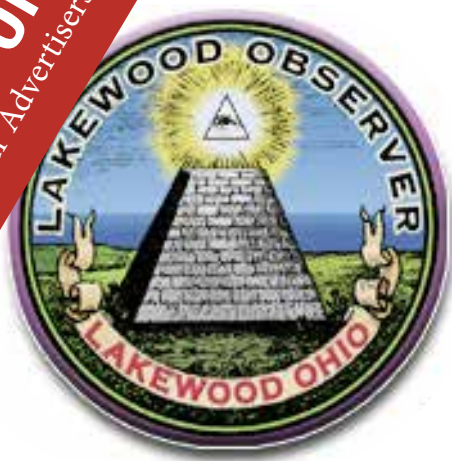


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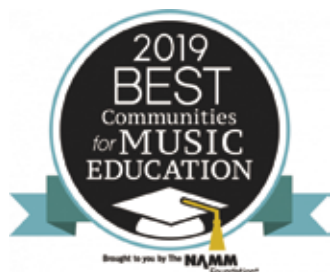
Volume 15, Issue 07, April 3, 2019

District Earns Best Communities For Music Education Award

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools has earned its third straight Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Lakewood is one of only 38 districts in Ohio that earned the designation.

The Best Communities Music Education designation



is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, the District answered detailed questions about funding, fine arts graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music programs.

"We are fortunate to be in a community that places music and the arts as one of its most

valued assets and expresses support for music education in many ways," said Superintendent Mike Barnes. "Our teachers' dedication and passion for instilling a lifelong love of music in our students and providing them opportunities to grow musically is amazing."

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. In a series of landmark studies by scientists and researchers at Northwestern University a link was found between students in community music programs and life-long academic success.

The Lakewood City School District offers music education from kindergarten through 12th grade. Instrumental instruction begins in 5th grade. Middle school offerings include classroom band, orchestra, and choir with extracurricular opportunities in all three.

The high school hosts five orchestras, four choirs, three bands, and classes in music theory, music history, pop music and keyboard. In addition, our high school extracurricular ensembles provide numerous opportunities for our students

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Lakewood Fire Station 1 with their gift to Homeless Hookup CLE. "The next step in their dream" as Dean Roff in the middle and founder of Homeless Hookup CLE called the gift.

Can You Feel The LOVE In Lakewood?

by Jim O'Bryan

Well, many of you probably remember one of the best stories of this year, "Chas, Gordon Geiger And Lakewood Fire C-Shift Share The Love." A story we told about some members of Lakewood Fire Dept One C Shift who saved a homeless man from the cold. Knowing that the man would be back on the streets soon, Lakewood Fire Department contacted Geiger's who said they would love to help the man out providing the firemen with gloves, socks, shoes, coat, etc. Everything a person would need to survive in the cold. That day at another fire call, the firemen were relating the story to a contractor, who said, "My brother runs a place to help homeless people, it's called 'homeless hook-ups.'

So they called homeless hook-ups and while people were talking, Dean Roff, the founder of Homeless Hook Ups mentioned his dream was to have a motorhome he could drive around and use to help clean up homeless people and get them on their feet, when one of the firefighters said, "Well I have a motorhome. It needs work, but you can have it." This is where we ended this magical story about love, giving and helping in Lakewood, Ohio.

But no, it does not end there. We are talking about Lakewood's First Responders, oh no it does not end there. Friday morning, 3.29.2019, a mere

1 month and 20 days after the amazing story and official meeting the next chapter was ready. The firefighters of Lakewood Fire House Station One presented a completely rebuilt and cleaned up RV to Homeless Hook Up, their founder Dean Roff, the Executive Director Kristina Forward, and Brittnay Brown, Vice President. To say they were overwhelmed would be an understatement.

"These people were, no, are amazing," said an excited Dean. "This is unreal, it has been less than two months, and now Homeless Hook Up

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LECPTA's Spring Baby & Big Kid Resale Event Is Right Around The Corner

by Anne Gomez

The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA) is once again planning its popular children's resale of gently used children's clothing (sizes newborn to 10), furniture, toys and other items. The Baby Bargain Bonanza (BBB) is planned for Saturday, April 6th at Garfield Middle School, which is located at 13114 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. The sale is open to the public and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Admission is \$5 from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. and just \$1 from 9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. The first 50 people will have a chance to win a \$50 Target gift card! You do not need to present to win.

There are many good deals to be found on lots of children's gear. If it is needed for

children, most likely, it can be found at the BBB! Like the fall sale, there will be a 50/50 raffle. Raffle tickets are one ticket for \$1, six tickets for \$5 or twenty tickets for \$10. Winner does not need to be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased anytime by emailing bbb.lecpta@gmail.com. This is a great resource to take advantage of if you cannot attend the BBB but would like to get in on the fun of the raffle!

In addition to great deals on clothing and raffle, there will be a bake sale featuring homemade goodies! There will also be drinks, bagels, donuts and coffee available for purchase. There is sure to be a yummy treat for everyone at

continued on page 5



Larger than life "Alice in Wonderland" figure from Halle's Department Store, circa 1963 on display!

Hixson's Annual Easter Egg Show

by Debra O'Bryan

Hixson's of Lakewood is opening their Easter Egg show and sale Friday April 5th at 10 a.m. Local artists are doing eggs in the wax resist method. A stylus is heated and dipped into beeswax. The artist draws fine lines to protect whatever design he wishes to save on the bare egg. Next the egg is dipped

into yellow, more lines added, then orange, more designs, red added...and then finally black. Once the egg is dry, the egg is placed in front of heat (candle flame) to remove the wax and unveil the elaborate, symbolic Easter design. Another group of artists cut, decorate and jewel eggs to create heirloom boxes and clocks with scenes. These

are known as Masuda Eggs.

Faberge is world renowned for the creation of jewelry, but especially for his precious eggs that he created for Russian royal families of Nicholas II and Nicholas III. Hixson's is showing and offering replicas of these famous commissioned

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

HOT OFF THE DECK!

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Please Skip This Boring Post	Mark Kindt	6	204	Mon Apr 01
Former Councilman Michael Dever Says "No"	Jim O'Bryan	1	242	Mon Apr 01
Thank You City Hall And Civic Leaders	Jim O'Bryan	9	866	Mon Apr 01
View from Ward 2	Dan Alaimo	0	209	Sun Mar 31
Scale of Subsidies Are Significant...	Mark Kindt	9	665	Fri Mar 29
It Is With Much Sadness A Favorite Closes		2	3348	Fri Mar 29
A Trip Around Neue Lakewood, A FitzGerald Summers Lakewood	4	520		Fri Mar 29
It's Fish Fry Time Again!	Gary Rice	2	550	Thu Mar 28
We Have A Problem Housto... Errrrr Lakewood Part 2		23	2216	Wed Mar 27
Cleve Clinic Opening Another Outdated Hospital	Bridget Conant	8	608	Tue Mar 26
City Doesn't Know Who Owns A Pole	Bridget Conant	6	544	Mon Mar 25

Letter To Observer

Hello. I did not see a comments section, so I ended up here. While waiting for my daughter at the Beck center, I picked up a March 6th issue from the stack on the table. Now, I have never read this publication before, or knew about it, until that day.

But, the paper is simply tremendous, it really is. One article in particular blew me away. Penned by Haley Schultz, "153 People." It was such a well written, emotionally powerful, and personal article. I was pleasantly surprised to see a teenager with that much self-awareness and depth.

I have shared it with three other people and they were equally impressed. Thank you for publishing real articles like this and allowing outstanding writing talent to share their stories.

I learned something new that day and an important lesson from someone half my age. That's awesome.

Follow the QR Code to the story the letter was written about



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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
COWETA COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:
DANIEL L. ALBRIGHT, PLAINTIFF
CIVAL ACTION
FILE NO. 2018-V-655
TO JOLENA B. BORCHERT, DEFENDANT

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE- STYLED ACTION DOMESTIC FOREIGN DECREE WAS FILED AGAINST YOU IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COWETA COUNTY, GA ON THE 6TH DAY OF JUNE, 2018, AND THAT BY REASON OF AN ORDER FOR SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION ENTERED INTO THE COURT ON THE 23RD DAY OF AUGUST , 2018, YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED AND REQUIRED TO FILE WITH CLERK OF SAID COURT AND SERVE UPON MEGAN E. WALLIN, PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY, WHOSE ADDRESS IS 5 EAST BROAD STREET, NEWNAN, GA 30263, 770.683.2468

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BIGGER BETTER HAPPY HOUR 4 -7 P.M.

