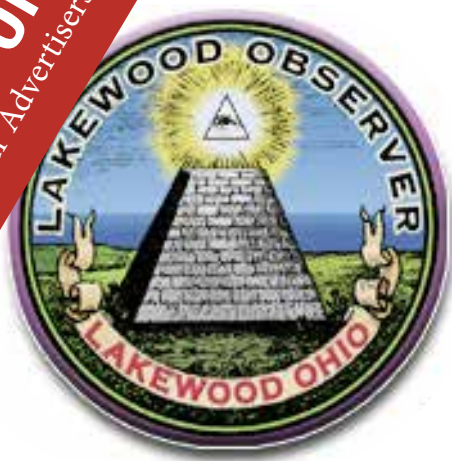


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Volume 15, Issue 15, August 7, 2019

Council Passes Resolution Endorsing Climate Action on Multiple Fronts

by Glenn Campbell

Lakewood City Council has voted unanimously in favor of robust U.S. leadership away from fossil fuel pollution and toward a future of better jobs and clean energy.

At its July 15 meeting, the seven-member council passed a resolution endorsing national policy visions, congressional legislation, and local action to avert costly climate change.

"Climate change is already affecting Lakewood in the

form of severe storms, higher lake levels, higher temperatures, and changing weather patterns," said At-Large Councilman Tom Bullock.

The council resolution, introduced by Bullock and At-Large colleague Tristan Rader, endorses two bills currently before Congress. H.Res.109 calls for a Green New Deal. The lesser-known Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763), which supporters describe as a complementary

measure, would institute a fee at the federal level for carbon pollution and pay out the proceeds to all U.S. citizens as a dividend.

Council's resolution also endorses the Solidarity for Climate Action platform of the BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of major unions and environmental groups.

"Labor union support for these plans is key, since creating family-wage jobs is just as important as climate goals," said Bullock. "We won't solve climate change without putting workers first."

Both the Climate Action platform and the Green New Deal are essentially vision statements. They call for an urgent phase-out of the greenhouse gas emissions that are destabilizing the planet's climate. Both also emphasize



Lakewood resident Glenn Campbell holds a copy of the newly passed climate resolution surrounded by supporting council members (left to right) Dan O'Malley, Tristan Rader, and Tom Bullock.

Marching Band Festival Preview Set for August 14

by Christine Gordillo

Join the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band as it showcases our students' musical talents in the band's annual preseason Festival Preview on Thursday, August 14 from 6-9 pm at Lakewood Park.

Bring your lawn chairs, relax and listen to this sneak peak of the performances to come in the 2019 season, which includes the Marching Band Festival on Saturday, September 21. The Band Festival will include six high school bands and the Bowl-

ing Green State University Falcon Marching Band.

Donations will be accepted at the Preview and will go toward purchasing new uniforms for the band. Depending on your donation level, you may be able to hear your favorite song or cadence played!

Donation levels begin at \$10 and go all the way to \$1,000, which earns you four Marching Band Festival tickets, parking for the Festival, and VIP pressbox viewing!

The band will also be soliciting advertisements for the Band Festival program.

To see specific sponsorship levels and to sponsor a student, visit www.lakewood-bands.org.

Supplies 4 Success Collecting Donations Until August 15

by Christine Gordillo

The annual school supply drive, Supplies 4 Success (S4S), has kicked off! Many of Lakewood City Schools students find it difficult to buy the supplies necessary to compete academically throughout the school year and Supplies 4 Success helps relieve students and their families of this burden. Over the past seven years, the summer supply drive - organized by a committee of the Lakewood Area Collaborative in conjunction with the Lakewood Foundation - has been able to support over 500 students each year with the supplies needed. Generous cash donations over the years have allowed the organizers to open a calculator library for students who need pricier

calculators for advanced high school math classes.

Supplies requested include pocket folders, note paper, scissors, tape, pens/pencils, composition books, rulers, markers, colored pencils, pencil boxes, erasers, and backpacks.

Area businesses and organizations have generously offered to be collection spots over the years. This year's collection spots are:

Addicted Coffee Bar, 13743 Madison

The Back Center, 17801 Detroit

Beck Pool/Foster Pool

Blackbird Baking Com-

pany, 1391 Sloane

Breadsmith, 18101 Detroit

Caffeine, 14701 Detroit

Coffee Pot, 12415 Madison

Dunkin Donuts, 17609 Detroit

KB Confections, 13519 Detroit

Lakewood Family YMCA, 16915 Detroit

Lakewood Hardware, 16608 Madison

Nature's Oasis, 15613 Detroit

Pet's General Store, 16821 Madison

The Root Cafe, 15118 Detroit

Sweet Designs, 16100 Detroit

Shadow's Sanctuary, 15729 Madison

Lakewood Recreation Dept., 14100 Franklin

Collections will be taken through August 15 except for the year-round dropoff site at the Lakewood Rec Dept.

Matthew Fredrickson For Ward 1 Lakewood City Council

by Matthew Fredrickson

I am running for Ward 1 Lakewood City Council and look forward to combining business acumen and an acute understanding of politics and issues along with compassion to serve the residents of Lakewood.

After completing my degree in petroleum engineering and working in the state of Texas, I returned home to Northeast Ohio seven years ago. I earned an MBA from Cleveland State University and currently work as a business analyst for a national, Cleveland-based aerospace company. I will add balance to Lakewood City Council by taking on issues facing Lakewood and its citizens with attention towards increasing revenues, decreasing costs, responsible government spending and helping businesses open and thrive in our community.

After working for a re-election committee for a Republican U.S. Congressman and volunteering in local and federal elections, I am proud to have received the endorsement of the Republican Party of Cuyahoga County. I currently serve on



Matthew Fredrickson

the RPCC Finance Committee, which has kept me apprised of local issues and challenges. I look forward to continuing to serve my community through working with Lakewood City Council to maintain affordable housing, efficient and timely first responders and cost-effective, thorough public services.

Through my experience in engineering, business and politics, I have learned the effectiveness of being flexible and the importance in listening to varying data and opinions. I will bring these skills along with my compassion for people and their challenges and successes to Ward 1 and the Lakewood community.

and taxes on fossil fuels.

"Renewables not only preserve our planet, but they also

continued on page 14

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Board Adopts New District Vision

by Christina Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education, at its August 5 meeting, adopted Vision of a Lakewood Graduate as the District’s strategic vision moving forward.

“The Vision of a Lakewood Graduate represents the hopes, dreams, and aspirations that the Lakewood Schools community has for its graduates,” Superintendent Mike Barnes said. “The Vision of a Lakewood Graduate will serve as our District’s North Star. It moves Lakewood City Schools’ students and staff members to look beyond the high-stakes testing environment and to help students develop skills, abilities, and habits of mind that will help them succeed and compete in this complex and rapidly changing world.”

