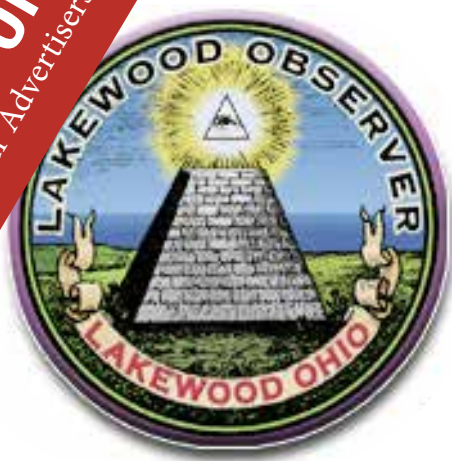


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“A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.”
Edward R. Murrow

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 15, Issue 12, June 19, 2019



The Haber Family Center for History, 2019. Open to the public Thursday afternoons, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The Haber Family Center for History A "New" Home For The Lakewood Historical Society

by Greg Palumbo

Have you seen the Lakewood Historical Society's "new" permanent home? A mid-century Lakewood space now houses the Society's collections, library, archives, offices and fundraising work space!

The "Detroit-Clarence Medical Building," a 2400-square-foot mid-century modern building at 13314 Detroit Avenue was built in 1959. (It most recently operated as the Ehren Chiropractic Office.) This historically and architecturally significant building has received local historic designation and the Society has been awarded state historic tax credits for its renovation.

Purchased through a generous donation from Society supporters Ken and Kathy Haber and the Haber Family Foundation, the building offers full public accessibility and the opportunity to expand the Society's collection, increase programming, and support fundraising sales! Going forward this generous gift will be gratefully acknowledged through the new name of the building, The Haber Family Center for History.

The Society's Historic Homes

The search for a new facility was rooted in strategic

concerns for the future. The Oldest Stone House, the Society's original home, has limited space, which inhibits growth of the collection. The archives, library, and some of the collection have been housed in the Stone House basement, which is not accessible and prone to flooding. The Haber Family Center for History allows for a stable, secure, and climate-controlled environment for the collections. The mid-century modern building also aligns with the Society's interest in securing mid-century objects for its collection.

The Society will continue to manage two historic Lakewood homes in partnership with the City of Lakewood. The Oldest Stone House Museum at Lakewood Park will remain dedicated to interpreting the life of early Lakewood pioneers and to presenting exhibitions related to the development of the city. The Nicholson House, just across the street from the Haber Center, will continue to be a rental space and the site of many Society programs and fundraisers.

Capital Campaign

To complete renovations and operate the new facility, the Lakewood Historical Society has launched the public

phase of a two-year, \$250,000 Capital Campaign to establish an endowment fund dedicated to the building. This fund will support a permanent home to preserve Lakewood's rich history and provide a spot for the community to meet, research, and appreciate our past and future.

Thanks to many generous donations and pledges thus far, the Capital Campaign has already reached 75 percent of our goal! The Society encourages Lakewood residents and friends to join the campaign - to celebrate and preserve Lakewood's history with a donation or pledge to the Campaign for the Lakewood Historical Society!

2019 City Council And Mayor Races Set O'Malley Wins!

For Mayor

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Sam O'Leary

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Lakewood Ward 1

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Lindsey Grdina
Tess Neff
Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Lakewood Ward 3

John Litten
Jeff Wise

Lakewood Ward 4

Daniel J. O'Malley WINS

Tyler Hannah, All-Conference Honors Highlight Spring Season

by Christine Gordillo

It was a thrilling spring sports season at Lakewood High as the school had its first Regional champion in track and field in years when senior Tyler Hannah captured the 300 meter hurdles crown, as well as placing 3rd in the 110 hurdles. Tyler went on to place 4th (300 meters) and 7th (110 meters) in the state. The baseball team's first-round playoff win over North Olmsted was also a highlight.

Each team also had members named to the All-Southwest Conference teams or earn an honorable mention. The following were singled out for their outstanding performance over the season:

Baseball: Jared Yocabet (1st Team); Armani Adames, Jameson Supinski (2nd Team);

Terence Checkett, Albert Wilhelm (Honorable Mention); and Sean Miller (Sportsmanship Award)

Softball: Maizy Cunningham, Abbie Tuleta (2nd Team); Sabrina Hamdan, Tara Kantora (Honorable Mention); Hannah Martin (Sportsmanship)

Boys' Tennis: Tru Smith (1st Team and Sportsmanship); Ben Swartz (Honorable Mention)

Boys' Track & Field: Tyler Hannah, Cormac Peppard-Kramer, Devon Brown, Jack Hueter (1st Team); Alvin Musai and Ahmed Muhammed (Honorable Mention); Aiden Zingale (Sportsmanship)

Girls' Track & Field: Ebony Bradford and Teegan McGann (Honorable Mention); Alissah Lopez (Sportsmanship)

LO Crime Stoppers



Man on left robbed Citizens Bank on Madison. The memorial on right is for the victims of a double homicide identified as Katherine Brown, 33 and Carnell Sledge. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING EITHER CRIME CALL Lakewood Police at: 216-521-6773 or the FBI at 216-522-1400.

