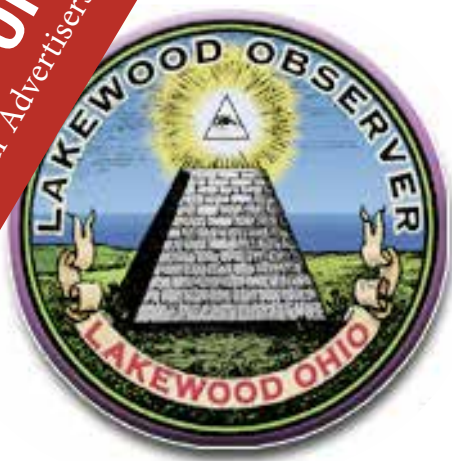


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Volume 15, Issue 10, May 22, 2019

LakewoodAlive To Host Day Of Festivities In Historic Birdtown June 15

by Matt Bixenstine

It's a celebration of all things Birdtown and you're invited to partake in the fun.

LakewoodAlive will host the 5th Annual Birdtown Picnic and 3rd Annual "Battle of Birdtown" Softball Game on Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Madison Park. Sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Citizens Bank and First Federal Lakewood, this community event is an initiative of LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Community Engagement Program.

The fun-filled day kicks off with the "Battle of Birdtown" Softball Game from 10 a.m. to noon at George Usher Field in Madison Park. This friendly game will feature Lakewood community leaders, residents and business owners – including many representing the Historic Birdtown Neighborhood – participating in a seven-inning matchup that pits Team Lark against Team Robin. Spectators are encouraged to attend this free event and cheer on their favorite

continued on page 7



The annual "Battle of Birdtown" Softball Game is always a hit.

Tess Neff For Ward 1 Lakewood City Council

by Tess Neff

Roots, tradition and experience—that is what I will bring to the Ward 1 seat of Lakewood.

I am a 30-year resident of the city, a city where my husband and I raised three children. My family and I have thrived in Lakewood's long tradition of community values and civic involvement, and it is vital for the city this tradition continues.

My 30-year professional career has been dedicated entirely to public service. I am a former police officer, Lakewood Municipal Court Magistrate, and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Magistrate. From these experiences I learned first-hand the importance of public safety. For the last three and a half years I have been the Court Administrator at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, heading the delivery of services to at-risk



Tess Neff

children and families.

I would apply my experiences to the issues that concern Ward 1 residents, such as road repair, snow and trash removal, maintaining and supporting the housing stock, and of course public safety.

My qualifications will keep the city of Lakewood on its upward trajectory, as a community where all people and families wish to reside.



Tyler Hannah, photo by David A. Cleveland, dacphoto.com.

Hannah Captures Conference, District Titles

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High's Tyler Hannah continues to bolster his case as one of the best track and field athletes in the school's history as the senior added three conference titles and two District titles to his growing accomplishments. Hannah won the 110 and 300 meter hurdles at the Southwest Conference Championships, where he was defending champ for both, and gave a repeat

performance at Districts the following weekend.

Tyler was also the anchor on the 4x400 relay of himself, Devon Brown, Jack Hueter and Cormac Peppard-Kramer that came from behind to clinch the fourth and final qualifying spot for Regionals, which will be held May 22 and 24 in Youngstown. Junior Peppard-Kramer also advanced in the 800 meters with a third-place finish.

On the girls' side for Districts, junior Christina Auck set a school record on her way to finishing 5th in the shot put. Freshman Teeghan McGann placed 5th in the 800 meters, completing against a field consisting entirely of seniors.

Congratulations to all the athletes who competed and to coaches Mike Dow and Stephanie Toole and their staffs for their guidance and support.

Brad Presutto Sponsors Neighborhood Tour In Ward 2

by Christina Presutto

City Council candidate Brad Presutto is bringing a spotlight to interesting places and events in Lakewood Ward 2—and you're invited to take part.

In May and June, Presutto's campaign is making stops at business and parks, to recognize the rich diversity of life in Ward 2.

"Ward 2 is more than just downtown," says Presutto, "and I want to bring more attention to local business on Madison Avenue, for example."

The Lakewood Ward 2 Neighborhood Tour is also about better representing local residents, he adds.

"Lives and schedules aren't one-size-fits-all, and our



Ward 2 City Council candidate Brad Presutto.

approach to community leadership needs to reflect that," says Presutto. "I have some great conversations when I'm knocking on doors, but that

isn't for everyone."

"If you can bring your kids to a free ice cream social, or take part in a group bike ride on the weekend, that provides more ways for people to share and learn as neighbors," he says, "and have some fun at the same time."

The tour kicked off on May 16 at No More Monkeys, which offers classes and a play zone for young children. Future stops will include Play Grounds Cafe, the Dang Good Food Truck, and Beat Cycles; visit tinyurl.com/lkwd2tour for a full schedule.

Christina Presutto is a wife and mother who loves living in Lakewood, a member of the Hayes Elementary PTO, and a food allergy advocate.

Lakewood Fire Department News

“Drivers: Start Your Engines, Errrrrrr Coasting”



In the month of May, automobile racing starts to dominate sports news and coverage. Well this time of year also spells out SOAP BOX DERBY! This year representing the Lakewood Fire Department and the City of Lakewood is Adam Saunders, son of Lakewood Fire Department member Michael Saunders. Adam will be racing to take part in the 86th running of the Soap Box Derby. Go Adam!



