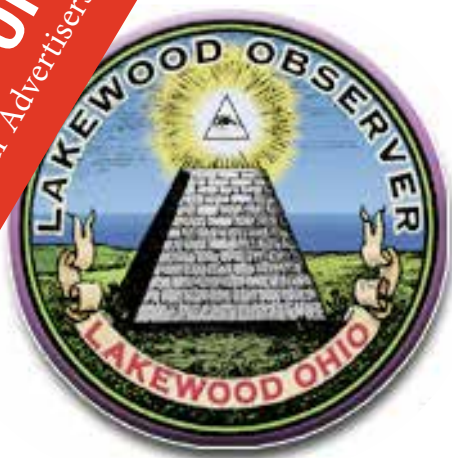


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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 15, Issue 02, January, 23 2019



Councilman-At-Large Tristan Rader with Ward 1 candidate Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Rodriguez-Carbone Announces Ward 1 Council Campaign

by Matt Kuhns

Public service is personal for Laura Rodriguez-Carbone, who recently announced her candidacy for Lakewood City Council, Ward 1.

Speaking before a crowd including several elected officials, Rodriguez-Carbone said that good government can be the crucial difference in everyday lives. She cited her own family's struggle with poverty as an example.

"If it weren't for government and community programs and assistance, I don't know where I, or my family, would be," Rodriguez-Carbone said.

Neither her mother or father completed high school, and their limited opportunities forced Rodriguez-Carbone to drop out, as well; while in her teens she worked two jobs to maintain basic shelter for her family.

continued on page 3

Lakewood Athletic Boosters Annual Night At The Races

by Kate Sala

The Lakewood Athletic Boosters are holding their 15th annual Night at the Races fundraiser on Saturday March 2, 2018. This entertaining event raises funds to support middle and high school student-athletes in the Lakewood City

Schools district. Night at the Races is for adults age 21 and older. Doors open at 6 p.m. and races start at 7:30.

Individual tickets are \$30, but come with friends and save! Groups of 8 or more can purchase tickets for \$25

continued on page 6

Diversity Celebrated At Lakewood Dinner

by Barbara Howell

Join your local and international neighbors for food, fun and conversation at the 12th Annual Community Diversity Potluck Thursday, January 24, 2019.

Sponsored by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Council, the potluck dinner and program will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., January 24, at the Lakewood Park Woman's Club Pavilion.

The dinner celebrates the diversity in our community in keeping with the city's mission to "provide lifelong educational opportunities for our residents and promote a community identity rooted in our cultural heritage."

Residents are asked to please bring a dish (vegetarian or meat) which represents your family, cultural or ethnic background for about six people!!

continued on page 5

District To Expand Alternative Ed Opportunities; Will Close LCA

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education has approved a plan for the District to move into a new era of alternative education programming that entails closing the existing Lakewood City Academy community charter school and opening its own program in the former Franklin Elementary School building.

Lakewood City Academy is sponsored by the District as a dropout prevention credit recovery school, which as such is subject to strict Ohio Department of Education regulations and requirements. Originally, this school model provided much of the flexibility needed to meet the educational needs of LCA students. Over the years, the model in the State of Ohio has become more cumbersome as it pertains to compliance procedures, which hindered the educational opportunities that LCA could offer to its students.

With LCA's five-year sponsorship agreement with the District expiring on June 30 of this year, District administrators and the LCA Board of Directors determined that in order to provide more comprehensive, expansive and Lakewood-specific alternative programming, it is in the best interest of our students to not renew the sponsorship.

"This change will give the District a chance to dream, imagine and then have discussions about what we want to do in regards to alternative education programming" that wouldn't be possible under the state compliance requirements for schools like LCA, said Superintendent Mike Barnes.

Administrators plan to spend the 2020-2021 school year gathering input from students, staff, parents and the community about what they think alternative education should look like in Lakewood. The new, as yet unnamed program would begin operating in the 2021-2020 school year. Until that time, current LCA students will continue next school year much as they are

doing now curricularly but with some expanded opportunities still to be determined.

Some of the benefits of bringing the alternative education program under the District umbrella include the ability to share staff and other resources of the middle schools and high school and the ability

to offer students in the program elective courses such as music, art and career-tech classes. These aspects are not possible under the restrictions of the current sponsorship agreement. Students will also graduate with a Lakewood High diploma.

continued on page 6

Message From Superintendent Barnes

by Dr. Michael Barnes.

Thank you for joining me here at the Lakewood Observer! It's been five months since I began my position as the Superintendent of Lakewood City Schools, enough time for me to reflect on my transition into the Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood community.

When I first started as your Superintendent, I was touched by the very warm welcome offered to not only me, but my wife and daughters as well. It has been a great pleasure to meet civic and community leaders. My engagement with those who have come to my Listen & Learn sessions had me walking away impressed with the community's commitment to our children.

Besides the authentic community engagement I have discovered, I also have been taken by just how talented our



Dr. Michael Barnes

teaching staff is. I've observed it many times since my arrival in August. I've seen the rich learning experiences they have created for our students. The challenge of the classroom teacher in Lakewood is tough, considering the diverse needs of our students. How well our students are prepared for success is a testament to those teachers.

continued on page 6

Lakewood Loses Another Good One - Former Police Chief Petro

by Jim O'Bryan

"It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Ex-Police Chief Charles Petro Jr. Chief Petro was the head of Lakewood Police in the days that Time, Life, Look, and other national magazines declared, "Lakewood, Safest City In America."

Charles Carlyle Petro Jr. was born July 3, 1929. He is survived by wife of 67 years, Irene Petro. He coached 7th and 8th grade basketball teams at St. James in Lakewood and St. Angela's in Fairview Park.



Police Chief Charles Petro Jr.

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OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK!

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Schools Closed! Hurray!!!	Betsy Voinovich	0	317	Mon Jan 21
Clear Walks, Be Safe, Check On Elderly, Help Neighbors	Jim O'Bryan	3	501	Mon Jan 21
Lakewood Rejects Ethics, Do You?	Jim O'Bryan	15	936	Sat Jan 19
Memorial Day Ceremony	David Anderson	5	1498	Thu Jan 17
Development - Not Always What Was Promised	Bridget Conant	4	358	Thu Jan 17
Moral Consequences of Economic Development Decisions	Mark Kindt	4	1138	Thu Jan 17
Lakewood vs Lordstown?	Nadhal Eadeh	14	2395	Thu Jan 17
City Government "Monitoring" Social Media	Bridget Conant	20	2362	Wed Jan 16
Signs, Signs, Everywhere	Jim O'Bryan	130	24822	Tue Jan 15

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

City



This library is probably shaped like a Tardis, for those who want to be precise.