Deck Highlights June 18

So Why Is The Lawsuit Important Now?
It's Not About The Hospital,
It's About Abuses At City Hall

by Jim O'Bryan

I have had more than one person come up to me over the past two weeks asking, “Why is the lawsuit so important?” Or, “Why does it matter? The hospital is gone.”

To me the answer is simple. What Brian Essi and his team of lawyers proved beyond a shadow of a doubt was: 1) The Mayor, Law Director, Finance Director, Council President and some on council were knowingly lying to Lakewood residents and voters going back as far as 2010. Not just lying, but misrepresenting the facts of the single largest transaction in Lakewood’s long and wonderful history.

Why does this matter? Without transparency and accountability we cannot reasonably judge the honesty of our elected officials. Elected officials without honesty and accountability are a cancer to a city, a community and democracy. Our entire government

process is based on voting, transparency, and accountability. Allowing an elected official to lie is just wrong. Allowing them to lie about the largest deal in Lakewood’s history borders on being complicit. No matter where you fall on the hospital debacle, one would hope you believe in fair, honest, accountable government.

Now as the Mayor gets ready to step off of his throne, and “will it” to Sam O’Leary, we really need to ask ourselves, can we walk Lakewood back to the days of Sunshine and free speech? Can we walk back from the edge of this civil war caused 100% by the secrecy of City Hall, and their willingness to sow the seeds of hate and divisiveness? Lakewood’s cure is easy: Transparency, Honesty and Accountability from all of Lakewood’s politicians, and elected officials.

Seems easy enough to all of us at the Lakewood Observer.



Meghan F.

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HOT OFF THE DECK!



The scene of the double homicide in Metro Parks.

| Thread Title | Author | Posts | Reads | Date |
|--|----------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| The Fork In The Road | Mark Kindt » | 24 | 1293 | Tue Jun 18 |
| Budish Machine' LKWD Endorsements | Michael Deneen | 5 | 459 | Tue Jun 18, |
| Irregularities in Dem Endorsement | Bridget Conant | 5 | 250 | Mon Jun 17 |
| Waiving Attorney Client Privilege | Bill Call | 13 | 548 | Mon Jun 17 |
| Healthy Lakewood Foundation Seeks to Hire Executive Assistant to Board | KINGERSOLL | 0 | 228 | Mon Jun 17 |
| Mayor Summers Denies Crime Spike | Bridget Conant | 4 | 502 | Fri Jun 14 |
| Post Office Lot On Warren For Sale | Jim O'Bryan | 30 | 4307 | Fri Jun 14 |
| Mayor And Council Races 2019 | Jim O'Bryan | 5 | 781 | Fri Jun 14 |
| 2 found dead in the Rocky River Reservation | Jim O'Bryan | 5 | 6553 | Wed Jun 12 |
| POLICE NEED YOUR HELP | | | | |
| This is Lakewood? | stephen davis | 1 | 584 | Tue Jun 11 |



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

Lakewood Observer

LakewoodAlive’s Volunteer-Driven Flower Blossoms Program Blooms In Downtown Lakewood

by Matt Bixenstine

Venture along Detroit Avenue through Downtown Lakewood these days and you can’t help but notice an additional splash of color and greenery enhancing the district’s vibrancy.

Now in its 13th year, LakewoodAlive’s Flower Blossoms Program has resulted in the addition of 54 flower boxes for 2019 stretching east-to-west along Detroit Avenue from the West-erly Apartments to Sumpter Law.

The Flower Blossoms Program is designed to help Downtown Lakewood merchants make their storefronts more attractive. LakewoodAlive partners annually with a local grower to provide an opportunity for merchants to purchase professionally-planted Earth Box planters with flowers appropriate for the sun/shade needs of each location.

“We are thrilled to have our Flower Blossoms Program return for a 13th consecutive year,” said Ian Andrews, LakewoodAlive Executive Director. “This volunteer-driven beautification service offered to Downtown Lakewood merchants is one of many ways we seek to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. And we can’t say enough about the support we receive from the City of Lakewood and the incredible team of volunteers who make this program possible.”



Longtime LakewoodAlive volunteer Kathy Haber – a 40-year resident of Lakewood – has coordinated the Blossoms Program since 2007. Haber’s team of volunteers waters the flower boxes three times per week throughout the summer.

With assistance from Lakewood Garden Center owner Paul Bilyk, who coordinates the Blossoms Program with a grower, the materials were dropped off at the Lakewood City Center Plaza on May 31. There, Haber was joined by fellow volunteers, including a group from PNC Bank’s Lakewood

branch, to distribute completed flower boxes to program participants.

“We have a wonderful community, and I love being a part of making it the best it can be,” Haber said. “I feel that we are a community of neighbors helping others, great schools and strongly woven group of diverse folks who all just want the best for our families. That is why I volunteer as much as I do – I really enjoy supporting our community.”

