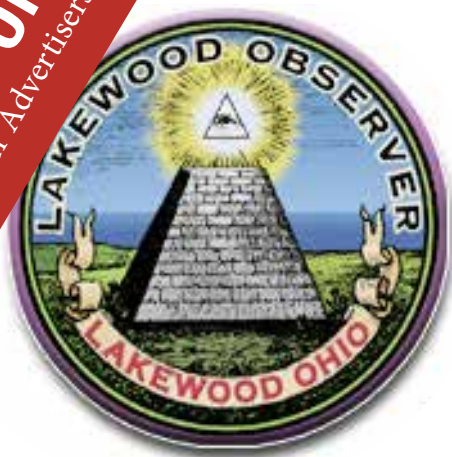


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Volume 15, Issue 23, December 4, 2019

“Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.” – Kahlil Gibran

Thank You Lakewood: Let's Create A Positive Future Together

by Meghan George
Lakewood Mayor-Elect

It is a profound honor to begin the work of serving our community, as Lakewood's next mayor.

I want to thank the voters who entrusted me with this great responsibility. Accomplishing things together, as a city, depends on the trust of residents.

Earning this trust through a positive, grassroots-based campaign was important to me, and I am very grateful to those who made it possible. Anyone who has worked on a political campaign knows that it's a team effort. Every vote mattered, so every phone call, every yard sign, every piece of literature left at a door made a



difference.

Bringing this community together will be my mission over the next four years. There's a lot of work to be done, starting with the transition planning which I have been giving much attention.

Thank you to everyone who encouraged the decision

to run, and to everyone who supported this campaign. I also want to thank all candidates who put themselves out there. Running for office is not easy, but it makes representative democracy possible.

I look forward to working with new and old colleagues, and engaging input from throughout our community in a 360-degree approach to the challenges ahead.

We can work together on priorities of public safety and sustainable strong finances, on open government and an inclusive community, and on a clean environment.

The next chapter for Lakewood is starting, and I hope you will be part of it.



Deck The Halls

by Heidi Murray

The Lakewood Historical Society's annual Christmas Sale on the Grounds has everything you need for holiday decorating, entertaining and gift-giving. Everything to Deck your Halls and support a great community organization.

Spending the first full weekend in December shopping at the Nicholson House, Lakewood's oldest structure, has become a holiday tradition for many savvy shoppers. If you've never been, you must come! Beautifully displayed new and nearly-new gift items, tree trimmings, decorations, wrapping paper and anything you need for holiday enter-

taining share the space with antiques, collectibles, vintage linens, glassware, silver and delicate heirloom ornaments.

Christmas Sale on the Grounds offers the opportunity to recycle treasures of the past, providing one-of-a-kind gift ideas. Donated by a legion of Historical Society supporters of all ages, the items reflect the treasures of the past 100 years and today. Relive your childhood with games, dolls and toys from days gone by, add to your Christmas village collection or find a treasured collectible. We have ruby red, snow white and patterned china to set the most festive

continued on page 15

Thank You, Volunteers! Please Come Back Dec. 13th & 14th!

by Celia Dorsch

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation counts on hundreds of volunteers to show up at our holiday food distribution events. The outpouring of helpers at LCAC's Thanksgiving events did not disappoint! People of all ages helped sort, pack and deliver turkeys, stuffing, potatoes, frozen pumpkin pies, along with nonperishable food items to 300 households in Lakewood.

LCAC is gearing up to deliver its second round of food baskets to another 300 residents. Between now and December 12th, LCAC encourages Lakewood residents to drop off non-perishable food items at any one of the following schools: Emerson, Franklin School of Opportunity, Garfield, Grant, Harding, Harrison, Lincoln or Roosevelt.

Beginning Friday, December 13th, LCAC will rely on a community of caring volunteers. Many hands are needed to sort the canned food donations prior to home deliveries on Saturday, December 14th. Bring your family and friends. This service opportunity is open to all ages. Specific times, dates and



volunteer needs are listed below. LCAC ESPECIALLY NEED DRIVERS TO DELIVER FOOD TO LAKEWOOD NEIGHBORS. You don't need to sign up for anything, just show up at the times below!

Where? Lakewood Masonic Temple - 15300 Detroit Ave.

Enter through NE door near rear parking lot.

Friday, Dec. 13th - 9:30am-1:00pm – Food donations are sorted and prepped for bagging.

6:00pm-7:30pm – Non-perishable food bags are filled.

Saturday, Dec. 14th - 9:00am-10:30am – Perishable food is bagged and all items are prepped to deliver.