The Vision of a Lakewood Graduate was developed based on feedback received from nearly 2,000 stakeholders over the course of last school year. Stakeholders were asked what 21st Century skills, abilities, and habits of



mind will a Lakewood High graduate need in order to succeed when they graduate.

Through research conducted via community listening sessions, surveys for community members, staff

and parents, and facilitated discussions with business leaders, spiritual leaders, PTA groups, community organizations and the Board of Education, the following six core competencies emerged:

Critical and Creative Thinking

Collaboration

Communication

Empathy

Growth Mindset

Global Awareness/Citizen

The Vision of a Lakewood Graduate transforms a traditional organizational vision from a set of words and sentences on a page to a concrete set of outcomes that our District and stakeholders can expect to see in our graduates, said Barnes. All resources, time, and activities will align with the new vision and will empower teachers to implement more personalized learning experiences for students.

Said Board President Linda Beebe: School is about more than testing. You can’t gauge creativity, empathy, global awareness in a test. We’ve taken a step beyond the infatuation with testing. If we don’t do more, we are doing our students a disservice. This new vision goes beyond that.”

As District administrators and staff begin to implement the new vision, they will continue to seek input from stakeholders to continue to ensure that priorities are aligned with what the community values and with what Lakewood students need.

Read the rest of this story online at: lakewoodobserver.com

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

Lakewood Politics

City Workers Endorse Meghan George For Mayor

by Matt Kuhns

The union which represents nearly half the City of Lakewood’s employees has endorsed Meghan F. George for mayor.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) represents more than 150 public works and administrative employees in Lakewood.

Local 1043 President Mike Satink, who works for the streets department, says that, “Councilwoman George respects the hard work we do every day. All residents of the city can expect that same respect from their mayor, with her leadership.”

Satink says that straightforward, honest respect is the main object of workers he represents in Lakewood’s streets, refuse, building and other departments. “Respect for fairly bargained contracts, and respect for people,” he says.

A Lakewood employee for 12 years, Satink says that he has gotten to know George very well during her time on city council, and that she has impressed him with her interest in the details of city services and the people who keep them running.

“We have been meeting with any and all candidates” in this year’s local elections, Satink says, but George distinguished herself through months of dialogue about ways the union can help improve local services in the years ahead.

“She’s here for life and loves the city of Lakewood,” Satink says of Meghan George. “In my opinion, Meghan is the right person to lead this diverse city.”



Councilwoman Meghan George with Mike Satink, Local 1043 president and an employee in Lakewood's streets department.

George says she is especially grateful for the endorsement from local city workers.

"Administrations come and go, but the hard-working employees of Lakewood

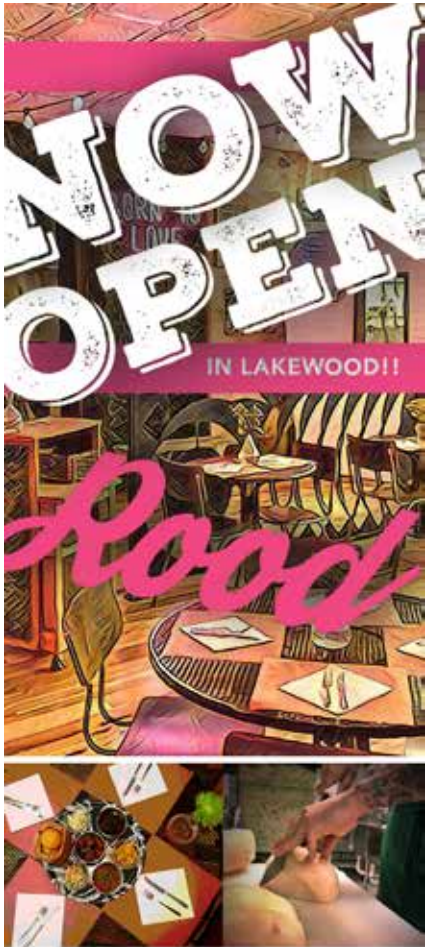
are the backbone our residents rely upon year in, year out, decade after decade. I am deeply appreciative of the support of these hard-working employees."



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12th Annual Community Dog Show

Saturday, August 24, 2019

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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For more information or to pre-register your dog,
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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, August 8, 2019
Nonfiction 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 *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover.

Friday, August 9, 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 *Cats on Holiday*.

Saturday, August 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Film - “The Spy Who Came in from the Cold” (1965)
Directed by Martin Ritt
Presented by Terry Meehan
Main Library Auditorium

Alec Leamas (Richard Burton) plays a disgruntled British spy who is recruited by the East Germans to be a double agent. John le Carré wrote this story while he was still a spook in Germany; years later, the former head of the Stasi wanted to ask him how he knew so much about their operation. Terry Meehan concludes his series *Cold War Chronicles*, introducing each film with an original video, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Concert - Sinatra CLE
Main Library Auditorium

Sinatra CLE is one of Cleveland’s premier Frank Sinatra tribute acts. Patrick Lynch formed the band with the purpose of reinvigorating the music and sounds of the Great American Songbook, made popular so many years ago on the Vegas Strip. Sinatra CLE’s many influences include Dean Martin, Elvis, Michael Buble and Ol’ Blue Eyes himself. A Sinatra CLE performance will bring you back in time to the great Rat Pack performances of the ‘50s and ‘60s.

Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Author Event - “Rust Belt Burlesque: The Softer Side of a Heavy Metal Town”
Book by Erin O Brien
Main Library Auditorium

The performance art of burlesque, once a faded form, has made a comeback in the twenty-first century, and it has shimmied back to life with a vengeance in Cleveland. Thanks to fans and entrepreneurs, neo-burlesque has taken the stage—and it’s more inclusive, less seedy, and emphatically fun. Today’s burlies come in all shapes, ethnicities, and orientations, drawing a legion of adoring fans. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Thursday, August 15, 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 *Leverage in Death: An Eve Dallas Novel* by J. D. Robb.

Events For Kids

compiled by Nic Starr

Saturday, August 10, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Tail Waggin’ Tutors
For school-age children
Main Library Multipurpose Room.

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

Friday, August 16, 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 LMC Student Ensembles.

Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Film - “Anonymous” (2011)
Directed by Roland Emmerich
Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill
Main Library Auditorium

In the London of Queen Elizabeth I (Vanessa Redgrave), the play’s the thing. Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford (Rhys Ifans) refuses to be known as a common playwright. He pays playwright Ben Jonson (Sebastian Armesto) to stage de Vere’s plays as his own. Jonson tells actor Will Shakespeare (Rafe Spall), and Shakespeare publicly claims authorship. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Concert - Alexis Antes
Main Library Auditorium

Alexis Antes is a well-established name in the region. Her singer-songwriter parents owned a coffeehouse in Lakewood in the late ‘70s, which allowed Antes to soak up all that the local Cleveland folk scene had to offer. At eighteen, she was the youngest founding member of the popular and influential Cleveland-based folk-pop group, Odd Girl Out. After OGO split, Antes found her own voice and a new path as a writer and performer of her own songs.

Tuesday, August 20, 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 *The Secret Life of Violet Grant: A Novel* by Beatriz Williams.

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Lakewood Public Library

Voluptuous, Political And Bawdy:

Burlesque In Cleveland

by Amy Kloss

Burlesque. The word brings up images of early 20th century stages with scantily clad women dancing and telling bawdy jokes in front of raucous audiences. Photographer Bob Perkosi and writer Erin O’Brien decided to bring that image up to date with the release of their book, “Rust Belt Burlesque: The Softer Side of a Heavy Metal Town.”

You can meet Perkosi and O’Brien on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium when they present their newly released book and discuss the history of burlesque in Cleveland.

“Rust Belt Burlesque” tells the story of this art form in Cleveland from the mid-1800s to the present day. Burlesque was always meant to be fun, a parody of more serious theater. In America, it evolved into variety shows

with comedy routines and female strip-tease. Cleveland was well-known for burlesque in the early 1900s, with the action centering around the Roxy Theater, which became a burlesque house in 1931. In its prime, the Roxy was



Bob Perkosi



Erin O’Brien, author, journalist, ex-Lakewoodite, current Observer contributor, and true Renaissance woman.

boyant personality and fascination with burlesque dance and culture. In 2004, she established Cleveland Burlesque, which found a home at the Beachland Ballroom in 2010. After photographing a fundraiser organized by Sin in 2013, Perkosi became fascinated by burlesque and its performers. He attended shows and built a portfolio, which eventually led a publisher to approach him about a book. Perkosi enlisted O’Brien to research and write the copy. In the book, O’Brien summarizes the burlesque scene in Cleveland as “feminist, punk, gender inclusive, and nonbinary. It’s queer and trans and classic. It’s voluptuous and political and bawdy. Most notably, it is always entertaining as hell.”

Join Perkosi and O’Brien on August 15, 2019 at the Lakewood Main Library to discover a slice of little-known Cleveland history. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Sinatra CLE In Concert

by Elaine Rosenberger

Re-live the glory days of Ol’ Blue Eyes and the Rat Pack when Sinatra CLE takes the stage at the Main Library Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 11, 2019. One of Cleveland’s premier Frank Sinatra tribute acts, Sinatra CLE was founded by vocalist Patrick Lynch. In addition to performing iconic songs of Ol’ Blue Eyes, Sinatra CLE also performs the hits of Dean Martin, Michael Buble, and

Elvis. This iconic jazz ensemble will take you back in time to the great Rat Pack performances of the ‘50s and ‘60s.

Inspired to found Sinatra CLE after returning from a trip to Las Vegas ten years ago, vocalist Patrick Lynch has put together a band like no other in Northeast Ohio. Patrick’s energy and personality will have you swooning like a teenager as you become entranced by the greatest music of all time.

Sinatra CLE’s concert takes place

nationally known, but by the late 1960s, the venue was hosting X-rated movies and live strip shows. It closed in 1977.

Neo-burlesque was born in Cleveland when Bella Sin, a Mexican immigrant, came to town with her flam-



on Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium located at 15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH. Admission is free and open to all ages.

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Celebrating one year of caring for the Lakewood community.



James Hekman, MD, FACP
Cleveland Clinic
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One year ago, Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center opened its doors to the community to meet the specific needs of the area.

Lakewood Family Health Center provides routine medical services and emergency care. Additional services include primary

care, medical and surgical services, imaging, lab and mammography.

“We’re happy to celebrate one year of bringing a new generation of health care to Lakewood,” says James Hekman, MD, FACP, medical director at Lakewood Family Health Center. “Our focus is on world class quality, outstanding service, strong educational programs and a commitment to be a valued and trusted community partner.”

Highlights of the past year include:

- **Wellness programs:** Functional medicine, acupuncture and holistic and integrative providers.
- **Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)**

services: HIV testing and treatment, behavioral health and transition-specific services.

- **Emergency Department (ED):** Peer support for opiate overdose and treatment; patient navigators to provide continuity of care after an ED visit.
- **Medical students/residents:** Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine students complete three years of medical school, with a focus on community health, followed by three years of residency on-site with an end goal of practicing at Cleveland Clinic.

Additional offerings for patients include group education and shared medical appointment rooms; patient-centered exam rooms to foster an engaged interaction between the patient and provider; care coordination and population management specialists.

“It’s exciting to honor our commitment to the community by preventing and treating diseases and illnesses, while breaking down barriers to healthcare,” says Dr. Hekman.

To make an appointment at Lakewood Family Health Center, call 216.237.5500 or visit ClevelandClinic.org/Lakewood.



Cleveland Clinic Eye Care in Lakewood.



Barbara Bingham, OD
Cleveland Clinic
Medical Outpatient Center



Weston Tuten, OD
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Cleveland Clinic is pleased to offer eye services at the Medical Outpatient Center in Lakewood.

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Dr. Bingham sees patients 13 and older and Dr. Tuten sees patients 6 and older at Cleveland Clinic Medical Outpatient Center, 16215 Madison Avenue, in Lakewood.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bingham or Dr. Tuten, call 216.237.5888. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.

Undy RunWalk raises colorectal cancer awareness.

Presented by Cleveland Clinic in conjunction with the Colon Cancer Alliance

**Saturday, September 28, at 9 a.m.
The Flats at East Bank, Cleveland**

The Undy RunWalk is a family-friendly event created by the Colon Cancer Alliance. In this unique event, participants are encouraged to run in their boxers to bring attention to the area affected by colorectal cancer. A portion of money raised goes directly to local Cleveland programs for screening, treatment and research.

Registration: ClevelandClinic.org/Undy



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Business Observed

Scalish Construction Celebrates 10 Years Of Giving New Life To Old Buildings

by Laura Beans

Frank and Maria Scalish have a vision of Greater Cleveland that includes the restoration of all historic homes and commercial buildings - not only to give them new life but to make them healthier for their inhabitants. The co-owners of Scalish Construction are celebrating 10 years in business and have some big goals for the next decade.

Research from the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy shows that only about half of small businesses survive past the five-year mark. To be able to celebrate a decade as a successful small business in a big city, it takes passion, perseverance and faith - all of which Scalish Construction has in spades.