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Island Party

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Join us in welcoming Summer at our all-island favorites show with Island Jeff on Caribbean Steel Drum! Refreshments will be served.

Independent Living building
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Outdoor gazebo

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Author Event - “We Celebrate our Mother and Father”
by Joseph Meissner
Main Library Auditorium

We Celebrate our Mother and Father relates stories about Joseph Meissner’s family from the perspectives of his, brothers, sisters and himself. Stories shared include how his father went to work in the fields at seven years old, his mother’s story of immigration from Ireland, and other anecdotes like his mother pestering them on her final day with the question, “Is the kitchen floor clean?” Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Booked for Murder Book Club
Main Library Meeting Room

If you share a passion for mystery, join the group each month to discuss your favorites and selections made by group members. Tonight we will discuss “The Woman in Cabin 10: A Novel” by Ruth Ware.

Friday, June 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Friday Film - “Philadelphia” (1993) Directed by Jonathan Demme
Main Library Auditorium

Fearing it would compromise his career, lawyer Andrew Beckett (Tom Hanks) hides his homosexuality and HIV status at a powerful Philadelphia law firm. His secret is exposed and he is fired. Beckett resolves to sue for discrimination with the help of the only willing advocate, Joe Miller (Denzel Washington), who also happens to be homophobic. Miller realizes the discrimination he faces as a black man is similar to the discrimination felt by Beckett.

Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Film - “Boys Don’t Cry” (1999) Directed by Kimberly Peirce
Main Library Auditorium

Based on true events, this is the story of transgender man Brandon Teena (Hilary Swank). After moving to a small Nebraska town, Brandon finally has everything he wants. He’s dating Lana (Chloë Sevigny), the popular girl and has a group of best friends that he fits in with quite well. Brandon’s life is dramatically torn apart, however, when his friends learn that he was born a woman. This film continues our series highlighting woman directors.

Children And Youth

compiled by Nic Starr

Friday, June 21, 2019, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Make Music with Boomwhackers
For students entering First through fifth grade.
Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Come get your groove on and create some wacky music! Boomwhackers are hollow plastic percussion tubes in varying lengths that create musical tones by striking them against another surface.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.
Afternoon at the Movies – Home
For the Whole Family
Main Library Auditorium

Come inside from the heat to enjoy a family friendly movie about space! When Oh lands on Earth and finds himself on the run from his own people, he forms an unlikely friendship with an adventurous girl named Tip who is on a quest of her own. As the duo embark on a global road trip and help each other through a series of cosmic adventures, they discover the true meaning of the word home. No registration required.

Friday, June 28, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.
Special Friday Performance: Jungle Terry
For the whole family
Main Library Multipurpose Room

Reptiles and other live animals provide excitement at this educational show. Free and open to public.

Sunday, June 30, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.
Kidical Mass Bike Ride and Storytime
For the Whole Family
Lakewood Park Solstice Steps

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.

Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 1:00 p.m
Afternoon at the Movies – Planet 51
For the Whole Family
Main Library Auditorium

Come inside from the heat to enjoy a family friendly movie about space! U.S. astronaut Captain Charles “Chuck” T. Baker finds himself on an alien planet, where the media tagged spacemen as brain-eating, zombie-creating monsters. Lem, an average alien teenager, forms a bond with Chuck, learning that they have more in common than they realized. Together they race against time to get the astronaut back to his spaceship before military dictator General Grawl and mad scientist Professor Kipple manage to exterminate the earthly visitor. No registration required.

Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Music of American Immigrants – Shri Kalaa Mandir
Main Library Auditorium

Shri Kalaa Mandir (Center for Indian Performing Arts) was founded by Bharathanatyam enthusiast Sujatha Srinivasan to cultivate and preserve the ancient classical dance and music of India. Shri Kalaa Mandir has staged critically acclaimed productions weaving traditional, spiritual, innovative and original themes. This continues our series of performances reflecting the culture of different groups of immigrants throughout American history.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Genealogy Workshop
Taught by Deborah Abbott, PhD
Main Library Learning Lab

Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unravel your history with professional results using the free Library Edition of ancestry.com and other resources. Space is limited at the workshops, but you are welcome to register with a partner and share a computer. Also, keep in mind that the Library Edition of the famous genealogy resource, ancestry.com, is free to use every day at the Library. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Immigration Legislation in the United States
Presented by Magistrate Barbara Greenberg
Main Library Multipurpose Room

The last 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 H-C and Case Western Reserve University’s Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program.

Friday, June 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Front Porch Concert Presented by LakewoodAlive
Main Library Front Porch

The Front Porch Concert Series adds vibrancy and an enhanced sense of community to Lakewood’s urban core. Concerts take place on the Library’s front porch, are sponsored by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James and are presented by LakewoodAlive. Tonight we welcome The Pocket.

Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Film Series “Before Night Falls” (2000) Directed by Julian Schnabel
Main Library Auditorium

This film portrays the life of poet and novelist Reinaldo Arenas (Javier Bardem). He learns about himself artistically, while growing up in Cuba where homosexuality is frowned upon. Between his sexual orientation and his political writing he gets in trouble with the government. During his two years in prison, Arenas continues writing and even manages to smuggle out a novel. After making his way to America, he ends up facing other struggles.

Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Concert - Gong and Singing Bowl Improvisations by Paul Stranahan
Main Library Auditorium

Percussionist, composer and teacher Paul Stranahan uses ancient gongs and Tibetan singing bowls to make music that is completely modern and original. He creates sounds and moods which can range from meditative to chaotic, by using sticks and mallets, including a special striker, to gently rub the rim of the bowls. Each performance is improvised and unique. Stranahan will fill the room with otherworldly reverberations and vibrations.

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Lakewood Public Library



Children pet a snake at a previous show.

Live Animals At Lakewood Public Library

by Marge Foley

Jungle Terry is a busy man. He has over one hundred animals requiring care, attention, and twice daily feedings. Despite his full schedule, he seems barely able to contain his energy and enthusiasm for his work as an animal trainer, naturalist, educator, and entertainer.

Jungle Terry has worked with animals all his life and began programs in 1990. He now has a specially designed, temperature controlled barn on six acres to house all of his animals. His two

children help with feeding and caretaking, and just as importantly, with hand-raising and training the animals. The alligator and fifteen foot python might look scary, but nervous parents take note; all Jungle Terry's animals are kid-tested and kid-friendly.

Jungle Terry will be bringing a selection of animals to the Lakewood Public Library on Friday, June 28, 2019. As with all programs at the library, this show is free and open to the public. The fun starts at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Classical Dance Of India To Be Performed a At Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

Bharathanatyam may be an unpronounceable word to you, but to Sujatha Srinivasan, it is her life's work. Srinivasan is an accomplished dancer, choreographer, and teacher of Bharathanatyam in North America who began Shri Kalaa Mandir (Center for Indian Performing Arts) in 1993. The dance troupe she founded will perform as part of Lakewood Public Library's celebration of immigrant voices going on this spring and summer.

Shri Kalaa Mandir will give a free performance on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium as part of our Sunday with the Friends series. This esteemed group of dancers has been featured at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Playhouse Square, Akron Civic Center and Cleveland Public Theatre. In 2010, Shri Kalaa Mandir won first place in the People's Choice category of India's Got Talent.

The classical dance and music of India called Bharathanatyam combines rhythm, mime and gestures. Traditionally, it has been a solo dance performed exclusively by women and expressed South Indian religious themes and spiritual ideas.



Bharatanatyam style is noted for its fixed upper torso, legs bent or knees flexed out, combined with spectacular footwork and a sophisticated vocabulary of sign language based on gestures of hands, eyes and face muscles.

Join Srinivasan on June 23, 2019 at the Lakewood Main Library for a look into the creativity and tradition of Bharathanatyam.

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Lakewood Public Schools

New Name, Mission For District Alternative Ed Program

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 July 1.

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 will 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.

Birchwood Students Win National History Day Competition Congratulations Lakewood Eighth Grader Ehren Collins

by Aubrey Fox

Over 3,000 students in grades 6-12 from across the world met at the final level of National History Day June 9th-13th. After winning local and regional levels the top two entries in each category were invited to the University of Maryland, College Park, to compete on the national stage, where local students earned well-deserved recognition. Birchwood sent ten students to the competition and four of them placed in the top three of their category.

Van Weinmann (8th grade of Cleveland) won the bronze medal for his website, "Selma - How the Media Transformed a Tragedy Into a Triumph for Voting Rights." His modern media presentation explored the impact of the news coverage of 54 years ago.

Exploring the life and impact of one of NASA’s black women mathematicians, Sofia Boyd (7th grade of Cleveland) and Nasreen Shakur (7th grade of Cleveland) won second place for their performance titled, "Katherine Johnson: A Quiet Triumph in a



Photo from left to right: Van Weinmann, Ehren Collins, Connie Miller (teacher/coach), Sofia Boyd, Nasreen Shakur

White Man’s World.” Tackling a local event, Ehren Collins (8th grade of Lakewood) won third place for his historical research paper, "Collinwood’s Call to Action: The Collinwood School Fire Tragedy and Its Impact on Fire Safety."

Each of the thousands of documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites in this year’s competition explored a topic on the theme of Triumph & Tragedy in History. Stu-

dents not only explored the history, but also its impact on current times, truly bringing history to life.

National History Day began as a local program in Cleveland in 1974 but has grown to include all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, China, Korea, and South Asia. Students compete for a portion of more than \$80,000 in prizes. First, second, and third place prizes in each category are worth \$1,000, \$500, and \$250, respectively.

National History Day Executive Director Cathy Gorn expressed her awe of the young competitors saying; “I learn something new from these dedicated and passionate students every year. Not only do they gain invaluable academic experience, but they become experts themselves in their topics.”

Birchwood School of Hawken is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood’s mission is to equip children to lead a life of becoming – growing, thriving and flourishing – through the development of intellect and character.

