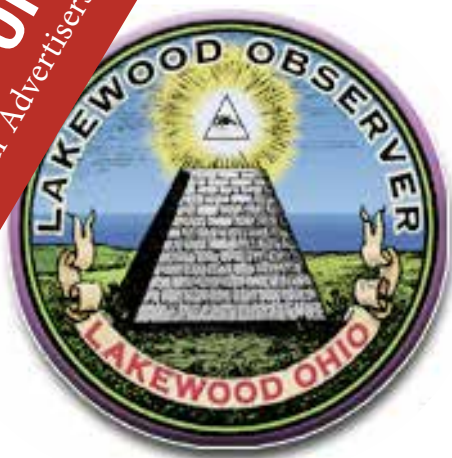


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Gerald R. Ford, 38th President USA

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Volume 15, Issue 09, May 8, 2019

O'Malley To Run For Re-Election In Ward 4

by Gabrielle Jackson

Ward 4 Councilman Daniel J. O'Malley has announced that he will seek a second term on Lakewood City Council this fall. O'Malley has amassed a record of legislative accomplishments, neighborhood improvements, and community growth since first being elected in 2015 and says he wishes to continue that progress.

O'Malley serves as chair of city council's Finance Committee, which provides financial oversight and reviews the city's budget on an annual basis. "I'm proud of the work we've done to make efficient use of Lakewood's taxdollars," O'Malley said. "We've managed to make investments in our services, infrastructure, and workforce without raising taxes."

Among the most evident investments are in Ward 4's parks. "We've invested over \$1 million in Ward 4's parks alone," O'Malley noted. "That includes a total renovation of

Cove Park, plus major investments in Madison Park."

Last year, Madison Park saw the return of full-court basketball after a 10-year absence. O'Malley included

funding for the court in his budget priorities in 2017.

Councilman O'Malley is also proud of the work he's done on behalf of Lake-

continued on page 2



Dan O'Malley has represented Ward 4 on City Council since 2016.

LakewoodAlive Announces Performers For 2019 Front Porch Concert Series



Photo by Judie Vegh/OyVegh Photography

New Roosevelt Principal Named

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education at its meeting on April 15 approved Allison Aber as the next principal of Roosevelt Elementary School, replacing Eileen Griffiths, who is retiring. Aber, who is currently principal at Longfellow Elementary School of Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools, begins her position on August 1, 2019.

In her role at Longfellow, Aber provided robust professional development for her staff, implemented a new schedule with collaborative intervention and enrichment at each grade level, created a



learning lab makerspace, and was successfully awarded over \$20,000 in grant money from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. During her time at Longfellow, AIR testing

scores improved nearly 10%.

Before her role as principal, Aber served as assistant principal at Madison Local Schools' middle school for four years. Prior to joining the administrative ranks, Aber was a math and language arts teacher working with students in both grades 5 and 6 in the Madison Local and Highland Local school districts.

"I am so excited to be joining the Roosevelt Elementary team," Aber said. "I look forward to meeting everyone and learning more about all of the wonderful things happening at Roosevelt. Together with students, staff, and community, I am committed to working hard to continue to build upon Roosevelt's achievements. I am truly honored to become a part of the Lakewood family."

LHS Barnstormers Wow City With Production Of "Mamma Mia"



Curtain call! From left: Emma Nagy, Ivy Dore-Rook, Sarah Whitkofski, and Solana Petrone. More on page 7

Keep Lakewood Beautiful Annual Humus Sale May 18th

by Tish Marshall

Keep Lakewood Beautiful will be kicking off their Adopt-A-Spot program again this May with our annual Humus Sale. On Saturday, May 18th, bagged humus and perennials will be for sale at the Skate House parking lot at Lakewood Park

from 9-12. Each bag of humus weighs about 30 pounds and costs \$4. Feel free to bring your own reusable container and save trashing a plastic bag.

KLB is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to working with our fellow citizens on recycling, litter

prevention and beautification. We are always looking for new board members, volunteers and ideas. Contact information can be found through the Keep Lakewood Beautiful page on the city website (onelakewood.com).

continued on page 14

Lakewoodobserver.com/Forum

HOT OFF THE DECK!

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Local Election Issues -- 2019	Mark Kindt	17	814	Mon May 06
\$30 Per Day To Park At One Lakewood	Bill Call	9	669	Mon May 06
6 Years Ago - 3 Women Rescued From House On Seymour Ave.	Jim O'Bryan	0	133	Mon May 06
Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes	Jim O'Bryan	5	460	Mon May 06
The Road Ahead	Mark Kindt	48	4433	Sun May 05
Fender Bender Shuts I-90 Down - Drivers Need To Get Smart	Jim O'Bryan	0	527	Sat May 04
Hottest Rumor On The Street...		5	601	Thu May 02
The Three Arches Foundation	Bill Call	2	291	Thu May 02
Let's Try This Again... Lakewood You Were Played	Jim O'Bryan	4	658	

O'Malley To Run For Re-Election In Ward 4

continued from page 1

wood’s most vulnerable residents. In 2016, when low-income tenants at Lake Shore Towers in the Gold Coast were being charged to remedy the building’s bed bug problem in violation of Lakewood’s laws, O’Malley stepped in on behalf of the residents. “The policy you have in place is creating a crippling burden on the low-income residents of your building,” O’Malley wrote to the building’s landlord at the time. “Many of your residents are impoverished senior citizens and in no position to pay for these costly treatments.”

O’Malley also introduced an ordinance in 2017 to remove domestic violence as an official “nuisance activity” in Lakewood’s code. The change will make it harder for landlords to evict their tenants simply for calling the police when they need protection the most.

The first piece of legislation O’Malley introduced when he took office in 2016 was Ord. 01-16, which protected LGBTQ Lakewoodites from discrimination in housing, education, employment, and public accommodation. The ordinance

passed later that year. Organizations like Equality Ohio and Cleveland Stonewall Democrats have hailed the legislation as among the most comprehensive in the state of Ohio. O’Malley also introduced an ordinance protecting LGBTQ youth from the harmful practice of “conversion therapy” in 2018.

Among O’Malley’s other accomplishments are a new ordinance repealing Lakewood’s long-standing ban on body art establishments, and working to implement a new breed-neutral “dangerous dog” ordinance.

Councilman O’Malley said the part of his job he loves best is being out in the neighborhoods talking with residents. “I much prefer being in the neighborhoods and knocking on doors to being inside City Hall,” O’Malley said, noting that he has held dozens of town hall meetings, coffees, and block club meetings since taking office. “When a resident has a problem – whether it’s with their landlord, or their neighbor, or the city – there’s no better feeling than being there to help solve that problem and make life a little easier for them.”

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

Lakewood Observer



Choosing Smart, Sustainable Development For Lakewood

by Meghan George

Council Person-At-Large

A recent article in Crain’s Cleveland Business examined development issues in Lakewood, and I want to provide a response. As part of this year’s campaign conversation I will be discussing how we pursue “smart development.”

The closures of Barry Buick and Lakewood Hospital (among others) face us with big choices about development within the City of Lakewood. We have very few large commercial parcels available for new construction. Getting these choices right is important.

