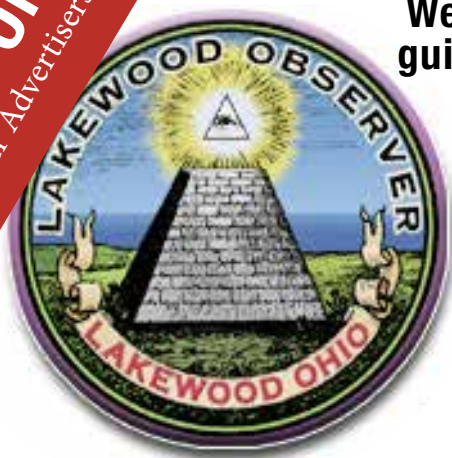


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We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us thru that darkness to a safe and sane future. John F. Kennedy

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 15, Issue 16, August 21, 2019



Lakewood Hospital was a community-owned fully functional hospital. It was closed and sold off at the city's request. Value at the time, with business and contracts for the next 10 years: approx. \$248,000,000. We were told: "Healthcare is changing." We were told: "Closing the hospital would generate \$120 million in new development." What we were never told was that all the money from the sale would go into private foundations run by those lobbying to shut down the hospital and supporters of the Mayor. We were never told that the residents of Lakewood would be forced to pay for a new multi-use strip mall built in part by a former mayor whose firm was awarded the hospital grounds for the cost of \$1.00. Which is even less than that same Mayor sold us his "Onelakewood.com" web address for. Which just happens to be the "new" name of the multi-use strip mall. In your face. Residents of Lakewood, we present the closing of your Lakewood Hospital. You have been played. Some of the "representatives" who did this to our city are running for office this Fall. You have a chance to do something. Vote. For honesty, transparency, accountability and CHANGE. Jim O'Bryan

## Lakewood Dog Park Swim Coming To Foster Pool

by Karen Karp

Got dogs? Got water? Mix the two together and you have a recipe for a tail-wagging good time. Join Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP) for the 2019 Dog Swim at Foster Pool in Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Ave., on Tuesday, September 3 from 5-7 PM.

You are invited to attend the most anticipated event on Lakewood's canine calendar. Round up the four-legged family members, grab a couple of towels, a leash, and head for the pool.

Cost for admission to the annual fundraiser, now in its fifteenth year, is \$8 for 1 dog and \$7 for each additional dog. Proceeds will benefit FLDP, the all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that works with the City of Lakewood to care for the Lakewood Dog Park and raises funds for dog

park improvements.

All dogs must be licensed and up to date on their vaccinations. Owners are responsible for their dog's safety and are expected to clean up after them. FLDP supplies the pick-up bags, please use them.

All human guests must sign a waiver. You will get to the water faster if you print and fill out the form in advance. On September 3, turn in the waiver at the desk when you arrive. [www.lakewood-recreation.com/user/files/dog\\_swim\\_waiver\\_2017.pdf](http://www.lakewood-recreation.com/user/files/dog_swim_waiver_2017.pdf)

To learn more about FLDP, visit our website, [Lakewood-DogPark.com](http://Lakewood-DogPark.com). Or find us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/LakewoodDogPark](http://www.facebook.com/LakewoodDogPark), where you can browse pictures of FLDP's most recent springtime events: a Retriever breeds meetup; a Husky



photo credit: Maureen Kane

meetup; and a Berners and Swis-sys meetup. Of course, every kind of dog is welcome during park hours, 8 AM to 9 PM.

We have two events scheduled before the end of the year.

On Saturday, October 19, we'll be at The Spooky Pooch Parade. Be sure to stop by the FLDP booth and show off your dog's costume.

And could it be Christmas without a visit from Santa

Paws? Pet's General Store will co-host and "Portraits by Martha" will be behind the camera on Sunday, December 1, for our annual photo event, Pictures with Santa Paws.



After photographing the demolition (at the back) of our hospital I came across the front and quickly snapped a photo. Added a little caption !!! by William J. Jacobec

## Workshop For Ranger Athletics Families Set For Aug. 23

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City School District has partnered with the Positive Coaching Alliance. PCA will work alongside District coaches, parents, and athletes to help create a positive sports culture within the Ranger program, allowing for athletes to not only get the best experience, but excel on and off the sports arena.

The alliance requires that all parents, coaches, and athletes attend a PCA workshop to help them understand their unique role and help identify their own personal goals as a parent, athlete or coach. The first free workshop opportunity for parents and coaches will be August 23 at 6:00 pm. The parents will meet in the LHS Cafeteria. If you are

unable to attend you will be required to take the online course at a cost of \$20. We encourage everyone to attend the free, live session as it allows for a more engaging opportunity to learn how to help your athlete excel at their highest level. You can learn more about the workshop and the alliance by visiting [www.positivecoach.org](http://www.positivecoach.org)



# Lakewood Observer

## Lakewood Mayor Talking Out Of Both Sides Of His Mouth

by Edward Graham

After lying to Lakewood citizens that Lakewood’s hospital was losing money and had to be shut down when he knew full well that the Clinic had a contractual duty to run the hospital at no loss to the City until 2026, Mayor Summers has now connived the City into another giveaway contract.

Now, Mayor Summers and Council President O’Leary have led the sheep on City Council to give away the multi-million-dollar land upon which our hospital rested for only \$1.00!!! Worse yet, this rigged deal is for a project that makes no sense at all.

The Development and Use Agreement entered into by the City of Lakewood claims among other things that “After extensive analysis, deliberation and review, the City formulated a strategy for development of the Development Site that embodies a compelling vision for the future of the City and its residents.” That agreement provides that the “Developer shall construct, or cause to be constructed, a new multi-story mixed use office, retail and residential development to be known as One Lakewood Place.”

