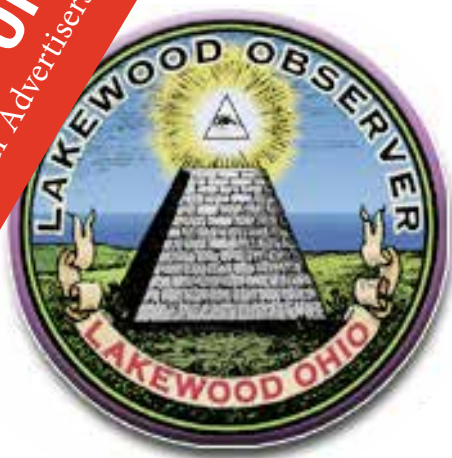


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"It is not the function of our Government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the Government from falling into error."
—Robert H. Jackson, former Supreme Court Justice

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Volume 14, Issue 15, August 8, 2018

Full Court Basketball Returns To Lakewood

by Mike Deneen

After an 11 year absence, basketball returned to Madison Park on July 25. The Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC) and the City of Lakewood opened Lakewood's first full basketball court since 2007. Kids, city leaders, community activists and LOBC members gathered on a sunny evening for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Also in attendance were LHS boys varsity basketball coach Alex Cammock and LHS girls basketball coach Mike Harper.

LOBC, a community organization that promotes outdoor hoops for Lakewood, spent years lobbying City Hall for the return of a full outdoor basketball court. Half court hoops have opened in recent years, with two at Lakewood Park and one at Wagar Park. LOBC leaders who lobbied many years for outdoor basketball include Roger Sikes, Manny



Some of the key members of the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee celebrating the return of one more court. Left to Right, Manny Mahome, Peter Grossetti, Art Gold, Stephanie Wetzel-Toole

Mahome, Casey Davis, Peter Grossetti, Art Gold, Nadhal Eadah, and Stephanie Toole. Ward 4 Council member Dan O'Malley, in whose ward the court resides, has been a strong advocate inside City Hall for the project.

Unlike previous basketball courts at Madison Park, the current version is located in the southern end of the park next to the softball

field and LEAF Community Garden. The new location is designed to reduce noise impact for houses next to the park.

Sikes made opening remarks at the official ribbon cutting ceremony. Mayor Summers also spoke, as did O'Malley. Council members Tristan Rader and

continued on page 3

2018 Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship Winner - Elyza Mihalski

by Brandi McElhatten

Elyza Mihalski is chosen as recipient of the 2018 Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship of \$4,000.

Elyza is a 2018 graduate of Lakewood High School who will study fine art at the Cleveland Institute of Art this fall. Regarding her work, she said, "Becoming a studied and well-trained artist means that I will have the tools to not only create meaningful and visually appealing art, but to give something to be proud of and to give the world something to enjoy." Work from Elyza's portfolio of paintings and drawings will be on display in Lakewood Public Library during the festival through early August.

The Lakewood Arts Festival awards a scholarship each year to a deserving high school graduate who resides in Lakewood and is pursuing a degree in the arts. More than 70 scholarships have been



Elyza Mihalski, Scholarship Recipient.

awarded since the Festival began in 1981. This year the Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship is generously funded by

supporters for the arts in our community. Proceeds from the food vendor/sponsors also continued on page 5

A Letter From The SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Lakewood City Schools Students, Staff, Parents, and Lakewood Residents:

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that I am honored to serve as your Superintendent of Schools. The Lakewood City School District is one of the finest districts in the nation. During my transition to Lakewood, I have learned of its focus on educational excellence, its warm and welcoming spirit, and its unwavering commitment to the children of this community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about my family. I have been married to my wonderful wife Laverne for 21 incredible years. Laverne and I have two daughters - Michaela, 20, and Mia, 18. Both will be college students beginning this fall. My wife and I are so very proud of them.

I truly believe in the value of education. Education is a fundamental necessity to the survival and growth of individuals, communities, states, nations, and the world. Education is a powerful variable that can transform the conscience of mankind. An educated individual, community, state, nation, and world is one that respects and values diversity, promotes and endorses collaboration, and recognizes the self-worth and unique talents



Dr. Michael Barnes
Superintendent,
Lakewood City Schools

in everyone.

The Lakewood City School District (LCSD) embodies the values that I mentioned above. LCSD is committed to providing an educational experience for students that is well-rounded. I envision the LCSD working and operating in concert with the greater Lakewood community with a desire for the schools and community to be viewed as a single system. This synergy is crucial for the sustainability of a healthy, long-lasting school/community relationship. More importantly, this synergy works like an arm that wraps around and supports our children as they mature as learners!

My mission as your Superintendent is to create and cultivate the conditions that will allow for rigorous and rel-

continued on page 7

Lakewood Arts Festival



Every day is an arts festival at lion and blue, the Root Cafe and The Exchange, but when there is also an arts festival in the street outside... crank it up and have the most art and the most fun of anyone in DowntoWN Lakewood! See more photos of the Lakewood Arts Festival on page 11.

Hot Off The Deck



Pictured above is Lakewood Service Crew’s infamous Water Whisperer, who can find leaks just listening to the flow of water at the end of a long steel rod. Another great thing in Lakewood, our Service Crews! Fixed in hours, not days! Thank you!

The Lakewood Observer Digital Subscription

by Meg Ostrowski

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OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!



Lakewood Observer photographer Brian Foox, takes a look at the Lakewood Arts Festival in his own peculiar way. See page 11

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Lakewood Healthcare Data Study	Mark Kindt	16	1251	Mon Aug 06
Fighting Property Increases?	Jim O'Bryan	0	210	Mon Aug 06
Trickeration	Dan Alaimo	0	171	Mon Aug 06
Property Reappraisals Out	Bridget Conant	20	1451	Sat Aug 04
City Council Member Contacts	cmager	15	1134	Fri Aug 03
Ohio AG re/ Lakewood Hospital Debacle!				
Lakewood Mayor Succumbs to High Property Taxes, Moves....	Tim Liston	1	359	Wed Aug 01
Questioning The Redevelopment of the Former Hospital Site	Mark Kindt	66	5029	Tue Jul 31
Sometimes You Just Have To Say IT Could Have Been Worse...	Jim O'Bryan	2	472	Tue Jul 31
Madison Park Basketball !!	Peter Grossett	14	1307	Mon Jul 30
Lakewood Loses One Of Our Best - Paul Tepley Photographer	Jim O'Bryan	1	477	Sun Jul 29
Will Jay Carson & the Lakewood GOP Disown Trump?	Michael Deneen	13	984	Sat Jul 28
FIXED! - Water Main Break At 2am Cause Low And No Pressure On Westside	Jim O'Bryan	1	511	Fri Jul 27

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City

WestShore Council Of Governments Observed

by Judith Weiss

West Shore Council of Governments

Meeting of July 11, 2018

Observer Minutes

This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Kennedy's office prepares official minutes.

Present: Mayors Kennedy (N. Olmsted), Bobst (Rocky River), Clough (Westlake), Patton (Fairview Park), Koomar (Bay Village), and Summers (Lakewood)

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. and adjourned at 11.

Fiscal Officer's Report: WCOG doesn't require audit for 1 year, so will save money this year.