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Lakewood Cares

A Century Of Bridal Fashion, 1890-1990

by Norine Prim

The historic Nicholson House, built in 1839 and occupied for many years by the Nicholson family, stands as the oldest frame house in Lakewood, Ohio and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has served various purposes over the years, currently managed by the Lakewood Historical Society as an event venue.

An upcoming event at the Nicholson House, "A Century of Bridal Fashion, 1890-1990," will be presented by the Lakewood Historical Society. This exhibit will feature a display of 30 wedding dresses from throughout the century, along with veils, wedding accessories, wedding documents and a large selection of photographs. Historical notes and fashion trends, including

styles of wedding dresses, will accompany displays for each decade. The dresses have been selected from the archives of the Lakewood Historical Society, The Virginia Marti Costume Collection of The North Coast College, and many are from local Lakewood families. Identifying information and pertinent family history will accompany each dress.

One of the dresses in the display is seen being worn by Lulu Maile in the accompanying photograph. Lulu M. Maile married Frank H. Robinson on June 5, 1907, at her grandparent's home, 16000 Detroit Ave. (Barry Buick site). This dress is from the Lakewood Historical Society archives.

continued on page 10



Lulu Maile, 1907
Photo courtesy of Betsey Kuhlman Stepiansky and Lakewood Historical Society

What's The Buzz At AXA?

by Michael Daso

The day the bees arrived at AXA Advisors was a spring day like any other. As if out of nowhere, thousands upon thousands of buzzing bees roared their arrival as they swarmed around the twin oak trees in the large corner lot at Delaware and Woodward. The move-in took little more than an hour. After that, it was relatively quiet as approximately thirty worker bees busily flew in and around the trees.

But why had they come? A local beekeeper explained that queen bees will send bees to scout out a location for a new colony. Once the queen selects the new location, the queen and her drone will split from the existing colony and set out on their own. Like thousands of tiny bodyguards, the bees form a cocoon around the queen as they fly to insure her safe transport.

Why had they come to this busy intersection so close to I-90? What could possibly have drawn the new colony to this location? Had the queen bee made a mistake? In fact, what the queen bee knew that even many neighborhood residents did not was that the Hayes Elementary School Adopt-A-Spot was in full bloom just across the street. On the south side of Hayes School is a large flowering garden, planted and tended



by Hayes families and classes. The program to fill the parking lot islands with flowers began in 2014 with 20 families adopting spots. This year the program has grown to 83 adopted spots and 10 lilac trees. Planting takes place every year in May. Each spot is marked by a hand painted plaque. Spots are maintained by the adopters, and a large group of volunteers keeps the flowers watered.

Many thanks to the Hayes community for beautifying a small corner of Lakewood with beautiful blooms from May to October. The bees thank you, too.

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Lakewood Forum

Local Cyclist Completes Great Lakes Circle Tour

by Mark Looney

A 4200-mile bicycle journey around each of the Great Lakes came to an end on May 31, 2019. I, Mark Looney, a resident of Lakewood, Ohio started my first exploratory trip around Lake Erie in 2015, then added a new Lake in each of the four years that followed.

For me, a childhood curiosity of living on the shores of Lake Ontario to “see what was on the other side,” grew into a series of authentic adventures into adulthood. I continued to question that which I could not see and feel without the steady cadence and sensory inputs that cycling provides. Cycling has brought me many enjoyable miles through the lens of the student-athlete. I enjoy the outdoor nature of this sport while at the same time savoring the contemplative time in the saddle to appreciate the environment and beauty of our Great Lakes. Taking pen to paper on each



Mark Looney and his bike.

trip I sought to document my personal discoveries of local history, food, cultures and encounters with other people living within view of the lake. In many ways we have

lived in and out of harmony with this vast and limited resource, and it has been a privilege to have the opportunity to look objectively at our impact as humans on this diverse ecology.

In 2014, I released my first book “A Path Through Ohio” chronicling my five day journey across the state of Ohio. In a similar pattern I am documenting my travels around each of the Great Lakes and plan to release my next book in the near future. When I am asked which of the five lakes was my favorite? I provide a simple but layered response:

that each has its own personality that is characterized by the people, wildlife and the history that prospers in the region. That being said, I am particularly fond of the natural splendor of Lake Superior. A rugged terrain where practical peoples and descendants of ancient civilizations that date back some ten thousand years, still prosper and happily embrace visitors to their culture. Having lived on both Lakes Ontario and Erie, I have a personal connection with each that spans many friendships and interests, that I would be remiss not to include on my short list.

Mark Looney is a Trans-American cyclist who completed a California to Connecticut journey in 1983. He is also a Board Member for the Ohio to Erie Trail fund (OTET) and actively rides with Spin Bicycle Club, in Lakewood OH.



Split Rock Light house overlooking Lake Superior.