What’s so compelling about that vision for the future of Lakewood? What’s compelling is how to get away with giving away millions of dollars of City property without going to jail. The mayor’s \$1.00 rigged giveaway deal is for a Project that “will include a mini-

mum of 100,000 square feet, combined office and retail space” and “a minimum of the lesser of (a) 140 residential units and (b) 100,000 square feet of residential space.”

Now, after committing the City to a project half of which is combined office and retail space, the Mayor now says that “Today, the retail sector suffers from online trends. Commercial office space, too is challenged by home-based work and coworking spaces.” He says that he is “confident that the smart process we employ will continue to yield harmonious outcomes.”

What’s smart about that process??? Mayor Summers has the City give away for only \$1.00 (Yes, only \$1.00 !!) very valuable City land half of which is to be used for combined office and retail space knowing full well that the City does not need more office and retail space! Is that the result of the alleged extensive analysis claimed to have been undertaken in developing the Development and Use Agreement?

What harmonious outcomes???? The outcomes may be harmonious for the insiders who got millions of dollars of property for 1.00, but certainly not for the citizens of Lakewood who continue getting ripped off by Mayor Summers’ rigged deals with insiders!

**Read the rest of this forum piece at:**  
**[lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com)**



Rep. Michael J. Skindell, and Councilperson Meghan F. George

## Rep. Skindell Endorses Meghan George For Mayor

by Matt Kuhns

State Representative Michael J. Skindell is giving Meghan F. George his formal endorsement as Lakewood’s next mayor

"Meghan will bring valuable qualifications and maturity to this office," says Skindell.

George’s record on city council, Skindell says, has proved that "she will represent our community with integrity, honesty and dignity."

"Most important of all, Meghan will put Lakewood residents first, and stand up to big developers and other special interests. I encourage Lakewood

to join me in supporting Meghan George to be our city’s next mayor."

Recent recommendations from Skindell, and from Matriots Ohio, join a growing list of endorsements for George. AFSCME, Cement Masons, and United Food & Commercial Workers have also backed her campaign.

George says she appreciates the declaration of support. "Rep. Skindell is a dedicated public servant for Lakewood, advocating for seniors, for equality and fairness, for our environment, for all the things we value," says George. "I am honored to earn his formal endorsement."



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**Upcoming Submission Deadline**

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September 12, 2019

**Publish Date**

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September 18, 2019

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Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



Lakewood Politics

Regionalizing Emergency Dispatch  
Not Worth The Cost Of Lakewood Lives

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

There is talk of regionalizing Lakewood’s emergency dispatch. Lakewood is a densely populated city with a busy dispatch line. Managing safety in Lakewood is a major function of our city government and we should be looking to support and expand our team of dispatchers, not outsource services and put Lakewood’s families at risk. In an emergency, one minute lost to transferring calls is too long.

Last year, according to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Commission Report, 69 seconds elapsed between the time the first 911 call was made regarding a school shooter on school grounds and the first officers were dispatched to Parkland Schools. The initial call was made in the first 3 seconds of the attack.

As a result of the city’s regionalized emergency dispatch system, the call went to a neighboring city and then was transferred multiple times because the city to which the calls were directed did not provide services to the town and were confused about where to direct the calls for help.

In 69 seconds, the Parkland



Laura with supporters Emily, Ruby and Max.

School shooter had already shot 24 victims; 17 teachers and students lost their lives that day.

In Lakewood just last week, a gunman opened fire on Robinwood Avenue. Lakewood police were at the scene very quickly, were able to apprehend the suspect, and no one was hurt. In addition to having some of the finest officers on staff in the nation to

thank, we can also thank the work of Lakewood dispatchers.

We must keep our emergency dispatch here in Lakewood! I will fight on city council to protect the lives of our residents and effective emergency response. This is a matter of safety and can be the difference between life and death for our community and emergency responders.

Laura Rodriguez-Carbone is a candidate for Lakewood City Council, Ward 1. She is a community leader and advocate with nearly 18 years of experience in the federal and non-profit sectors in fund development, community engagement, and cultivating and expanding multi-sectoral partnerships.

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LUNCH & LEARN

**Diabetes Basics:**  
**What You Need to Know About**  
**Diabetes & Pre-Diabetes**

Thursday, August 29, 2019 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Cheryl Reitz  
Cleveland Clinic Lakewood  
Family Health Center

Assisted Living Building  
4th Floor Education Room

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert  
at 216-912-0800  
by August 27, 2019

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

**Friday, August 23, 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, which 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 Drumplay.

**Saturday, August 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Film - “Salaam Bombay!” (1988), Directed by Mira Nair**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

After he set fire to his older brother’s bike, Krishna’s (Shafiq Syed) mother is so furious with him that she takes him to the Apollo Circus and tells him he can’t come home until he earns 500 rupees to pay for a new bike. He decides to travel to Bombay, but after he is robbed he ends up hanging out with a rough crowd. He soon learns that earning the money is going to be nearly impossible. This film continues our series highlighting woman directors.

**Sunday, August 25, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Concert - Billy Kemp**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

Billy Kemp is a multi-instrumentalist best known for his tasteful and inventive guitar playing. He performs passionate homemade roots music. During the ‘80s, Kemp followed his heart and went to Nashville, where he played the Grand Ole Opry. While based in Music City, he toured internationally with Tommy Overstreet, Terri Gibbs and Bandana. From Lone Star country to urban shuffles and Appalachian waltzes, Kemp remains a songwriter with a love of story.

**Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

## Events For Kids

compiled by Nic Starr

**Sunday, August 25, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Kidical Mass Bike Ride and Storytime**  
**For the Whole Family, Lakewood Park Solstice Steps**

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

**Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**International Day of Peace - Origami Paper Crane Folding Tutorial**  
**For All Ages**  
**Main Library Multipurpose Room**

Celebrate the International Day of Peace by making origami cranes. Come learn how to contribute paper cranes to the display by learning and practicing how to fold your own origami paper cranes.

## Functional Medicine Mini-Series At LPL

by Melinda Frank

Healthy living is built upon ideas, best practices, and thoughtful intentions. Broaden your knowledge of healthy living with the Functional Medicine Mini-Series this September.

Join Lakewood Public Library and Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center staff for a series of educational lectures on health topics throughout the month. These lectures will take place as part of the Healthy Communities Initiative of the Cleveland Clinic.

Dietitian Lindsay Malone will kick things off on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss The Ketogenic Diet. This popular diet has many potential health benefits, but what is fact and what is fiction? Find out if this low carbohydrate diet is nutrition therapy or just the newest craze.

According to Functional Medicine Director Dr. Mark Hyman, healthy living is largely impacted by your community. Hear from Dr. Hyman on the ways that community can impact your own health. Dr. Hyman will speak at Lakewood High School cafeteria on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Shared medical appointments can serve as a way to facilitate patient discussions, and Cleveland Clinic has been putting this type of group appointment into practice for twenty years. Join Physician Assistant Logan Kwasnicka and Health Coach Kevin Heine to discuss Shared Medical Appointments and the Power of Social Connection on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

In our hectic world, finding a moment for relaxation and mindfulness can be difficult. Learn techniques to combat the chaos with Health Coach Kevin Heine on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a lecture on Functional Movement, Stress Reduction and Mindfulness, and be prepared to learn how to relax the body and clear the mind.

With the exception of Dr. Hyman’s talk, all presentations will take place in the Main Library Auditorium. Registration is preferred for these events, but not required. Register at [cleveland-clinic.org/comelearnwithus](http://cleveland-clinic.org/comelearnwithus).

**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, August 27, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Documentary - “Free Riding Iran” (2018), Directed by Alec Wohlgroth**  
**Presented by Beat Cycles**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

While traveling in Iran, Enduro professionals Anita and Caro Gehrig encountered open-minded people with a passion for mountain biking. Freeride reaches another dimension in the land of mullahs. Although you might not be able to understand each other’s words, on a bike you always speak the same language. “Free Riding Iran” is a movie about courage, passion and mutual inspiration on two wheels. The owners of Beat Cycles will join us to discuss the film.

**Friday, August 30, 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, which 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 Rey Citron Latin Jazz.

**Saturday, August 31, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Film - “A Dry White Season”(1989), Directed by Euzhan Palcy**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

In the 1980s, in South Africa during apartheid, white school teacher Ben du Toit (Donald Sutherland) is faced with a serious ethical dilemma. The government declares a state of emergency, and arrests and tortures tens of thousands of black residents. After learning that his gardener’s son has been brutally beaten by the police, Ben must decide how he can help the people he cares about. This film concludes our series highlighting women directors.

**Sunday, September 1, 2019 & Monday, September 2, 2019**  
**Library Closed**  
**Library closed in observance of Labor Day.**

**Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center**  
**Functional Medicine Series**  
**The Ketogenic Diet, Presentation by Lindsay Malone, MS, RD, CSO, LD**  
**Main Library Auditorium**

The Ketogenic diet is a low carbohydrate diet that induces the metabolic fat-burning state of ketosis and has been studied as nutrition therapy for a variety of conditions including diabetes, obesity and cancer. Typically used as a therapeutic diet, this way of eating has become the newest craze. Join Functional Medicine dietitian Lindsay Malone as she teases out truths and misconceptions about this popular diet and potential health benefits.

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# Lakewood Public Library

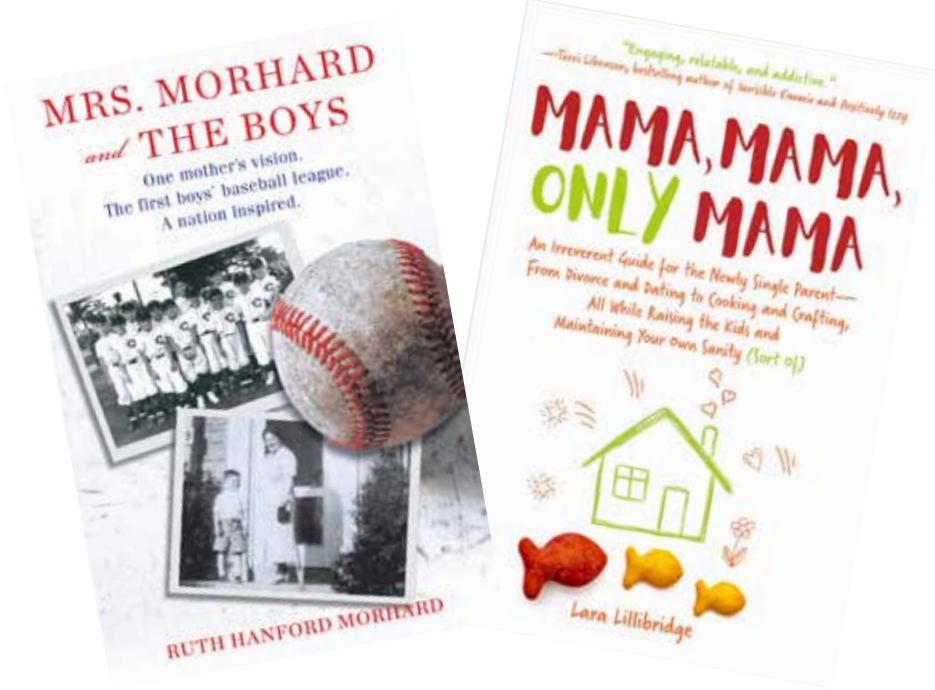
## Two Cleveland Authors On Motherhood

by Amy Kloss

How far will a mother go for her children? Two local authors have written books examining that very question, one a memoir and the other a biography of her mother-in-law.

