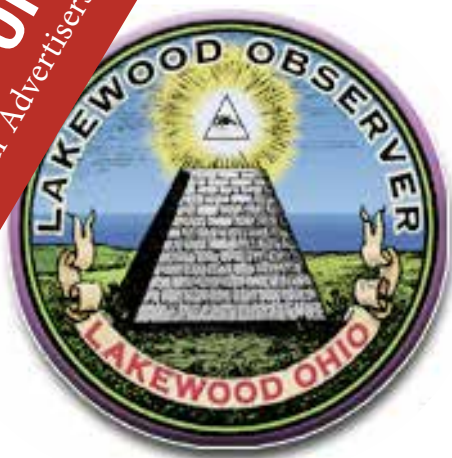


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“It’s so much darker when a light goes out than it would have been if it had never shone.” - John Steinbeck, *The Winter of Our Discontent*

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 15, Issue 05, March 6, 2019

The Intergenerational Tea Party Brings STEM Fun To The Woman’s Pavilion

by DeDe MacNamee-Gold

It’s that time again for one of Lakewood’s cherished community events, the Intergenerational Tea Party. Launch your dreams of space exploration in a fun-filled afternoon at the Woman’s Pavilion, Lakewood Park. The party is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2019 from 4 to 6 P.M. Our guest of honor is Luciana Vega, the 2018 American Girl Doll, Girl of the Year. This year’s theme is Space Exploration and we are ready for a STEM afternoon. The Woman’s Pavilion

will be transformed into a space camp, complete with a presentation by Great Lakes Science Center on STEM.

The party will start with delicious tea-time sandwiches, tea, hot chocolate, goodies, and of course, our perennial favorite, the Parade of Dolls. Dress for a space exploration party, and bring your doll or teddy bear to join in the parade, as it winds its way through the room. Moms don’t forget your cameras! There will be tickets for sale for the raffle prizes. The highlight of the afternoon will be the drawing

for our guest of honor, American Girl Doll, Luciana Vega.

Tickets are \$15 each, which includes your chance to win Luciana Vega. Purchase your tickets and reserve your place now. Seating is limited, so act quickly!

This event is sponsored by the Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging, together with the Lakewood Commission on Aging.

Please contact us at 216-521-1515 to arrange for your tickets.

Great Work Jill Vedda And Salt



photos by Jim O'Bryan

As we were going to press we received the news that Jill Vedda and Salt had once again been named finalists in the prestigious James Beard Awards. We are extremely proud of Jill and the entire staff; you have worked to make Salt a true dining experience on Lakewood’s west side. **Foodwood’s West Side story is GREAT ENTERTAINMENT!**

Goodbye Old Friend



photo by Brian Fox

On pages 7-10 we take you inside a Lakewood landmark as you have never seen it before. The City of Lakewood gave our publisher complete access to the inside of Lakewood Hospital after everyone had gone through it. The time was used to document every inch of this historic institution. We have just put another 300 documents and photos online for your enjoyment.

Hannah Wins State Title In Indoor Hurdles



photo by Alex Belisle

Congratulations to senior Tyler Hannah, who won the Division 1 Indoor title in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 7.96 seconds! Tyler was seeded second going into the race and narrowly beat out the runnerup by .09 seconds. Tyler will next compete at the New Balance Nationals Indoor competition in New York City March 9. (Photo by Alex Belisle)

Next Steps On Our Journey Of Discovery

by Dr. Michael Barnes

Picking up from where we left off in my first column, I wanted to share a recent session in our Journey of Discovery that involved the entire staff of Lakewood City Schools during our Professional Development Day in mid-February. It was powerful to have nearly 800 people talking together, all focused on determining the

collective vision of what our students need from us in order to enjoy productive, fulfilling, and healthy lives.

We thought about how technology has impacted our students in ways we never predicted – both positively and negatively. This led us to talk about how we must prepare our students through nurturing flexibility, adaptability, curiosity, critical thinking, etc., to be ready for technologies that have yet to be created.

As part of the discussion, I asked our staff members to share what skills, abilities and habits of mind they thought our students needed to possess to succeed in the world that awaits them upon graduation. What was so wonderful to discover was that the qualities that our staff mentioned were the same ones that have been shared with us during our many conversations with community members at our Listen & Learn sessions and other encounters since the start of the school year. Some of the top qualities mentioned were collaboration, creativity, empathy, resilience, and flexibility, among others.

So we’ve been gathering the information on our journey, now what will we do with the information?



- Organize the data into themes;
 - Use these themes to develop perceived strengths and priorities;
 - Test these priorities through a community survey;
 - Sort through the survey results to crystalize and subsequently celebrate what will become our Lakewood City Schools strategic priorities;
 - Develop action plans and implementation processes for each of the strategic priorities.
- We have been so encouraged on this journey by the enthusiasm and strong support from our community toward our school district. We are in this together to create an even stronger system for our youth that will provide them the best foundation for their future success.

Michael J. Barnes, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Lakewood City Schools

Hot Off The Deck

Don't Lakewood Government Officials Have A Duty To Follow The Law?

by Edward Graham

On April 22, 2018 Lakewood City Council members Anderson, Bullock, Litton, O'Leary, and O'Malley voted to pass Lakewood Ordinance Number 27-18. That ordinance, among other things, authorized Mayor Summers to execute a development agreement with Carnegie Management And Development Corporation. That agreement provides for the City to sell to Carnegie Management And Development Corporation TWENTY EIGHT (28) parcels of land owned by the City for ONE DOLLAR!! That's right. You didn't misread. FOR ONE DOL-

LAR!!!!!! Such a deal.

Council members Anderson, Bullock, Litton, O'Leary, O'Malley and Mayor Summers chose to ignore the law in Ohio that when a city is going to sell real estate, the city is required to advertise the sale for FIVE (5) WEEKS. Lakewood government officials DID NOT advertise the sale of those valuable 28 parcels for even one week.

That same state law requires that any sale of real estate by a city be only with the HIGHEST BIDDER. There has been no advertisement. Therefore, there was no bidding. Once again, those City officials have demonstrated

their preference for rigged deals, like their giveaway of our valuable hospital, rather than following state law.

Another company of George Papandreas, the agent for Carnegie Management And Development Corporation, had to be sued by the City of Beachwood to recover over \$80,000.00 income tax money owed to that city. Is he a close buddy with Mayor Summers? Apparently Lakewood City Officials have no concern that Carnegie Management And Development Corporation might fail to pay income tax to Lakewood? What could Lakewood expect illegally giving away City property to that company?

The mayor and council members got away with the rigged hospital deal that cost citizens many millions of dollars by using clandestine meetings away from the public view and continuous lying to the public. Apparently feeling invincible after getting away with their rigged hospital deal, City officials now seem to feel safe enough to simply disregard the bidding laws of our state.

Steering deals to insiders without following bidding laws has got to stop if Lakewood is going to survive as a desirable place to live.

Edward Graham is a former member of Lakewood City Council.

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Burning River Baroque To Perform At Lakewood Congregational Church

by Shari Nacson

Burning River Baroque continues their 7th season with a series of thought-provoking performances, beginning Tuesday, March 19. "The Other Side of the Story: Untold Perspectives on Familiar Tales" has been crafted to connect baroque music to contemporary social issues.

The March series includes a


Sunday, March 23, performance at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 West Clifton Boulevard). The performance is at 7pm with a \$10 to \$20 suggested donation.

The March performances engage audiences around the timeless issues of toxic masculinity and consent. Historic

continued on page 14

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline

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Lakewood Observer

Dynamic Lakewood Businesses Give Back

by Celia Dorsch

BEER ENGINE has been a cornerstone business in Lakewood since 2007. Partnering with Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation (LCAC), BEER ENGINE has raised more than \$15,000 to help struggling families and senior citizens in our community.