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BANNED AT CITY HALL

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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
April 11, 2019
May 2, 2019

Publish Date
April 17, 2019
May 8, 2019

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

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Miss A. M. Brooks



artists unknown
reprinted from the Lakewood Press, November 22, 1917

REPRINT
The New Lakewood Hospital

Another great civic enterprise nears fruition and testifies to the genius for achievement on the part of Lakewood Citizens. After years of planning and work by men and women who forgot self in an effort to serve humanity, a great institution for the alleviation of physical pain and suffering has been erected within Lakewood’s boundaries.

“Man’s inhumanity to man” is a familiar phrase and has some basis in fact, as is evidenced by the current war’s desolation and devastation, its wastage of human life and energy. Man may be, undoubtedly is, inhuman to man at times, when his baser, elemental passions are deeply stirred; but on every hand are evidences of the fact that man is, after all imbued with a deep-seated love for his fellow man. The new Lakewood Hospital is but another demonstration of that fact and that men and women were willing to work gratuitously against seemingly insurmountable obstacles for months and years serves but to make the demonstration more complete and convincing.

The City of Lakewood owes to these men and women a debt of gratitude it will never be able to repay. It may, however, testify to its appreciation of their work by assisting them in bearing part of their burdens, by assiting them in carrying forward the purposes of their institution.

Hundreds of Lakewood’s citizens gave something of their means to make the new hospital possible. They will now feel a glow of pride in the consciousness of having participated in the momentous undertaking.

The new hospital will stand for years to come a monument to those men and women who conceived it, and to courage and resolution. It will endure through the decades as a living throbbing witness to the civic consciousness of the community and to the spirit of helpfulness and love that permeates its citizenship.

Lakewood is proud of the institution, proud of the men and women who laid its plans and boldly carried them out, proud of her citizens who contributed time and money to make a dream come true and above. All proud of the spirit of love that animates her citizens.

Next Issue we look at One Lakewood Place



Next issue we look at the new One Lakewood multi-use strip mall, and examine how many tens? hundreds? of millions of Lakewood taxpayer dollars it will take to underwrite this boondoggle, and how long it will take until Lakewood breaks even. 50? 60? 70 years?

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LUNCH & LEARN
Medicare plans -
What are the differences?

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 | 12:00 p.m

Presented by Shelley Reddy, Kaz Company

Assisted Living Building
4th Floor Education Room

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert
at 216-912-0800
by April 8, 2019

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Film - “Escape from East Berlin” (1962)
Directed by Robert Siodmak, Presented by Terry Meehan
Main Library Auditorium

East German Kurt Schröder (Don Murray) lives within sight of the Berlin Wall. He begins to dig a tunnel from his basement. His uncle’s band plays while equipment drills its way toward freedom. The sinister Herr Brunner (Werner Klemperer) is knocking at the door; are the border guards far behind? Terry Meehan continues his series Cold War Chronicles, introducing each film with an original video, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Music of American Immigrants — Brian and Kristen Bigley with Ruairi Hurley
Main Library Auditorium

Brian and Kristen Bigley are a local musical duo specializing in Irish and American folk music. They will be joined by Ruairi Hurley, a guitarist and vocalist from Dublin. Together they will play Irish songs that celebrate Ireland and its rich culture. This performance will kick off our four-part series: Music of American Immigrants. These performances will reflect the culture of different groups of immigrants throughout American history.

Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Hire Local Lakewood
Presented by Lakewood Community Services Center and The Centers for Families and Children’s El Barrio Workforce Development
Main Library Multipurpose Room

Join us to learn about the services offered to Lakewood residents through Hire Local Lakewood. After an overview of our job preparation and job search services and our job training programs, there will be a hands-on skill building activity. Residents and businesses can learn more about the services provided by Hire Local Lakewood by calling (216) 325-WORK, or visiting the Hire Local Lakewood office, located at the Lakewood Community Services Center.

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Immigrant Voices
Presentation by Aklilu Demessie, Murat Gurer, Nar Pradhan, Kiwi Wongpeng
Main Library Auditorium
Over 7% of Cuyahoga County’s population are foreign-born residents, and Lakewood’s population is no exception. Hear from local community members as they share their immigration stories throughout the decades and discuss the challenges and rewards of life in the United States. Joining us will be community members Aklilu Demessie, Murat Gurer, Nar Pradhan and Kiwi Wongpeng. Their nations of origin include Ethiopia, Turkey, Bhutan and Thailand.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
or by appointment for large groups
Staffed Exhibit Time
Main Library Second Floor Gallery

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.

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Author Event: “Bad Boys, Bad Times: The Cleveland Indians and Baseball in the Prewar Years, 1937–1941” by Scott H. Longert
Main Library Auditorium

In 1937, the Great Depression was still lingering, but at baseball parks across the country there was a sense of optimism. Cleveland fans were particularly upbeat, yet the Indians still had their issues: An alcoholic catcher, dugout fights, bats flung into stands, injuries and a player revolt kept things lively. Scott H. Longert is an author, baseball historian and Cleveland Indians fan. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Children And Youth

compiled by Nic Starr

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
For anyone age 8 and up
Sew Your Own Library Tote
Main Library Homework Room

Create your own unique and stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. Registration required.

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
For school-age children
Tail Waggin’ Tutors
Main Library Multipurpose Room

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

Sunday, April 14, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
For students in sixth through twelfth grade
Happily Ever Crafter
Main Library Activity Room

Beginners and pros, come create clever crafts with everyday materials! Registration required.

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Poetry Workshop
Led by Leanne Hoppe
Main Library Second Floor Gallery

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.

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Non-Fiction Book Club
Main Library Meeting Room

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 “12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos” by Jordan B. Peterson.

Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Film - Piñero (2001) Directed by Leon Ichaso
Main Library Auditorium

This biopic of the iconic Latino poet and playwright, Miguel Piñero (Benjamin Bratt), tells the story of the Puerto Rico born leader in the 1970s New York art scene. Piñero’s work is considered to be the forerunner of rap and hip hop music. After writing the Tony award winning play “Short Eyes” he experiences newfound and overwhelming fame. Yet, he never fully fits into American society, refusing to conform and even criticizing the United States.

Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Music of American Immigrants — Chardon Polka Band
Main Library Auditorium

As a modern polka band that brings polka music to a new generation, The Chardon Polka Band’s range of style could be called eccentric. They play traditional polkas reminiscent of The Lawrence Welk Show, which has endeared them to the traditional polka fans, but their music sometimes morphs into punk-rock renditions. This continues our series of performances reflecting the culture of different groups of immigrants throughout American history.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Poetry Workshop
Led by Leanne Hoppe
Main Library Second Floor Gallery

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, April 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Knit & Lit Book Club
Main Library Meeting Room

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss “White Houses: A Novel” by Amy Bloom.

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Lakewood Historical Society - Evolution of the Home Recreation Room, Presentation by Pamela Dorazio Dean
Main Library Auditorium

Lakewood Historical Society curator Pamela Dorazio Dean will examine American material culture and decorative arts from 1920 to 1960 by focusing on the residential recreation room, also known as the den. Dean serves as curator of Italian American History at the Western Reserve Historical Society and regularly leads tours of Little Italy and Lake View Cemetery. This presentation will be preceded by the annual meeting of the Lakewood Historical Society.

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
or by appointment for large groups
Staffed Exhibit Time
Main Library Second Floor Gallery

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.



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Lakewood Public Library

Hire Local Lakewood

by Amy Kloss

Job hunting has never been easy. "Pounding the pavement" to look for a job isn't fun, but some human contact is usually guaranteed. While internet job sites and electronic applications seem to streamline the process, in reality they have only increased barriers to employment for some applicants. However, help is available.

On Monday, April 8, 2019, representatives from Hire Local Lakewood will be in the Main Library Multipurpose Room from 6:30-8:00 p.m. to offer information about the job preparation, job search and training programs they offer. The program will be repeated Monday, April 22, 2019 at the same time and location.

Hire Local Lakewood was created in 2018 as a partnership

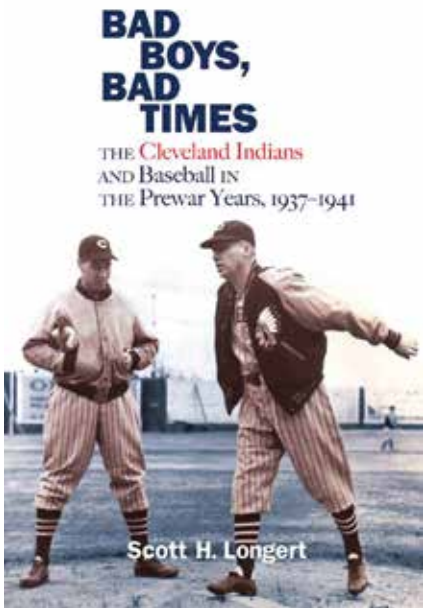
between Lakewood Community Services Center and The Centers for Families and Children's El Barrio Workforce Development program. Located at 14230 Madison Avenue, the program offers a neighborhood venue where businesses and job seekers can meet to find out about local careers and employment. They offer information on careers and training programs, workshops on job hunting skills, assistance with job searches and online applications, and connections with local job opportunities. Despite its name, Hire Local Lakewood is not just for Lakewood residents, but offers services to people from surrounding communities as well. Residents and businesses can learn more about Hire Local Lakewood by calling (216) 325-WORK.