Commission Reports:

RTA: Mayor Clough is president for 1 year term, agency needs to work on transition, search for replacement for Director Calabrese. Agency needs to tighten internal control. It needs a new source of revenue; sales tax accounting for \$20 million won't

be available in 2019. For time being, cutting back on positions, planning no additional capital projects, trying to determine what type of tax appropriate to replace revenue. Sales tax is best, but how much needed? Most capital funding comes from Federal Gov't; more needed to replace old rail cars. More could come from NOACA; need to have policy conversation around this.

RTA board needs to identify needs first, then decide how much money needed. They are already in better shape than many other transit systems around the country. There is a shortage of top management skills in the organization, however. Transit has a direct tie-in with economic development, jobs. People need to get to suburban sites as well as those within city. Fairview lost a business considering locating there because there was no transit to site. Use of driverless shuttle might help.

NOACA: A Hyperloop (high-speed train) Progress Report is due soon.

County Planning Comm.: Working with all communities on their individual Master Plans, will connect to regional Master Plan. Planning involves Metroparks, Solid Waste District, other agencies. Plans will include bike paths.

Solid Waste a problem for all communities; they need to work with County. There is much confusion about recycling; need better education to be widely available, in different forms such as visuals on containers. Markets for recycled materials are changing, communities have to readjust. Good statistics in the Solid Waste Commission Annual Report

Old Business: Update on Jail Services - County is taking over prisoners from Cleveland at \$99/day. WCOG wants to manage them on a regional basis, with possibly a central, secure place to hold them for transport back to Cleveland, so police won't have to leave own communities. Not yet established who will be responsible for their health care, counseling, etc.

New Business: Airbnb is raising problems for some communities, due to increased parking and partying in residential neighborhoods. Rocky River has passed legislation to regulate, requiring rental licenses and inspections, enforceable by police. Mayor Bobst shared it with the group. N.Olmsted proposes to pass something similar. Airbnb willing to work with cities to avoid cutting into major tourist areas.

Summers, taking over leadership of COG in January, mentioned issues to bring up in future: universal design guidelines, transportation, especially with respect to "aging in place;" changing needs for senior facilities; volunteer opportunities for seniors; recycling awareness. Summers would like to bring in people working on these issues to present their ideas. Next year, meetings will be held in Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion.


Respectfully submitted,
Judith Weiss
LWVGC-Rocky River Chapter

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Full Court Basketball Returns To Lakewood

continued from page 1

John Litten also attended the event, which included a cookout prepared by members of the Lakewood Fire Department. The ribbon was cut by a pair of Lakewood youths, and then players took to the court.

LOBC credits local kids for their lobbying efforts. "We really want to thank the kids who joined us these last two years," said LOBC's Casey Davis. "Their willingness to be involved

and actually stand and speak is what made the difference." The group hopes to continue growing the number of basketball courts in Lakewood. "LOBC looks forward to building on this momentum to expand access to high quality public basketball courts throughout the city," said Sikes. For more info on LOBC, visit their Facebook page or their website at www.lobc.org.



11th Annual

Community Dog Show

Saturday, August 18, 2018

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In parking lot off Bunts Road.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, August 9, 2018

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 “Codename Tricycle: The True Story of the Second World War’s Most Extraordinary Double Agent” by Russell Miller.

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

Friday, August 10, 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 FireSide.

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

Saturday, August 11, 2018

Talk - How to Interpret Your Dreams

Presentation by Cindy Summer

Dreams often provide suggestions on how to solve problems in waking life. Since dreams are usually highly symbolic, we must look at pieces of the dream through careful analysis in order to understand their meaning. Discover an approach to analyzing dreams and understanding their meaning with Cindy Summer.

11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Film - “The Wrong Man” (1956), Directed by Alfred Hitchcock

Presented by Terry Meehan

The “wrong man” narrative has been a favorite theme of Hitchcock’s since 1927’s The Lodger, when silent era matinee idol, Ramon Novarro, was wrongly accused of being Jack the Ripper. For this movie, Hitchcock steps away from the fiction film and into the realm of real life. Based on Maxwell Anderson’s non-fiction book, it tells the true story of down-on-his-luck musician Manny Balestrero (Henry Fonda), who is wrongly accused of holding up an insurance office. Terry Meehan concludes his series on Hitchcock in the Fifties Part 2, introducing each film with an original video presentation, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

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

Sunday, August 12, 2018

Performance - The Cleveland Dance Project

The Cleveland Dance Project (CDP) is a dance, choreography and performance outlet for dancers who want to continue performing and/or choreographing into their adult life. Their dance family includes everyone from the dance teacher, to the dance professional, to the person who’s always wanted to boogie but never had the opportunity until now. CDP’s mission is to provide a fun, yet professional, environment for dancers of all styles to come together as a community, to help them find a balance between work and home lives and following their passions, while allowing them the opportunity to showcase their creations together to their friends, family and the greater Cleveland area. The dancers have put together a special

performance for their first appearance in Lakewood!

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

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Lakewood Historical Society

Talk - Vietnam: An Army Nurse’s Experience

Presentation by Mary Reynolds Powell

As a young American Army nurse, Mary Reynolds Powell went to Vietnam in 1970. She served in the 24th Evacuation Hospital near Saigon during the “winding down” of the Vietnam conflict, when thousands of American troops still made the ultimate sacrifice. Mary described her experiences in the book “A World of Hurt: Between Innocence and Arrogance in Vietnam,” which was nominated for a Northern Ohio Live Award for Achievement in Writing. Copies of “A World of Hurt” will be available for sale and signing at this event.

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

Thursday, August 16, 2018

Author Event - “Cleveland A to Z: Historical Essentials for Newcomers and Residents in Northeastern Ohio,” Book by Lauren R. Pacini

Cleveland A to Z was published in November 2017, in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Western Reserve Historical Society. It is a compendium of essays written by John Grabowski, PhD, with vintage images from the Historical Society archives, and contemporary images by Lauren Pacini. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

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

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: “A Casualty of War: A Bess Crawford Mystery” by Charles Todd.

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

Friday, August 17, 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 Mr. Eric’s Music (children’s concert).

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

Saturday, August 18, 2018

Film - “The Strange Love of Martha Ivers”(1946)

Directed by Lewis Milestone, Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill

Young runaways Martha Ivers (Barbara Stanwyck) and boyfriend Sam Masterson (Van Heflin) are found. She’s returned home to rich aunt Mrs. Ivers (Judith Anderson). Hours later, the woman falls down a flight of stairs and dies. Martha and friend Walter O’Neil (Kirk Douglas) are the only witnesses and claim it was accidental. Martha inherits her aunt’s fortune. Martha and Walter later marry. Seventeen years after leaving, Sam wrecks his car passing through Iverstown. Repairs won’t be finished until the next day. He runs into lonely Toni Maracheck (Lizabeth Scott). After Martha and Sam meet by chance, she wants him back at all costs. 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, August 19, 2018

Performance - Women in History: Julia Boggs Dent Grant

A biography was released in late 2017 by famed biographer Ron Chernow, featuring Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States. This program will shift the focus to President Grant’s wife, Julia Boggs Dent Grant. She was known as a determined woman who, despite family objections, married the man she loved. Outspoken, she also created her own plans for ending the Civil War and holding a secret Presidential Inauguration. Women in History is a non-profit corporation founded in Lakewood, and dedicated to the education of all people through the dramatic re-creation of lives of notable women in U.S. history.