Each year, LCAC’s all volunteer board has to raise \$25,000 to carry out its mission of providing food for the holidays and cleaning supplies in the spring to Lakewood residents in need. This year BEER ENGINE is celebrating its 12th anniversary by joining forces with Woodstock BBQ in hopes of raising a record donation for Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.

From March 1 - March 18, 2019 BEER ENGINE and Woodstock BBQ will invite patrons to purchase personalized taps, mugs, growlers, and kegs to paper the walls of each establishment. Prices vary from \$1.00 to \$100.00, with LCAC receiving 100% of the money raised during the campaign.

On March 18th at 6:00pm, Mayor Summers will be at BEER ENGINE to accept a check from BE owner, Bob Wright and Woodstock BBQ’s owner, Robert Togliatti on behalf of LCAC and all the families who will benefit from the combined charity fundraiser.

There are hundreds of people who struggle to feed themselves and their families in Lakewood. With the community’s

generous support, LCAC is able to provide food to more than 600 families over the holidays and deliver much appreciated cleaning supplies to 150 households each spring.

It’s been said that “it takes a village to raise a family.” Nowhere is this more true than right here in Lakewood.

Lakewood Women’s Club To Host 3rd Annual Spring Fundraiser

by Kristy Feyedelem

Nominations Open Now for Women Honoring Women

Lakewood Women’s Club is seeking nominations for its third annual spring fundraiser, Women Honoring Women, to be presented on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at Vosh in Lakewood, Ohio. This event will recognize outstanding women whose charitable service and economic enrichment have made an exceptional impact in Lakewood, Ohio.

The Women Honoring Women awards will recognize women for a variety of accomplishments from career to volunteer and philanthropic endeavors. In addition, a college scholarship award will be presented to an outstanding young woman who has made a significant impact in the community.

The event will “...delight in the beauty of the butterfly [and celebrate] the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty (Maya Angelou).”

LCAC is a 100% volunteer organization. It works hand in hand with over 200 event volunteers and supporters from area schools, businesses organizations, and churches. It takes all of us working together to raise money, conduct food drives, and deliver food and basic sup-

plies to our neighbors in need.

Please stop between March 1st and March 18th at BEER ENGINE - 15315 Madison Ave. and Woodstock BBQ -13362 Madison Ave. to paper their walls in support of Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.

Award categories include:
Community Leader
This award honors a woman who has demonstrated excellence in leadership through deep local understanding and outstanding initiative. She consistently advances community-driven, innovative, and sustainable solutions to the region’s most pressing challenges and provides service to either one organization or a variety of volunteer activities. The charitable activities/ events or service listed on the applica-

tion cannot be part of the nominee’s job description or duties.
Business Leader
This award recognizes a woman who reflects quality and dedication in the operation of a business in Lakewood or who plays a key role in establishing and implementing an economic development vision in Lakewood. She serves as a role model and participates in community affairs

continued on page 5



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DAN O'MALLEY

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Ardeshir Hashmi, MD

Changes like these are why seeing a geriatric specialist is so important, similar to a child’s need for specialized pediatric care. That’s why Cleveland Clinic has introduced a new program, providing annual “tune-ups” for people age 50 and older.

The Successful Aging Program offers one-hour appointments with a care team, including a Successful Aging specialist who is a board-certified geriatrician, as well as a pharmacist, nurse and social worker. You can be referred to a nutritionist or physical therapist, if needed. Visits include vision, hearing and other age-appropriate screenings. They also include memory, fall-risk and medication assessments. The team covers all issues that

matter most to you and then shares recommendations with your regular doctor.

“An important focus is ‘deprescribing,’ or reducing patients’ medications and discussing alternatives,” says Cleveland Clinic Successful Aging specialist Ardeshir Hashmi, MD. “The dosage that was perfect for you five years ago may be too much for you now.”

Dr. Hashmi sees patients at Cleveland Clinic’s main campus and Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center.

Patients should begin Successful Aging visits as early as age 50, he says. Research shows that early treatments can preserve your brain health and mobility as you age.

“Too often we see patients who are already having falls or memory problems,” says Dr. Hashmi. “The longer you wait to address these things, the fewer your treatment options.”

Aging is a marathon, he says. People need to pace themselves earlier so they can prevent problems and stay in the race longer.

The Successful Aging Program is offered at nine Cleveland Clinic locations throughout Northeast Ohio. Caregivers are encouraged to attend appointments with patients. To make an appointment, call 216.444.5665 or visit clevelandclinic.org/successfulaging.

Welcome DeVon Preston, MD Allergy and Clinical Immunology

Allergist DeVon Preston, MD, is now seeing patients at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center and Richard E. Jacobs Health Center in Avon.



DeVon Preston, MD

Treating patients five years and older, Dr. Preston’s specialty interests include seasonal and environmental allergies, food allergies, allergy shots, asthma, and sinus diseases.


Dr. Preston earned his medical degree and completed an internal medicine residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School. He also completed a fellowship in allergy and immunology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Preston at Lakewood Family Health Center or Richard E. Jacobs Health Center, call 216.444.6503.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Spring Book Sale Preview

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host a Members Only Preview Sale. Join at the door for as little as \$3.00.

Main Library Friends' Book Sale Area

Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Author Event - "100 Things to See in the Night Sky: From Planets and Satellites to Meteors and Constellations, Your Guide to Stargazing" by Dean Regas

Rocket through space and sail among billions of stars and galaxies as author Dean Regas guides you through the universe. Utilizing amazing simulation software, you'll stop at the Moon and individual planets. Dean Regas has been the Astronomer for the Cincinnati Observatory since 2000 and is the co-host of Star Gazers, a backyard astronomy program airing on PBS stations around the world. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Main Library Auditorium

Friday, March 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Traveling Stanzas: Immigrant Voices Opening Gala

Featuring: David Hassler, Director Wick Poetry Center; Katie Daley, Teaching Artist Wick Poetry Center

We invite you to celebrate the opening of Traveling Stanzas: Immigrant Voices. David Hassler will speak about the history and impact of the Traveling Stanzas exhibits, and Katie Daley will speak about leading workshops in our community to create poetry featured in our exhibit. The poetry created in these workshops is directly reflected in this public display. There will also be a performance by the Global Connections, and a poetry reading. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. Opening remarks begin at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Grand Reading Room

Saturday, March 9, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Spring Book Sale

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host the Spring Book Sale.

Main Library Friends' Book Sale Area

Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - "Our Man in Havana" (1959), Directed by Carol Reed

Presented by Terry Meehan

Author Graham Greene's experiences as an actual spy inspired this witty satire about a vacuum cleaner salesman who is recruited by MI-6 in Cuba during the Batista regime. By the time Greene arrived in Havana to make the film, Fidel Castro had come down from the mountains to take over. Terry Meehan presents a new film series, Cold War Chronicles, introducing each film with an original video, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, March 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Historical Reenactment - Women in History: Ida B. Wells Barnett

Ida B. Wells Barnett was an African-American educator, investigative journalist, anti-lynching campaigner, founding member of the NAACP and civil rights crusader. She arguably became the most famous black woman in America, during a life that was centered on combating prejudice and violence. Women in History is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the education of all people through the dramatic re-creation of lives of the notable women in U.S. history.

Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

"Citizen" Book Discussion, Led by Damien Ware

In her award-winning book "Citizen: An American Lyric," poet Claudia Rankine lays bare moments of racism that often surface in everyday encounters. It combines poetry with commentary, visual art, quotations from artists and critics, slogans and scripts for films, to become a provocative meditation on race. It is "an anatomy of American racism in the new millennium" (Bookforum). Leading these discussions of "Citizen" is local poet Damien Ware.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Children And Youth

compiled by Jeffrey Siebert

Friday, March 8, 2019, 4:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Stories About Kenya! Meet Local Author, Daniel J. Cleary
For students in kindergarten through fifth Grade.

