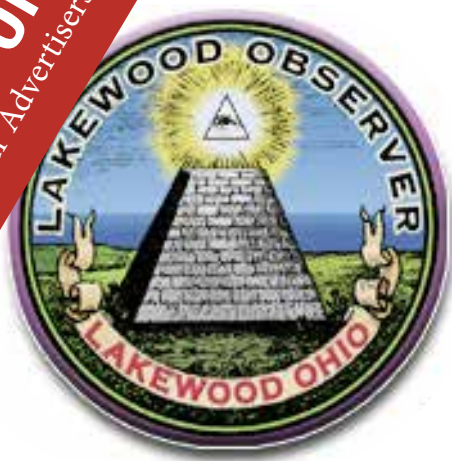


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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

"They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

-Ben Franklin

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Volume 15, Issue 13, July 3, 2019

*It's About To Get Hot:*

## Lakewood Summer Meltdown Returns July 13

by Matt Bixenstine

The biggest block party in the neighborhood is fast approaching. Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2019, sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled and presented by LakewoodAlive, returns to Downtown Lakewood for its 10th year on Saturday, July 13 from 4 to 10 p.m.

The Summer Meltdown is one of the region's most highly-anticipated street parties. This community event is a free summertime celebration of our city's vibrancy. It draws more than 10,000 attendees from across northeast Ohio to the heart of Lakewood each July.

This Lakewood summer tradition takes place on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood between Arthur and Marlowe. The Summer



Meltdown offers an afternoon and evening jam-packed with seemingly endless activities for one and all, including the Meltdown 5K race, 1 Mile Family Fun Run and Walk, street festival, outdoor activities, games, food vendors, beer garden, live music and more.

Families will love the street

festival, which features more than 100 vendor tents, many of which offer interactive opportunities. Activities range from the "Water Moose" sprinkler park to the Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle sponsored by Beat Cycles to a skateboard park sponsored by West Side Skates.

The ever-popular Meltdown 5K sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center serves as a fundraiser for LakewoodAlive. This staple of the Summer Meltdown draws hundreds of participants annually, as it fea-

tures a fast course, chip timing, a t-shirt for participants and prizes for top finishers. Both this running event and the 1 Mile Kids Fun Run sponsored by Lakewood Family YMCA and Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department afford participants a rare opportunity to partake in an evening race.

Local brews available in the Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden sponsored by First Federal Lakewood will complement dining options from vendors and food trucks. Live music by rock band Front Porch Lights on the Beer Garden Stage sponsored by Cleveland Property Management Group, The Exchange and The Ferry Cap and Set Screw Company will delight the crowd as the sun sets in beautiful Downtown Lakewood.

For more information regarding Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2019, including the full schedule of events, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/Meltdown](http://LakewoodAlive.org/Meltdown).

The Lakewood Summer Meltdown is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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## Lindsey Grdina Announces Ward 1 Bid; Endorsed By Cuyahoga County Democrats

by Lindsey Grdina

On June 15, 2019, I was honored to have received the endorsement of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. The endorsement reflects my deep commitment to seeing Lakewood and its citizens continue to thrive. I understand that we are called to help those who are struggling, and our policies must ensure that we are creating a Lakewood that works for all its residents. I am also committed to seeing Lakewood continue as a haven for independent and small business, a place where entrepreneurship thrives, supported by both the community and the local government. I believe that my brand of compassionate, informed leadership can ensure that Lakewood continues to thrive and grow for this generation and beyond.

I have had the pleasure of calling Lakewood home for over a decade. After graduating from Cleveland Marshall College of Law, I knew I wanted to stay in Lakewood. In 2013 my husband, Ed, and I bought our home on Woodward Ave., just



*Lindsey Grdina announces Ward 1 bid; Endorsed by Cuyahoga County Democratic Party*

a block away from where Ed grew up. In 2016 we welcomed our first child, Julia, and Oliver joined us in February of 2019.

My desire to serve my community drove me to open my own law firm, Grdina Legal Services Ltd., a firm dedicated to giving voice to the voiceless; much of the firm's work centers on the representation of those escaping domestic violence and child abuse, as

continued on page 10

## Meyer Campaigns For School Board With Experience, Motivation

by Matt Kuhns

The future of Lakewood City Schools is deeply important to Andrew A. Meyer.

As a candidate for Lakewood Board of Education, Meyer's priorities are high standards, independence and responsiveness—qualities demonstrated in work on the city's charter review commission and as an attorney.

As a new parent, Meyer says that applying this experience as a school board member includes a personal commitment to public education in Lakewood. "My wife and I both really look forward to being able to contribute to the education of our daughter Ellie Sue."

Providing high quality schools for the next generation and beyond will be an ongoing challenge, says Meyer. "Maintaining services while being a good steward of tax dollars is



*Andrew A. Meyer, candidate for Lakewood Board of Education*

and will remain the number one challenge," he says.

Toward this end, Meyer says that "good government would be my first goal."

As an active citizen, Meyer has served on the Citizens Advisory Committee, and Lakewood's most recent Charter Review Commission, where he championed new training requirements to encourage

professionalism and the exchange of ideas. He has also advised city council members on multiple ethics initiatives.

Meyer says that in-person communication and accessibility are also essential, and that if elected he will be a voice for residents and help involve the community in decisions.

The Board of Education's decisions matter for all of Lakewood, he notes.

Before entering law school, at one point Meyer was a substitute teacher, and he says that education has been a lasting interest. But Lakewood's Board of Education also administers the Department of Recreation, and appoints the Lakewood Library's board of directors.

"It really means a lot to me to be able to let anyone with interest in these issues become engaged and aware," says Meyer.



# Lakewood Observer

## Thank You, Lakewood!

by Jim O'Bryan

Thank you to everyone in the City of Lakewood for your participation for the last fifteen years! Fifteen!

Back in 2004, to celebrate Independence Day, we launched the print edition of the Lakewood Observer. It was our gift to the City of Lakewood.

At the time, the Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood Public Schools, City Hall, Non-Profits, the Arts and everyday residents had a hard time getting their information out to all.

A group of us got together to first address some of the hatred on social media. At the time there was only one small BBS using fake names, but the hate and the lies flew and made issues unto themselves.

We dedicated ourselves to allowing anyone in to share stories, photos,

poems, illustrations, cartoons anything and everything.

Post it, send it in, put your real name on it, and we will help you get it out to the public. Of course, the other part of our deal is, we will also help anyone else that has information or knowledge on a subject to join in and potentially disagree.

At the time, no Face Book, no Twitter, no Instagram, Snapchat, or a hundred other apps and websites.

There was not the massive diffusion of conversation that arrived with Facebook, where any yahoo can declare a page, and set about running it like their magical kingdom.

We sat down and created a vehicle to keep serious discussion going over

continued on page 3

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## HOT OFF THE DECK!



Hot Topic this week: Is there enough parking at Lakewood Park? How do we fix it?