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

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Documentary - “The Moment” (2017)

Directed by Darcy Hennessey Turenne, Presented by Beat Cycles

Freeride is one of the most popular forms of mountain biking. It involves riding a trail in a creative path using tricks and individual style. Ryan Sheldon of Lakewood’s Beat Cycles brings his expertise to the event. Attendees will be gathering at Beat Cycles, 15608 Detroit Road, after the film to continue the conversation.

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

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Friday, August 10, 2018

This Party Rocks!

For youth entering sixth through twelfth grade

A party for teens featuring fun with music, games, challenges, prizes and a karaoke battle! You can also dress up as a musician to win a prize. Registration required.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, August 11, 2018

Tail Waggin’ Tutors, For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Sunday, August 12, 2018

Lakewood LEGO® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

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

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



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Lakewood Public Library

Women In History: Julia Boggs Dent Grant Visits Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Julia Dent was the daughter of a wealthy plantation owner. When she fell in love with a soldier earning a soldier's salary in 1844, the only people happy about it were the two sweethearts. The bride's mother and father thought the marriage was beneath her and the groom's parents refused to attend the wedding at the home of a slave owner. It was a rocky start, but the drama was only beginning for the wife of Ulysses S. Grant.

Women in History is bringing Julia Boggs Dent Grant to the Lakewood Public Library stage on Sunday, August 19, 2018 for a dramatic re-creation of a woman caught up in a tumultuous period of our nation's past. This Sunday With The Friends program will begin at 2:00 p.m. and be held in the Main Library Lower Level Auditorium.

A non-profit organization formed in Lakewood in 1991, Women in History hopes to educate everyone about the amazing legacies of our female ancestors through engaging live per-

formances. The group boasts a talented troupe of actresses dedicated to extensive research, including authentic clothing and hairstyles, on the lives of over 100 notable women in U.S. history. In her latest incarnation, Julia Boggs Dent Grant will be portrayed by Anne McEvoy.



Cleveland Dance Project wants dancers of all styles to dance for Cleveland.

Cleveland Dance Project's Summer Performance

by Elaine Rosenberger

On Sunday, August 12, 2018, the Cleveland Dance Project (CDP) will take to the Main Library Auditorium's Stage.

CDP is a dance, choreography, and performance outlet for dancers aged eighteen and up who want to continue performing and/or choreographing. CDP's mission is "to provide a fun, yet professional, environment for dancers of ALL styles to come together as a community, to help us all find a balance between our work/home lives and following our passions, while allowing us the opportunity to showcase our creations together to our friends, family, and the greater Cleveland/Akron area." CDP explains their mission as follows: "We believe in making dance relatable to the community, embracing the talents of our local aspiring artists, and giving everyone a chance to come together to dance for Cleveland!"

CDP also offers workshops and master classes, which are open to ages 16 and up. Although classes are meant

to challenge the intermediate to professional adult dancer, all levels are welcome to attend and learn a new style of dance. CDP's classes are held at various studios throughout Cleveland and Akron.

Anna Cervený is the founder and director of Cleveland Dance Project. She began her dance training at the Royal School of Ballet at the age of seven and went on to receive her BS in Chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University and her Doctor of Physical Therapy from Columbia University. Jessica Bennett studied at the Canton Ballet for fourteen years and then completed a dual degree at Ohio State University with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Modern Dance and a Bachelors of Art in Psychology.

The Cleveland Dance Project's performance takes place on Sunday, August 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium as part of the Library's Sunday with the Friends series. Admission is free and open to all.

Scholarship Winner - Elyza Mihalski

continued from page 1

goes directly to the scholarship fund.

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Brandi McElhatten is a Board member of the Lakewood Arts Festival.



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Lakewood Schools

Quartet Represents LHS At All-Ohio State Fair Band

by Christine Gordillo

Four Lakewood High musicians have spent the last two weeks in Columbus as members of the All-Ohio State Fair Band. The Fair Band and accompanying Youth Choir have been part of the Ohio State Fair since 1925 and 1963, respectively. Representing Lakewood in this year's band are seniors Lidia Logan and Kira Marjanovic, junior Katie Livingston and sophomore Gina Marjanovic.

Lidia (alto sax) and Kira (principal trumpet) are AOSFB veterans but this is the first year for Katie (flute) and Gina (French horn). Members must be

recommended by their band director in order to participate.

More than 200 students from across Ohio are part the band. The group spends four days prior to the fair opening in daylong rehearsals to learn its repertoire for the 10-day fair. The fair runs July 25-Aug. 5 this year.

The band performs up to 10 times throughout the day for fairgoers, including a daily parade through the 360-acre fairgrounds. The band also traditionally performs off-site at the Statehouse and at Columbus' Park of Roses.



All Ohio State Fair Band 2018 members make Lakewood proud.



Lakewoodite Bridget Lyons

Lakewood's Bridget Lyons Finds The Fire To Succeed At Tri-C

by John Horton

As a kindergarten teacher, Bridget Lyons was quite comfortable with many sets of eyes staring at her as she began a new school year. But her first day at the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Fire Training Academy felt different.

As she walked into the room, she sensed questioning in the looks from 16 new — and exclusively male — classmates.

Did Lyons have what it takes? The answer soon became obvious.

The 26-year-old from Lakewood completed Tri-C's Fire Training Academy in June with Firefighter II certification and the respect of her classmates, who chose Lyons as their leader soon after that first meeting.

A ceremony celebrating the class took place Friday, Aug. 3, at Tri-C's Western Campus Theatre.

"I learned so much at the academy," Lyons said. "Not just about firefighting, but about myself."

Lyons seemed destined for a career in public service given her family history. Her mother and sister are both school teachers, and her father is a retired FBI agent. Lyons' grandfather, who passed away in 2006, worked as a firefighter in Lakewood.

Lyons remembers when her grandfather's funeral procession passed by the Lakewood firehouse. "All the firefighters were standing outside saluting my grandfather, a man they had never even met," she said.

That act of brotherhood made a profound impact on Lyons, even if it took years to spark.

Lyons initially set out to be a teacher. She earned a degree in early childhood education from the University of Mount Union and began her teaching career in 2014. She enjoyed the job and loved working with children.

Still, she carried a nagging feeling that something was missing.

Over the course of the next year, Lyons grappled with idea of becoming a firefighter. "I really didn't see any female firefighters," she said. "The firefighters who came to speak in my classroom for Fire Prevention Month were all male."

After attending a Cleveland Division of Fire recruiting event, she learned that the city employed a handful of female firefighters. She wondered if she had what it takes to become one of them.

Lyons heard about Tri-C's Fire Training Academy and decided to give it a try. She joined the evening academy in February 2018, balancing her training with teaching at St. Raphael Catholic School in Bay Village.

While Lyons' academic background made the coursework manageable, the academy's physical requirements proved challenging. The former collegiate athlete who once routinely pushed her body to its limits now couldn't carry the roof ladder.

"I had never experienced my body letting me down," Lyons said.

But her competitive nature didn't allow her to quit. Soon, she was not only able to carry the roof ladder, but could also climb it wearing a mask and carrying an ax.