10:30am-12:00pm – Drivers deliver food baskets to 300 Lakewood households.

Saturday activities are held outdoors, regardless of the weather! Please dress accordingly.

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, dedicated to improving the quality of life of Lakewood's families in need. For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit us at www.LCAC.info or check out our Facebook page at Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation

Keep Lakewood Beautiful Recognizes 2019 Beautiful Home Winners



by Bradley Presutto

The 2019 Beautiful Home winners were recognized by Mayor Summers and Lakewood City Council during the November 18 meeting of City Council. Keep Lakewood Beautiful (created by City Ordinance in 1982) takes nominations throughout the summer and awards one winner from each of the seven city school districts.

This year's winners were great examples of Lakewood's beautiful houses. While all seven offer their own unique presentation, the common theme was they all started

working on their homes through a love of gardening.

Bruce Moss of Norton Avenue poignantly stated, "No matter how big or small your area, you can take the ordinary; and with a little imagination, turn it into something extraordinary."

Each of the winners offered some sage advice and were proud to contribute to the overall beautification of their community.

April Hoy of Grace Avenue proudly stated, "Being recognized for something I love to do, something that adds beauty to the world, is really special to me."

continued on page 7

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Observer's Holiday Lighting Contest 2019



by Jim O'Bryan

As we move into December the Lakewood Observer will once again be having its Annual Holiday Lighting Contest. Each year we try to reward both the hard work of Lakewood residents and businesses, and also their creativity. So over the years the contest and categories have grown to be as creative as the holiday displays around this community.

I am sure all of the regular readers will remember how this started. Steve Davis and I were driving around the city noticing a true lack of effort in many dismal displays, and we joked that “Lakewood is the Paris of Cleveland’s Inner Ring Suburbs.” This was years before the campaign that Cleveland was the Paris of the Midwest, yawn. Anyway, suddenly we came upon a house that had a single strand of lights, but they were used creatively. As we looked we discussed what would go through the mind of a person who only used one strand of lights? Then a few houses away we saw a house that had a red blanket over the first floor window, and a green blanket over the second floor window, and an epiphany washed over us with the joy of Christmas and the holiday season as we realized that unlike their neighbors, at least they took the effort to decorate, and try to bring a little Christmas spirit into not only their lives but the lives of everyone around them. BAM our hearts melted, and it was decided that Lakewood needed to reward as many people as possible for their efforts both large and small, after all Love conquers all. And as witnessed by a winner of both “best use of one light” and “best use of non-traditional Christmas items” a single green light that lit up a Bob Marley “One Love” flag, the contest was born!

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Lakewood Observer

Delivering Thanksgiving Meals To Local Families Cox Communications Partners With Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp.

by Jeff Lavery
\$1,000 grant from Cox Charities
provided to help LCAC deliver more hol-
iday meals

With the Thanksgiving holiday drawing near, Cox Communications employees chose to partner with the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. (LCAC) to help bring meals to local families in need. Cox employees helped sort food for 300 Lakewood families, and helped deliver meals to those in need.

The LCAC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of under-privileged Lakewood residents. This has traditionally been accomplished by collecting food, raising funds, and providing volunteer services in support of our Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket events.

Cox employees live in the commu-

nities they serve, so it was a logical step to make to help ensure those families in need were cared for and supported during the Thanksgiving holiday. In addition, with plans to provide similar support in December, Cox issued a \$1,000 Cox Charities grant to help acquire more food for the upcoming holiday season, and supplied fliers on Connect2Compete, a low-cost, high-speed internet program available to families with school-aged children who are enrolled in low-income assis-



Cox employee volunteers help sort food for donating to local families for Thanksgiving meals.

Three Arches Foundation Awards Over \$1.1 Million in Grants to NE Ohio Nonprofits

by Kristin Broadbent
Three Arches Foundation, a community-focused grant making foundation, is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2019 grant awards recognizing sixteen organizations for their work in advancing the health and well-being of the people of Lakewood and surrounding communities.