Meghan F.

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From L to R)FF. Michael Dobranski, FF. Patrick Linn and FF. Larry Artzner.

Lakewood Firefighters Take On The Combat Challenge

By Tim Dunphy
Fire Inspector LFD

Please send kudos out for three of Lakewood’s finest: FF. Michael Dobranski, FF. Patrick Linn and FF. Larry Artzner. They have been training for months for what is known as the Firefighter Combat Challenge. At today’s event, being held in Virginia Beach, Artzner finished with his personal best record of 2:51. This was FF. Linn’s first ever entry into the competition.

He finished with an outstanding time of 2:01. He is currently holding the record of “Fastest Rookie” in the

weekend’s event. Hopefully it holds through Saturday! Fingers crossed!

Coach Dobranski was extremely proud of both of them. “These guys worked so hard. Coming in to work an hour and a half early every shift for months, just to get in shape. It was awesome to see them compete and finish with great times.”

Our department is very proud of these guys. They not only work out to compete in these events but to be in the best possible shape in order to save other people’s lives!

Lakewood can be very proud of these guys.



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

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Tool Box Expects June Launch

by Matt Bixenstine

It won't be long until the Lakewood Tool Box is ready to offer community members an affordable and educational option for borrowing tools that are essential for completing home repairs to ensure we live in healthy and safe homes.

LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program has been working diligently in hopes of launching this tool lending library in early June. Situated on the grounds of the Lake Erie Building in the Historic Birdtown Neighborhood, the Lakewood Tool Box is housed in a large shipping container that will be accessible to the public from the back corner of the building's East Lot near the intersection of Athens and Halstead Avenues.

Matt Clark Hired as Tool Box Coordinator

LakewoodAlive is pleased to welcome Matt Clark as our Tool Box Coordinator. Matt, a graduate of John Carroll University who worked for 17 years at Erie Industrial, has extensive experience with a wide variety of tools, as well as with carpentry and welding.

"I'm excited to join the LakewoodAlive team," said Matt. "For me, this is a chance to do two things I really enjoy – work with tools and help people solve problems with their homes."

Matt is a Lakewood resident who lives on Cook Avenue. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, constructing wooden furniture and spending time with his family, including his children, aged 14 and 5.



LakewoodAlive's Tool Box is located next to the Templar Building, aka Screw Factory.

Volunteer Day Results in Tool Assembly

A team of 10 volunteers joined the LakewoodAlive staff at the Tool Box on the last Saturday of April to install shelving and organize the initial batch of tools in preparation for next month's launch. Many of these tools were made possible thanks to a generous tool donation by Lakewood-based Ferry Cap & Set Screw, a Stanley Black and Decker Company. A special thank you also goes to Cox for its support of this project.

"We are thrilled to welcome Matt to our team, and grateful to the wonderful volunteers who helped us to assemble tools in preparation for the launch of the Lakewood Tool Box," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director. "We look forward to having this program afford all community members the opportunity to rent one-time-use tools, while

also enabling us to better assist low-to-moderate income residents with their home repairs."

The Lakewood Tool Box is a program that will provide home improvement and repair tools for members of the community. The program is designed to offer a sliding scale of membership fee options that will enable people of all income levels to participate. This access will allow residents to make health, safety and cosmetic improvements, not only making their residence a safer place to call home, but helping to maintain or improve their housing value, which benefits both the resident and the entire neighborhood.

For more information regarding the Lakewood Tool Box, visit LakewoodAlive.org/ToolBox or contact Allison Urbanek at 216-521-0655 or aurbanek@lakewoodalive.org.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

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

Author Event - “Cleveland Then and Now”

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 sale and signing at this event.

Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, May 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - “The Selfish Giant” (2013)

Directed by Clio Barnard

Arbor (Conner Chapman) and Swifty (Shaun Thomas) are best friends living in the poverty-stricken city of Bradford, England. They take up the task of collecting scrap for a dealer named Kitten (Sean Gilder). Kitten favors Swifty, leaving Arbor feeling hurt and excluded. Arbor turns increasingly greedy and exploitative, becoming more like Kitten. Tensions build, leading to a tragic event. This film continues our series highlighting woman directors.

Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Library closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, May 27, 2019

Library closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Lakewood Historical Society

Treasures in the Cuyahoga County Archives

Presentation by Judith G. Cetina, PhD

One of this area’s greatest historical resources, the Cuyahoga County Archives remains relatively unknown to most residents. Archivist Judith G. Cetina, PhD, recently supervised the relocation of records from the Rhodes House to more spacious quarters on Perkins Avenue. Employed at the archives since 1977, Dr. Cetina assumed the role of archivist in 1985. She frequently speaks on the holdings of the county archives and is a published author.

Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - “The Kids Are All Right” (2010)

Jules (Julianne Moore) and Nic (Annette Bening) are mothers to two teenagers, Joni (Mia Wasikowska) and Laser (Josh Hutcherson). The siblings decide to seek out their biological father, Paul (Mark Ruffalo) who was the sperm donor for them both. This new addition to their non-traditional family structure showcases the family’s fragile dynamic and reveals everyone’s true nature in the process. This film continues our series highlighting woman directors.

Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Concert - The George Martins

Combined, the members of The George Martins have more than 100 years of experience writing, recording and performing music. Well before they picked up an instrument or turned on an amp, members of this band were singing along with “Strawberry Fields Forever” and “Hey Jude”. Join in as they play these Beatles’ hits and more. Original Beatles fans will relive the days of Beatlemania, and new Beatlemaniacs can immerse themselves in their favorite band.

Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Immigration Legislation in the United States

Presented by Magistrate Barbara Greenberg

From the very beginning of American history, immigration has been a point of debate in communities and courtrooms across the nation. During this four-week series participants will discuss the cases that made immigration legislation what it is today with Barbara Greenberg, a magistrate for Bedford Municipal Court and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. She teaches for Tri-C and Case Western Reserve University’s Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Children And Youth

compiled by Nic Starr

Sunday, May 26, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Kidical Mass Bike Ride and Story Time

For the Whole Family

The Lakewood Public Library, Bike Lakewood and Beat Cycles invites the whole family to enjoy a fun morning bicycle ride around the neighborhood. The event includes bicycle safety instruction, a story time, an art project and a refreshment to end the event. No registration is required.

Madison Park Bike Racks.

Immigration Legislation In The United States

by Elaine Rosenberger

Magistrate Barbara Greenberg returns to the Main Library for another of her informative series; this time, she will be discussing immigration. Since the inception of US history, immigration has been a hotly debated issue. Discover the cases which shaped U.S. immigration legislation in a four-part series led by Magistrate Greenberg.

During this four-week series, participants will learn about and then discuss the cases, laws, and public policy which made immigration legislation what it is today. Magistrate Greenberg, a dynamic and articulate speaker, will present the case law and legislation and will then open up the room for debate and discussion. The first class takes place on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Subsequent classes will be held in the Main Library Multipurpose Room at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Tuesday, June 18, 2019, and Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

Magistrate Greenberg received her



Magistrate Barbara Greenberg

BS in education from The Ohio State University and her JD from Cleveland State University’s Cleveland Marshall College of Law. She serves as a magistrate for Bedford Municipal Court’s Small Claims Division and for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. She also teaches for Case Western Reserve University’s Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. Admission is free and open to all. No registration is required.

Treasures In The Cuyahoga County Archives

by Lisa Calfee

If you have ever wondered what kind of historical information can be found at the Cuyahoga County Archives, now is your chance to learn from Northeast Ohio’s expert on the subject. Judith G. Cetina, PhD, who has an incredible 42 years of experience at the archives, will be visiting Lakewood Public Library on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss what can be discovered in the collection.

The Cuyahoga County Archives was created in 1975 to save important records: estate files, birth and death certificates, naturalization records, plat books, tax records and marriage certificates. Up to that point, these valuable documents were vulnerable to decay and loss from being stored with inconsistent standards in different buildings around the Greater Cleveland area.

In 1977, two years after its founding, Dr. Cetina began her career at the archives where she saw the scattered pieces of the collection come together and eventually find a safe place at the Rhodes House on Franklin Avenue in 1985, the same year she became the new director. Great efforts were made to organize, record, preserve and make these valuable documents available to the public. In 2018 the archives were moved once again to their new home at 3951 Perkins Ave.

Join Dr. Cetina on May 29, 2019 as she explains what can be

found at the Cuyahoga County Archives’ new, spacious facility. This program, which is being presented by the Lakewood Historical Society, will be held in the Main Library Lower Level Auditorium.



Lakewood Public Library

Tradition Amid Change: The Story Of Cleveland

by Amy Kloss

As a hometown, Cleveland holds a special place in residents’ hearts. They love to talk about the city’s history and their own memories of it. Author Laura DeMarco tapped into that nostalgia with her first book, “Lost Cleveland,” in 2017. Now she’s back with “Cleveland Then and Now,” which matches historic images of Cleveland landmarks with contemporary color photos of the same scenes.

You can meet DeMarco on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium to see and hear images and stories of historic and contemporary Cleveland.