Lyons called her experience in the College's program phenomenal. She said she now plans to pursue EMT/Paramedic certification at Tri-C before seeking employment as a full-time firefighter

When Lyons began her journey, she looked to other female firefighters for inspiration. Now she looks forward to visiting classes during Fire Prevention Month to motivate the next generation of female firefighters.

Her message, she said, will be simple: "I would tell other women considering firefighting to just try it," Lyons said. "Don't ever doubt that you belong."

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Lakewood Sports

New Football Coach Excited To Be At LHS

by Mike Deneen

More than five months after his hiring by the school board, new LHS football coach Tom Thome opened his first training camp last Monday at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. Coach Thome (rhymes with “home”) and the players spent the offseason conditioning, participating in camps, and doing community service projects. They are looking forward to their opening game later this month.

Given the struggles of the Ranger program in recent years, many wondered why Thome chose to take the job. Thome’s response: “It’s not just about ‘football.’ It’s about being in this school and the rich history of success it has in academics and other programs. [I see] The diverse community that Lakewood has and I see a football program that has administrators, faculty members, students and community that want it to be successful. Lakewood has great students and it’s not about a quick fix its about building a program the right way and letting that foster in the school and community.”

Thome, a graduate of Nordonia High School, has been very pleased with his reception. “This community has done nothing but impressed me and made me feel welcome. As a team we have helped out with multiple community service projects and other community events.” Those include the recent Summer Melt-down by LakewoodAlive. Thome is also happy with his players. “Coming to



Coach Thome addresses his players during practice.

Lakewood everyone wanted to give me their opinion about Lakewood kids, but since I’ve gotten here all I’ve seen are student athletes who are eager to learn, get coached up and who want to see the team do better.”

Numbers have been a problem for the program in recent years, and continue to be a concern. However, there are some favorable trends. “We have had a lot of interest and kids participating in the weight room and camp,” says Thome. “We have had as many as 50 plus in non-mandatory student activities and this year we had 40 students participate in our youth camp.” This year’s group of freshmen is the largest in years and should allow for a full fresh-

man team this season. In recent years the freshmen have been forced to play on the JV squad due to low numbers.

Thome, who served as Defensive Coordinator last season in Twinsburg, has been in coaching for over ten years. He describes himself first and foremost as a teacher. “I am all about teaching fundamentals and techniques to the student athletes. I want our student athletes to be able to have fun and play fast,” he says. “I coach exactly how I teach: present the students with clear objectives and expectations, make sure they know that the coaching staff genuinely cares about them.”

Coach Thome sums up his philosophy in three letters: PCE.

“P” is for passion: “Passion for who we are, what we do, and who we are doing it with. We control our attitude and must do everything with great energy.”

“C” is for commitment: “We control the type of person we want to become.”

“E” is for execution: “Work to finish! We control our effort. The type of people (coaches and student athletes) that will represent us will be of the highest excellence in actions, words, and deeds.”

When asked about his vision for the program, Thome responded: “My goal is to build a successful program with the philosophy of PCE, I want our students to be better people after they go through our program. It’s not about winning and losing, it’s about making successful people for them to go out into the world after they’re done playing. I am extremely excited and energetic and our kids have gravitated to the program and the coaches.”

You can get a preview of this year’s Rangers at the August 14 preseason scrimmage against Villa Angela St. Joseph. The scrimmage will take place at 6pm at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. The team opens the regular season on August 24 against Garfield Heights. The Lakewood Observer will cover the Ranger football team throughout the 2018 season. In our next print edition, we will speak with Coach Thome about this season’s roster, position groups, and schedule.

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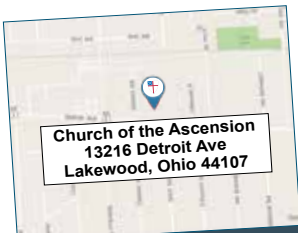
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A Letter From The SUPERINTENDENT

continued from page 1

evant teaching and learning; to ensure that all children are receiving access to a viable curriculum and learning experiences that will prepare them for the world; and that teachers and administrators are supported in their growth and development.

I am so excited for the students and staff to return from summer recess. The Operations staff has been working hard all summer to prepare for the opening of school. Teaching and Learning and Human Resources staff members were busy over the sum-

mer interviewing and hiring the best and brightest staff to lead our children. I can’t wait to visit our school buildings and interact with students and staff.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Jeff Patterson, who just retired as Lakewood City Schools’ Superintendent. Mr. Patterson has been so gracious and helpful during my transition, and I will forever be grateful for his guidance and wish him nothing but the best.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Barnes, Ed.D

Go Rangers! #RangerPride

Lakewood Recreation



Adult fall softball, kickball, and flag football team registrations are available through August 24th.

A variety of men’s and co-ed leagues are available, including Sundays and weeknights

Email Rick Wallenhorst for information:
richard.wallenhorst@lakewoodcityschools.org



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Lakewood Is Art

Lookin' For It:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 75

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.

Donkey Bugs - Ancient Chinese Secrets - Fish Records - 8 songs - LP

Another Cleveland group assimilated into the Spotted Race, I see. Donkey Bugs is a project of Haley Himiko and Steve Pepper, which of course might make someone go, "oh, so it's a Pleasure Leftists side project." Well, I guess, but I don't know if this will appeal to the average everyday PL fan so much as it will fans of Steve's other stuff. You might be shocked to learn that this sounds quite a bit like Factorymen but with Haley singing. All drum machine and repetitive riffs and noise and weirdness. It's a good record. I guess the quickest, most general way of calling it would be to say it's mostly post-punk, but that doesn't really mean that much. In the same way that Factorymen can, it treads a fine line between really goofy and really creepy. Steve really brings it on the guitar on "Hammer Jammer," unless that's a really distorted synth. The "stop the hammering!" bit at the end is pretty good, too. "ABC's of Lust" is what it sounds like, and could probably be a hot funk/new wave hit in some alternate universe. "F is for...no, not that!" The vocal melody of "Isosceles" is somewhat haunting whereas in another context it might not be. "Men In High Heels" is a good punker, gets pretty upbeat and all that. "The Mystic" sounds suspiciously like it's just a sample of some other record...but that could never happen. I think they really saved the best for last with "The Example." It's a real good post-punker, almost reminds me of Gang Of Four in some way. The "movie! movie!" or whatever they're yelling at the end bit comes off almost like a tribute to the Flyin' Trichocos. A fine addition to the line of Steve Pepper stuff that includes Factorymen, Deutschland Jerky Rave, and "The Brutal Birthday." 4/5

(lumpyrecords.com)



Inmates - Creatures Of The Night - Noncommercial Records / No Patience Records - 6 songs - 7", download

An all new record from the all original Inmates. I think this is their first since 2014 (or maybe 2015, I can't remember when the self-titled LP came out) and the first with the original lineup since I don't know when. This record kind of finds Inmates going a bit metal on certain songs, like maybe Paul had some rejected Party Plates riffs that he offered up. Very positive sentiments throughout, especially in regards to the music scene and other bands: "you're all the same," "rehashed riffs imitation," "fake songs of protest"...and that's from three different songs. Continuing the trend towards metal, "Ronnie James Melnick" talks a lot about "the beast" and there are some demonic moments in "Creatures Of The Night," though I believe that it's actually just a person being described with some heavy imagery. The latter also features a screaming bit that sounds right out of a Breathlizer record. My favorite tune here has gotta be "I Believe I Can Die," which is pretty much a ripper. I remember when it was a Magic City song! Altogether, a solid EP here. Enough moments of the Inmates classic hardcore sound with some change in style in certain places. Great artwork by Nathan Ward as well, who I hear is ruining the scene and maybe even the entirety of art in general. 3.5/5