“Throughout the strategic grant process, we were inspired as we listened and learned about the efforts of each organization to implement and maintain programs and services that reflect our priority area and geographic focus,” said Chas Geiger, board chair of the Foundation. “It’s a privilege to make these investments to support the advancement of solutions that address

access to behavioral and physical health care for those who stand to benefit the most – our community.”
This also marks a milestone for the Foundation as the completion of this initial round of funding represents the culmination of its organizational transition and repurposed mission of supporting nonprofits that are removing barriers and improving access to care. As reflected through each grant awarded, the Foundation is committed to making a difference in the care of health across our community and honored to continue a long-standing legacy of philanthropic impact.
Highlights of 2019 grants approved by the Foundation’s board of directors include:

tance programs.
“When you look at how many families are struggling and the huge impact a simple meal can have, it’s a no-brainer for our employees to stand up and serve their community,” said Rob Brill, market vice president for Cox Communications. “We’re proud our employees strive to serve the public every day, and that they’re already making plans for additional meal deliveries in December.”
The next food sorting and delivery opportunity will take place on Friday, December 13th at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. On Saturday, volunteers will take to the streets to deliver packages of food to families in need during the Christmas season. For more information, visit <https://lcac.info/>.

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

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Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Jonathan Belding, MD,
MetroHealth Medical Center

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Friends' Preview Book Sale

Main Library Friends' Book Sale Room

There is a special members-only preview book sale on Thursday, December 5, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at the door for as little as \$3.00. The preview sale is not a bag sale.

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Friends' Light Up Lakewood Bag of Books Sale

Main Library Friends' Book Sale Room

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host the Friends' Light up Lakewood Bag of Books Sale at Lakewood Public Main Library, 15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107 on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday with the Friends

Concert - Three Strands

Main Library Auditorium

Three Strands is a folk Americana project started by Pennsylvania singer-songwriter Sean Cox. After fronting the folk rock quintet The Band of Rivals, Sean began experimenting with more narrative, delicate songs. These honest and simplistic arrangements are strongly influenced by the American folk revival, as well as early gospel and blues traditions. Three Strands exists to dredge deep waters in search of the strands that unite us all.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Lakewood Historical Society Programs

“Dundee: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”

Presentation by Carrie Sowden

Main Library Auditorium

The Dundee, a 214-foot schooner barge launched in 1892, sank about fourteen miles off of Cleveland on September 11, 1900. Since the discovery of the sunken vessel in the '80s, it has become a popular scuba diving site. What can archaeology teach us about the wreck? Carrie Sowden, Archaeological Director of the National Museum of the Great Lakes will discuss the history, loss and archaeology of the shipwreck and its preservation for future generations.

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Author - “Gypsy Queen”

Book by Nicole Hennessy

Main Library Auditorium

Gypsy Queen is a stunning new poetry collection by Cleveland’s own poet and journalist Nicole Hennessy. Her previous publications include Black Rabbit, a nonfiction profile

of poet and artist Tom Kryss. Hennessy also co-founded the underground art and literary bimonthly Miser Magazine. Her work has appeared in local and regional publications, and she was recently recognized as a Wild Wmn. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (92 minutes)

Lakewood Public Cinema

“Tokyo Godfathers” (2003)

Directed by Satoshi Kon and Shôgo Furuya

Main Library Auditorium

Middle-aged alcoholic Gin (Tôru Emori), teenage runaway Miyuki (Aya Okamoto) and former drag queen Hana (Yoshiaki Umegaki) are a trio of homeless friends surviving on the streets of Tokyo as a makeshift family. While rummaging in the trash for food on Christmas Eve, they stumble upon an abandoned newborn baby. With only a handful of clues to the baby’s identity, the three misfits search the streets of Tokyo in an attempt to return the baby to its parents.

Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday with the Friends

Sharon’s Signers Presents: “A Charlie Brown Christmas”

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Sharon’s Signers is a local sign language choir dedicated to the inclusion of all adults and kids, regardless of ability. Sharon’s Signers began with the name The Beck Signers and was renamed in honor of the late Sharon Svette. For years, they have inspired hundreds by showing that everyone has a special purpose and place in our world. To celebrate the winter season, the signers will be performing songs from the holiday favorite “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”

Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Author

“A Brave Face: Two Cultures, Two Families, and the Iraqi Girl Who Bound Them Together”

Book by Barbara Marlowe and Teeba Furat Marlowe

Main Library Auditorium

“A Brave Face” is the story of a woman who moved mountains to provide medical care for an Iraqi girl badly burned during a roadside attack. Barbara Marlowe’s determination to fight for her future daughter highlights the way love can reach across both cultures and continents. Marlowe overcame many obstacles to bring Teeba to the US for medical treatment—and to ultimately offer her a home. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Events For Kids

compiled by Nic Starr

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Happily Ever Crafter

Main Library Activity Room.

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Beginners and pros, come create clever crafts with everyday materials! Registration required.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Space is the Place: Star Clocks

Main Library Multipurpose Room

For students in third through fifth grade

Explore the world before clocks, when people determined what the time was without them. Using simple materials, participants will construct their very own star clock, also known as a nocturnal, and discover how it can be used to map the changing of time by utilizing the stars as their guide. Registration required.