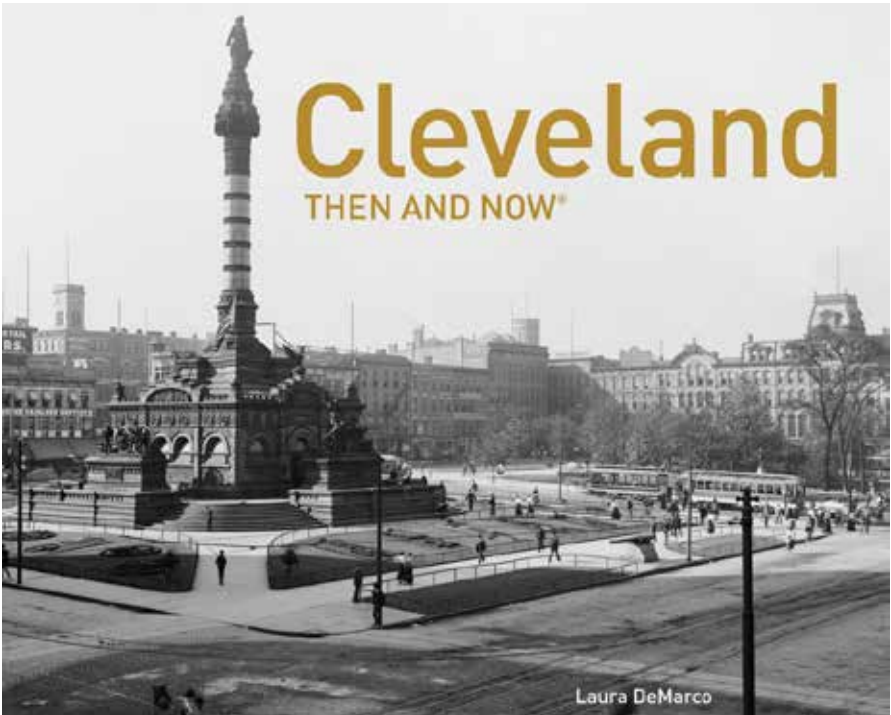
Located in a prime location for industrial success, Cleveland prospered in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with both great wealth and the inevitable pollution and poverty that follow industrialization. By the early 1900s, the prosperity generated from the steel mills, factories and railroads resulted in a number of substantial civic and commercial buildings, monuments, bridges and mansions. By the 1920s, Cleveland was America’s fifth largest city, with almost a million people. When the city started to falter in the 1960s, buildings were left to molder and people began to leave. Many of the city’s landmarks remained.

“Cleveland Then and Now”



explores those landmarks with 150 photos on 144 pages. DeMarco describes each scene, detailing the history and development of each landmark over time. She worked with photographer Karl Mondon, who examined the historical photographs and attempted to recreate the same scene, from the same angle and time of day. Each pair of photos reveals fascinating differences or similarities.

Join DeMarco at the Lakewood Main Library on May 23, 2019 for a look at the past and present. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.



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No More Monkeys
16210 Madison Ave.
Thursday, May 16
11am – Noon

Fear's Confections
15208 Madison Ave
Tuesday, May 21, 5 – 6pm

Dang Good Food Truck
2069 Mars Ave.
Wednesday, May 29
5:30 – 7:30pm

Ice Cream Social
1351 St. Charles Ave.
Saturday, June 8,
1 – 2pm

Play Grounds Cafe
15715 Madison Avenue
Tuesday, June 11,
1 – 2pm

Beat Cycles bike ride to Solstice Steps
15608 Detroit Ave.
Sunday, June 23
9am – Noon

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Lakewood Public Schools

More Than 1,000 Sensory Awareness Kits Distributed In Lakewood

by Lorilynn Wolf

Connecting for Kids distributed more than 1,000 Sensory Awareness Kits last week to 5 preschools, 11 child-care centers and the Lakewood Family Room. The goal of these kits is to help area families identify sensory issues early. These kits have been generously donated by Kiwanis Division 14.

Featuring an Ollie the Octopus doll, each kit also contains a card with “sensory red flags” that describe in easy-to-understand terms how families can identify if their child might be at risk.

Waste Water And The West Side: What Are The Issues?

by Sarah Swanson

Learn more about changes to clean Lake Erie by upgrading local sewer systems on Wednesday June 5, 2019. This forum is free and open to the public at Lakewood Library on Detroit Avenue from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. The forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and will be moderated by Professor Howard E. Katz, Cleveland Marshall College of Law. Panelists include:

Frank Greenland, Director of the Watershed Project, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Janine Rybka, Director, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

Mike Summers, Mayor, City of Lakewood

Anyone who suspects sensory issues is invited to register for a free, 15-minute Sensory Consult with a pediatric occupational therapist on either Monday, May 13 or Tuesday, May 14, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Rd. To sign up for a time slot, visit www.connectingforkids.org/consult. This consult is open to all children ages 18 months-12 years. At the consult, each child will be encouraged to engage in some activities while a parent or family member completes a checklist. At the consult, families will also learn strategies to help their child at home.

According to research statistics found on the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder website, “1 in every 6 children experiences sensory symptoms that may be significant enough to affect aspects of everyday life functions.”

Often, these children are “labeled” as behavior problems, impulsive, over-active or shy. But in reality, sometimes these behaviors can be attributed to sensory processing issues where the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that comes in through the senses. The phenomenon may also explain some behaviors such as refusing to wear certain clothing, being bothered by noises or avoiding foods with unusual textures. Once families learn the root cause of these behaviors and know how to address them, they are given hope.

The Sensory Consult is supported by Abilities First, LLC and co-sponsored by the Lakewood Family Room. Presented in partnership with Lakewood Public Library and supported by a grant from Community West Foundation.

District Green Team Geared For Impact

by Christine Gordillo

More than any other generation before them, children today are passionate about the environment. The recently formed LkwdGreenTeam task force hopes to tap into that passion as it comes up with strategies to reduce waste in the District and reach its ultimate goal of developing a learning environment that empowers and inspires our students to be creative, innovative, green leaders.

The LkwdGreenTeam consists of at least one staff member from every building as well as some administrators. The group has been meeting regularly to develop short-term and long-term goals and strategies that will result in less waste for the District while also educating students about how to be good stewards of the planet.