Meet the Author: "Bad Boys, Bad Times" The Cleveland Indians And Baseball In The Prewar Years"

by Lisa Calfee

If you know what a golden sombrero, a worm burner and a meatball have in common, you must be an honest-to-goodness fan of baseball. Scott H. Longert understands. The author is visiting Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the game as it was played by the Cleveland Indians in the years leading up to World War II as outlined in his new book, "Bad Boys, Bad Times: The Cleveland Indians and Baseball in the Prewar Years, 1937-1941."

To say Scott Longert is a baseball fan doesn't quite cut the stadium mustard. As a little boy, he learned to read by trying to understand baseball box scores. In college, his graduate research paper was on the early twentieth century baseball player, Tris Speaker and over the last thirty years he has written four books on baseball history: "King of the Pitchers" (1999), "The Best They Could Be" (2013), "No Money, No Beer, No Pennants" (2016) and "Bad Boys, Bad Times: The Cleveland Indians and



Baseball in the Prewar Years" (2019). Through it all, he has been watching, following, contemplating and cheering for, baseball.

His latest book, "Bad Boys, Bad Times" describes the personalities and behind the scenes drama from the years 1937-1941. There were dug-out fights, player discontent, the Cry Baby incident, bats thrown into the stands, injuries and general mayhem all around. The event takes place in the Main Lower Level Auditorium where books will be available for sale and signing.



Hixson's Annual Easter Egg Show

continued from page 1

eggs that were given to their families and friends. These replicas do not contain the encrusted diamonds and other precious gems of the originals, but you can acquire these beautiful reproductions at low prices, many of which contain a surprise inside just like those created by Faberge. We are also offering replicas of the famous Faberge pendants and locket for that special girl on Easter starting at \$20.

The show goes on and on with hand-painted eggs of marble, porcelain, and eggs that are decoupaged. Unique artisan gifts of hand-crafted bunnies and chicks are available for baskets and home decorating. Be pre-

pared to spend some time when visiting Hixson's, remember as historian and owner Bill Hixson says, "We do not sell things here, We sell memories."

Show Hours:
Monday thru Saturday 10 - 6
Sunday 12-5
Extended hours after Palm Sunday
Monday - Friday 10 - 9
Saturday, April 20th 10-6,
Closed Easter Day
Call for show times after Easter 216-521-9277

Hixson's is located at 14125 Detroit Avenue, just look for the gigantic Raggedy Ann doll in the window.

LECPTA's Spring Baby & Big Kid Resale Event Is Right Around The Corner

continued from page 1

the bake sale!

All this sounds great, right? But what if you are thinking, "I already have a closet full of kids' clothes and don't have room for any more!"? Well, maybe it is time to consider being a seller at the BBB. Everyone is welcome to sell children's items that are no longer needed. The items must be clean, free from recall and in good condition with all parts and pieces. If you are interested in becoming a seller, please visit www.lecpta.com for more information or email bbb.lecpta@gmail.com. We will accept registration forms until tables sell out. Whether you choose to buy or sell, LECPTA looks forward to meeting you on April 6th!

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Lakewood Public Schools

Staff Spotlight: Bunsey And Sheils

by Christine Gordillo

Each month the Lakewood City Schools honors two employees who are nominated by their peers as part of the District's Staff Spotlight program. This month's honorees are Doug Bunsey and Pam Sheils.

DOUG BUNSEY

I.T. and Videography Specialist Doug Bunsey is there for all the big moments during the school year. You may not see him at Celebration of Excellence, graduation, or Sounds of the Season because he's the man behind the camera recording it all for posterity.

Capturing these special events throughout the year is only a small part of what Doug does as part of his job. He is there for all the District's video needs, whether it is helping a teacher with a video class project or making sure our security cameras are operating properly. And since January, he has been guiding members of the newly formed video club at Lakewood High that produces the school's daily video announcements.

Doug, who joined the District in 1997, is also always available to troubleshoot I.T. problems for staff members and students.

"Doug is always more than ready to listen to staff and jump in with solutions and assistance," said his nominator Scott Mellino, head custo-



Pam Sheils

dian at Lincoln Elementary.

Doug says he is always glad to lend a helping hand and enjoys the constant problem-solving that comes along with an I.T. job. The variety of issues that pop up also appeals to him. "I enjoy how different it is every day," he says.

Doug says he feels fortunate to work in Lakewood because of how much the District offers its students. He hopes that one of those offerings will someday include broadcast production so he can return to his roots of teaching those skills as he did in his earlier days in the District.

Doug's impact on the District and his department are summed up by Scott, who says: "Doug has been a stable



Doug Bunsey

strong influence in the I.T. department as long as I can remember."

PAM SHEILS

Lakewood High English teacher Pam Sheils is a storyteller at heart. She uses her flair for a narrative to connect to her students in unique ways. Walk by her classroom and you may find her strumming on her banjo, singing a song about the short story the class just read.

"The students love when we analyze song lyrics and relate them to the theme that we are studying," said Pam's nominator and classroom teaching partner, Intervention Specialist Kelsey Scalf.

For Pam's part, she feels that telling a story, whether just talking about herself or sharing an original song on her banjo, opens up the channels of communication more easily between herself and her students.

"It shows them that I'm vulnerable because I'm putting myself out there to be judged...and it works, they warm up to me," says Pam, who joined the District in 2006 as a middle school teacher and has been at LHS since 2015. She says since she started sharing about herself she has noticed improved classroom behavior.

Kelsey also praised Pam for her ability to differentiate learning with the students on IEPs, tailoring her lessons to individual learning styles. Pam finds ways to make material more accessible for her students, that will help engage them with the content.

Says Pam: "I give students the opportunity to perform scenes, like 'Romeo & Juliet,' or music. I help students gain access to listening to literature through audiobooks and using speech to text to help with writing."

Although Pam could have just as easily gone into a career in the arts – she moonlights as a playwright and sings in a band – she says she is more than happy with her day job. "I love to teach, I love helping kids to read and write better."

Dive In To Lakewood Rec's Underwater Egg Hunt

by Matt Demaline

Grab your bathing suits, towels, baskets and goggles for Lakewood Recreation's annual Underwater Egg Hunt. This year's event will be held Saturday, April 20, 2019 at the Lakewood High School Pool beginning at 10:00am.

Children are split up into age groups for the hunt. All children ages 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult in the pool; no separate registration fee is required for the adults accompanying younger children. Eggs can be redeemed for prizes after the hunt.

Don't be fooled by the name; not all the eggs sink. Approximately half of the 600 eggs float at the surface. The other 300 or so eggs are spread out on the pool bottom, varying in depth from 3.5 feet deep to 9 feet deep. There are a variety of activities in the pool for the children to participate in when not diving for eggs. There are pool toys out for the little ones, water basketball and, always a favorite, the high dive.

Pre-register and save - \$5 registration available only through April 18. If not pre-registered, admission fee is \$7 at the door. Registration is available online at www.lakewoodrecreation.com. We look forward to seeing everyone for this year's hunt.



Photo credit: Nancy Pizir

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Lakewood Public Schools

LHS Students Take Top Spots In Rotary/Beck Arts Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High students were top award-winners in the 74th annual Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contests sponsored by the Beck Center for the Arts. Lakewood students swept the speech category and took the top spot in the music category as well.