Join Lara Lillibridge, author of “Mama, Mama, Only Mama,” and Ruth Hanford Morhard, author of “Mrs. Morhard and the Boys,” on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium to hear about their writing process and the books that resulted.

This is the second book for each of these authors. In 2018, Lillibridge



came out with “Girlish: Growing Up in a Lesbian Home,” which laid bare the sadness and dysfunction of her unconventional upbringing. She wanted “Mama, Mama, Only Mama” to be a lighter, funnier book based on the blog she had been writing for several years. That blog had provided her the discipline of a consistent writing habit and

also sharpened her ability to tell a story concisely and with humor. Written as a diary with blogs, articles and recipes, “Mama, Mama, Only Mama” tells the story of Lillibridge, along with her two children, going through divorce, six years of single parenting and into a new relationship. As a writer of creative nonfiction, Lillibridge has published numerous essays in print and online and is the recipient of several literary prizes. She lives in Cleveland.

Morhard’s book grew out of a life-long love of baseball and her fascination with the life story of her mother-in-law, Josephine Morhard, who built the first



boys’ baseball league in America. Josephine, born in Pennsylvania in 1891, lived a hard life. After two divorces, she was left alone with a daughter and son and a butcher shop to run during the Depression. She worried especially about her fatherless son and looked for a wholesome activity that would instill discipline and self-worth in him. She chose baseball. Cleaning out the house after Josephine’s death, Morhard discovered a film produced by the Cleveland Indians about the boys’ baseball leagues which Josephine organized and ran from 1937 to 1944. Morhard kept the idea of a book in the back of her mind while she worked as a senior executive with philanthropic and arts institutions and completed other writing projects. “Mrs. Morhard and the Boys” was published in 2019. She lives in Chardon with her husband, Al, son of Mrs. Morhard of the book title, who eventually became president of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association.

## Fall Art Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Fall is nearly upon us, which means it’s time to take a break from raking those leaves and come on down to the Lakewood Public Library for some creative inspiration with our fall art programs.

Illustration Creation: A picture book art program for students in kindergarten through first grade. This six week program will feature a different children’s book illustrator each class and culminates with an art show on October 24, 2019. Thursdays, September 12, 2019 through October 17, 2019 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Main Library first floor Activity Room.

Strokes of Genius: A six-week program for students in second through fourth grade. Art activities and stories open up the world of art and culminates with an art show on November 5, 2019. Space is limited. Registration is required. Tuesdays, September 24, 2019 to October 29, 2019 from 4 to 5:30

p.m. in the Main Library first floor Multipurpose and Activity Rooms.

Art Explosion: For students in fifth through eighth grade. Learn about different artists in this six-week program, then experiment with and create your own style to display at the culminating art show on November 18, 2019. Mondays, October 7, 2019 to November 18, 2019 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Main Library first floor Multipurpose Room.

Art Connection: for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Create your own unique piece of art to take home and show to family and friends at these one day programs. Art Connection will be held on Friday, October 11, 2019 and Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Main Library first floor Activity Room.

Space is limited and registration is required. Call Children’s and Youth Services at (216) 226-8275x140 or go online to [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org) to register.

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# Lakewood Cares

## LakewoodAlive Partners With Cleveland Police And Fire Departments To Assist Local Hero

by Matt Bixenstine

Lakewood resident and retired Cleveland Police Officer Kenneth Gibbons sat comfortably in his armchair with a smile across his face as he took in the sounds surrounding his home. Outside, a crew of volunteers hoisted ladders and sanded off chipped paint in preparation for the weekend-long job to come.

LakewoodAlive joined forces last weekend with members of the Cleveland Police and Fire Departments to complete an exterior painting project for Mr. Gibbons – a U.S. Army veteran – and his wife. Throughout the three-day stretch, more than 20 volunteers contributed their time to helping this fellow first responder achieve a fresh paint job on his historic 1910 home.

“It’s overwhelming to see this,” said Mr. Gibbons, 80, who suffers from mobility limitations. “There are a lot of good-hearted people here today, and it’s a real blessing to have them.”

Added Captain Keith Sulzer of the



Members of the Cleveland Police and Fire Departments prep the house for painting. Lakewood resident Kenneth Gibbons is a retired Cleveland Police Officer and U.S. Army veteran.

Cleveland Police Department: “The fact that the community is coming together to help this hero is just incred-

ible. Kenny is a remarkable story and he’s very appreciative of the help he’s receiving.”

Mr. Gibbons served in the U.S. Army during the early 1960s before joining the Cleveland Police in 1965. Three years into his law enforcement career, he was shot nine times while in the line of duty and nearly had to have his arm amputated. Two of the bullets remain lodged in his body to this day.

“This guy is an absolute hero,” said Detective Chris Gibbons (no relation) of the Cleveland Police Department. “This is a chance for us to help out and show our love for a fellow first responder. He’s a proud guy who wants to stay in his house.”

Chris Gibbons credits Rory McNamara of the Cleveland Fire Department for coordinating with his cousin, LakewoodAlive’s Community Engager Mark McNamara, to help ensure this volunteer project took place.

“This project is Rory and Mark’s baby,” said Chris Gibbons. “There’s a friendly little rivalry between police and fire, but this is a great story about our departments coming together for a common cause.”

Despite enduring sweltering temperatures each day that neared 90 degrees, the volunteers enjoyed building camaraderie while aiding a local

hero. They passed the time by listening to music and telling jokes. When hunger set in, they put down their paint brushes and fired up the grill.