(feelitrecordshop.com / inmatesncr.bandcamp.com)

Ma Holos - Bee On A Rose - Qual-

ity Time Records - 11 songs - LP, download

I think this is Ma Holos 3rd full-length and their first to be released on the vinyl format (if anybody has a spare of that "Demonduction" tape, my email's at the bottom). It just might be their best yet. They've got Paul Mac-carone at the board for this one, and I think he helps. I actually didn't mind the production on their previous stuff, really, I just think this is an improvement. They redo three of the four songs from the 7" and I like these versions way more. Ma Holos really seem to have hit a good spot here: they know how to set a mood, the performances are energetic, Marty Brass shreds, and these are catchy songs. They operate somewhere in the strange between-space that isn't quite garage rock and isn't quite proto-punk, with an added layer of psychedelic haze on many of the songs. I've heard the Mirrors comparisons several times now about this band and I've always kind of gone "oh, yeah, that makes sense, I suppose," but I think this record is the first time I've listened and actually gone, "oh, this does sound like Mirrors!" (especially on "If You See Emily"), though it's more like Mirrors through the filter of neo-garage. Is that enough of a reviewer-y statement for you? The

opening three cuts are pretty unstoppable, and same with the first two on the second side, which is a good move to not come right in with the slower stuff. The fact that this includes a lyric sheet really highlights how trippy some of these songs are. I also like that not only do they reference other songs, but cite who originally wrote what they're referencing. That's a nice touch. Robert Joyce's vocal style is really on full display, at times very Joey Ramone-esque, not quite sneering but with that kind of energy, sometimes he's almost slipping into a British accent...it's good. I know I say it every time his name comes up, but Marty Brass really does shred here. The hooky leads he has on these songs add quite a lot. This lineup seems to be a good one altogether. Besides Robert and Marty, the rhythm section (Pat Richey and Joey Nix) does a good job as well. I think this whole record would be a good one to listen to on a late evening drive. 4/5

(qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com, see the band or a local record store for the LP)

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.



Mata Zeigler puts final touches on her art display at The Root Cafe.

August Art Showcase At The Root Cafe

by Madelyn Kane

Artist and Cleveland native, Mata Zeigler, will showcase her work at The Root Cafe for the month of August. The Root Cafe, located at 15118 Detroit Ave., has been a space for local artists to share their work with the community for the past seven years and continues to open its doors to the thriving art scene of greater Cleveland.

Mata's impressionist paintings combine her eye for color and design from years of art classes and a career as an accomplished floral designer. "I have always loved the arts and my fondest memories were those as a

child working in the gardens with my mother," Mata said. "People choose their medium by their personalities, mine being bold, bright, and permanent as oil paint."

The vibrant display will draw you in with every detailed stroke. "Painting is my meditation and a beautiful way to escape back into the gardens," said Mata. Don't miss the chance to experience this energetic showcase and meet Mata Zeigler on August 11th at 6:30 p.m. at The Root Cafe.

For more information and work by Mata Zeigler please visit www.mataamine.com.

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Lakewood Cares

Where Does It Go?

Sewer District Open House Sept. 15

by Jennifer Elting

Spending so much time on our “thrones” may sometimes lead our minds to wonder: What happens after the flush? Where does it go? How does all that dirty water get clean? On September 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., find out answers to all these questions and more at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s Open House and Clean Water Fest.

This free family-friendly event will give the public an opportunity to come learn about wastewater treatment, stormwater management and our clean water environment in an engaging and entertaining way. Tour a working wastewater treatment plan (on bikes as an option) and the laboratory, see all the giant work trucks and step inside the Sewer Simulator!

“Our annual Open House is a way to give back to the ratepayers and to show people the work that we do and why it’s important. We have over 70 interactive exhibitors, lots of activities for all ages, plant tours and lab tours.

Lakewood Residents To Meet 2018 Candidates For State And Local Office

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Who: The Residents of Lakewood and Candidates for State and Local Office

What: Lakewood Meets the Candidates 2018: Social and Voter Registration Drive

When: Sunday, September 16, 2018, from 2-4pm

Where: Lakewood Woman’s Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park

Event Organizers: Laura Rodriguez-Carbone, Cuyahoga County Democratic Committee Central Committee, Lakewood 1B; Teresa Schleicher, Cuyahoga County Democratic Committee Central Committee, Lakewood 1D; Kate McCarthy, Cuyahoga County Democratic Committee Central Committee, Lakewood 1I

Special Guests:

Ohio State Representative, Nickie Antonio (D), District 13, Candidate for Ohio State Senate

Ohio State Senator Mike Skindell (D), District 23, Candidate for Ohio State Representative

Deborah M. Turner, Candidate for Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas

Ashley Kilbane, Candidate for Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas



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2018

SOCIAL AND VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

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2 PM - 4 PM

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Ashley Kilbane
Candidate for
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R.S.V.P

E-mail: laura4lakewood@gmail.com [Eventbrite](#) [@lrodriguezcarbone1](#)

We have more and more people who come each year and we keep growing! It’s an amazing event!” says Jessica Shutty, Communications Relations Specialist for the Sewer District.

Kids can hang out with Wally Waterdrop, see some exciting experiments with Zach the Mad Scientist and get a front row seat to Jungle Terry’s animal exhibit. They can also head on over to the face painting booth and or decorate their own hard hats. The open house has numerous educational hands on exhibits; there is a little bit of everything for everyone.

During a fun-filled day; treat your sweet tooth with some ice cream and explore the food trucks that will be on site such as Barrio, Up in Smoke, and more.

If you love your Great Lake and want to learn more about how to keep it great, the Open House is the place to be!

For more details go to neorsd.org/OpenHouse or follow the Sewer District @neorsd #CleanWaterFest.

'Climate Action' Tour Stops In Lakewood On Sunday, Aug. 19

by Glenn Campbell

If you ever feel daunted by the challenge of climate change, University of California air pollution scientist Shahir Masri and educator Athina Simolaris can relate. But the two young Californians have decided to overcome feelings of powerlessness by pausing their careers this summer to take to the road to advocate for climate action, promote green energy, and identify effective strategies of climate communication.

They’re hoping their 11-week, 35-state, cross-country "On the Road for Climate Action" tour (in a low-emissions vehicle) will galvanize kindred spirits to make climate change policy a central issue in the 2018 mid-term elections and beyond. Along the way they'll be meeting with city councils, surveying Americans on their climate sentiment, and ultimately meeting with members of Congress in Washington for a "Day of Congressional Climate Action."