Thread Title	Author	Posts	Reads	Date
City Hall Destroying Lakewood's Brand One Stupid Fight After Another	Jim O'Bryan	1	414	Tue Jul 02
Is recycling still worthwhile for Lakewood?	Dan Alaimo	26	4573	Tue Jul 02
A Good Sign At The Start Of The Weekend		2	324	Tue Jul 02
Healthy Lakewood Foundation	KINGERSOLL	2	632	Tue Jul 02
Seeks to Hire Executive Assistant to Board				
When will the city address the parking problem at Lakewood Park?	Dan Alaimo	12	1075	Tue Jul 02,
It's Over Now, Dead and Gone...	Brian Essi	1	342	Wed Jun 26
A Hospital Commentary and [Referendum] Reflection...				
It's Over Now, Dead And Gone...	Gary Rice	72	5179	Tue Jun 25
A Hospital Commentary And Reflection...				
2 found dead in the Rocky River Reservation		6	7337	Mon Jun 24
POLICE NEED YOUR HELP				



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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

#### Upcoming Submission Deadline

July 11, 2019  
August 1, 2019

#### Publish Date

July 17, 2019  
August 7, 2019

[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com) – 216.407-6818  
14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107



Lakewood Observer

PUBLISHER	EDITOR IN CHIEF	ASSOCIATE EDITOR	ADVERTISING
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ADVISORY BOARD - Steve Davis, Heidi Hilty, Jeff Endress, Jim Crawford, Steve Ott, Margaret Brinich, Betsy Voinovich

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ILLUSTRATIONS - Gary Dumm, Rob Masek, Greg Budgett, Jim O'Bryan

PHOTOGRAPHY - Matt Bixenstine, Lynn Donaldson, Brian Foox, Marge Foley, Brittany Graham Photography, Matt Kuhns, Jim O'Bryan, Susan Schwartz Salontay, and Eva Starr..

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# Lakewood Observer

## Senator Antonio Comments On Passage Of State Budget

by Nickie Antonio

On June 20th, 2019, the Ohio Senate passed the state's two-year, \$69 billion budget bill, House Bill 166.

I'm pleased to say that this is the first budget I've voted in favor of since taking office nearly a decade ago. For years, we've urged our Republican colleagues to invest in public health in order to build a stronger Ohio. This budget is a commitment to the people of Ohio to do just that.

I applaud the inclusion of several public health investments I secured in the bill:

- \$1 million per year for the Cleveland Lead Safe Coalition
- \$2.5 million per year for infant safe spacing programs in high infant mortality areas



## Thank You, Lakewood!

continued from page 2

days, weeks, months, even years. It was called the "Thought Puddle." Today it is the Lakewood Observer Observation Deck, a place that tracks Lakewood through photos, music, and adult discussion about serious topics ranging from Development, City Hall oversight, Crime, Schools, Taxes, Sewers, Arts, National News, Sports and everything and anything. Many discussions filled with hundreds of images and videos stretching back over 15 years!

We are looking forward to good times ahead. We have great commitment from advertisers for a fall and winter of parties, contests and more. We would also like to thank our loyal

advertisers who understand that they support an entire community when they advertise with us, and encourage our readers to support them.

We have more "retired" "real" reporters joining the project like Eric Sandy, Erin O'Brien and others.

And we look forward to the residents of Lakewood continuing to step up and share their stories and information with the rest of the community through the Lakewood Observer. In Print, Online and here 24/7/365 for you, ready to get your information out. (Go to the Member Center at [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)-- it's easy.)

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**Public health initiatives including** resources to curb the opioid epidemic through harm reduction and syringe exchange services and increased access to Naloxone

The bipartisan budget also includes longstanding Democratic priorities. HB 166 increases funding for affordable housing programs through the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. It includes various measures aimed at supporting Ohio's children and families, like a proposal to prevent the custody relinquishment of children with severe mental health issues and additional funding for home-living programs for low income and elderly Ohioans. It also funds the H2Ohio water quality initiative through the next two years.

House and Senate members will now meet to negotiate a final version of the bill before the state-mandated June 30 deadline.

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## Friday, July 19, 2019

### Noon - 5:00 p.m.

O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood Assisted Living Building, 4th Floor Education Room

Call Tammy Sibert to register at 216-912-0800 by July 18, 2019  
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# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

**Thursday, July 4, 2019**  
**Library Closed**  
**Library closed in observance of Independence Day.**

**Friday, July 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Front Porch Concert Series 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 Robin Blake Sound Experiment.

**Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Film - “Gas Food Lodging” (1992)**  
**Directed by Allison Anders**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

In the boring New Mexico town of Laramie, Nora (Brooke Adams) is a truck-stop waitress living in a trailer park where she is raising her two teenaged daughters, Trudi (Ione Skye) and Shade (Fairuza Balk). Free-spirited Trudi is the opposite of Shade, who dreams about having a normal family. The film follows all three women in their attempts at love and their struggles of living day to day. This film continues our series highlighting woman directors.

**Sunday, July 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Concert - George W. Lee**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

Bassist George W. Lee has played with many of the best musicians in Ohio, and his talents span multiple genres, from jazz standards to musical theater, pop, rock and more. Recently George has performed with Jody, John & George, Drumplay, Wallace Coleman, and currently serves as the bass player for The Gateway Band at Trinity Cathedral. George frequently travels to surrounding states and Canada to play with numerous, well-established Jazz combos.

**Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Citizenship Workshop**  
**Presented by Tri-C ASPIRE**  
**Main Library Multipurpose Room**

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.

## Letter To Editor - Stop The Ban On Plastic Bags

by Steve Gannis

Oppose the Cuyahoga County plastic bag ban legislation introduced by Cuyahoga County Council members Sunny Simon and Dale Miller, who are both unable to show us any major plastic bag pollution in Cuyahoga County or our part of Lake Erie - because there is none. Maybe in other parts of the world, but not here. It is a bad, not needed, harmful law, wrongly stopping stores and other retailers from giving shoppers free plastic bags to put their purchases in, which the shoppers then re-use to put garbage in at home.

Under this foolish Simon/Miller law, people will have to buy extra plastic bags for their garbage, still using plastic bags. That hurts poor people the most. Simon and Miller are not poor and evidently do not care about the poor. If illegal truck dumping in Cuyahoga County is putting plastic bags and other trash/garbage in the environment, stop the illegal dumping. Don't ban plastic bags.

Plastic bags are needed for wet purchases especially, such as some wet produce, ice cream, popsicles, other frozen items, etc...and when purchasing little pet fish from pet stores, etc... because the wetness can leak through paper bags, but not plastic bags. Simon and Miller's bag ban legislation says it is based on a tyrannical plastic bag law of the bureaucratic oppressive government of the Communist China dictatorship. This shows that Simon and Miller are un-American extreme leftists, modeling this law on anti-democratic China's law, where there is no freedom of speech and critics of the government are jailed. Simon and Miller's bag ban law states this law is needed because some people "waste" plastic bags. How would they know who is wasting a plastic bag? And if somebody does, that does not mean plastic bags should be banned. Do we ban cigarettes because a few are on the ground by the front door of a bar? This

continued on page 11

**Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Author Event - “The HeART of Cleveland”**  
**Edited by Scott Kraynak**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

This book contains over 100 examples of artists from Cleveland and includes photography, illustration, paintings, essays, sculptures, installations and poetry. Joining us will be book editor Scott Kraynak and featured artists John W. Carlson, Gary Dumm, Laura Dumm, Ron Hill, Leslie Edwards Humez, George Kocar, Ray McNiece, James Quarles, William Scheele, and Pam Spremulli. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

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

Come and join the conversation with our newest book club. There are sure to be serious and thought-provoking discussions about many subjects inspired by these non-fiction works. Tonight we will discuss 21 Lessons for the 21st Century by Yuval Noah Harari.

**Friday, July 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Front Porch Concert Series 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 Revolution Brass Band.

**Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Film Series — “The Good Lie” (2014)**  
**Directed by Philippe Falardeau**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

After their village is destroyed and their parents are killed by militia, Sudanese orphans Theo (Femi Oguns) and his siblings make the journey to a refugee camp in Kenya. Thirteen years later, the group gets the chance to settle in Kansas, where they are met by employment agency counselor, Carrie Davis (Reese Witherspoon). However, seeing how adrift they are in 20th-century America, Carrie endeavors to help them in rebuilding their shattered lives.