Our infrastructure will be further stressed by the demands of one of the densest cities in the U.S. adding additional dwelling units. New residents will need additional city services. It is imperative for Lakewood to have balanced development.

As I mentioned at a recent City Council meeting, not less than 10 or 12 years ago, it was nearly impossible to sell a condo in Lakewood without taking a loss. Times have certainly changed and we are now in a seller’s market, but we need to be thoughtful and balanced with the development along our commercial corridors.



With the proposals at One Lakewood Place, Barry Buick, and Bunts Rd., we are potentially over saturating the market for rental apartments. We already have one of the largest rental markets in the region.

Getting development right means actively engaging community input as well. Keeping people informed and involved takes time, but results in better developments that serve the interest of our city’s people.

We need to take a hard look at each redevelopment proposal and make sure that it not only fits with the characteristics of the neighborhood, but also is something sustainable for the long term.

Harding Eighth Grade Travels To D.C.

by Alexandra Hodson

I am a student in 8th grade at Harding Middle School, and from May 1st through May 6th, 134 students and I got to go to Washington, DC. by bus.

After 7 hours of driving, talking, and laughing, we looked out our windows to see monuments in the distance.

We first arrived at Arlington Cemetery to see more than 400,000 graves perfectly aligned with each other, as if in army formation. We had the opportunity to see the changing of guards in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is constantly guarded. For the rest of the day we visited many memorials, my personal favorite being the National World War II Memorial, with its beautiful fountains and great views. On the second day we got to visit the United States Capitol Building. Inside we got to see 100 statues dedicated to people who changed history. This day we also got the opportunity to remember the tragedy of the Holocaust. In the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum there were heart-



photo by Julia Komplier

felt and tragic stories of the survivors and of the lives lost in the Holocaust. In this museum there was a 200 square foot room, just filled with shoes. So many shoes. The shoes of the hopeful, desperate, and scared sitting alone in a room.

That night we saw a hilarious murder mystery play at the Kennedy Center. The next day we saw the White House, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, and a tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield. This trip was an adventure that I will never forget.

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LUNCH & LEARN

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Wednesday, May 22, 2019 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by
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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, May 9, 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 “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo.

Main Library Meeting Room

Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - “The Manchurian Candidate” (1962)

Directed by John Frankenheimer, Presented by Terry Meehan

During the Korean War, a U.S. platoon is captured and taken to a mysterious location in Communist China. Somehow the men make it back to U.S. lines, and the platoon leader, Captain Marco (Frank Sinatra), declares Sergeant Shaw (Laurence Harvey) a war hero, but something is not quite right. Terry Meehan continues his series Cold War Chronicles, introducing each film with an original video, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, May 12, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Adam Miller Folk Music The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie: American Balladeer

In his short life, Woody Guthrie wrote over 1,000 American songs – and he didn’t use an original melody for any of them! Folksinger, storyteller and autoharp virtuoso, Adam Miller, will perform an outstanding tribute, The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie: American Balladeer. It is the story of the man who wrote, “This Land is Your Land,” one of the most widespread English language folksongs. Miller has performed this program across the United States.

Main Library Auditorium

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Telling Our American Story: Immigrant Literature Literature Series presented by Barbara Parr

The third in our four-part literature series discussing the books “Brooklyn” by Colm Tóibín and “West of Kabul, East of New York” by Tamim Ansary. Registration is required. Register online at lifelonglearningcleveland.org or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friends’ Prelude to Summer Preview Book Sale

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host a members-only Prelude to Summer Preview Book Sale. Memberships may be purchased at the door for as little as \$3.00.

Main Friends’ Book Sale Area

Thursday May 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Booked for Murder Book Club

If you share a passion for mystery, join the group each month to discuss your favorites and selections made by group members. Tonight we will discuss “The Tree of Hands” by Ruth Rendell.

Main Library Meeting Room

Friday, May 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - “Precious” (2009)

Directed by Lee Daniels

Pregnant by her own father for the second time, illiterate sixteen-year-old Claireece “Precious” Jones (Gabourey Sidibe) suffers constant abuse at the hands of her vicious mother (Mo’Nique). Precious sees a chance to turn her life around when she is offered the opportunity to transfer to an alternative school. Under the patient, firm guidance of her new teacher, Ms. Rain (Paula Patton), she begins the journey from oppression to self-determination.

Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friends’ Prelude to Summer Book Bag Sale

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host the Prelude to Summer Book Bag Sale.

Main Friends’ Book Sale Area

Children And Youth

compiled by Nic Starr

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m

Art Connection

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Unleash your imagination and creativity through thoughtful art activities. Students will express their view of the world by creating their own unique piece of art to take home. Registration required.

Main Library Activity Room.

Saturday, May 11, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tail Waggin’ Tutors

For school-age children

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

Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - “Marigold” (2007) Directed by Willard Carroll

Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill

Hollywood actress Marigold Lexton (Ali Larter) lands in India to make a movie, but winds up in a Bollywood musical opposite film star Prem Rajput (Salman Khan) instead. It becomes obvious Marigold is faking the dance numbers. To rescue her, Prem takes her dancing, and they become more than co-stars. Next time the cameras roll, Marigold is magical. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Concert - Wallace Coleman

As a youth in Tennessee where country and western music still prevails, Wallace Coleman was captivated by the sounds he heard on the radio at night. It was Nashville’s WLAC, and they were playing the Blues. The sounds haunted him by day where, he says, “I would be sittin’ in class and hear Howlin’ Wolf singin’ just as clear in my head.” Cleveland Blues royalty Robert Lockwood Jr. said he would never hire a harmonica player, until he heard Coleman play.

Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Film - “Documented” (2013)

Directed by Jose Antonio Vargas and Ann Raffaella Lupo

Presented by American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio

In 2011, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas outed himself as an undocumented immigrant in an essay in New York Times Magazine. “Documented” chronicles his journey to America as a child and his journey through America as an immigration reform activist living with the knowledge that the country he lives in can be a hostile home. Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio will join us to discuss the film.

Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Knit & Lit Book Club

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 “The Underground Railroad: A Novel” by Colson Whitehead.

Main Library Meeting Room

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Telling Our American Story: Immigrant Literature

Literature Series presented by Barbara Parr

The fourth in our four-part literary series discussing the books “Brooklyn” by Colm Tóibín and “West of Kabul, East of New York” by Tamim Ansary. Registration is required. Register online at lifelonglearningcleveland.org or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Author Event - “Cleveland Then and Now”

Book by Laura DeMarco

“Cleveland Then and Now” matches rare archive images with specially-commissioned contemporary color photos of the same scenes to reveal the past and present of Cleveland. It concentrates on landmarks that have stayed intact and adapted to survive. Tradition amid change is the story of Cleveland, then and now. Laura DeMarco is an arts and culture reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Books will be available for



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Lakewood Public Library

Summer Reading Is For All Ages At Lakewood Public Library

by Melinda Frank

Dream big and explore the universe with this year’s summer reading theme, “A Universe of Stories.” Starting this year, summer reading is for all ages at Lakewood Public Library. From Monday, May 13 to Monday, August 5, children and adults can read their way through the universe at the Library.