LakewoodAlive has been assisting Mr. Gibbons and his wife with housing needs for nearly a year. Last August, Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing & Internal Operations Director, arranged for members of LakewoodAlive’s board of directors to complete an extensive yard cleanup project to clear the property of tall grasses, vines and overgrown weeds.

More recently, the Cleveland Police and Fire Departments brought a crew to the house to clean out Mr. Gibbon’s basement. And Ride With Valor – a nonprofit organization devoted to assisting military veterans with finding housing solutions – hopes to raise sufficient funds to be able to install a stair lift in the near future.

“I’m a veteran and so is Mr. Gibbons,” said Scot Rhoda, Director of Ride With Valor. “He also served as a Cleveland Police Officer and was injured in the line of duty. It’s one of those things where sometimes people get forgotten about, and that’s not right. We’re not going to let that happen with Mr. Gibbons.”

LakewoodAlive thanks the following companies, organizations and people for helping to make this volunteer project possible: Cleveland Fire Department, Cleveland Police Department, AAA Gas & Welding Supply Co., Dependable Painting Company, The Doughnut Pantry, Dunkin’, Onix, Ride With Valor, Sherwin-Williams, neighbors of Arthur Avenue, Jason Case, Kevin Ferry, Chris Gibbons, Rory McNamara, Scot Rhoda, Barb Shipley and John Whelan.

*LakewoodAlive administers a Housing Outreach Program designed to offer a one-stop place for residents, both owner occupants and renters, to gain access to services so they are able to live in healthy and safe housing. Through these programs we foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods, one home at a time. For more information, please contact Allison Urbanek at 216-521-0655 or [aurbanek@lakewoodalive.org](mailto:aurbanek@lakewoodalive.org).*

## LCC Shares Mozambique Cyclone Relief Stories On Sept. 15

by Robin Suttell

The physical devastation caused by a powerful cyclone and subsequent flooding is enough for the citizens of any country to deal with once in a lifetime, let alone twice within six weeks.

In Mozambique, that’s exactly what happened. Different regions of the African country were hit with Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, torrential rainfalls and flooding in mid-March and late April, an unprecedented occurrence.

As reports from the United Nations noted, because Mozambique is downstream of nine major river basins, it’s prone to devastating floods. The pair of cyclones tipped the proverbial scale, with April’s Cyclone Kenneth ranking as the worst storm on record in the already-devastated country.

Together, these deadly storms destroyed homes, schools, crops, health facilities and even crucial water tanks, among other infrastructure damage. Residents have struggled with food and water shortages and public health issues, such as

cholera and malaria, not to mention the loss of loved ones and their homes in the aftermath of these massive storms.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates more than 2.2 million people now require humanitarian aid at a cost of at least \$386 million.

As Mozambique struggles to rebuild four month later, various relief groups have assisted the government and its citizens with these efforts. This includes the United Church of Christ (UCC), of which Lakewood Congregational Church (LCC) is a member congregation.

LCC is pleased to welcome Rev. Marco Cable, Global Ministries Africa Executive, and Rev. Jane Sullivan-Davis, Executive for Resource Development with the United Church of Christ Global Ministries, during worship on Sunday, September 15, at 10 a.m. in the church sanctuary, 1375 W. Clifton Blvd in Lakewood.

Cable has just returned from  
**continued on page 7**

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# Lakewood Politics 2019

## Jeff Wise Receives National Endorsement Councilperson, Ward 3

by Jeanne Mackay

The nationwide grassroots organization Democracy for America has selected Jeff Wise as one of eight endorsements in 2019 city council races. Wise is running to represent Lakewood Ward 3 on City Council.

Democracy for America CEO Yvette Simpson, herself a former member of Cincinnati City Council, said that Wise and other endorsed candidates will genuinely improve their communities.

"The city council candidates we're endorsing today will not only make sure the potholes are filled and budgets are balanced, they also want to take meaningful municipal action on criminal justice reform, climate change, and income inequality," said Simpson.

Founded in 2004, Democracy for America organizes for progressive issues and candidates throughout the country, following a 50-state strategy.

Wise said that the recognition by Democracy for America complements his campaign's focus on Ward 3 residents.



Jeff Wise, Candidate

"I am running for city council to provide a real, ongoing dialogue with residents, and to take a stand for them when decisions are made," said Wise. "Democracy for America consistently emphasizes that public service calls for both good policies, and the courage to speak up for them."

Jeanne Mackay, Ward 3 Resident

## LCC Shares Mozambique Cyclone Relief Stories On Sept. 15

continued from page 6

Mozambique. He, along with Sullivan-Davis, will share insight into the relief efforts by the United Church of Christ of Mozambique and other organizations following the cyclones. Both pastors will offer a more in-depth presentation at 11:15 a.m. in the LCC Fellowship Hall on the church's lower level.

All are welcome to attend the 10 a.m. worship service and/or the 11:30 a.m. discussion to learn about

the United Church of Christ's work in Mozambique and how the country is recovering from the two recent cyclones.

For more information, call the church office at 216.221.9555.

*Robin Suttell is a 24-year Lakewood resident and 12-year member of Lakewood Congregational Church. In 2017, she left her PR job in downtown Cleveland to work in Lakewood as a content marketer at Onix on Detroit Avenue.*

## Councilman Rader Endorses Rodriguez-Carbone For Lakewood City Council

by Tristan Rader

I'm excited to announce my support for Laura Rodriguez-Carbone for Lakewood City Council Ward 1. Ward 1 deserves a leader who is willing to put in the hours to make sure your voices are heard and represented. Laura is that leader.

Her story is truly inspiring. She spent parts of her youth homeless. During high school, she worked two jobs to help put a roof over her family's heads. She persisted through all this to earn a Master's Degree, and then went straight to work fighting for the civil rights of children in public schools.

