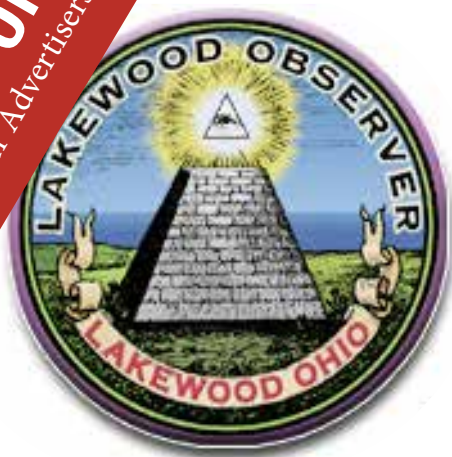


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"No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot." Mark Twain

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Volume 15, Issue 20, October 16, 2019

Fire Chief Timothy Dunphy Sworn In With 3 Promotions, 4 New Hires, 2 Retirements

by Jim O'Bryan

One of Lakewood's great small town events is the Annual Firefighter Memorial And Recognition Ceremony where the community turns out to kick off Fire Prevention Week, award the new "Junior Firefighter" as judged by an essay-writing contest, take the time to thank all the retiring firefighters, and welcome and swear in all the new firefighters.

This year was special for many reasons, one of them being Chief Scott Gilman was retiring and his replacement, Fire Chief Tim Dunphy



Mayor Summers swears in Fire Chief Tim Dunphy.

would be getting sworn in. Fire Marshal Ryan Fairbanks was sworn in as were the rest of the

new firefighters.

See them all on page 14.



Fire Marshal Captain Ryan Fairbanks gets sworn in.

Mom And Son Dance Is Back For The Fourth Year!

by Kristy Gibbons

What started as a casual conversation among some moms at Horace Mann Elementary evolved into a fun night out for hundreds of Lakewood families. Now in its fourth year, the Lakewood Mom & Son Rockin' Monster Mash will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Lakewood High School gym and cafeteria.

"The Lakewood Father/Daughter dance was going strong and we wanted to offer a similar opportunity to moms and sons," said event co-chair Kristen Humphreys. "We've always had a rock & roll theme, and we recently added a Halloween element to amp up the fun."

The "Monster Mash" theme encourages attendees to dress up in Halloween costumes, wear t-shirts from rock bands and concerts, or even get dressed up in formal wear. The gathering encourages families of all kinds -- not just moms, and not just sons, either -- to

be who they are and wear what they want. This year's event includes a maze in the LHS gym and a calm craft area outside of the gym for anyone who needs a break from the noise.

continued on page 7

Phone Scam Targets Lakewood Voters

by Sasha Vuillaume

A Texas-based company has begun calling Lakewood residents, to present false information in the format of a survey. Paid callers from Dynata Global present a series of false statements about mayoral candidate Meghan George, then ask voters how they react.

The American Association for Public Opinion Research has stated that calls like this are not surveys at all, but rather unethical telemarketing designed to push respondents for or against a candidate. That says that such "push polls" are "an insidious form of negative campaigning disguised as a political poll."

Multiple residents have reported identical calls attacking George, beginning Tuesday, October 8. Two have provided recordings of a call, confirming other reports.

In a statement, Meghan George said that "These intrusive, inaccurate calls are the complete opposite of what I stand for, and Lakewood deserves better."

continued on page 2

Callahan Seeks Seat On Board Of Education



The Callahan family; Michael, Kristyn, Liam, Kenna and Mary Frances

by Michael Callahan

My name is Michael J. Callahan and I am a candidate for the Lakewood Board of Education. I'm running as an advocate for our schools and our community. The Lakewood City Schools are in a good place with dedicated teachers, great administrative leadership, and new or newly renovated buildings. We have a unique opportunity to make these investments continue to pay dividends in the community.

Our Board of Education can be more effective with added representation of young families and the fresh perspectives that come with it. As a parent of children in elementary school, I have routine interactions with parents, teachers, and staff and am positioned to represent the community.

My wife Kristyn and I are both lifelong Lakewood residents, and we have been

proud to send our children to the Lakewood City Schools. Our oldest is a fourth grader at Grant Elementary School, our middle child is a second grader at Emerson Elementary School, and our youngest (age 3) will soon attend Lakewood schools.

I currently serve as a block club captain, a parish council member at St. Luke Church, and as a volunteer coach (among other roles). While serving in the past on the City's Active Living Task Force I became more aware of how many programs, groups, and organizations rely on our school infrastructure to operate.

Over the past several months I have met with hundreds of residents and heard much feedback about the district. Through my discussions with teachers, administrators, and current board members, the challenges that remain

continued on page 7



The 12th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade takes place from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 19 at Kauffman Park in Downtown Lakewood. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/SpookyPooch to learn more.

Healthy Lakewood

Healthy Lakewood Foundation

Updates Community On Their First Year

by Kate Ingersoll

Over 50 Lakewood residents attended the Healthy Lakewood Foundation's first community meeting on Tuesday, September 24th at the Women's Pavilion at Lakewood Park.

The HealthyLakewood Foundation (HLF) was established in September 2018 as part of the master agreement following the closing of Lakewood Hospital. HLF was formed from the Foundation Planning Task Force and through their recommendation to the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association.

The 17 member Board, who represent a diverse array of personal and professional experience, spent the past year creating and formalizing the organizational policies and processes. This work will aid the board in the responsible, sustainable stewardship of \$32.4 million in assets that will eventually be available to support health and wellness initiatives in Lakewood.

The community meeting provided

an opportunity for Lakewood citizens to hear about HLF's first year. Board members shared short summaries of specific work, including a financial update, community engagement plans, governance initiatives, and an overview of the strategic planning process.

Attendees also learned about the Board's ongoing efforts to develop a common understanding of social determinants of health and Lakewood-specific health initiatives.

Throughout the evening, attendees were invited to participate in several interactive elements of the meeting, including facilitated table discussions. These conversations were an opportunity to share stories and insights about the things that support - as well as challenge - health and wellness for individuals and the Lakewood community. Insights from these discussions will help inform ongoing efforts by the HLF board to achieve our vision of a healthy Lakewood.

HLF will provide updates to the

community as it formalizes its grant-making strategy over the next six months.

The HLF Board would like to thank the community and attendees for their support.

To contact the Healthy Lakewood Foundation with questions, please email HealthyLakewoodFoundation@gmail.com.

Kate Ingersoll is the Secretary of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation.



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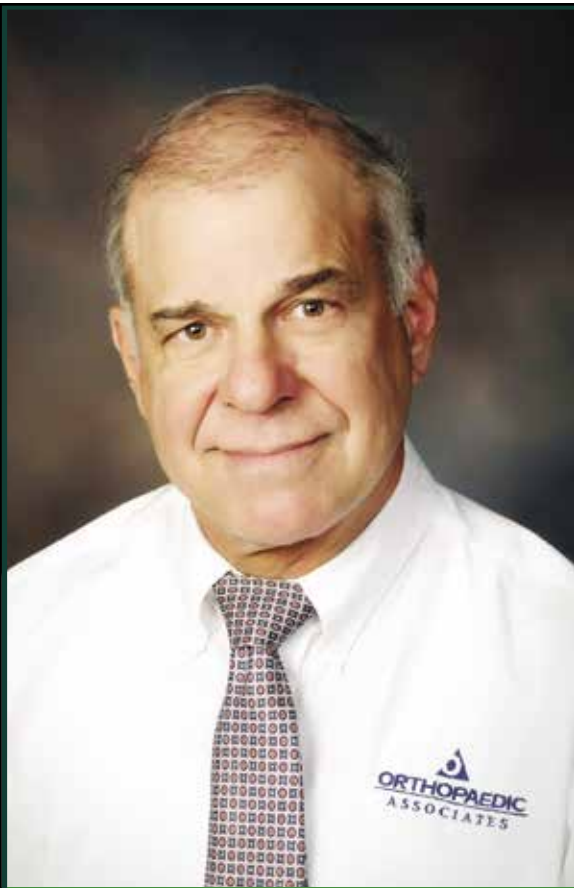
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Conservative Management for Arthritic Hips and Knees

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Michael Hritz, MD
Orthopaedic Associates

Complimentary lunch provided
Assisted Living
4th Floor Education Room

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert at 216-912-0800 by October 21, 2019

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Author Event - “Pit Bull Heroes: 45 Underdogs with Resilience and Heart” Book by Greg Murray
Main Library Auditorium
Meet Chad, the first pit bull in the pet therapy program at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Apollo, who sniffs out narcotics at his job in Washington State; Charlie, who rallied a community to fight breed-specific legislation laws in Lakewood; and forty-six other underdogs. They are all pit bulls and heroes in their own way. Greg Murray is an award-winning animal photographer and advocate. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Thursday, October 17, 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 “Beast in View” by Margaret Millar and “The Galton Case” by Ross Macdonald.

Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (100 minutes)
Film - “Libel” (1959), Directed by Anthony Asquith
Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill
Main Library Auditorium
Sir Mark Loddon (Dirk Bogarde) is a titled Englishman accused of being an impostor and a murderer. Despite presenting as a simple case of mistaken identity, complications grow as Sir Mark himself is unsure of his own identity. His wife, Lady Maggie (Olivia de Havilland), urges him to sue his accuser, Jeffrey Buckenham (Paul Massie), for libel. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Concert - Foliass Duo
Main Library Auditorium
The Michigan-based husband and wife team of Foliass Duo will present a program of all original classical music compositions for flute and guitar influenced by Argentine tango composer Astor Piazzolla and South American folk. Foliass Duo consists of flutist Carmen Maret and guitarist Andrew Bergeron. For the past fifteen years, they have established themselves as one of the world’s premier composer and performer ensembles for flute and guitar.

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
American Cultural Events in the 20th Century: Alfred Hitchcock and Woodstock, Presentation by Dr. Joel Keller
Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Avenue
The third week of our exploration of two very different cultural events of 20th Century American. Weeks one and two will be a retrospective of the twenty greatest films of Alfred Hitchcock. Weeks three and four will be a look back at Woodstock. These interactive classes are filled with rare video and audio recordings. Registration is required. Register by calling the Division of Aging Activities Office at (216)529-5005.

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Genealogy Workshop, Taught by Deborah Abbott, PhD
Main Library Learning Lab
Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unravel your history with professional results using the free Library Edition of ancestry.com and other resources. Space is limited at the workshops, but you are welcome to register with a partner and share a computer. Also, keep in mind that the Library Edition of the famous genealogy resource, ancestry.com, is free to use every day at the Library. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Lakewood Historical Society - Inside the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument, Presentation by Timothy Daley
Main Library Auditorium
Despite original public disapproval, the Cuyahoga County Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument endures into its second century with a dazzling facelift, making it downtown’s most impressive historical sight. Timothy Daley, the monument’s executive director, will review the construction and history of this structure, including a description of its exterior statuary, the meaning of its interior bas-relief panels and the symbolism of its windows and decor.

Events For Kids

compiled by Nic Starr

Saturday, October 19, 2019, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sew Your Own Library Tote, For anyone age 8 and up
Main Library Homework Room
Create your own unique and stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. Registration required.

Faturday, October 19, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.
Family Music and More – Comedy Escapes and Magic Fun with Ron Price, For the whole family
Main Library Multipurpose Room.
The astounding escape artist Ron Price blends both comedy and magic into this riveting show. You will be captivated by his ability to escape from just about anything. You might even be picked out of the audience to enjoy the fun of being a magician’s helper. Free and open to public.

Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Great Decisions in Libraries - The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested, Presentation by Javier Morales-Ortiz, PhD
Main Library Multipurpose Room
The US and Mexico have a long, intertwined history, with both countries featured in each other’s politics and agendas. What impact will new leadership in both countries have on this partnership? After a brief video, Javier Morales-Ortiz, professor at Baldwin Wallace University, will lead a discussion and help answer the complex questions surrounding the relations between the United States and Mexico. Readings will be available one week in advance.

Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (90 minutes)
Film - “A Quiet Place” (2018), Directed by John Krasinski
Main Library Auditorium
The world has been invaded by fearsome, murderous blind creatures who sense humans via sound. If they hear you, they hunt you. A family of four has managed to escape the creatures and survive for over a year on an isolated farm while navigating their life in silence. When the creatures locate their hideout, all it takes is one noise for everything to go wrong. John Krasinski and Emily Blunt star in this silent but deadly post-apocalyptic thriller.

Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Concert - Blu Monsoon
Main Library Auditorium
Blu Monsoon—the freshest, most original band in Ohio—is a group of award-winning musicians who came together to create a band dedicated to original music that has broad appeal without being cliché or predictable. They are known for their versatility and play equally well with full instrumentation or completely unplugged. They are changing the local music scene by offering original jazz-influenced music, jazz standards and cool pop covers.

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
American Cultural Events in the 20th Century: Alfred Hitchcock and Woodstock, Presentation by Dr. Joel Keller
Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Avenue
The fourth week of our exploration of two very different cultural events of 20th Century American. Weeks one and two will be a retrospective of the twenty greatest films of Alfred Hitchcock. Weeks three and four will be a look back at Woodstock. These interactive classes are filled with rare video and audio recordings. Registration is required. Register by calling the Division of Aging Activities Office at (216)529-5005.

Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (130 minutes)
Film Series—From Books to Films: “Fried Green Tomatoes” (1991)
Directed by Jon Avnet
Main Library Auditorium
Evelyn Couch (Kathy Bates) is has a troubled marriage, and no one takes her seriously. Then she meets Ninny Threadgoode (Jessica Tandy), who tells her the story of Idgie Threadgoode (Mary Stuart Masterson). Through Idgie’s inspiring life, Evelyn learns to be assertive and builds a friendship with Ninny. Based on the 1987 novel “Fried Green Tomatoes at the

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Lakewood Public Library

Folias Duo Performs Concert In Main Library Auditorium

by Elaine Rosenberger

Folias Duo, a flute and guitar ensemble, is comprised of husband-and-wife team flutist Carmen Maret and guitarist Andrew Bergeron. Maret and Bergeron met while both were graduate music students at Michigan State University; they married in 2003.

Maret and Bergeron are performers, composers, teachers, and tango dancers. As teachers, they offer private instruction in flute and guitar as well as classroom instruction in music theory. As composers, they have written over fifty pieces for guitar and flute, including their “Flute and Guitar Concerto Garita.” They have performed original tango arrangements at festivals throughout the world, including the Burning Tango Festival, Esquina Tango Austin, Quantum Tango, and Tango Berretín. Folias Duo also performed in San Francisco as part of the Vernon Salon series, where they presented a program of original classical music for flute and guitar influenced by the music of Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla and by South American folk music.

Their first album, "Tangos Metamorphoses," was released in in 2004, and their latest CD, "Delicate Omens," will be released this month. "Delicate Omens" features Bergeron's "Emer-



son," inspired by essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Maret's "Angel Forever" which she describes as "Pat Metheny and Astor Piazzolla walk into a bar."

Folias Duo's concert takes place on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Comedy Escapes And Magic Fun With Ron Price

by Marge Foley

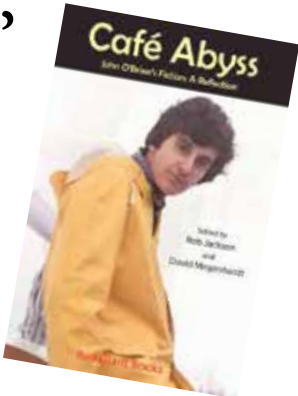
Come to Lakewood Public Library to experience a riveting show that blends comedy and magic. The astounding escape artist Ron Price will captivate the audience by his ability to escape from just about anything. Wrap him in chains, ropes, mail bags, or straitjackets--it doesn't matter--he can escape! Price spent years practicing magic and escape artistry to create an amazing show. You might even be picked out of the crowd to enjoy the fun of being a magician's helper. "Comedy Escapes and Magic Fun with Ron Price" will take place in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a free program that is full of amusement for the whole family.

Meet The Author- "Cafe Abyss: John O'Brien's Fiction, A Reflection"

by Lisa Calfee

Long before he wrote the novel "Leaving Las Vegas," John O'Brien called Lakewood home. The 1978 Lakewood High School graduate had a tragically short life and literary career, but the impact he made on the people who knew him and the readers moved by his work has more than endured the twenty-five years since his untimely death in Beverly Hills.

