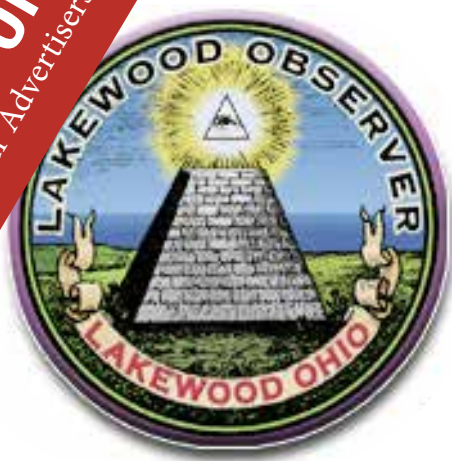


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Meg Greenfield, The Post

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Volume 15, Issue 11, June 5, 2019

Public Records Case Over, Judge Orders City To Pay Damages

Underscoring The Impact Of Information Withheld From Lakewood Voters

by Eric Sandy

A three-year civil appeals case against the city of Lakewood came to an apparent end May 10 when a Cuyahoga County Appeals Court judge ordered the payment of statutory damages and attorneys' fees to resident Brian Essi, who'd urged for tens of thousands of pages of city records about the decision to close Lakewood Hospital to be released to the people. The judicial opinion brings one front of the contentious debate over what happened with the hospital to a tentative denouement.

Much of the Lakewood Hospital story has been debated in the court of public opinion and on op-ed pages—



This image graced the pages of the LO during an election where Brian Essi (right) was fighting for the facts and truth. Mayor Summers (left) with the help of Council President O'Leary kept the documents and the truth from Brian and all Lakewoodites.

going back to the January 2015 announcement of the plan to sell off the hospital assets to the Cleveland Clinic and demolish the building at Detroit and Belle avenues. Sides were

formed and taken in the city. Elections were won and lost. But the deeper philosophical

history of the city—the portion of the story in which we ask “What happened?”—is written in large part in this court docket.

“Lakewood’s actions were not in accord with the principle that public records are the people’s record,” Judge Kathleen Ann Keough wrote, sealing the civil case in rebuke.

The city has an opportunity to appeal this decision. For now, the opinion casts a sunset glow on a divisive chapter in recent Lakewood history.

Out the door, the court awarded Essi \$1,000 in damages. (Statutory damages are



fixed at \$100 “for each business day during which the records custodian fails to comply with an obligation,” with a maximum of \$1,000.)

The damages awarded in

continued on page 8

Councilmembers George And Rader Propose Improved Public Records Policy

by Meghan George

Public records policies can work better for Lakewood. I recently introduced legislation to help achieve that goal, along with my council at-large colleague Tristan Rader.

Our goal is to de-mystify the records request process for the average resident. Members of the public have a right to transparency from their gov-

ernment—but the process for a record request, itself, can and should be more transparent.

If the proposal is adopted, Lakewood will introduce a public records portal on our city’s website, offering a simple resource for making requests, tracking those requests, and getting responses.

You can make a records **continued on page 3**

Jeff Wise Seeks To Work For Ward 3 On City Council

by Matt Kuhns

When Jeff Wise talks with people about running for city council in Ward 3, he returns often to one idea: working for Lakewood.

Wise announced his candidacy for council recently. But he has already worked to help Lakewood residents with their government, as a legislative aide in the Ohio Statehouse.

That experience working on constituent issues confirmed the value of public service, which Wise first saw during a high school internship also at the Statehouse. Even in a partisan legislature, he found that hard work and attention to detail got results for Lakewood.

Wise is eager to discuss policy, and has announced several priorities he hopes to advocate on council: reversing recent years’ heavy job losses in Ward 3, streetscape and infrastructure improvements, and sustainability initiatives including tree canopy preservation, among others.

What unites Wise’s priorities, though, is a concern about what’s working for Lakewood, or not.

“I’m running for Lakewood City Council because our city



Jeff Wise

is at a crossroads and residents deserve a choice at the ballot box,” says Wise.

Wise emphasizes hous-

ing and development issues as key examples. “The key to prosperous neighborhoods is a diversity of housing styles and prices, to serve residents at all stages of life, particularly senior citizens who wish to ‘age in place,’” he says. “Proposed developments must be responsible, historically appropriate and respect the feedback of neighboring residents.”

Ward 3 residents deserve a representative who listens, says Wise, but actively communicates as well. “I pledge to be an

continued on page 8

Meet The Trucks 2019



photo by Jacob Chabowski

Last Saturday was Meet The Trucks, a great time for kids, parents, grandparents and city workers. Everyone loves trucks, horns, police, firemen and trucks. Did I mention trucks? **More photos on page 11.**



photo by Jacob Chabowski

While covering the sunset at Lakewood Park I saw a young couple get engaged. Congrats to Ryan & Jill! This might end up being my shot of the summer. Can't beat a moment like this. Photos by Jacob Chabowski / Property of The Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Observer

Nice Whips Around Lakewood



Above: Steve Afandor, his wife Jenyffer and their kids Alex and Izabella pose in the backseat of their beautifully turned out 1966 Volkswagen street legal Dune Buggy. The kit took Steve three years to build! Thanks, Steve, and family for bringing it out and sharing it with all Observers. They received dinner at Woodstock and lunch at Melt! Isn't it time you joined the Lakewood Observer?

To have some fun this summer and see what our readers can find we are bringing a favorite of the Observation Dcck to the print version. Kind of. "Baby You Can Drive My Car" has been tracking interesting and unique vehicles in and around Lakewood since 2004 with hundreds of entries! Tell us about your unique ride, call us over to check it out and you could win dinner for two from Melt, Woodstock BBQ, Indian Garden, WestEnd, Rood, or Pier W.



Meghan F.

GEORGE

FOR MAYOR OF LAKEWOOD

216-544-6745 Citizens4george@gmail.com

MeghanGeorge.com

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HOT OFF THE DECK!



The bald eaglets in Metro Park will be flying in 30 days. Watch for them

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
Lakewood Post Office Lot On Warren For Sale	Jim O'Bryan	25	3183	Tue Jun 04
Siren a Little Late Again	Bridget Conant	21	1529	Mon Jun 03
Little Italy development and Lakewood	Dan Alaimo	2	398	Mon Jun 03
COW On One Lakewood Place	Jim O'Bryan	4	443	Sat Jun 01
A Look Back At Beck Center Talk, Most Have Forgotten...		0	222	Fri May 31
The Declines Continues - From Cleveland Scene		0	244	Fri May 31,
The Road Ahead	Mark Kindt	81	9445	Thu May 30
Amazing Lakewood Police Chase		4	458	Tue May 28

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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.