Frankfurter Fridays Are Back — And Bigger!

by Corky Thacker

Come and join our seventh annual summer parties on the front lawn of the Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood! All are welcome to enjoy food, fellowship, Frisbee, croquet and other lawn games from 6:30 –7:30 p.m. on the third Fridays of June (21st), July (19th), August (16th) and September (20th).

Frankfurter Fridays now offer free

100% beef hotdogs and lemonade as before, plus hamburgers and chips. The final Friday on September 20 will have an expanded menu that will include side dishes and desserts for an end-of-summer picnic.

Corky Thacker is a parishioner and Senior Warden at Church of the Ascension, an Episcopal Church located at 13216 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

Lakewood Says Goodbye To A Favorite Dancer

by Jim O'Bryan

Vivian Smith-Shiers, age 101 years old died this week in her sleep in Park Ridge, New Jersey.

Vivian joined one of the most famous dance troupes in the world, "Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo" where she performed and toured from 1934-1937.

She then left for a key spot with the Radio City Rockettes, where she met her husband of 40 years. He passed away in 2007.

She left the Rockettes for a roll in the first production of "Oklahoma" then went on the road with "Showboat."

Why does this matter? Vivian Smith grew up in Lakewood, Ohio. She was here up until 1936, where she celebrated many of the things that made Lakewood special, like having its own hospital.

Vivian will be remembered for her joy of life, quick and devilish sense of humor, tenacity, and incredible blue eyes. She was a loving and wonderful daughter, wife, mother and friend.

Vivian was predeceased by her



Vivian Smith-Shiers, age 101 years old died this week in her sleep.

husband, Paul and her daughter, Linda. She is survived by her daughter, Diana Shiers (Sean McCoy); and granddaughter, Aimie Hanlon (Tim); and great-grandchildren Tyler and Kaley.

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Lakewood Fiction

The Rockport Miracles - Part 4: Episode 11:
"The Ballad of Derecho Dan" Continues

fiction by Scott MacGregor

Maynard Gridley wasn't kidding. His tale about "Monsoon Charlie" was a real corker! So much so that Little Dan decided to close down the Gas & Lube so he could hear the whole thing without interruption. He told the three Joes that they could go home but, they chose to stick around. They wanted to hear the rest of the story, too.

Maynard was asked to pause his story so that his audience could go to the bathroom. As they waited for the three Joes to do their business, Little Dan asked Maynard a question. "Do you miss the army and Vietnam?" Maynard's saliva-laced reply was, "HELL NO!" He seemed full of anger as he walked over to the red squatty Coca-Cola machine and yanked out another ice cold bottle of the dark, mysterious liquid. Little Dan watched patiently as Maynard drank the entire bottle in one gulp and let out another nuclear belch.

"I'll tell ya what I do miss," Maynard said as he lit up a 'Lucky', " I miss the uniform...no, not the one in a crawl space at my parents' house. I miss the uniform that the politicians used to wipe their ass with. The one they shrunk down to nothing in the jungles of goddam Vietnam! The uniform worn during the first battle of the Ardenne and the last battle of Saigon. THAT uniform is gone forever, thanks to those lousy, stinkin', coward politicians in Washington." Little Dan didn't really understand what Maynard was talking about. He guessed that Maynard was feeling something only his fellow Vietnam Vets could understand.

Little Dan and the three Joes had finished with their personal business and lazily perched themselves onto the various cars and oil drums inside the Gas and Lube. Maynard continued the story he called, "The Ballad of Monsoon Charlie":

"It was raining real hard and that was OK with us! It drove the VC and NVA deeper into their tunnels on the hillsides. The Lieutenant



ordered a count of all the ammo on the base. That base was loaded for freekin' bear! There were tons of Claymores, grenades, and, because of a supply snafu, a hundred wrong sized howitzer shells. The lieutenant kept yammering about Tesla's theory about blowing up storms. We didn't know what the hell he was talking about! How the hell do you blow up a storm?"

"Meanwhile, the small stream that ran through the base was getting worrisome. It had grown from a little trickle to a fast stream. We could see darkening skies in the distant valleys and hear a pounding thunder rumble through the mountains."

"We had radioed the CP and asked for an ETA on the monsoon. The return message was garbled and all we heard was '1700 hours.' We took that to mean that we had six hours before 'Monsoon Charlie' would put an end to our worlds. I found out later that '1700 hours' was when the storm would end, not begin. It was getting' kinda' obvious that the storm would come sooner than later!"

"FOCUS YOU SCREAMING EAGLES!!!" yelled the Lieutenant. 'OK, we haven't got six hours, maybe we only got one. Would you rather die crying about it or get to work?' We all looked at each other and mumbled out affirmative soldier noises. 'GOOD!' said the Lieutenant, 'So, we have got a hundred 75mm shells and enough Claymore mines to blow those VC bastards to freakin' OZ! What else we got?'

Somebody said, 'That's all unless you want to throw in General Westmoreland's inflatable hemorrhoid pillows!' We all laughed. 'Huh?-the hell you say?' asked the Lieutenant. The guy chuckled and said, 'Sir, I don't know if it's classified but, I guess the General has some pretty fierce piles! When they shipped in the wrong shells, they also sent a crate full of these donut shaped pillows for the General to sit on. The crates were deliberately mislabeled as 'DEHYDRATED BOLOGNA.' We

play horseshoes with them!'