The Lakewood-based construction company was founded by the couple in 2008 in the basement of their home. Opening a business in the middle of the recession wasn't without its challenges, but Scalish has since then grown to complete over 120 projects ranging from residential buildings to commercial properties.

"I think that the sky was really the limit when we started our business," Frank said. "We did start it in the midst of a recession and people thought we were crazy, but I never paid attention to that. To me, the glass was half full and that was an opportunity to break into this industry and do something profound."

The company offers general contracting but has carved out a niche for itself with projects that have environmental or historic preservation and restoration needs, oftentimes combining both to implement the best green building practices while maintaining a high-level of craftsmanship.

"When I look back 10 years ago, we were so young and so for us, it was taking more of the artistic approach,"



Before and After

Maria said. "As we started to evolve, we realized there was more to the projects. We became more environmentally aware and the health aspect came in, so it just started to organically layer as we went along."

The variety of projects Scalish Construction undertakes runs the gamut, from restoring historic churches to commercial storefront renovations to new construction of luxury townhouses. Currently, the team is completing BoxSpot, a business incubator made entirely of repurposed shipping containers for a community development corporation on Cleveland's east side. BoxSpot will provide retail space for micro enterprises in an effort to stimulate growth in the low-income neighborhood.

The company's commendable evolution hasn't gone unnoticed. In the past 10 years, Scalish Construction has gone on to win numerous awards including the 2015 Celebration of Preservation Heritage Home Program Award, City of Cleveland Storefront Reservation award, 2018 Celebration of Preservation Storefront Renovation Award, 2018 Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board Preservation Award and many more.

While their excellence is evident in the work and recognition the company has received, Scalish continues building on their expertise to evolve with the community's changing needs. Besides graduating Cum Laude from Cleveland State University and apprenticing with a master stone, wood, marble and sculpture



artist, Frank has also sought professional certifications with renowned sustainability organizations. The Scalish team already has a LEED accredited professional, but Frank himself is currently studying to become WELL accredited. Accreditations from the International WELL Building Institute and LEED denote the highest commitment to maximizing occupant health and buildings' environmental efficiency.

"My passion is driven by the legacy that we're leaving behind for generations to come," said Frank Scalish. "When we rehabilitate a commercial or residential property, it has a ripple effect on the community. Not only does it impact property value, but renovations can also improve the health of the residents or employees, as well as the well-being of the neighborhood and surrounding environment. It's pretty remarkable to think about."

For Scalish Construction, the green movement isn't just a passing trend. The company's emphasis on healthy and sustainable building comes naturally to the preservation and restoration aspect of their work, but it became all the more crucial when Frank himself fell ill a few years after Scalish Construction was founded.

It has always been the Scalish philosophy to provide customers with the same quality of service and craftsmanship that they would expect for themselves and their family. This obstacle only served to raise the bar higher.

"We won't put our team, the environment or the community in harm's way by going down a path for the easiest profit," said Maria. "It's not a hard decision to make because we know opting to use toxic or hazardous materials won't pay off for anyone in the long run."

For many clients, Scalish's dedication to the green movement is a big determining factor when looking for a contractor. Briana Ishida, a former client who worked with Scalish to build an addition to her century-old

Tremont home in 2018, notes that while there were lower bids for the project, Scalish was worth it because of their open communication and eco-friendly service offerings.

"That was one of the things we liked about them - that they were green. We wanted to be more eco-friendly where we could and Scalish advised on energy efficient heating and air conditioning systems," Briana said. "The whole Scalish team was great."

Scalish's respect for their clients, the community and their craft puts them in a league all their own and it's part of why the business has thrived for over ten years. Frank and Maria continue to lead the company with pride in the quality and value Scalish brings to the community in hopes of one day driving Scalish Construction to the forefront of the industry.

"The best is yet to come," Frank said. "My vision was ultimately to get into an industry that was so set in its ways, shake it up and turn it on its head and I still have that mentality. We have and will continue to push the envelope and be creative and look for new ways to bring the best of Scalish to those within our reach and maybe even farther."

About Scalish Construction

For more than 10 years, Scalish Construction has helped preserve Cleveland's historic buildings by offering a wide variety of commercial and residential construction services. With an artistic perspective and superior craftsmanship, Scalish provides Northeast Ohio with creative solutions that maintain their clients' vision and lifestyle, the property's original architectural integrity, and the earth's sustainable resources. Follow Scalish Construction on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

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Lakewood Politics 2019

Candidate For Ward 1 Lakewood City Council Labor Lines Up For Tess Neff

by Tess Neff

I am honored to be endorsed by the dedicated and hard-working men and women in labor. The members of the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council, AFLCIO, Laborers' Local 310, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, and Electrical Workers Local 38 have placed their trust and confidence in me to represent their values as a member of Lakewood City Council. Having some type of job since I was twelve years old I understand and appreciate the importance of maintaining a strong work ethic. As an attorney, a former police officer and magistrate in both the Lakewood Municipal Court and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, I have always conducted myself with integrity and transparency. Open and honest conversations with the new mayor, the City's partners including police, fire, public services and community members will unite Lakewood and drive our City on its continuous progressive path. We are a successful inner ring suburb that is accepting and inclusive. It is critical we stay this course and strive to improve on our accomplishments because the alternative is unacceptable.

My life and work experience has prepared me well to serve on City Council and to be a part of the team to lead our community. September 2019 is four years that I have served



as the Court Administrator for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. It is a complex organization comprised of almost 600 employees and it operates on a budget close to \$60 million. As the leader and responsible person to oversee operations and the functionality of the court I am faced with difficult and challenging decisions on a daily basis. I see the role of Council in the same light. Difficult decisions require a thoughtful and inclusive process. I have been successful in my position as Court Administrator because I work collectively with my team members. We strive to effect positive and lasting change whether it be policy, reform or procedure by collaborating with those who will be impacted, and this includes the community members. Similarly, for Lakewood City Council, the community needs to be an integral part of

the decision making process.

My twenty-five plus year career in public service is a testament to my commitment to helping others to improve their lives, to keeping communities safe and supported by solid public services and resources. As a member of the Lakewood YMCA Advisory Board for many years I observed first-hand the needs our community members require. Working to provide access to resources to those less fortunate is a responsibility for council to continuously explore. If elected to the Ward 1 Council seat I will bring a unique and valuable work experience that is directly attribut-

able to the responsibilities required of council. My goal is to work as a unified team to focus on "what is in the best interest" for our community. We need to vet how our decisions will impact the citizens, public services, the businesses, schools, housing, safety, wellness and all the components of Lakewood. My husband Rich and I have lived in Lakewood over 30 years. We raised our three children in this community. We saw a lot of change and experienced some trying times. We stayed when friends headed to the suburbs. We chose to invest in Lakewood because we love it.