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

Lakewood Observer

Healthy Lakewood Foundation Seeks To Hire An Executive Assistant

by Kate Ingersoll

The new Healthy Lakewood Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) public charity, was created pursuant to the closing of Lakewood Hospital. The mission of Healthy Lakewood Foundation is to advance programs, policies, and practices that inspire a Lakewood community in which health and wellness are reflected in all aspects of life. The vision is a place where all people achieve their fullest health potential.

The HLF Board seeks to hire a temporary Executive Assistant and is accepting applications at this time.

The Executive Assistant, reporting to the Board of Directors, supports

the day-to-day operations of the Foundation and provides general administrative support as needed, including basic bookkeeping, event support, and general office support.

This is a part-time temporary position (10 hours a week) with an initial six-month contract. There is potential opportunity for renewal depending upon the needs of the Foundation and Board of Directors.

The Executive Assistant will be employed on a contract basis with a competitive hourly rate commensurate with their experience. HLF does not have an office or work space at this time and so the Assistant will be expected to

work from their space, using their personal computer and phone equipment to conduct business. The Assistant can create a flexible work schedule with the approval of the Executive Committee. Attendance at monthly evening Board meetings is required.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and thoughtful letter of interest to the attention of Kate Ingersoll, HLF Board Secretary via email to: healthylakewoodfoundation@gmail.com. Please use this email address to request the complete job posting.

All submissions are confidential. Applications will be accepted until June 21, 2019.

Councilmembers George And Rader Propose Improved Public Records Policy

continued from page 1

request in many ways—on the phone, over e-mail, in person, etc.—and that will remain the case. But the online records request portal will create one, official confirmation of requests and responses to them, however those requests are made.

Valuable public record provisions already exist in Ohio law, and our proposal will ensure that Lakewood has a clear commitment and system to comply with these. The city will identify a public record administrator, who will

take training along with all elected officials.

The proposed legislation will commit to using redaction of records as narrowly as possible.

Record requests will receive a timely response—and compensation for any undue delays provides a material commitment on this point.

Lakewood has taken ongoing steps for government transparency over the years, often in response to public input: video of meetings, searchable docket PDFs, a council section on the

city’s website. Improving public record access remains a priority for many residents, and we should respond.

The proposal which I have introduced along with Councilperson Rader will not be a total solution to every public record concern, by itself. But I believe it will offer real help to residents with questions about their government, and show a commitment to keeping local government’s work accessible and accountable.

Read the proposal at tinyurl.com/lkwdPRR

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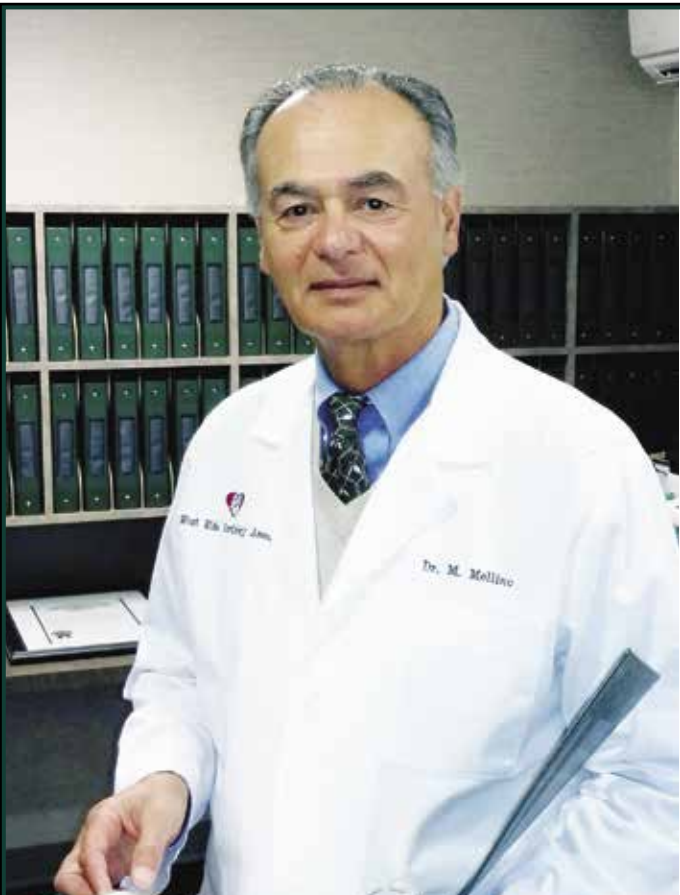


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LUNCH & LEARN

Heart Matters:

How to Live Longer and Better

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Marcello Mellino, MD,
Medical Director of Cardiovascular
Services, O’Neill Healthcare

Assisted Living Building
4th Floor Education Room

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert
at 216-912-0800 by June 17, 2019

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Forum – Wastewater and the West Side: What are the Issues?

Tens of billions of gallons of wastewater are processed every year through Cleveland’s three water treatment plants. Northeast Ohio’s geographical proximity to Lake Erie keeps conservation at the forefront of community concern and planning initiatives. Join the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland to hear from area experts on the process and issues surrounding wastewater treatment on the West Side. Panelists will be Frank Greenland, NEORS D Director of Watershed Programs, Janine Rybka, Director of Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, and Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers. Professor Howard E. Katz will moderate the discussion.

Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Author Event - “Follow the Dragons: Discovering the Love of Ultra Running and Myself”
by Kyle V. Robinson

Follow the Dragons is a soul-searching portrait of a man finding his way, challenging what people are capable of no matter their pasts, and coming to the realization that a grand arrival to fulfillment is intangible. Instead, what matters most is our continued growth and appreciation for life as it unfolds along the way. Kyle V. Robinson is an accomplished ultra-runner, author, and speaker. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - “From Russia with Love” (1963) Directed by Terence Young
Presented by Terry Meehan

In a story by genuine spy Ian Fleming, Soviet cipher clerk Tatiana Romanova (Daniela Bianchi) offers to turn over a Lektor coding machine, but only if James Bond (Sean Connery) escorts her to safety on the Orient Express. Red Grant (Robert Shaw) and Rosa Klebb (Lotte Lenya) try to derail them. 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, June 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Concert - NorthCoast Winds — Americas’ Immigrant Composers

This performance will showcase the many cultural threads that make up the fabric of American

Music. Our musical melting pot may include music by Paul Hindemith and Arnold Schoenberg, immigrants from Germany, Paquito D’Rivera an immigrant from Cuba or Miguel del Aguila an immigrant from Uruguay. These works will be performed by the North Coast Winds quintet, which has emerged as a dynamic player in the cultural and educational fabric of Northeast Ohio.

Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Immigration Legislation in the United States
Presented by Magistrate Barbara Greenberg

The second in our four-week series on immigration legislation. 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

Saturday, June 8, 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.