It is from this legacy that "Café Abyss: John O'Brien's Fiction, A Reflection" was born. The editors and contributors of the book are visiting Lakewood Public Library on the day of its release, Thursday November 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. for a discussion about the novelist's life and work. This special



Meet The Author event will be held in the Main Lower Level Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue.

Editors of "Café Abyss," Dave Megenhardt and Rob Jackson, as well as O'Brien's sister, Erin O'Brien, will join the discussion, along with additional essay contributors Sara Dobie Bauer, Patrick Snee, Matt Marshall and Tanya Pilumeli, who will speak about discovering O'Brien's work and share their analyses of it.

In addition to his first novel, "Leaving Las Vegas,"(1990) which was made into a film of the same name in 1995, three more books, "The Assault on Tony's"(1996), "Stripper Lessons"(1997), and "Better: a novel"(2009) were released posthumously with help from his sister.

Copies of "Café Abyss: John O'Brien's Fiction, A Reflection" will be available for sale and signing at the event.



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Lakewood Education Observed



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MAKER FAIR

Oct 26, 2019
9a - 2p
Grant Elementary School
1470 Victoria ave.

by Annie Stahlheber

The Grant Elementary PTA invites you to the third annual Craft and Mingle maker fair. The event will be on Saturday, October 26th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Grant Elementary School. The vendor lineup is awesome this year. You'll find something for everyone on your holiday shopping list and more! We'll have clothing and accessories for American Girl dolls, Cleveland sports team books and gifts, handmade jewelry, homegrown decor, handmade prints and greeting cards, clever monogrammed gifts, empowering tees, all natural skin care products and perfumes, handmade snacks and other food items. Another exciting feature is that five of the thirty five vendors are mini makers this year. Young entrepreneurs from Grant, Hayes and Lincoln will be showing off their talents at their booths. Bring your kids with you, because there will be lots of fun activities for them. We'll have face painting, a scavenger hunt and the Dave and Busters Street Team. Everyone will enjoy the concession stand and raffle as well. We hope you join us!

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=craft%20fair%20and%20mingle&epa=SEARCH_BOX

Vendor list:

Becky Sabol Designs
Bee Basic Products

Bubble Goodies
Carla Nichole Designs
Chloe Ella Charms
Chocolate 143
CraftyyMom
Creative2
Creations by Jeni
Dave and Busters Street Team
Dizzy Laundry
Indulge Coffee and Tea
Drugless Doctors
Evergreen Decor Co
From the Moon, Ltd
Glitter Girl
Jessica James Designs
Julie and Rebecca
Kenzie's Kraft Corner
Kumohimo by Cindy
Lia's Creations
Love and Frills
Lyrical Creations
Made by Miller
Mscotti Biscotti & Scones
Nail Geek 216
Scott Longert, Author
Shari Bozak
Shawn's Succulents
St. Croix Farms
Susie's Scentuals
The Blond Italian
This Girl's Tees
Wood-Chuck Designs
Yates Perfumes

Epic Basket Raffle To Benefit LHS Girls' Volleyball

by Jim Harmon

If you love a good basket raffle with great themes and prizes, this is your golden opportunity!

The Lakewood Girls' Volleyball Fundraiser will have over 35 baskets at their annual fundraiser at Vosh Nightclub on October 18th from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and includes one drink ticket, valet parking, light appetizers, and a waived cover charge for the live music at the raffle's conclusion. Tickets can be purchased online here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/volleyball-vosh-night-tickets-71289092595>.

Some of the featured baskets, all valued at a minimum of \$100, with many over \$200 in value, include:

Free Panera bread for a year
Custom corn hole boards and professional league certified cornhole bags provided by the Westshore Construction Trades program at Lakewood High School

Dinner and drinks at Bistro on the Main

A night's stay at the Renaissance
A Malley's gift basket
A Hallmark gift basket
An Ohio sports fanatic gift basket
An all around Lakewood basket
Gone to the Dogs basket
Self-care basket
Golf basket with rounds
A Margaritas and mixers basket

Dozens of Lakewood and local retailers and restaurants have stepped up to support this raffle with sig-

nificant prizes that have a local flair, including gift certificates from:

Noble Beast
Sibling Revelry
Distill table
Hecht's Cafe
Red Lantern
Two Bucks
Dewey's
Blackbird Baking
Cozumel
Lake Erie Monsters
Ferris Steak House
Dick's Sporting Goods
Tease Hair Salon
River Organic Massage
Lake Erie Crushers
Aladdins
Angelo's Pizza
Mahall's
Papa Nicks

Side boards and a 50/50 raffle will also be part of the evening events.

The parent committee organizing the event said that, "Special thanks goes to Vosh Nightclub for their assistance in making this annual event a possibility, as well as Slife Heating and Cooling as an event sponsor."

The funds raised by the event will support:

Valuable training for players on all teams with college-level coaches
Improved & updated equipment for middle school athletes 2020
Reduced fees for Varsity camp 2020
Attendance for Varsity team at a college-level away camp 2020If you'd like to make a donation to the program, please do so here.





FREE WORKS WASH FOR ALL VETERANS

November 10th and 11th
(weather permitting)

We thank you for your service!

This invitation extends to honorably discharged veterans, the widow or parents of a deceased veteran, or an active military member.



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Lakewood Recreation



Basketball registration is now open for adult men's weekday and women's Sunday 4 x 4 leagues.

Team registration deadline is November 15th.

Men's leagues begin December 2nd.

Women's league begins January 5th.

More info at:
www.lakewoodrecreation.com



Lakewood Board of Education
Linda Beebe
Emma Petrie Barcelona
Edward Favre
Tom Einhouse
Betsy Bergen Shaugnessy

Lakewood Education Observed

H2O's HOME ALONE Kicks Off With Leadership Retreat

by Sydney Wilhelmy

Lakewood's H2O (Help to Others) service learning program is expanding its student leadership through HOME ALONE. I am excited to be a part of the HOME ALONE Research and Development Team that is currently working to create four events to be held during the winter of this 2019-2020 school year. It will be geared towards nine to twelve year old students, as well as their parents. Those attending will have the chance to learn from both high school students and local experts, such as firefighters, police officers, and internet crime detectives, on how youth can best stay safe when home alone.

Our eleven member HOME ALONE Research and Development Team hosted a leadership retreat at Garfield Middle School on Sunday, October 6th. We brought in nearly thirty additional high school students to learn more about what roles they will have the opportunity to play in making these events impactful and successful. Through various techniques such as the utilization of technology and small group presentations, the attendees were able to learn about each topic being taught during the future H2O HOME ALONE events. The new leaders will eventually join and co-teach one of

these groups, focusing on issues such as First Aid, Phone and Door Safety, Internet Safety, and more.

I have worked hard over this summer with the rest of the HOME ALONE Research and Development Team, to lay the foundation for bringing this amazing program back to Lakewood. It has been an incredible experience so far to work with my peers in helping to develop this program. Now, we get to start the most important part: helping kids in Lakewood prepare themselves for situations that may arise when home alone. We have done a lot of research and learning over the summer, and we can't wait to share it all with our younger peers in Lakewood this winter!

H2O's R&D Team was honored to have Mayor Mike Summers attend the leadership retreat. He engaged with student leaders in discussing how to address resolutions to potentially unsafe situations that children might encounter when home alone. For those interested, registration for the HOME ALONE events will begin in November. Details about signing up for this program will be available soon.

Sydney Wilhelmy is a senior at Lakewood High School.

Mom And Son Dance Is Back For The Fourth Year!

continued from page 1

The event's low ticket prices starting at \$15 for mom and one son cover admission and dinner, including chicken strips, pizza, salad, sweet treats, and beverages from Biggby Coffee. A VIP package is available for \$50 and includes preferred parking, t-shirts, and more.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/lakewood-mom-son-dance-2019> or at Lakewood Discount Drug Marts. T-shirts featuring the event's colorful "Rockin' Monster Mash" logo can also

be purchased at <https://www.teepublic.com/user/hmesspiritwear>.