The tour will pass through Northeast Ohio on Sunday, August 19, and Lakewood is lucky to be the host spot. Join Shahir and Athina at Deagan's Kitchen & Bar from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for a short presentation on the state of climate policy and a spirited Q&A discussion on what U.S. citizens can and should do about it. Points of focus will include social justice aspects of climate change, carbon-fee-and-dividend legislation, and more. The event is sponsored by Northeast Ohio chapters of the national nonprofit Citizens' Climate Lobby. For more on Shahir and Athina's tour and goals, see their website and video at roadforclimateaction.com.

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Forum

A House Divided

by D.C. Cavalleri

The run up to the election in 2016 marked a paradigm shift in the collective psyche of the American people - like a chasmic rift between continents, the polarisation has driven a mountainous divide between neighbours, families and friends - even right here in Lakewood. Disagreeable facts have become fake news, and where debate once sufficed instead often we find vitriol-filled words hurled across barricades that only serve to help reinforce our divide.

The Trump presidency alone, however, cannot explain the fundamental manner in which citizens have changed their interactions and discourse with one another. While certainly easy to point to, the factors contributing to our current situation are so broad and complex that to blame the ‘Trump Train’ for the wreck we find ourselves in is to give the conductor far too much credit. Though more apparent as of late, the Left-Right divide has permeated our populace and politics for generations, fed by absolutist rhetoric and an oft-dogmatic media that has long blurred the line between opinion

and fact.

By many accounts, we're sailing in troubled waters. In the era of 'America First' many feel a cyclical unease, unsure what fresh insanity the daily news will bring. For the first time in recent memory periodicals are using the words 'Civil War' and 'Constitutional Crisis' outside of historical context, and there's an increasing general awareness of the gravity and ludicrousness of living in a world in which our international diplomacy is being handled - if we can call it that - not at summits or council meetings but on Twitter.

But more than anything else it is the engineered socio-political polarisation of the United States that has drawn the country onto a knife's edge, and I believe it is now clearer than ever that apathetic observation is no longer an option. Though spoken centuries ago, the words ring as true now as they did then; "A house divided against itself, cannot stand," and we are seeing - in real time - just how true that statement is. Here's another: "A house that has but two sides is easily divided."

Democratic social systems only

work when all sides have democratic intentions, and although the cowboy-style, no-damns-given 'America First' policy of the Trump administration may not entirely suffice to explain the stark and growing post-election division of the American people, their callous disregard for human dignity ("Womp womp.") and twisted virtue signalling ("I really don't care. Do U?") seems to be doing a hell of a job of aggravating the situation.

What answers there are to this entrenched division remains to be seen, but certainly the answer can no longer be a laissez-faire attitude towards our governance, at a national but perhaps more importantly at a local level. The Boomer generation's political 'changing of the guard' is fast approaching, and whoever replaces them will be navigating this country through extremely

delicate and difficult times. Perhaps it's time for you to take up the mantle. Yes, I mean you - out there - sitting in Lakewood reading this. You, who have lamented over the state of the nation, her partisan government; her disconnected people. You, who still dare to believe that individuals can make a difference in the world. If you will not be for yourself, who will be? For as de Maistre said; "In a democracy people get the leaders they deserve." Perhaps we don't deserve better, but surely we can do better.

D.C. Cavalleri is a European expat, ordained minister, author & poet. In an age of global discord and argumentative clashing D. C. Cavalleri hopes that his multicultural story and philosophically-accessible writings might help bridge the cultural divide that has become so pervasively entrenched.

Food Not Lawns

by Autumn Mauer

"Food not Lawns" is a great movement aimed at turning the world into an edible neighborhood to promote sustainability. While I am not personally affiliated with this organization I feel so strongly about this movement that I wanted to raise awareness to our

wonderfully diverse city.

Having the ability to grow your own food is something we should all aim to at the very least learn. It is a gift that we can give to our future generations as an extremely practical skillset. There is something to be said for being able to do things yourself. We are seeing less of the traditional “factory farms” and more of the small organic farmers which is fantastic for sustainability and our environmental footprint we are leaving behind.

Another facet of food not lawns ideology that is beneficial to our environment is the elimination of chemical herbicides and synthetic fertilizers. We are often unaware of just how much danger they pose to us, our pets, as well as the environment. We are taking valuable land space that we could be utilizing to help sustain our demand for food, into chemically manicured lawns purely for looks.

There are so many beautiful ideas of how to create aesthetically pleasing gardens and I encourage you all to take a moment to think about how this could benefit not only your family, but our community. If you lack a green thumb I encourage you to take part in a community garden. There are so many wonderful resources at the tip of our fingers whether it be Facebook garden-

Connect2Compete Helps Students And Families Skip The “Summer Slide”

by Jeff Lavery

Ohio families can avoid the reduction in student achievement caused by summer vacation by accessing a low-cost internet service offered through Cox Communications known as Connect2Compete (C2C). In addition, Cox also announced the expansion of the Cox Digital Academy to include free Spanish-language resources designed to broaden opportunities for the Hispanic population through technology.

C2C provides a discounted internet plan for families with at least one K-12 student living in public housing, qualifying for a free or reduced school lunch through the National School Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Cox Digital Academy, also part of Cox's commitment to narrow the digital divide,

offers valuable online resource for parents, students and educators seeking to improve their digital skills.

According to a Brookings study, students' achievement scores declined over summer vacation by one month's worth of school-year learning and declines were more pronounced for math than reading. Importantly, the study's authors also concluded that income-based reading gaps grew over the summer, given that middle class students tended to show improvement in reading skills while lower-income students tended to experience loss.

“We’re making summer learning possible for students who might otherwise encounter what’s known as the ‘summer slide,’” said Jennifer Bramley, vice president of government and public affairs for Cox Communications. “With a fast, reliable internet connection at home, the entire family can

remain engaged with their child's education. Students can access summer reading lists, collaborate with friends on extra-curricular projects, or pursue internships that require independent study while earning school credits."

Key elements of the Connect-2Compete program include:

Internet access at the discounted price of \$9.95/month.

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Free in-home WiFi, free installation and free access to hundreds of thousands of WiFi hotspots strategically located in markets across the country through Cox WiFi and Cable WiFi.

In addition to families participating in the National School Lunch Program, eligibility also extends to families with at least one K-12 student who live in HUD-assisted housing, or receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Cox Digital Academy features content, tools and resources from Common Sense Media, EVERFI and the Public Library Association. Spanish-language resources available through the Cox Digital Academy range from computer and internet basics to educational games for students of all ages.

For more information or to sign up for Connect2Compete, call 1-855-222-3252 or visit www.connect2compete.org/cox. More information on the Cox Digital Academy here: www.cox.com/aboutus/connect2compete/digital-academy.html.



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3 Items	\$8.50	\$10.75	\$14.00	\$16.50
4 Items	\$9.00	\$11.50	\$15.00	\$18.00
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Lakewood Arts Festival 2018



photo by Brian Foon



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photo by Matt Lee

Each August the Lakewood Arts Festival hits Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood. Started decades ago by Lucy Sinagra, it is a festival that celebrates some of the greatest things we have come to love in Lakewood, Art, walkability, fun, music, food, and more fun. This year Brian Foon hits the streets and with help from Matt Lee captured some great images of the festival. See them here and more online at lakewoodobserver.com.

Food Not Lawns

Continued from previous page
ing groups, community gardens in your local neighborhood, or maybe even get out and connect with a neighbor!