**Sunday, July 14, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Musical Performance- Doan Brook Trio:**  
**My Family Immigration Story**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

The Doan Brook Trio is a collaboration between Cleveland musicians Ian Hoy, Martin Neubert and Alix Reinhardt. As classical, Romantic and French musical influences intertwine with the history of American immigration, special attention is drawn to New York and the Statue of Liberty. The inspiration for this performance stems from Hoy’s own family immigration story. All three musicians share their talents with numerous symphonies and orchestras.

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

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss “Lincoln in the Bardo: A Novel” by George Saunders.





# Lakewood Public Library

Meet The Author:

## “The HeART Of Cleveland” By Scott Kraynak

by Lisa Calfee

While working as a park ranger at the Grand Canyon National Park, Scott Kraynak was thinking about Cleveland; the tough, resilient town was the center of an underappreciated community of artists and both needed to be celebrated. Nearly 2000 miles away,

"The HeART of Cleveland" was born.

Kraynak is taking a break from his day job to visit Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The HeART of Cleveland" and the city's dynamic art scene. Joining book editor Scott Kraynak will be featured artists John W. Carlson,

Gary Dumm, Laura Dumm, Ron Hill, Leslie Edwards Humez, George Kocar, Ray McNiece, James Quarles, William Scheele and Pam Spremulli.

The work and personal city-reflections of our special guests are showcased in The HeART of Cleveland along with 70 artists, both past and present.

The book contains over 100 works of art, including a variety of paintings, watercolors, illustrations, sculptures, etchings, mixed-media, graphic illustrations, photographs, dyes on silk and charcoals as well as essays by artists

Douglas Max Utter and William G. Scheele, poet/performer RA Washington and the late punk legend Mike Hudson.

Join this talented group July 11, 2019 for a lively discussion on "The HeART of Cleveland." When it comes to the creative community of artists inspired by our city, there is a lot to talk about.

The program will be held in the Main Lower Level Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

## Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op Meeting At Lakewood Library

by David Nader

The Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability and the non profit Solar United Neighbors of Ohio are cosponsoring a free meeting for home and business owners interested in going solar. Topics will include the history of solar power, incentives such as the 30% Federal Solar Tax Credit and financing options including the low interest Cuyahoga County HELP Loan Program.

Attendees will learn how to save money and stress by joining the Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op. The Co-op will grow as meetings are conducted throughout Cuyahoga County. Once the Co-op has reached sufficient

size bids will be solicited from installers. Co-op members will choose from among those bids. There is no obligation and members are free to quit at any time.

Since it's beginning in 2016 the Co-op has helped 80 consumers go solar. The first round of the Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op had 58 members and has already solicited bids from installers.

Solar power furnishes electricity to nearly 25,000 Ohio homes and the industry has created 7,162 jobs in this state. Please join us at the Lakewood Public Library on 15425 Detroit Avenue at 6pm on Wednesday July 24 and learn about this emerging green technology.

## The Comic World Of Nicholas

by Marge Foley

The Lakewood Public Library invites you to an entertaining program full of mixed-up magic with Nicholas, a graduate of the St. Ignatius Circus Club. An early interest in the world of magic led Nicholas to create a one-of-a-kind show that will be fun for all ages. You'll be in awe as Nicholas blends magic with balloons and juggling into one show. His hilarious antics will keep you laughing, making this a performance you won't want to miss. His award-winning act is coming to the Lakewood Public Library, so bring the whole family for a magical and amazing afternoon. This program will take place on Friday, July 12, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.



Magic and fun with Nicholas.

## Doan Brook Trio Performs “My Family Immigration Story” Concert

by Elaine Rosenberger

Doan Brook Trio is a woodwind ensemble featuring oboist Martin Neubert, clarinetist Alix Reinhardt, and bassoonist Ian Hoy. Taking its name from Doan Brook, one of the five greater bluestone brooks found in Cuyahoga County, the trio was founded in 2018 by Ian Hoy. The trio's mission is to raise awareness of social justice issues through enriching programs which are fact-based and which have a personal connection.

The Doan Brook Trio brings a special concert entitled “My Family Immigration Story” to the Lakewood Main Library on Sunday, July 14, 2019. The inspiration for Sunday's performance stems from Hoy's own family immigration story. A family letter was

sent to France from New York on the occasion of the inauguration of the Statue of Liberty in 1886.

Ian Hoy is adjunct bassoon professor at Ashland University. Alix Reinhardt is a member of the adjunct faculty at the University of Akron and is a regular performer with the Akron, Canton, Youngstown and Wheeling Symphony Orchestras. Martin Neubert is principal oboist for BlueWater Chamber Orchestra and is second oboist for Cleveland Pops Orchestra.

The trio's concert takes place on Sunday, July 14, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium and will feature classical, romantic, and modern French works. Admission is free and open to all ages.

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Lakewood Cares

Former Exchange Student Gives Back To Rotary As RYE Counselor

by Lynn Donaldson

Imagine. You're fifteen years old; 16 days shy of your sixteenth birthday. You're about to embark on an 11-month journey, travel 8,700 miles to a different country, attend a different school, live with families you've never met, speak a language everyday you've only studied in school.

You've chosen to apply for the Rotary Youth Exchange's long-term program in Thailand, your home country. You, your parents, and school have filled out all the forms. You've listed your strengths, weaknesses and ambitions. Your parents have written candidly about your character and maturity. Your commitment is for an entire school year.

Patitta "Pati" Kitcharoenchai knew about Rotary. Her father, Somchart, is a member of the club in Chanthaburi. Since last August, Pati's host club has been the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River. No stranger to Youth Exchange, the club has had at least one exchange student every year since Lisa Nestorsen (from Sweden) in 1982.

RYE's objectives are simple, succinct and clear – "Instilling international understanding and goodwill in students, creating positive change by empowering youth, and making lasting connections for host clubs, host families, communities, and the students involved."

Exchange students are called "outbounds" by their home (sponsor) Rotary club and district, and simultaneously "inbounds" by their host Rotary club and district in the country where they spend their year. Students who have completed their exchanges are called "rebounds." 80 countries typically participate in the Youth Exchange each year.

Rotary requires that every inbound Youth Exchange student is assigned a counselor. Although an inbound student will rotate through multiple host families during the exchange, the counselor is a constant in the life of the student. The counselor establishes contact with the student before his or her arrival, and maintains regular contact throughout the student's stay in his or her host country. The coun-



Natasha Corrigan (left) and Patitta Kitcharoenchai.

selor explains the expectations of the host club, helps the student adapt to the culture and language, and is a constant resource providing support and encouragement.

For 25 year-old Natasha Corrigan, having been a Rotary Youth Exchange student herself, the decision to become a counselor was an easy one. "When I was going through the application process and the decision to become an exchange student, I wanted to see more of the world and learn about another culture firsthand. Growing up in a bicultural home (her mother is from Mexico), I thought it would be good to gain another perspective of the world through the eyes of another culture, while learning another language."

Starting this July, Natasha's mother, Marjorie, will be president of the Lakewood-Rocky River club.

For her exchange, Natasha was placed in Namur, Belgium. "I was blessed with an amazing host family," she relates. "My counselor was a wonderful man. He was a wonderful help during my entire experience. He was always available and warmly welcomed me into the exchange experience. To this day, I am still in contact with him and his family and I see them when I go back to Belgium to visit."