Find this library from the southeast corner of City Hall.

Little Free Indoor Libraries

by Matt Kuhns

Lakewood has embraced the Little Free Library concept, with at least 20 now scattered around our city. This pair, including one of the city's newest, is found indoors. The Lakewood Policy recently added a Little Free Library to their lobby inside City Hall, at 12650 Detroit Ave. It's actually the second police-themed design among Lakewood's little libraries, however, joining the "Dr. Who" police-box-shaped library inside Fear's Confections at 15208 Madison Ave.

Aging Mastery Program: Join the Adventure

by Barry Wemyss

As retirement approaches, and begin looking at transitioning to the next stage of things, the changes can seem both exciting and daunting. While there are a multitude of exciting opportunities that await, there are also some familiar pitfalls, that with proper planning, might be avoided. The Lakewood Division of Aging, in conjunction with the Benjamin Rose Institute, the Lakewood Family Health Center / Cleveland Clinic and the National Council on Aging, is pleased to offer the Aging Mastery Program. This class will equip participants with the tools to recognize both the opportunities and pitfalls in living longer, and to properly address them.

The Aging Mastery Program is designed to help older adults establish guideposts for themselves as they look carefully at various aspects of daily life.

The expectation is that by making small but meaningful changes in our lives, we can all realize improved outcomes. The areas to be addressed in this class include navigating longer lives, physical activity, sleep, healthy eating and hydration, financial fitness, medication management, advance planning, healthy relationships, falls prevention and community engagement. For each of these classes, participants will be provided with educational materials, developed by highly trusted sources. They will also receive a checklist of potential next steps, and a system for tracking behaviors.

The Aging Mastery Program is a six-session class, taught by experts in the various fields. Their goal is to equip adults who are either approaching retirement, or who have recently retired, to get prepared for a long, healthy, productive future. Aging Mas-

Rodriguez-Carbone Announces Ward 1 Council Campaign

continued from page 1

Rodriguez-Carbone credits help from others, including government assistance, for allowing her to hang on and eventually complete a high school degree, as well as a Bachelor's and Master's.

"While enrolled in college, I felt called to give back, in any way I could," she said at her January 12 campaign announcement.



During the event, one speaker after another testified to Rodriguez-Carbone's work since, as a volunteer, activist and community leader. Those speaking in support included State Representative Mike Skindell; Lakewood City Council member Tristan Rader; Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus Political Director Steve Holecko; and South Euclid City Council member Sara Continenza.

The audience heard stories of Rodriguez-Carbone's wide-ranging community involvement, from her volunteer support of progressive campaigns, to her job promoting organ donation with LifeBanc, to her active leadership on Lakewood's Foundation

tery will be offered at the Lakewood Family Health Center, located at 14601 Detroit Ave. Class runs from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, Fridays from March 1st through April 5, 2019. This class is free to the public, and transportation is available to Lakewood seniors. Reserve your space now by calling the Lakewood Division of Aging Activities Office at 216-529-5005, or by contacting us via email at barry.wemyss@lakewoodoh.net .

Planning Task Force. State Senator Nickie Antonio also spoke, after the formal program's completion, and concluded the afternoon with a succinct message. "Laura has been amazing," said Antonio. "I'm very excited about you running."



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LUNCH & LEARN

Aging in Place

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Jennifer Harkness, OTR/L
Director of Rehabilitation, O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood

Assisted Living Building
4th Floor Education Room

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert
at 216-912-0800
by January 28, 2019

O'Neill Healthcare
LAKEWOOD
1381 Bunts Road
ONeillHC.com

Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Great Decisions in the Library - U.S. Global Engagement and the Military
Led by Dr. Karl Kaltenthaler

The global power balance is rapidly evolving, leaving the United States at a turning point with respect to its level of engagement and the role of its military. Some argue for an “America First” paradigm, while others call for a more assertive position overseas. After a brief video, Dr. Karl Kaltenthaler will lead a discussion and help to answer some of the complex questions surrounding military intervention.

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

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Talk - Preventing Diabetes

Presentation by University Hospitals St. John Medical Center

Diabetes refers to a group of diseases that affect how your body uses blood sugar (glucose). Left undiagnosed or uncontrolled, diabetes can lead to long-term health concerns including heart disease, kidney damage and stroke. Reduce your risk and join us for an eye-opening discussion about diabetes, signs and symptoms, and what you can do to prevent the onset of the disease.

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

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Film - “Wings” (1927)

Directed by William A. Wellman

Two men dream of becoming fighter pilots in World War I. The pair share a hometown and also a common love interest, Mary Preston (Clara Bow). Lovable boy next door Jack Powell (Charles Rogers) fights the wealthy David Armstrong (Richard Arlen) for Mary’s affections. They must learn to trust each other as they join ranks to fight the Germans.

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

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Concert - SLAP Jazz Quartet: Led Zeppelin Tribute

SLAP members Michael Zupal (bass), John Henry Scully (drums), Michael Scheiman (guitar) and Tom Zupal (guitar) have been carrying on a musical conversation for over three decades. SLAP will be performing a musical tribute to Led Zeppelin with one song from each studio album in reverse chronological order and ending up with a piece from Led Zeppelin I, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its release. This will not be a “cover band” treatment of Led Zeppelin’s work, instead it will be SLAP’s interpretations of the songs.

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

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Genealogy Workshop

Taught by Deborah Abbott, PhD

Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unravel your history with professional results using the free Library Edition of ancestry.com and other resources. Space is limited at the workshops, but you are welcome to register with a partner and share a computer. Also, keep in mind that the Library Edition of the famous genealogy resource, ancestry.com, is free to use every day at the Library. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

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

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Documentary - “Alive & Well” (2013)

Directed by Josh Taft

Presented by Huntington’s Disease Society of America

A powerful documentary film about the human condition, “Alive & Well” follows seven resilient people coming to terms with the profound reality of living with the hereditary chronic illness known as Huntington’s Disease (HD). Its subjects range from a young woman hoping to start a family, to a former NBC News journalist turned HD-advocate, as well as a renowned scientist relentlessly searching for a cure. It is not an exposé into a hopeless illness, but a reminder of human strength and perseverance. Huntington’s Disease Society of America hopes to inspire greater understanding of HD and fight the stigma asso-

Children And Youth

compiled by Jeffrey Siebert

Monday, January 21

Share the Dream: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
For school age children

Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through stories, songs and crafts. In honor of the MLK Jr. Day of Service, participants will create handmade cards to warm the hearts of nursing home residents. No registration is required.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Sunday, January 27

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.