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Afternoon at the Movies – Luis and the Aliens (2018)
For the Whole Family

Come inside from the heat to enjoy a family friendly movie about space! Luis’ dad is obsessed with proving that aliens exist, but nobody believes him, not even Luis. Three awkward little alines; Mog, Nag, and Wabo, crash-land right in front of Luis. In his quest to get the three tiny exaterestrials to their mothership will Luis decide to go with them and leave all of his problems here on earth? No registration required.

Main Library Auditorium.

Sunday, June 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m

Lakewood LEGO® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

Use LPL’s collection of Lego® Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.

Main Library Activity Room.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Citizenship Workshops
Presented by Tri-C ASPIRE

This two-week workshop will show participants how to become a U.S. citizen through the process of naturalization. Practice questions will be shown, and we will discuss how to study for the test. Participants will have access to information on community resources including financial assistance, legal assistance, English language learning, citizenship test preparation and more. Registration is required. Register by calling (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Madison Branch Meeting Room

Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Author Event - “The Browns Blues: Two Decades of Utter Frustration: Why Everything Kept Going Wrong for the Cleveland Browns”
by Terry Pluto

From their return in 1999 through the winless 2017 season, the Cleveland Browns had the worst record in the NFL. Now, veteran sports columnist Terry Pluto explains why everything kept going wrong. This detailed report on two decades of disappointment takes a behind-the-scenes look at upheaval in the front office, frustration on the field, and headaches and heartache in the stands. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, June 13, 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 be discussing “Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think” by Hans Rosling with Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund.

Main Library Meeting Room

Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Film - “Laura” (1944) Directed by Otto Preminger
Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill

Laura Hunt (Gene Tierney) is found shot to death in her apartment. Detective Mark McPherson (Dana Andrews) investigates her murder. McPherson sorts through Laura’s belongings for clues and becomes obsessed by a portrait of her. One night he falls asleep in a chair near the painting and awakens to the sight of a beautiful mirage walking toward him. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, June 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Concert - Hollywood Slim Band

The Hollywood Slim Band is a unique member of Cleveland’s blues family, performing their swing/jazz/blues music for over forty years and still adding arrangements to their repertoire. They play rhythm & blues and jazz styles from the 1930s through the 1960s, and give some of the arrangements their own touch with three part harmonies. The band plays renditions of music by artists such as Little Walter Jacobs, Ray Charles and The Nat King Cole Trio.

Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Immigration Legislation in the United States
Presented by Magistrate Barbara Greenberg

The third in our four-week series on immigration legislation. 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

Tuesday, June 18, 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 be discussing “My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry: A Novel” by Fredrik Backman, translated by Henning Koch.

Main Library Meeting Room

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Citizenship Workshop
Presented by Tri-C ASPIRE

This two-week workshop will show participants how to become a U.S. citizen through the process of naturalization. Practice questions will be shown, and we will discuss how to study for the test. Participants will have access to information on community resources including financial assistance, legal assistance, English language learning, citizenship test preparation and more. Registration is required. Register by calling (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Madison Branch Meeting Room



Lakewood Public Library

Meet The Author Of "We Celebrate Our Mother And Father"

by Lisa Calfee

There is a lot to be learned from an ordinary life, particularly one that has survived more than a century of the stuff. In "We Celebrate our Mother and Father," author Joseph Meissner describes the ordinary lives of his parents, which turn out to have had an extraordinary effect on the lives of their children. Meissner will visit Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. to share.

Co-authored with his four siblings, this collection of letters, emails, photos and "I Remembers" feels like pulling up a chair to the Meissners' kitchen table. The stories of their seven-year-old father having to drop out of school to work in the fields or their mother's immigration from Ireland are realistic pictures of our collective past, making "We Celebrate our Mother and Father" both a personal record and a history of Ohio, describing life in the Buckeye State during the last century.

Most of all, the book is a labor of love, a parting gift to beloved parents, reminding us on every page how an ordinary life can affect generations. This Meet the Author event takes place in the Main Lower Level Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing.



Gentleman Joe Variety Show

by Marge Foley

Come one, come all! Bring your family to the Lakewood Public Library to enjoy the Gentleman Joe Variety Show. This versatile performer is a veteran of the Ringling Brothers Circus. Get ready for eye-popping balancing stunts, juggling, musical entertainment and more. All ages will be delighted with this captivating show that combines humor, clowning and magic. Prepare to laugh and get ready to be amazed! It will be an afternoon to remember—one that will live in your child's memory for years to come. This event will take place on Friday, June 14, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room, which is located in Children's and Youth Services. The show is free and open to the public and no registration is required.

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Citizenship Workshops At Lakewood Public Library

by Melinda Frank

The United States naturalization process can be overwhelming. Are you ready to become a U.S. citizen? Do you need help navigating the paperwork involved? Would you like more information on how to study for the English and civics tests? Learn how to get started in the naturalization process with the assistance of Tri-C Aspire.

This interactive workshop will aid participants through the process of naturalization. Tri-C Aspire will present two sessions of workshops for any community members who are preparing for the citizenship test. Practice test questions in several topics will be shown and test study techniques will be discussed. Participants will learn about community resources including financial assistance, legal assistance, English language learning, test preparation and more.

There will be two sessions occurring this summer. Each session will be two weeks. The first session will take place in the Madison Branch Meeting Room on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 and Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The second session will take place in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 and Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Registration is required. Register by calling 216-226-8275, ext. 127. When registering, please indicate which session you would like to attend.

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Lakewood Public Schools

Lakewood Middle Schools Triumph At Mock Trials



by Christine Gordillio

Garfield and Harding middle schools each took two teams to Columbus to compete in the statewide Middle School Mock Trial Showcase sponsored by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, where 47 middle school teams went to trial against each other over a three-day period in early May at the Ohio Supreme Court Building. Each of the schools' team members earned numerous "Best" awards in the process.

Garfield's Gold and Purple teams won 5 of 8 possible "Best" awards: Jazi Dunay and Chaiya Herberger won "Best Attorney", while Corrine Wroblewski, Dominic Peck, and Erica Frischauf won "Best Wit-

ness" awards.

Harding came home with 6 out of 8 possible "Best" awards: Ed Horton, Zoe Pace, Rhiannon Riker, and Julia Kompier all won "Best Witness" awards, while Alex Hodson and Leah Campbell won "Best Attorney" awards for their trials.

Overall, all four of Lakewood's Garfield and Harding teams just missed the cutoff for the highest Superior ranking (98 or above). Harding's teams averaged 95.5 and 96; Garfield's teams averaged 95 and 96.5. Only 5 out of the 47 teams achieved that top Superior rating.