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tail Waggin’ Tutors

Main Library Multipurpose Room

For school-age children

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

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sew Your Own Library Tote

Main Library Homework Room

For anyone age 8 and up

Create your own unique and stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. Registration required.

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Hand Sewing for Literacy

Main Library Activity Room

For students in third through fifth grade

In this program, students will listen to a story showcasing sewing as the central theme, learn basic sewing skills and create a project based on the story. Parents are welcome to stay and help, and a simple stitching group project will be available for younger siblings. Registration required.

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Lakewood Public Library

A Brave Face: A Story Of Love

by Amy Kloss

Barbara Marlowe is a determined woman. In 2006, a photo of an Iraqi girl in The Plain Dealer affected her so much she reached across the world, overcoming the obstacles of bureaucracy, time, distance and culture to help a severely burned child achieve a new life.

On Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, Marlowe will be telling her story and that of Teeba Furat Marlowe, the little girl she brought to America for medical treatment. Together they've written a book, "A Brave Face," about their inspiring journey.

It was Teeba's eyes that did it. Marlowe saw Teeba's huge dark eyes staring



out from a tiny burned face and felt compelled to do something for her. A roadside bombing in 2003 had killed her brother



and left one-year-old Teeba with second degree burns covering her head and hands. Marlowe began a one-woman campaign to bring Teeba to Cleveland. Through international aid organizations, Marlowe arranged for transportation, visas and translators. She appealed to University Hospitals for the treatment needed for Teeba's scars. It took a year, but Teeba and her grandmother traveled from Iraq to begin the medical treatments in July 2007. What began as Marlowe's quest to

help a little girl became a life-changing endeavor. Marlowe and her husband became parents to a girl who delighted everyone with her sunny personality and rapid command of English. The painful and invasive treatments and surgeries were supposed to take two years, but complications arose. As time went on, Marlowe, Teeba and her family back in Iraq realized that the scared five-year-old Iraqi girl who had arrived in Cleveland was becoming an American. Teeba, a student at Gilmour Academy, is now a self-possessed young woman who loves dancing and has plans to become a doctor.

Join Marlowe on December 19, 2019 at the Lakewood Main Library to hear more about this remarkable story and the book that resulted from it. Copies of "A Brave Face" will be available for sale and signing.

Meet The Author: Nicole Hennessy And The Poetry Of "Gypsy Queen"

by Lisa Calfee

Nicole Hennessy writes with a passion. As a journalist and poet, she has written for many local and national publications, co-founded the bimonthly art and literary magazine "Miser," published the nonfiction book "Black Rabbit" and belongs to a community of poets actively creating and sharing their work in Cleveland.

Her latest effort is a stunning collection of poetry in the 2019

release, "Gypsy Queen." Nicole is visiting Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book as part of our Meet The Author series.

Poem by poem, the themes in "Gypsy Queen" keep building, the voice becomes stronger, more recognizable – like someone you're getting to know. Along with each interaction between reader and poet comes a deeper reflection, as in "Above the Fold:"

"Always hand someone a buck.
Always stop to look them in the eye,
Because it could be you;"

Cleveland readers will recognize the familiar settings, the changing weather and the local references throughout Hennessy's engaging free-verse. "Sometimes the Sun" gives an example:

"Jim Lowell lives
In the Cuyahoga River
I swear
I've seen him
Swimming"

There is much more to explore in the poetic world of local writer Nicole Hennessy. This special Meet The Author program will be held in the Main Lower Level Auditorium where books will be available for sale and signing.



Author Nicole Hennessy

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Lakewood Education Observed

Board Hears First Reading of Resolution to Proceed with Levy

by Christine Gordillo

On Monday evening, the Lakewood City Schools Board of Education had the first reading of a resolution to proceed with the consideration of placing a 3.9 mill levy and 1 mill permanent improvement (PI) levy on the March 17, 2020 ballot. Due to responsible refinancing, sound financial practices, and property value growth, some of the District's current debt service millage will be reduced, which allows the District to pursue this much-needed levy that will keep our funding stable.

This levy would result in a no new tax rate and would cost taxpayers less than \$2 a month more than they currently pay, based on a property valuation of \$100,000.

This reading represents the next step toward the levy appearing on the March ballot.