Thursday, January 31

Inspire your Heart with Art Day

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Experience the arts in this after school program and make your own unique creation. Come celebrate art and how it touches your heart! Registration required.

4:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

ciated with it, and members of the organization will join us to spread this message.

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

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Presentation: Person-first Language and Disability Legislation

Presentation by Disability Rights Ohio

Since the landmark signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, certain rights for people with disabilities have been protected by law. This ensures equal opportunity in everyday life, including employment opportunities, purchasing goods and services and participating in state and local government. Three decades later, the struggle for equality is ongoing. A representative from Disability Rights Ohio will share the latest developments in legislation and its impact on everyday living for people with disabilities. Disability Rights Ohio provides legal advocacy and rights protection to a wide range of people with disabilities.

7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Author Event - “Girlish: Growing Up in a Lesbian Home”

by Lara Lillibridge

Lara Lillibridge grew up with two moms an experience that shaped and scarred her at the same time. Told from the perspective of “Girl,” Lillibridge’s memoir is the no-holds-barred account of childhood in an atypical household. Girlish is a human story that challenges readers to reevaluate their own lives and motivations.

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

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Film - “It Happened One Night” (1934)

Directed by Frank Capra

Spoiled socialite Ellie Andrews (Claudette Colbert) is a bride on the run from her overbearing father. She plans to travel to New York to reunite with her lover. On the bus she meets cynical and unemployed reporter Peter Warne (Clark Gable). A series of mishaps forces Ellie and Peter to set aside their differences and join forces to get to the Big Apple.

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

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Performance - Chinese New Year’s Dancers

Join us for this special performance in honor of the Chinese New Year, which falls on February 5, 2019, and is the year of the pig. Yin Tang Dance Company presents a series of traditional and fusion Chinese dances. Many of the dances come from regions of China with stories to accompany them. Others bring a piece of history, whether through movement or music. The K-pop team, “DNA Level-C” will also make an appearance with high energy entertainment.

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

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Resource Fair: For Adults and Children Living with Disabilities and Their Families

What does the Library offer adults and children living with disabilities? There are adapted programs for children created by the Library’s partner, Connecting for Kids, our extensive collection of large print materials and audiobooks, both physical and online, and our new hearing assistance devices for the Main Library Auditorium. The Library also acts as a hub for other organizations in the community to offer information and resources. Stop by this resource fair for children and adults living with disabilities to discover what the Lakewood community has to offer you and your family.

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

Boosters Annual Night at the Races

continued from page 1

each (a group of 8 tickets is \$200 and a group of 10 tickets is \$250.) Tickets include a dinner and beverage package, but people are encouraged to bring their favorite food and drinks to share with friends. To order tickets and buy horses, visit LakewoodAthleticBoosters.com. February 22nd is the last day to buy tickets. Only 350 will be sold, so don’t delay! No tickets will be sold at the door.

In addition to horse races, there will be sideboard raffles, \$1 and \$5 raffle baskets filled with items donated by area businesses, as well as a silent auction. Auction items for past events have included beautiful jewelry from Broestl & Wallis, signed NFL jerseys, as well as Cavaliers and Indians items. Geiger’s, KB Confections, Panera Bread, Roman Fountain, Melt, Ross’s Deli, Lion & Blue, and Slife Heating & Cooling are just a few of the MANY local businesses that have supported this awesome event.

To make a donation or purchase an ad in the Night at the Races program, see the donation form on our website: LakewoodAthleticBoosters.com/night-at-the-races Contact us by February 19th to place an ad in the program.

About Lakewood Athletic Boosters - The Lakewood Athletic Boosters is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to supporting student-athletes in the Lakewood City Schools district. Since its inception, the Boosters have donated over a million dollars to the Lakewood City Schools Athletic Department. The Boosters are committed to donating at least \$60,000 annually to subsidize the Athletic Department’s annual budget, thereby benefitting all the middle-school and high-school sports in the district. In addition, the Boosters host senior nights for all 22 varsity sports and provide scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors. In recent years, the Boosters have also donated extra funds to purchase items such as a new timing board at the LHS pool, spin bikes for off-season conditioning, and new wrestling mats. Lakewood’s \$75 per sport pay-to-participate fee is one of the lowest in the area. Athletic Booster members who volunteer earn “Booster Bucks” to offset or even eliminate their pay-to-participate fee. For more information, visit LakewoodAthleticBoosters.com, find us on Facebook @LakewoodRangersAthleticBoosters, follow us on Twitter @LHS_ABOOSTERS, or email LHSAthleticBoosters@gmail.com.

Library

The Lakewood Historical Society Asks: Who Killed Robert F. Kennedy?

by Lisa Calfee

It has been fifty years since Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in the early hours of June 5, 1968 at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. The ensuing five decades of expert crime analysis have left historians with more questions than answers.

Beverly Sadowski from the Lakewood Historical Society will be visiting Lakewood Public Library on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss forensic, medico-legal, eyewitness and recently discovered acoustic evidence that puts the prevailing theory up for debate.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is currently serving a life sentence for the assassination of RFK, but some researchers are convinced that he had very little to do with the tragedy. Did Lyndon B. Johnson order the killing as some have suggested?



Was mind-control involved? Was there a second shooter? How could thirteen shots have been fired from a gun that only held eight bullets?

You will hear the compelling evidence as well as recently discovered facts that were never presented at the trial. The event takes place in the Main Lower Level Auditorium.

Cleveland Author On Growing Up In A Lesbian Home

by Amy Kloss

Lara Lillibridge had an unusual upbringing. Raised by her lesbian mother and stepmother and periodically sent to Alaska to visit her father, an unrepentant womanizer who believed in “free love,” she was plagued by doubts and insecurities about her place in the world. So she wrote a memoir, laying bare both the positive and negative of her past.

You can meet Lillibridge on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium to hear about her upbringing and her book, “Girlish: Growing Up in a Lesbian Home.”

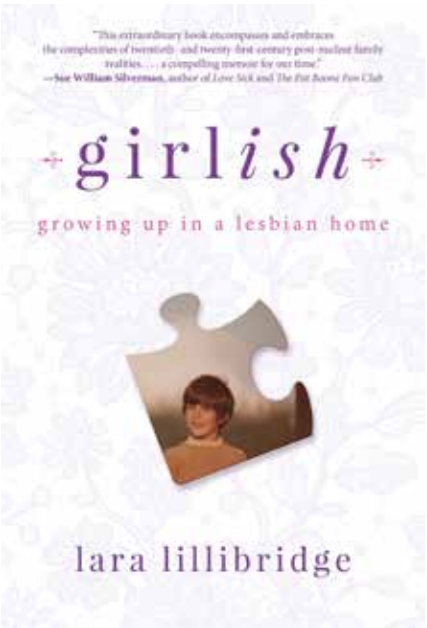
The memoir is unconventional both in form and content. Lillibridge identifies herself only as Girl. Other characters are Mother, Stepmother, Father and Brother. Interspersed within short chronological chapters



written in the third person, there are chapters called “notes from the fourth wall,” where the author comments on her past. Lillibridge doesn’t hold back; anxieties, insecurities and abuse are on full display in the book. Although the subtitle is “growing up in a lesbian home,” the author’s life is also defined by her parents’ unconventional ideas and her stepmother’s mental illness. Yet there is love among the sadness and dysfunction, and the book tries to make sense of it.

A graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College’s MFA program in creative nonfiction, Lillibridge has won numerous writing awards for nonfiction. She currently lives in Cleveland.

Join Lillibridge to hear about “Girlish,” her unique coming-of-age tale on January 31, 2019 at the Lakewood Main Library. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.



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Diversity Celebrated At Lakewood Dinner

continued from page 1

We encourage you to bring the recipe for your dish to share as well. Beverages and tableware will be provided. This is a great opportunity to meet neighbors and make new friends. There will be fun activities for all ages.

For more information, contact Melissa Garrett at (216) 529-6650.

Dancing In The Chinese New Year With The Ying Tang Dance Company

by Lisa Calfee

The 2019 Chinese New Year arrives Tuesday, February 5 and Lakewood Public Library is celebrating early with the Yin Tang Dance Company on Sunday, February 3, 2019. The talented group will welcome the Year of the Pig by presenting a series of traditional and fusion Chinese dances as part of our Sunday with the Friends programming. The entertainment begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Lower Level Auditorium.

A performance by the Yin Tang Dance Company is a cultural experience filled with the color, beauty and history of the country known as the Red Dragon. Originating in different regions of China, each featured dance tells a unique story. The K-pop team, “DNA Level-C” will also make an appearance with a high energy performance.

Yin Tang is Cleveland’s premier Chinese choreographer. At the age of three, her mother began teaching her Classic Chinese dance. Over the years, she has made many trips to China for further instruction and has trained in



Classical and Romantic Ballet as well. Having taught dance at the Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Cultural Association since 1999, she formed the Yin Tang Dance Company in 2013. Her studio is located in the Asian Services in Action office at 3631 Perkins Ave, Cleveland, OH.

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Lakewood Public Schools

Staff Spotlight Shines On Byrne & Francis

by Christine Gordillo

Each month the Lakewood City Schools chooses two employees to be honored as exemplary staff members. These staff members are nominated by their colleagues and honored at the first Board meeting of the month. January's honorees are speech language pathologist Beth Byrne and cleaner Erik Francis.

BETH BYRNE

Speech language pathologist Beth Byrne may have been one of the Lakewood High School staff members most grateful for the completion of the construction project that brought the staff together all under one roof again. That's because Beth spends her day running around the building attending to the needs of her 70 students strewn among the school's many classrooms.

"It's definitely made the logistics much easier," she said.

Beth, who started with the District upon graduating from Ohio University in 1990, still loves what she's doing



after 28 years. "I enjoy working with the students. You get to know them, you get to see them grow," she says.

As part of her job, Beth sees students on IEPs who need help in a variety of areas, whether it is classroom work, homework or even learning appropriate social skills and language. Her goal is to set her students up for success in the classroom and beyond.



Beth's colleagues praise her for her flexibility and willingness to share resources that can help a teacher connect better with a student.

"She is always running around helping students and staff," said Beth's nominator, interpreter Elizabeth Stoneman. "She is always willing to share her office if someone needs a space. Ms. Byrne is a wonderful educator and it is such a pleasure working with her."

ERIK FRANCIS

District cleaner Erik Francis loves to tell people he is a proud 2003 graduate of Lakewood High School. Now, he

is equally proud to work for the district where he attended school, and the work he does for it shows.

Erik, who usually works at Lakewood High, has been subbing at the Board offices for an injured colleague since September. He quickly established himself as a smiling face around the building, eager to help in any way he can and provide some levity with his gentle wise cracks and jokes! Despite the humor, Erik takes his job very seriously, always double checking with staff to see if anything else needs done once his responsibilities are met.

Says Christie Palumbo, one of Erik's nominators: "Erik is always friendly and pleasant and strives to do his best."

Lisa Bruening, director of Student Services, added: "Erik takes the time to ask how you are doing and listens.... Erik truly cares about the people he works with!" He has even gone the extra mile by paying regular visits to his recuperating colleague to see if she needs anything.

Erik, who has been with the District in some capacity since he graduated, has a positive attitude that is contagious. It comes by him naturally, he says.

"I just come in to work happy... that's the way I prefer to be."

Message From Superintendent Barnes

continued from page 1

On the flip side, our students have also greatly impressed me. Their talents are great and many. They are very civic-minded and they embrace each other – even when their classmate doesn't look like them, speak like them, or think like them.

As we move forward together as a school district and a community, I want to harness that synergy between us to make our district even better for our students. To do so, I ask you to come with me on a Journey of Discovery.

On this journey, I will be looking to determine what our collective vision is for our students. By asking all stakeholders in the schools – and that's everyone living in Lakewood – what our educational priorities are for our students.

This Journey of Discovery involves a continued community conversation to form our collective vision. Our plan is to have those conversations through my Listen & Learn sessions (next one is January 24, noon, at Panera), sur-



Dr. Michael Barnes

veys, and other facilitated activities and discussions. When the journey is complete, I hope that we have come to a consensus on what the profile of a Lakewood Schools graduate should be and how we should structure our classrooms to achieve that.

Stay tuned to next month's column to find out what we've learned so far on our Journey of Discovery.

*#OneHeartbeatOneLakewood
#JourneyofDiscovery*

District To Expand Alternative Ed Opportunities; Will Close LCA

continued from page 1

Assistant Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki told the Board at its meeting on January 7 that while the transformation is in process, students and parents will see very little change. "We want this to be a seamless transition for everyone," she said. LCA Coordinator Terri Elwell-Bornino will continue to lead the program.

Since LCA opened its doors in 2005, the school has seen 185 students graduate, something that might have been more difficult or impossible had they not had the option of an alternative education in their city. The District aims to continue that success story for those who find an alternative education setting their best fit.

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Lakewood Public Schools

Students' Art Earns Top Scholastic Contest Honors

by Christine Gordillo

Students from Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Tech Media Art & Design earned a high number of awards in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition held in December, including eight Gold Keys, the highest honor given, and 44 total pieces honored overall.