Supporting Meghan George For Mayor

by Claire Vincent

When Lakewood elects a new mayor, on November 5, Meghan George will have my vote.

I have gotten to know Meghan as a person and as a professional. In my experience, she is an inherently genuine and principled individual. I have seen her embrace tough challenges with strength, and make difficult decisions with poise.

On City Council she uses her knowledge and awareness to make a

positive difference for our city. Meghan studies the issues and does what's right for Lakewood residents.

Meghan appreciates Lakewood's significant history. She takes a long-term view of development and other proposals, recognizing that today's decisions need to make sense in years to come. This is the thoughtfulness and maturity we need at City Hall.

I strongly believe Lakewood's future will be bright if we elect Meghan George as Lakewood's next mayor.



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Lakewood's World Travelers

by Jim O'Bryan

What does a person do when they retire from a lifelong family business, and have a desire to start seeing more of the world and more of life?

Carol and Gary Rossen sat down and decided to let their hearts guide them to the things that have always interested them.

First on the list was the Galapagos Islands. Like many of us, they had read about them, seen the TV shows, and are familiar with Darwin's work. Now it was time to spend 3 weeks there. While there, one of their fellow world travelers asked if they had been to Africa. They had not. So a year later Carol and Gary took off to another series of amazing places in Africa.

Rowanda to spend time with Mountain Gorillas, and go trekking, while taking the time to learn about the genocide in 1994. Tanzania, Kenya for the unbelievable scenery and animals. Along the way, they stopped at Olduvai Gorge, where Dr. Leakey discovered Lucy which was the oldest "human" skeleton ever discovered, in 1974. A plaster copy of the skeleton is in the Cleveland Natural History Museum.

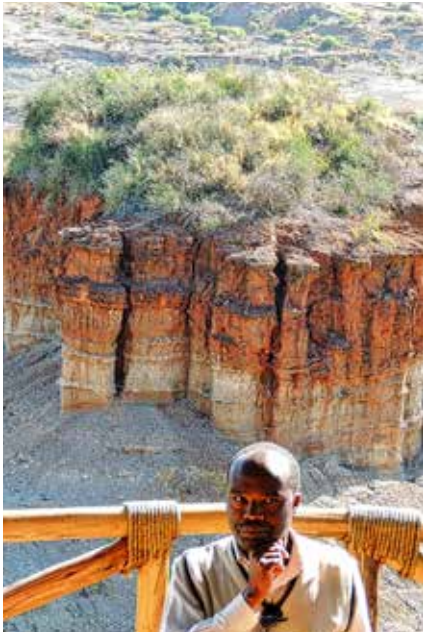
When Carol and Gary got back, they did a presentation at the Rotary Club, and I saw the photos. I asked Carol and Gary if they would share them and they said sure. If you have any interesting vacation stories and photos, send them in! We love to share. The best stories and photos are the ones that are shared.



Carol 10' from an adult Silver Back Gorilla.



While 10' in the other direction the rest of the family pod plays.



One of the most famous plateaus in the world at Olduvai Gorge. Gary is headed back in the fall to work with some of the archaeologists.



The guides and fellow travelers that took the trek up the mountain to spend time with the gorillas.



Carol and Gary as a wild rhinoceros approaches. Notice the guides keep a close eye on both the Rossens and the Rhino.



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Above: Shoes outside the school. Carol fell in love with the kids and the work going on and promised to return with supplies and books..
Right: Carol and Gary in Masai clothing. Other various photos Gary took of the animals. With over a thousand photos, I have to admit they are breathtaking. Thanks for sharing!



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Lakewood Politics

Statement On El Paso And Dayton Massacres

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Last night, I began writing about the heartbreaking shooting in El Paso only to awaken this morning to another shooting, this time in my home state. I want to go on record as condemning, to the fullest extent possible, the pre-meditated cold blooded murders of 20 El Paso residents and 9 Ohioans. Both shootings clearly establish horrific and dysfunctional motives emboldened by the divisive political rhetoric that has been terrifyingly normalized by our current Presidential administration.

Politics is not a game. What you say and what you do in public office have implications and consequences for other people. As public officials, your judgement must be impeccable, and your actions strategically positioned to protect and

serve all communities, not impose inferential or deliberate harm on communities. Malicious race-baiting, life-threatening and inhumane policies that violate inalienable civil and human rights all for the sake of political gain have implications beyond words. But, our nation's civil rights laws are clear.

Discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin is prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Even the insinuation of discriminatory behavior or language is prohibited, not only by institutions that receive Federal Financial Assistance, but also extend to the ethical activities of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of acting in the public interest by every federal, state and local representative. These senseless mas-

sacres are yet additional escalations of death and violence against marginalized communities in the United States predicated by our lax gun laws and the racist, xenophobic rhetoric that has become commonplace in our society. Worse still, it was completely avoidable. We need public officials who will stand up and condemn hate speech. We need public officials to advocate and keep fighting for equity, common sense gun safety safety laws, and the inherent human value of members of the Hispanic community, the LGBTQIA community, the African American community, the Arab community, the Indigenous people's community, and all communities.

As a Puerto Rican with hundreds of family members still recovering from Hurricane Maria, my heart aches for the nearly 3,000 people who died on the island, and the same 3,000 lives that this administration has callously denied were important or lost due to the lack of emergency response to the island after the storm. The compassionless and desensitized separation of mothers from their children at our border, the deaths from exposure in the immigrant detention camps, the subhuman conditions of the people being held there, and the targeted massacres in El Paso and Dayton set a dangerous precedent of the nationalist populism that threatens the essence of

our democracy, the lives of Americans and our first responders, and the spirit of who we are as human beings.

It is all the more important that our local representatives advocate, unaffected by self-interest or politics, steadfastly and unabashedly in commitment to the instance of law and to the diversity that exists in our city and our country. They must protect the rights of every community from disenfranchisement and from harm. Advocacy takes leadership, and it takes an understanding of the issues unique to communities, and the understanding that your thoughts and priorities about communities are reflective in the politics you play and the policies you pass and propose.

I agree, and join with Senator Sherrod Brown, who is calling for Mitch McConnell to reconvene the Senate and work in earnest to address gun safety legislatively. The time for learning lessons from these massacres has long passed. The time for action to protect the people of the United States is now.

Laura Rodriguez-Carbone is a candidate for Lakewood City Council, Ward 1. She is a community advocate with over 17 years of experience in the federal and non-profit sectors in fund development and cultivating and expanding multi-sectoral partnerships.