For more information on the “Food not Lawns” movement visit their site at <http://www.foodnotlawns.com>.

Autumn Mauer is a long time Lakewood resident with a passion for our beautiful little city. Invest globally, borrow locally.



photos by Brian Foon



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The Winking Lizard



Four thumbs up from, Jim, Gracie, Briana, & Lilly Koenig



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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Sarita To Host August 15 Fundraiser For Meals On Wheels

by Deborah Denney

Wednesday, August 15 offers an opportunity to enjoy fine dining and support a worthy cause as Lakewood's Sarita A Restaurant will donate 25% of meal tabs and 40% of wine-bottle purchases to West Shore Meals on Wheels (WSMoW). Diners will also have an opportunity to win a \$100 gift card donated by Sarita.

WSMoW delivers nutritious home-cooked meals to individuals in Rocky River, Lakewood and Fairview Park who have difficulty purchasing and preparing their own food. Operating since 1976, WSMoW is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that relies entirely on volunteers and private donations – receiving no government subsidies – to deliver low-cost meals to the homes of elderly, disabled, convalescing and other individuals.

WSMoW clients pay \$8 a day to receive a well-rounded cold lunch and hot meal. Donations in the form of cash contributions as well as food from local supporters and merchants subsidize the organization's operating expenses.

“Our service is not just a food

service for the elderly, though it does allow many to stay in their homes when they can't drive or manage preparation of healthy meals,” explains Lauren Walsh, a long-time WSMoW board member. “Daily interaction with our volunteers also helps keep clients connected with the world beyond their doors, whether they're elderly, disabled or recovering from an accident or surgery.”

Award-winning Sarita chose WSMoW as one of two charitable organizations it is committed to supporting throughout 2018. In addition to the August 15 fundraiser, the restaurant donates 10% of orders for selected menu items to WSMoW throughout the year.

To make a reservation for the WSMoW event, call (216) 226-5200. Dining is available from 5–10 p.m. inside or on Sarita's inviting patio – 14523 Madison Ave., Lakewood OH 44107.

For more information about West Shore Meals on Wheels, call (440) 333-6298 or go to www.mealsonwheelsrr.org.

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Lakewood Is Creative



The Rockport Miracles-Part 2: Episode 2 "Bonfire Of The Verminities"

Fiction by Scott MacGregor

I was still smarting from Wren Mathews’ slushy rebuke when I entered the noisy darkness of Lakefront Park for the annual bonfire. (circa 1970).

Every January, the town of Rockport staged a festive evening that featured hot chocolate, winter games of chance, free donuts and unbridled teen-age drinking. The big moment of the night was the setting ablaze of a 5-story pyramid made of discarded Christmas trees. At this juncture, it’s important to note that in those days the park shared its location with an old cemetery and the city dump! It was the dump’s chronic infestation of rats that provided the actual impetus for the burning tree festival.

In a time honored tradition, handed down and facilitated by multi-generations of proud Rockport garbage men, the tree pyramid was seasoned, bedecked and stuffed with rat finger food for the purpose of coaxing the formation of an entire rodent suburb within its tinsel branches. As Yuletide carols were sung by a choir, the trees with the rats inside them were roasted in a pyrrhic spectacle that would’ve wowed the Druids.

I attended the fire that year with my pal, Freddie. Freddie was my age but looked older because he had signif-

icant facial hair. At age sixteen, he was able to pass for 21 at a tiny neighborhood Polski bar where he scored a six pack of Stroh’s Beer for the both of us. As we searched the park for a safe place to guzzle it, I spotted Wren Mathews standing in line at the Kiwanis Hot Chocolate and Donut Hut.

I approached her and apologized again for the now famous “slush blob incident”. She was not in the mood for me and unleashed more spit-frosted words in Italian and/or French. I whipped up a snowball and handed it to her. “Here,” I said, “get even. Take this snowball. I’m begging you to hit me in the head with it.” With a look of exasperation on her face she replied, “What kind of a girl do you think I am? You need to grow up, bub!” Then she went on a mini tirade at me; “You ask my girlfriends about me, YOU DEFACED MY FROG IN BIOLOGY????...and, I’ll bet the bottom dollar it’s YOU that’s been writing all that strange poetry on the sidewalks! What is your big dilemma?”

Sensing correctly that I had nothing to lose, I blurted out “You’re the most beautiful girl I’ve ever seen. I find you very interesting! I’m crazy about you!” She shot back, “You’re crazy, alright, you don’t know one thing about me.” I nervously felt a pimple on the top

of my head and replied, “Hells bells, Wren, we’re teenagers for godsakes! Knowing anything for certain at this age is optional!” Wren shook her head with a look of disbelief and mouthed the words, “LEAVE ME ALONE.”

I conceded defeat and sludged away like a whipped hound dog. By the time I’d caught up to Freddie, I had decided to skip the bonfire altogether and leave the park. “This scene sucks,” I told Freddie, “I’m goin’ home.” As I neared the park exit a warm wind out of the north caught my attention. It was a wind that had no business being there on that seasonably cold January night. And then just like that, I felt the frozen sting of a well delivered snowball to the left side of my head. I spun around reactively, but I already knew who threw it. Just as Wren was about to throw another one, Mayor Frank Warren ignited the bonfire.

I was still picking the snow out of my ear and nostril as we stood together breathing in the primeval enchantments of a tree-rat inferno. Wren nudged me a little and said that she’d accepted my apology. I remember feeling great because it was the last time I ever felt great again. Then, as we watched the flames climb higher and higher there appeared a frightening sight in the northwestern sky. It was purple lightning!

Those warm winds that had drifted by a few moments earlier were the sentinels of a freak winter storm.



Driven by hurricane force winds that had sped silently and undetected across frozen Lake Erie, they would clobber everyone inside the park in a matter of seconds. In a matter of minutes, the storm would change the course of Rockport history.

NEXT: Part 2: Episode 3: “Storm the Beach”

Illustrations by: Greg Budgett © 2018

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Catch up on previous episodes at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/download-issues/>

Yayoi Kusama CMA 2018



Very few people in Northern Ohio knew the name Yayoi Kusama before the summer of 2018 when the Cleveland Museum of Art unveiled her amazing, record breaking show. Now everyone knows her, speaks of her and raves about the show. Our art critic takes a pretty wild look at the entire experience in our next issue!

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Lakewood Living

It's Time For The Tour! “Come Home To Lakewood” House And Garden Tour Returns Sunday, September 9th

by Sue Finley

The 2018 “Come Home to Lakewood” House and Garden Tour, presented by The Lakewood Historical Society is scheduled for Sunday, September 9th, from 1 to 6 p.m. This biennial tour invites you to explore some of the finest examples of Lakewood's diverse architectural styles dating from the early 1900's to mid-20th Century. Included are a Cohasset Avenue Shingle-style Victorian and Colonial Revival; a completely renovated lakefront Colonial; a courtyard entry Clarence Mack-designed house; a Four-Square; a Dutch Colonial perched on a lakeside cliff and a sleek Mid-century ranch. Also included on the tour are a Neoclassic Revival, which now serves as a Lakewood business and the “Garage Mahal,” a two-story garage, the likes of which you’ve never seen.