For youth, it’s 3... 2... 1... Lift off! Journey to either the Main Library or Madison Branch libraries to sign up for Summer Reading Club! Participants ages birth through twelfth grade will gather stamps and prizes as they go, and a special reward awaits those who complete thirty hours, thirty books, or thirty chapters of reading by Monday, August 5. The fun doesn’t end there, either. Arts and crafts abound! Any child with a parent or caregiver can stop by Monday through Thursday, June 10 through July 25, anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and pick up a space-themed craft to do together. Our craft changes each week!

While finishing your reading record is quite an accomplishment, we’ve got an encore you won’t want to miss! Children and their families can attend the Summer Reading Club Party at Madison Park on Wednesday, August 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Fun, games, and prizes await! Teens will have their own party on Fri-



day, August 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Main Library. To register for summer reading, stop by the Main Library or Madison Branch Summer Reading Club Desk starting May 13.

Any adult over the age of 18 is eligible to participate in the library’s newest addition, the Adult Summer Reading Program. Your beach read or daily commute audiobook could win you a prize this summer! Each time you read a book, eBook, audiobook or graphic novel, enter to win one of our weekly prizes. One book equals one entry and one chance to win. Prize winners will be drawn weekly and entry forms are available at the Main Library, Madison Branch and online. No registration is required for adults.

Strokes Of Genius Ends With Art Show

by Marge Foley

The 2019 spring session of Strokes of Genius at the Lakewood Public Library recently came to a close as participating second, third, and fourth graders proudly showcased their talent at an art show for family and friends. Each week students learned about the life and work of a different artist and then completed an art project in the style of that art-

ist. Artwork created by Paul Cezanne, Georges Seurat, Robert and Sonia Delaunay, Michelangelo, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Andy Warhol provided the inspiration for the students’ creative efforts. Oil pastels, watercolor paints, clay, tempera, and markers were some of the art mediums used. At the conclusion of the Art Show each participant took home a certificate and their creative work.

Prelude To Summer Book Sale

by Genevieve Jaskulski

Victor Hugo once said, “A library implies an act of faith.”

The resilience of modern Libraries and how we move forward in this technological age will discern the level of our active investment in the future.

It promises that the responsibility and development of the collection, as well as the distribution of knowledge, will lie securely in the hands of those who would protect and cherish it.

At Lakewood Public Library we take the future very seriously, which is why we are so proud and invested in the programming that we provide.

Recently we have been given a fantastic opportunity to host a display in the Main Library building, up in the second-floor gallery, under the name Traveling Stanzas.

This amazing exhibit features beautifully raw immigrant poetry and also facilitates an opportunity to create your own poems using blackout poetry

with some state of the art equipment.

All of these opportunities are funded by the extraordinary Friends of the Library.

They work so hard to raise money for our programming via the Book sales, which we hold at the Main Library every few months.

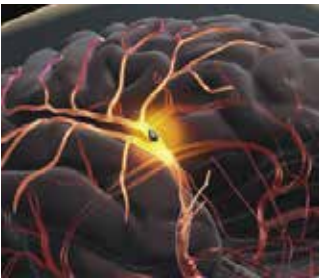
The upcoming Prelude to Summer Sale will also be a Bag-Sale and will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Main Library, with the preview sale being held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It should be noted that the preview sale will not be a bag sale, and all items will be at a normal price.

For those who wish to sign up and become a member of the Friends; the membership fee is only \$3.00 a year and may be purchased at our Main Circulation desk, through the mail, through the library’s website at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or at the door of the book sale.

Happy summer everyone!

ADVERTISEMENT

5 Stroke Signs: Knowing them could save someone’s life.



A stroke happens when a blood vessel in the brain becomes blocked or bursts, and it stems from a cardiovascular condition such as high blood pressure, atherosclerosis or atrial fibrillation.

Fast treatment can mean the difference between a person being able to walk and go home versus needing to move to a nursing home. In a situation of an acute stroke, you lose about two million brain cells a minute.

BE FAST: Easy to remember, too important to forget.

In a stroke, every minute counts. Use this method to evaluate whether someone may be having a stroke and act:

- **BALANCE:** Watch for sudden loss of balance.
- **EYES:** Is there sudden vision loss in one or both eyes? Or double vision?
- **FACE:** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

- **ARMS:** Have the person raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **SPEECH:** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?
- **TIME:** If you observe any of these signs, call 911 immediately.

Time to call 911.

The sooner you recognize signs of a stroke and get someone to the hospital, the greater the chances of reducing the risk of disability and death.

If a person shows any stroke symptoms, even if symptoms go away, call 911 and get the person to the hospital immediately. Remember, Cleveland Clinic offers high-quality stroke care near you in the Comprehensive Stroke Center at Main Campus and the Primary Stroke Center at Fairview Hospital.

Nurses Make a Difference Every Day

Every year in May, Cleveland Clinic joins in the National Nurses Week celebration to recognize our nurses for the amazing care they provide to patients.

Today and every day, Cleveland Clinic nurses are putting Patients First. For that, we want to say two words back – “thank you.” Thanks to all of our dedicated nurses who make a difference every day by embracing their calling to provide safe, quality and compassionate care.

Please consider sending an online thank you card to a Cleveland Clinic nurse in your life. Don’t remember their full name? Give us the details, and we will do our best to find your nurse and deliver your message. Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/ThankANurse](https://clevelandclinic.org/ThankANurse) today!

Men’s Health and Urological Care in Downtown Cleveland.

Urology services for men are now being provided at the Cleveland Clinic Public Square location. Physicians from the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute will diagnose and treat patients for men’s health and urological conditions including BPH (benign prostatic hyperplasia), ED (erectile dysfunction), low testosterone and UTIs (urinary tract infections). Sarah Vij, MD, and Bradley Gill, MD, will see patients. The Men’s Health Outpatient Clinic is located at 315 Euclid Avenue, Suite 2, on Public Square.

To schedule an appointment, please call 216.444.5600.



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

We’re here for you at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital and Lakewood Family Health Center.

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Lakewood Public Schools

Staff Spotlight Honorees: Duhr & Holton

by Christine Gordillo

Garfield Middle School teacher Tricia Duhr and Lakewood High paraprofessional Karen Holton are the Lakewood City Schools' May Staff Spotlight honorees! Read more about each of these dedicated professionals below.

TRICIA DUHR

Tricia Duhr has spent her career helping people be successful in life. Before becoming an Intervention Specialist for the BRIDGES program at Garfield Middle School six years ago, she worked in the mental health field as a counselor. She made the jump to special needs education because she felt called to work with children to help them develop social and life skills needed to live a fulfilled life. And for six years, she's been doing just that.

"Simply walk in her classroom and you will observe kids not only learning but also having fun and gaining independence," says Tricia's nominator, BRIDGES teacher Amber Rykaceski.

Tricia feeds off her students' growth and is always looking for ways for them to gain new skills and build self confidence. This year



though, she also wanted to find a way to better integrate her students with the rest of the school. So, she and Amber came up with the idea of BRIDGES Café, where each Friday the students run a coffee shop – serving the drinks, operating the cash register, even creating the advertising.