"We will have the same popular attractions as before, including our toy and candy table, raffle baskets, and special Indians raffle," said event co-chair Debbie Baker. "Our monster MC will organize group dancing, contests and more. We want Lakewood families to enjoy their time together making great memories!"

Tickets will not be available at the door, so hurry and buy yours today! Questions? Contact LakewoodMomandSonDance@gmail.com

Callahan Seeks Seat On Board Of Education

continued from page 1

with the district have become more clear. Local and state funding, testing, and state report cards are areas of concern. I am prepared to work with all stakeholders on these and other matters moving forward.

Comprehensive education includes great opportunities in music, art, athletics, and community service. I recognize the many strengths of our schools as well as areas for growth.

I am a graduate of Ohio State University (bachelor's degree) and the University of Akron (MBA). As an MBA I understand fiscal responsibility and the value of great customer experiences. We need to utilize all available resources to offer the highest quality education to attract and retain families.

As a public sector manager and parks & recreation professional, my work experience has taught me that boards work well when they hire the

best possible leaders, create a welcoming and supportive environment for them, and allow them the freedom to work to the best of their abilities. I believe this approach holds true for teachers and all staff as well.

In a career spanning 18 plus years, I have held public sector parks & recreation roles in Lakewood, Orange, and Bedford (with time in between in the banking industry). In my experiences, the vital role of recreation in creating and supporting healthy communities has been reinforced repeatedly. Since recreation services in Lakewood are a function of our school district, our Board of Education is in a unique position in the state to lead in this area and serve our entire community.

To learn more about me or my campaign, visit www.callahanforlakewood.com, email me at friendsforcallahan@gmail.com, or feel free to call (216) 202-4082. I ask for your vote on November 5.

Application Process Open For 2020 Cox "Tech Boost" Program

by Jeff Lavery

Cox Communications announced on October 1st that local nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply to the company's "Tech Boost" program for a chance to receive a technology 'boost.' Two \$15,000 boosts will be presented to two nonprofit organizations in the company's Northeast region. The Cox Tech Boost program was created to help nonprofit organizations invest in much-needed technology assets for the betterment of their patrons and mission.

Applications will be accepted Monday, September 9 through October 18, 2019. Nonprofit organizations should provide programming in one of the following focus areas: conservation and environment; early childhood education; empowering families and individuals for success; and community health. Additionally, the organization must serve the Cox

Northeast region communities of Connecticut, Cleveland, Ohio, or Rhode Island.

Recognized nonprofits in the 2019 Tech Boost program used their boosts to invest in technology equipment and services – ranging from professional-grade video equipment to rugged tablets to laptops and docking stations – all with the common goal of enriching the lives of community members and completing their missions to the fullest.

Earlier this year, Cox presented Tech Boost grants to the Rhode Island Free Clinic, Save The Bay, Inc. and the Connecticut Audubon Society.

For more information and to apply to the Cox Tech Boost program, please visit www.coxcharitiesne.org.

Jeff Lavery is the public relations manager for Cox Communications in the northeast region.

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Lakewood Cares

Transfiguration Parish's 10th Annual Harvest Pork Chop Dinner & Raffle

by Kathy Corridoni

Please mark your calendar now and plan to participate in Transfiguration Parish's 10th Annual Harvest Pork Chop Dinner & Raffle to be held on Sunday, October 27th, in the parish hall at 12608 Madison Ave. in Lakewood. Dinner will be served from noon-3:30 p.m. This is Transfiguration Parish's primary fundraiser of the year and a wonderful tradition for our parish community. Help us make it a successful one!

The dinner includes two pork chops, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut (optional), green beans, applesauce, dinner roll, dessert, and coffee. Dinner tickets are \$18 for adults, \$7 for children 5 to 12, and free for children 4 and under. Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended for dine-in and for take-out dinners. A limited number of dinners will be available at the door. Any unclaimed tickets/reservations will not be held past 3 p.m. Please call Anne at 216-287-1127 or Pat at 216-269-9801 for tickets/reservations by Sunday, October 20th.

This family event is more than a delicious dinner. There will be a Grand Raffle, a Split-the-Pot drawing, the always-popular Basket Raffle, a special raffle for a 40" Insignia LED flat screen TV (only 200 tickets will be sold at \$5 each) donated by P.C.S. Auto Body & Collision Repair, door prizes,

and sideboards. The Grand Raffle has a top prize of \$1,500 and five prizes of \$100 each. Grand Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket or six tickets for \$25. The Split-the-Pot drawing is a 60/40 split to church/three winners. Split-the-Pot tickets are \$1 per ticket or six tickets for \$5. Winners do not need to be present. Grand Raffle and Split-the-Pot tickets will be available for purchase at the event or can be purchased prior to the event by calling the Parish Office at 216-521-7288 on Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Basket Raffle prizes include brunch for four at Pier W valued at \$168, a \$75 gift certificate to Palazzo Italian Restaurant, a \$75 gift card to Luca West (downtown), a \$50 gift card to Johnny's Bar on Fulton, a \$50 gift certificate to Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville-Cleveland, a \$50 gift certificate to Georgetown/Vosh, an Ohio Clinic Skin Care Rejuvenating Facial valued at \$90, and many, many other great prizes. Tickets for the Basket Raffle are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. The drawings for the Basket Raffle will begin around 3 p.m. followed by the Split-the-Pot and Grand Raffle drawings.

Admission to the event is free. All are welcome to attend. You won't want to miss out on the food, fellowship, and chance to win some great prizes. Hope you can join us on Sunday, October 27th!

Time To Choose A Medicare Plan

by Carl Lishing

This years Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) is October 15th through December 7th. This is the time of the year people can make changes on their Medicare Advantage Plan or Prescription Drug Plan. Changes made during AEP go into effect on January 1st, 2020.

Are you confused about how to choose a Medicare plan? In a lot of cases people have a plan that they are somewhat happy with so they never shop to see if they can save money. This is often the case because they don't really know how to shop around for insurance effectively or are afraid to make a change.

Northeast Ohio is a competitive market for insurance carriers. They have all been working hard to make their products better to attract more

members. This is a good thing but with more choices it can make things more confusing! We help people through the enrollment process and are available year after year to do coverage reviews as needed and help make changes if necessary. There is no cost for this service! Give us a call today to speak with a licensed insurance agent at 216-228-0765 to set up your one on one review to make sure you have the right fit for 2020!

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HMIA007403 10/2019

Rotary Celebrates Eradication Of Polio With World Polio Day Oct. 24

by Larry Faulhaber

The members of the Rotary Clubs of Lakewood Rocky River join are joining with 1.2 million Rotary members, in nearly 34,000 Rotary Clubs around the world, to celebrate the eradication of the crippling disease of polio. It all started in 1979 by Rotary with the administration of the first dose of an oral polio vaccine in the Philippines; 6 million children in the Philippines have been vaccinated. Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for 40 years, and the goal of ridding the earth of this disease is in sight.

Today, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan are the only countries where polio remains endemic. During the last 40 years Rotary has helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. So far, Rotary members have contributed more than 1.8 billion dollars through a program called Polio Plus, which was established by Rotary International in 1985 to coordinate this effort. Individual Clubs contributed through fundraising activities, and members made donations to Rotary International

to make this result possible.

This is just one of the many community, vocational, youth, and international service projects of the Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Clubs. Current projects include support of the Rocky River Assistance program, the Lakewood Charitable Assistance program and the Lakewood Community Service Center which help needy families in those communities. Scholarships are awarded annually to assist worthy students to pay their college tuition and vocational students are rewarded for their hard work in preparing for starting careers. The Clubs also provide personal and school supplies to impoverished children in Nicaragua.

There is a Club that meets for breakfast on Wednesday mornings and another that meets for lunch on Mondays. To learn how you can "give back" through service by joining with other men and women members of the Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Clubs, contact Kathy Berkshire, sloopyo-hio19@gmail.com,

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Lakewood Observer Forum

Let's Talk Lakewood's Future

by Tim Collingwood

If we look at elections as conversations, we can see what conversations we want to continue and what ones we want to stop. Local elections are no different. They are community conversations about where the community wants to go in the years ahead, and what it needs to move forward into the future.