Daniel J. Cleary has traveled extensively in Kenya and will read two of his titles and compare and contrast children's lives in Kenya to children's lives in the United States. This will be followed by a craft; make your own rain stick to take home with you. Registration is required.

The Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Tuesdays, March 6- April 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Happy Chinese

For students in first through sixth Grade.

Learn about Chinese characters, expressions and culture in this seven-week interactive program. Registration required.

The Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Legends of China: Culture and Poetry

Presented by Shunqin Li of the Confucius Institute at Cleveland State University
Take a look at the legends of ancient Chinese Tang poetry in this four-week course taught by visiting professor Shunqin Li. This poetry series will open a window to Chinese culture through song, language and artistic expression. Experience Chinese history through poetry of the Tang dynasty and your own creation. The Confucius Institute works to support programs and activities that help to deepen the relationship between Cleveland and China.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Staffed Exhibit Times

When visitors interact with digital creative tools such as Emerge or Thread, their voices will be incorporated into the exhibit in a variety of ways—from a scrolling group poem to posted cards printed from the Emerge web application. If you want to engage with these tools, but don't know where to start, visit while our docents can assist. To schedule for large groups please email events@lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 174.

Main Library Second Floor Gallery

Thursday March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Poetry Workshop

Led by Leanne Hoppe

From the Italian, stanza means a room—a place to pause. Indeed, Traveling Stanzas offers individuals moments of pause, with which to reflect on their lives, their city and a shared experience of their community. Leanne Hoppe, local teacher, editor and translator will lead workshops in the Traveling Stanzas Exhibit to give attendees a structured moment to explore the interactive tools.

Main Library Second Floor Gallery

Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Non-Fiction Book Club

Come and join the conversation with 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 "Citizen: An American Lyric" by Claudia Rankine

Main Library Meeting Room

Friday, March 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - "Moonlight" (2016), Directed by Barry Jenkins

A young, gay, African-American man, Chiron (Ashton Sanders), deals with his dysfunctional home life while coming of age in Miami during the War on Drugs era. The story of his struggle to find himself is told across three defining chapters in his life as he experiences the ecstasy, pain and beauty of falling in love while grappling with his own sexuality. His epic journey to manhood is guided by the support of the community that helps raise him.

Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - "A Dog's Purpose" (2017), Directed by Lasse Hallström

Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill

Four dogs are connected from one lifetime to the next, starting with Bailey. His human is young Ethan (K. J. Apa). After Bailey's life is over, he continues through his lifetimes until becoming Buddy, who is abandoned on a country road and catches a familiar scent. He sees older Ethan (Dennis Quaid) on the property once owned by his grandparents. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Film "Darby O'Gill and the Little People" (1959)

Just-fired Darby O'Gill (Albert Sharpe) does not want to tell his daughter, Katie (Janet Munro), that his position has been taken by a younger man (Sean Connery). On his way home, Darby slips through a portal to the land of the little people. There he meets the leprechaun king, Brian (Jimmy O'Dea), and winds up accidentally bringing him home with him. Darby then demands Brian grant him three wishes, but the request brings Darby unexpected results.

Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 (18 and younger only) at 7:00 p.m.

Poetry Workshop, Led by Leanne Hoppe

From the Italian, stanza means a room—a place to pause. Indeed, Traveling Stanzas offers individuals moments of pause, with which to reflect on their lives, their city and a shared experience of their community. Leanne Hoppe, local teacher, editor and translator will lead workshops in the Traveling Stanzas Exhibit to give attendees a structured moment to explore the interactive tools. Tuesday, March 19, 2019 is reserved for individuals 18 and under.

Main Library Second Floor Gallery



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Lakewood Public Library

Traveling Stanzas: Immigrant Voices Poetry Exhibit Workshops With Leanne Hoppe

by Lisa Calfee

Poetry helps us understand ourselves and others in a way nothing else can. It filters out what doesn't matter and intensifies what does, distilling our collective life experiences into verse. With that in mind, Lakewood Public Library and the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University present "Traveling Stanzas: Immigrant Voices," an interactive exhibit where inspiration flows in a special space that allows you to create your own poetry and enjoy the poetry of others in our community with the use of creative writing tools, activities and technology.

The display is open to visitors from March 1, 2019 through April 30, 2019 to explore independently, but on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., Leanne Hoppe, local teacher, editor and translator, will lead the first in a series of workshops to explore the different aspects of the exhibit. The display can be found on the Main Library Second

Floor Gallery. The Madison branch will have a small interactive component of the exhibit as well.

Leanne Hoppe will return for another workshop specifically designed for individuals 18 and under on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The full list of dates for Leanne Hoppe's Poetry Workshops are:

Thursdays: March 14, 2019; March 28, 2019; April 11, 2019 and April 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: March 19, 2019 (18 and younger only); April 2, 2019 and April 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Visiting "Traveling Stanzas: Immigrant Voices" encourages all of us to reflect on our personal worlds of experience and give voice to them through the unique expression of poetry. Join the many individuals in our community who are hoping you will take the time to listen to their stories, and before you leave, tell a few of your own.



Women In History Presents Ida B. Wells

by Amy Kloss

Ida B. Wells was a woman ahead of her time. Born a slave in 1862, Wells went on to become a journalist, civil rights activist, public speaker and educator. She was arrested in Tennessee in 1884 after refusing to give up her first-class train seat. She also ran for state senate in 1930, only a year before her death.

You can learn more about this civil rights pioneer on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium when Women in History presents the life of Ida B. Wells-Barnett in a portrayal by Sherrie Tolliver.

Wells began her anti-lynching campaign in 1892 when three black store owners in Memphis were lynched after defending themselves against an attack by a white mob angry over the success of the store. Wells' outrage grew into a series of articles in black-owned newspapers, a trip around the South to gather information and the publication of an in-depth report on lynching in America for the New York

Age. For her efforts, white citizens in Memphis destroyed her newspaper office and threatened to kill her if she returned from New York. She became Ida B. Wells-Barnett in 1895 after marrying Ferdinand Barnett, with whom she had four children. Wells-Barnett went on to establish several civil rights organizations and was present at the meeting which founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Library performance will feature Sherrie Tolliver, dressed in period costume, delivering a monologue as Ida B. Wells-Barnett, followed by a question and answer session. Founded in 1991, Women in History does extensive character research and uses authentic vintage clothing when possible. Even hairdos are styled by a specialist in historic hair design.

Join Tolliver on March 10, 2019 at this Sunday with the Friends performance to learn more about the remarkable life of Ida B. Wells-Barnett.



Lakewood Women's Club To Host 3rd Annual Spring Fundraiser

continued from page 3

and activities by contributing time, effort, and resources. She is an agent for change who shows creativity in business decisions or in development of specific products or services which help advance the business.

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

To fill out the nomination form please visit: <https://www.lakewoodwomensclub.org/nomination-form.html>

About The Lakewood Women's Club
Founded in 1962, The Lakewood Women's Club, formerly known as the Junior Women's Club of Lakewood, is a nonprofit organization made up of emerging women leaders dedicated to building a healthier community together through philanthropy and volunteerism. Our members learn about community issues, promote grant-making, forge leadership skills and build camaraderie. For more information, please visit <https://www.lakewoodwomensclub.org/>.

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Lakewood Public Schools

Staff Spotlight: Groh & Smolen

by Christine Gordillo

Each month the Lakewood City School District selects two staff members to be honored for outstanding service to the District. This month, the spotlight turns to Lakewood High secretary Deb Groh and Grant Elementary School preschool teacher Cheryl Smolen.

DEB GROH

Every day Lakewood High Main Office secretary and recordkeeper Deb Groh goes above and beyond to ensure that all staff and students have what they need to be successful. Deb is always the first one in the office and although her starting time is 7 am, you will often find her there even earlier, making sure that substitutes are secured for all absent staff. Ten teachers out for professional development? No problem. A last-minute emergency call off by a staff member? No problem. No matter what is thrown at her, Deb’s response is always the same, “I’ll figure it out, might take some juggling, but I’ll figure it out.”