“We need to be good role models for our students in everything we do,” said technology teacher Jaime Chanter, who suggested forming the task force. “Taking care of our planet must be a team effort and I know our students can rise to the challenge!”

While recycling efforts exist in the District, there has not been a consistent practice across buildings, which the Green Team hopes to change. Progress has already been made with the number of recycling containers increased in buildings with particular attention to cafeterias. A big focus will be on educating students and staff on what can and cannot be recycled as what may be recycled at school may be different than what can be thrown into the recycle bin at home. The group is also looking into the feasibility of replacing single-use plastic trays and flatware in the cafeterias.

Some schools are already making great strides in reducing caf-



eteria waste, such as at Lincoln, where students are emptying remains of milk cartons in order to recycle the cartons rather than just pitching them into the garbage. The Green Team hopes to inspire other buildings to take up their own initiatives. Some buildings are already running public service announcements that share recycling facts and tips.

Plans for next school year include starting student green teams at each building, working to reduce paper waste, and to continue to raise awareness of how our actions impact our planet.

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Lakewood Public Schools

"Annie Junior" Shines On The Harding Stage

by Betsy Voinovich

This past weekend Harding Middle School put on a production of “Annie Junior” to a standing room only crowd.

Many of the key players were 8th graders taking the stage for the last time after putting three years of hard work into Harding’s Drama Club which took on the well-known show and did not disappoint, transforming Harding’s cafetorium into Miss Hannigan’s orphanage, Oliver Warbuck’s mansion and the bustling streets of New York City, which came alive with Rockette-like dancers, a star-to-be right off the bus with her suitcase and a gang of New Yorkers, singing and yelling.

Julia Kompier, as Annie, was spot-on as the tough little girl with the heartbreaking note in her pocket and the soaring voice. Madeleine Rybak was hilarious as the harried and unscrupulous Miss Hannigan delighting the audience with her performance of “Little Girls.” The orphans, led by Molly, played with much mischief by Jana Evans, made for a high-spirited Hard Knock Life, laughing and fighting and coming together for some impressive singing and dancing.

Seventh grader Emily Jarecke was convincing as Oliver Warbucks, magnanimous and charmingly smitten with his new charge; when he thinks he has to say goodbye to Annie he really made you feel it. Ava Bruening in the role of Grace Farrell, brought sophistication



The cast of Annie takes a well-earned bow.

to the Warbucks household, gently and skillfully keeping everyone on schedule. Sixth grader Lucas Marvin and 7th grader Cameron Werek as Mrs. Hannigan’s shady brother Rooster and his paramour Lily St. Regis were capably sinister and also very funny as Annie’s fraudulent parents.

When Annie goes on The Oxydant Hour of Smiles radio program, the interplay between Warbucks, who, struck with stage-fright, shouts his radio-scripted lines and the golden-toned completely relaxed radio host Bert Healy as played by Rocco Crino was one of the highlights of the show.

Many of these gifted actor/singer/dancers and crew will graduate come June, but there are many talented sixth and seventh graders coming up to take

their places.

The Advisor/Director for the show was Ms. Grace Hackett and the Advisor/Choreographer was Mrs. Emily Marvin. They received much assistance, as they explained before the show, from



Annie and Miss Hannigan on much friendlier terms after the show.

8th grade student directors Lydia Kress, vocal, Lauren Nix, choreography, and all around assistant, Meredith Wheeler. Congratulations to all.

LakewoodAlive To Host Festivities In Birdtown June 15

continued from page 1

and engagement initiatives aimed at residents in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Community Engagement Program seeks to cultivate a heightened sense of pride and ownership. To learn more regarding this program, contact LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655 or visit LakewoodAlive.org/HousingOutreach.

players.

Festivities continue with a free community picnic from noon to 3 p.m. at the Madison Park Pavilion next to the baseball diamond. Birdtown residents and fellow community members are invited to visit with their neighbors while enjoying complimentary refreshments and games. A variety of community resources will be made available to residents in attendance.

Birdtown, a proud, working-class Lakewood neighborhood, is steeped in history and dates to the late 19th century. The name is believed to have been derived from the various streets within the neighborhood named after indigenous bird species.

“We are excited to once again offer a community picnic and softball game in celebration of one of our city’s beloved neighborhoods,” said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing & Internal Operations Director. “It’s a prime example of how we are committed to our ongoing mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods here in Lakewood.”

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Lakewood Cares



St. Peter's Episcopal Church Grand Opening

by Lorna Jordan

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is inviting the community to celebrate a grand opening and open house for its new program building on June 9. The day will begin with a festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. Part of the service will include recognition of the men and women who designed and

built the facility.

The \$3.5 million building was a decade in the making and funded through a five year capital campaign by church members. An additional half million dollars will be spent on other building renovations and furnishings. This is a significant milestone for the 112 year old congregation, which

has anchored the southeast corner of Detroit and West Clifton since 1928.

Most importantly, St. Peter's built the new facility with the community in mind. Every design feature of the building is meant to make the space available to our neighbors and friends, particularly folks with mobility issues. The church is seeking to imagine the

ways it can be used to help the community thrive, whether or not the activities be religious in nature.