While the vocational skills the students are learning with the café



KAREN HOLTON

Whenever Karen Holton found herself itching to change jobs when she was younger, the move always brought her to a job with children. It's what brought her 20 years ago to Lakewood High School as a special education paraprofessional whose preparation for classes and willingness to do anything needed to help a child succeed do not go unnoticed.

"Karen is conscious of her duties for each classroom she is in and takes it seriously," says Karen's nominator, LHS paraprofessional Danita Mills. Although Karen helps the teacher in the classroom, she knows her main reason for being in the room is for the students. She is a great support to each student in her classroom."

Danita singled out Karen for her impeccable notes and knowledge of the subject matter in any of her classrooms. It's a lot to prepare for since Karen serves anywhere from 3-10 students in any given classroom. She even will take tests ahead of time so she knows how to help her students when it's their turn for the exam.

Contributing to her students' success is what makes her job so rewarding, says Karen. "I love seeing their a-ha moments," she says.

Karen's presence in the classroom has a noticeable effect on her students. "The students are very happy when she is in the room," Danita says. That happiness effect is likely a result of one of Karen's guiding principles on the job: "Try to make every kid smile at least once a day."

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will be valuable as the students prepare for life post-school, it is the pride they show that is most impressive.

"Seeing them be proud of themselves, that's what makes all the hard work worth it," Tricia says. She has also noticed more positive interaction in the hallways between her students and the rest of the school.

Tricia's goal has always been to give more to her students than just academics. According to her classroom colleague Amber, she is succeeding: "Ask any parent and they will tell you that Mrs. Duhr has impacted their child in a life-changing, positive way."

Lakewood After Prom
Comes Alive!

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High seniors celebrated their prom on April 27 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Afterward, more than 300 students enjoyed food, fun, games and music into the wee hours of the morning at After Prom at Lakewood High. A dedicated committee of parent volunteers organized After Prom, which had the theme of Night At The Museum, based on the popular movies set in museums where the exhibits come alive when the sun sets.

The parent volunteers transformed Lakewood High into a museum complete with 10-foot dinosaur, life-size Easter Island monolith, Egyptian tomb and more. Parents dressed as historic figures including Teddy Roosevelt, Sacagawea, Amelia Earhart and Egyptians, and pulled off the theme to perfection. Over 200 prizes were given out and students could "shop" in the museum gift shop that included a candy bar and photo booth. Students stayed busy until 2:30 am in bounce houses, singing in the karaoke room, playing laser tag or relaxing in the lounge

after having their caricature drawn or getting a temporary tattoo.


The committee began planning the event in December and could not have done it without family and community support. Countless parents donated money, time and gifts. Know that your donation was appreciated. We also would like to thank the many local businesses and organizations that generously donated food, prizes, and supplies. We are fortunate to live in such a great community that supports its youth!

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

Lakewood Public Schools



The talk on the streets of Lakewood last weekend was, “Have you seen the Barnstormers “Mamma Mia?” By the end of the run tickets were hard to find and more seating had to be opened up. Kudos to everyone involved. Great work Lakewood High School Barnstormers.




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District To Join Great Lakes Conference

by Christine Gordillo

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the Lakewood City Schools athletic teams will move from the Southwest Conference, where the District has been a member since 2015, to compete in the Great Lakes Conference. The move will provide more balanced competition for Lakewood teams and allow them to better develop and in some cases rekindle rivalries with schools that are in closer proximity to our District.

“We look forward to joining the GLC and providing our student-athletes with spirited competition coupled with less travel time allowing a better balance for students and families,” said Lakewood High School Principal Mark Walter. “We thank the SWC for its support over the last four years.”

The Great Lakes Conference is currently made up of Bay Village, Buckeye, Elyria Catholic, Fairview, Holy Name, Normandy, Parma, Rocky River, and Valley Forge high schools.

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Lakewood Cares



The B.R.I.D.G.E.S. students created this beautiful masterpiece with the help of Miss Kate from Lakewood Public Library.

Quilted With Love

by Tricia Duhr

The students in the B.R.I.D.G.E.S. (Beginning to Realize Individual Development and Growth for Educational Success) self-contained special education classrooms at Garfield Middle School were given the opportunity to do something truly exceptional. Miss Kate from the Lakewood Public Library has brought her passion and love for quilting into our classrooms. Each student was able to let their individuality shine through as they created their very own blocks. They chose their favorite fabrics, they created their own pattern and they even helped pin them together.

During the next couple of visits Miss Kate brought her sewing machine into our classroom and gave every student the chance to sew their customized block and sashing with hand-over-hand assistance. The students enjoyed pushing down the peddle and holding their creations steadily as they operated the sewing machine. For most students, this was the very first time they had ever seen a sewing machine, not to mention operate one! They were able to be involved throughout the quilting process and they could see all the hard work and effort that goes into



Sebastian Desilets enjoying a hands-on quilting experience in the B.R.I.D.G.E.S. classroom.

each step.

In the end, Miss Kate not only showed the students how to make a quilt, but also taught them a bigger lesson. She taught them that each piece of a quilt is unique and special and when they work together they can create something even bigger and more beautiful than they imagined. The students in the B.R.I.D.G.E.S. classrooms were able to see first-hand the beauty of being true to themselves and how rewarding it is to work together.



The B.R.I.D.G.E.S. students learned lessons on quilting, creativity and the value of working together.

Grace-est Show On Earth To Feature "Slider"

by George Hansell

Grace Lutheran Church welcomes the Greater Lakewood Community to join them on Saturday, May 11th from 11 AM to 2 PM for their annual Grace-est Show on Earth Carnival and Grace Preschool Open House. This year's event will feature the Cleveland Indian's "Slider" joining the celebration from 11 AM to 12 Noon.

The Grace-est Show on Earth with feature carnival games and prizes, face painting, and balloons, all of which is free of charge to the public. In addition to Slider, there will also be a Nora the Explorer Animal Encounter. Hot dogs, drinks, and a bake sale will also be a part of the day's festivities.

The Grace-est Show on Earth includes an Open House for Grace Preschool. Grace Preschool serves children ages 3 to 5 and is a ministry of Grace Lutheran Church. The public is invited to take a tour of the preschool. Enrollment is now open for all classes.



So, come and enjoy The Grace-est Show on Earth! Grace Lutheran Church is located at 13030 Madison Avenue in Lakewood, directly across the street from Madison Park.

Everyone Plays For Free At No More Monkeys 5/11/19

by Heather McCormick

No More Monkeys Enrichment, an indoor play zone and enrichment center here in Lakewood, is now offering a Donation Only Day every second Saturday of each month. I'm owner and founder Heather McCormick and I know all too well how difficult it can be raising kiddos nowadays, let alone as a single parent or a family struggling financially. I raised my daughter as a single parent and one of the reasons NMME was created was to offer a budget-friendly space to single parents. This is precisely how Second Saturdays at No More Monkeys was born. I want everyone to be able to enjoy this happy happy place whether they can afford to or not.

