cons in everything we deal with, but the pros were much greater than the cons. Dealing with the public is very “interesting” to say the least. The great conversations and the many friendships that were created over the years, which are priceless, that is what will be missed the most”. God Bless!

My best regards,  
Dennis Little

## Death And Taxes, Lakewood Style

by Edward Graham

Benjamin Franklin famously said that, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” In Lakewood, the certain death of our hospital is our mayor’s ambition. He rejoices in the death of our hospital, despite the fact that the City of Lakewood had iron-clad contracts assuring that our hospital would be in operation as a full-service facility providing medical and surgical services to our citizens until 2026, eight years from now. He rejoices in the death of our hospital, despite the fact that the hospital contracts provided seven million dollars for indigent medical care. He rejoices in the death of our hospital, despite the fact that Lakewood stroke victims are no longer within two minutes of emergency hospital care.

In his ambition to assure the death of our hospital, the mayor insisted on placing a restriction on the use of the hospital building to prevent it from being put back in operation as a medical and surgical hospital. While such restriction is contrary to law, the mayor (who’s supposed to be our advocate) preferred to help the Clinic to be successful in the operation of its medical building now standing where Lakewood’s medical building once stood.

One of the tactics of Murder Incorporated uses to hide its crimes is to dispose of the body. After killing the

medical and surgical function of the hospital building, the mayor now seeks to dispose of the corpse by entering into another giveaway of city assets to a developer and tear down the building so the evidence of the hospital murder will no longer be in the public view.

Furthermore, if a more honest administration and council were to be elected, they would be prevented from restoring the building to its intended purpose if were still standing. Hospital health care for indigents could be restored.

The city income tax revenue was not benefited by the loss of the \$900,000.00 generated by the over 1,000 hospital employees who are no longer on the hospital payroll. Moving the doctors and other personal from other Lakewood buildings where they are already paying city income tax to the Clinic's new facility on Belle Avenue does not add to the flow of income tax revenue for the city. That is certain.

When asked at a community meeting about the loss of hospital payroll tax, the mayor commented that Lakewood’s income tax rate is lower than other cities. A Freudian slip on the part of the mayor? One should not be surprised that when the mayor talks about everybody helping out, he really wants to stick his hand in your pocket.

He already stuck it to you when he gave away your hospital.



“What’s not to like about Lakewood?” said Gary Burns while posing for this artwork from Jim O’Bryan. Of course the answer is Nothing! Lakewood is a great place to live, work, play, go to school and spend time. Don;t you think?

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Lakewood Living

The Rockport Miracles Part 2 Episode 1:  
"Wren Mathews"

Fiction by Scott MacGregor



Part 2 Episode 1: A Girl Named Wren Mathews

Wren Mathews and I were toddlers in 1954 when the “Rags to Ruins” storm, (so named after Rags Johnson’s curse upon Rockport), had destroyed half the city. Meteorologists called it a “Hundred Years Storm.” Ten years later, after another cyclone rocked the town, the weather guys recalibrated their

whirligigs and called it a “Ten Years Storm.” The Flying Owego Brothers (as they were now called) were ordered by city leaders to mount their heating and cooling company mascot on its side like a recumbent Buddha after “Donald Duct’s” gigantic nose was severed by lightning and flew through the roof of the Kingdom Hall.

It seems a thousand years have passed since I last saw her, but Wren

Mathews is an undying memory. The first time I spotted her was in high school biology class, two frog dissection tables to my left. She was new to Rockport High having transferred from a Catholic Girls Academy known as St. Christina the Astonishing. There had been whispers about her family being involved in a scandal but that was okay with me. It just made her more intriguing. I may have been a teenager of the male idiot persuasion, but the hamster wheels of my mind were twirling fast enough to recognize Wren's unique qualities. It didn't hurt my chances that I was a confirmed Catholic, either. Who else could better protect her from the Protestant hoards than me?

As mentioned earlier, I was an idiot, especially when it came to matters of love. I was very insecure and too terrified to ask Wren out. Instead, I chose covert means of garnering her attention. Flap jawed girlfriends were the school internet of their day and I fed them a steady stream of flattering comments about Wren. I wrote cryptic poetry onto sidewalks along her walking routes. I even scribbled a pre-dissection missive onto the belly of her frog in biology. Wren ignored it all and I was beyond pathetic.