What makes Laura so inspiring is that not only did she overcome difficult odds, she never stopped fighting for others.

Laura is motivated at her core by a belief that everyone has a place in our community and in this world, that no one should be left behind

because of where they were born, how much they have, who they love, the color of their skin or what language they speak.

It is also not a trivial matter that when elected, Laura will be the first person of color to hold any elected office in the City of Lakewood. For a city that is becoming more diverse, it will make a positive difference that more families who call Lakewood their home—including many from Spanish speaking countries—will see someone in leadership who understands their situation and who have lived their struggles.

I encourage you to get to know Laura and on September 10 vote Laura Rodriguez-Carbone for City Council.

Councilperson Tristan Rader  
Lakewood City Council

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## Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 92

by Buzz Kompier

**Junkhouse Bones - Safari - self-released - 6 songs - digital**

This band or project or whatever it is is one of those things that I know I've reviewed before but cannot remember anything about it. The name Junkhouse Bones made me think it was gonna be bluesy or swampy or something like that. It's not. I'd say it's alternative rock/pop punk (pop punk to me always means bands like the Undertones, but I mean the other definition of pop punk). The first three tracks are in a full band kind of mode and the remaining three are more subdued, with more sparse arrangements.

I think I like this second half better. "God's Eye View" goes on a bit too long, but it's at times reminiscent of Nirvana with a drum machine. The closing "A Million Years Of Lies," which is just acoustic guitar and vocals, is probably my favorite of the bunch. This is what I assume Brand New sounds like, though I'm not familiar enough with Brand New to make a definitive statement in that regard. It's actually decent stuff, song-wise. My problem with it is the same as my problem with almost everything in this genre (the alternative rock/pop punk/emo continuum), and it's the production. The vocals are mixed too loud (at the same time, the vocals feel kinda quiet, so I guess it bal-

ances out), I just don't agree with the guitar and drum sounds (or they don't agree with me, rather). I don't know. I have a friend who absolutely loves music like this (and has no problems with the production and thinks I'm nuts), so I'm happy to have this to recommend to her. Decent stuff, but it doesn't quite grab me. 3/5

([junkhousebones.bandcamp.com](http://junkhousebones.bandcamp.com))

**Stinky Monkey Finger - The Deep Dive EP - DF Records - 10 songs - digital**

SMF makes their return to this column once again. I actually saw the phrase "stinky monkey finger" in something the other day and I went, 'oh, I

wonder if that's where they got that from' and now I've completely forgotten where it was I read it. Oh well. As I say every time I review Dennis Baker's work (I'm not sure if this is a group he's in or a solo project and I guess I'd prefer to keep it a mystery), it's pretty out there stuff. It's all incredibly lo-fi ("negative fi," says their Bandcamp tags) and strange. There are some tracks that are instrumentals, some of which seem to be instrumentals over TV show audio ("Ten Shirts" and "Billy Dope and Bunny") where it's unclear whether these are intentionally sampled or the TV was just left on in the background while the song was recorded. Others, like the opening "Tonight" (which may be the most rockin' track I've heard yet from this camp— it's a good one, too) have vocals, which doesn't stop them from being mildly unsettling ("Love Fog" gives us synth and murmuring over a drum machine beat that does not even slightly match the beat of the song, "Sunshine" is sung a cappella over a different drum machine beat). The comparison I always throw out just to make this make some sense to the reader is Guided By Voices and their lo-fi half-song snippets they have all over the place, except this is like only those songs and it's just more weird in general (SMF have "The Clown King," the closing instrumental here and maybe the best instrumental on the record; GBV have their whole "clown prince of the menthol trailer" or whatever it is thing). I think I like these things more each time they come my way, or maybe this is just the best one yet. And this is the first in a series of five EPs released over the past several months (I'm a little behind with things in this column, my apologies), so you'll probably be seeing more from Stinky Monkey Finger in this space soon. 3.5/5

([dennisbaker.bandcamp.com](http://dennisbaker.bandcamp.com))

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



by Eva Starr

### SEPTEMBER

**Aries:** Patience isn't the Ram's strong point, however, this month you've been awarded the Badge of Patience! That's right, keep practicing & you'll even be able to wait in line at Marc's.

**Taurus:** You're being asked to come out of the Bull Pen, try something new, talk to a stranger, go wild & crazy, (yes, you) & when it's all said & done, you will have met a new friend.

**Gemini:** The Twins are quite the social chatterbox, sometimes maybe a wee bit rough on those around you, Try a Little Tenderness, it worked for Three Dog Night, put away Mr. Hyde...

**Cancer:** Turn the dial on the radio

Crab, you've just dialed into a higher frequency, and your potential is skyrocketing, use it, or lose it, it's time to think big, & go for the pie in the sky.

**Leo:** All that good Juju carried over from last month, the Lion/Lioness is moving toward greater consciousness, old habits & negative thought patterns are slipping away, the Jungle is calling.

**Virgo:** The Sun/Mars are visiting & Mercury/Venus stay around till mid-month, it's time for you to get back to Nature, get out of the house, go hug a tree, smell the flowers, go to the Metroparks.

**Libra:** Venus & Mercury show up Mid-month, the voice of love & communication is beckoning to you, it starts out as a whisper, then bellows

through a Megaphone, be inspired O Romeo...

**Scorpio:** Options abound for the Scorpion, I suggest coming out of that cave of yours to take advantage of life's buffet, choices abound in the city of Lakewood, add some to your diary.

**Sagittarius:** Now that Jupiter's gone direct, it's time for the Centaur to lighten its load, carrying around all those grudges can become pretty tiresome, & besides they don't look good on you.