Deb, who joined the District in 2001 and LHS in 2008, always goes the extra mile to make sure alumni calling for transcripts needed for a job or college application receive what they need as soon as possible. These are often frantic requests due to looming deadlines and Deb receives more than 25 of these a week! A graduate may call from over 50 years ago to request an obscure student record and Deb digs like an archaeologist to find the treasured item.

Besides her records duties, Deb also manages the mammoth LHS payroll, purchase orders, and myriad staff



Deb Groh

and administrator requests without complaint. It seems that Deb is always there for whomever may need her.

Despite working in an environment that Deb likens to a “merry-go-round spinning,” she enjoys every day and says much of that feeling is due to the “wonderful people” with whom she works.

Principal Mark Walter, Deb’s nominator, makes clear Deb’s worth to Lakewood High: “I could tell you about how I could not do this job without her. I could tell you how everyone cheered for her at the opening staff meeting. I could tell you about the long hours she puts in to make sure everything is ready for the next day. No words can truly depict how valuable she is to Lakewood High School’s success.”

CHERYL SMOLEN

While preschool teacher Cheryl Smolen has only been at Grant Elementary for one school year, her impact has been significant on the school community as she works to integrate her



Cheryl Smolen

students with special needs into the Grant Family.

When Cheryl came to Grant from spending years at Horace Mann, she noticed that the PreK class operated mostly independent of the rest of the school. She wanted to change that, primarily so her students could feel part of a community and to increase the interaction between her students and their neurotypical peers.

“I feel that if the general school population becomes comfortable around students with special needs, then when they see them out in the community, they might not be as hesitant to talk to them,” says Cheryl, who joined the District in 2002.

Cheryl reached out to her nominator, Principal Kait Turner, early on in the school year to ask that her classroom be included in the PTA holiday classroom parties and schoolwide family events planned. Principal Turner was thrilled with the suggestion and notes that parental engagement is now at an all-time high with school and PTA-sponsored events.

“Cheryl and her team of para-professionals and other support staff have broadened their scope to provide experiences to the students and their families that have enhanced the connection between home and school,” says Kait.

Another creative initiative Cheryl has used to boost interaction between K-5 and PreK is allowing students to use their PBIS Behavior Bucks to purchase a visit to the PreK classroom as student helpers. Cheryl says the idea has blossomed as her classroom welcomes a continual flow of visitors. “I try to make it fun for them so that the interaction is positive,” Cheryl says of her helpers.

Principal Turner could not be happier with the results of Cheryl’s efforts: “Grant Elementary School used to be a K-5 school building that housed a PreK classroom. Thanks to Cheryl, we have become not only a PreK-5 school, but a Ranger Family.”



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Lakewood Hospital



A note left on the window of a nurses' lounge on the 3rd floor.



The front entrance on Belle, after the \$6 million update in 2010. The preferable way to get into Lakewood Hospital.



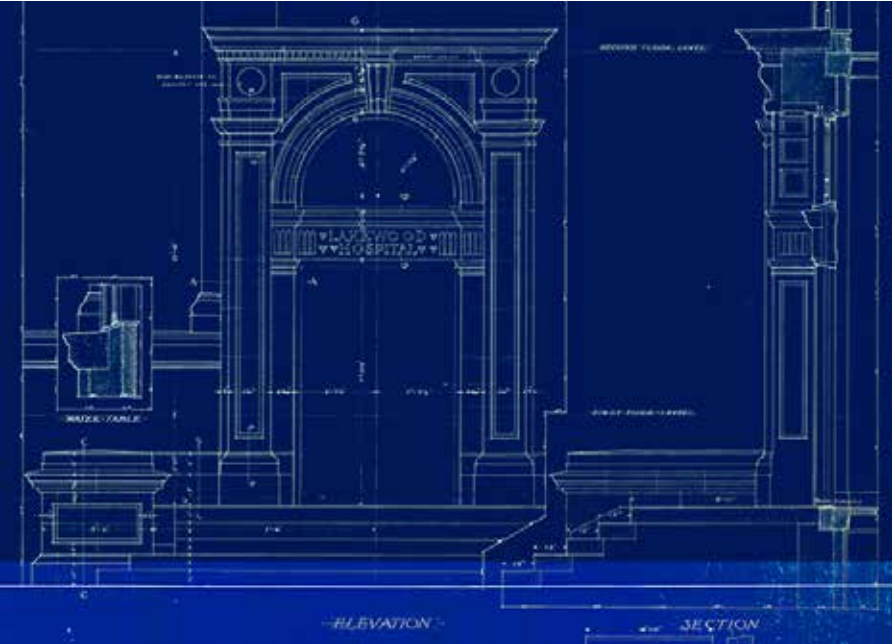
The Emergency Room's waiting room. Usually filled with parents and family members, waiting to see what the news is.



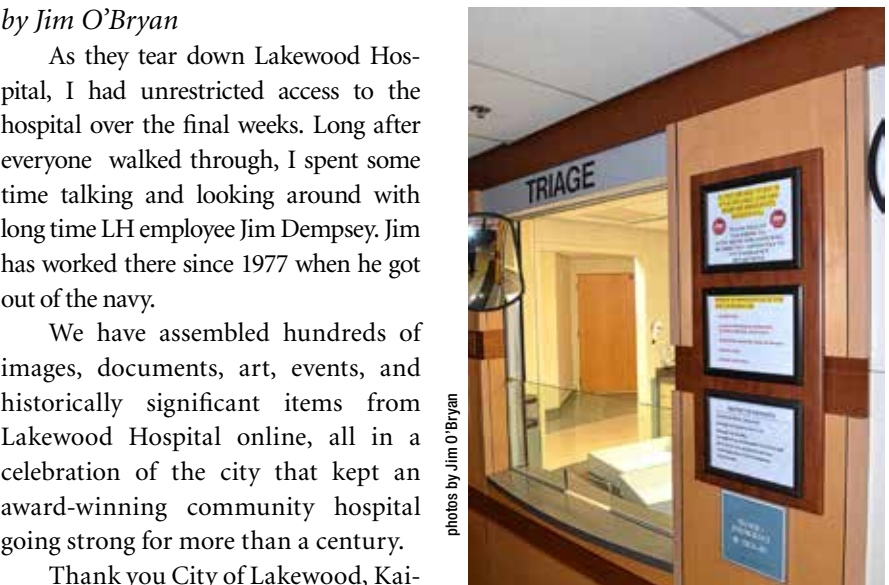
Walking into the Atrium.



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... the elevation drawings of the original front door. 1917.



The Emergency Room's Triage check in window. Below the massive emergency room empty and dark.



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Lakewood Hospital



On the afternoon of 9-11-01 a Polish immigrant who worked at the hospital went out, brought in an American Flag, and hung it in the Atrium where it stayed until it was taken down and saved by the City of Lakewood.



The amazing staircases in the Atrium. So many parents, fathers to be, mothers to be, family members and visitors traveled up and down those steps daily. One Lakewood Police officer told me of the hours he and his wife walked the steps trying to get her farther along in labor for the birth of their first child.



The original hallways from the 1930 renovation to the 1910 Hospital.



It was a very somber feeling as I turned lights on and off taking photos and poking around.



Clockwise from top: A Heart Catheterization Room. An aerial from 2018. Below: Clocks in the operating room. The one on the left is the current time, the one on the right is a multi-use stop-watch to time operations and procedures. Left: A view from the old Lakewood Hospital to the new Lakewood Family Health Center.