There are a lot of conversations happening in Lakewood right now, and as someone who has lived in Lakewood for five years, I recognize certain conversations important in changing the status quo, as the city's status quo is changing. Conversations about affordability, accessibility, and increasing racial, religious, and economic diversity. There are people running in Lakewood who want the same imperative conversations. There are people running who want certain conversations to stop, not because they have lost their relevance or the issue is exhausted, but because they just don't like the premise. Now, I realize that I haven't met every candidate running, (and I would welcome the opportunity to). There are those in city council who are having these conversations currently, and have the respect of their

constituency through accountability. Dan O'Malley is an awesome city council person, representative of his constituency. I worry for the future of Lakewood in respect to the other wards and the city's mayoral race.

We all want our interests to be respected and represented by someone to work collaboratively towards solutions that benefit everyone. I value community-centered candidates that follow through by listening closely to their constituents, rooting their policy ideas on constituent feedback, and receiving constructive criticism. I value candidates with honesty and transparency and want to offer community-based solutions to them, echoing their constituents who are asking for it of them.

I see Laura Rodriguez-Carbone and Brad Presutto as community-oriented, community-based city council candidates who listen, advocate, and amplify the voices of their future constituents. I can see that in their voiced concerns about healthcare, affordable housing, public transportation, and in their efforts to increase visibility of marginalized groups in the city who deserve a seat at the table in policies affecting their lives in Lakewood, regardless of population statistics. I believe them to be candidates who listen to the people in their wards, and in the city at large, who would base their policy initiatives on what they hear from the people.

Laura is more than qualified with her record in public service, centered in advocacy work, raising voices up so all can be heard. I personally know through her support of Jewish Lakewood Alliance. She has supported Lakewood by: being a Democratic party precinct leader for 1B for the Central and Executive Committee, serving on the Lakewood Wellness Foundation Task Force, and helping to build the Healthy Lakewood Foundation that centers citizens' concerns. Laura would be the first Hispanic Lakewood citizen to hold office upon election. I cannot fathom why it has taken until 2019 for this to be a possibility in Lakewood, a city that prides itself as a "diverse" city. I support the conversation that has her candidacy bearing fruit because it's a conversation needed for the city's future, and a conversation people are already having.

Brad is a supportive voice in making Lakewood a more welcoming and accepting place to live, as evidenced by his inclusive approach to solving our city's problems. He is actively involved in the Hayes Elementary School PTO, volunteers with the Lakewood Department of Aging, has met racist hatred with love through "Sidewalks of Love" and his support of Jewish Lakewood Alliance. Brad genuinely wants and encourages these types of conversations for the future of the city.

This community-oriented, community-basing equally reverberates with Meghan George running for Mayor. As soon as she was voted as

a City Council representative, she made city council more transparent, accountable, and to an extensive degree, approachable. Her initiative to offer paid parental leave for city employees in her administrative tenure has spoken to a community need for a long time and projects for me, a feeling of security to know that she is listening and can put Lakewood on the map in a positive way. Her talents in public service in collaborating with her fellow city council members to make sure that Lakewood becomes a greener, accessible city through supporting solar power alternatives and enhancing the city's tree canopy is also comforting for our future outlook. She is open to having a dialogue with citizens, and sort through bureaucratic roadblocks by making public records publicly accessible. Furthermore, she has adapted food safety truck standards so local businesses can develop their brand before finding a home in a storefront in the city. It is so comforting not to worry about what is happening in city council because she is there. I envision important work she would do as mayor of Lakewood based on her interpersonal strength as a City Council representative, through these commu-

nity-centered actions. Her plans for high quality city services, enhanced senior services, fiscal responsibility, housing and building code reinforcement, and preserving city history as a framework for its future would be great for the city coming from the strength of her time on City Council.

The City of Lakewood's future will be determined by this election. I fear that Lakewood will fall into a future that best resembles a country club/gated community political atmosphere, exclusive to people who want the title but not the job, inaccessible to all but the chosen few. I want Lakewood to be an inclusive, affordable, and accessible place to live where everyone's voices are heard in policies that affect the city. I see the future best reflected in Laura, Brad, and Meghan. They are having conversations the city needs to have. They want conversations the city needs to talk about.

They may not be the only candidates with that mind, but as a conscientious constituent, I like what I am seeing from them. I don't want Lakewood's past, it's gone and we have only to learn from it. I want Lakewood's future, and these candidates reflect that future.

On November 5th, Vote YES On Issue 43



by Dan O'Malley

In 2021, Lakewood voters will likely see something they haven't seen in several decades: a crowded race for Municipal Court Judge. Judge Patrick Carroll is retiring after 30+ years of dedicated service to Lakewood, and the open seat will probably be sought by many candidates. Lakewood's current charter, however, does not allow for a primary election to be held for the position of judge.

Unlike positions for city council and mayor - where 3 or more candidates are pared down to two in a primary election - all candidates for municipal court judge appear on the general election ballot, no matter how many have filed. The problem with this system is that in a race with as many as 8 or 10 candidates splitting the electorate, someone could be elected our judge for a six year term with as little as 12% or 15% of the vote. This is simply not democratic.

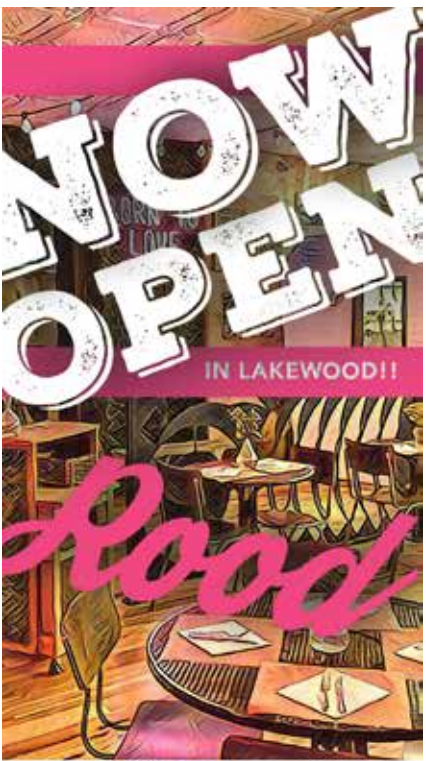
Voters can fix this problem by vot-

ing YES on Issue 43. Issue 43 is simple: it will change our charter to allow for a non-partisan primary election for the position of municipal court judge which will determine the top two candidates to advance to the general election. This will guarantee that there are only two candidates appearing on the general election ballot, meaning that whomever is elected our judge is elected with the assent of a majority of Lakewood voters.

This charter amendment was placed on the ballot by city council in a unanimous vote. It enjoys broad support, including from several members of the Charter Review Commission.

To ensure integrity in our judicial elections, please join me in voting YES on Issue 43 this November 5th. Early voting has begun.

Dan O'Malley represents Ward 4 on Lakewood City Council and serves as chair of council's Finance Committee. He lives in the Gold Coast neighborhood.



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Letters To The Editor

Why I Think Brad Presutto Would Be An Asset To City Council

by Jessica Ang

I have had several opportunities to chat with Brad Presutto about his ambition to serve on Lakewood City Council. He is very personable and always speaks to how much he loves our city. One thing that I am always curious about is, what past experiences would make a person the best for the job? I feel that Brad's experience managing, consulting, and reaching compromise does make him the best person for the job.

While working for a variety of banks, insurance companies, and financial institutions, he managed teams as small as two people to a team of almost 60, spread out over multiple cities and countries. We need someone on City Council who has the experience being able to work with a wide variety of demographics and achieving compromise. Our city has issues that have opinions ranging the entire spectrum. Having someone who has experience achieving compromise will prevent major issues from dividing our city and losing trust in Lakewood's government.

One thing I noticed on his LinkedIn profile was that he won the Rookie of the Year award at his last job. When I asked him about it, he was quite proud to talk about the success the team he managed achieved by turning around 72% quality scores to 99% within eight months. In fact, most of his career he sought out teams or departments that were new or struggling; and he enjoyed using a continual improvement mindset to bring results to above expectations. While Lakewood

is not a new or struggling city, I want someone in public service who is willing to review each process for ways to make it more efficient. Having someone willing to listen to residents and city employees to make sure our city services are beyond reproach is important to all voters.