When the opportunity to be a counselor arose last spring, Natasha thought it would be a great idea to be the counselor for the incoming

exchange student. "After my exchange year in Belgium, the direction that my life took was a direct result of the amazing experience and opportunity that Rotary gave me. I owe who I am today to Rotary. By being a counselor, I can share and give back to Rotary what it gave me."

"Being a former exchange student and now being a counselor for a current inbound gives me a unique perspective," Natasha continues. "I've been in the exchange student's shoes and I know firsthand what she might be going through. When you are in a new place where you don't know anyone, someone who knows what it feels like to be right where you are is going to be a source of comfort. The more comfortable a person is, the easier they are able to relax and take in all of the new surroundings. They are more at ease."

For Pati, Natasha's decision was unexpected. "The thing that surprised me at first was she had been an exchange student," Pati shares. "It's very easy to me to talk and share with her since she's very young. Before I got here I thought I'd get a counselor who's my parents' age. I'm very glad I got her to be my counselor. I just feel like having a counselor who's close to my age it's easier to talk, it just feels like having an older sister! Natasha's always nice to me. She's so sweet and helpful!"

Pati and Natasha get together at least once a month. "We talk about

how's life going and stuff," Pati explains. "If I have any problems, I talk with her. She always helps me a lot, too! She helped me with my dress and shoes for Rotary's (district) conference, my prom dress, and just giving me advice."

Natasha surprised Pati with gifts on her birthday and Christmas. "I just never expected that. It really surprised me." The two enjoy shopping together, or just relaxing. "I helped her to choose her friend's birthday gift. It's really fun to be with her; it's like I have one more host sister! I feel so fortunate having her as my counselor."

Youth Exchange has been a good experience for Pati. "I went on the eastern trip in March and it was so much fun. I got to see many cool places in other states, and learned about history. Another thing was indoor and outdoor track. I'm so glad that I joined. I got so many friends and the important thing was I really learned what hard work is and I pushed myself until I got to be in a junior varsity meet. I was doing two miles. I never expected that to happen since I didn't have running skill at all. This will be an experience that I'll never forget!"

Natasha can't be more positive about the program. "Rotary wants exchange students to maximize on their experience so they can go forth and ultimately help make the world a better place for all," Natasha says. "By having someone who has been right where they are right now, they can also see what it's going to be like a few years down the road."

Exchange doesn't just last one year. It lasts many more than that. You touch people's lives and they touch yours. You make connections and memories to last you for the rest of your life and you build with them.

"Doing the long term exchange was the best decision I have ever made in my almost 25 years of life," she continues. "From exchange student, to rebounder, to counselor for a current inbound, I can only hope that more former exchange students begin to fill more roles as counselors and give back to the Rotary family that has given us so much."

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# Fourth Of July 1969 - Tragedy Strikes

## July 4th, 1969 Memorial Bench

by Susan Schwartz Salontay

The idea for the memorial bench started exactly five years ago. I was in Lakewood on business. I stopped for lunch at the downtown restaurant Souper Market and picked up a Lakewood Observer.

I was very moved by the article Lakewood resident Gary Rice had written for the 45th anniversary of the storm. He had graduated with my sister the month before the storm. He wrote that her passing had inspired him to take her declared college major in education as his own.

I finished the article and my lunch, and did something I never thought I would do again. I drove down Belle Ave and entered Lakewood Park.

The bandstand seemed to be the

only structure that was remotely the same. I had been told this is where my sister was killed by falling trees. I had been there that day, but was with a girlfriend taking refuge in a home nearby. As I drew closer, I saw hundreds of memorial plaques on benches, and sidewalk bricks. I spent a good bit of time looking for one that remembered the historic storm of July 4, 1969 but found nothing.

My next stop was City Hall where I left a note for my former classmate and the current mayor, Mike Summers, asking how to purchase a memorial bench for my sister. Mike caught up with me a week later and told me that after talking to other members of the class reunion committee, the decision had been made to have the class donate the funds. In the summer of '69, our class had just graduated from the three junior highs and was entering Lakewood High in the fall. Obviously, the event was seared in everyone's memory, although I was the only classmate who lost a sibling.

The project was spearheaded by our homecoming queen



Greta Schwartz, Lakewood High Class of 1969, and reunion chair, Anita Weber Rhea. The website and donation apparatus was put together by class brainiac Ellen McFarland Matheny and the email blast resulted in our collecting the \$1200 needed within a two day period. I wrote all the thank-you notes.



The bench looks out onto Lake Erie.

**The plaque reads:**  
**July 4, 1969**  
**Greta Schwartz / Dagmar Dolejs**  
**Donated by the LHS class of '72**

Everyone present felt proud that our class was the one to commemorate this event.

For me, the park suddenly came alive again. Instead of a foreboding place of sadness, I now saw all the wonderful improvements and smiled at all the families enjoying this wonderful park with their loved ones. At least once a year, I visit and sit on the bench.

It's all good. My sister is remembered.



Susan Schwartz Salontay, sister of Greta Schwartz and author of this story.

The bench was completed and installed the following summer, just in time for our annual class picnic held in Lakewood Pavilion. At some point, everyone present walked down to the new lakefront promenade and viewed the bench, which is closest to the Solstice Steps.

### Gary Rice's Story From LO's Pulse Of Lakewood Volume 10, Issue 14, 2014

## 1969, A Year Of Change

by Gary Rice

*Note: This is an updated re-print of my earlier Lakewood Observer column regarding 1969.*

In a great many ways, 1969 changed everything. Just about anyone alive at that time knew it too.

If 1968 brought rain, 1969 brought the storm; literally and figuratively, locally and nationally.

Many writers allude to a time in history when innocence was lost forever. If any year filled that bill, it was 1969. It was also quite a time for this young writer, who was about to graduate from Lakewood High School. This year marks the 50th reunion for my class.

We'll be getting together soon in July; at least, those of us who can still make it.

Let's step back in time to those Lakewood streets in 1969; in those weeks just before our graduation, at least...for a little while.

ter, and while that made for slick driving during the rains, and bumpy moments for our middleweight bicycles, the overall effect was much like that of a halcyon, idealized portrait of front-porch middle America; as it was ever meant to be. Ice-cream trucks, as well as bicycle-borne knife sharpeners and fruit vendors advertised their presence by pleasant bells and plaintive calls.

Many of those moments were captured by Dad's Ansco 35mm camera, a cool little heavy metal machine that took stunning photos, IF you set all those little doodads just right! There was also the family's fantastic Polaroid, a fold-out black-and-brushed-metal affair that you also had to manipulate with a multi-step process of cocking it, clicking a button, and then first, carefully pulling out a

**Read the rest of this story online at [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com), or follow the QR Code**



You would have seen a city having marked differences from today. Giant elms, sycamores, and maple trees stood along the serene tree lawns of Lakewood's side streets, lending cool green shade and a womb-like sense of security and peace to the residents. Most impressive of all were those elms, with their V-like branches reaching heavenward, and overarching the nearby homes; providing the illusion at least, that every street was cocooned in its own little world. Many of those streets back then had not yet been paved over with asphalt. Those streets still retained their red-brick lus-