Lakewood Hospital



photos by Brian Fox / Jim O'Bryan

Some of the ornate stonework on what became the Electrical Building. In this photo I retouched it to remove all the power lines, pipes, junction boxes and drains that were added.



photos by Jim O'Bryan

Above: A member of the Lakewood Historical Society looks out the window on what was and takes a photo.
Below: The sink in the Morgue. Under the sink you can see the industrial grade garbage disposal. “Red Rooster” was the brand, some called it “Audrey 3” after the plant in “Little Shop of Horrors.”



photos by Jim O'Bryan

The animal testing room, last used for that purpose in the 60s. In the old days parents hoping for a child were anxious to hear, “The rabbit died!” meaning that the wife was pregnant. Well, a real rabbit was used and it would die.



photos by Jim O'Bryan



photos by Jim O'Bryan

The hallway in the basement between the Morgue and Testing labs.



The railing in the old building.



photos by Jim O'Bryan

All that is left of the original entrance. The rare Italian pink marble was saved, the pipes were not.

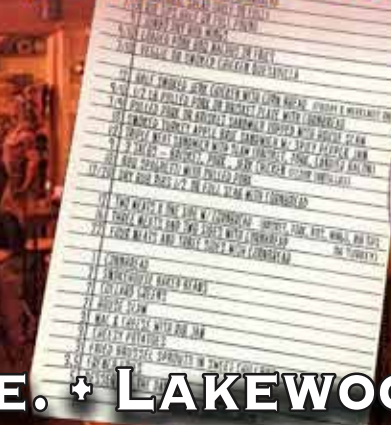
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Lakewood Hospital



My Visions Of Lakewood Hospital

by Cindy Lobaugh

As I walk through Lakewood Hospital and her beautiful halls, I hear sounds and noises of life through the years in her hallways.

Lakewood Hospital has been a very well loved and cared for Hospital and as many loving people have taken love and care for her, she has cared and loved all of her patients through her years in this blessed town of Lakewood. She was made for all of you who have lived and now live in Lakewood.

As I stroll through your blessed hallways, I can still hear beds rolling through and the overhead speaker calling for her doctors for her patients. The laughter and love of children being helped to heal and be better. Oh Lakewood Hospital...so many lives you have touched and healed. So many new

lives you have helped bring to your city.

It hurts a lot of citizens that you are no longer one of the many jewels to grace the city of Lakewood. I view you as a grand southern belle, who has so much beauty, grace and love for her community and in turn the community has taken all of their love and used it as the blood in your veins. In a few days you will run dry and I personally will shed my tears as my last days are coming for me to walk your hallowed halls.


I thank all of you who have loved and cared for all who have been a patient or staff of this beautiful hospital. My heart loves this hospital and her pride that she will always have, because of you the citizens of Lakewood!

In my heart always, Lakewood Hospital.

The boilers all standing in a row, waiting to be pulled out and destroyed.



Jim Dempsey standing next to one of two massive exhaust units.



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A photograph of the interior of a room with three large, arched windows. The windows are set into a light-colored wall and offer a view of the outdoors. The room has a patterned carpet and a drop ceiling. The image is credited to Jim O'Bryan and has a copyright notice for 2019 LakewoodObserver.com.

The "Three Arches" were originally over the front door. Along the way, half of them were covered up and cut down, a balcony added, and it became many things including an office and a lounge for workers.

A historical black and white photograph of a street scene, likely Detroit Avenue, showing trolley tracks being laid. A trolley is visible on the tracks, and several people are standing on the sidewalk. In the background, the Lakewood Hospital building is visible. The image is credited to the Cleveland State Memory Project.

Detroit Avenue, about 1915. You can see them laying the second trolley track as Lakewood Hospital gets built in the background. We are gathering together as many documents, photos, memories, and movies as we can in a celebration of the hundred plus years that Lakewood had its own hospital, and the control of the healthcare of its own residents.

<http://lakewoodobserver.com> and lakewoodobserver.com/forum

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Lakewood Public Schools

The Herb Guild Scholarship Information

by Barbara Armstrong

The Herb Guild Garden Club is offering a one-time scholarship available to graduating high school seniors as well as Lorain County Community College and Cuyahoga Community College current freshmen or sophomore students. Applicants must be residents of the state of Ohio and a U.S. citizen. (International or foreign exchange students are not eligible). Only students with a proposed academic study in Forestry, Botany, Horticulture, Environmental Science, Agriculture, Landscaping, or Culinary Arts are eligible for this scholarship. For further information contact Mary Kay Filipiak at 440-926-2469.

Barnes and Noble Celebrates Teachers With Ninth Annual "My Favorite Teacher" Contest

by Heidi Egan

High School Students Can Nominate Their Favorite K-12 Teachers for the "Barnes & Noble National Teacher of the Year" Award

National Winner and Their School to Split \$10,000 in Cash Prizes

Barnes & Noble Crocker Park announced the launch of the 2019 "Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest," which provides high school students with the opportunity to share their appreciation for their teachers with their local communities. Now in its ninth year, the contest launched on Valentine's Day to give students the opportunity to show love and appreciation to their teachers.

High school students can nominate K-12 teachers starting today, Valentine's Day, through March 14, 2019, by writing essays, poems or thank-you letters detailing how much their teachers have impacted their lives and why they appreciate them.* Entries will be collected online only at www.bn.com/myfavoriteteacher, and will be judged on the compelling nature of the teacher's inspiring qualities, the sincerity of the student's appreciation and the quality of expression and writing. Only high school students 14 or older at the time of entry and active teachers employed by elementary, middle or high schools in the United States are eligible to win.

The "Barnes & Noble National Teacher of the Year" will receive \$5,000, and their school will receive an additional \$5,000. The award recipient will also be recognized at a special community celebration at their local Barnes & Noble store. The student who writes the national winning essay, poem or thank-you letter will win a \$100 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.

Last year's winner, Lem Andrews, a post-secondary advisor from Booker High School in Sarasota, FL, who was nominated by former student Ellen Bausback, had this to say about winning: "It's truly an honor to be recognized by Barnes & Noble as Teacher of the Year. Out of the hundreds of students you work with, to have one that's inspired enough to write something about you is a reward like no other."

Barnes & Noble Crocker Park continuously displays its appreciation for educators everywhere through Educator Appreciation Days throughout the year that provide educators with special discounts, personalized service, in-store events, bookfairs, store tours for students and teachers and, since 2010, through the My Favorite Teacher Contest.

The Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest submission period ends on March 14, 2019. High school students who want to participate must submit their entry to www.bn.com/myfavoriteteacher by 11:59 PM on March 14.

Customers should visit www.bn.com/myfavoriteteacher for com-



New Early Care And Education Center Opening At Triskett RTA Station

by Renee Kamenos

Horizon Education Centers is a leader in quality early care and education, preparing children and families for life for 40 years. Horizon is a mission-driven nonprofit making sure all families have access to high quality programs regardless of income or where they live. Our newest facility, Horizon Education Centers Triskett Station, currently under construction, is set to open April 2019 and is conveniently located at 13700 Triskett Road at the Triskett Rapid Station.

We are proud to be one of Cleveland's top-rated programs. All nine of Horizon Education Centers are rated high quality under Ohio's Step Up To Quality Rating System. This rating ensures that your child will experience: qualified teachers, proven curriculum, family engagement, developmental screenings and electronic access to your child's individual learning.

Horizon offers programming for children 18 months to 12 years of age.

The Triskett Station Center will offer scholarship programs for free high-quality full day preschool for families that qualify. Along with preschool, Horizon offers high quality Kindergarten Readiness curriculum and instruction and the best early care and afterschool educational programs offered in Cleveland.