Finally, as a small business owning family, I want someone who will help keep the small business culture Lakewood is known for. He is also a small business owner. His company specializes in resume writing and career counseling for those in the entry-mid level positions. Not only is he a small business owner, but his target demographic are those that can not afford the most expensive services. I want someone on City Council that is willing to evaluate everything before making a decision, instead of just settling for the highest dollar.

As a Ward 2 resident, it gives me great confidence in supporting Brad Presutto for Lakewood City Council. While I know he will be a great at responding to neighbors, I'm sure he also has the work experience necessary for an exceptional Councilperson. Lakewood needs someone on City Council who has experience reaching consensus between groups, focused on continual improvement, and is able to make decisions for the betterment of others and not just willing to take the highest dollar. I hope you will join me on November 5th in voting for Brad Presutto City Council Ward 2.

Why I Am Voting For Jason Shachner

by Eliana Turan

A few months ago, I recently moved into Lakewood. As a Post-9/11 veteran, I have moved around quite a bit throughout my life, and I have for a long time been searching for a community to call my permanent home. I've been looking for a neighborhood that is beautiful, and peaceful, and fun, while also being affordable and close to Downtown. More so, as a young LGBTQ+ woman who has recently transitioned, I needed to find a place that is welcoming and safe for me and my loved ones. Naturally, I thought of Lakewood.

Shortly after moving here, some friends of mine suggested that I should meet a neighbor named Jason Shachner. Eager to make friends in my new home, I reached out to him, and we had a beer at a local hangout. On meeting, the first thing I noticed was how young and energetic he is, and how he filled the room with positive excitement. With much enthusiasm, he told me about his life, his education, his work. He's a person who's been working hard for a long time to make the community a better place. He's a devoted husband, a volunteer,

and a man of faith. He is an attorney who became a prosecutor, not to lock people up – but because he wants to fix our legal system from the inside out. This is one of the reasons why, he expressed to me, he wants to become a lawmaker. As such, on November 5, he is running to represent Ward 2 on Lakewood City Council.

Beyond all these things, however, what really struck me about Jason went beyond his words, his education, or his work experience. Looking at his kind eyes and his welcoming smile, I could see a person with a truly good heart. He is the kind of human being who will do his best for me and my family. He is a person who cares for those around him no matter who they are or who they love. He is a young man, but he has an old soul. As a person who has wandered this world in search of acceptance, I appreciate that.

That is why, on November 5, I will be voting for Jason Shachner for Ward 2 of Lakewood City Council. I invite you to join me.

Sincerely,
Eliana J. Turan

Why I Support Jeff Wise For Council

by Julie Nichols

As a longtime resident of Ward 3, I have always voted in elections. This year I feel compelled not only to vote, but to express why I will be voting the way I will.

It is time for a change. Now is our chance to elect folks that want to do things differently and listen to the residents. I firmly believe Jeff Wise fits that description. I had the opportunity to attend a community meeting he hosted last month. The focus of the meeting was the various developments being planned in Lakewood.

A summary of the points discussed include:

Jeff Wise supports development

that makes sense for the neighborhood - he supports green space and sustainability as well as transitioning properly into a neighborhood

He believes in transparency - if elected he will continue to hold community meetings as he did when he worked in Columbus

He thinks when something is before a board the entire neighborhood should be notified and not just the immediate properties

He acknowledges he may not always say what we want to hear but he will be up front about his thoughts

He opposes rubber stamping as our current council seems to prefer to do

He is excited that our city council

could look totally different after the upcoming election

As a resident directly impacted by one of the proposed Solove Development projects, I was excited to hear his perspective. I was especially pleased to hear he believes development needs to make sense and to transition into a neighborhood. I am not getting that same sense from the current administration or the Architectural Review Board.

Transparency is import to Mr. Wise. It should be important to every resident of Lakewood and every citizen of this country. It seems to be a dying concept. What I hear from Jeff Wise is balance between what is best for the city of Lakewood and the desire of the residents

The way to make a difference is to vote. Please take the time to understand the views and priorities of all candidates and let your voice be heard at the ballot box.

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Letters To The Editor

Sam O'Leary Is Unfit To Be Mayor--Here Is Why

by Brian Essi

In December 2015, Sam O'Leary was a defendant in a lawsuit brought on behalf of the residents of Lakewood alleging that he and other members of City Council held secret meetings and agreed to enact the so-called "Master Agreement" prior to any public meetings.

This agreement, between the City of Lakewood, the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) and Cleveland Clinic, would close Lakewood Hospital and give away \$120 million of taxpayer money and property belonging to the residents of Lakewood.

To conceal the non-public (i.e. illegal) meetings and decisions made in secret, O'Leary gave false testimony under oath that the Master Agreement "did not exist when it was announced"--even though this testimony contradicted his own statements made at a press conference held earlier that month in front of TV cameras.

Let's pause for a moment and reflect on the absurdity of insisting to a court of law that you held a press conference to announce an agreement that did not exist.

The people of Lakewood didn't buy it either.

The residents' lawsuit against O'Leary was instituted, in part, because of his comments in support of the Master Agreement at that December 7, 2015 press conference which occurred before any public meetings were held concerning the terms of the agreement.

O'Leary described the agreement in very particular terms, making state-

ments before the cameras like: "This new agreement funds our future.... Specifically, this agreement means the Cleveland Clinic will.... Demolishing the old parking garage is part of the agreement."

The clear implication of O'Leary's statements was that an agreement existed and he was in favor of it.

Each of the other 6 councilmembers made similar statements referencing the "agreement" and their support of it. (The complete press conference can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IChNMhrAXCk>)

On December 21, 2015, O'Leary gave the following testimony in Court:

"The agreement that was announced on December 7th did not exist when it was announced and, therefore, it is correct to say the council had not deliberated on the definitive agreement that wasn't in existence yet, absolutely." (From the Court Transcript at page 63; lines 18-22).

Public records prove that this testimony was false, and O'Leary knew it was false.

Earlier that Summer and Fall of 2015, O'Leary had participated in multiple e-mails regarding the "Master Agreement" which he insisted, in court, had not existed until much later.

Three June 2015 emails discuss the "New Master Agreement" and even "a listing of attachments to the master agreement." A December 2, 2015 email by O'Leary complains that LHA "Trustees leak like a sieve" to the media concerning the "roll out of the transition plan" for the Master Agreement.

The testimony was not only clearly

false, it is indicative of Mr. O'Leary's pattern of duplicity.

Why Was O'Leary's False Testimony Important?

Hours after O'Leary's dishonest testimony and the Court ruling that relied upon it, O'Leary and his colleagues voted unanimously to enact the Master Agreement into law, closing Lakewood Hospital.

This resulted in the transfer of over \$120 million of Lakewood taxpayer money and property out of Lakewood, and the loss of 900 taxpaying jobs.

City Hall, led by O'Leary, then

fought a long and costly public records lawsuit to keep those e-mails buried. In this case, the law prevailed.

In 2017 —two years later —courts compelled the release of the e-mails which disprove O'Leary's sworn testimony during the earlier lawsuit.

The facts are simple, documented proof that O'Leary's reputation for dishonesty is deserved.

We can't afford to overlook this kind of dishonesty any longer.

O'Leary is unfit to be Lakewood's Mayor.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Lakewood Observer,

I've been visiting your fair suburb of Center City Cleveland for going on 20 years now. My daughter settled in Lakewood after college to pursue her artistic dreams. American Greetings made that possible. Now my two granddaughters attend what I (a teacher) consider some of the best public schools in our grand country!

Now, I'd better get to the point of my writing. I discovered the gem of hair heaven at Carabel Beauty Shop on Madison during the past few years of visits. This establishment will be celebrating 50 years of business at this location, 15309 Madison, the 1st of November. If you have never been to that pink stucco building, it's time to make an appointment for an interview with the owner Bonnie, her daughter, or any member of her delightful staff. You will walk into 1950's Hair! Hairdos, Hair Spray, and unending love and attention with talk, talk, talk!

I try to have some type of service done whenever I'm in town to visit. It truly is a gem.