My vision for No More Monkeys is a simple one: to use fun to nurture children and our communities and to instill kindness in our tiny humans. No More Monkeys is delivering just that by offering entry at any donation on the Second Saturday of each month, even \$0. This may be a perfect

day for larger families to come in and enjoy the space together. Whether it's the vintage octopus spinner, bubble machine, or Monkey Television that makes your kiddo(s) happy, you'll sure be in love with the free coffee, wifi and cozy couch during your visit. Snacks are also welcome inside NMME, but please no nuts.

Other budget friendly items offered at No More Monkeys are birthday parties, a discount monkey pass card, and group discounts. Monkey classes, Tea parties, and Bubbles too! I want anyone and everyone to be able to join in the fun that is No More Monkeys Enrichment established just three short months ago on National Make a Friend Day (2/11/19). The next Donation Only Second Saturday falls on the No More Monkeys three month anniversary, this Saturday 5/11/19. NMME is a safe space that everyone in our community can enjoy, and I couldn't be happier. Kind-Monkeys.com 216.227.kind



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Lakewood Cares

Baldwin Wallace Professor Alan Kolp To Facilitate Discussion On Quaker Spirituality At Centering Space

by *Syndie Eardly*

Dr. Alan Kolp’s career teaching religion and spirituality took an unusual turn nearly two decades ago when he joined the Baldwin Wallace faculty and struck up an unlikely alliance with colleagues in the business school. Together, they entwined business concepts such as leadership, innovation and culture, with the classical virtues of courage, justice, hope and love to pen three books, highly prized by businesses trying to build more holistic and integrity driven companies for the 21st Century.

Born and raised in the Quaker faith, Kolp has relied on the tenets of his faith in both his teaching and writing.

On Saturday, May 11, Kolp, a birthright Quaker, is sharing his spiritual message during a day-long retreat at Centering Space www.centering-space.org in Lakewood. But as with his co-authored business books, he invites participants to examine these ideas in light of their own lives.

“I will present some of the basic Quaker spiritual perspectives and practices, but more than theology, I want to work in the area of spirituality,” Kolp said. “I am hoping whatever your tradition, you can see a way to relate to Quaker beliefs. I will focus on the basic Quaker spirituality and do some segments on silence, peace, testimony and social justice.”

He emphasized that this program is designed to be an interactive experience. He will engage attendees in discussion about their beliefs and how it intersects with Quaker spirituality.

The sharing part of the program is key, Kolp said. This is not intended to be a lecture he noted, and in fact, the smaller, more intimate environment of Centering Space lends itself much more to discussion rather than teaching. And although born and raised a Quaker, he wants to focus less on the doctrinal aspects of the religion and more on how one can weave the basic tenets of faith into personal experience.

Kolp is holder of the Baldwin Wallace chair in faith and life and professor of religion. He earned degrees from Guilford College and Harvard Divinity

School and a doctorate from Harvard University.

Before coming to Baldwin Wallace University in 2000, Kolp taught at Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana. For six years, he served as head of the graduate school as dean of Earlham School of Religion. Kolp also served eight years as pastoral leader at First Friends Meeting in Richmond.

In 2006, Kolp co-authored “Integrity is a Growth Market: Character-Based Leadership,” with his business colleague Peter Rea. In 2011, they worked with Pierre Everaert to produce their second book “Igniting Innovation with Integrity: Following the B.R.I.C. Road.” Kolp and Rea published their third book together, “Exception to the Rule,” in 2017.

Kolp recently traveled to Germany where he and Rea shared these ideas for a corporate audience.

“I could never have guessed I would be doing this kind of stuff,” Kolp acknowledged. “It has been fascinating because it is all about being human.”

Kolp also has numerous publications in contemporary spirituality, including two popular books “Fresh Winds of the Spirit” and “Canopy of Light & Love.”

To learn more about Kolp’s presentation at Centering Space or to register, visit www.centeringspace.org.

About Centering Space

Centering Space is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, located in a spacious century home in Lakewood, Ohio, on the shores of Lake Erie. The organization hosts weekly prayer, monthly meditation opportunities, retreats and a host of programs throughout the year focused on spirituality, mediation and prayer. Centering Space strives to enable ordinary people from any background to discover the presence of God in their lives through quiet attention to the voice of the Spirit. Visit us at 14812 Lake Ave., Lakewood, OH 44197. You can view our programs at www.centeringspace.org. For more information, contact us at (216) 228.7451.

Palms, Pussy Willows, And Puppets

by *Gail Ahlers*

Palm Sunday: parades, processions, palms, pussy willows and... puppets? Yes, puppets! Full-sized parade puppets, including Jesus entering on a donkey, a puppet donkey of course!

This was the scene at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1659 Rosewood Avenue, at their Palm Sunday service. To the loud “Hosannas” from the booming organ (played by H. Leslie Adams) and the singing congregants, giant puppets waving palms processed through the sanctuary, bringing smiles to young and old alike.

The project was the brainchild of Nancy Sander, Lakewood’s resident puppet lady. “The Easter message should never become humdrum,” said Sander. “We wanted to try something refreshingly joyful to go with the season. Puppets have always been joyful so it was a natural choice.”

During the month prior to Easter, volunteer members of Grace met to turn bleach bottles, masking tape, ski poles, yarn, faux fur and foam into puppets the size of children. Diane Russell wanted to build a puppet in honor of her dog “Buddy,” who had recently passed away. Everyone agreed,



Buddy, the dog puppet, in the procession on Palm Sunday.

so Buddy was lovingly crafted and marched with the others.

“Presbyterians are known for their broad umbrella in accepting all who seek God,” said elder, Joyce Biehl. “We are free to experiment with many ways of worship. For us, laughter is part of that mission, so the puppets are par for the course!”

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Lakewood Opinions

Presutto Advocates Fair Solutions To Sewer Upgrade Costs

by Bonnie Sikes

Lakewood needs to comply with the Clean Water Act, and prevent untreated wastewater from overflowing into Lake Erie. City council candidate Brad Presutto says he fully supports this goal.

But affordability and fairness need to guide the city in achieving that goal, says Presutto, who is running to represent Lakewood Ward 2.

“As a community, we need to work out ways to do so without putting the entire burden in residents’ water/sewer bills, or billing homeowners for the entire cost of upgrading infrastructure built before they even saw their home,” he says.

Upgrades already made or approved could raise the average home’s water and sewer fee to nearly \$205/month, according to the city’s forecasts. Because a complete upgrade may eventually cost a further \$300 million, Presutto says that paying for it all with rate increases won’t work for residents.

“We want our city to be an affordable place to live for people at every stage of life and should consider limiting future increases for those on fixed incomes, such as Social Security and disability,” he says.

Presutto says that funding infra-

structure upgrades should account for all of the factors which increase storm surges and wastewater. “As we evaluate proposed development, we need to insist on green infrastructure like bio swales & rain barrels—and on grey technology like storage basins, especially when development will create additional runoff from parking lots.” He adds that vehicles passing through, on state and federal highways, contribute to polluted water that Lakewood ends up on the hook for treating; “there is a valid claim for state and federal funds to help meet the strain” and the city should take any opportunity to request some help.