Rodriguez-Carbone For Council

by Stan Austin

I am darned proud to serve as Treasurer for Laura Rodriguez Carbone's campaign for Lakewood's Ward One Council seat. We have an opportunity to elect a uniquely qualified candidate in Laura. I tell you this from long experience.

My family moved to Lakewood when Interstate 90 was being built. I went to Hayes Elementary, Harding Junior High, and am a proud graduate of Lakewood High School. I have five decades of par-

ticipation in Lakewood politics and am one of the co-founders of the Lakewood Democratic Club.

It is with this background that I think that the near future of Lakewood requires the very best in our elected officials. Take some time and visit Laura's website. Read her biography and examine her work experience. I think you'll be impressed and make her your choice for the Ward 1 Council seat.

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Lakewood Cares

Dining At Sarita August 14 Supports Meals On Wheels

by Deborah Denney

Wednesday, August 14 offers an opportunity to enjoy fine dining and support a worthy local cause as Lakewood's "sarita," a restaurant, will donate 20% of meal tabs to West Shore Meals on Wheels (WSMOW). As with every Wednesday at sarita, diners can also order bottles of wine at 40% off. (In case you are wondering, sarita styles its name all lower case.)

WSMOW serves Rocky River, Lakewood and Fairview Park, delivering nutritious home-cooked meals to individuals who have difficulty purchasing and preparing their own food.

"Our service is not just a food service for the elderly, though it does allow many to stay in their homes when they can't drive or manage preparation of healthy meals," explains Lauren Walsh, a long-time WSMOW board member. "We also deliver our low-cost meals to others who have a temporary or long-term need, such as individuals who are disabled, recovering from an accident or surgery, even new mothers and returning service members.

"Whatever their situation, our service helps ensure the nutritional needs of our clients while keeping them connected with the world beyond their doors," says Walsh. "For some of our clients, their interaction with our volunteers is the only outside contact they may have all day long."

Clients do not need to meet income qualifications to receive WSMOW services; they pay just \$8 a

day for Monday-Friday delivery of both a freshly prepared cold lunch and a hot meal.

WSMOW is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that relies entirely on volunteers and private donations, and does not receive government subsidies. Donations in the form of cash contributions as well as food from local supporters and merchants subsidize the organization's operating expenses.

"Volunteers are certainly our most important asset, and one that we can always use more of," Walsh says. "Kitchen volunteers prepare meals under the guidance of our trained chefs. Other volunteers deliver meals one day per week, often working in teams of a driver and a 'hopper,' who take meals to the door. We also need volunteers to help with administrative tasks such as updating our contact lists, interviewing potential clients and helping to represent the organization at community events. We even have 'volunteer from home' opportunities."

Award-winning sarita chose WSMOW as one of two charitable organizations it is committed to supporting on an ongoing basis. Since 2018, the restaurant has been donating 20% of orders for two selected menu items to WSMOW all year long.

"Feeding people is our passion," says Sandy Smith, co-owner of sarita. "The thought that our seniors have to go without a healthy meal because of lack of funds, or they are physically unable to prepare food for themselves,

is heartbreaking. "We chose Westshore Meals on Wheels after meeting the amazing volunteers and seeing their passion," Smith explains. "These volunteers provide home-cooked meals and a smile to all they touch. We are grateful for the work they do. We are proud to support such an amazing organization."

On August 14, diners can support WSMOW by ordering anything on sarita's menu, from starter specialties such as Phyllo and Pecan Encrusted Brie, Sweet Potato Pierogies and Tuna Tartar; entrees including seafood, meat and vegetarian options; to desserts including Mascarpone Cheesecake,

Triple Chocolate Tart and a Deep Fried Banana Split.

Reservations are recommended for this WSMOW annual fundraiser; call (216) 226-5200. Dining is available from 5–10 p.m. inside or on sarita's charming patio at 14523 Madison Ave., Lakewood OH 44107.

For more information about West Shore Meals on Wheels, call (440) 333-6298 or go online to www.mealsonwheelsrr.org. To get a preview of sarita's menu, browse to www.sarita-restaurant.com/food.

Deborah Denney is a volunteer with Rocky River Lakewood Meals on Wheels.

Thank You, LHS Class Of 1972

by Tony Dolejs

Thank You!

I normally don't text, but on July 3rd, I happened to look at my phone and I had received a text from my brother John (LHS '77) with an attachment from, what turned out to be, "The Lakewood Observer." He had received it from a friend in Lakewood. The attachment was a beautiful article or letter from Susan Schwartz Salontay titled "The July 4th 1969 Memorial Bench" from the July 3, 2019 issue.

The Memorial Bench referred to in her article was apparently installed in Lakewood Park as a remembrance to her sister, Greta Schwartz, who was one of the two teen girls killed in the July 4th 1969 storm. Her article included a picture of the plaque on the bench which read:

July 4th, 1969
Greta Schwartz/Dagmar Dolejs
Dedicated by LHS Class of 1972

I initially was stunned at this, but also grateful and very touched by the news that my sister, Dagmar Dolejs, was also being remembered on this bench. Ironically, no member of our family was aware of this touching gesture. Although I currently reside in Venice, Florida, my two brothers John and Dan (twin to Dagmar) and my sister, Marcella, all still live in the Rocky River/Avon area. Surely, I thought, one of them would have known about the bench, but inexplicably, they did not. Although there was an attempt by LHS, 1972 representatives, no contact was successfully made.

Although this is coming approximately 4 years late (the bench was

installed 4 years ago) it is never too late to say "thank you."

So on behalf of the Dolejs family, we want to offer our sincerest thanks to Susan Schwartz Salontay and to Anita Weber Rhea, who Susan credits with spearheading the "Memorial Bench" project along with the encouragement of Mike Summers, Lakewood's mayor.

Additionally, and equally important, our thanks and gratitude for this effort are also extended to the Lakewood High School Class of 1972 for their support and funding of this project. This initiative is so special to us that we will always be eternally grateful. It is sometimes hard to choose just the right words to communicate just how much we appreciate what the class has done for us as a family and for that matter, for Susan's family. Even after 50 years!

With this "Memorial Bench," the events of that July 4th day will be appropriately remembered.

We want to also acknowledge the staff of the Lakewood Observer for printing Susan's letter. We would not have known about this if it weren't for the Lakewood Observer. There must be some strong powers circulating that would bring all of these connections together after exactly 50 years, with individuals we have never known until now, but will remain connected to us, probably forever.

Yes, Susan, it is all good... your sister and our sister will be remembered. Thank you all!

Regards,
Tony Dolejs

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You Can Have Your Home Fries And Crispy Too!

by Eva Starr

It was a drizzly, humid morning in mid-July, and I was hungry. I also needed to check out the thrift store to find a black bowtie for an event I was catering. First things first, my stomach was grumbling, I had visions of Audrey II screaming “Feed Me” to Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors.