**Capricorn:** The Goat spends a lot of time climbing that mountain, on your way plant some seeds of forgiveness & empathy, weed out resentment, Saturn is turning direct Mid-month, celebrate.

**Aquarian:** Rumi: What I'm looking for is also looking for me, let that be your Mantra this month, the energy is flowing, it's time to pair that Cabernet with a Camembert cheese & picnic.

**Pisces:** It's said Angelfish & Seahorses mate for life, in that big lake of yours, your other half is calling to you, spend some time down by the seashore, OK, pretend it's an ocean, & moongaze.

*Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at [evastarr.com](http://evastarr.com)*

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# Lakewood Has It All, From The Eastside Of Town, To The West End Tavern

by Eva Starr

About thirty years ago, when I was in my prime, I used to hang out at the taverns in Lakewood, didn't everybody? Then life happened, I went through a divorce, moved to Avon Lake, then San Diego. Fast forward,



life happened again, my mom passed and now I'm not only back in Ohio, but back in Lakewood.

I couldn't be happier with the improvements I've seen in Lakewood since I've been back in town. One being some of my old haunts are still the same, but new and improved. The West End Tavern was a place to go back in the day for weekend Brunch, Bloody Mary Bar and Sunday's Mega Mimosa's.

Let's not forget lunch folks, I walked into the West End the other day for lunch, after almost thirty years, and I still felt I was home. Parnell, the owner, recognized me after all this time, how is that possible? OK, let's chit chat after I get some food in me. The specials were listed outside, on a sandwich board. A plethora of choices, but I had a hankering for fish! No problem, I was told.

I ordered Walleye, with asparagus, and some of their famous Grandma's coleslaw, (not sure whose Grandma). Alrighty now, we can commence with the small talk. The energy in the place felt good, the chi must be flowing in the right direction today. The lighting was just right, the array of pictures around the tavern gave you a comfortable nostalgic feeling, bringing back memories



Blackened Walleye

from days gone by. The picture that stood out was a framed photo of John Lennon, it's nice to know he's not forgotten.

Food's here, now's the test, us former Chefs are the most critical. The presentation of the Walleye looked inviting, especially with enough lemon, (I'm a lemon freak). Why is it, when you go to a nice restaurant and order fresh fish, you get one piece of lemon? I always end up asking the server for more, but NOT here. So far, so good. Yum, the Walleye, which I asked for blackened, melted in my mouth like

butter, served with a side of their Tequila Lime Aioli. The asparagus was crisp, I absolutely loved the aioli, and I was too full for the coleslaw, but tasted it, a little on the sweet side, which I like.

What impressed me most, is the feeling of being welcomed, not rushed, or ignored and treated like a guest in your home. I'm a happy camper, and definitely will be back to try the weekend brunch specials and the Mimosas.

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# Lakewood Fiction

## The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 13: "The Ballad Of Derecho Dan" Continues

*fiction by Scott MacGregor*

Maynard Gridley was as gray as a ghost while recounting his harrowing tale from his days in Vietnam.

"Me and the wounded sapper were flushed down that 'Poontang Valley' with only two inflated hemorrhoid cushions between us and the Almighty. We floated a half mile until becoming snagged by the roots of a banyan tree."

"Monsoon Charlie was directly over us and it became dark as night. I did what I could for my wounded comrade. All I had to cover up the hole in his chest was an empty pack of Lucky Strikes."

"L-S-M-F-T, bro', he said, before passing out."

"The Lieutenant ordered the men to hunker down and hold onto their hemorrhoid cushions like they were their mothers and girlfriends. The blast hole was packed with every last bit of explosives on the firebase. We expected a pretty big bang but not at all what happened after the Lieutenant triggered the detonator."

Maynard began to choke up as he recalled the moment of the explosion. "It was the hugest sound you ever heard! So loud, I didn't even hear it at first. I saw a bright light and a huge mushroom cloud and then came a monster roar. All the water in the river was sucked into the sky until there was no freakin' river at all!"

"Then," Maynard continued, "the miracle happened. The explosion cleaved the monsoon in two like Charleton Heston and the goddam Red Sea! It slammed millions of gallons of water against the surrounding hillsides where VC and NVA were camped out. So much water blasted through their tunnels and spider holes they either drowned immediately or were shot out of their tunnels like water rockets. The water came rolling down the hillsides and reformed a new river. I watched in horror as scads of drowned or terrified enemy soldiers flooded past me. Then, the water grabbed me and my wounded comrade and away we went."

The massive flood overwhelmed the firebase. 'Grab hold of your girlfriends, boys!' screamed the Lieutenant, 'We're going for a ride!' Each



man grabbed tight onto the long ribbon of inflatable hemorrhoid cushions and were carried downstream until we all met again at the bottom of the valley where a delta of dead enemy had formed. The Lieutenant personally pulled me and my wounded comrade from the water. 'Young man,' he said, 'I will personally pin a Silver Star onto your chest.'

Little Dan and the three Joes sat in stunned silence, their mouths agape. "You...you're a flippin' war hero, Maynard!" said Little Dan swelling with pride. "My cousin is a war hero!" he yowled at the three Joes. One of the three Italian bricklayers asked, "What-a happen to your wounded comrade?" Big Maynard took in a deep breath, burst into tears, and buried his face in his hands. The innocent question had yanked out the last 'Jenga' holding poor Maynard upright. Little Dan and the three Joes jumped to big Maynard's side, hugging him and patting him on the back. "Never mind, we know d'answer," said the Joe.

Early evening light was draping Rockport as the three Joes left for the day. Their barrier wall was all but finished and already strong enough to protect the Gas & Lube from anything coming down storm alley...or, so they believed. Maynard quietly mounted his motorcycle for the 15 mile ride home to Parma. When he tried to put his helmet on, he barked out in pain. "Whatsa matter?" asked Little Dan. "I never see you wearing that helmet." Maynard threw the helmet across the garage into the Tire Corral. He shook his head and said, "Some wounds just never heal!"