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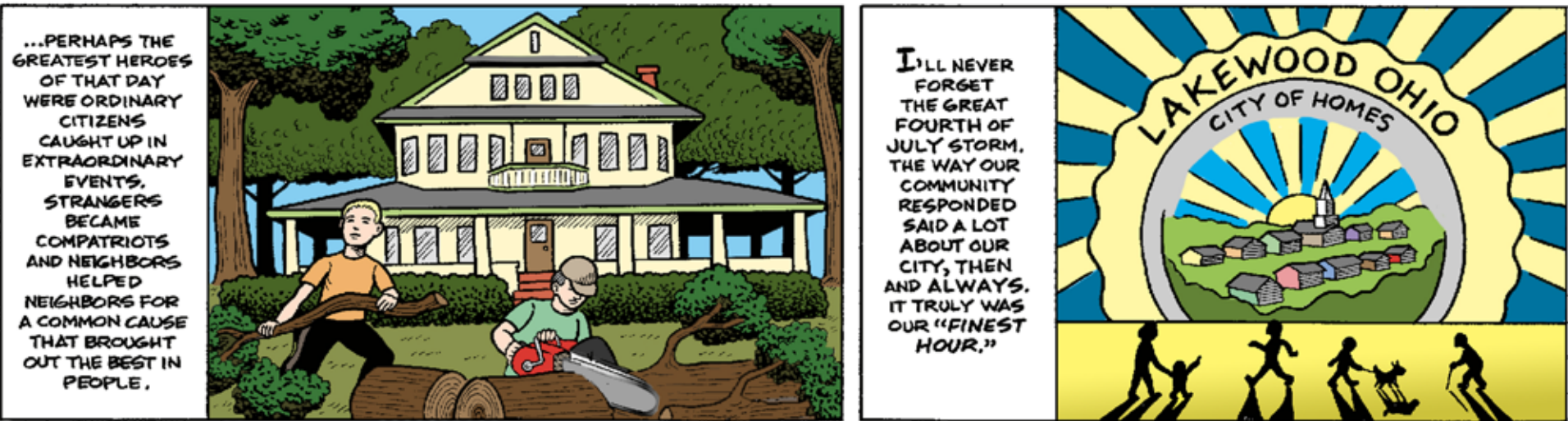
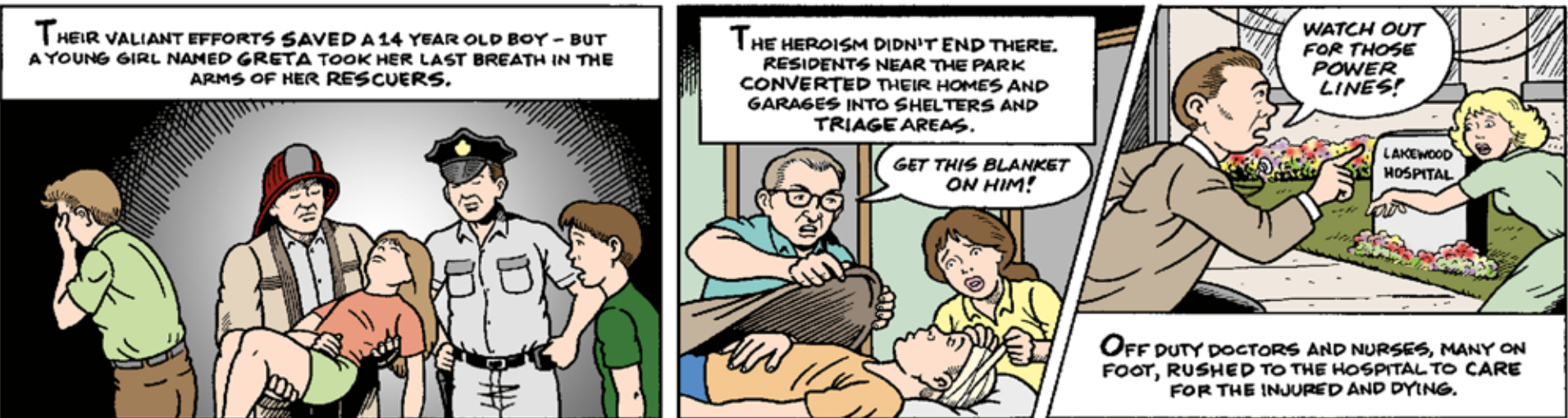
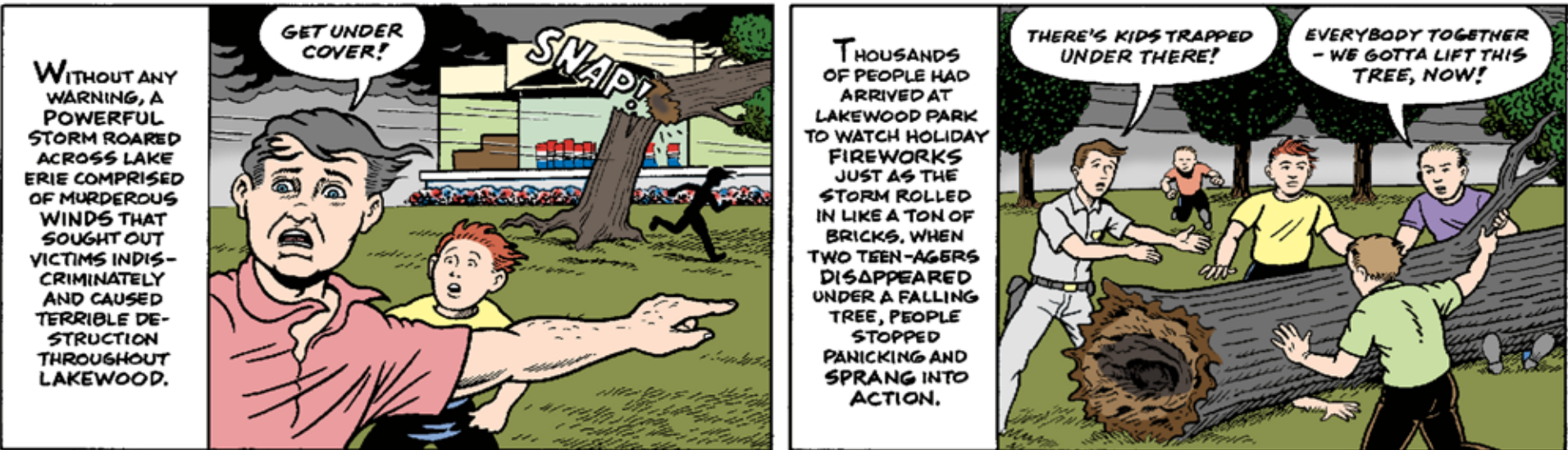
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THE FOURTH OF JULY STORM

STORY BY SCOTT MacGREGOR  
ART BY GREG BUDGETT  
and GARY DUMM





# Lakewood Cares

## Lakewood Resident Recognized As Volunteer Of The Year By The Young Marines

by Andy Richardson

The Young Marines, a national youth organization, has named Tiffany Schwarzwaldner the “Division 5 Adult Volunteer of the Year.” She is a resident of Lakewood, Ohio and the unit and battalion executive officer for the Greater Lake County Young Marines. The unit meets at 8720 Twinbrook Rd., Mentor, Ohio.

Commanded by Bill Sickles, the unit has eight active Young Marines and four registered adult volunteers. The website is: <https://www.glcyoung-marines.org/>

Each Young Marine unit is led and guided by adult volunteers. There are 2,500 registered adult volunteers with the organization. Annually, one adult volunteer is selected from each of six divisions for “Division Volunteer of the Year.”