Funding from this levy would expand preschool; keep educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date; retain our high-quality teachers by paying them competitive salaries; add STEM offerings to prepare students in science, math, engineering and technology, and much more. The PI

portion of the levy would protect our community's previous investment by keeping all of our buildings, fields, vehicles, natatorium and other assets in good repair.

Lakewood City Schools has stretched its last operating levy for six years with staffing and operational efficiencies, reductions in long-term costs, and saving millions in future debt service costs through responsible refinancing. However, due to rising operational costs and State cuts to school funding, the District will start deficit spending in 2020. Because school districts are required by law to balance their budgets, the Board of Education determined it would be in the best interest of the District – and the educational excellence that residents expect – to return to the ballot.

Kent Zeman, Lakewood City Schools' Treasurer, in November presented the Board with the District's five-year financial forecast and various funding scenarios taking into account items such as state funding, property valuations, enrollment, and staffing. You can view that presentation here: <https://tinyurl.com/tjxs3x7>



Lakewood High School Girls Soccer Ends Successful Season

by Ted Nagel

The Lakewood High School Girls Soccer Team finished its 2019 campaign against Hathaway Brown in the second round of the Ohio Division 1 playoffs. After a very competitive game which saw the Rangers down 1-0 at halftime, the very experienced Hathaway Brown team pulled away later in the game to win 3-0. The resurgent Rangers ended the season 7-7-4. The team had exciting outings including a 1-1 tie early in the season against perennial powerhouse and eventual Section Champion Avon. They also tied cross-town rival St. Joseph Academy, 0-0 in a hard, defensive battle. The Rangers had key wins against Holy Name and North Olmsted.

Lakewood was able to remain competitive in every outing with a strong defense led by freshman goalie Lauren Barber who registered 7 shut-outs on the season. Lauren was named 2nd Team All-Southwest Conference (SWC) Goalie of the Year. Also named to the 2nd Team All Conference Team was freshman Center Defender Sam Hudak. The defense was led by Senior Co-Captain Emma Hirsch who received the team's Ranger Award for Leadership. Other notable award winners were the Junior Varsity Offensive MVP, Cameron Robertson, JV Defensive MVP Grace Hildebrandt and Senior Co-Captain Emily McIntire and Freshman Jane McGinley as Honorable Mention All SWC. Junior Co-Captain Aubree Nagel was named 1st Team

All SWC and Team MVP. Aubree is a three-year Varsity Letter winner and three-time team leading scorer, including 14 goals and 8 assists in 2019.

The Lakewood Girls Soccer Team is extending an invitation to all girls in Lakewood to get out and join the growing crowd of your friends who enjoy soccer every year! Lakewood provides an opportunity to play soccer at every level. If you are just starting out, go to the Lakewood Soccer Association (LSA) site and check out Saturday Soccer <https://lakewood-soccer.com>. If you are looking for a bigger challenge, Lakewood United Football Club (LUFC) <https://www.lakewoodunitedfc.org> has many opportunities to play competitive soccer against the other, local community teams. Get in the Game! It's fun and good for you.

Ted Nagel is the Lakewood High School Girls Varsity Soccer Coach.

Sounds Of The Season Coming

by Christine Gordillo

Everyone's favorite holiday concert tradition is back! Sounds of the Season will have two performances, Thursday, December 13 and Friday, December 14, both at 7:30 pm in the Civic Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 in advance at the LHS Bookroom (call 216-529-4047) or \$8 at the door.



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Emerson School Shines

More Insects In Ohio? Let's Save The Indiana Bat!

by *Lola Miklowski*
Emerson Elementary School
Grade 3 - Mrs. Gerg's class

Did you know there are many endangered species in Ohio? Can you name them? I know that the Indiana bat is one. I am the voice of this special Ohio mammal.

Indiana bats have been endangered since 1967. They have been rapidly dying for many reasons. All should be stopped! The scientific name of the Indiana bat is *Myotis sodalis*. *Myotis* means "mouse ear." The Indiana bat has small, mouse-like ears.

Human disturbance of caves that bats use for winter hibernating is the first reason they have been dying. During hibernation, they cluster in groups of up to 500 per square foot. In some of the largest hibernation caves, 20,000 - 50,000 bats gather. If even one episode of human disturbance happens, many bats will die.

Large numbers of Indiana bat deaths have occurred due to human disturbance during hibernation. Bats are important parts of our ecosystem, eating many night-flying insects, including crop pests. Their job in eating insects is very important! Indiana bats eat up to half their body weight in insects each night. They eat different insects found along rivers, lakes and in the uplands.