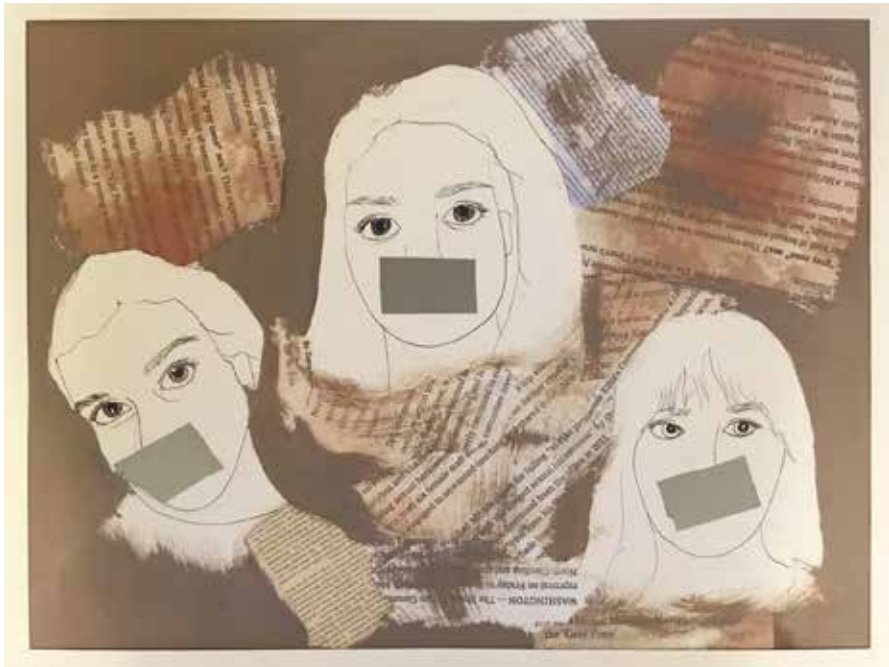
Contest participants are students from the five Lakewood and Rocky River high schools including Lakewood High School, Lutheran High School West, Magnificat High School, Rocky River High School, and St. Edward High School. Awards are given for first through third place and then Honorable Mentions are awarded at the judges' discretion for the music and visual arts categories. The speech contestants earned first through fourth places. The place winners earned cash prizes ranging from \$75-\$750.

Earning first place for the District were junior Grace Gill in the speech contest and senior Kira Marjanovic in the music competition. Grace spoke about needle exchanges and Kira performed on the trumpet. Additional winners were juniors Ella Chanter (2nd place, speech), Connor Starowesky (2nd place, visual arts), Isabella Dom-

browski (3rd place, visual arts), Haley Schultz (3rd place, speech), Ava Wahl (4th place, speech), and senior Zea-ratus Perry (3rd place, music, viola). Honorable mentions went to junior Natalie Costello and seniors Zed Skinner (visual arts) and Breslin McRae (music, voice).

The winners will be celebrated at an awards ceremony on April 2 at Beck Center.

Congratulations to all the talented students and the teachers who helped them achieve at such a high level!



Riley Geyer's first place piece of art for the PTA Reflections state contest.

Students Earn Top Awards In State Reflections

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Council of PTAs Reflection Committee recently announced that four of its submissions for judging at the state level earned recognition for further artistic merit. In the high school visual arts category, senior Riley Geyer won first place, which qualifies her piece to move on to national judging. Garfield Middle School student Nora Germaine earned a second place in the state in the middle school visual arts category.

Also receiving recognition were seniors Anna Rigdon and Claire Sch-

appel in the literature category and senior Lillith Horschke in the visual arts category. All three earned an Honorable Mention.

Out of thousands of pieces of artwork submitted for state judging, only six students were recognized in each age level/category.

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTAs the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works in seven arts areas: literature, dance choreog-

raphy, film/video production, musical composition, photography, visual arts and special artist. All entries must follow a chosen theme, which this year was "Heroes Around Me."

Each school with a PTA can send up to 24 entries to the district level judging. Among works chosen for district-level recognition, the highest scoring 28 works as deemed by a panel of nine judges evaluating on artistic merit, creativity and interpretation of the theme, moved on to Columbus to compete with students' work from around the state.

ADVERTISEMENT

How do I know if my child has Autism?





Cynthia Johnson, PhD
Director of Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to issues with social interaction, problems with interpreting and using nonverbal and verbal communication in social situations, restricted interests, repetitive behaviors and sensory concerns.

"Signs of ASD are present in the early developmental period and we're often able to detect symptoms before the child turns two years old," says Cynthia Johnson, PhD, Director of Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism.

To diagnose ASD, specifically-trained physicians, psychologists, speech language pathologists and other clinicians conduct an evaluation which includes comprehensive interviews with the child's parents, caregivers, teachers and/or therapists. Additionally, other tests may be administered to the child.

"We work with the child to see how they interact with specialized materials, and we may do some structured play activities to evaluate how the child reacts to us and their family," says Dr. Johnson. "For example, if the child isn't talking yet, are they using gestures or other methods to communicate their wants? That's how we can begin to tell the difference between a child with a language delay or ASD."

During the diagnostic evaluation process, families

learn the severity of ASD symptoms as well as severity of developmental differences.

Dr. Johnson says it's important to keep those separate. "You may have a child who is exceeding their peers in cognitive development, but may still have symptoms of ASD that hinder their daily function. You also may have a child whose cognitive development is far behind. In each case we need to tailor interventions for a specific child."

In most cases, the primary treatment for ASD is intensive behavior therapy.

"The earlier the diagnosis and start of treatment, the earlier we can offset the cascade of disruptive development and close the gap in developmental differences," says Dr. Johnson.

For more information about services offered at Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism, Rocky River, please call 440.895.2020.

Now open at Fairview Hospital: Hybrid Operating Room and Breast Center

Recently, Fairview Hospital opened a Hybrid Operating Room, which is a state-of-the-art operating room that allows vascular surgeons to perform surgeries on the entire spectrum of interventions, from accessing arteries with wires and catheters, to standard open vascular procedures.

Providing diagnosis, treatment and support for women, the Breast Center at Fairview Hospital now has the convenience of larger exam rooms, closer proximity to Imaging and new space for shared medical appointments. Breast surgery and medical breast appointments will continue to be located in this area.



No matter what life throws at you, we've got the care you need, where you need it.

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Lakewood Business News

Scholarships Are Not Just For Children, Thanks To Lakewood Resident

by Katherine Rettew-Phillips

Lakewood resident Brandi Larsen is giving mothers the chance to complete their creative projects.

Her Finishers' Club for Mothers Retreat is set for May 11, 2019, but she doesn't want cost to inhibit mothers from their goals.

Larsen said, "It's really hard for mothers, especially, to spend on ourselves. There is so much that we prioritize before ourselves. Whether it's time or money, we don't say yes to us. I want to change that."

Larsen designed the Finishers' Club retreat to give mothers the time, space, and community to get their project off their to-do list and into the world. For \$180, participants will gather on the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

"Too many of us have started projects that we never find time to finish. The single-day retreat set in a gorgeous, historic mansion that's an easy drive west of Lakewood, will give us enough space to get into a retreat mindset and do the work, and it's still manageable for moms with the responsibility of young kids."

Larsen will lead creative exercises and coach attendees on how to meet their goals of finishing projects like articles, essays, short stories, speeches,

book chapters, scripts, and agent/editor pitch letters, drawing on over two decades of journalism and publishing experience.

"I'm most excited about the community of mothers who will come together. It's transformative to sit beside women working as hard as you to turn a dream into reality. I'm offering scholarships because, whether you can pay or not, I believe that the world needs your work."

Full and partial scholarships are available. Complete the online application (<http://bit.ly/finishers-club-scholarship>) to apply. Final deadline to apply is April 30, 2019.

Brandi Larsen finishes what she starts, and she wants to help other mothers do the same.

Brandi Larsen is a writer, speaker, coach, and Lakewood resident. An innovative expert in journalism and book publishing, she's helped create New York Times bestsellers and earned Emmy nominations. She's spoken at Harvard Business School, Book Expo America, and the Writer's Digest Annual Conference, among others. Brandi is passionate about helping her community and sits on the Board of Literary Cleveland and is active in the LECPTA.



The Finishers' Club for Mothers Retreat gives women the time, space, and community to complete their creative projects, in a gorgeous mansion just far enough to get away yet easy to return home to Lakewood

District Earns Best Communities For Music Education Award

continued from page 1

to enhance their musical experience through groups such as the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band, The Lakewood Project, Chamber Choir and Jazz Band, just to name a few.

"Our experience with the Lakewood music program has been

amazing," said parent and Music Boosters president Inas Bassani, whose son, Safe, is a senior and recently was accepted into the Oberlin College Conservatory. "I can't say enough about the support from teachers and the opportunities given to my son to advance his music skills."



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Lakewood Business News

The Reserves Network Opens New Lakewood Office

by Brandon Thimke

The Reserves Network, a leading staffing provider of office, industrial, professional and technical talent, has opened the doors of its newest Northeast Ohio office location.

Located at 14625 Madison Ave. in Lakewood, the building is a 6,500 square-foot, two-story facility that will serve as the new home for the company's existing Lakewood branch, which was previously based at 13609 Detroit Ave.

"This office is very visible and accessible - there is bus line right outside the door," says Nick Stallard, chief growth officer for The Reserves Network. "It provides much more space to accommodate our large recruiting base and expands upon the training and orientation programs we offer."