Fast forwarding to a snowy day in January 1970, it was the first day back to school after Christmas vacation. I saw Wren walking home alone and finally conjured up the courage to introduce myself. She said she'd “heard of me” and in her polite way she told me to take a hike. Going for broke, I remembered something I learned in an Archie comic book and challenged her to close her eyes. If I could successfully guide her through the upcoming mine-field of broken, icy sidewalks without a trip or stumble, could I ask her out? To my everlasting relief she immediately



warmed up and said “Game on!” She proceeded to close her eyes, she held my hand for the first time, and I immediately forgot what I was doing. Then she tripped, fell into a snow bank, and was cruelly drenched by a slush blob hurled from the wheels of a passing car.

Cool as a cucumber, she wiped and swiped the muddy slush from her entire self, she waved off my profuse apologies like rain from a windshield, and then she slanged me with words of unambiguous nature and told me to get the hell away from her. Timing not being my strong suit, I asked if I could take her to the big City Bonfire that evening? She blurted out something that sounded French or Italian. Words that had spit on them. It was definitely not a “yes.” So, I headed back home feeling awkward and wondering once again how long it would be before the stupid years are over. Later, I called my pal Freddie and we conspired to get ourselves some beer for the big bonfire taking place at Rockport Park that evening. Maybe, just maybe, Wren Mathews would be there?

Illustration by Greg Budgett



The Grand Marshals for the Independence Day Festival Gordon and Charles Geiger. The Geiger name has been on Detroit for over one hundred years, and Chas and Gordo, and family have become one of the strongest fibers in the Lakewood community tapestry. The Geiger Boys have touched all of our lives not just through their store where many of us buy clothing, skis, sport equipment and even our gym wear for schools. But also through the many various events and organizations they host, sponsor or sit on the board of. It was great seeing them lead the parade!

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## Jammy Buggar’s Purchased!



As we went to press we have learned that the closed Jammy Buggar’s location, and bar license had been acquired by another restaurant. Read the story online at lakewood-observer.com.



## Lakewood, No It’s Foodwood™!

by Jim O’Bryan

In the past couple years Lakewood has become a destination for good food, dining and entertainment experiences. This year we will be partnering with Foodwood© on a series of articles about Lakewood restaurants, bars and nightspots from an insider perspective. We have seen many lists of “the Best of” and noticed--even been upset-- that some of the best places we know were not included. “How could they possibly ignore...?”

So with the help of professionals in the food and entertainment business we will take a look at menus, dining rooms and kitchens, give background to help you learn more about your favorite spots, learn even more about how and why they happened, and who and what history moulds not just who they are, but their signature dishes. This will be an interesting ride, we promise you.

Along the way we are inviting everyone to send in suggestions of their favorite places in and around Lakewood, and even write some reviews yourself. All will make it to our new Foodwood section on the website, but if we publish your review in the LO Print edition, we will pay for that meal, and you will get two Lakewood/ Foodwood T-Shirts. How is that for a deal!

To submit a review online, go to the Member Center section of the Lakewood Observer website, sign-in, click on “Submit New Story”, and make sure you choose “Foodwood” as the category for where your story should be.

Thank you to all and thank you to every owner, cook, server and busser.

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## A Lakewood Gem: Szechwan Garden

by Autumn Mauer

Lakewood is a city of abundance when it comes to choices for dining out. And with so many options for Chinese cuisine, I have discovered Chinese restaurants are not made equally. While there are so many little gems in our beloved city there is one that I believe that deserves to be highlighted. Szechwan Garden is a long established hidden treasure that seems to be a hidden secret among local Lakewood-ites. Standing in their little plaza near Bunts and Detroit Rd. for over 30 years without fail they deliver offerings consistently, fresh, and seemingly unique in their respective dishes. Szechwan Garden rises above the rest in my humble opinion.

The owner How Lam, is a Lakewood native who has dedicated his life to this restaurant and the Lakewood Community for over 30 years. He arrives early in the morning and works well until the evening day in and day out 7 days a week. Originally, he immigrated from Vietnam to The United States following his vision of the American dream. Hoa Lam had lived in California, Nevada, and then Michigan before settling down with his new wife in Ohio in 1994 eventually having one son. He bought the restaurant from the previous owner in 1994 who decided to relocate and made Szechwan Garden his very own. He created new menus

and brought in adaptations of various Chinese and Vietnamese dishes bringing his vision to life.

What really intrigued me is especially as a new Vegetarian myself is their Zen menu! For those of you who are not aware their “Zen” menu is actually vegan, and of course it’s also vegetarian. Can we for a moment appreciate that Szechwan Garden put out a Vegan menu well before being Vegan was as big as it is now? This was in early 2000’s and clearly Hoa Lam knew this would be key to his customers. After serving up delicious and authentic cuisine for 30 years there have been some employees who retired and thus brought in some fresh new faces.