The second reason for their decline is the bats eat insects, but pesticides kill insects leaving less for the bats. When bats eat contaminated insects, drink contaminated water, or absorb the chemicals while feeding in areas that have been treated by people, this also contributes to bat deaths. The third reason for bat deaths is caves are popular sites for people to explore.

Human visits drive bats away. If a cave entrance is blocked with barricades to keep humans out, the temperature in the cave goes up. Even a few degrees in change of temperature can be bad for bats. The next reason is summer habitat loss.

Indiana bats use trees as roosting and foraging sites during summer months. Loss of forested habitats can cause bats to die. Finally, the white-nose disease is spreading to bats throughout Ohio and this is causing our friends to die. What is being done to help the Indiana bat? Recovery Plan

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a recovery plan for the Indiana bat in 1983 and is now revising that plan.

Habitat Protection

- "Public lands like National Wildlife Refuges and U.S. Forest Service lands are managed for Indiana bats by

protecting forests. This means ensuring that there are the size and species of trees needed by Indiana bats for roosting; and providing a supply of dead and dying trees that can be used as roost sites. In addition, caves used for hibernation are managed to maintain suitable conditions for hibernation and

2019 Beautiful Home Winners

continued from page 1

As with most of the Lakewood housing stock, the ages of the homes dated as far back as 1894 all the way through to 1987. Regardless of where you are with your gardening or home beautification skills, Jack and Maureen Schroeck of Arthur Avenue offered some really sound advice. "Be patient and prepared to make a lot of mistakes." When you see the Schroeck home, it is hard to imagine where any of those mistakes occurred. In a densely populated city like Lakewood, it is easy to lose that small town feel. A lot of the winners commented about how their front porches allowed them to showcase their beautiful homes while also welcoming their neighbors. Maryella Rohwer and Don King-land of Marlowe Avenue agreed with the other winners' comments that "Lakewood is a community of great front porches, a truly beautiful city."

Several of the homeowners gave special thanks and credit for the sound advice provided by Paul and the crew at

eliminate disturbance." USFWS Education and Outreach

- Indiana bats are very helpful to our ecosystem. Without them people would have billions more insects.

Will you help spread the word for our friend, the Indiana bat?

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NASA's Super Guppy & Artemis/Orion



Last week NASA landed their Super Guppy at Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport. The Super Guppy was built to move the Space Shuttle from landing site, to maintenance site, back to the launch pad. Today it is used for moving really large things around. On this day it was the Artemis/Orion spacecraft which will carry the first woman to the moon, and then from the moon to Mars in 2030. Yes that is Northern Ohio's favorite weather person, WKYC's Betsy Kling video taping for the news and her blog.



NASA crew members back the special truck that is used to move the spacecraft from the Super Guppy to the truck that will take it the final 62 miles to Sandusky's Plum Brook Station. The space craft will undergo extreme condition tests there for the next six months.



This photo shows just how big the Super Guppy container is, well not quite. There were still a couple more skids of support items in the back of the Super Guppy.



ORION QUICK FACTS	
Orion is America's next generation spacecraft that will take astronauts to exciting destinations never explored by humans. It will serve as the exploration vehicle that will carry the crew to distant planetary bodies, provide emergency abort capability, sustain the crew during space travel, and provide safe reentry from deep space.	
Orion Summary	
Number of crew.....	4
Total change in velocity.....	4,390 ft/s
Gross liftoff weight.....	
Artemis 1:	74,000 lbs
Artemis 2:	78,000 lbs
Trans-lunar insertion mass.....	
Artemis 1:	54,500 lbs
Artemis 2:	58,500 lbs
Post-trans lunar insertion mass.....	
Artemis 1:	53,000 lbs
Artemis 2:	57,000 lbs
Stack height.....	67 ft
Crew module + service module height.....	26 ft
Launch Abort System – Emergency Crew Escape System	
Height.....	50 ft
Diameter.....	3 ft. at tower; 17 ft at base
Weight at liftoff.....	17,000 lbs
Abort motor weight.....	8750 lbs, 4700 of that is prop.
Attitude control motor.....	1600 lbs, 650 of that is prop.
Jettison motor weight.....	900 lbs, 360 of that is prop.
Weight of propellant.....	5700 lbs
Crew Module – Crew and Cargo Transport	
Height.....	11 ft
Diameter.....	16.5 ft
Habitable volume.....	316 ft³
Pressurized volume.....	690.6 ft³
Artemis 1 weight at liftoff.....	21,900 lbs
Artemis 2 weight at liftoff.....	22,900 lbs
Artemis 1 nominal landed weight.....	19,500 lbs
Artemis 2 nominal landed weight.....	20,500 lbs
Engines/Thrusters.....	12 RCS thrusters
Service Module – Propulsion, Electrical Power, Fluids Storage	
Length.....	15.7 ft
Diameter.....	16.5 ft
Artemis 1 weight.....	31,100 lbs
Artemis 2 weight.....	34,100 lbs
Engines/Thrusters.....	24 RCS thrusters, 8 Aux, 1 OMS
Orion-to-Stage Adapter	
Mass Properties.....	3,050 lbs
Jettisoned Fairings.....	1,125 lbs
Spacecraft Adapter.....	