In addition to size and location, Stallard adds that the building's key differentiator is its staff. "One of our leading office teams in Lakewood is now joined



The Reserves Network's new office location at 14625 Madison Ave.

onsite by a group of skilled recruiters who focus specifically on office, professional, skilled trade and engineering

placements. Having all of these resources under a single roof is a huge advantage for the job seekers and businesses who partner with us. The real-time, collaborative environment enhances, expedites and increases our ability to provide talent throughout the market."

TRN purchased the building this past summer. Since that time, the facility has undergone major renovations. Highlights include: an all-encompassing remodel to its interior and exterior, energy efficient upgrades and new contemporary décor provided by local

craftsmen and designers. A grand opening event will take place this spring.

The office is one of eight Northeast Ohio TRN locations, including its corporate base in Fairview Park. The location on Cleveland's west side was originally established as the result of the company's very first acquisition, Ger-Mar Temporaries in 1989.

Businesses and job seekers can contact the Lakewood office at (216) 227-3600 or lakewood@TRNstaffing.com. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

About The Reserves Network

Founded in 1984 and now celebrating its 35th year anniversary, The Reserves Network is a leading staffing provider of office, industrial, professional and technical talent to middle market customers. The company places nearly 20,000 employees at its more than 40 operating locations in the Midwest, Southeast and Northeast, and works with customers nationwide. This includes temporary, temp-to-hire and direct-hire placements in a wide variety of professional fields and trades. Headquartered in Fairview Park, Ohio, the family and veteran-owned company has received multiple honors for outstanding sales growth, management excellence and customer service. You can visit the company online at www.TRNstaffing.com.

Namaste / India Garden Become One Again

by Jim O'Bryan

Namaste was opened November 15, 2014 in Downtown Lakewood by the Sharma brothers, who also own India Garden which is further west on Detroit, also in Lakewood. The space was acquired during a period of turmoil at India Garden and restaurants in Downtown Lakewood.

Ramesh and Sanjeev will come back together at India Garden, where they are constantly winning awards for best food in many categories. Their brunch is legendary as is their evening menu. When I asked Ramesh where would I would get Chettinad Curry now as no Indian restaurant in town serves it he laughed and said, "Jim you lived 40 years without it, you will do fine." Which I take to mean there will be no blending of the menus.

India Garden is one of the most award-winning restaurants in Lakewood, a city that is jam-packed



with great places to wine and dine, one of the reasons it has been renamed jokingly as "Foodwood."

If you have not tried Indian food, stop by, you are missing a great meal.

India Garden hours are:
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Lakewood Cares

Can You Feel The LOVE In Lakewood?

continued from page 1

can make a much larger impact than ever before.”

You see, this is a mission for Dean and his company. Dean was a homeless Gulf War vet, through no fault of his own. He was deployed in the Gulf on 9-11. When his tour of duty was over, he came home. Unprepared after years of having the government do everything, he fell on hard times. When he worked himself out of it, he would take what little extra he had or owned and would stop by and share it with the homeless. Then he started with a plan: soap, combs, clothing, little things we all take for granted. Dean looked me in the eye while explaining, “You have no idea how you feel when you hand a homeless woman a comb, and she smiles and starts to cry.” He went on saying his mission had been to help with the little things. Everyone feels better when they are cleaned up and looking good. Hard to argue with that.

Slowly the idea grew: razors, shaving cream, women’s hygiene products, diapers, whatever he could get, he would give to those in need. Along the way he gathered many helpers and volunteers. It is hard not to be moved talking to Dean. The Executive Director Kristina Forward said, “I am not sure, I started as a volunteer, and saw that Dean’s passion for this met mine and others, and it just grew.”

The plan for the RV is “the next step” as Dean said. “Now we can go



Left to right: Kristina Forward, director of Homeless Hookup CLE, Dean Roff, founder, and Brittney Brown, Vice President.

in and really give people a shower, a good meal, and a day that was better than their yesterday. One step onto a better road. Or simply the break they need, a conversation, a meal and them knowing people care.” It is just such an amazing story from the frozen homeless man to the motor home and the amazing support and hard work of Lakewood Fire Station #1.

Homeless Hookup CLE can be reached at:homelesshookupcle.com

They are always looking for the following items: Soap (travel Size), Shampoo, Washcloths, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Mouthwash, Dental picks, Shaving Kits, Lotion, Q-Tips, Hand warmers, Hats, Gloves, Emergency

Blankets, Socks, Suntan lotion and any and all of the little things we all take for granted that you can part with. Of course they can always use \$\$\$\$ and more volunteers!

Homeless Hookup CLE can be reached at:homelesshookupcle.com

If this story was any better, with any more happy endings no one would ever believe it, but I am happy to say I bear witness to it all. The amazing show of love, respect, caring, giving, thoughtfulness, motivation and LOVE.

As always, thank you, Lakewood Fire Department, Police Department, Geiger’s, and Homeless Hookup CLE!

Rock And Roll History: "The King Lives!"

by Barry Wemyss

The Lakewood Division of Aging is offering a program sure to be of interest to all the armchair Rock and Roll historians out there. Many of us have strong opinions on the subject of Rock and Roll, and which of us does not have many vivid memories attached to certain groups and songs? Why not take some time out of your busy schedule to learn a little more about one of the true icons of Rock? The Lakewood Division of Aging, with the generous sponsorship of CareSource, is pleased to offer another in its series of Rock and Roll history classes with “The King Lives!”, a musical history of the life of Elvis Presley.

Beginning Monday, April 22, 2019, Rock and Roll History will be offered at the Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave. The class will begin at 1:00 PM. Session one will tie up the loose ends of last Fall’s class: “The History of the Folk Rock Movement.” Sessions two, three and four will examine the life of Elvis Presley. The music of Elvis can be divided into three phases: Early Elvis, from 1950 to 1958, when he was drafted into the army, Elvis in the movies, when he starred in 31 movies, from 1956 through 1969, and late Elvis, from 1965 through 1977. This class is another in a long series of Rock and Roll history classes offered by the Lakewood Division of Aging. These classes are extremely popular with attendees and we are confident that this will be well received. Rock and Roll History: “The King Lives!” has been generously sponsored by CareSource, and will be offered free of charge to participants. The Division of Aging does ask that attendees preregister by calling the Activities Department at 216-529-5005.

Poetry + Presents Kevin Latimer

by Ivan Kende

Poetry + is a monthly reading series hosted by Art on Madison for emerging and established writers in Cleveland and surrounding regions. Poetry + aims to shine the spotlight on a single writer, providing them with the platform and time necessary to present a body of their work and to connect with their audience. Each presenter is given the freedom to decide the materials and anecdotes they will share and can determine the duration of their reading. Poetry + is open to all forms of poetry, short and flash fiction, and performative happenings.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the reading begins at 7:30 p.m. Poetry is free and open to the public.

April 16th Poetry + presents Kevin Latimer.

Kevin Latimer is a poet and play-



wright from Cleveland, Ohio. He is a Co-founder & Co-Editor-in-Chief of BARNHOUSE. His work has appeared in or is forthcoming from FEELINGS, TRACK//FOUR, A VELVET GIANT.

His one act play, 4 BLACK BOYS 2 B ASTRONAUTS debuts with The Manhattan Project in the summer.

Art On Madison Gallery is located at 14203 Madison Avenue.

Silly Rabbit...A Twisted Vendors Easter Event

by Ken Tomaro

The Twisted Vendors Network is bringing the weird once again. If you’re looking for some non-traditional items, come join us at the Winchester Music Tavern on Saturday April 6th from 12 - 5 p.m.

Silly Rabbit...A Twisted Vendors Easter Event will offer non-traditional art and craft items, a little magic and

an assortment of sweets to satisfy any craving.

If all that isn’t enough you’ll even have an opportunity to have your picture taken with the Creepy Easter Bunny.

The Winchester Music Tavern is located at 12112 Madison Avenue in Lakewood.

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Lakewood Cares

Save Money On The Cost Of Going Solar With The Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op

by Mike Deneen

Are you looking for a way to help the environment and save money on your utility bills? The Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op, the nonprofit Solar United Neighbors of Ohio and Great Lakes Brewery are sponsoring free informational meetings for consumers interested in solar power for homes and businesses.

The next round of meetings are scheduled for:

- * Tuesday April 23 at the Brook Park Community Center 17400 Holland Road from 6pm till 8pm.
- * Wednesday April 24 at the Great Lakes Brewery Tasting Room 2701 Carroll Avenue from 6pm till 8pm.
- * Thursday April 25 at the Mayfield Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library 500 SOM Center Road from 6pm till 8pm

This is a great opportunity to learn about the financial incentives and savings offered by this emerging green technology without having to suffer through a high pressure sales pitch.