This year, the Middle School Mock Trials were based on the book "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry,"

by Mildred Taylor, in which a main character is charged with aggravated murder. Each middle school team subdivides into a prosecution and a defense squad, and prepares for two different trials against other Ohio middle schools. Students take on the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and bailiff/timers; trials occur in real courtrooms in front of real attorneys who act as trial judges and who rate teams on case understanding, professional demeanor, oratory skills, and understanding of trial technique and courtroom procedure. With two teams each, both Harding and Garfield had two trials running simultaneously in the morning, and another two in the afternoon!

At Garfield, thanks go to Mr. Dan Smith, who coached both teams, and to Ms. Lisa Andrasak, Ms. April Hoy, and Mr. Ouimet Smith for chaperoning the trip. Very special thanks go to Dan Smith's wife Peggy Ferraro, an attorney who served for the third year as Garfield's legal consultant, spending two full afternoons working with students in class. For the first time, she also served as a mock trial judge in Columbus.

Garfield's team members were: Haley Benjamin, Zoe Bowers, Baird Bracken, Eric Bumm, Gavin Burgess, Tate Calaway, Gillian Coulson, Jazi Dunay, James Ferry, Vinnie Filippelli, Logan Friend, Erica Frischauf, Fiona Gjermani, Chaiya Herberger, Jake Hirsch, Sophia Kowalski, Maddie Magda-McKinney, George Mossman, Charlie Payne, Dominic Peck, Emily Potoczak, Eleanor Rog-

ers, Owen Rumsey, Thaissa Santos, Bode Smith, Arabella Spear, Adam Steinbrick, Ryann Stirling, Ethan Waller, and Corrine Wroblewski.

At Harding, Mrs. Sonja Kreps guided her 7th and 8th grade teams along with help from countless attorneys and judges present during the week of playoffs, which decided Harding's teams. A special thank you to Mr. Dan Shields who not only judged during the playoffs and coordinated the attendance of many of the lawyers and judges, but also accompanied the teams on the bus to Columbus where he also judged two cases. Thank you to Mrs. Horton as well for riding the bus and attending trials in Columbus.

A thank you also goes to the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation for its donation that helped make the trip possible.

Harding's 8th grade students participating were: Lydia Kress, Meredith Wheeler, Sophia Monteiro, Rhiannon Riker, Rocco Crino, Jay Schmoldt, Alex Hodson, Sarah Dorn, Julia Kompier, Conner Millsaps, Jamie Holland, Jonas Evans, Luke Sweeney, Alex Horton, Ava Bruening, Ava Jaskulski, Clare Morrissey, Maddy Rybak, Grace Lamparyk, and Lila Wright. The 7th graders attending/competing were: Olivia Diemert, Caroline Baas, Rowan Brown, Cameron Wereb, Zoe Pace, Emily Jarecke, Leah Campbell, Michael Klasa, Ed Horton, Jana Evans, Jonathan Reighard, Ashley Van Gunten, Reagan Bratko, Ronan Barley, Caitlin Salo, and Grace Bratko.

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SUMMER
2019

Lakewood Public Schools

Academic Challenge Team
Shines In National Tournament



Varsity team members (from left): Tim Daso, Michael Ferrone, Evan Bell, John Bobik, Aiden Bohac, and Sasha Seckers.

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the Lakewood High School Academic Challenge Team on its excellent performance in the 2019 High School National Championship Tournament where the team joined 335 of the top high school quiz bowl teams in Atlanta May 24-26. Lakewood finished the preliminary rounds with a 6-4 record, which qualified the team for the playoffs.

The team was captained by Tim Daso and Michael Ferrone, who were joined by Evan Bell, John Bobik, Aidan Bohac, and Sasha Seckers. The team advisers are LHS teachers Peter Petto and Bob Sedlak.

There were some tense moments for the Rangers. Lakewood defeated

Caddo Magnet from Shreveport, Louisiana by the narrow margin of 225-220 during round 11; suffered a heartbreakingly narrow loss to Brophy College Prep from Phoenix, Arizona, 205-190 during round 17; and defeated Galloway from Atlanta, Georgia 225-205 during round 19.

The team's path to the play-offs wasn't easy. The Rangers were on the brink of elimination when they defeated Galloway from Atlanta in round 19 to stay alive. Lakewood High's shot at the title ended when they lost to Homestead from Cupertino, California in round 21. Lakewood High School finished in 97th place. The tournament champion was Beaver-creek High School of Beaver-creek.



Juniors Will Holden, Chris Brown, Autumn Cruz, Ava Clause, and Aziza Mohamed

Juniors Focus On Teen
Relationships In Leadership
Academy Project

by Christine Gordillo

Earlier this month, a team of five Lakewood High School juniors and their mentors, teachers Aimee Guzowski and Gray Cooper, participated in the yearlong First Ring Student Leadership Institute. The institute is part of the First Ring Schools Collaborative, which brings together the school districts contingent to Cleveland in order to work together to solve issues that are common to all first ring districts and promote public school education.

The LHS students (Chris Brown, Ava Clause, Autumn Cruz, Will Holden, and Aziza Mohamed) and other districts' leadership institute teams were tasked with choosing and researching a topic that was a problem amongst their peers, and then proposing a solution to improve the problem.

Through leadership training, group dialogue, role play, research, and collaboration with their mentors, these students developed the skills, knowledge and confidence to effectively present their findings and recommendations to their superintendents and other school and community leaders at a final retreat on May 17. The Lakewood High project was The Dynamics of Teenage Romantic Relationships.

The LHS team conducted an anonymous and voluntary survey for students of LHS. The results proved that problems with romantic relationships exist with students of Lakewood High School. Besides presenting the

data at the retreat, the high school teams were also charged with being change agents in their schools by using the data and research they conducted to bring about action at their school to address the problem.

The LHS team's aim is to bring in experts to conduct monthly seminars during the school day on topics such as healthy relationships, communication, consent/empowerment, and mental health.

Participant Ava Clause is eager to take the skills she learned to help continue guiding the project back at school.

"Being chosen to participate in an institute that actively encourages students to recognize and analyze problems in our community and act towards finding a solution was a great learning experience for me as well as an opportunity to expand my leadership skills," Ava said. "The other four students and I had a great time working together and are excited to see how our project continues."

Adviser Aimee Guzowski was also thrilled with her experience. "Working with these five juniors was tremendously rewarding," Guzowski said. "They tackled a student issue they felt students need intervention and support with. I applaud not only their honesty, but their commitment to creating a research-based program that students can benefit from now and as they grow into adults."

Power Of The Pen Top 10



Congratulations to Garfield Middle School 8th grader Layla Black, who placed 8th in the State Tournament of the Power of the Pen creative writing competition! Layla was one of 750 contestants that advanced to the competition held at the College of Wooster My 23-24. In the competition, writers are given prompts to jump-start a story. The writers have 40 minutes to finish their essay or short story. Power of the Pen advisers Maggie Bacher (at right) and Leslie Eiben said they couldn't be more proud!