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Lakewood Cares

One Hundred And Fifty-Three People

by Haley Schultz

One hundred fifty-two people, plus one, to include my mother. One hundred fifty-three people dead to heroin overdoses alone in Cuyahoga County during 2018. This is not counting the two-hundred and eighty-three men and women dead from similar drugs. Carfentanil, Fentanyl, opium, heroin, morphine, codeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone. Street drugs well-known by addicts and law enforcement alike. Names like these rule the lives of those who were drawn into the power of opioids, either by the overprescribing of drugs, or the allure of the euphoria it gave, people consumed, only realizing too late that there was no escape. That there will be death, relapse, or a daily struggle for the rest of their lives to avoid the one thing that brings them happiness.

The day is January 30, 2018, and I just received the news that my mother has passed. It is a week before my 16th birthday and I realize that I cannot reconnect with my mother after years of separation.

We had stopped talking you see—I was living with her and my brother who was about three or four at the time when everything first started happening. I was 10 for part of the year and 11 for the other part, I didn't understand what was happening, and I didn't understand that it was bad until my mother was dragged unconscious into our living room half dead. I had no idea what to do and the people around me didn't have the physical capabilities to perform CPR, and so it came down to me. I kneeled next to my mother's

bluing body trying as hard as I could to remember every step of the CPR lessons I had been taught in an online babysitting program I had paid for months before. I remember going to a beat, listening to the people around me question whether or not I knew what I was doing. My arms ached, as I listened to the dispatcher on the phone give me directions. She said to not stop until the paramedics arrived, but shortly after she said that, my mother gurgled or coughed, and I stopped to grab her. To ask if she was OK. That was a mistake. She opened her eyes but snapped them closed, returning blue. I continued CPR for what seemed like an eternity until someone let in the paramedics. Her heart stopped but she was then revived by paramedics. Just before the last EMT left he told me how brave I was, how I had saved her life, and in that moment I knew that I had to get away. I packed my brother and myself a bag of clothes and asked if we could stay with my father for a while. A while turned into one week then two weeks and three weeks, into a month, but then my father started to get suspicious. I had never spent so much time there before. He did some investigating, asking family members if they knew anything—no one had told him of my mother's illness. And so my entire family was brought into the world that is an addiction.

The truth? I am now 17, my brother 10, and we no longer have a mother. I did not realize it until recently, but I lost the one woman in the world that loved me irrevocably, loved me even when I left her, loved

me even when I told her I never wanted to see her again. She loved me as hard as she could—when she couldn't care for herself in the most basic ways—she loved me. She did not hate me for leaving, she always made sure I knew that. I cannot imagine how hard it must have been for her to even go as far as saying she was proud of me for having the strength go away.

The truth? Devastated by the life my brother and I had started leading, and having just relapsed, she hit a wall—I left my mother to heal from the tragedy she had put us through, but did not find peace soon enough before she took her own life.

Is it fair? I miss my mother. I never thought I would, but after growing, and understanding, and researching, I came to realize that she had a disease. I will never regret my decision to move out—the growth I have done in our separation has been vital to the healing process. Fairness is something I stopped thinking about when it concerned her disease. It was not fair, but I had dwelled on that fact for years and it had got me nowhere. I decided that I would view what happened to her in medical terms only. She had a sickness, one she had been fighting since her teenage years, sadly after thirty-four years of life, she no longer wanted to fight. I could never blame her for wanting peace.

The current stigma around addiction is that those who suffer are weak. This stigma perpetuates the idea addicts are lost causes. This is just not true. The lost cause mentality forces the addict to think they must suffer alone, and so they do. They suffer alone and get worse, becoming a shadow of their former selves. Will it build goodwill to shed light on the opioid epidemic in a way that does not vilify sufferers? Yes. Drugs as powerful as opioids cannot be fought alone, to beat and win a battle against opioids is nearly impossible. With a more positive light shed on the addiction people might feel more comfortable seeking treatment for the disease.

Will it be beneficial to everyone concerned? Undoubtedly. Mothers, sisters, fathers, brothers, guardians, should

never have to have the gnawing thought at the back of their mind that whenever their daughter/son leaves for college or their own home, they will meet the wrong person. The wrong person that shows them the wrong drug, and sparks a nearly insatiable craving for a drug until it does not work anymore and they move on to something stronger—evenually becoming a statistic.

My mother gave me a pretty normal life. We had a cat, Markus, black and white, with a pretty big attitude, but it was a good attitude, he had class. We have a dog named Sophia as well, she is a chihuahua, and might I say, the neediest dog I have ever met. I loved them both to pieces, as did my brother, he was always very little, about the size of Markus, making them natural sleeping buddies. I had a PlayStation, I played videogames, and got in trouble for not cleaning my room. I went to school five days a week, (weather/holiday permitting), and played in the pool whenever I could. We would watch America's Next Top Model, My Strange Animal, or Medium, whatever she was obsessed with that particular week. Occasionally it would be a movie like Labrynth. Those times were my favorite because she would sing all the time. Picking up my brother singing, "Dance magic, dance magic, jump magic, jump magic jump..." swinging, swirling him around the house, David Bowie accompanying her in the background. These were the days I missed when we would play Rock Band. Somehow she would manage to play two instruments at a time (one day it was the guitar and the foot pedal of the drumset). My mother was such an absurd woman, but she always made me laugh even on the darkest of days. She never wanted to see me unhappy, working tirelessly to make sure I smiled at least twice whenever I saw her. There was an undeniable light that shown inside of her, on to all of us. A light I will never stop feeling for as long as I live, for as long as my mother loves me.

The truth is I learned perseverance, strength, and empathy through both her illness and passing.

I wish it could have been through a lifetime.

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Lakewood Is Art

Forced Sneezes: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 86

by Buzz Kompier

Red Devil Ryders - Red Devil Ryders - self-released - 9? songs - cassette

This is the official “debut” of Red Devil Ryders so long as you don’t count the limited edition live tape or Carter Luckfield’s “Crowley 666,” which is kind of like the prequel to the whole thing. The sound of the group is firmly rooted in about 1975 or so, in a sort of obscure middle ground between glam rock and pub rock with added hints of country rock and power pop (at its most rock ‘n’ roll– think Dave Edmunds, say). There’s some Brinsley Schwarz influence, a bit of Neil Young, you probably get the picture. Lyrically, the trend is towards themes of driving, women, “gotta get to the show,” or, commonly, all three at once. Though I (perhaps unfairly) think of this as guitarist/vocalist Carter Luckfield’s band, bassist Adam Spektor takes lead vocals on two of the A-side tracks, “Alabamarama” (a song that sounds exactly like the title makes you think it sounds– it’s a “gotta get to the show” tune) and “Spicy Boys” (in which a variety of spicy foods are listed– it’s kind of ridiculous, but it’s done in good spirit. Come to think of it, this one could probably fall under “gotta get to the show” as well.). “Down At The Club” and “Buy Me A Drink” are very strong as opening and closing songs, respectively. I was worried that “Red Devil” might be

another hot sauce song, but it isn’t unless it’s going for a really weird metaphor, and “The Ballad Of Texas Pete” is an outlaw story song, because what more can you say than that this band goes all in on their schtick? I have to admit I’m slightly annoyed by the flip side, which is taken up with “666 Pt. 2.” I thought it might be a really long freakout jam thing, or like Blues Magoos’ “Dante’s Inferno” or something, but it’s not even really a cohesive piece. It’s basically four more songs (the last of which, appropriately closing out the tape, is the fantastic “End Of The World”) interspersed with bits of recordings played backwards, sometimes jammed over/along with by the band. I don’t know, maybe I just find the forced mystery of it a bit irritating. The complaint I have about the tape as a whole, and I feel bad about saying it because I genuinely like this band, is that a number of the songs are very stylistically similar and I think the fact that four more of them are lumped together on side two just adds to the impression of slight sameiness. However, when it works, it works, and there are definitely some really good songs on here and this is a solid debut. You should be able to tell if you’ll like this just by looking at the artwork, which includes a van, a cowboy, and a pepper. I also like that they went for a goofy band photo. 3.5/5
(reddevilryders.bandcamp.com)