The members of the Greater Lake County Young Marines have participated in color guard ceremonies for the Marine Corps League, Veteran's Day, and other community events. The unit helped with the annual community-



Young Marines Adult Volunteers of the Year are recognized at the grand banquet of the Adult Leaders Conference in Orlando, Florida. Left to Right, Claudine Brogan, of Fall River, Massachusetts; Elliot Ganson, of Abingdon, Maryland; Michael Vicente, of Jacksonville, Florida; Dina Dillon, of Seguin, Texas; Tiffany Schwarzwaldner, of Lakewood, Ohio; Jackie Needham, of Mesa, Arizona; and Col William P. Davis USMC (Ret), national executive director and CEO of the Young Marines.

wide Veteran's breakfast. The unit was asked to assist in the Marine Corps birthday celebration in Downtown Cleveland hosted by the active duty Marines at the Alexander J. Celebrezze Federal Office Building.

In addition, the unit assisted the Marine Corps League with Toys for Tots by helping to sort toys and bag items for the families. The unit hosted our Battalion for a winter encampment that 80 Young Marines attended.

“Tiffany is an extremely dedicated volunteer who truly enjoys seeing her Young Marines grow into responsible citizens,” said Col William P. Davis USMC (Ret), national executive director and CEO of the Young Marines. “She is event driven and action oriented, and she truly reflects the caliber of volunteer to which we always aspire

to lead our Young Marines.”  
“The core values instilled in our Young Marines: teamwork, leadership, and discipline, are values they will carry throughout their lives not just while they are in the program,” Schwarzwaldner said. “The confidence I see develop with the Young Marines is very important. There are so many important skills learned in this program that have a lifetime of benefits.”

For more information about the Greater Lake County Young Marines, call Bill Sickles at 440-413-6707.

### About the Young Marines

The Young Marines is a national non-profit 501c (3) youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through the completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Since the Young Marines' humble beginnings in 1959 with one unit and a handful of boys, the organization has grown to over 264 units with 8,500 youth and 2,500 adult volunteers in 40 states, the District of Columbia, Japan and affiliates in a host of other countries.

For more information, visit the official website at: <https://www.Young-Marines.com>.

## Lindsey Grdina Announces Ward 1 Bid; Endorsed By Cuyahoga County Democrats

continued from page 1

well as representing indigent criminal defendants, many facing addiction and mental health issues.

In addition to my work as an attorney, I have been an active member of the Lakewood community since moving here over a decade ago. I have served 4 years on the Citizens Advisory Committee, acting as co-chair for 2 of those years. I have helped direct funds to programs that specifically benefit low and moderate-income areas of the city of Lakewood, as well as ensuring funding for programs that have encouraged small business and entrepreneurship in the city. I have also, been elected to the Cuyahoga County Democratic

Party Central Committee and Executive Committee twice since 2014. I have used my voice to support strong female candidates for State, Local, and Judicial positions.

Informed Leadership for a Thriving Lakewood. It's not just a slogan, it's the guiding principle for my campaign. Informed leaders are committed to their constituents, they provide timely answers, and act in a transparent manner. Informed leaders take the time to research complex issues, find unique solutions, and have a passion for the community they represent. It's this type of impassioned, informed leadership that I want to bring to the people of Ward 1 as their representative to City Council.

## Community Market At Church Of The Ascension

by Corky Thacker

The Church of the Ascension will present an opportunity for members of the Lakewood community to sell or discover local treasures at Ascension Market on the first Saturdays of July (6th), August (3rd) and September (7th). Ascension Market will be held on the front lawn of the church at 13216 Detroit Avenue. In the event of rain, it will be in Strom Hall in the lower level; entrance is at the east-side parking lot.

One might find antiques, collectibles, books, crafts, artwork, clothing, jewelry, one-of-a-kind items and more. It's amazing what wonderful things need to come out of over-stuffed basements and attics that others can enjoy! Sellers may rent a table for a free-will offering. Hamburgers, hotdogs, soft drinks, etc. will be for sale by the church.

To reserve a table, please call the church office at 216-521-8727.

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Lakewood Cares

# Employment Opportunities- Lakewood Recreation Dept.

by Mitchell Robida

The Community Recreation and Education Department has employment opportunities for the Event Staff position. Event Staff are the direct representative of the Lakewood Board of Education and the Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department during non-school hours. The primary duties and responsibilities are, but not limited to, the monitoring and managing of all facility events, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants.

The ideal candidate for the position of Event Staff will have knowledge

of school facilities, the ability to establish priorities and work independently, without direct supervision. This position is part time, approximately 15-20 hours a week, nights and weekends may be required.

Interested candidates should submit an Employment Application, which is available at [www.lakewood-recreation.com](http://www.lakewood-recreation.com) under Resources and Important Forms, to: The Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation and Education Department, c/o Mitchell Robida, 1456 Warren Road, Lakewood, OH 44107.

# Locals Called To Host Refugees

by Mika Timura

HIAS and their affiliate, US Together, a refugee resettlement agency in Cleveland, are partnering with Airbnb's new Open Homes program to provide temporary housing for refugees. The program is designed to help individuals and families who need temporary housing for several reasons, one of which is refugee resettlement. Temporary housing is provided while the refugees' permanent housing is finalized. Usually, housing for refugees is secured before they arrive. However, extenuating circumstances occasionally happen, and gap housing becomes necessary. This partnership with Airbnb aims to address the need for gap housing by connecting refugee resettlement agencies to volunteer hosts.

To learn more about this exciting new program, please attend one of the Open Homes Information sessions hosted by US Together; Tuesday, July 9th at 6pm, at the Lakewood Public Library – 15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood and Thursday, July 11th at 6pm, at the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma Branch – 6996 Powers



Blvd., Parma.

At the information session, attendees will learn what Open Homes is, the need for hosts, and the process to become a host. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer host, but can't attend an information session, you can still register through Airbnb Open Homes and create an account through <https://airbnbopenhomes.pxf.io/HIAS-Cleveland>. If you use this link to sign up, US Together may earn a commission from Airbnb and will be able to connect with you if temporary housing for refugee clients is needed.

# Lady Liberty Gives Out Tattoos

by Bonnie Fencil

On the morning of the 4th of July parade, dressed up as Lady Liberty, she will be handing out temporary tattoos with the Liberty Bell design. Pick out where you will want to wear them, clean that spot really well. Have some water ready remove the plastic off the design, place face down on skin, wet very well, press until design transfers on to your skin. Celebrate our country's freedom!

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# Stop The Ban On Plastic Bags

continued from page 4

law is over-kill.

It is a "feel good" issue for Simon and Miller, getting them publicity, while they mislead the public. The huge fines this law will collect from violators may go to Simon's and Miller's pals and cronies. Giving them jobs collecting fines. This Stalinist law creates a police state in Cuyahoga County of people ratting out violators. I would not be surprised if Sunny Simon has a poster of Lenin on her wall.

Strangely, this Simon/Miller law omits other forms of plastic, such as straws, plastic bottles, plastic wrap, plastic dishes, spoons, forks, knives, cups, etc... Why? Is the paper bag industry paying off Simon secretly to get this law to defeat their rival, the plastic bag industry? Is corruption and bribery behind this?

A voluntary education campaign would be better than a ban. Killing more trees, which increases global warming, for more paper bags is what Simon and Miller advocate, by banning plastic bags. Other worse sources of plastic in the environment are ignored by this law. Retailers such as Giant Eagle grocery stores have big bins for people to put plastic bags in to be recycled. That makes more sense than the Simon/Miller plastic bag ban.

It is bad legislation, as was Simon and Miller's 2017 bag tax legislation that County Council rejected. Call 216-221-0228 to help stop this not-needed, outrageous dictatorial un-American, anti-freedom plastic bag ban.