Topics will include: the 30% Fed-

eral Solar Tax Credit; how to find out if your home is right for solar; financing including use of low interest Cuyahoga County HELP Loans to finance a solar system and typical industry warranties. Technical issues such as the cost of adding storage batteries for use in the event of power failures and the cost of an electric car charging port will also be dealt with.

Finally, attendees will learn how to save money by joining the Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op. Solar United Neighbors grows the Solar Co-op by conducting meetings at different locations throughout the County each month until it reaches a membership of 100. All members are then encouraged to join a selection committee which solicits bids from dozens of installers. By joining together to make a bulk purchase and pulling their expertise Co-op members can realize a substantial savings.

There is no obligation and members can quit at any time.

For more details go to the Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op Facebook page or Solarunitedneighbors.org/Ohio.



Spring Sale At Nicholson House

by Heidi Murray

Lakewood Historical Society is excited to announce our annual Spring Sale at the Nicholson House at 13335 Detroit Avenue, on Friday, April 12th, 10-3 p.m., and Saturday, April 13th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. A fine selection of everything exquisite will be artfully displayed for your shopping pleasure, including crystal, china, silver, jewelry, linen and many more decorative items.

This year's sale falls before Easter Sunday so you can set your table with a new set of china, serving pieces and more. Whether you are entertaining

or treating yourself, we have something for all budgets. From candlesticks, silver trays, tea services and lamps to handkerchiefs, perfume bottles and jewelry, even hats and gloves.

Parking is available at St. Ed's across the street. This sale is a prelude to the annual Sale on the Grounds, which occurs on the first Saturday and Sunday in May.

All proceeds from this sale benefit the programs and properties of the Lakewood Historical Society. Come shop—you're sure to find a treasure to take home.

College Club West Discusses The Healthy Aging Brain At April 3 Meeting

by Paula Deal

College Club West next general meeting is Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Don Umerley Civic Center, Rocky River. Public Welcome. The program is "The Healthy Aging Brain" with speaker Kathleen Stefancin, MS,

RD, President, Smart Picks.

College Club West offers women living on the west side of Cleveland with four-year degrees and registered nurses opportunities to learn, socialize & participate in fun, meaningful activities. www.collegeclubwest.org

Community Invitation To Easter Service And Children's Easter Egg Hunt

by Corky Thacker

The community is invited to share in the joy of Easter worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 21, at Church of the Ascension, located at 13216 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. An Episcopal church, all are welcome to take Communion. Refreshments will be offered following the service, and all children are invited to join in the Easter Egg Hunt.

All are also welcome to Holy Week services:

Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 14, 10:30 a.m.

Stations of the Cross, Tuesday, April 16, 6 p.m. (and all Tuesdays during Lent)

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, Friday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

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Kiwanis Club Of Lakewood Invites You

by Anna Bacho

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood wants to invite you to our weekly meetings. You can join us for lunch served at 11:30 for a nominal cost of \$8. And at noon, listen to a large range of speakers about local sports, gardening, Playhouse Square...

We meet weekly at St. Clement's in the lower hall. Our friendly club members will greet you and guide you to a seat.

So, look over our upcoming speaker list and come meet some new friends.

APRIL 9
BUD SHAW – Northern Ohio sports writer

APRIL 23
BOB MCMAHON, Master Gardener – Outdoor Spring Gardening

MAY 7
CHRIS MYERS – Playhouse Square Season

MAY 21
TONY DIBIASIO – Kids in flight, wings of wonder

MAY 28
DANIEL WAITKUS – Instructor – Firefighters Academy, Tri-C
See our website lakewoodkiwanis.com for all our exciting community projects we are working on. And please volunteer with us. Kiwanis - serving the children of the world.

Lakewood Observer Forum

Orchard Grove Residents Resist New Developments

by Colin Dussault

My name is Colin Dussault. I have lived on Orchard Grove since the year of my birth back in 1969. For most of my 50 years, there has been a Barry Buick car lot and body shop on our three corners on Detroit Avenue. I even remember the Starter Restaurant being on the corner for a while when I was a child. I vividly recall my dear mother giving us 75 cents every now and then for cheeseburgers from the greasy spoon on the corner where the body shop offices of Barry Buick stood until recently.

Sadly, the car dealership has closed its doors and sold off its three properties on the corners of Detroit/Orchard Grove/Rosewood/Brockley to developers. These developers are planning on erecting large two- and possibly three-story apartment buildings in place of the body shop and new & used car dealerships. (It is our understanding based on information available to us that the proposal from developer Jerome Solove sought to erect 150 units with parking for 186 vehicles. Now we are hearing rumblings of a proposal for 300 rental units.)

As more and more information about these proposed developments comes to light, the opposition to this drastic change to our cityscape increases. Having resided here for half a century, I have enjoyed the tranquility of this neighborhood. Now that

I am a homeowner, I have grown to appreciate my neighbors even more. Orchard Grove is a great neighborhood in every sense of the word. We all get along; we look out for each other and enjoy spending time together when we can. I personally snow-blow sidewalks and driveways for many neighboring homes in the winter. I also regularly rake my neighbors' lawn in the spring, summer and fall (hey, they are nuns—and I need all the positive points I can get). We all look out for each other, as good neighbors should do.

However, as these plans for development emerge, the situation is becoming increasingly worrisome for all of us who have made this street our home. We have major questions and concerns about many facets of this development.

For starters, what about parking? We barely have enough spots on the street to park as it stands. What will happen when 150 to 300 or more new residents are introduced into this area? I think it is safe to say that there will be a minimum of one car if not more per apartment. Parking will be a nightmare for all involved. Where are we all supposed to park our vehicles? This is already an issue for our existing neighbors and home owners.

Additionally, these new dwellings are being pitched as apartments, which indicates that tenants will likely be com-

ing and going, moving in and moving out on a regular basis. What kind of people will be living here in such close proximity to our homes, children and pets? We have all spent our lifetimes maintaining and keeping up our homes. We have made major investments in this city and this street and this neighborhood. What will these "tenants" bring to the table? They're unlikely to be motivated to have the same dedication to the area that we who have lived here so long have!

If these were condominiums, it might be slightly less painful. At least

with condos, the people moving in en masse would be "owners" and might have a vested interest in keeping this neighborhood safe and nice.

As it is, we can hardly exit off of Orchard Grove northbound onto Detroit Avenue due to the long lines of backed-up traffic. These ever-present backups have resulted from the new bike lanes and single lane "upgrades" and changes to the traffic patterns on Detroit Avenue. (Quite honestly, with the lights timed

continued on next page

Row Houses - Opinion

by Gloria Merritt

While I appreciate the new row houses on Detroit Avenue, enough is enough. If I see one more block of these look-alike places, I am going to scream! What the heck is the City thinking? To top it off, I understand that we will soon have apartments and mixed use at the old Buick site and guess what, they will look just like the row houses. If I wanted Battery Park I would have moved there. Where are we going to be in 10 years when those properties are no longer the 'thing'? Now, we manage quite well without looking like every other community. Lakewood's uniqueness and city services are why it is such a great place to live and why young families are flocking here. We did not get this status because we have a bazil-

lion row houses going down Detroit Avenue, plastered up against the curb at every corner. Please, please, please, we need to do more than row houses and dollar stores.

I am begging City Hall to stop going overboard with everything they touch. Why must they try to totally destroy and rebuild? It is almost as though their goal is to make us look like every other dull city off any random highway exit with buildings that look the same and crackerjack stores that you can find anywhere.

There is such a thing as 'happy medium' City Hall.

Don't destroy what we have.

Gloria Merritt is a third generation Lakewoodite.

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Lakewood Observer Forum

Orchard Grove Residents Resist New Developments

continued from previous page

the way they are and the single and bike lanes being created, Detroit is unnavigable by car. If this was the city's intent, they have succeeded with flying colors!) Taking this into consideration, what will happen when we add a few hundred more drivers, vehicles and neighbors to this equation? Furthermore, we can no longer access Hilliard Avenue from Rosewood to the south due to that road being closed and blocked off with concrete barriers between the the park and church. We cannot come home down Rosewood from the south any longer due to these impediments to our travel.

Orchard Grove is a very busy cut-through and as such, cars and traffic are always speeding up and down our street. So much so that I worry every day for the safety and well-being of my 11-year-old daughter. Again, what will happen when we introduce several hundred new neighbors and cars to this area? I am also concerned about what types of people will be renting these new dwellings and how those people will affect my parental peace of mind as far as allowing my child to walk, run, bike and play on our street without my watchful and protective eyes upon her.