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Lakewood Residents' 3.5 Year Court Fight For The Truth

Public Records Case Over, Judge Orders City To Pay Damages

Underscoring The Impact Of Information Withheld From Lakewood Voters

continued from page 1

this case are acknowledgment from the court that the city of Lakewood did not act in a timely manner.

In December 2018, Keogh had issued her judgment in this case—essentially writing that Lakewood had released some public records and withheld others. The judge conceded that the city had released 27,000 pages of records, but pointed out, too, that those documents had been released in several spurts in 2017—more than a year after the requests had been filed and well past any real relevance for local voters.

“Although Lakewood promptly complied with a few of the requests and although Essi’s requests were massive and often problematic,” Keough wrote in the May 10 opinion, “Lakewood took over 15 months from the filing of the complaint and approximately a year from the allowance of the amended complaint to satisfy Essi’s public records request on an important civic matter. The delay in over a year to fulfill the requests was not promptly making the records available within a reasonable time.”

As this case drew to a close over the past year, that became the central dispute: that the city had complied with some of Essi’s records requests, but TOO LATE for any of it to matter, too late for the people to grasp the very people’s record. (All told, 58 separate public records inquiries remain unfulfilled by the city.)

“In Ohio, public records are the people’s records,” Keough wrote in her December opinion. “To that end, the public records act is to be construed liberally in favor of broad access and



Graphic from the Deck underlining that Council President O'Leary and others on council at the time of the court rulings had their heads in the sand. Some even spread lies and narratives they knew were false through three elections and one court case. At any time before the last court date, anyone on council could have supported residents' rights and called for immediate release of the documents, saving all of us hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Jeff Wise Seeks To Work For Ward 3

continued from page 1

active, accessible and accountable councilman.”

“I will strive to unite our community and actively pass legislation to improve our city. I will work hard for you, do

disclosure. The courts are to resolve any doubt in favor of disclosure.”

Essi filed for damages, citing the timeliness of those records releases. The judge acceded.

As far as attorneys’ fees in this case, it’s a little complicated.

Essi employed two firms during this litigation. Each amassed a cornucopia of hours on the clock, many of which were tossed by the judge (who characterized their breadth as “not reasonable”). McGown &



City Hall stated there was \$120 million in new development coming to the spot. The uncovered truth shows that City Hall was warned that this was not true. Through three elections Mayor Summers, Council President O'Leary, Bullock, Litten, and others swore it was true. The truth? In the end, the hospital property was sold for \$1.00 (that is not a typo) to a group represented by the ex-mayor of Lakewood, Ed FitzGerald.

Markling, which started the process and set the case in motion, was awarded \$49,210.50 in the end. DannLaw, which picked up the case in 2017, was awarded \$24,769.55.

To travel through the court docket of those two firms’ work in this civil case is to observe a zig-zag argument layered with public debate and questions of democratic representation, of what it means to request public records and fight for timely release. Keough’s May 10 opinion introduces the narrative plainly enough: “Beginning on March 15, 2016, Essi began a comprehensive public records request endeavor to obtain the records relating to the closure and sale of Lakewood Hospital by sending the city of Lakewood 173 public records requests through certified mail.” He eventually filed a total of 318 separate requests.

The backdrop of this case is the November 2016 election, held eight months after Essi began his public records search. On the ballot, voters were asked whether to overturn City Coun-

things differently and stay in touch by holding frequent town hall meetings and open office hours.”

Wise says he looks forward to a positive campaign, focused on good ideas and working to serve residents best. Visit wise-forlakewood.com for more information.

cil’s December 2015 decision to close and demolish Lakewood Hospital and allow the Cleveland Clinic to build a three-story family health center at Detroit and Belle. As the summer of 2016 got under way, however, the Lakewood Hospital records—the fragmented internal documentation of how the December 2015 council decision was made—weren’t showing up.

“On June 24, 2016, [Essi] had no alternative but to file an action in mandamus in the hopes that the records he was seeking would be available to assist the public before the scheduled vote on the referendum to reverse the city council’s decision to close Lakewood hospital in November of 2016,” according to a document filed in late December 2018.

“What happened after the election, by [the city] delaying through the legal posturing of the production of the records, is that there’s two notable documents that came out after the election cycle that pretty much decided the hospital’s fate,” Essi told The Lakewood Observer. (Essi has written bylined articles for the Observer on this very topic.)

The narrative is almost old hat in Lakewood at this point.

Chief among the city’s early assertions was the reported \$120 million of investment coming into the city. When the proposed deal to shutter and demolish Lakewood Hospital was announced in January 2015, that figure was the linchpin. “This plan includes a \$120-million investment in Lakewood to transition from the current model to a future one which will modernize healthcare and deliver a more sustainable way to meet the long-term needs of the Lakewood community,” according to the city’s Jan. 15, 2015, press release. The figure was repeated at community meetings about the deal.

According to a Feb. 26, 2015, email sent by LHA trustee Bill Gorton, the number was a joke. “The \$120 million slide was demolished at the last meeting,” Gorton wrote. “As it should be as it is bogus. My strong recommendation is to remove all reference to that unfortunate number.” Ken Haber, another LHA trustee, in a reply the following day, wrote, “Agreed.”

As Essi wrote at length for the Lakewood Observer at the time, council member Tom Bullock was cc’d on those emails, as was Mayor Mike Summers. Each knew of the improper framing of the hospital deal.

The other record that Essi cited was contained in the 2014 Subsidium Healthcare report, which explained that the appraisal of the 850 Columbia Road hospital facility wouldn’t lend any material advantage to the city. (The property was eventually sold off to the Clinic as part of the broader Lakewood Hospital deal for a shade over \$8 million.)

Those revelations and more were contained in the 27,000 pages of records



The bottom document was what the City of Lakewood was originally sending out early in the court battle. Months later, while most pages were heavily redacted or refused, a troubling picture emerged. In the end Brian received less than 25% of the documents he requested, however that was enough to prove there was no \$120 million in development, and the City knew it. Even with limited access to documents, after 3.5 years, it was obvious residents were being misled through three very important elections.

released by the city in August 2017.

“The gist of some of the documents withheld was that they were hiding the \$120-million investment number that they were using in both election cycles until after the election cycle,” Essi said, “when the mayor himself and Bullock were parties to an email where their colleagues in the LHA board were saying the number was bogus and indefensible. Even the Subsidium [report] said it was a negligible advantage to the city.”

By late 2018, and well into 2019, however, what all of that means is still clearly up for debate in Lakewood. The 2015 mayoral election, the 2015 council vote and the 2016 general election left their marks; now, with new development projects on the horizon and another mayoral race under way, the echoes of what happened during the Lakewood Hospital deal persist.