Signed, Steve Gannis Lakewood, Ohio 44107

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Religion

# God Of Our Fathers

by George Hansell

On July 4th, the United States of America will celebrate its 243rd birthday. Among the hymns that are traditionally sung on or around July 4th is our National Hymn, “God of Our Fathers.” This hymn has been a favorite of mine since I first sang it in the Children’s Choir at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Richardson, Texas. As I’ve reflected on the words of the hymn, I’ve discovered some great truths that all people in general and all Americans in particular should consider and take to heart. Here they are for your consideration.

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise. The first settlers of what would become The United States of America were believers in God. Not just any God, but the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the God who created all things, the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He is the God that still guards and preserves His wondrous creation. It is to this God that all honor and praise and glory and worship is to be rendered.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past, In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay, Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way. The Psalmist declares, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for his inheritance. From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love” (Psalm 33:12-18). It is God who raises up nations for His purposes and guards and protects them. That’s what He did for the people of Israel, and as long as they followed His Word, they were blessed. It was when they forsook His Word, disobeyed His laws, and followed gods who were mere idols that they lost their freedom and their nation. As King Solomon once wrote, “For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure” (Proverbs 11:14). I submit that

our nation has at its fingertips “many advisers.” They are the inspired Word of the prophets and the apostles who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. We as a nation would do well to learn the lessons that Biblical history provides, for, as the adage goes, “those who will not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase, Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace. King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” War, famine, and disease are all consequences that have come upon this world as a consequence of sin. No nation is immune to these things, yet God has provided an ultimate solution to them. In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law” (Galatians 4:4-5) It is in Jesus Christ, and Him alone, that true righteousness is found. It is in Him alone that we are declared right and just and perfect in God’s sight, for He is the One who was perfect for all people and suffered God’s perfect justice for sin on the cross of Calvary. This is the true religion that exalts a nation. May God’s people pray that it may increase in this country that God has graciously established.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way. Lead us from night to

never-ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine; and glory, laud and praise be ever Thine!

The book of Hebrews recounts the story of Abraham and how he had been promised a land and descendants that would become a great nation. But his eyes were focused beyond this life. His eyes were focused on a heavenly country. The days are coming when nations and kingdoms will cease to exist. The trumpet will sound, Christ will appear in glory, the dead will be raised, and those who have trusted in Jesus will enter into heaven and enjoy the blessings of eternal life, and those who didn’t will suffer the torments of eternal punishment. May God grant that in this great land, we may continue to have the privilege of being refreshed through the preaching and teaching of God’s Word. May we continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus as Lord and Savior, until that day that we are part of that wonderful vision the Apostle John saw: “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9-10)

May the God of our Fathers: The Father, The Son (+), and the Holy Spirit bless America. Amen.

## Three Arches Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

by Kristin Broadbent

Three Arches Foundation, a community-focused grant making foundation, announces the election of Ellen C. Ospelt, BS, RN, CDE and Allison L. Urbanek to its board of directors.

Ospelt brings extensive experience as a professional health administrator and educator. She is Regional Care Coordinator for Paladina Health working collaboratively with providers and care teams across Ohio to address the health management needs of patients. Over the past 20 years, Ospelt has devoted her professional career to improving population health and chronic disease management and prevention through various administrator roles at North Coast Health, Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio and St. Vincent Charity Hospital. A resident of Bay Village, Ospelt is an active member of the Northeast Ohio American Association of Diabetes Educators, American Diabetes Association and Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association.

Urbanek is Director of Housing & Internal Operations for Lakewood Alive, a community-centered nonprofit organization. Previously, she was Director of Programming for Home Repair Resource Center, a HUD-approved

counseling agency. With extensive experience in the not-for-profit community, Urbanek has focused her career on developing and implementing housing outreach and home maintenance education programs to foster and sustain local neighborhoods, including securing CDBG-funded loan and grants. A Lakewood resident, Urbanek currently serves as co-chair on the Associate Board of the Beck Center for the Arts and is a member of the Anderson Center for Accessible Living Committee at Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio.

The board of directors also recognized Ken Haber for his many years of dedicated service to both the Three Arches Foundation and the former Lakewood Hospital Foundation, noting his leadership role in shaping the successful transition. A gift in Haber’s honor was made to the Lakewood Community Services Center.

About Three Arches Foundation (TAF) – Three Arches Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that invests in advancing the health and well-being of the citizens of Lakewood and surrounding communities through grant making.



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# Lakewood Politics

## Renewed Focus On Community Development And Health Essential To Lakewood’s Future

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

It is my belief that a renewed focus on community development and health in Lakewood is integral to our future.

As a public health professional working with communities all across northeast Ohio, it is readily apparent that public health intersects all aspects of public life. The key to our resilience in Lakewood - our ability to effectively meet future challenges as a community - hinges upon community health and development. Community development, and policies and processes that support it in all its facets, is imperative in determining how we address emerging issues.

As part of the Lakewood Wellness Foundation Planning Task Force, we discussed at length the change in Lakewood’s health landscape and the opportunities for health improvement through community development. When considering the challenges that are impacting health and information access for Lakewood’s diverse array of residents, what is clear is that more ought to be done to identify, organize, guide and strengthen community networks. This is something that will be the central focus for me as your council person in Ward 1.

Organizing communities around information access, shared goals, and facilitating a dialogue that transcends streets and neighborhoods will allow

our Ward to collaboratively come to solutions to emergent community issues. I believe it is important for council to partner with residents, as well as businesses, healthcare providers, and professionals to constitute a network that is well informed, active and knowledgeable about the challenges and opportunities for growth in our community.

Based on data gathered from a variety of sources, including several community-based needs assessments, these are some of the challenges residents in Ward 1 currently face:

- In Ward 1, senior citizens and the disabled comprise over 14% of our population.
- Over 1,400 households in Ward 1 have children under the age of 18 receiving SNAP benefits.
- 1,000 residents are estimated to be uninsured.

Better outcomes to public health start with community development in our neighborhoods. Public education, resident engagement, and collaborative community-building, and connection to public services are the essential foundation to better outcomes across the spectrum. Communities that are actively connected are healthier, safer, and more resilient.

I propose a renewed focus on community development that is inclusive of partnerships rooted in block club outreach. This renewed focus on community development and resident-council partnership will allow our citizens to become better informed about community issues and work with council to develop smart, informed policies that effectively address challenges.

I also believe our city will need to embrace community health by meeting residents where they are in age, socioeconomic status and accessibility by looking at opportunities to secure and expand funding for health and human services. Lakewood’s population is aging, and with it come public health challenges that include increased chances of poverty, adverse mental health, chronic disease, disability accessibility, transportation availability, and access to critical care.

The importance of taking action on establishing more opportunities for transitional and affordable housing in Lakewood will also be a critical area of focus to meet the needs of aging residents. With regard to our youngest residents, 47% of children in Lakewood Public Schools qualify for free and reduced lunch. Nutrition is essential to early brain development and I believe it is important to work to assess and address food insecurity among our youth to help support them and set them to a healthy path to their realize their greatest potential.

Many of these challenges will require careful consideration, the establishment and expansion of partnerships across sectors, and the leadership of our elected representatives to address. What is clear is that local government has a responsibility to strive to be as informed and inclusive as possible and work with residents on solutions that make sense for this



Laura Rodriguez-Carbone, Candidate for Ward 1 City Council

community. We must also make decisions today that are forward thinking and are rooted in securing and supporting our community tomorrow.

## Meghan George Endorsed For Mayor Of Lakewood

by Justin Smith

The Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus (CCPC) has endorsed Councilwoman Meghan F. George for Mayor of Lakewood, following a candidate forum at the Lakewood Public Library on Tuesday, June 25. Only Lakewood members of the CCPC were permitted to vote on this endorsement.