The new campus is transforming the corner of West Clifton and Detroit with a plaza echoing the Solstice Steps at Lakewood Park. The transformation continues throughout the facility with a full handicapped accessibility. The church campus now features a new chapel/multi-purpose space for the parish and community. There is also brand new space for the children and staff of St. Peter's Childcare Center, Inc., now in its 54th year. The space also includes new offices for the clergy and staff and new meeting spaces for parishioners.

Marous Brothers Construction provided design and construction services, engaging many local vendors and subcontractors. Long recognized for their work in the Detroit-Shoreway and Gordon Square renewal efforts, this was a first project for Marous Brothers in Lakewood.

The celebration will include a picnic on the grounds, during which tours of the new building will be given every 15 minutes. The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, and many community leaders will join us for a brief ceremony and building dedication at 3 p.m. After the dedication concludes, building tours will continue until approximately 4:30 p.m.

All are welcome!! Come and see!

North Coast Health's Next Chapter

by Gina Gavlak

Since announcing the news of North Coast Health (NCH) and Neighborhood Family Practice's (NFP) plans to join in a strategic affiliation, so much has happened! During the Fall, both organizations embarked on a detailed and well-orchestrated transition plan. And, on January 1, 2019 North Coast Health started a new year, and our next chapter, as Neighborhood Family Practice North Coast Community Health Center!

Everyone continues to be an important partner along this journey. I look forward to introducing you to the Neighborhood Family Practice community and the meaningful work that is being done across our network of community health centers. Your investment of time, talents and treasures will continue to make it possible for everyone

to receive high quality, affordable health care, regardless of their ability to pay. You are an important part of our past, present and future. Working together, as a vital part of the health care safety net, we will continue to meet the needs of our community.

Jean Polster, President and CEO of Neighborhood Family Practice and I invite you to attend a Community Update on Thursday, May 30th

at 6:30 p.m. at Roundstone Insurance in Lakewood. We are excited to share updates about our transition and expansion of services, information on the newly established North Coast Health Foundation and the opportunity to answer your questions. Please reserve your seat by emailing ggavlak@nfpmedcenter.org or by calling 216.281.8945 ext. 285. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!



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Lakewood Fiction

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 9: “The Ballad of Derecho Dan” Continues

Fiction by Scott MacGregor

(An editor’s note:For the first time since the storm era had begun, River City finally suffered collateral damage from what was known as “Storm 5.4.” An errant tornado had spun off the sentinel winds and landed on the River City Yacht Club. Several rich people’s precious boats were reduced to matchsticks and floating wine bottles. The jerkwad mayor of River City is demanding that Rockport pay for the damages. Such is the sad madness of these times we live in.)

Maynard Gridley’s face turned pale after Little Dan had innocently inquired about “Monsoon Charlie.” After all, it was Maynard who’d brought it up while bragging that the storms bedeviling Rockport weren’t a match for the monsoons that he’d experienced in Vietnam. “Your face just turned gray,” observed Little Dan, “Who the heck was Monsoon Charlie?” Maynard plopped his half-smoked Lucky Strike into a half-drunk bottle of Coke and replied, “Monsoon Charlie was neither man nor beast!”

Suddenly, Maynard turned white, grabbed his chest, and ran into the men’s room. Through the door Little Dan could hear him throwing up. Maynard reappeared a few minutes later complaining the lunchtime eggplant parmesan brought in by the Three Joes had made him nauseous. “That ‘Guido food’ made me sick,” he griped. Little Dan didn’t believe it and the Three Joes didn’t either. It was obvious that ‘Monsoon Charlie’ still rattled the leather-tough Maynard to his core.

Fortunately, for Little Dan’s sake,



the Vietnam War had just ended during the prior year. Little Dan had pumped gas for dozens of Vietnam Vets and many seemed like haunted houses to him. Apparently, ‘Monsoon Charlie’ was the ghost that haunted the house of Maynard Gridley:

*A monster comes on the morrow,
A storm too mean to tame,
A legend carved from death and sorrow
‘Monsoon Charlie’ was its name.

“We got our orders,” Maynard began, “They told us to hit the jungle and reconnoiter with a remote fire-base about a mile from the North ‘Nam border. It was in some damn valley called “La Trang” or “Da Nang” or “Ba Bang”...we could never keep those damn names straight! We just called it the ‘Poontang Valley’ because that was something we all could remember!”

He continued, “All radio contact with the firebase had been lost.” (Maynard paused from his story and finished off the half-drunk bottle of Coca-Cola, forgetting that he drowned out a cigarette in it. He swallowed it down, cigarette and all, without flinching!)

“We made eye contact with the base from the edge of the jungle and tried to radio them without success. A signal flare went up to let them know we were coming in. We could see those

boys waving their arms and jumping up and down. I thought they were just happy to see us. They were actually trying to warn us! As soon as we entered the clearing, enemy mortar and small arms fire started raining down from both sides of the valley. We sprinted across that open field while the boys in the firebase provided cover. We all made it but not before a couple guys sustained minor wounds. I took a small piece of shrapnel in my ass. No big deal.”