Essi said as much in his own December 2018 court filing: “Like justice, records delayed are records denied when it came to the ability of voters in Lakewood to make informed decisions about the hospital referendum.”

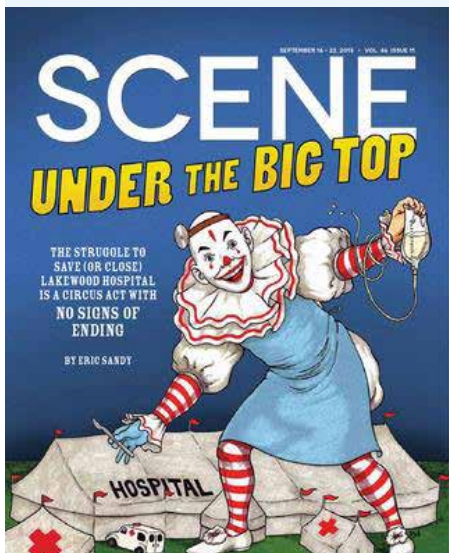
duced an ordinance that would create an easy-to-use web portal for requests. The system would require an initial response to a request within two days and would mandate public records training for top officials. “Having a chapter of our code dedicated to public records would not make Lakewood unique, nor is it intended to invalidate the city’s current records processes by which many in the community have been well served,” the two wrote in a letter to council colleagues. “In fact, an important objective of this proposed legislation is to maintain and reinforce important portions of the city’s current Public Records Policy by codifying them into permanent law.”

The initiative would build off the progress made by other communications efforts in the city: the mobile app and the Police-2-Citizen web portal.

“We intend that Lakewood city should strictly adhere to all its obligations under Ohio’s Public Records Law, and to exceed those obligations whenever it is practical and makes sense to do so,” George and Rader wrote.

City Council President Sam O’Leary provided a statement when asked for comment about the Lakewood Hospital records case from the perspective of Lakewood’s public officials: “The city of Lakewood has continued to act in the best interests of its residents throughout lengthy and protracted judicial proceedings, consistently winning judgments in support of the city. We are, thus, disappointed in the latest ruling by the Appeals Court which says the city took too long to respond to multiple public records and documentation requests that were part of those multi-year legal proceedings. During the several years in which the city successfully defended itself against unfounded and unproven accusations, we released more than 27,000 pages of records to the plaintiff and his attorneys.

“Importantly,” O’Leary’s statement continued, “the Court of Appeals found that Lakewood applied the public records law in good faith, but simply took too long to produce certain records in the face



Eric Sandy’s previous article about the Hospital debacle. Cleveland Scene Volume 46, Issue 11



Follow QR Code to read City Hall’s reaction to Eric Sandy’s fact-driven article on the lawsuit and hospital deal. They were outraged when he checked their “facts” and asked serious questions.

of voluminous, convoluted, and often improper records requests. The Court called those records requests ‘massive and often problematic,’ but concluded that it ultimately took too much time to comply with a few of the burdensome requests. At the same time, the Court has determined that those legal fees are excessive and has reduced them by about two-thirds. The city of Lakewood will consider its options in light of the Appeals Court ruling, and will continue to act with deliberation and concern for our residents.”

The Lakewood Hospital deal, as it were, was finished by the time the bulldozers tore into the 99-year-old building and, later, when the 2016 referendum came up 52-48—in favor of the deal. But the public records case is a narrative that describes how information was doled out at a critical juncture in the city’s recent history.

“It never made any sense, after review of the documents and financial statements and the proposed agreement, that there was anything close to \$120 million coming into Lakewood,” Essi said.

“In fact, I think it was \$120 million going out of Lakewood.”

Essi further explained, “So, in other words, as a citizen and taxpayer of Lakewood, I think it was a complete giveaway of ... something in the nature of \$120 million. And ... one of the major drivers on my end was the hospital, aside from providing all the care that a hospital does, per the audited financial statements, was



Follow this QR Code to see the hundreds of pages Brian Essi did receive during the court fight to see the proof of how the City misrepresented the facts.

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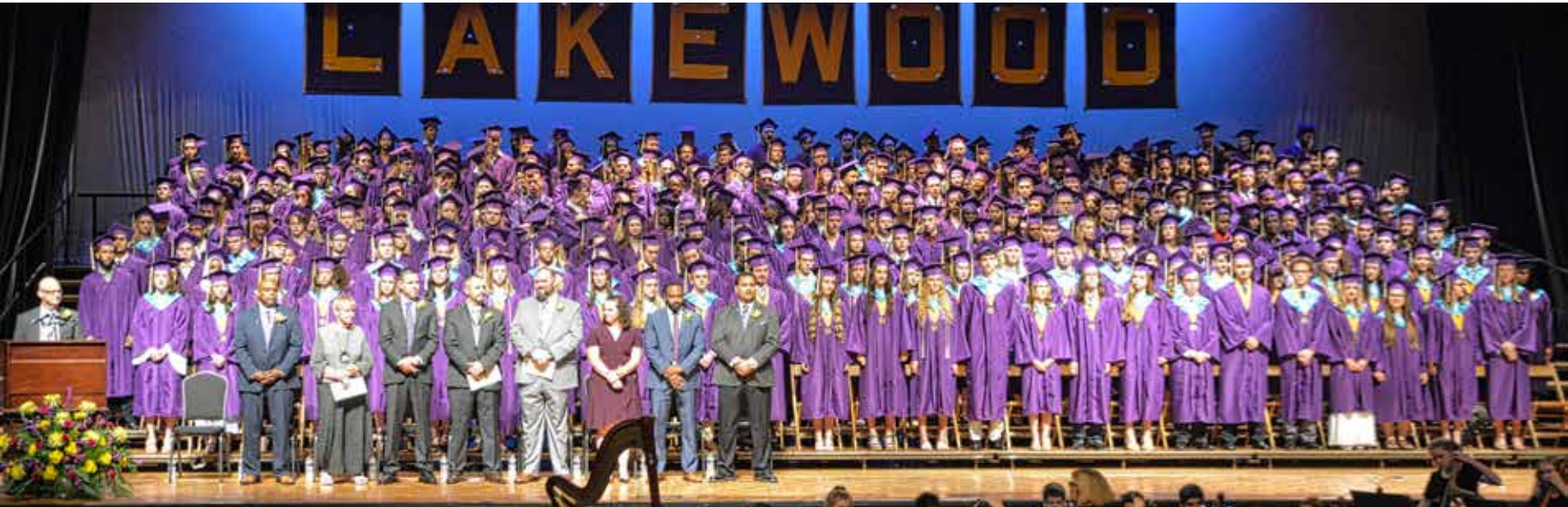
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Schools

Alternative Ed Program Takes On New Look

by Christine Gordillo

After months of gathering input from all stakeholders, including student and parent input, the District has landed on a name for its alternative learning school. The program that currently operates as part of Lakewood City Academy and is housed at the former Franklin Elementary Building will be called the Franklin School of Opportunity beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

In January 2019, the District announced that it would not be renewing its state-sponsored charter for LCA when the sponsorship expires on June 30, 2019 (?). The move would allow for greater flexibility in crafting an alternative learning program that fits Lakewood students' needs without the rigid requirements of the state. The new name gives the students and staff ownership of the program moving forward to help design and implement curriculum and extracurriculars suited to the particular needs of the Franklin School of Opportunities students.