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Letters To The Editor

Be Wary Of Sam O'Leary, Don't Be Fooled Again

by Meg Ostrowski

As the saying goes, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." In 2015, I naively supported Sam O'Leary's campaign to maintain his Ward 2 seat on Lakewood City Council after being appointed the previous year.

At one of Sam's campaign fundraisers that summer, we spoke one-on-one at length. Sam is approachable and articulate. He appears to take a genuine interest in others. He convinced me that he was an independent thinker committed to due diligence and the highest ethical standards. I expressed concerns regarding Lakewood's future, including the fate of our hospital. He shared my sentiments and promised to fight. We corresponded and spoke throughout the year regarding the hospital closing, but as a council vote on the issue neared, Sam began replying with patronizing rhetoric in line with the administration. I no longer felt represented and haven't since.

I learned just this year that in March 2015, Sam was designated campaign treasurer for former Lakewood Mayor and Cuyahoga County Executive, Ed FitzGerald, coming off his loss for Governor amid questionable

behavior. Had I been aware of this at the time, I would have been leery. FitzGerald launched a fake, single issue newspaper that misled voters on the hospital issue before a community wide vote that November; and then became a consultant to the developer who scored the land grab at the corner of Belle and Detroit after council voted to close the hospital.

Sam's St. Charles Green dream (to add land to the park system) unveiled just ahead of his 2015 campaign hadn't been mentioned again until the eve of another election season, just weeks ago. A lack of attention to Ward 2 for nearly six years, the bombardment of recent mailings, banners, county establishment endorsements and county wide fundraisers are a clear sign that he's doing someone's bidding beyond his supposedly beloved hometown.

To keep Lakewood strong, we need leaders that can resist outside forces, leverage our position and put residents first, not sell our soul for personal gain or higher office. If you would like Lakewood to lean independent and autonomous rather than be diluted and cannibalized by the region, be wary as you consider our choices for Lakewood Mayor this fall.

Tess Neff Corrects Opponent's Flawed Statements

by Tess Neff

I have chosen to run a positive campaign for Lakewood's Ward One Council seat and I will not stoop to denigrating my fellow candidate in this race. It is unbecoming. I stand by every statement I have made during this campaign regarding my qualifications, experience and responsibilities. It is an established fact that I am responsible for the Court's 60 million dollar budget. Not only is this fact outlined in my job description, but the fiscal responsibility has been an assigned duty for the four years I have been the Court Administrator. I believe these truths

were recognized and acknowledged by the voters in my large margin of victory in the primary election. My opponent's false allegations published in an earlier edition of this paper have been debunked. It is unfortunate she chose to run a campaign in that manner.

I have lived in Lakewood for over 30 years and have raised my family here. I love Lakewood and will continue to strive to keep it a great place to live. I am humbled to have the support of so many neighbors, friends, family members, men, women and young adults. My opponent should retract her factually baseless statements.

Building Trust In Government Is Critical To Lakewood

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

This election is not about which middle-class professional gets to put a feather in her cap. It's about the people of our community who need real help, with real issues. That's what my campaign has been about from day one to now. I also believe in giving straight answers to direct questions, and when the Lakewood Observer asked why someone should vote for me and not my opponent, I answered both parts of the question. I replied based on more-than-triple-checked research, which is available for anyone to review.

The issue of judgment matters. City council members evaluate all the policies of our city, as well as potential appointments of the next mayor. My opponent demonstrated her judgment in decisions at the county jail, as well as in hiring an adherent of vicious

negative politics to consult for her campaign, in the person of Ed FitzGerald.

This hire makes it very easy to believe the reports, throughout this campaign, of my opponent disparaging me when talking with Ward 1 residents. What I can say for certain is that my only criticism of any opponent in this election has been non-personal and in the open.

I can also say for certain that we need to re-center higher values in Lakewood, of not only honesty and transparency, but of treating government as an opportunity to help with real problems, rather than a prize to be seized by means fair or foul.

These are the values I have practiced in my career, and in this campaign, and these are the values I will uphold in service to this community."

Which Way, Lakewood?

by Bob Soltys

In November we will select a new mayor. Your vote will set our city's course for the next four years. Will it be business as usual, or will we head down the path of integrity and transparency?

One candidate showed us she is a straight shooter by thanking voters and asking us for our input via an article that appeared in this paper a couple of weeks after she took office. Writing that she welcomed phone calls, emails, and even sitting down for coffee, Meghan George provided a refreshing alternative to the double talk and evasion that passes for communication from city hall.

The other candidate, when the "other" paper asked him in March of this year about a resident's chagrin over being ticketed for walking two dogs on retractable leashes, said "he doesn't expect City Council to discuss rescinding the dog leash ban. Instead, he feels the recent incident is just a case of the community catching up to the new law." One has to fairly wonder if he understands that his role as a councilman is to represent his constituents and listen to them.

The most recent issue of the Observer included the candidates' responses to questions. Ms. George answered the questions about the Master Agreement that closed the hospital, the need to revamp the city's website, the traffic and parking issues that come with large apartment development, and whether she would re-appoint the current law director.

The other candidate didn't answer the questions. He repeated stock statements about his supposed work experience and beliefs instead of saying whether he voted for the Master Agreement, would revamp the city's website, and whether he would re-appoint the current law director. Do his canned responses and actions show us that he does what he says he does and believes?

Meghan George's actions are consistent with what she says. She's shown us she has our best interests at heart and in mind, and that we can count on her to do what she says and to do the right thing the right way. Lakewood needs Meghan George's leadership. Please vote for her on November 5.

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Taco Tontos:

A Taste Of Tijuana On The Avenue

by Eva Starr

Who needs Tijuana, when John and Jill Crino bring a little bit of Tequila, Spanish Mexican style food, authentic daily homemade sauces, colorful artistry, and southern hospitality to Lakewood? Taco Tontos, situated in Bird Town, on Madison Avenue is a family-owned business that offers up more than the large chains and franchises can compete with.

I walked into Taco Tontos last Monday night with a friend around 5:30 before the Monday night Browns game against San Francisco, to grab some grub. Sarah, the waitress greeted us warmly, and was beyond knowledgeable about the menu. She explained the Margaritas are made with all fresh-

squeezed ingredients, music to my ears (that Lemix stuff most places serve is nasty), and I had a choice of a sugared or salted rim. Looking over the choices I was torn between Blackberry or Mango, she swayed me toward Blackberry. For those brave of heart, there's also a Habanero Margarita, not for me.

The menu offers Vegetarian, Vegan, and Gluten Free options. All their meats, sauces, salsas, and guacs are made fresh daily. Their house guacamole is made with sour cream, "sold," I said. The choices were plentiful, from tacos, burritos, burrito bowls, tostados, and quesadillas.

Sarah explained you could add or take-away items as well. Since I was planning on watching the Browns game

later, I decided to go with the "biggie" size, only a buck more. I ordered the Cheeburgerito, which came with beef, lettuce, tomato, bacon, cheese, pickles, onions, and potatoes, all this inside of the burrito. Skip the potatoes, and tomatoes. Now to dig into the guac, which I devoured in record time, need I say more.

Our food came, I dug in, careful to save half of my Cheeseburgerito for half-time of the game. I chatted with Sarah a bit, she's been with the place as long as the place has been in Lakewood, seven years now. There is an "industry appreciation night" on Wednesdays, from 11-10pm serving \$2 cans of Modelo, \$2 shots of Cuervo, and \$4 Mini-Margaritas, along with



mini-appetizers.

The huge mural on the wall before the kitchen has the feel that you may actually be sipping Cuervo in Tijuana. There's a back dining room to accommodate the overflow on the weekends, and a full-service bar, stocked with top-shelf liquors and craft beers.

When you wake up "feeling dangerous" head over to the avenue, order a shot of Cuervo or a Habanero Margarita, and then peruse the menu to round out your day.

Taco Tontos
13321 Madison 216-221-4479
Hours: Mon-Thurs: 11-10pm Fri & Sat:11-12am Closed: Sun.

NOVEMBER

Aries: Patience isn't one of the Ram's virtues, however, be "grateful" for the time it allows you to follow your heart & smell the roses along the path, Rome wasn't built in a day, take heed.