I parked my car on Hopkins and ventured in. I almost missed it, it’s one of those hidden gems you hear so much about in Lakewood.

I walked in, found a booth, and was greeted by a younger (than me) gentlemen, who I’ve come to know as the owner’s son. I saw a sign in the window for blueberry pancakes, and my eyes got big, but my brain said, “No, no, remember what happens when you eat too much gluten.” Ok, you win, I’ll have the breakfast special, two eggs, scrambled, home fries, CRISPY, I’ll try the gyro meat, and skip the toast.

My heart wanted bacon, but since I do love gyros, I opted for that. I

couldn’t imagine how it would come out on the plate, I was thinking long, rectangular thick strips like in a gyro, what do I know? My food arrived in a timely manner, and I was pleasantly surprised! I actually got CRISPY home fries, is it Christmas in July?

I can’t tell you how many breakfast places I go to and order crispy home fries and evidently the rest of the world’s definition of crispy is from another dictionary other than mine. However, the Shore restaurant nailed it! Crispy it is! The gyro meat was thinly sliced and I gobbled it down.

I inquired about the steelhead trout mounted on the wall to the young man who was waiting on me, since I am also a fisherwoman, well I masquerade as one. He told me the story about how he caught it in the Metroparks, in the river, when he was seventeen. Then that story led to Larry (Pete) Peterson who owned L & D Bait and tackle back in the day. I also knew Larry well, as my daughter and I got all of our bait from him. You never know how our paths are connected, unless you try Lakewood’s hidden diners.

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Image of a plate of BBQ ribs and sides.

Lakewood Fiction

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 12: “The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues

fiction by Scott MacGregor

Maynard Gridley guzzled down another 8 oz. bottle of Coca-Cola and followed it up with a belch that could wake the dead. As Little Dan and the three Joes sat in rapt attention inside the Gas & Lube, Maynard told a story he'd brought home from Vietnam, along with his scars, his mental wounds, and a souvenir silk jacket embroidered with the words, “I’ve Served My Time In Hell-Vietnam.”

They were interrupted when Little Dan’s neighbor, Rosalie Fry, banged on the locked door of the gas station. She’d been looking after Little BD ever since the tornado had destroyed Little Dan’s home and nearly killed his mother. Rosalie dropped off Little BD so she could run a few errands. The little Boston Bull had been so traumatized by the tornado that Little Dan thought it best to keep him with friends during the work day. Afraid of Maynard Gridley, Little BD took one sniff in his direction, let out a frightened yelp, and ran off to hide in the Tire Corral. Maynard just shrugged and yanked the pack of Lucky’s from his rolled up shirt sleeve, lit one up, and continued his story:

“Monsoon Charlie was knocking on heaven’s door. The little stream that ran through our firebase was now a river with a strong current that rushed down the middle of the valley. When the VC and NVA sensed we were up to something, they’d moved their snipers closer to the firebase to take pot-shots at us.”

“Our Lieutenant was a college boy who knew all about some guy named Tesla. He said that Tesla invented a way



to stop a storm in its tracks with a well-timed explosion. We'd never heard of Tesla, but we were still Yanks and sure knew something about blowing things up. It was our only chance to stop the storm before it wiped us off the face of the earth.”

“The Lieutenant ordered the sappers to load all one hundred 75mm howitzer shells into the hole with a daisy chain of Claymore mines strapped onto each shell. A single detonator would set off the massive explosion from our “safe” position behind the sandbags in the far right corner of the firebase. Meanwhile, the men who’d been ordered to inflate all three hundred of General Westmoreland’s hemorrhoid cushions had returned with the wildest looking think I’d ever seen.”

“The inflated butt cushions had been strapped together in packs of three and tied together in one long ribbon like a ceremonial Chinese dragon. The Lieutenant ordered us to line up behind the sandbags like paratroopers and hang on to our hemorrhoid cushions “like they were our mothers and girlfriends.” I was at the end of the line and named my cushions “Mary Jane” after Mary Jane Skalski, a girl I loved in high school. By then, the enemy snipers were shooting through the monsoon rains at our three sappers as they fled the hole full of rigged explosives. Two sappers had made it back unharmed. When the third sapper tried to leave the hole with the detonator cord, a sniper shot him in the chest and he fell back into the hole. Without that detonator cord we were jungle spam. Something had to be done.”

Maynard’s face turned pale. “I pulled out my combat knife and detached ‘Mary Jane’ and a companion section from the butt-cushion ribbon. Holding them in each arm, I darted out from behind the sandbags. As soon as I entered the kill zone, my comrades sprayed eccentric rifle fire on each hillside in hopes of pinning down the invisible snipers. By the time I reached the hole, I’d been hit three times, in my leg, my butt, and one in the helmet that permanently parted my hair. I was stag-

gered but able to dive into that hole. I landed on top of the wounded sapper who was still alive and gasping for air. The hole was filling up fast with water.”

“I took the end of the detonator cord and tied it tight around a baseball sized rock and flung it, as hard as I could, toward the sandbags. It hit the Lieutenant in the face and broke his nose! ‘Good throw, soldier!’ he yelled back. “Everyone shouted at me to return to the sandbags but I knew that I couldn’t. The snipers would’ve picked me off in a heartbeat. Besides, there was no way I would let that sapper be blown to bits.”

“By then, Monsoon Charlie was in our driveway. The sky above us was black as India ink and made terrific noises like steel being ripped in two. I waited until the hole filled up and became one with the river. When it did, I put my arm through “Mary Jane” and strapped the second section to my wounded comrade. ‘GIVE IT A NAME!!’ I yelled. ‘Peggy Sue!’ he uttered weakly, as frothy blood gurgled from his mouth. I yelled out, ‘BUDDY HOLLY FOREVER!’ right before the river currents sent us rafting down the valley. We floated away singing, ‘That’ll Be The Day,’ like the good American boys we were.”

“The Lieutenant watched through his binoculars as we disappeared from view. With the detonator cord securely attached and Monsoon Charlie directly over his position, the Lieutenant ordered everyone to bend over and grab their hemorrhoid cushions. Then he screamed: ‘FIRE IN THE HOLE!!!’”

*The wind and rain brought in the dark

While our weather bomb awaited a spark

We hit that switch and blew the hatch

Praying ‘Monsoon Charlie’ had met his match.

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

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Council Passes Resolution Endorsing Climate Action on Multiple Fronts

continued from page 1

reduce energy costs, create renewable energy jobs right here in Northeast Ohio, and create opportunities for everyone to participate in a more equitable energy system,” said Councilman Rader.