Lakewood students were also well-represented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels. Eleven students won 14 Silver Keys, including two by seniors Sara Bitter and Emily Perry. Twenty-two students earned Honorable Mention designations for their art.

Congratulations to our Gold Key winners: Lakewood High art students Lillian Horschke, Emily Perry, Lillian Utrata, and Inga Wilhelmy; and West Shore Media Art & Design students Sarah Drago, Darnasia Shields, Max Sloan, and Turner Sorge. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 94-year-old competition.

Lakewood High Art Department facilitator Amy Sedlak credits the abundance of awards to a combination



Darnasia Shields' Gold Key photograph.

McQuay added: "I am proud to teach such an amazing and creative group of young people who are consistently being recognized for their skill and vision in digital design and photography."

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes creative achievement in area 7-12 grade students. The young artists compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries. Students who are recognized on the national level are invited to attend an awards ceremony in the spring in New York City.

This year's regional winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on January 19 at the Cleveland Institute of Art and their work will be on display in

the CIA's art gallery through February 1. Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers Dayna Hansen, Anne McQuay, Arline Olear, Autumn Sabin and Amy Sedlak.

Gold Key Winners: (approximately 7-10% of regional entries)

- Sarah Drago – Photography (West Shore)
- Lillian Horschke – Printmaking
- Emily Perry – Drawing & Illustration
- Darnasia Shields – Photography (West Shore)
- Max Sloan – Film & Animation (West Shore)
- Turner Sorge – Photography (West Shore)
- Lillian Utrata – Drawing & Illustration
- Inga Wilhelmy – Mixed Media

Silver Key Winners: (approximately 10-15% of regional entries)

- Sara Bitter (2) – Printmaking, Film & Animation (West Shore & LHS)
- Emily Gowan – Photography
- Lillian Horschke – Printmaking
- Patrick McCallum (2) – Drawing & Illustration
- Gabrielle Merk – Photography (West Shore)
- Kallie Mitchell – Photography
- Emily Perry (2) – Drawing &

- Illustration, Painting
- Turner Sorge – Digital Art (West Shore)
- Connor Starowesky – Photography (West Shore)
- Lillian Utrata – Painting
- Hayley Welsh – Painting
- Honorable Mention:**
- Sophia Ashby (2) – Photography (West Shore)
- Ella Atfield – Drawing & Illustration
- Sara Bitter – Comic Art (West Shore)
- Esther Dolatowski – Drawing & Illustration
- Josie Filice – Painting
- Andres Gonzalez – Painting
- Sydney Heckeler – Photography
- Lillian Horschke – Printmaking
- Jane Kalinowski (2) – Drawing & Illustration
- Ivy Keeper – Painting
- Benjamin Ryniak – Photography (West Shore)
- Ethan Sheer – Digital Art (West Shore)
- Zed Skinner – Photography
- Connor Starowesky – Photography (West Shore)
- James Toole – Painting
- Lillian Utrata (2) – Printmaking, Drawing & Illustration
- Avery Waffan (2) – Film & Animation, Photography (West Shore)
- Audrey Warren – Painting



Lillian Horschke's Gold Key artwork.

of student talent and creative teaching. "Every year we strive to teach our students new and innovative ideas, such as conceptual thought vs. copy and paste. The past few years we have successfully implemented these ideas into our program and we have seen a large increase in our students winning regionally and nationally in the Scholastic Art Awards," Sedlak said.

Media Art & Design teacher Anne



Hayley Welsh's Silver Key artwork.



Emily Perry's Gold Key artwork.



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Lakewood Fiction

The Rockport Miracles Part 4: Episode 1: “The Ballad of Derecho Dan”

Fiction by Scott MacGregor

It’s a baffling world, but who gives a crap? The only thing I care about is Rockport. Since 1970, when our “storm era” began, learned men and women from the fields of meteorology, oceanography, electrical physiology, sociology and God-ology had arrived in droves to analyze and measure the air, the land, the water, and the moral fiber of Rockport. Conspiracy theorists have had a field day blaming the storms on the military, the Masons, the Russians, the NRA, the CIA, the AAA, and the Beatles. It’s all a bunch of crap.

Do-gooders and volunteers who came in droves from all corners of North America and Europe have all left exhausted and unfulfilled. Perennially worthless politicians, anxious to blame the storms on their adversaries and rival parties, had moved on when their constituents started moving out.

The storms have been specific and precise with a recurrent trajectory that has split the town right up the middle. At first, the city and the affected residents tried to rebuild their damaged or destroyed properties. After too many losses from too many storms, the insurance companies refused to write policies for people and structures still standing in “Storm Alley.” Meanwhile, everyone else who lived in Rockport saw their health and property insurance rates skyrocket and their home values plummet. It simply became untenable to live in Rockport and a hurtful number of townspeople gave up and moved further west, mostly to River City.

Now, I’m going on record to say that I have never liked River City. It is a newer, more upscale suburb just west of Rockport. I knew some River City kids while growing up and I always thought they possessed a sense of entitlement. You could always tell a River City kid from a Rockport kid. Rockport kids wore spectacles whereas River City kids wore contacts. Most River City girls have straight blonde hair and the boys have curly brown hair, even when they’re brother and sister!



One out of every five persons who live in River City is an orthodontist. As a result, a large segment of their population confidently stroll around with perfectly straight teeth. Finally, you can tell a River City person by their shoes. They all wear boat shoes. That’s because they all either have a boat, have a neighbor with a boat, or they crew a boat. They wear boat shoes 24/7 and at weddings and funerals. A River City person walking toward you wearing a white duffer’s hat means, “Excuse me, I have to get to the boat.”

I’m bitter toward River City. While Rockport remains under siege, the mayor of that insipid hamlet and his developer cronies are building new housing developments to lure away Rockporters. It’s a plan that has worked very well and the River City mayor, Bart Ridgewood, has grown rich from Rockport’s tragedy. Those of us who choose to stick it out have become squatters in the old worthless Rockport homes that had been abandoned. The “old money” of Rockport had built rows of beautiful lakefront mansions that now lay in ruin. My grandparents owned one of them and it is from there that I am writing these recollections.

I loathe River City and that is why I take no small delight in telling

a story from Year 5 of the storm era when River City got its well-deserved come-uppance. It’s the story of a local hero and Rockport legend known as “Derecho” Dan.

Before I go any further, let’s all understand what a “derecho” is. It’s a type of destructive storm characterized by fierce straight line winds that can reach hurricane speeds. A derecho storm is like having an out of control freight train barrel through your neighborhood and they typically occur throughout the Midwest and Great Lakes regions. They became a monthly phenomena for Rockport starting in January 1970. Why the storms are occurring is still unknown and some say the science to understand this weather phenomena hasn’t been invented yet. That’s a bunch of crap, too. Somebody always know something. They just aren’t telling us anything, whoever ‘they’ is.