When I was only 7 years of age, I walked to the Midnight Market, Ross Deli and Lawson's all on my own to get my mom cigarettes (with nothing more than a note from her). I walked alone to the store at this age to get milk and bread. I would ride my bike down to Barry Buick or Lossman Motors and get air in my tires. I would hang out at Wings Hobby Shop and Kovac's Comics collecting baseball cards and passing my time. As I grew older I would walk or ride my bike to Miller's Dining Room for sticky buns, Melody Lane for records and Daffy Dan's to get my baseball jerseys lettered and have my last name placed on the back of my uniforms. Today I am very reluctant to allow my 11-year-old to walk or ride anywhere unchaperoned. If we add these apartments and introduce this many new strangers to our immediate area, my ever-present fears for her safety will be compounded a thousandfold. I am not happy with the changes being proposed.

Aside from our collective concerns about parking and issues with entering and exiting Detroit Ave., speeding cars, hundreds of new tenants and strangers with no motivating financial ties to the neighborhood, where will the egress for each building be? Where and how will they enter and exit their respective parking lots and garages? How will this affect each of us who live on surround-

ing streets? How close will the buildings be in relation to our pre-existing property lines? What will our sight lines be? What will we see when we look out our windows? What will they see when they look out their windows?

These are all issues that we on Orchard Grove have been talking about amongst ourselves privately, in our backyards and on our front porches as we contemplate and come to grips with the rapid pace with which these major and life-altering changes to the blocks adjacent to our beloved homes are being proposed. The only clear winners here are the developers and the city in terms of income generated from rent and taxes. However, the "winnings" for those two entities come at the expense of the homeowners and lifelong residents of Orchard Grove and surrounding streets--homeowners who have dedicated themselves to this city.

Many of us are contemplating selling our properties and moving away from a city, street and neighborhood that we have made and called home for decades. We don't want to do this, but we may be left with no choice. These

thoughts never entered my mind until the sale of Barry Buick occurred. That potential mass exodus is the most disturbing result of these changes to our fine city and our street corners in particular. I have personally invested in this home thinking that I would raise my daughter here and grow old here and hand it down to her. Now those thoughts have been turned upside down. Now I am thinking about moving away and abandoning a home that I dearly love.

I hope that, contrary to what transpired with the dismantling of our beloved Lakewood Hospital, the city slows down and genuinely takes our concerns and interests to heart. I would think that my 50 years residing here in this home would be worth something to the decision makers at City Hall. If they take my concerns and dedication to my neighbors and neighborhood as expressed herein, and multiply them by the more than 1,000 neighbors who feel the same way that I do, perhaps the city will feel compelled to take a break, slow down and re-evaluate this entire idea of new apartments on the corners of Detroit and Orchard Grove, Rose-

wood and Brockley.

We feel there needs to be much more discussion about how this is all going to play out. As it stands now, many of us are feeling compelled to move away from Lakewood, Ohio.

If anyone else from this area is concerned and would like to correspond or join us in our attempts to be heard, you can email me at: colindussault@gmail.com. My neighbor James Obarsky would also like to hear from you. He can be reached at: obarskyjames@gmail.com

Colin Dussault

Colin Dussault is a Musician/Bandleader and 50 year resident of Orchard Grove Avenue from Lakewood, Ohio.



Cuyahoga County Court Of Appeals Rules That Lakewood Violated Ohio's Open Records Law

by Edward Graham

On March 18, 2019 Lakewood City Council President Sam O'Leary placed on the Lakewood City Council meeting agenda a letter captioned "Increasing Government Transparency and Citizen Access in the Council Office."

O'Leary now wants to talk about "increasing government transparency." This is the same person who presided over a multitude of secret "executive session" closed city council meetings designed to keep the public in the blind while the mayor and council plotted to give away Lakewood Hospital.

O'Leary says "the importance of the public's free access to public records, and the fundamental notion that in Ohio, public records belong to the people, not the government" as if he actually believed that. If he really did believe that "public records belong to the people, not the government," wouldn't he, as president of council, have stepped in and brought to city council's attention that Brian Essi, one of our Lakewood citizens, was being denied public records to which he was entitled?

O'Leary, of course, wasn't about to do anything to help Mr. Essi to obtain the requested public records because he and the mayor did not want the truth discovered about the underhanded

crooked activity of city officials in giving away our city hospital and all of its associated assets.

On March 15, 2016 Brian. Essi began requesting access to Lakewood public records that would have revealed the dishonesty by Lakewood government in its quest to give away Lakewood Hospital and its millions of dollars of valuable medical equipment and millions more of its money to the Cleveland Clinic.

On June 24, 2016, due to the City's disobedience of Ohio's public records law by withholding records, Mr. Essi had to commence a mandamus action in the Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals to obtain records to which he was entitled.

Close to three years after Mr. Essi's first request for records the appeals court found in his favor and issued a writ of mandamus to compel the city to produce requested records. The court said that "The citizens have the need and the right to know what their government is doing, especially on matters that affect the mental and physical well-being of the residents and the financial well-being of the community. They have the right and need to know whether their civil servants are effecting their duties properly and with integrity."

Giving away our hospital, without

question, has "affect[ed] the mental and physical well-being of the residents and the financial well-being of the community." Unfortunately, Lakewood's civil servants were not "effecting their duties properly and with integrity."

In its decision the Court of Appeals acknowledged that "the sale of Lakewood Hospital, which is one of the most important transactions in the city history and that many residents looked upon with suspicion and fear of sell out." The fact is that we were sold out by our city officials.

Rather than acting on behalf of Lakewood citizens, the mayor and council acted on behalf of the Cleveland Clinic and gave away millions and millions of dollars of city property.


The hospital real estate alone, worth over one hundred million dollars, is gone.

The fifty million dollars of hospital cash that should have gone to the city is gone.

The millions of dollars of hospital equipment belonging to the city is gone.


If the city is to have open and honest government, it is time for those city officials who sold us out and gave away our hospital to be gone.

Edward Graham is a former Lakewood City Councilman.



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Lakewood Observer Fiction

The Rockport Miracles - Part 4: Episode 6:

"The Ballad of Derecho Dan" Continues

by Scott MacGregor

Storm 5.4 was a real pisser. In truth, they're all pissers but, some have been worse than others. This particular storm had characteristics the meteorologists call "complex". A typical Rockport storm features straight line derecho winds that rocket through storm alley and sound like someone is blowing hard on a one-reed harmonica. "Complex storms" happen when extreme low and high air pressures meet for coffee over Lake Erie. Working together with the water, the jumbalaya of weather elements spawn tornados that spin off in all directions like snakes from the head of Medusa.

Complex storms have a distinctive sound of their own. They sound like Casey Jones blowing on a one reed harmonica while driving his locomotive straight through your house. When the city's emergency sirens started blaring at 3:15am, Little Dan and Wilmena didn't understand that the roar they heard was Casey Jones steamin' and a rollin' right up their front sidewalk!

Wilmena awoke like a shot and found Little Dan in his bedroom trying to coax a terrified BD out from under his bed. Little Dan couldn't snare him so he upended his entire bed just as the window next to it exploded. Fortunately, the mattress took the entire blow. Then, with BD in hand, they beat feet down the stairs in hopes of reaching the basement. Wilmena didn't make it. The tornado destroyed the front porch of their house and sent a large wood splinter through the bay windows and straight into her chest!

Little Dan was already halfway



down the basement stairs when he realized Wimena wasn't behind him. "MA!" he screamed, "MA! WHERE ARE YOU?" When she didn't answer his call, he threw little BD into the open clothes dryer to shield him and ran back up to find her. Just as he reached the top of the stairs he heard crackling and crunching noises that sickened his ears. They were the sounds of the entire top half of the house being ripped away. The old plaster and lattice board ceiling above Little Dan began falling all around him. He dove for cover just as a 300 lb. chunk of plaster quite nearly clobbered him. Still, the tornado wasn't

done. Reciprocating back and forth between the houses on their block like a pinball bouncing against bumpers, the twister ripped away the kitchen and sent it flying into the detached garage.

Desperate and disoriented, Little Dan crawled on his belly through the wreckage of the living room until he found Wilmena underneath the upturned arms of Big Dan's favorite chair. She was in great distress. Though still conscious, she had a 12" piece of splintered wood sticking out of her upper chest and was coughing up bright red blood. "Big Dan (cough) covered me with his chair to protect

me," she said. "It's a miracle!" Little Dan was horrified and screamed, "I'm gonna pull that thing out!"