The Sight - Double Take - Quality Time Records - 4 songs - cassette

It’s no secret that I’m a sucker for good power pop, and this band certainly delivers. The tape kicks off with “Can’t Stop Me,” which is a good rocker in a sort of Exploding Hearts vein, with that slight punk edge to it. Certain parts of “Real World” remind me a little bit of Cheap Trick, and the last two, “Hey Outsider” and “Goodbye Years,” both remind me a lot of some power pop band that I just cannot put my finger on. Maybe a bit of Badfinger, possibly? I’ll remember at some inconvenient time, I’m sure. In any case, all four tracks are pretty great. The band has two very important elements at work in their musical favor: a good guitarist (or actually, two good guitarists) and a really good drummer. And, I mean, besides all that, they’ve got the songs. I think The Sight is defunct at this point, or at least on indefinite hiatus, but I hope they’ve got another tape’s worth of unreleased tracks somewhere. 4/5
(probably available at qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com at some point, or try a local record store now)

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

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Writing A Successful Resumé

by Bradley Presutto

With fifteen years’ experience hiring people and reviewing resumes, I have seen countless times how the most basic items are overlooked in trying to think of some dynamic way to stand out.

Standing out from the pile is more often a matter of doing the simple things, well. Here are some basic tips and tricks that help secure a follow-up phone call.

Whether you have one resume or multiple resumes, your last name should be in the file name (for example, “presutto.pdf.”). When a manager is considering applicants, they could be reviewing dozens of resumes. Having your name on the file will not only make it easier for those reviewing resumes to sort, it is a way for them to get used to seeing your name over and over again. If you are submitting your resume via email, or having any correspondence via email, you should also utilize your name in the subject line.

Under the heading of “experience,” customize the transferable skills from your previous role to highlight relevance to the role for which you’re applying. If your prior position was an event coordinator, and you’ve applied to be an administrative assistant, focus on the skills that are useful in both roles: calendar management, organization, time management, attention to detail, and basic communication skills.

In order to really stand out, try to

keep things to a basic formula of action verb + noun + what you specifically brought to the role. Don’t list calendar management under your experience. Instead, try “Managed calendars for major events to prevent double booking.”

The most important, but easiest way to stand out, is to have multiple people proofread for grammar and spelling. If you are describing your current role, the description should be in present tense. If you are no longer in the role, the description should be past tense. Make sure you utilize the correct forms of to, too, and two, your and you’re, and there, their, and they’re. Make sure your formatting is consistent; don’t use round bullets in one section and square bullets in another. A lot comes down to attention to details.

After all, it’s difficult for managers to learn everything you want them to know about you in a single page. Remember that you’re not trying to get the job with your resume. You’re trying to showcase you have the basic skills to do the job so you can get a phone call. Once you get a phone call, or even better, an interview, you can focus on being yourself and telling stories of your phenomenal employment history and strong work ethic. Do not let the resume be your downfall from simple errors or trying to do too much in one page.

Brad Presutto is a 14 year Lakewood resident and a Manager of Recruitment Administration.

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Lakewood Observer

Fiction by

Scott MacGregor

Big Dan had sweated out his last day on earth. He tried to decide whether to keep the Gas & Lube open or close it down before the relentless derecho storms tore the old building apart. He feared that a sudden storm could ignite the station's vulnerable underground gasoline supplies. Hanging in the balance were the livelihoods of his family and the future of Little Dan.

That evening after work , Big Dan came home and sat down in his favorite chair. He turned on his Zenith Color TV using its Space Commander Remote and then quietly passed on to his next life without so much as an 'adios'. The hobgoblins of stress and worry had finally gotten the better of Big Dan and left him standing at the pearly gates, probably with a quizzical look on his face. He'd been a hard working and honest man who internalized all the things that gnawed small chunks out of him until nothing was left but a chunkless man.

Wilmena and Little Dan had discovered Big Dan dead from a heart attack just as Rockport's emergency sirens signaled that the next storm was on its way. It turned out to be a false alarm. Yes, a storm had hit Rockport that morning. It rolled in and left flooding, downed trees, water spouts and power outages. Fortunately, it had been a "normal" storm. The type of storm that we'd grown up with. The kind that happen on warm summer days when moisture from the Gulf of



The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 4: “The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues

Mexico rushes north through the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys.

Abiding by their “storm era” policies, the police, fire and ambulances couldn’t or wouldn’t respond to Wilmena’s tearful call until the danger had passed. There was nothing they could do for Big Dan, anyway. So, Wilmena summoned her army of close friends and kind hearted neighbors who braved the storm and filled the house with love and support. Together they moved Big Dan from his chair onto a swaddle of pillows and blankets that had been laid on the floor. As the storm outside the house raged on, everyone prayed aloud and didn’t stop until they

came and took Big Dan away to the medical examiner.

Meanwhile, no one had been paying attention to Little Dan. He stood frozen in a corner of the family room, clutching his Boston terrier and staring into space. Wilmena noticed little BD trying to squirm out of Little Dan’s clutches and finally realized that her son was in a state of shock. She guided him towards the comfortable confines of Big Dan’s favorite chair and said, “This is your chair now.” Then she brought him a tuna salad sandwich and a bottle of Coca-Cola from the kitchen. Food usually cured whatever funk Little Dan was in but not this time. Wilmena remained patient with him, “Everyone mourns differently,” she told her friends, “Little Dan has never experienced such a loss. He needs time to work it out in his own mind.”

The funeral of Big Dan Newman was one of the largest in Rockport history. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church was packed to the gills. When the crowd overflowed out of the church they jammed themselves between the “\$0 DOWN!” and “A REAL CREAM-PUFF!” deals in the A-OK Used Car lot across the street. Car and motorcycle clubs from all over the state attended and the Rockport Kiwanis Club announced the creation of a scholarship in Big Dan’s name. In his eulogy, Mayor Robert “Fat Bob” Franklin told a funny story of how Big Dan pulled his car out of the Rocky River in the midst of Storm 3.4, failing to mention the part where he was as drunk as a skunk as he tried to cross a flooded bridge.

Little Dan’s zombie-like detachment persisted throughout the funeral ceremony and the fried chicken luncheon that followed. Just about everyone tried to talk him back into reality but it had been of no use. Little Dan just wasn’t going to snap out of it until he was ready to come to grips with Big Dan’s death.

On the morning after Big Dan had finally been laid to rest, Wilmena woke up at 7am with a startle. Something didn’t feel right. Little Dan was never out of his bed before 8am. She decided to stick her head in his room, anyway, just to make sure he was still sleeping. He wasn’t. Little Dan was gone!

Wilmena hurried downstairs and soon realized that neither he or little BD were in the house. When she opened the detached garage she immediately noticed that Little Dan’s Triumph motorcycle was missing. She jumped into her car and sped off to the only place he could possibly be, the one place that had sustained the Newman Family since 1916, the eternal Rockport Gas & Lube.

When she arrived, the first person she saw was Little Dan. He had opened up the station all by himself and was busy pumping gas into Horace Gridley’s 1958 Studebaker Hawk. Wilmena walked up to the pump as Little Dan was cleaning the car’s windshield. “He’s a good boy,” shouted Mr. Gridley, “Old Dan and Big Dan are smiling down from heaven, right now.”

Wilmena cautiously approached her son and asked, “Can I help you, dear?” Little Dan plopped the windshield squeegee into its bucket and hung the pump handle back into place. He then turned to her and said his first words since Big Dan had passed away. “We got this, Ma,” he said assuredly.

Then, a tear formed in the corner of Little Dan’s eye and that led to even more tears. Little BD came running out of the Tire Corral and jumped between them just as Little Dan collapsed utterly and emotionally into his mother’s arms. Wilmena hugged him like only a mother could. She parted from him and cradled his woebegone face in the palm of her hand. “You betcha’ we got this, darlin’ boy,” she said, “we Great Lakers are a tough breed. Don’t you ever forget it.”