“Derecho” Dan Newman III is a regular guy. He puts his shoes and socks on one foot at a time and he likes potato chips and tuna salad sandwiches. He is the son of “Big” Dan Newman, Jr. and the grandson of “Old” Dan Newman, Sr. Back in the early days of the automobile, Dan Sr. started the first gas station in Rockport and called it, “Old

Dan’s Gas & Lube.” In time, the Gas & Lube became a historic Rockport institution. Everybody took their cars to “Old” Dan’s Gas & Lube.

During the 1950’s, the Gas & Lube’s torch was abruptly passed from father to son when Old Dan Sr. suddenly died after mouth siphoning gasoline from a Buick Roadmaster. Following his funeral that was attended by hundreds of people, the garage was proudly rechristened as “Big Dan’s Gas & Lube.” Not surprisingly, everyone still took their cars to “Big” Dan’s.

“Big” Dan was well supported by his wife, Wilmena, who everyone called “Mrs. Dan.” She helped at the cash register and pumps and did the bookkeeping. With the birth of Dan III, the next piece fell in place for a future generation to inherit the Gas & Lube. When Dan III reached his teens and began learning the ropes of the family business, “Big Dan” christened him “Little Dan” and the garage was renamed as “Big Dan’s and Little Dan’s Gas & Lube.” It’s needless to say that everybody still took their cars to Big Dan’s and Little Dan’s.

With a successful past, a thriving present, and a hopeful future that blessed all who labored at the Gas & Lube, Little Dan’s parents felt joy, and security for their son’s future.

Then, the storm era came along. At first, the resilient Gas & Lube was able to hold its own until one day when it turned into a skid that would forever change its path. Following 5 years of storms, Big Dan, Mrs. Dan, and Little Dan all found themselves trapped in a world where nothing would ever go right again.

NEXT: Part 4: Episode 2: “The Ballad of “Derecho” Dan” continues

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Lakewood Is Art

Just The One This Time: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 83

by Buzz Kompier

Rubella - Gallows Humor - Eleventh Hour Recording Company - 8 songs - LP

If we are to make assumptions based on the "r 60" that appears on the insert, I believe this is Rubella's 60th release, which is pretty impressive. It's pretty weird that this is on Eleventh Hour, making Rubella label mates with

Bill Fox, since this is not in any way folky. It's more of an electronic alternative rock thing, with some songs slipping more towards punk, some with an industrial feel, and some, weirdly, towards pop. Songs like "Hungry Horses" and "Short Breaths" are almost songs I could hear playing on a different universe's version of whatever the alternative rock radio station

is. I was told there was no guitar on this record and I have to agree. I also realized at some point that almost none of the lyrics rhyme, but you barely notice. The lyrics tend to be somewhat, shall I say, edgy, but not in a bad way. It works with the music. Also, in the first song, they reference the Hilliard Bridge, which makes this record solidly more local than most of what I review here. At certain times (especially on the opening track, "Trust Falls"), I'm reminded a bit of Brainiac, but with some of the manic energy replaced by a more resigned feel— especially in terms of the vocals; where Brainiac would have falsetto and yelps, Rubella have

a weary almost-monotone— which, again, does work with the overall feel of the record. The songs all seem like they were pieced together very intentionally, and as a whole, the record works well as an album. There's a certain mood you have to be in to listen to this kind of thing, I think, but when you're in that mood, it's not bad. 3.5/5

(2300records.com)

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

Lakewood City Crews Beat Back Winter Storm Harper, Job Well Done



The first real storm of 2019 “Harper” dumped 8” on Lakewood. But Lakewood City Crews and Safety Crews tamed it and gave great service to all. This was next morning a plow trucks plows streets a little wider.



by Eva Starr

- Aries:** Mars is visiting the Rams mountain until the 15th, full speed ahead... after that you’ve been granted patience, you’ll even be able to wait in line at the Post Office
- Taurus:** Mars moves into your Bull Pen after the 15th, lighting a fire under you...you’ll be seeing red this month but let it go, grudges aren’t a good look for the Bull, try chocolate instead
- Gemini:** The Twins are all about using your charismatic charm on that hottie, keep it light, keep it playful, invite your latest crush to an arcade or a harmless game of bowling to close the deal
- Cancer:** Wonderment is your scrabble word Crab, check out that new shop that looks like a cross between vintage & mystical, while you’re wondering who wrote the book of love
- Leo:** We know the Lion is King of the Jungle, however that doesn’t mean there’s no room for personal growth, there may be a Lioness waiting for you in one of those New Age shops
- Virgo:** Timing is everything, & you’ve got Divine Timing on your side, just when you least expect it, minding your own business eating that cheeseburger, someone is winking at you
- Libra:** You can afford to splurge on your sweetie this month, abundance pie is in the stars for you, maybe dinner with a view of the skyline, you’ll be able to throw in a bouquet of roses too
- Scorpio:** Perseverance is key to the Scorpion reaching the other side of the river, you will make it, keep moving right along with the current, Maid Marian is waiting across the banks

- Sagittarius:** Jupiter, the luckiest planet in the sky is in the Centaur’s sign all year... you are worthy, dream big, it’s your time to shine, get rid of the guilt...he is not invited to the party
- Capricorn:** It’s time for the Goat to leave the office, no need to “do”...you’re already here, Venus the Planet of Love has just showed up at your door, maybe a couple’s massage?
- Aquarian:** The Sun is in your sign, & Mercury is visiting until the 11th, it’s snowing silver dollars for you my friend, prosperity is waiting to show you around town, maybe Sushi?
- Pisces:** There’s magic for the fish in that pond of yours, the stars are looking dreamier, swim on over to that mermaid you’ve had your eye on and watch the moon from the Solstice steps
- Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at evastarr@evastarr.com

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Lakewood Observer

LakewoodAlive Announces Award Honorees To Be Recognized At “Loving Lakewood: There’s No Place Like Home”

by Matt Bixenstine

Fifteen years of community vibrancy doesn’t happen by accident. Rather, it’s achieved thanks to strong leaders who routinely demonstrate qualities like passion, perseverance, foresight and commitment.

In celebration of 15 years of vibrant neighborhoods, LakewoodAlive announces the inception of the Founders Award. This honor recognizes citizens who have made exceptional contributions to our city’s spirit of community vibrancy through demonstrating a love and loyalty for Lakewood, perseverance through challenges, unique foresight of our city’s potential and steadfast commitment to making our community a better place.