The vote by city council sends a message to Ohio’s congressional delegation — currently without any cosponsors of

the two bills endorsed by the resolution — but also commits Lakewood itself to continued local action.

The City of Lakewood has taken recent steps to shift local energy use to renewable sources and to cope with the negative impacts of climate change. Earlier this year, for example, At-Large Councilwoman Meghan George joined Bullock and Rader in cosponsoring a plan to use municipal buildings for rooftop solar power generation. Lakewood also continues work to expand its tree canopy, which helps absorb carbon released by fossil fuels and protects residents from more frequent hot weather.

Ultimately, however, the July 15 resolution acknowledges that adequate solutions to climate change require state and national leaders to live up to their own responsibilities.

“If our country is ever going to show the political will to act decisively enough to avoid the worst effects of climate chaos, forward-thinking communities like Lakewood need to take the lead in calling for federal action right now,” said Glenn Campbell, one of 10 Lakewood residents who spoke in favor of the resolution before council’s vote.

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LakewoodAlive

How To Use The Lakewood Tool Box

by Matt Bixenstine

Lakewood is a city of beautiful old homes. Thankfully, it's now easier than ever before for Lakewoodites to give their homes the TLC they deserve.

Earlier this summer LakewoodAlive launched The Lakewood Tool Box – a tool lending library offering residents an affordable and educational option for borrowing tools that are essential for completing home repairs. The response from the community thus far has been tremendous.

Here's our seven-step process for how YOU can capitalize on this community resource to ensure your old home remains beautiful for years to come.

1. Plan your next DIY project

If you're anything like us, chances are you have a wish list of home repair projects you'd like to conquer in the foreseeable future. Make this list and check it twice. Prioritize your projects while taking into account what's necessary to ensure your family lives in a healthy and safe home. Research your top project to establish your budget and a plan for execution. Having a plan in place will help you to determine the tools and supplies you need to take your project from concept to completion.

2. Discover the tools at your disposal

Once your next DIY project is set, it's time to peruse The Lakewood Tool Box's tool inventory. Here you'll find 60+ rentable tools ranging from standard hand tools to equipment for larger projects. Tool rentals can last for one day, three days or seven days. Locate the tools you'll need to rent to complete your project. If you aren't able to find a particular tool you need, give Matt Clark, our Tool Box Coordinator, a call at 216-712-6674 to inquire about availability.

3. Submit your membership application

As the saying goes, membership has its rewards. Lakewood Tool Box membership is open to all Lakewood residents, tenants and landlords. Submit your membership application to Matt Clark at mclark@lakewoodalive.

org and get ready to enjoy access to every tool rental The Lakewood Tool Box has to offer. You can also apply for membership online by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/ToolBox.

4. Become a member of The Lakewood Tool Box

After your membership application is processed and you submit payment (\$30 per resident/tenant), you are now officially a member of The Lakewood Tool Box. Membership fees can be reduced for low-moderate income families – call for details. You are now ready to visit The Lakewood Tool Box, and it's okay to feel like a kid entering a candy store.

5. Rent tools and receive a one-on-one learning session from Matt Clark

Visit The Lakewood Tool Box, which is housed in a large shipping container behind the Screw Factory near the intersection of Athens and Halstead Avenues in the Historic Birdtown Neighborhood. Here you'll be greeted by Matt Clark, who has extensive experience working with tools and is eager to assist you with securing the right tools you need to conquer your project.

6. Complete your DIY project

With our guidance, you'll have the knowledge and confidence you need to proceed. It's go-time to tackle your home repair project! Commence your project, but don't hesitate to call or visit The Lakewood Tool Box should issues arise. We're happy to be there for you throughout the entire process.

7. Celebrate a job well done

Congrats – you did it! Return your rented tools to The Lakewood Tool Box and savor the victory that is completing your essential home repair. Celebration techniques range from enjoying a choice beverage to hosting friends and family at your home to simply taking personal pride in your accomplishment. Do whatever works for you...then get ready to plan your next DIY project. The fun never ends when it comes to maintaining our historic homes!



Sherwin-Williams Lakewood was the site of our "Knowing Your Home: Deck Refinishing" workshop.

Five Key Takeaways From LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home: Deck Refinishing" Workshop

by Veronica Janosek

Local residents made it to Sherwin-Williams Lakewood before the hot weekend to enjoy LakewoodAlive's latest home maintenance workshop on Thursday evening, July 18.

Led by Janatus Smith and Jason Case of Sherwin-Williams, "Knowing Your Home: Deck Refinishing" gave community members the opportunity to learn tips and explore the steps necessary to refinish their decks.

Now in its sixth year, LakewoodAlive's Knowing Your Home workshop series draws hundreds of attendees annually to learn home maintenance best practices. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

If you happened to miss this particular workshop, we've got you covered. Here are our five key takeaways.

1. Preparation is Key!

If you're looking to stain or paint your deck, it's important to make sure your surface is ready. If you have a new deck with treated wood, waiting 30 to 90 days before the first stain is important. Conducting a "water test" on the wood to ensure the surface is ready to stain is a must. You can conduct a water test by pouring a small amount of water onto the wood. If it beads up (similar to a freshly-waxed car), it is NOT ready to stain or paint because the sealer is still active.

2. Preparation is Key, Again!

When your wood is ready to stain or paint, you have to make sure it is clean. If your surface is dirty, the stain might not stick. Using a deck wash or cleaner will help wash away the dirt and weathering. After you wash your deck, make sure you give it a day or two to dry before staining. If it seems like your wood is turning gray, then using a product like Sherwin-Williams' Super-Deck Revive will help revitalize and brighten the wood to a more natural tone prior to staining.

3. Choose the Right Stain/Coating

Select a stain based

on the look of your deck and the amount of protection it requires. A clear and transparent stain will show the natural beauty of the wood grain, but will not provide longevity and durability against UV rays. Semi-transparent stains are the middle ground – they hide some grain, while showing some natural tone, but offer a bit more protection against UV rays. Solid stains and paints will provide the greatest amount of protection and longevity, but eliminate all wood grain appearance for a more painted look.

4. Common Problems

When it comes to staining your deck, there are some common problems that can occur. Most are weather-related, as staining in direct sunlight or encountering wet wood can cause deck coatings to fail. The best time to stain or paint is during periods of shade, ensuring there is at least 12 hours of a clear forecast (that includes morning dew as well) after you've completed your project, so that the wood has sufficient time to dry.

5. Maintenance Matters

It's paramount that you keep up with your beautiful deck after you have refinished it. Wash your deck coating at least twice each year. The best time to do this is at the beginning of the spring and the end of the fall. This will help eliminate mold and mildew growth, while also ensuring dirt is removed from the surface prior to the harsher winter months.

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