After opening remarks, Councilwoman George put her command of Lakewood’s issues on full display in a town hall style, question and answer format. She noted, “My professional experience creating solutions for some of Ohio’s largest organizations and businesses has prepared me to manage the challenges we face in Lakewood.”

“Meghan’s private sector work, coupled with her achievements on council, made the conclusive case that she’s the candidate with the experience we need as our next mayor,” said Emily Christescu, a Lakewood resident who attended the forum.

The CCPC is the largest activist



organization in the county. It has had a significant impact on public policy, and its endorsement is an indication of the strength Councilwoman George has with the voters of Lakewood. CCPC endorsed candidates have won resounding victories in recent Lakewood elections.

Sam O’Leary did not attend the public Q&A event following the controversial endorsement meeting of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party last week.

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# Lakewood Is Foodwood®

## "Brewella's" -- A Walk Down Memory Lane

by Eva Starr

On a road trip to New Orleans, Lakewoodite’s Chris Murphy and partner Joe Keppler toyed with the idea of creating a place similar to visiting your grandmother’s home, where you felt welcomed, comfortable and well fed. After much brainstorming with friends, their baby, Brewella, was born in late fall of 2018.

I moved back to Lakewood from San Diego, almost three years ago now, still trying to catch up with all the new eclectic shops/restaurants Lakewood has to offer. Last Sunday morning, I awoke to another gorgeous Sunday, and walked a half block down the street to Brewella’s.

Being a Cancer, (Zodiac sign) I love everything quaint, collectible, and vintage. Walking into Brewella’s I felt I hit the jackpot! A vintage shop, that serves coffee, and delectable crepes, savory & sweet. Was I really awake on this Sunday morning, or am I still dreaming?

Brewella is Vincent Van Gogh meets Georgia O’Keeffe and they had a bunch of artistic offspring. I was overwhelmed with all the artifacts, teacups, paintings and collectibles. First things first, I thought, let’s eat.

After speaking with the girl behind the counter, who educated me on the various coffees, (I am not a coffee drinker) I decided to go with the Lavender Latte, (they use Phoenix coffee), and the Summer Special crepe, the Peach Cobbler. My food came up shortly which I took outside on the two-table patio, as I cautiously sipped



the lavender latte. Guess what? I am now a latte drinker, hmm.

Now comes the real test, being a Chef in San Diego, I worked in a French restaurant for a short time, where they specialized in crepes. Hands down, my Peach Cobbler crepe was perfect in every way a crepe should be. Served with warm peaches atop, a cinnamon, graham crackery crumble inside, and whipped cream accompaniment. OMG, I could become addicted to this place.

The added benefit of eating here is almost everything is for sale on the walls, and surrounding space. The menu and the collectibles are seasonal, and the owners are always looking for more unique stuff to replace what you have chosen to take home with you. It’s almost like having breakfast and going home with a new pet.

Brewella’s is adorned with mirrors of every era, size and shape, tea pots, ships, jewelry, and art suited for the young at heart and the wise. It has a homey feel to it; you just might want to bring the kids and grandma too.

**Brewella’s is located at 16806 Madison Ave. Tues-Fri 7am-7pm/Sat-Sun 8am-5pm**



Brewella’s Peach Cobbler Crêpe with a Lavender Latte.

## Banking Made Simple Food Truck Day

by Rachael Mathes

Many factors are reshaping how customers think about banking. Citizens Bank is moving at the speed of change by putting the customer at the heart of everything they do.

“Customers want convenience, transparency and flexibility,” says Chris Powell of Citizens Bank. They are paving the way in innovation & technology, leading with their mobile banking app. The app makes it easy to stay in control of your finances, whether you’re checking your balances, paying a bill or even making deposits on the go! It also gives you the ability to you to do your banking wherever

you are.

The Citizens Bank in Lakewood on Belle & Madison is hosting a fun event on Friday, July 12th from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., to demonstrate just how easy it is to do banking while on lunch with the Mobile Banking app. “We want our customers to know all of their options when it comes to how they can do their banking,” said Licensed Banker Ernesto Cruz II.

They will have the Barrio food truck and Dang Good Foods food truck in their parking lot to add in the fun and provide a couple selections for purchase, as well as free ice cream (while supplies last)! All are welcome.

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LakewoodAlive

# LakewoodAlive Announces 3rd Annual Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle With Beat Cycles

by Matt Bixenstine

The Lakewood Summer Meltdown sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled doesn't return to Downtown Lakewood until July 13, yet it's not too early to get ready for this highly-anticipated community event.

LakewoodAlive is proud to announce the 3rd Annual Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle presented by Beat Cycles. This raffle offers contestants an opportunity to win one of two Cannondale Quick bicycles valued collectively at more than \$1,300. Beat Cycles will fit the lucky pair of raffle winners to bikes of the proper size.

Bike enthusiasts are invited to visit meltdown-bike-raffle.eventbrite.com to secure raffle tickets in advance for two separate drawings (for both female and male bike models) now through July 11. Tickets are also available for purchase at Beat Cycles (15608 Detroit Avenue). Look for the bikes on display in Beat Cycles' storefront window.

Raffle tickets are priced at 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. Tickets will also be available at the Beat Cycles Tent during the Summer Meltdown, which takes place from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, in Downtown

Lakewood. The raffle drawing will be held at 9:30 p.m. on the main stage in the Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden presented by First Federal Lakewood. Contestants need not be present to win, and both winners will also receive the opportunity to visit Beat Cycles for a complimentary bike helmet, riding lights, water bottle and bottle cage.

Beat Cycles has generously donated two Cannondale Quick bicycles for the Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle. With lightest-in-class weight, comfortable ride and supremely stable, confident handling, this popular bike model is the perfect tool to get fit, get around the city and have fun doing it.

"Lakewood is renowned as a bike-friendly city, and we are excited to once again partner with our friends at Beat Cycles to offer the Summer Meltdown Bike Raffle," said Ian Andrews, LakewoodAlive Executive Director. "Fittingly, the bicycles being raffled reflect an urban commuter style conducive to riding in Lakewood."

For more information regarding Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2019, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/Meltdown](http://LakewoodAlive.org/Meltdown).



Photo by Brittany Graham Photography

## LakewoodAlive To Host "Knowing Your Home Deck Refinishing" Workshop On July 18

by Matt Bixenstine

Remember the joy and happiness you feel when spending time on your deck and front porch? Does your porch or deck need a little revamp? Then this workshop is for you.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Deck Refinishing on Thursday, July 18, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sherwin-Williams (14711 Madison Avenue in Lakewood). The ninth workshop of 2019 for this popular home maintenance educational series will cover best practices for refinishing your porch and deck.

Led by our friends at Sherwin-Williams, this presentation will highlight multiple ways to maintain your porch and deck, tips to help cut down on time and ways to save money on the project. 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.

Summer is the often the best time to not only renovate your deck/porch but enjoy it too. Learning the before,



during and after process of refinishing your deck will help get you to enjoying it that much faster. Deck refinishing will help spruce up the look and feel of your home.

To reserve your free spot for "Knowing Your Home: Deck Remolding," visit [LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome](http://LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome) or call 216-521-0655.

Now in its sixth year, LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home" series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Com-

pany and First Federal Lakewood.

In lieu of charging for these events, we are asking participants to consider either making a donation to LakewoodAlive or bringing canned foods or other non-perishable items for donation to the Lakewood Community Services Center. We appreciate your support.

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The Back Page

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