The hostess you see now when walking into Szechwan Garden is actually family. Hoa Lam’s son married her daughter to blend their two families into one. Over the years there were bumps in the road causing an entire kitchen remodel which closed the restaurant for over a year which significantly impacted them. As a long time resident it is my belief we need to rally behind this beautiful family-owned business and show them our support as well as our love of their authentic Chinese cuisine. Without our locally owned Lakewood gems, our beautiful city would not be as diverse and wonderful as it is!

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## Coming Soon: Clifton Diner Back, Better Than Ever

by Jim O'Bryan

I first sat down with Perry Drosos about two months ago. A mutual friend had called nearly a year ago and said, “Hey, Clifton Diner is coming back, how would like to go through it and talk with the owners?”

I said sure, let me know when they are ready to open.

I walked into the space on the corner of Hird and Clifton, which had been offices and a bank, and met yet another member of restaurant royalty. You see Perry’s parents owned the legendary Detroit on Detroit Avenue in the 60s and 70s. Not that new one in Dow-



town Lakewood that failed, but the real deal, in an era when a restaurant in Lakewood, especially one around for generations meant something.

the vibrant W117/Highland Avenue and Clifton Blvd. Corner, but how?

After looking at many options, he decided to move the legendary hotspot to Lakewood. Meanwhile another food spot opened in their old spot subtly making it sound like the Diner was reopening as something else. Perry wishes them the best of luck but wants to make sure all of the old fans of the Clifton Diner realize, DinerBar on Clifton is the real deal and the next step in diner food and the Clifton Diner experience.

Longtime Lakewoodite and partner Jim Gountis takes a break from hiring a new in-house pastry chef and walks over and we start to talk about Lakewood, restaurants, and what is happening in Foodwood.

“While restaurants seem to be springing up everywhere, choices for lunches seem to be drying up,” he said, and for fun we went through a list of restaurants currently serving lunches, Coffee Pot, Barracos, WestEnd, India Garden, Deagan’s, The Place to Be, but soon it becomes obvious, none of them are what the DinerBar on Clifton will be offering. That amazing menu that seems to transition from breakfast, to lunch, to brunch, to dinner to late night fare easily, effortlessly and with great food and great service.

A place that can serve breakfast through the day, while offering meatloaf dinner like Mom made, to the infamous diner style open face roast beef and turkey sandwiches with gravy and mashed potatoes.

When I asked about the dinner menu, Perry and Jim looked at each

other and smiled, “We have some really great dishes coming, fish, steak, pork, etc. but we are not ready to share that yet, we are saving that for our opening.”

When I asked when, “Soon, we

want to make sure everything is perfect and in place to roll out a great experience. We have a lot to live up to, and we intend to win those fans back, and make it a must stop for all.” With their deep love of food, Lakewood, the area, and knowing what it takes to be successful in the business, I for one, cannot wait to try. When they are opening, SOON, hours will be 7am - 11pm daily.

Ward 4 Councilman Dan O’Malley said to me, “I am thrilled to have this landmark restaurant re-opening in Lakewood and Ward 4, Congratulations to Perry and Jim and his entire team.”

I have to agree, I cannot wait to get back and try everything out.

**Dinerbar On Clifton**  
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A look inside the new Dinerbar on Clifton, it is everything the Clifton Diner was and more. It also features a beautiful photo of the Clifton Diner by Lakewood Photographer Frank Lanza on the wall. Frank was a regular, and loves the new place.



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# Lakewood Living

## Love For Sale

by Jim O'Bryan

It is not often a person can combine education, family, housing, design and a deep love for all into one project, but that is exactly what has happened at 1210 West Clifton with Aref Shafik and his family. He has agreed to give the Lakewood Observer a brief look at his work, his family and share his love that will soon be on the market for the next loving family to acquire and take over.

Aref arrived in the Cleveland area over 21 years ago. His father was a surgeon with the Cleveland Clinic and he moved here to study business as a major and interior design as a minor at

of Lakewood's magnificent doubles, with a massive porch, and so much potential. His decades of interior design, contracting work, and conversations with friends and his wife and family made him think this might be the perfect place to let it all hang out and build a home for his family in a way very few have a chance to



The outside before the changes...



... the amazing change over.



Walking in from the massive porch you are greeted by a double staircase with the dining room to the left, and living room to the right. One would think not that different outside of the size. But then the home opens up a very large open design that is what everyone is looking for.

Cleveland State University.

While looking for a place to live, even though many friends suggested the East Side, Aref fell in love with the ambiance, and the community of Lakewood, so picked it as his home. Soon he realized his love and future were in interior design, and switched the majors around, and went to work in designing interiors and working with contractors.