Taurus: The leaves are turning, and the Bull should follow suit, & turn your attention to connectedness, how wonderful to smile at a stranger, nod a hello, make "gratitude" your Mantra.

Gemini: Having fun comes natural to the Twins, your Thanksgiving task is to share the joy with everyone you meet, make being "thankful" a game, you set the rules, let the games begin.

Cancer: Open up those crab pincers, "generosity" is your theme, let it flow & let it grow, after all for you not to join in would be like everyone doing the wave at a Browns game but you...

Leo: It's time to call that inner critic into your office & give it an extended leave of absence, it's your Jungle & if you want to give everyone a day off go for it, never tire of saying "thank you."

Virgo: Take off your grumpy hat for awhile this month, there's something that you can "give" away all month for FREE, yep, it's your smile, unless of course, you'd rather give away money?

Libra: Mars is still in your sign for the first few weeks, place your action



where it matters most to a Libra, relationships; yep, make sure they're well-oiled & running smoothly, be "giving."

Scorpio: The Sun is in your sign, Mercury's going Retrograde here also, & Mars is joining late month, Watch your Words, don't open mouth insert Stinger, don't take it personal, "forgive."

Sagittarius: It's the month to get out in Nature, the Centaur is at home in the forest, take in the expansiveness of it all, hug a tree, smile at the little creatures, there's a lot to be "grateful" for.

Capricorn: Stop being so serious Goat, it's time to show the world that Crocodile smile, take joy in improving other's lives, you have the power, & it'll probably do you some good also.

Aquarian: No one is more authentic than the Aquarian, no need to apologize, the world needs your truth, if you think it say it, if you feel it do it, remember "be kind" to others along your path.

Pisces: It's time for the Fish to take its worthiness pill, yea, you! You're too busy swimming in the humanitarian

lake, helping others, you never stop to take credit, be "grateful" it's your turn...

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

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Firefighter Memorial & Recognition



Firefighter Daniel Corsillo gets sworn in.



Firefighter Benjamin Fitchwell gets sworn in.



Firefighter Oliver Harper gets sworn in.



Firefighter Christopher Jedlicka gets sworn in.



Firefighter Vincenzo Russo gets sworn in.




Firefighter Christopher Makaryk gets sworn in.



Captain Nicholas Sambula gets sworn in on his new commission.




Fire Chief Tim Dunphy after being sworn in, speaks to the assembled crowd of residents, city officials, family members, and firefighters old and new about what it meant to come up as a Lakewood Firefighter, and what it means to join the illustrious ranks of firefighters serving the City of Lakewood. He mentioned that people like former Fire Chief Jim Anderson was his role model. In the photo, retired Fire Chief Jim Anderson sits at the end of the aisle, approving of all he sees!



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Lakewood Living

LakewoodAlive’s Volunteer-Driven Flower Blossoms Program Enjoys Vibrant 13th Year

by Matt Bixenstine

For four months this summer, Downtown Lakewood enjoyed an extra splash of color and greenery thanks to the volunteer-driven Flower Blossoms Program.

Geraniums and impatiens dotted the urban landscape from the start of June through the end of September, creating a more appealing commercial district. The 13th year of LakewoodAlive’s Flower Blossoms Program saw the addition of 54 flower boxes stretching east-to-west along Detroit Avenue from the Westerly Apartments to Sumpter Law.

“The 13th year of the Flower Blossoms Program has been a tremendous success, and we’re extremely grateful to the dedicated group of volunteers who made this initiative possible, as well as thankful to the City of Lakewood for its support,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “This volunteer-driven beautification service offered to Downtown Lakewood merchants is one of many ways we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood.”

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

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

Flyers were sent to downtown merchants in January inviting them



LakewoodAlive’s 2019 Flower Blossoms Program resulted in the placement of 54 flower boxes along Detroit Avenue.

to participate in the Blossoms Program, which includes the rental of flower boxes and stands, the planting of flowers, consistent watering and the pickup and storage of all items come fall. Haber then spearheaded facilitation of the program shortly after Memorial Day.

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

Once the summer season ends, Lakewood Garden Center stores the planter boxes for the remainder of the year, and the City of Lakewood assists with storing the water stands.

LakewoodAlive thanks the following volunteers for their assistance with this year’s Flower Blossoms Program: Kathy Haber, Paul Bilyk, Randy Bishop, Colleen Sutton Clark, Susan Echols, Judy and Steve Fesko, Susan Krebs, Jane Leschnik, Christine McCallum, Patrick McCallum, Kathleen Miller, Heidi Murray, Paula Reed, Marilyn Rudnick, David Spahr and daughters, Joyce Tabeling and Karen Walsh.



LakewoodAlive will host “Knowing Your Home: Home Maintenance” on November 7.

LakewoodAlive to Host “Knowing Your Home: Home Maintenance” Workshop On November 7

by Matt Bixenstine

More than 80 percent of all homes in our city were built before 1935. Our aging housing stock has a lot of charm and character, but with that comes the potential for higher costs for repairs and improvements.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Home Maintenance on Thursday, November 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Clock Electric (1624 Coutant Avenue). The 15th workshop of 2019 for this popular home maintenance educational series will focus on the must-do home maintenance tasks that homeowners – especially those with 80 to 100+ year-old homes – should make a priority in order to prevent major repair issues down the road.

This workshop will outline a yearly home maintenance schedule for homeowners to undertake. By properly tracking home maintenance tasks and implementing preventative home maintenance measures, homeowners can gain the knowledge and confidence they need to better anticipate

and address future home repairs before they become problematic.

With our society becoming increasingly digital, this workshop will devote time to covering websites and apps that can be used to store all home repair information in one convenient place, making life easier for homeowners.

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

Now in its sixth year, LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home” series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Our workshop series is generously supported by: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

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

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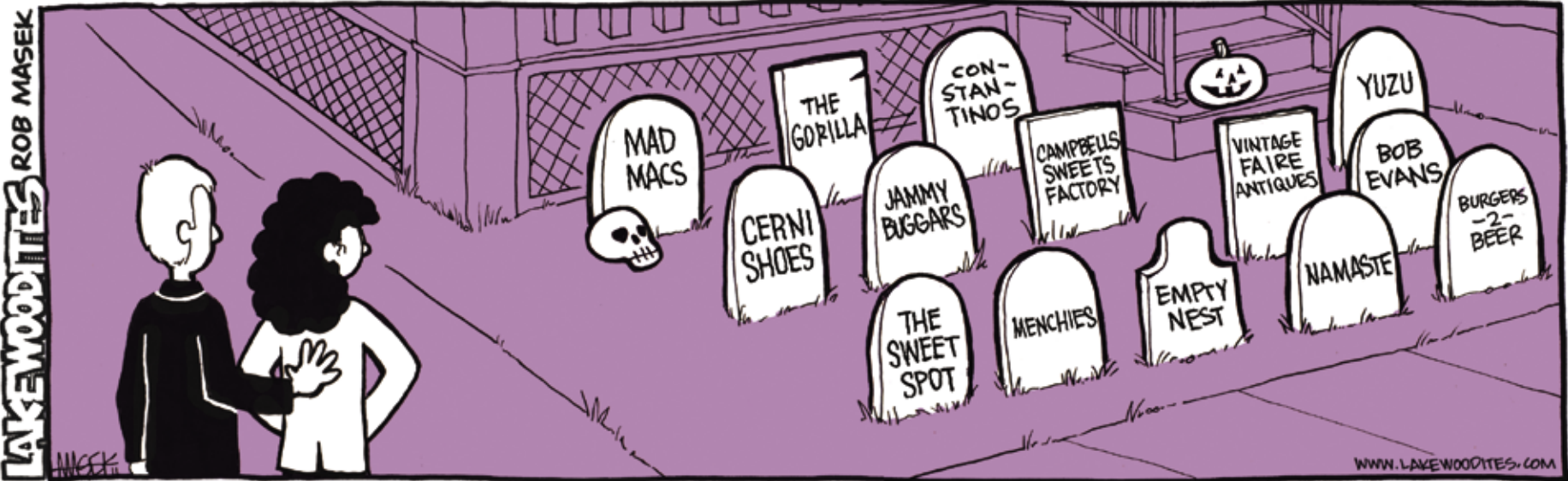
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