The Lieutenant just shook his head and asked, 'So how many of these 'inflatable hemorrhoid pillows' did they send you?' The guy lit up like a light bulb and said, 'We got THREE HUNDRED of 'em!...He must go through 'em like Life Saver mints!' We were all laughing our asses off when suddenly the Lieutenant screams out, 'EUREKA!-Life Savers!! That's it!'

"The Lieutenant ordered that guy to grab a couple men and start inflating all three hundred of General Westmoreland's butt cushions. Then he turned to the rest of us and said, 'Every last one of you grab a shovel or something you can dig with. We need a very wide and deep hole--FAST!' The rain had been coming down in cats and dogs. It was now raining elephants and rhinoceroses! Lightning bolts were everywhere with thunder that sounded like God dropping bowling balls on his feet!"

"The sky grew darker and our stream was turning into a river. I'd never saw a hole dug so fast in my life. We dug that thing until it was fifteen feet square and six feet deep. The Lieutenant wiped the rain from his eyes and proclaimed, 'This hole will either be our salvation or our grave!'

Then he looked toward the blackness headed our way and screamed, 'Get the munitions over here. LOAD THE HOLE!'

* We dug that hole with spit and grit

And prayed we'd finish b'fore
The storm would hit
The work had made us
Tired and narley,
Just in time for Monsoon Charlie!

* excerpts from "The Ballad of Monsoon Charlie" by PFC Harvey Ridgewood, U.S. Army-©1968 FUBAR Records.

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Lakewood Is Art

Look Here, Buddy...: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 89

by Buzz Kompier

Strange Messenger - Strange Messenger - Sound Of The Sea - 6 songs - CD

Strange Messenger is a new band led by Rae Martello, who I believe played with both The Heathers and The Vivians. This should please fans of both;

it's in the same general vicinity, or somewhere between those two, or something like that. That kind of alternative rock/punk mix, ya know? "Trapped" even trespasses into metal territory. They cover the Vivians' song "The Smoker" on here, and while I don't know that I'll be reaching for this over the Vivians, it's not

bad stuff. The songs themselves are all alright, but there's just something slightly off for me. It all sounds very restrained. At first I was trying to figure out whether they were playing to a click track or something and whether that was it, but I think it's just the sound of the actual recordings. The thing is so compressed that nothing ever really "pops"—there's no dynamics. I don't know who should be blamed for this. I'm tempted to say the person who mastered it, but someone who knows more about audio stuff than I do should probably be the one to point fingers. Consult your physician. All the same, there's some decent stuff on here and if you're willing to look past the compression issue or whatever it is, it's not bad. **3.5/5**

(soundofthesea.org)

Rat Fucker - First Show First Blood - self-released - 6 songs - cassette

This is a new band featuring members of Basement Boys, Weed Whacker, possibly Spike Pit, and probably several others. You know how these things go. There aren't any tracks listed on here (I hope I got the count right— if there are

more or less than six, you're more than welcome to send me hate mail, but only if you're a member of the band). Rat Fucker play pretty good hardcore. It took a couple songs for me to get into it, but by song three or so I was digging it. It's a lively performance (I wish I'd been there, but I'm a poser) and the recording is pretty good, things are nice and clear. There are some good guitar leads throughout, the bass is loud and crunchy in the mix. There's not quite as much live banter as I'd prefer, but what's on there isn't bad, particularly the "we'll do better next time" after the last song. A bit more Noncommercial Records than Mirror Records, just a heads up. Pretty good. **3.5/5**

(listen at youtu.be/vwbDCh-me7Y— I think you'll have to see the band if you want the tape)

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.

A Century Of Bridal Fashion, 1890-1990

continued from page 7

A photo collection of wedding dresses not on display, but all gathered from many other Lakewood families, will greatly expand the overall perspective of Lakewood weddings from 1890 – 1990. Names of many early families will appear, some recognizable as street names or building names. Some names will appear for several generations.

Following the viewing of the wedding dresses, accessories, and photographs, guests will be invited to enjoy wedding cake and punch in the tent on the side lawn of The Nicholson House.

The exhibit will take place on July 19, 20, and 21, from noon to 4 p.m. each day. Tickets are available at lakewood-history.org or by calling 216-221-7343. All tickets will be timed, to ensure entry to the exhibition on a reserved day and at a reserved time. Purchase tickets ahead of time, as the availability of on-site tickets is not guaranteed. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students with valid ID. Tickets are non-transferable and nonrefundable.

Proceeds of this event will support the programs and properties of the Lakewood Historical Society.

Starr Gazer

by Eva Starr

JULY
Aries:

Communication is the operative word for the Ram, Mercury will be Retrograde most of the month, you're going to have to s-l-o-w down that fast-talking mouth of yours, see a movie.