Ultimately, local government has a responsibility to be creative in looking for solutions, says Presutto. As one further example, he cites how Portland, Oregon, fit turbines within the city’s large pipes, to convert the energy of flowing water into electricity. Lakewood’s own gravity-fed water infrastructure might offer similar possibilities, he says.

“Ideas like these are what I would like to introduce when I am on Lakewood City Council,” Presutto says. “Effort and creativity in looking at this problem can help make our community affordable for all.”

Thank You Lakewood Renters

by Matt Kuhns

To the tens of thousands of other renters in our city of Lakewood, I would like to say: thank you.

Thank you, renters, for being literally the greater part of Lakewood. More than half of this community lives in rental housing, including me.

I have heard renters maligned, treated with suspicion, and referred to like we are a “foreign” presence here. Yet renters are actually the majority of the people around us, at the park or doing the grocery shopping, for example.

Additionally, many of the absolute hands-down best people I have known during 11 years in Lakewood

have rented their homes. People who improve this community as volunteers, leaders, activists, entrepreneurs. It would be a sadder and poorer city without these involved citizens here, demonstrating how much they care about their home: Lakewood.

So thank you Lakewood renters. Thank you for voting, paying taxes, raising families, supporting local businesses. Thank you for sharing and shaping the community we are all part of.

Thank you, renters, for being here.

Lakewood resident, Matt Kuhns is a freelance graphic designer, and occasional author.

Does Lakewood Really Need More Apartments?

by James O'Barsky

This letter is about the proposed development at the former Barry Buick car lots and former Spitzer car lots. Solove Developers are proposing plans for both locations.

Both of these plans are of no benefit to the citizens of Lakewood. The only beneficiary of this proposed development is the developer and city council, both of whom see big dollar signs.

Most of the neighbors on the streets adjacent to these proposed developments are opposed to these proposals on many fronts. The last thing Lakewood needs are apartments. According to the census bureau, Lakewood's population has been declining since the 1940s with the exception of the 1970s. The single family homes are not decreasing nor are the doubles. That leaves the apartments, which makes sense, the apartment dwellers are transient by nature. They have no vested interest in the neighborhood or in Lakewood for that matter.

The parking is nowhere near sufficient for the amount of vehicles

these properties will generate. Parking should be kept within the footprint of the building, not spread out to different lots.

If council is so worried about losing federal funding because of population decline, maybe we should lose a few of them to offset the difference.

Thanks.

Jim O'Barsky


Jim O'Barsky is 69 years old, retired, and starting to really enjoy his neighborhood.

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Lakewood Observer Fiction

The Rockport Miracles - Part 4: Episode 8:

"The Ballad Of Derecho Dan" Continues

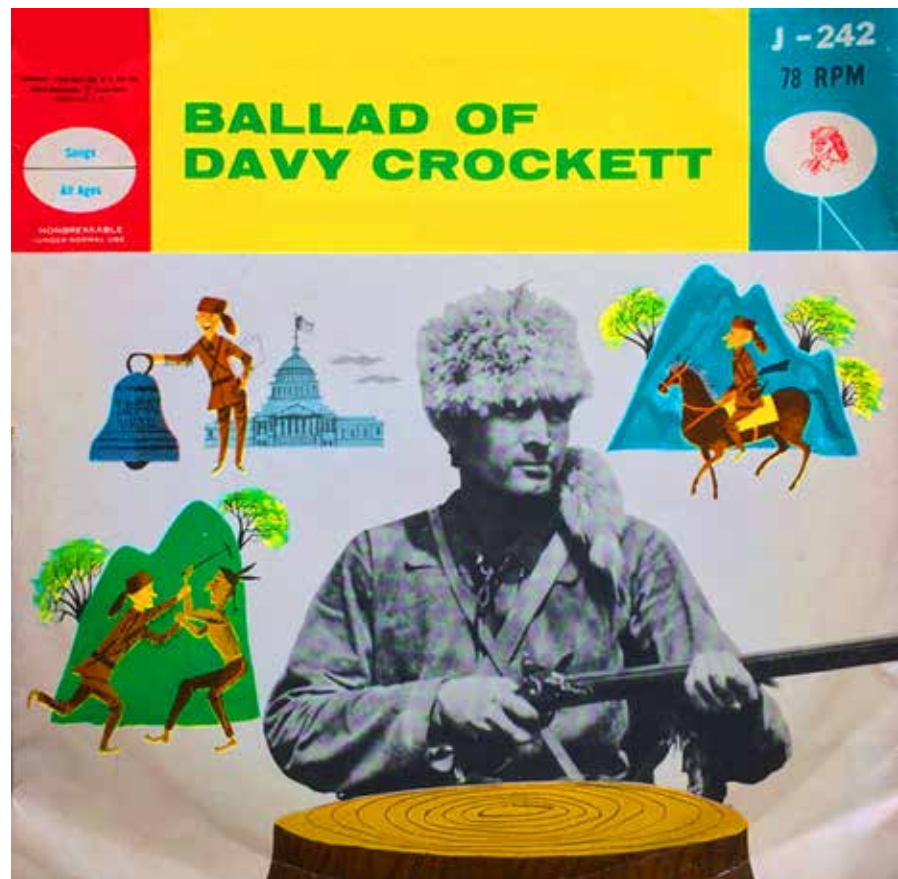
Fiction by Scott MacGregor

Maynard Gridley came to help.

After Wilmena’s younger sister heard what happened, she rolled her son off the couch and said, “Go help Little Dan and the Gas & Lube!” Like many in Big Dan’s and Wilmena’s extended families, Maynard was an expert mechanic. He was an expert in mayhem also. Had Wilmena known what her sister was up to, she never would’ve agreed to allow Maynard near Little Dan or the Gas and Lube.

Unfortunately, Wilmena wasn’t in a position to do or know anything. She was still in Rockport Hospital, covered in tubes, bandages and doped up on morphine. It would be days before she learned that her troubled nephew had come to town. By then, it was too late. Little Dan had eagerly welcomed him into his life. Maynard’s non-conforming attitudes and lifestyle were drenched in outlaw charisma. Little Dan was in awe of the gringo cousin that he’d heard bad things about all of his life.

Maynard Gridley was born in 1949 and grew up during the seemingly inconsequential Eisenhower era. He attended his schools faithfully and always went to church on Sundays. He played sandlot base-



ball in the summer and intramural football in autumn. As was the way in those times, soon after his 18th birthday, he'd been drafted into the military industrial complex.

They assigned Maynard to the 101st Airborne and he did his

basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. After basic was over, he came home for a visit. It would be the last time anyone met up with the old Maynard. Soon thereafter, he shipped off to Vietnam and arrived just in time to experience the eye-popping charms of the Tet Offensive. Maynard had fought bravely during his tour of Vietnam and took a bullet in his leg and some shrapnel in his ass.

They sent Maynard home after that, just one of many who came back wounded, confused, and out of sync with an America that had changed while they were away. He thought he'd left the shit show behind when he boarded the plane in Saigon. Instead, a whole new episode was just starting.