"We have a long way to go with many more pieces to the puzzle, but District leadership has allowed for our team to move in the right direction for what is best for the students. We are excited," said Lakewood City Academy Executive Director Terri Bornino-Elwell. "From curriculum, to career connections to community

involvement, the arts - it is all about making sure when our students leave our schools, they leave with a successful vision in mind."

Current LCA staff members and Director Bornino-Elwell have visited alternative schools throughout Ohio researching teaching methods and curriculums. A Transformation Task Force has been meeting weekly, discussing transition issues and brainstorming ideas about the structure and content of the new alternative programming.

The team has discussed ways to incorporate more project-based, and career-related learning, boosting the technology presence in the classroom and exploring internship possibilities with local businesses, among other ideas. The group has also formulated a new mission statement:

"Franklin School of Opportunity provides a safe, caring, supportive environment where non-traditional learners are empowered academically and personally to reach their full social, emotional and academic potential. We are a team of educators that embrace diversity, welcome creativity and work together to achieve for all students."

This will guide everyone's actions as the process moves toward launching the new program with the 2020-2021 school year.

Meet The Trucks

Meet The Trucks



photo by Jacob Chabowski



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photo by Jacob Chabowski



photo by Jacob Chabowski

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Lakewood Business

Thanks To You! Trikeable Treats Prepares For Its 3rd Season

by Jeff Worron

We have all heard the phrase “It takes a village.” Well, as we would soon find out, when you are considering starting a new business from the ground floor up, that’s exactly what it takes!

And, Lakewood proved to be that “Village” and more!

We are Jeff and Torey Worron, 20-year residents of Lakewood who, after being downsized, decided to start a small business where we could have some FUN and make a living while our daughter was in LHS and beyond.

The idea for our business was born out of curiosity... why isn’t there an ice cream truck in Lakewood? And from that question, Trikeable Treats was born. We decided to buy a unique ice cream bike that would function like an ice cream truck but be even better. We would be highly mobile and be the perfect size to do indoor and outdoor events and parties of all kinds.

Our goal would be to create FUN, UNIQUE and MEMORABLE parties and events that would “bring out the 8-year-old in everyone”! We would serve not only traditional and nostalgic ice cream treats like drumsticks & sandwiches, push up’s, red white and blue rocket pops, but also offer healthy natural fruit bars as well as a variety of cakes and other fun kid and adult treats that could be customized to meet the needs of our clients. Both young and old!

We got off to a wonderful start when we debuted our ice cream bike during the 2017 4th of July parade. We thought we might be a hit by giving out red, white and blue rocket pops rather than the traditional candy toss. Well, needless to say... we got mobbed when we gave out over 750 frozen popsicles to some very enthusiastic kids lined up along the parade route.

From that point on...Trikeable Treats was off and running. From adult and kid birthday parties, to graduations, block parties and business events, we have now done over 100 events since that very first parade.

But the bigger story, and the one we really want to tell, is that none of this would have happened without the tremendous support from friends,



neighbors, families, businesses, organizations and the wonderful people and resources that make up this wonderful Lakewood community! It was nothing short of spectacular.

During our journey from idea to launch, to learning how to make very event we do FUN, we were so incredibly lucky and fortunate to have met and relied on friends and several wonderful businesses that have helped guide us along the way.

It’s important to note that from the first thoughts of starting a business here in town, and well before that first 4th of July Parade, we were very lucky to have had the help from The City of Lakewood and Law Director Kevin Butler, as well as from Mike Belsito who was Lakewood’s first Entrepreneur in Residence.

We also relied on, and have had the support of, Ian Andrews and the team at LakewoodAlive. We have been very fortunate to be able to participate in the Chocolate Walks, Light Up Lakewood, Spooky Pooch and Summer Meltdown events as a way to get our name out into the community and support their events as well.

Helping get our brand created and noticed started with our neighbor and graphic arts designer, Elizabeth Nici of Gusto Designs who helped us develop the “look” of our business and create our logo while at the same time jump-starting our website.

Our friends Julie and Shawn Warren, owners of Erie de Sign jumped on board to print and install our logos and signage on our bike, trailer and the Jeep that pulls it! Plus, Julie Warren was kind enough to introduce us and recommend us to a long-standing friend who happens to own the Velvet Ice Cream Company that is now the supplier of the wonderful and yummy nostalgic ice creams that we serve.

But Lakewood was just starting to show us how they could step up and help us out!

We benefited from the tremendous support and guidance from Patty Ryan at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce who helped us bring our nostalgic bike and our new brand of FUN to their last two Christmas Holiday parties. The first year we part-

nered with Buddy the Elf who gave out themed treats to the guests and this year we served Adult themed Jell-O shots. How FUN!

We learned even more when Laurie Sanders, the GM of Georgetown/Vosh welcomed us into many of their events and taught us how to successfully create FUN wedding and catering events. Whitney Callahan from Inn The Dog House repeatedly hired us for Pet and Customer Appreciation days and helped us learn that there is an ice cream for dogs. And they LOVE IT.... who knew?

Examples of how wonderful Lakewood has been could go on and on. From morning breakfast with Iced Coffee Pops and Danishes from Elmwood

bakery during a Bike Lakewood meeting, to serving ice cream at the LHS after prom 2 years in a row, to serving cookies and cider at H20’s Pumpkin Palooza, to the numerous block parties we have done, to the AMAZING school and PTA parties (kids just love the Ice Cream Man and Ice Cream), Lakewood has been wonderful to us!

While we know we can’t thank everyone, we wanted to thank as many people as we could who have helped us along the way. We wanted to recognize and to show some of the many examples of why it’s great to start, and run, a small business here in Lakewood.

Trust us when we say that everyone wants you to succeed.

In the 20 years that we have been here, we--like you--have learned firsthand that there are many, many ways to get involved in our community.