Maynard pulled back his long hair that hid the deep scar across his scalp where the Viet Cong sniper's bullet had grazed him. Little Dan felt humbled. "You da man, cousin," he said, "Rest up and we'll see you tomorrow." Maynard gave his Harley a kick and its knucklehead engine roared to life. That's when Little Dan caught sight of a real Silver Star medal pinned to the bike's leather saddle bag. "Later!" yelled Maynard. Little Dan watched with pride as Maynard rode up 150th Street.

His home destroyed, Little Dan had been sleeping nights at the Gas & Lube until new arrangements could be

determined. At 9pm he hopped onto the cot he'd set up in the Tire Corral. Little BD made a bed out of Maynard's discarded helmet. They drifted off into a deep sleep, blissfully unaware of what had happened to Maynard during his ride home. It was an old story. A drunken driver's contempt for life and motorcycles put a sudden end to Maynard's troubled saga. The police told his mother that he could've survived, if only he'd been wearing a helmet.

## Academic Awards: Lakewood Students Receive Tri-C Honors Program Fellowships

*by John Horton*

Sarah Sacha and Tyler Williams of Lakewood have been selected for Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Honors Program Fellowships, which offer high-achieving students scholarships to cover tuition, fees and books as they work toward an associate degree.

Sacha and Williams signed commitment letters with the College during an Aug. 7 ceremony at Tri-C's Jerry Sue Thornton Center in Cleveland. The scholarship — funded by donors to the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation — is valued at up to \$5,160 per academic year.

The College's sixth fellowship class features 40 students who graduated high school with at least a 3.5 GPA

The clock struck 3am and Little Dan's snoring masked the sound of thunder that signaled the beginning of Storm 5.5. 'The Ballad of Monsoon Charlie' was over. 'The Ballad of Derecho Dan' was about to begin.

\*We tore that storm from limb to limb  
And sailed away like brothers  
As the liquid light of day grew dim  
Our thoughts turned toward the others  
The ones that died in goddam 'Nam  
In jungles dark and gnarley  
In the valley where we lit our bomb  
And said goodbye to Monsoon Charlie.

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

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Sarah Sacha



Tyler Williams

and outstanding ACT/SAT scores. By entering the scholarship program, they commit to being full-time students, maintaining a high GPA and earning a degree from Tri-C within two years.

For information on the Honors Program Fellowship and eligibility requirements, contact Mausser at 216-987-4660 or [herbert.mausser@tri-c.edu](mailto:herbert.mausser@tri-c.edu).

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LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: Weatherization Basics” Workshop On September 14

by Veronica Janosek

Winter is coming! Which means we have to take certain measures to ensure our homes are prepared to endure winter’s wrath.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Weatherization Basics on Saturday, September 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Cleveland Lumber Company (9410 Madison Avenue in Cleveland). The 11th workshop of 2019 for this popular home maintenance educational series seeks to help you get your home in shape for the fall and winter months, saving you money and discomfort.

Led by our friends at Cleveland Lumber, this workshop will cover a range of middle-to-high impact improvements and “hacks” you can do yourself in order to keep cold air out and warm air inside your home. These include caulking and air sealing techniques, installation of weatherstripping, best practices with storm windows and other easy ways to make your home more energy efficient.

This workshop will focus on essential tasks in order to get your home ready for hibernation. The discussion will include the benefits associated with an energy audit and how it can make large projects like insulation or furnace replacements easier and more cost beneficial. Help ensure your home is safe from the harsh winter and help prevent any interior damage.

To reserve your free spot for “Knowing Your Home: Weatherization Basics,” 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. Visit [LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome](http://LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome) to learn more. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

In lieu of charging for these



LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home: Weatherization Basics” Workshop takes place September 14th.

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.

LakewoodAlive, DLBA To Host Search Engine Optimization Workshop For Small Businesses On September 12

by Veronica Janosek

Looking to improve traffic on your small business’ website and generate more sales? You’ve come to the right place. Effective Search Engine Optimization will help ensure your website appears prominently on the first page of search engine results.

The Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA), a program of

LakewoodAlive, is pleased to announce it will host a Search Engine Optimization for Small Businesses Workshop on Thursday, September 12, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Lakewood Public Library’s Multipurpose Room in Downtown Lakewood. This educational workshop will be led by Blue Ridge Media Company, a digital marketing agency based in Lakewood.

Open to any Lakewood small business, this workshop aims to help businesses maximize the visibility and exposure their brands receive through website traffic. The cost to attend is \$5 for DLBA members and \$10 for non-DLBA members.

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is the process of improving the position that your website appears during an “organic” search using search engines such as Google or Bing. Websites that appear higher in search results tend to get more traffic to their pages, which potentially means more business.

While paid advertising and social media can generate traffic to websites, the majority of online traffic is driven by search engines. A small business can improve its SEO through utilizing the right keywords, and by optimizing locally to focus on customers in your specific area.

“We are excited to be partnering with an experienced local marketing agency like Blue Ridge

Media Company to bring this important workshop to our merchants,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “Having an effective SEO strategy is becoming increasingly important to ensure small businesses can increase their website traffic and ultimately convert more contacts into customers.”

The Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance is a merchant association striving to ensure Downtown Lakewood remains one of the region’s top destinations for dining, shopping and entertainment. For more information regarding the Search Engine Optimization for Small Businesses-Workshop, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/SEOWorkshop](http://LakewoodAlive.org/SEOWorkshop) or contact the LakewoodAlive office at 216-521-0655.

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