Maynard’s re-entry back into civilian life was epic in its failure to achieve anything. The Army had taught him how to drink Wild Turkey from the bottle and it wasn’t long before he was single-handedly keeping the Wild Turkey Distillery in business. He sought solace in drugs, girlfriends from hell, and, of course, his beloved motorcycle. In 1971, a book by Jack Kerouac and the TV series, “Then Came Bronson,” inspired Maynard Gridley to take his “Then Came Maynard” show on the road.

After only a few months, Maynard then came limping back to his parents’ house in Parma, Ohio. He was burping along on one cylinder and had earned the distinction of being banished from three western States and the entire Yucatan Peninsula. He stayed on a couch and the bottle in the basement of his parents' house until Storm 5.4 nearly killed his Aunt Wilmena and brought uncertainty to the future

of his cousin, Little Dan.

Meanwhile, back at the Gas & Lube, Joe, Joe, and Joe, the three Italian bricklayers that were building a wall around the station, had turned lunchtime into an everyday Feast of the Assumption. Once they'd told their mothers and grandmothers in Cleveland’s Little Italy about Wilmena’s encounter with a tornado, the women flew into action and kept the Gas & Lube catered with some of the finest Old World Italian food to be found anywhere off the toe of Italy. It was during these lunchtime feasts that Maynard would open up and tell chilling stories about his Vietnam experiences.

“You boys think the storms here in Rockport are bad, HA!” scoffed Maynard. The remark offended one of the Joes. “What you mean?!” he demanded. “If our storms not bad--why is Little Dan’s madre lying in hospital with tubes and morphine?” Maynard stuck out his arm and chuckled, “Cool your jets, Giuseppe-Boy! It’s just that you pukes ain’t never heard about ‘Monsoon Charlie’”

Little Dan and the three Joes let out a collective gasp and looked at each other with shrugged shoulders. “WHO?” asked Little Dan, “Who is Monsoon Charlie?” Maynard’s face went pale as he pulled out the Lucky Strike cigarette he’d tucked behind his ear. “Monsoon Charlie ain’t a 'who,' he replied, "but, maybe if I tell you the story, you idiots will learn how face up to storms instead of building stupid walls that won’t do dick.” Once translated, Maynard’s remark upset all three of the Joes. They threw what was left of their eggplant Parmesan into the trash and grumbled back to work.

Maynard took a long drag on his cigarette before dropping it into a half drunk bottle of Coca-Cola. Then he jumped off the Pontiac he was sitting on and pointed his finger straight at Little Dan. “You ever heard ‘The Ballad of Davy Crockett’?” he asked. Little Dan quickly nodded his head. He was a huge Fess Parker fan. “You ever heard, ‘The Ballad of the Green Berets’ by Sgt. Barry Sadler?” Again, Little Dan nodded. He knew that song by heart, too. “Well, I got a story that beats ‘em all,” said Maynard, “I call it, ‘The Ballad of Monsoon Charlie’...”

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Lakewood Is Music

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Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 87

by Buzz Kompier

Guided By Voices - Zeppelin Over China - Guided By Voices Inc. - 32 songs - CD, LP, digital

I did have the thought that it might be a little irrelevant what I think of any new Guided By Voices release. After all, most GBV fans will buy anything they put out and it's relatively rare that someone's gonna just happen to pick up one of their records to check them out. Also, by the time this review is published, there'll be a new one out. I know that sounds like "ha ha because Robert Pollard puts out a new record every week," but seriously, there's a new LP out April 26th, which is before the publishing date of this review. But I decided I'd review it anyway, because maybe someone reading this has heard of Guided By Voices but doesn't really know anything about them and this will sway them one way or another, or, like me, already appreciate some Guided By Voices stuff but are hesitant to pick up anything they put out because they're not sure if it'll be worth their time (I realize this sounds a little harsh, but you've gotta understand that Guided By Voices and any other Robert Pollard projects put out quite a lot of material— it can't all be great). So here I am to help. You know what? This isn't a bad record at all. It sounds quite a lot like "Isolation Drills"-era GBV, I'm assuming in no small part due to the presence of lead guitarist Doug Gillard, who's got some great playing scattered over the four sides here. The entire first LP is really good, with a solid array of songs (my favorite, probably of the whole record, is "Your Lights Are Out,"



which is upbeat but also melancholy and is just a great tune). Other highlights include the near-glam stomper "Carapace," the more subdued college rock sound of "Send In The Suicide Squad," and the driving "Wrong Turn On" (I especially like the part where the drums stutter off the beat and then back into it— that's a cool touch). "Think. Be A Man" is a cool pounder with the great closing line, "the little girls do not understand" and to finish off the first half of the record is "You Own The Night," which starts as a total pop hit (with the opening line, "What's it like being all that?," which is pretty good), disappears into a seemingly unrelated second part, and then bursts back into the song. It took a while for me to come around to it, but I kinda like it. How about the second half of the album, or record 2 if you have the LP version? Well, like a lot of dou-

ble albums, it starts to drag a bit. That said, however, I think there's enough decent material that, okay, the second LP is warranted, but only because it's Guided By Voices and the "why didn't they lose some of the filler songs on here" argument is utterly irrelevant. My favorites from the second LP are "Nice About You" (which has a very familiar melody, but I can't think of why), "Where Have You Been All My Life" (which is the closest this album gets to punk and has a melody that almost sounds drunken—I bet this one's fun live), "Enough Is Never At The End" (which is all piano and strings, which is kinda weird to hear on a GBV album but is an interesting change of pace), and "My Future In Barcelona" (which is another one of the best songs on the whole thing). Once I saw that Doug Gillard was responsible for horn

and string arrangements (and there are some nice ones on here— particularly on "The Rally Boys" and "Vertiginous Raft") that made me think, "Oh, so he's like Mick Ronson to, I guess, Pollard's Bowie." I don't know how far you can stretch that comparison, but I've brought it this far and that's where I'll leave it. Solidly a good album, I'd say. 4/5

(rockathonrecords.com)

Pink Holes - Pink Holes - Smog Veil Records - 4 songs - 7"

This was the only Record Store Day release I was interested in this year; I'm not sure whether that says more about me or the state of RSD. These are four songs recorded after the Pink Holes' last vinyl release, which was "Breakfast With The Holes" in 1985, and previously released on the CD reissue of that record in 2001. It's an interesting era for the band, where they've kinda learned how to play but haven't yet devolved into the complete pointlessness of 2 Bobs yet. I gotta say, three of the four songs on here are pretty good. I'm not too into "Billy Monster," which they have here as the opening track, but "Frustration Factor" and "Under The Covers" are both decent, sloppy punk tunes ("Under The Covers" was previously released under the more obscure title "Fungarian Function," in case all you Pink Holes fans out there were confused) and "Love, You Bet!" is actually one of my favorite Pink Holes songs, a great and unexpectedly catchy cowpunk kinda tune. It's got windchimes on it, what more could you want? Les Black's vocal performance is pretty stellar across the board here. I also like that this was definitely recorded in the mid-to-late 80s and has the drum sound to match, which is really bizarre to hear on a Pink Holes record, of all places. Wanna hear some complaints about the packaging? The front and back covers are great and the whole thing folds out into a giant Pink Holes poster, but on the other side of said poster, there is an outrageous amount of completely blank panels. What, there were no photos of the band you could put there? No posters? Information about when or where it was recorded? Nothing? You're already printing the thing double-sided, why not have something there? Stupid, but maybe that's the point. Anyway, worth your time and a nice piece of local punk history to have on vinyl. I just wouldn't have picked "Billy Monster." 3.5/5 (smogveil.com, available in stores exclusively at My Mind's Eye and Blue Arrow Records)

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.