** Artemis 2 numbers assume weight of crew of four astronauts each 180 lbs and all their supplies for a 21 day mission.

photos by Jim O'Bryan

Above is the NASA Fact Sheet on the Artemis/Orion spacecraft and cargo of the Super Guppy on this trip. It is amazing to think that something I stood next to is headed to the moon, and then if all goes well on to Mars to land and return! The QR code to the right will take you to all the photos from two very cold days with two of the most amazing vehicles I have ever seen.



Because of high winds, the Super Guppy arrived too late to unload, so as the sun sets on Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport, the crowd prepares to leave.



As the Super Guppy lands you can hear the ooohhs and aaahhs from the crowd that assembled to watch this history-making arrival.



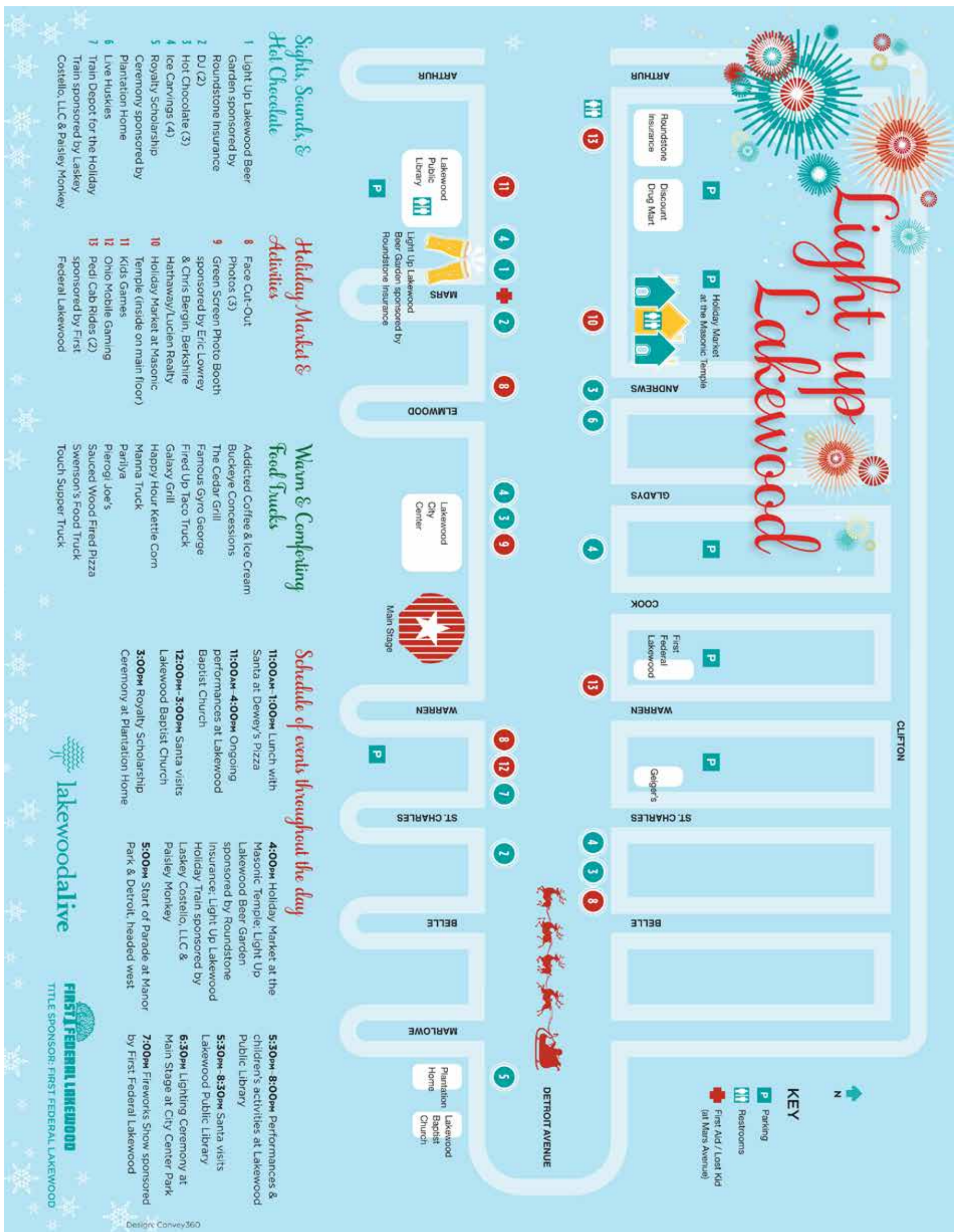
NASA employs many people in Northern Ohio and especially in Lakewood. I know more than a handful of Lakewoodites who work at NASA. A couple of them are in this photo looking on. Below, a look into the empty plane.