LakewoodAlive proudly announces that community leaders Jenni Baker, Mary Anne Crampton, Jay Foran and Mikelann Rensel will serve as inaugural recipients of the Founders Award. This quartet will join outstanding volunteers Aaron Cooper, Rob Donaldson and Missy Toms in serving as award honorees during Loving Lakewood: There’s No Place Like Home taking place Saturday, February 23, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. Each will be honored as part of the evening’s festivities in recognition of their exemplary service to LakewoodAlive and the Lakewood community.

Tickets are now on sale for There’s No Place Like Home, LakewoodAlive’s winter fundraiser sponsored by Cleveland Property Management Group. Guests are invited to don cocktail attire with Wizard of Oz flair to partake in a celebration of 15 years of LakewoodAlive and 10 years of our Housing Outreach Program in a historic Downtown Lakewood venue. This limited-capacity event is expected to sell out, so act faster than a swirling tornado to secure your tickets by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/NoPlaceLikeHome.

Each member of this honoree group has made an indelible impact on LakewoodAlive and our community:

Jenni Baker – Jenni served on the LakewoodAlive board from 2008 to 2014 and as board president from 2010 to 2012. During her tenure with the organization, Jenni joined event co-chair Jennifer Raynor in spearheading the growth of Light Up Lakewood from a small event at Lakewood Park to LakewoodAlive’s signature event that now draws 20,000 guests to Downtown Lakewood each December. Jenni also proved instrumental during LakewoodAlive’s leadership transition from Mary Anne Crampton to Ian Andrews, presiding over a board that guided the recruitment process from start to finish.

Mary Anne Crampton – Mary Anne served as Executive Director of LakewoodAlive from 2004 to 2011. Under Mary Anne’s leadership, an organizational culture was instilled that empowered talented and dedicated



Clockwise from top left: Aaron Cooper, Rob Donaldson, Missy Toms, Mikelann Rensel, Jay Foran, Mary Anne Crampton and Jenni Baker

Lakewood residents to collaborate on implementing a vision for revitalization and community engagement with programming that still remains in place today. She oversaw LakewoodAlive’s role in the revitalization of Downtown Lakewood and helped guide a successful transition of leadership to Ian Andrews. In 2011 Mary Anne was honored as Business Person of the Year by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

Jay Foran – Jay served on the LakewoodAlive board from 2004 to 2014, spending time as both vice president and secretary. As one of the pioneers of the organization, Jay played an integral role in developing the vision for LakewoodAlive’s community engagement model and creating the organization’s name and brand. He also spearheaded the conception and coordination of LakewoodAlive’s Community Forum series to engage residents and foster respectful dialogue regarding important community issues.

Mikelann Rensel – Mikelann served on the LakewoodAlive board from 2004 to 2014, occupying the roles of president and secretary at different times. A founding member of the organization, Mikelann was instrumental in the creation of the Housing Outreach Program as LakewoodAlive began its evolution into a community development organization. She also spearheaded the advent of LakewoodAlive’s Housing Committee, serving as the inaugural chair of this committee.

Aaron Cooper – Aaron, a member of the “A Team,” LakewoodAlive’s most experienced volunteer group, plays an instrumental role in assisting LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Program with fulfilling its mission to ensure all residents live in healthy and safe homes. During the last several years, Aaron has devoted countless hours to assisting Lakewood residents with their home repairs – volunteering individually, as a representative of Cross Point Church and as a member of the A Team. Aaron’s expertise has benefited residents with everything

from plumbing repairs to aging in place adoptions to garage repairs.

Rob Donaldson – Rob serves on LakewoodAlive’s board and as chair of the Design Committee, which seeks to beautify and improve Lakewood’s commercial streetscapes. In this role Rob helped spearhead LakewoodAlive’s Warren Road Beautification Project, which resulted in a new public art mural, bus shelter wrap, bikes lanes and planter boxes along this main artery into Downtown Lakewood. Rob continues to provide leadership in the Design Committee’s ambitious plans for 2019 and beyond. He also regularly assists with setup and teardown at LakewoodAlive’s community events.

Missy Toms – Missy is a key member of LakewoodAlive’s Development Committee, which serves as the fundraising arm of the organization. In this capacity Missy routinely lends her fundraising expertise, assisting with LakewoodAlive’s bi-annual fundraising campaigns and the annual “Loving Lakewood” winter fundraising event. Additionally, as a member of Kauffman Park Friends, Missy volunteers at LakewoodAlive’s annual Spooky Pooch Parade, a community event that has grown considerably in recent years.

“We are thrilled to be able to recognize Jenni, Mary Anne, Jay, Mikelann, Aaron, Rob and Missy for their incredible contributions, not only to LakewoodAlive, but to the entire Lakewood community,” said Ian Andrews, LakewoodAlive Executive Director. “These community leaders have served vital roles within our organization and we are forever grateful for the remarkable impact each has made during LakewoodAlive’s first 15 years.”

There’s No Place Like Home will feature Oz-themed food, drinks, décor and entertainment. Proceeds will support LakewoodAlive’s programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. Much like Dorothy and the cast of characters making the adventurous trek to Emerald City, we at LakewoodAlive possess the heart, brains and courage necessary to assist the wonderful residents of Lakewood along the journey to achieving an even more vibrant community.

More details regarding There’s No Place Like Home will be unveiled in the coming weeks. For ongoing updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/NoPlaceLikeHome.

About LakewoodAlive

There’s no place like home. At LakewoodAlive we don’t have magical ruby slippers, yet we strive to serve a vital role in the lives of Lakewood residents in need through our Housing Outreach Program. Our journey follows a yellow brick road on the path to community vibrancy. The 5.5 square miles comprising Lakewood is our Kansas, and we take our responsibilities very seriously. As the immortal lyrics from Over the Rainbow state, “Dreams really do come true.”

Loving Lakewood: There’s No Place Like Home is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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Lakewood Cares



City of Lakewood Employees Brian J. O'Boyle (right) and Dawn Watkins hand check to Colleen Timm of Lakewood Community Service Center.

Lakewood City Employees Donate To Lakewood Community Service Center

by Denis DeVito

The City of Lakewood Public Works and Administration employees once again participated in the 2018 Light Up Lakewood event. Our city's employees are represented by local 1043 of AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.) For the second straight year, Lakewood's finest volunteered and braved the rains to supply the Light Up Lakewood folks free hot chocolate. Without soliciting donations for the steamy brew, the AFSCME members collected \$200 in donations from the generous Lakewood party-goers. The AFSCME members matched the \$200 and presented a check for \$400 to the Lakewood Community Service Center.