“Once there, our lieutenant wanted answers. Where is the base commander? What happened to the radio? It turned out that both had been blown up and were dead. The lieutenant grabbed the good radio and called in our status to the CP. ‘We got VC pissing on the hillsides that flank us!’ he screamed into the microphone, ‘we need airstrikes on both sides of this valley!’ I could hear the chatter crackling over the radio. Then I heard a voice reply, ‘NO CAN DO!’

“They said that all planes were grounded because of an approaching monsoon...and, not just any monsoon. They said ‘Monsoon Charlie’ was coming right at us!”

“We all looked at each other and wondered aloud, “Who in hell is ‘Monsoon Charlie?’” My squad leader chimed, “I know about ‘Monsoon Charlie.’” He’d heard all about it from an army meteorologist he was getting drunk with in Saigon. “If it’s true,” he added, “we all better start praying.”

“The guy told him that of all the monsoons that hit Vietnam each year, there was one that everyone feared the most. A Frankenstein storm that Mother Nature creates from thrown away parts of all the world’s worst storms. It comes along every 10 years or so but, it had been 15 YEARS since the last time Monsoon Charlie had come to Vietnam. It had killed 20,000 people and turned the little creek running through the middle of the firebase into the Colorado River. The lieutenant yelled into the radio asking for orders to evacuate. Instead, he was told to hold his position “at all costs.”

“We haven’t got the high ground!” he screamed back. ‘What are we supposed to do...SWIM OUT OF HERE?!’ Then, the guy on the radio said, ‘God Be With You’...and that was that! From then on, we were on our own.”

“Just then, I felt that first drop of water land on my face...the rain was starting.”

*HUNKER DOWN! The radio said,

Take the high ground or you’ll be dead!

Chances are you won’t last the day ‘Cuz ‘Monsoon Charlie’ is on its way!

* excerpts from “The Ballad of Monsoon Charlie” by Sgt. Harvey Ridgewood, U.S. Army. ©1968 FUBAR Records.

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

JUNE

Aries: Spontaneity is the Ram’s key word of the month. This is something you’re good at, so strut your stuff, visit new neighborhood haunts, don’t plan, just let the Universe guide you.

Taurus: Patience, a key word in the Bull’s vocabulary, with Uranus recently entering your sign, patience is something you’re going to rely on, when the Bull Pen is hit by the tornado, patience.

Gemini: The Twins will be a changing, the winds they are a drifting, Bob Dylan may come a knockin’ on your door, Lady Venus & Mr. Sun are paying a visit, make no plans, let it flow.

Cancer: The Crab just moved front & center on the beach of life, you’re worthy of all the gold in the sand, & you know it, with Mercury & Mars in your sign, you’re the Captain of the Ship.

Leo: Summer is here, and the Jungle needs pruning, you’re the King/Queen, set the example of planting seeds of forgiveness & empathy, & take a lawnmower to that patch of negative seeds.

Virgo: Plant those seeds of authenticity in that garden of yours, just roll with it Virgo, if it needs to be said, say it...whoever doesn’t get it, will be left



by the wayside, just please, be gentle.

Libra: You’re the connected souls of the Universe, balancing good with evil, playing mediator at all costs, this is your month, be the Pied Piper of connectedness, & make peace with all beings.

Scorpio: Spending time in that cave of yours did the Scorpion good, you’ve reached clarity in areas that were buried so deep, you never thought they’d see the light of day, trust your intuition.

Sagittarius: Being the gambler, that the Centaur is, you’ve chosen the top card in the deck of life, inspiration. Listen closely, soon the monkey mind will settle down, & the voice will shout.

Capricorn: All those trips up the mountain have finally paid off for the Goat, you are worthy, deserving, & you own that mountain, throw a celebratory party, & do NOT invite guilt.

Aquarian: When fear shows up at your door this month, knock that sucker down, kick it in the nuts, put on your Superman cape, & get ready to climb the Terminal tower, you are invincible.

Pisces: OK the Fish is dealing with self-esteem issues, when you look into that pond of yours, instead of seeing the minnow, you see the whale...that’s right, you are what you think, own it.

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

LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: Bringing Universal Design Into Your Home” June 6

by Matt Bixenstine

There’s a growing movement within our society toward realizing better universal design in our homes, and now is your chance to learn more about this quality of life concept.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Bringing Universal Design Into Your Home on Thursday, June 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library. The free workshop will cover how to incorporate the seven principles of universal design into your home.

Led by our friends at Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio, this unique workshop will offer clear examples of features you can add and improvements you can make to increase the accessibility and safety of your home so that people of all ages can enjoy it.

Universal design is the design

of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Because of universal design, people in all stages of life can all enjoy the same home, and that home will be there for all its inhabitants even when their needs change.

To reserve your free spot for “Knowing Your Home: Bringing Universal Design Into Your Home,” 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,



LakewoodAlive's "Bringing Universal Design Into Your Home" workshop takes place on June 6 at Lakewood Public Library.

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.

Lakewood Author Kathy McKinsey Signs Her Book

by Kathy McKinsey

I, Kathy McKensey, am a Lakewood resident and I will have my first book, "All My Tears," available for signing on Saturday, June 1 at 3 p.m. The event will be held at Lakewood Nutrition smoothie and juice bar, 14235 Detroit Avenue, next to Edible Arrangements.