Aref's wife Erin moving one of the large doors from inside out onto the front porch for refinishing and new hardware. Aref smiles while he says, "None of this would be possible without Erin and my crew. We loved working together on this."

Not finding true satisfaction in some of the partnerships, he started to work on his own and build his own team: people he loved to work with, on projects that he hand-picked and loved to do. It was around this time he fell madly in love with his wife Erin Spangler and they joined together in marriage, building a family and work.

Much of it had become blur, and then a unique historical property entered the scene about 5 years ago. One

realize. A chance to look at what they need and what they love, and take the opportunity to make it a reality.

Over a decade ago the LO did a series of articles on turning doubles into singles in which we could not envision the long term benefits. All of that changed the moment I walked through the doors at 1210 West Clifton.

What had been a side-by-side was turned into a massive stately home, with an amazing and well-thought-out layout, that not only made sense but was breathtaking. As Aref and his family showed off the house, I just had to ask, after putting so much of himself, his dreams and hard work into the house, why sell?

He admitted it was hard, the perfect house, in a great location, in a great city but some of the kids had gone on to college, and the house is way larger than anything they need. The house built with so much attention to detail and love was more than needed.

He has plans to stay in the neighborhood, but in a smaller house. When I asked about starting over, he said,



What was a living room in one of the doubles is now a large dining room that seats 8 comfortably.

"No this was enough, but you know Erin and I have a couple ideas, and we could..." And it is not hard to see this dynamic family starting over on yet another dream home for the wife and family he loves so much.

The house will be listed later this month by Howard Hanna, and if you want to see a double that became a stunning single, or what love and hard work can accomplish, check it out. It is now a Lakewood treasure.

See all the photos online, and check for Howard Hanna listings to see the home in person. Thank you for the walkthrough!



Above: Aref, Erin and their wonderful children.

Below: The large kitchen that now encompasses both kitchens and more! The old dining room makes for a great TV, party room.



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# LakewoodAlive

## Five Key Takeaways From LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home: Exterior Prep & Paint” Workshop

by Matt Bixenstine

A fresh exterior paint job can extend your home’s life while improving its curb appeal. It’s no wonder that more than 30 area homeowners participated in LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home: Exterior Prep & Paint” workshop during June.

Hosted by our friends at Sherwin-Williams Lakewood, this free workshop featured an expert presentation regarding the proper techniques and processes necessary to paint the exterior of your home. Our knowledgeable presenters covered everything from safety practices to tool and product recommendations to cleanup tips.

Now in its fifth year, LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home” workshop series draws hundreds of attendees annually to learn home maintenance best practices. 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.



Sherwin-Williams Lakewood was the site of LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home: Exterior Prep & Paint" workshop.

If you happened to miss this particular workshop, we’ve got you covered. Here are five key takeaways from “Knowing Your Home: Exterior Prep & Paint.”

**1. Preparation is key**

When preparing to paint a wooden surface on your home, start by scraping off peeling paint while making sure to collect loose paint chips. Once you’re done scraping, give your home

a good wash and make sure the wood is completely dry before proceeding. If you encounter bare spots, it’s recommended to make use of an oil-based primer in order to prevent the paint from soaking into the surface.

**2. It’s ok to be bold**

It’s worth noting that dark and bold paint colors are more susceptible to fading over time. Still, you don’t need to shy away from your desire to utilize

these vibrant colors. Paint technologies have evolved to the point where fade-resistant paint and other products are available to help your paint job last longer than previously possible.

**3. Know your paint application options**

There are several options at your disposal for applying paint to the exterior of your home. Spraying represents one option, though it often takes a while to get a solid handle on this method. Conversely, using a brush or roller can be a slower process but affords you more control. No matter which option you choose, it’s important to remember that you cannot apply a stain over a paint.

**4. Find a way to beat the heat**

This summer is proving to be a doozy, and it’s important that you avoid working on your paint job in the direct sun if possible. If your siding or painting surface is too hot to touch, then it’s too hot to paint.

**5. Vinyl can be hip**

When prepping vinyl siding, wash with a synthetic bristle brush to remove dirt if your siding has been painted previously. It’s recommended to do your homework and ensure you’re painting your siding with a vinyl-safe color, as certain colorants in paint have the potential to warp your siding. The same recommendation applies to shutters and other plastic items incorporated into your exterior paint job.

## LakewoodAlive’s Summer Meltdown 2018

by Jim O’Bryan

Each year LakewoodAlive throws the mother of all street parties, Summer Meltdown, sponsored by Melt Restaurant. Each year we get some of the best photographers in Lakewood to go and record it in photos and videos. You can see them for FREE at <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs>



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