The LCSC provides basic needs assistance and personalized resource and referral services with the goal of empowering each individual to move toward greater self-sufficiency. This awesome organization offers a comprehensive menu of supportive services including community meals, homelessness prevention, mental/behavioral health services and an emergency food pantry. Thanks to all of the city employees who gave their time and effort to participate in this annual Lakewood event. Special thanks to Brian O'Boyle who is a member of the Parks Department, not only did he do most of the organization for the hot chocolate give-away, but he donated much time and effort to make it a success.

Author Judy McNerney Brings A Renaissance Secret To Lakewood

by Eleanor Detke

Coming into the Blue Moon Book Club which already has as a member a published Lakewood resident, Barbara Raymond, author Judy McNerney felt a bit nervous. Her son-in-law Greg Schroeder, whose mother Eleanor Detke had arranged the event had assured her of a warm welcome and an engaged group of enthusiastic readers. They were there to talk about her novel, "The Pumilio Child," an unsettling thriller that challenges the idea that Italy during the Renaissance was cultured and refined. The day-to day reality was surprisingly different. The main question of the evening was, what had been the inspiration behind the novel. An exhibition at the Royal Academy in London of the paintings of Andrea Mantegna, a famous Renaissance painter, had piqued McNerney's initial interest, and her research dredged up a really chilling secret which formed the sub-plot of the novel. Further research also showed her that captives from the east were brought down the Silk Routes and sold at slave markets in Venice.

When looking at the characters in Andrea Mantegna's dazzling family fresco in the Gonzaga palace in Mantua, Italy, McNerney imagined the ruling family and their courtiers coming to life to reveal the story of a young slave woman. What if a young educated Chinese woman from a family of culture and privilege in the Ming Dynasty Beijing were to be abducted and shipped to the slave market in Venice and bought by Mantegna to become part of his household. How would she survive? And when this terrible secret came to light would she dare tackle the power of the Gonzaga court and stop it from happening? McNerney need not have worried about her reception. The ladies of the Blue Moon Book Club turned out to be a stimulating and very convivial audience. The evening provoked some demanding lines of inquiry and discussion, along with plenty of laughter. With new friendships formed the author felt it was worth crossing the pond and everyone agreed it shouldn't be a once in a blue moon event.

Lakewood Community Service Center Helps Out During Government Shutdown

by Jim O'Bryan

Trish Rooney over at Lakewood Community Service Center on Madison Avenue wanted to make sure that all furloughed federal workers who live in Lakewood, Rocky River or Westlake know that they are welcome to visit Lakewood Community Services Cen-

ter to receive free food for the length of the shutdown. Please bring proof of government employment. We are located at 14230 Madison Avenue. Our hours are Monday through Friday from 10am – 2pm and Wednesday evening from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Cox Communications Offers Government Shutdown Help For Federal Employees

by Jeff Lavery

Due to the ongoing government shutdown, Cox Communications announced today that new bill pay options will be made available to assist affected federal employees with their monthly payments. Local impacted federal employees that are unable to make a payment by their account's due date should contact Cox and ask about "Promise to Pay" and "Promise to Pay with Extension" options which will limit late payment reminders or give customers more time to pay without worrying about interruption to their Cox services. Representatives are available via phone, text, and online chat to discuss which options will best suit a customer's unique needs. Affected federal employees should sign into My Account and review the My Bill card. If greeted with the message, "Can't pay today? Request help here," customers should click through to visit the Payment Arrangement Options page. There, they will see options to schedule a future payment beyond the current due date or request additional time to make a payment later. Follow the remaining two steps for either option to complete your payment arrange-

ment online. Customers who do not see the "Can't pay today?" options in My Account should call 1-844-221-3930 to speak with a special team representative Monday through Friday. To text a representative, type 54512 on a mobile phone or visit www.cox.com/chat for support any time. Additionally, representatives are also available in all Cox retail stores. To find a retail location, visit www.cox.com/retail. Cox customers in Ohio can visit Solutions Stores in Parma and Fairview Park at the Westgate Mall. **About Cox Communications** Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through broadband applications and services. The largest private telecom company in America, we proudly serve six million homes and businesses across 18 states. We're dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that makes each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

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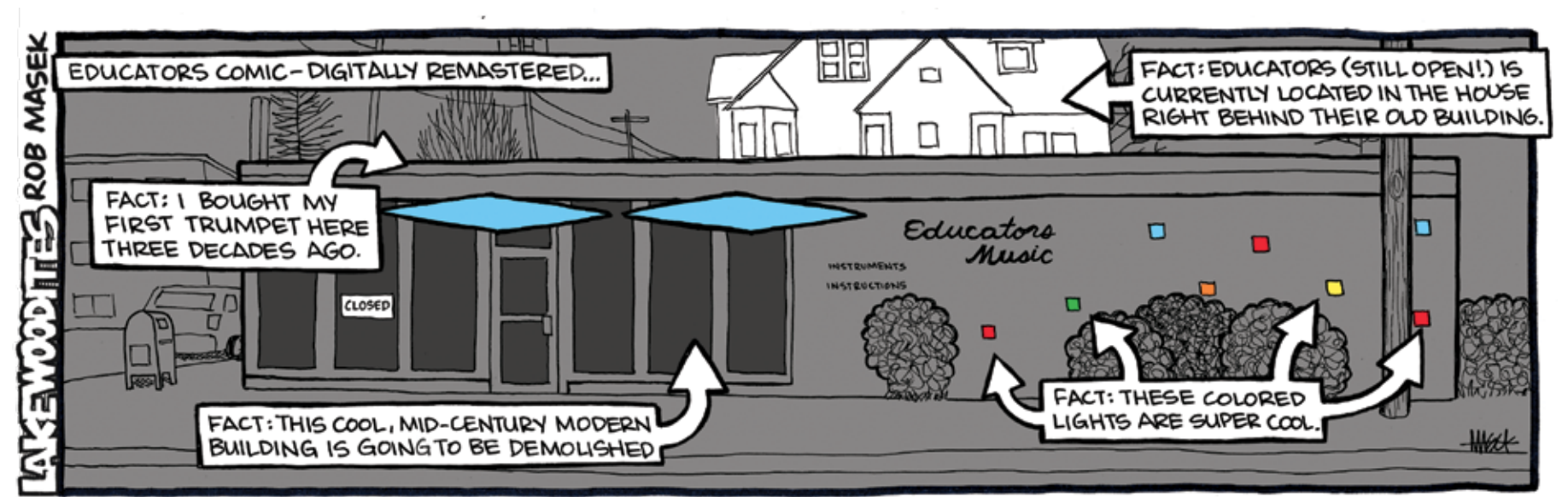
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