MAY

Aries: Lady Venus is still courting the Ram until mid-month, take a stroll through the neighborhood to a place you've not been before, talk to strangers, open doors, dazzle them.

Taurus: Not the month to stay in the Bull Pen, you've got a star-studded lineup this month with the Sun, Mercury, & Venus (2nd half) just waiting to see how strong you are, show them.

Gemini: Mars is still battling anyone who crosses the line, (until mid-month), but the Twins gentleness is like a baby deer who befriends an elephant, lie in the grass & star-gaze.

Cancer: Patience is a super power the Crab's been granted this month, remember this midmonth when warrior Mars enters your home, make waiting in line at the post office a game, meditate.

Leo: OK Lion, we all know who's King, you roared all over town last month, turn down the volume, get to the Solstice steps, or the Metroparks and be the gentle lamb, just observe.

Virgo: The Universe is trying to tell you something, spend more time with your imaginative side, and less time criticizing...there's a whole world of genius inside that head, if you just listen.



Libra: Tending to the garden of your mind is crucial, take a lawnmower to those negative thought patterns, rototill the jealousy patch, then plant seeds of love, forgiveness & empathy.

Scorpio: It might be time to retreat into that cave of yours, too much mental chatter is clouding your thinking, we don't want that stinger coming out to play, listen to your inner self, peace.

Sagittarius: Ditch the passive-aggressive behavior, it doesn't really become the Centaur, it's time to aim that arrow straight into the bullseye of authenticity, speak the truth with kindness.

Capricorn: The Goat has worked hard, it's time to come out from that

heavy workload you place on yourself & be Mary Poppins for a day, go to the arcade, or join in a game of volleyball.

Aquarian: That recharge did you some good last month, as you move toward greater consciousness you see the world from a different perspective than most, visit a crystal shop.

Pisces: The other side of the lake looks ominous to you now, understandable with Neptune, God of the Sea ruling things, you've got the perseverance to swim to the other side, razor-sharp focus.

Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at evastarr.com

LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive's “Civil Discourse And Mutual Respect” Community Forum Takes Place May 14 At Lakewood Public Library

by Matt Bixenstine

Our society was built on a foundation of civil discourse – a skill that remains vitally important to this day. The people around us are our neighbors, and we must collectively strive to listen to and respect differing points of view in order for our society to work. Yet how can we ensure civility prevails as a societal virtue during an era of digital insults and political division?

LakewoodAlive announces it will host a community forum – entitled

Civil Discourse and Mutual Respect – from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, at Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Avenue). This community conversation will offer insightful dialogue regarding how we can feel empowered to promote a society that values open-mindedness, politeness and respectful disagreement.

The general public is invited to attend this free forum as the community seeks to better understand the current state of civil discourse within

our society and the importance of civility to our future. The discussion will delve into the consequences associated with dwindling decorum, the art of practicing intellectual humility, the threat posed by social media and best practices for promoting a more civil, respectful society.

Judge Michael J. Ryan, a longtime judge within the Juvenile Division of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, will oversee a distinguished group of panelists for an informative

discussion. The final 30 minutes will be devoted to panelists fielding questions from the audience.

LakewoodAlive hosts community forums pertaining to topics relevant to residents, from within and also outside the city. For more information regarding the Civil Discourse and Mutual Respect forum on May 14, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/CommunityForums or call LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655.

LakewoodAlive Announces Performers For 2019 Front Porch Concert Series

continued from page 1

(“wholesome beats and spontaneous grooves”), The George Martins (a Beatles cover band) and rey Citron Latin Jazz, as well as reunions with popular past performers like Revolution Brass Band, Diana Chittester, Cats on Holiday and Drumplay. A children’s concert will be held on July 26, and the 2019 series concludes on August 30 with a performance by the LMC Student Ensembles, the skillful musicians representing The Lakewood Music Collective.

Now in its ninth year, the popular Front Porch Concert Series adds vibrancy and an enhanced sense of community to Lakewood’s urban core,

drawing several thousand attendees annually. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring family, friends, snacks, blankets and chairs.

2019 Front Porch Concert Series Schedule

(All concerts start at 7 p.m. on the front steps of Lakewood Public Library)

- June - 6.28.19: The Pocket
- July - 7. 5. 19: Robin Blake Sound Experiment
- 7. 12.19: Revolution Brass Band
- 7.19.19: Diana Chittester
- 7.26.19: Mr. Eric’s Music (children’s concert)
- August - 8. 2.19: The George Martins
- 8. 9.19: Cats on Holiday

- 8. 16.19: rey Citron Latin Jazz
 - 8. 23.19: Drumplay
 - 8. 30.19: LMC Student Ensembles
- For more information regarding the 2019 Front Porch Concert Series, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/Front-PorchConcerts.

The Front Porch Concert Series is generously supported by the following sponsors:

- Title Sponsor: Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James
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- Harmony Sponsors: City of Lakewood, The Lakewood Music Collective, lion and blue, Play Grounds Cafe

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LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home: Solar 101" Free Workshop Takes Place May 30

by Matt Bixenstine

It's gigantic, bright and ever-present. Yet what can be done as homeowners to harness the power of that fiery sphere in the sky serving as Earth's most important energy source?

LakewoodAlive and Third Sun Solar will host Knowing Your Home: Solar 101 on Thursday, May 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Buckeye Beer Engine (15315 Madison Avenue). This free workshop will shed light on energy derived from the sun, covering everything you need to know about solar power as it pertains to your home.

Led by David Zelasko, a Solar Consultant at Third Sun Solar's Lakewood office, this workshop will address how solar power works, best practices to follow when selecting a solar contractor and the many benefits associated with leveraging this renewable resource for your home.

Solar energy systems are very customizable to each homeowner and business based on their energy usage and electricity provider. Join us for this exciting workshop and learn how energy harnessed from the sun can impact your life.

To reserve your free spot for "Knowing Your Home: Solar 101," visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome or call 216-521-0655.



LakewoodAlive To Host "Knowing Your Home: Solar 101" Workshop On May 30

LA will host its "Knowing Your Home: Meet & Greet With A Building Inspector Workshop On May 16

by Matt Bixenstine

When it comes to maintaining your home, you have questions and we have answers.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Meet & Greet with a Building Inspector on Thursday, May 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Western Reserve Distillers (14221 Madison Avenue). This free workshop will serve as an informal discussion regarding your home repair and improvement projects.

Led by Chris Parmelee, Assistant Building Commissioner for the City of Lakewood Building Department, this workshop offers an excellent opportunity to get your questions answered. Think through your housing project from start to finish, then come seek advice on how to best plan your project to ensure it is completed on-time and on-budget.

To reserve your free spot for "Knowing Your Home: Meet & Greet with a Building Inspector," 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.



Meghan F.

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