I have lived in Lakewood 19 years,

and have raised five LHS graduates. After college and graduate school, and careers as a stay-at-home mom and a Rehabilitation Teacher of the Blind, I returned to my long-time love of writing about 6 years ago.

I greatly look forward to discussing my book and writing in general at the event.

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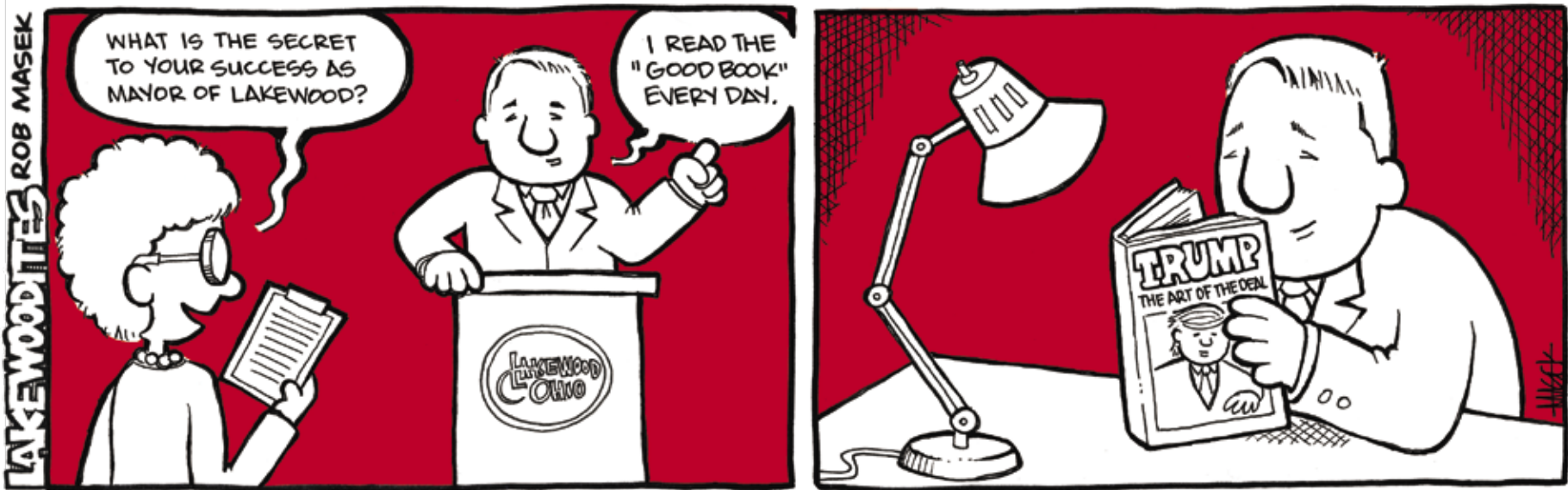
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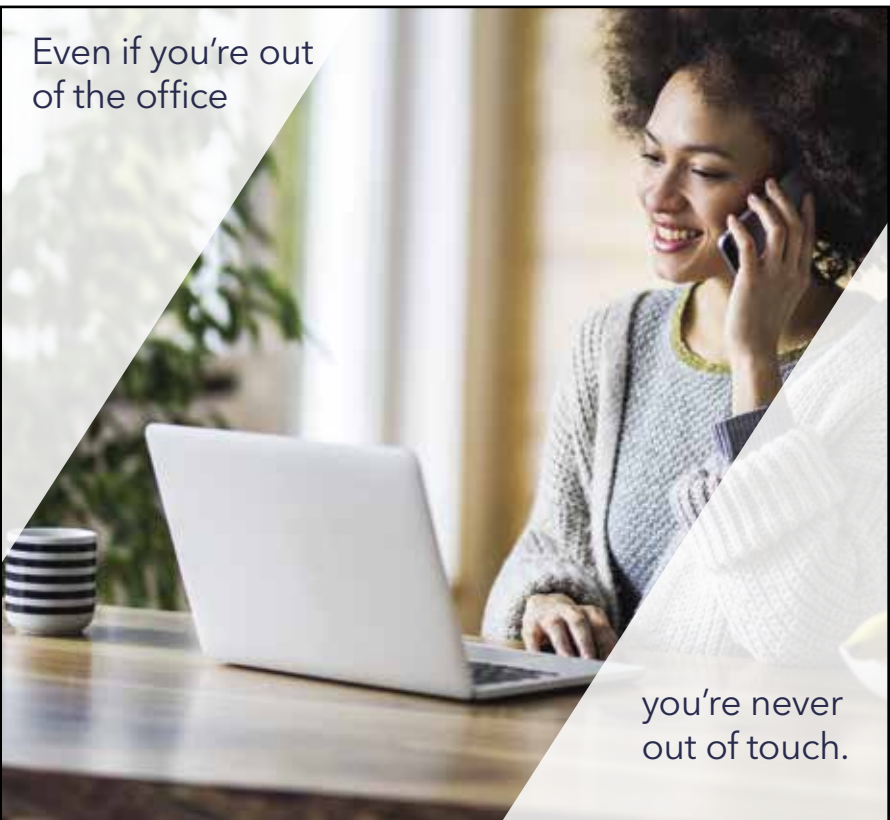
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