Taurus:

Ah, it won't take much to lure the Bull out of his pen this month, Mother Nature is beckoning you, take in the sights, smells, & listen to the wind of your Soul, Metroparks...

Gemini:

Mercury, the Twins ruling planet is Retrograde most of the month, be flexible, (your middle name), spontaneity is the name of the game, Karaoke anyone, the new Asian restaurant...

Cancer:

Intuition is your strong suit Crab, the Sun, Venus, & Mercury are lined up at your door, no more side-skirting, own your power, you just might walk on water, shores of Lake Erie, hmm.

Leo:

You are King/Queen of the Jungle, & the heat is on, Mars is teaming up with the Messenger of the Gods, Mercury, which is Retrograde in your sign, watch that roar, tread lightly.

Virgo:

Kick guilt right out the door this month, & put on your worthiness cap & gown, go down to the Solstice Steps, look into the waters of Lake Erie, & see the beautiful swan that you are.

Libra:

You're usually the one that calms everyone else around you, being the mediator, making sure the scales of justice don't tip, now you're the one that needs patience, swallow a big dose.

Scorpio:

You're not a vampire, although you prefer the dark side, the Sun is shining, it's heating up, someone out there is looking for what you have to offer, put away the stinger & go for it.

Sagittarius:

Own up to your truth Centaur, you've been kidding yourself for far too long, shed the mask, get some clarity, you're only fooling yourself, the Uni-



verse sees right through you.

Capricorn:

The Goat, the responsible one, however, all work & no play makes the Goat cranky, shop at the eclectic stores & get some groovy threads, go on a retreat & leave your laptop home.

Aquarian:

You are theInventor, the "think-outside-of-the-proverbial-box" person, the planets are delivering a megadose of inspiration, you're about to blow the

lid off that thinking cap.

Pisces:

Now that you've built that confidence up, there's no stopping you, L-O-V-E is in the waters, old blue eyes ain't got nothing on your fins, dine al fresco at one of those little patios.

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

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LakewoodAlive

Four Ways To Experience LakewoodAlive's 2019 Front Porch Concert Series

by Matt Bixenstine

For nine years running, LakewoodAlive's Front Porch Concert Series has brought live music to the front steps of Lakewood Public Library on summer Friday evenings, beckoning families and concert-goers alike to the heart of the city.

Sponsored by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James, the Front Porch Concert Series returns starting June 28 and features a wide variety of free, live music for 10 consecutive Fridays. From folk to rock to jazz, each weekly concert delves into diverse musical genres, satisfying nearly any musical taste. And, thanks to support from Lakewood Public Library and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the Front Porch Concert Series hits the sweet spot for delivering superb live music at our nationally-renowned library.

But just as there are many different styles of music, there's more than one way to enjoy this Downtown Lakewood summer tradition. Here are four ways to experience the Front Porch Concert Series:

1. Bring a Lawn Chair

Before indulging in terrific live music, it never hurts to get comfort-

able. Arrive early and set up your chair or blanket near the front steps of Lakewood Public Library to ensure a great vantage point. Don't forget to bring snacks or carryout dinner from a nearby local restaurant.

2. Invite Family and Friends

Great company makes nearly any experience more enjoyable and the Front Porch Concert Series is no exception. Bring your spouse, child, parent, cousin and best friend with you for a memorable evening of live music in Downtown Lakewood. The more attendees, the merrier. The Front Porch Concert Series is, after all, free and family-friendly.

3. Wear Your Dancing Shoes

Sometimes you simply need to cut the proverbial rug. This need rings particularly true at the end of the workweek on Friday evenings, and you shouldn't deny yourself this opportunity. Dancing is strongly encouraged during the Front Porch Concert Series. When a catchy beat starts to play, don't ignore the impulse to move to the music.

4. Visit a Neighborhood Establishment



If you care to complement your concert-going experience with superb food and drink, then you're in luck. Several Downtown Lakewood restaurants and bars sit in close proximity to the front steps of Lakewood Public Library, offering patio seating for your viewing and listening pleasure. For some fans of the Front Porch Concert Series, this just might be the best of both worlds.

For more information regarding the 2019 Front Porch Concert Series, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/Front-PorchConcerts.

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

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LakewoodAlive To Host Volunteer Mixer On June 25

by Matt Bixenstine

Seeking to get involved in your community and have a great time while doing so? Here's your chance!

LakewoodAlive is hosting a Volunteer Mixer on Tuesday, June 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the Warehouse Room at Around The Corner (18616 Detroit Avenue). Join us for a casual event to discover ways you can volunteer with our organization.

Complimentary light appetizers will be served, courtesy of Around The Corner. A cash bar will be available.

At its core LakewoodAlive is a

volunteer-driven organization, and we rely heavily on the donation of time and talents by our dedicated network of volunteers in order to fulfill our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood.

Volunteer opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Special Events
- Housing Outreach
- Committee Participation

Learn more by contacting Devon Chodzin, LakewoodAlive's Event & Volunteer Coordinator, at 216-521-0655 or dchodzin@lakewoodalive.org.



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