The properties on the tour are chosen from community nominations. Some of these may be homes and businesses you've driven past and always wondered what they looked like on the interior. Don't miss your chance to experience the properties that give our community its unique character.

Advance sale tickets for the House Tour are \$25 and available after August 1st. Tickets can be purchased by mail, at the Oldest Stone

House, online at museum@lakewoodhistory.org, or at the retail outlets listed below. A limited number of tickets may be available the day of the tour at the Nicholson House for \$30.

You can kick off your "Come Home to Lakewood" tour weekend Saturday, September 8th at the Patron Party, held in three separate penthouse condominiums at the Richard Hilliard House. Party tickets can be purchased online, by mail, or at Paisley Monkey during business hours. For more tour and benefit information, contact the Oldest Stone House at 216.331.7343.

Ticket Outlets for the 2018 "Come Home to Lakewood" Home Tour:

Lakewood

- Beck Center for the Arts**
17801 Detroit Ave.
- Geiger’s Clothing and Sports**
14710 Detroit Ave.
- Paisley Monkey**
14417 Detroit Ave.
- Rozi’s Wine House**
14900 Detroit Ave.

Around Town

- Mitchell Sotka, Antiques**
19071 Old Detroit Road, Rocky River



New on this tour is the just finished Bratz Manor on Detroit Ave. Recently refurbished inside and out, and now used as offices.

Here's One Festival You Don't Want To Miss!

by Betty Catana

St. Mary Romanian Festival, in its 13th yearriday, is one ethnic festival close to home that you don't want to miss. Mark your calendar for August 17-19. And here are the top five reasons for you to join in the fun:

THE FOOD:

Our authentic home-cooked selections are all made fresh, on the spot. Romanian cuisine blends the tradition of its Balkan and other European neighbors, while maintaining its own special character. Romanian delicacies include stuffed cabbage, grilled mititei (not a burger, not a sausage, they're, well, they're mighty good), polenta baked with sour cream and cheese, tasty homemade sausage and sauerkraut, chicken paprikash, and other delights. This year's volunteers will be preparing about 3,000 stuffed cabbage (sarmale), entailing a 3-day process with more than 600 pounds of meat.

THE PASTRIES:

We're willing to bet you will never find a richer, more varied selection, all freshly baked by St. Mary's ladies, and we can't forget to mention our now-famous elephant ears, plus crepes made

on the spot. And the selection varies each day.

THE MUSIC: Romanian folk music is perfect for listening, dancing, singing. Soulful, romantic, energetic, exhilarating. A live orchestra will entertain all weekend, along with singers and high-stepping dancers.

OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE:

In addition to scheduled tours of the cathedral and the ethnic/art museum, you will observe much art and sculpture throughout the cultural and social halls, as well as outside. There will be beautiful Romanian blouses and other hand-made items for sale, also.

AND, AGAIN, THE FOOD:

Served at the buffet indoors and outside by the grill, the many food selections may be accompanied by Romanian and other European beers and wines.

We look forward to seeing you August 17-19 at St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, 3256 Warren Rd. Hours are Friday, 4:30-11 pm, Saturday, 1-11 pm, and Sunday, noon-10 pm. For further information call the office 216-941-5550 or visit the website www.smroc.org

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LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive To Co-Host Homebuyer Education Workshop Series In August

by Matt Bixenstine

The prospect of pursuing home ownership might be a dream come true, but are you truly ready to make an offer? By preparing ahead of time, you can enter the homebuying process with more confidence.

LakewoodAlive is teaming with Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) – a full-service, HUD-approved housing and financial counseling agency – and Third Federal Savings & Loan to offer a pair of educational workshops for prospective homebuyers. The free, two-part Homebuyer Education Workshop

series will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, August 23, and Thursday, August 30, at Clock Electric, Inc. (1624 Coutant Avenue) in Lakewood.

To register for this FREE homebuyer workshop series, call 216-361-0718.

This workshop series will teach the important basics of homebuying, equipping attendees with knowledge to successfully maneuver through this process. Attendees are strongly encouraged to attend both portions, as the August 30 course will build on that from August 23. Covered homebuyer topics will include:

- Homeownership Readiness
- Budgeting and Credit Management
- Financing
- Accessing Affordable Mortgage Products
- Shopping for a Home
- Maintaining a Home

Prospective homebuyers will also have a chance to learn about Third Federal's homeownership opportunities for downpayment assistance, as well as the City of Lakewood's downpayment assistance program.

"By striving to enhance homebuyer education, we're able to better fulfill our mission to foster and sustain vibrant



Homebuyer educational opportunities take place August 23 and 30 at Clock Electric.

neighborhoods in Lakewood," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Director. "Purchasing a home represents a major life milestone for anyone, and our workshop series is designed to assist prospective homebuyers along the way, providing education and peace of mind."

Five Key Takeaways From LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home: Hands-On Window Repair" Workshop

by Matt Bixenstine

Repairing a window is not only energy efficient and environmentally friendly, but it also helps to keep the historic look and feel of your wonderfully old home. It's no wonder a sellout crowd was on hand for LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home: Hands-On Window Repair" workshop on July 19.

Hosted by our friend Glenn Palmer of Lakewood Hardware, this free workshop featured a hands-on presentation covering how to check window sashes, identify parts of the window and learn simple window repairs such as sash repair, glazing and sash cord repair.

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.



Glenn Palmer and his team at Lakewood Hardware led LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home: Hands-On Window Repair" workshop.

If you happened to miss this particular workshop, we've got you covered. Here are five key takeaways from "Knowing Your Home: Hands-On Window Repair."

1. Protect your old windows from rot

Should you observe any preliminary signs of wood-rot along your window's frame, then it might be worthwhile to apply a wood hardener product. A milky liquid wood hardener that you brush onto the rotted wood can help prolong the lifespan of your old windows. This product works best when it's applied to dry wood and

allowed to absorb for at least 24 hours.

2. Weigh your window cord options carefully

For many years, the weight and pulley balance system for double-hung windows has served as the standard in wooden window construction. In this system, a vertically sliding sash is attached to and suspended by lengths of cord or chain. However, it's important to consider the type cord you use. Whereas a sash cord and chain are advisable for use with window weights, a nylon cord is not recommended. Sash chains are highly durable, though they tend to be noisier when compared to other types of cord.

3. Buy yourself some time before repairing your windows

Not yet ready to repair your old

drafty windows? You might be in luck. Seal & peel caulking can often be used as a temporary fix, buying you time until you have to pursue a full-fledged repair. Extremely adhesive yet easy to remove, this product is a great weather sealant, and fills gaps easily until you're ready for a full repair.

4. Glaze your old windows to create a tight new seal

On older single-pane windows, the glass is usually surrounded by putty called glazing compound, which holds the glass in place and seals out the weather. After decades of wear and tear, this putty typically needs to be replaced. When glazing your windows, make sure to use a putty knife that's sturdy and non-bending. The right tool can save you from unnecessary headaches while helping you to tighten up drafty old windows.

5. Practice caution when insulating around your windows

Speaking of window draft, ade-

quate insulation often represents an excellent way to thwart this problem – but proceed with caution. When insulating your sash weight cavities, make sure to use foam insulation that is specific to doors and windows. Foam expands when it dries and you don't want to use a foam insulation that will over-expand and damage your beautiful old windows or walls.

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

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