NEXT: Part 4: Episode 5: “The Ballad of “Derecho” Dan” continues

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Burning River Baroque To Perform At Lakewood Congregational Church

continued from page 2

passages and tales have been interwoven with a broad range of musical compositions and related commentary. “We frequently get to experience history through the victor’s eyes,” said co-director Malina Rauschenfels, “We’re interested in hearing the other side of the story — from those populations that are often marginalized.”

The program for soprano, flute, cello and harpsichord includes baroque repertoire, a medieval work, and the

premiere of "Honey sweet we sing for you," a cantata by Aaron Grad and Jennifer Bullis. Founded in 2012, Burning River Baroque has been praised by the Boston Music Intelligencer as “a group that left an indelible print on my psyche.” “The Other Side of the Story” runs from March 19 through 23, with public venues that include downtown Cleveland, Lakewood, Youngstown, Fairlawn, and Cleveland Heights. Visit www.burning-river-baroque.org to learn more.

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

LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive’s “There’s No Place Like Home” Draws Sellout Crowd for Journey to Oz

by Matt Bixenstine

There’s simply no place like home, especially when the place you call home is Lakewood, Ohio.

LakewoodAlive hosted Loving Lakewood: There’s No Place Like Home presented by Cleveland Property Management Group on Saturday night, February 23, at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, drawing a sellout crowd of 235 Oz-enthused guests to celebrate 15 years of community vibrancy in grand fashion. Proceeds from this 15th anniversary fundraising event will support LakewoodAlive’s programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood.

Guests entering the Lakewood Masonic Temple’s ballroom were treated to a transformation of the historic building’s interior into a collection of “not in Kansas anymore” scenes from the Wizard of Oz. A Yellow Brick Road greeted attendees and led them to the stage, which displayed a larger-than-life Wizard with an emerald green face flanked by fiery flames. Both ends of the ballroom depicted fighting apple trees, while the west-end featured a spinning tornado and a photo booth beckoning guests to sit on a broomstick while the backdrop proclaimed “Surrender Lakewood” atop an aerial view of the Solstice Steps.

As they enjoyed a variety of Oz-inspired cocktails and cuisine courtesy of Karen King Catering, There’s No Place Like Home guests grooved to music spun by DJ Byron. They were



photo by Julie Vegh/O'Vegh Photography

greeted by a surprise visit from the cast of characters from the classic 1939 film, including Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, Glinda and the Flying Monkey.

During the program emceed by local favorite media personality Mark “Munch” Bishop, Outstanding Volunteer Awards were bestowed to three extremely worthy recipients (Aaron Cooper, Rob Donaldson and Missy Toms) who have graciously given their time and talents to LakewoodAlive. Founders Awards were bestowed to four honorees (Jenni Baker, Mary Anne Crampton, Jay Foran and Mikelann Rensel) in recognition of their exceptional contributions to Lakewood’s community vibrancy.

The Great and Power Gem Game saw one lucky winner receive a .58-carat ruby gemstone with a retail value of \$1,450, as well as a \$250 credit towards a setting for the ruby at Lion and Blue. Additional winners emerged from participating in the sidebar contest, raffles baskets and a live auction.

LakewoodAlive thanks the many volunteers who contributed to this fundraising event, especially the following members of the There’s No Place Like Home Committee for their tireless efforts: Julie Warren (chair), Michael Bentley, Mary Bond, Kelly Florian, Jarrell McAlister, Brittany O’Connor,

Blaire Skinner, Darren Toms, Missy Toms and Shawn Warren.

“Our incredible team of volunteers, led by Julie Warren, were instrumental in making There’s No Place Like Home a successful fundraising event for our organization,” said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing & Internal Operations Director. “From sponsors to volunteers to attendees, we really can’t say enough about the tremendous support we receive from our community.”

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

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LakewoodAlive to Host “Knowing Your Home: All About Fireplaces” Workshop On March 21

by Matt Bixenstine

Most everyone enjoys the warmth and ambiance associated with a working fireplace. But how can you ensure your home’s fireplace serves as a source of comfort and crackling?

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: All About Fireplaces on Thursday, March 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Hearth Shop (27303 Center Ridge Road in Westlake). The second workshop of 2019 for this free home maintenance educational series seeks to address everything you need to know about your fireplace.

Led by our friends at The Hearth Shop, this workshop brings back a popular theme first introduced last year. The presentation will cover a wide range of topics pertaining to both gas and wood-burning fireplaces, including:

- How to ensure your fireplace is working safely
- How a fireplace system works
- Proper fireplace maintenance
- Upgrading or converting your fireplace

Additionally, this workshop will highlight options available within homes that currently do not have a fireplace system, and cover the steps and costs involved in installing a new fireplace.



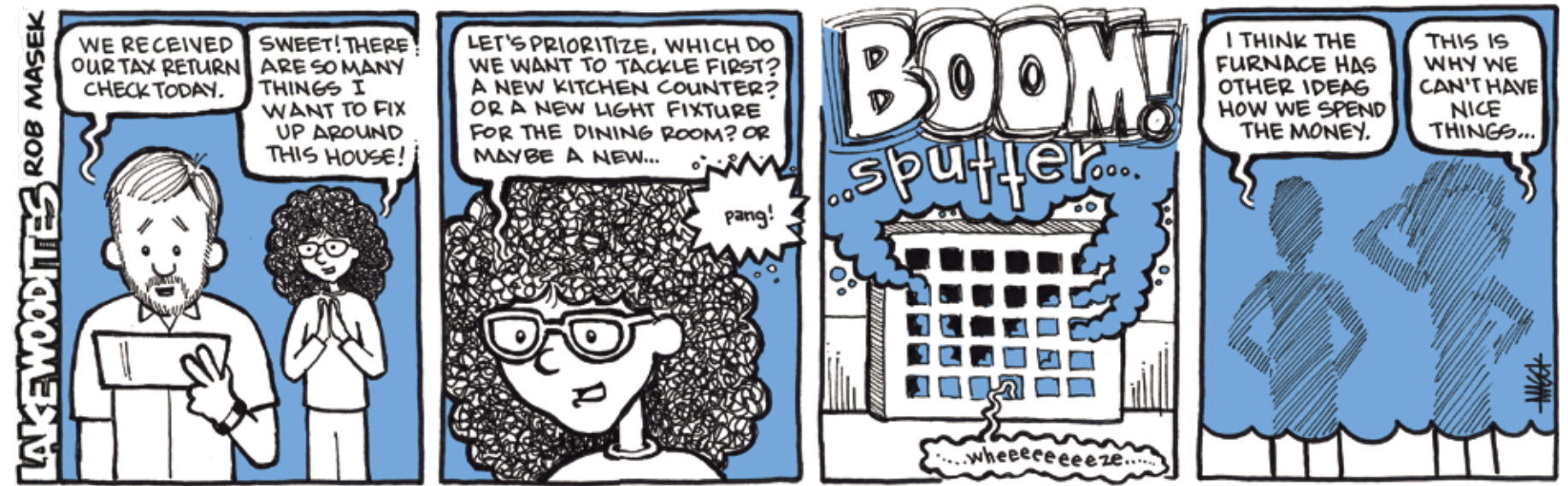
LakewoodAlive’s “All About Fireplaces” free workshop takes place March 21 at The Hearth Shop.

To reserve your free spot for “Knowing Your Home: All About Fireplaces,” visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome or call 216-521-0655.

Now in its sixth year, LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home” series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome to learn more. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

In lieu of charging for these events, we are asking participants to consider either making a donation to LakewoodAlive or bringing canned foods or other non-perishable items for donation to the Lakewood Community Services Center. We appreciate your support.

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