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Lakewood Is Art

Where Are The Kids Tonight? At An Emo Show, Probably: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 89

by Buzz Kompier

The Beatles - Meet The Beatles - self-released - 11 songs - cassette

This is a local entry into the Lumpy Records drum machine punk sweepstakes kind of thing, or something like that. I'm not sure I'm supposed to say who this is (he includes a picture of his cat and credits himself as "this feline's roommate") lest he face legal action from the group that shares his name, but he's been reviewed in this column many times, so you very well may be familiar with him and his work. Anyway, this tape is, as I said, drum machine punk of the style that's been very popular in the underground scene the past several years. Several of the songs have technology themes, like "Talk Dirty To Me (Siri)" and "The Webcam Of Dorian Grey." I'm told that at some point, these Beatles give you instructions on how to properly listen to a Spotify playlist, but the already dubious sound quality as is the norm with this kind of thing (I was sent a couple advance tracks, so I know how the "master" versions sound) is driven to complete no-fi by the dub job on the tapes (my Side B is significantly louder than Side A), so I really have no idea, but I'm going to choose to believe it. My



favorites here are the ripping opener "He Died Online," the very Devo-esque in the way that all bands like this are Devo-esque "Lies (And The Truthers Who Believe Them)," the dark new wave of "Insidious City," and the slower one near the end of Side 2, which I

think is "The Webcam Of Dorian Grey." If this is something of a spoof of the aforementioned drum machine punk style, it does a very good job of it. Stick this on a tape with the Coneheads and Neo Neos and CCTV and all those kinds of bands and it would fit right in. I'd go so far as to say Lumpy could easily get a good 7" out of this tape. On the other hand, if this is meant to be taken completely seriously (or as seriously as it can be taken with songs like the ones here), I don't know. I guess it's still good, but I like it better if it's at least a little bit of a spoof, ya know? I'm assuming that's what it is. Same with the band name: if it's a joke on the fact that there seems to be a bunch of bands all going around with the same names despite the fact that it's incredibly easy to find out if a name's already in use these days (which, taken to its very extreme could, I suppose lead to one saying, "You know what we should call our band? The Beatles!"), then it's pretty funny. If he's saying, "No, I just want to call it The Beatles," again, I just

don't know. I'd also like to hear the lyrics better, but I don't know whether it's because of the mix or just the dub, so I don't know how much I should take off for that. Anyway, if you like the bands I mentioned and that whole kind of thing or you just wanna hear something goofy but pretty good, you should see if you can find this one. Good luck. 3.5/5

(I have absolutely no idea where you're supposed to get this one. Try asking a local record store?)

Knowso - Like A Buzz - Total Punk - 2

songs - 7"

I was a little disappointed to learn that the A side of this one was not a diss track about me (unless it is and it's just really subtle). This release is the debut of the new Knowso lineup and indeed, it does sound slightly different from the last record. How so? I think it's a little less aggressive and tends toward a weirder kind of punk sound. I know this is a total cliché to say and I've probably made fun of people for saying this about this band and other Cruelster-related bands in the past, but it does sound a bit like Hardcore Devo, at least rhythmically. "Like A Buzz" is pretty good, especially the lyrics. "Physical Freak" on the flip doesn't do as much for me, but it sounds like Knowso and hey, it's a B side anyway. Overall, this 7" is lacking some of the punker, anthemic qualities of the 12" (this sounds like a bizarre thing to say, I know, but come on, "No Patience?" "King Of Things?" These songs are anthems in my little world) in favor of the more new wave-flavored stuff, but it's not bad at all. "Like A Buzz" is certainly worth it. And also, it is a different band than is on "Look At The Chart." Mike and Jo are two punk guitarists replaced by Adam, who is one not-exactly-punk guitarist. It only makes sense that its different in the way it is. I like that Nathan Ward's name is spelled entirely normally, Adam Zegarac's is spelled in a way that makes it a little easier to pronounce, I guess, and Jayson Gerycz has an extra 'cz' appended to the end to make it a bit harder. Great art by Nathan as usual, even if he does continue to destroy the scene a little more with each record cover he draws. 3.8/5
(floridasdying.com)

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

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LakewoodAlive

Lakewood Tool Box Now Open For Business

by Matt Bixenstine
Let the tool borrowing commence, Lakewoodites.

LakewoodAlive celebrated the opening of the Lakewood Tool Box with a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Open House on June 4 on the grounds of the Lake Erie Building in the Historic Birdtown Neighborhood. The Lakewood Tool Box will 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.

Here’s what you need to know about LakewoodAlive’s new tool-lending library:

Location: The Lakewood Tool Box is housed in a large shipping container that is accessible to the public from the back corner of the Lake Erie Building’s East Lot near the intersection of Athens and Halstead Avenues.



LakewoodAlive’s Allison Urbanek and Matt Clark pose at the Lakewood Tool Box.

Hours of Operation: The Lakewood Tool Box will be open throughout the summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Membership: Lakewood Tool Box membership is open to all Lakewood

residents, tenants and landlords. Proof of Lakewood residency is required through a valid driver’s license and utility bills.

Pricing: The annual membership fee is \$30 per resident/tenant and \$75 per landlord. Tools will then be priced for borrowing on a per-item basis. There will also be opportunities to become a “Friend of the Tool Box,” whereby residents can make a tax-deductible donation to the program.

Tool Availability: The Lakewood Tool Box offers approximately 60 rentable tools, ranging from standard hand tools to equipment for larger projects. Tools are rented on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lakewood Tool Box Coordinator Matt Clark will be available to provide hands-on education and lend his expertise regarding home improvement projects. Matt, a Lakewood resident who spent 17 years working at Erie Industrial, has extensive experience with a wide variety of tools, as well as with carpentry and welding.

“On behalf of our entire organization, we are excited to unveil the Lakewood Tool Box to our community,” 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. Ultimately, our goal is to help ensure all Lakewood residents live in healthy and safe homes.”

The Lakewood Tool Box is a program that will provide home improvement and repair tools for members of the community. This program will help 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.

LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling” Workshop On June 22

by Matt Bixenstine
Undertaking a kitchen or bathroom remodel can be both exciting and stressful, and we’re here to help along the way. If you’re ready to explore a makeover for either of these frequently used rooms within your home, then this is the workshop for you.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Cleveland Lumber Company (9410 Madison Avenue in Cleveland). The eighth workshop of 2019 for this popular home maintenance educational series will cover best practices for refurbishing these two essential components of your home.

Led by our friends at Cleveland Lumber, this presentation will highlight the construction process from start to finish, what to expect throughout your project and ways to be cost-effective with your approach. This workshop will take the guess work out of the process, helping you to achieve



the results you want within your budget and your timeline.

Both kitchen and bathroom remodeling often represent the costliest and most complicated renovations that a homeowner can undertake. When remodeling a kitchen or bathroom, experts say to think function, efficiency, style and longevity, and to anticipate that your remodel last for about 20 years.

To reserve your free spot for “Knowing Your Home: Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling,” visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome or call 216-521-0655.

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