Wilmena pushed him away, "No-No!" she yelled, spitting blood as she did. "My lung will go flat like a tire if you do. Leave it alone until I get to a hospital!" Little Dan became hysterical. "I don't know what to do!" he sobbed, "I don't know what to do!" Wilmena placed her hand on Little Dan's bowed head and tried to comfort him. "I guess they'll be no tuna salad on the menu today," she said laughing weakly. As always, Wilmena's attempts at humor had a calming effect on Little Dan's emotions, if only for a moment. Little Dan looked up and was jolted by the sight of a clearing sky full of stars instead of a living room ceiling. "SOMEONE PLEASE HELP MY MOTHER!!!" he yelled. "PLEASE-SOMEONE SAVE MY MOTHER!!!"

"(cough)...I love you Little Dan," said Wilmena, struggling to breathe. Under the stars as the warm summer weather returned to normal and rescue sirens filled the air, Wilmena whispered, "I love you," one more time before her eyes closed and her body went limp.

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 7: "The Ballad of Derecho Dan" Continues

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Mark Your Calendar:

LakewoodAlive Unveils 2019 Schedule Of Community Events

by Matt Bixenstine

It's shaping up to be another fun-filled year in our city. LakewoodAlive announces its schedule of community events for 2019 – a collection of five events spanning 14 dates that will afford attendees plenty of opportunities to celebrate Lakewood's vibrancy.

The Front Porch Concert Series, Lakewood Summer Meltdown, Spooky Pooch Parade, Lakewood Chocolate Walk and Light Up Lakewood encompass a diverse slate of events that offers something for everyone. Collectively, this quintet of LakewoodAlive events drew nearly 40,000 attendees to Downtown Lakewood during 2018.

The event schedule kicks off on Friday, June 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. with the first of 10 performances comprising the 9th Annual Front Porch Concert Series sponsored by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James. This popular summer series features a wide variety of free, live music on the front steps of Lakewood Public Library for 10 consecutive Friday evenings. Each week showcases a different style of

music while Lakewoodites and visitors enjoy an entertaining evening at an open-air venue. Attendees are encouraged to bring family, friends, snacks, blankets and chairs.

Sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled, the 10th Annual Lakewood Summer Meltdown on Saturday, July 13, from 4 to 10 p.m. represents one of the region's most highly-anticipated street parties, drawing 10,000 attendees from across Northeast Ohio to the heart of Lakewood each July. This fixture on our city's summer calendar takes place on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood between Mars and Belle Avenues and includes the Meltdown 5K race, 1 Mile Family Fun Run and Walk, street festival, outdoor activities, food vendors, beer garden, live music and more.

Dogs will rule the day on Saturday, October 19, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. during the 12th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade. Sponsored by Discount Drug Mart, this canine-centric community event consists of a festival in Kauffman Park, a parade through Lakewood's Downtown business district on Detroit

Avenue and an awards presentation. A favorite Halloween tradition for Northeast Ohio dog lovers and their families, the Spooky Pooch Parade represents one of the only events of its kind in the region, providing a tail-wagging good time for canine and human guests alike.

On Thursday evening, October 24, Downtown Lakewood will turn downright chocolatey, and even those with a discerning sweet tooth will go home happy. The 11th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk is a delectable evening all about chocolate, with participants visiting a variety of shops and eateries serving as "Sweet Stops" that each provide a unique chocolate treat. This fundraising event supports the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance and LakewoodAlive's programming.

The spirit of the season will come to life with holiday cheer when the 13th Annual Light Up Lakewood sponsored by First Federal Lakewood takes place on Saturday, December 7, from

continued on next page

LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive's Paint Lakewood Program Kicks Off 2019 Season

by Matt Bixenstine

Calling Lakewood homeowners and residents: Now's the perfect time to add a splash of color to your home's exterior.

LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program announces the return of its Paint Lakewood Program for the 2019 season. This innovative program is designed to help make it more affordable for qualified Lakewood homeowners and residents to beautify their homes through exterior whole-home painting.

Paint Lakewood will provide a grant of up to \$3,500 to qualified Lakewood homeowners and residents for exterior paint, supplies and professional labor costs to paint their home.

LakewoodAlive Unveils 2019 Schedule Of Community Events

continued from previous page

4 to 8 p.m. within the city's seasonally-illuminated downtown district. A signature event on LakewoodAlive's calendar, this free, family-friendly festival along Detroit Avenue features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter fireworks, live music, ice carvings, hot chocolate, food trucks, children's games and more.

"On behalf of our entire organization, we're excited to announce our schedule of community events for 2019," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "Our wide range of community events offers something for everyone, improving quality of life for our residents and staying true to our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood."

For more information regarding LakewoodAlive's calendar of community events for 2019, visit LakewoodAlive.org/Events.

The program has been designed to offer a grant on a sliding scale to help reduce the cost of an exterior paint job.

The Paint Lakewood Program's primary goal involves revitalizing Lakewood's neighborhoods while reducing lead hazards and educating residents on lead safety issues.

"We're excited to be able to once again offer Lakewood homeowners and residents the opportunity to participate in our Paint Lakewood Program," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director. "This program serves as an invaluable tool for helping low-to-moderate income residents to improve their homes through affordable exterior painting."

LakewoodAlive To Host "Knowing Your Home: How To Contract A Repair" Workshop On April 25

by Matt Bixenstine

We're known as the "City of Beautiful Homes," yet as many residents have discovered, maintaining our renowned-yet-aging housing stock requires more than some basic elbow grease on the part of homeowners.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair on Thursday, April 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library. The third workshop of 2019 for this popular home maintenance educational series will focus on the process of working with a home repair/improvement contractor.

Led by Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director, this free workshop will cover the basics of understanding your repair, including navigating the process of obtaining estimates, scheduling the job and ensuring the project is completed properly in a timely manner.

The goal of this presentation is to help remove the guesswork from the daunting task of home repair and improvement projects. When your project is done correctly the first time, you save precious time, money and sanity.

To reserve your free spot for



Before and after photos from a home that was painted as part of the Paint Lakewood Program

Qualified Paint Lakewood Program applicants must meet HUD-established income guidelines, and other restrictions do apply. For more

information, visit LakewoodAlive.org/PaintLakewood or contact Laura Motor, LakewoodAlive's Staff Program Assistant, at 216-521-0655.

"Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair," 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. 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.



LakewoodAlive's Allison Urbanek will lead the presentation at this workshop on April 25.

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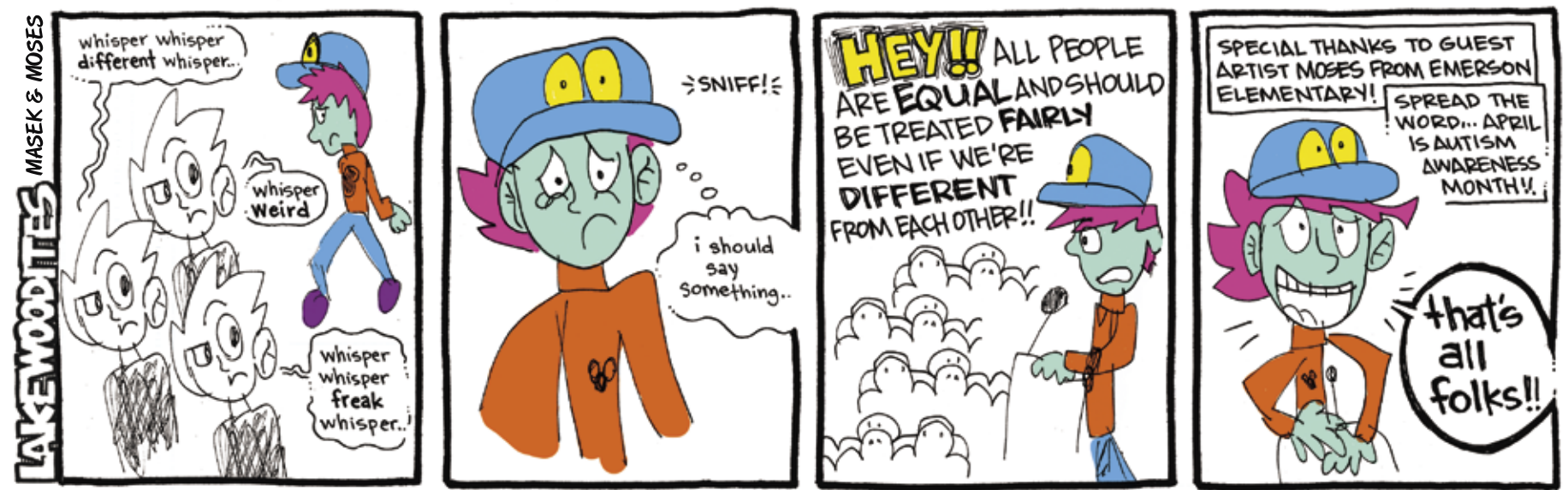
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