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Light Up Lakewood returns to Downtown Lakewood for a 13th year on Saturday, December 7. Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood and presented by LakewoodAlive, Light Up Lakewood celebrates the season and the richness of our city's vibrancy. This free, family-friendly event features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter

fireworks, Beer Garden, Holiday Market, Holiday Train, live music, ice carvings, hot chocolate, food trucks and children's games. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood to learn more.

Lakewood City Hall

Lakewood Makes Commitment To Affordable Housing

A few weeks ago, Lakewood came under fire for its lack of solutions for low- and middle-income renters who are being pushed out due to the rising housing costs in recent years. While the article focused on the dwindling use of Housing Choice Voucher Program (aka Section 8), 289 in 2018 vs the 420 in 2013 (according to HUD data), it glossed over a lot of solutions the city offers. The city currently offers approximately 1000 affordable housing units with the assistance of all their programs combined.

Lakewood currently has seven action steps to address affordable housing:

- Launch Rental Restoration Program Preserving Affordability
- Explore Gap Financing for Rental Development Projects
- Develop and expand on-profit partnerships with housing agencies
- Provide more homeownership

One Lakewood Progress,
A New Column Serving The Policy
Needs Of Lakewood Residents

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Some who read the title might see the connection between the name of this column and the One Lakewood Place development being built on the site of the former hospital. If so, you would be correct. Cities “progress” through development and change, just as they “progress” in social and political thought over time. It is my belief that progress in our city should be arrived at together, with input, mutual cooperation, and deference to bringing our citizens full center into the policy process. This was how the idea for One Lakewood Progress was born.

This column will serve as a resource for Lakewood residents to better understand policy and its influence in daily life. During my campaign for city council this year, I spent a lot of time explaining aspects of public policy to residents. Often, residents reported feeling like they weren’t “smart enough” to understand how policies worked or “what they meant.”

Public policy, in a very simplified sense, is what governments choose to do (actions taken) and what governments choose not to do (which can be implied). Policy is often written in response to some issue, goal, or desired state that requires attention. For example, the pilot speed tables that were installed on Marlowe Avenue is

opportunities for low- and moderate-income households

- Develop new affordable home construction
- Connect property owners to resources and incentives
- Conduct more outreach & advocacy to HUD and CMHA to improve effectiveness and service delivery of housing programs in Lakewood

While these solutions are still not enough to address affordable living for many families in Lakewood, members of Lakewood City Council state they are committed to creating solutions that will help residents. The passage of Resolution 2019-08 on Monday night added an eighth action step towards that commitment.

With unanimous support in City Council, Lakewood becomes

an example of what the government chose to do (install speed tables) about the situation (excessive speed and the increased instance of accidents). You can imply that other solutions to the issues (installing chicanes, random speed enforcement, etc.) were not chosen for that particular area.

It is important to the progress of Lakewood and the legitimacy of our local government that residents are able to understand what policies are being proposed and how they will affect the city. It is also important that residents understand policies being enacted by our State and National legislatures and the local implications of those policies on daily life. This column will address a policy area of interest in every issue of the Observer.

Have a policy question or idea for me? It could make it into a future issue. Please e-mail questions and suggestions to lauraforlakewood@gmail.com.

Laura Rodriguez-Carbone was 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. She and her husband Christopher own and live in their home on McKinley Avenue with their five cats, Oliver, Ozzy, Oswald, Odin and Prue.

by Bradley Presutto
LO City Hall Reporter

the first city in Cuyahoga County to link tax abatement benefits to a development if they offer 20% of its units priced to affordability standards. The breakdown would be 10% reserved for tenants whose annual household income is up to 80% of area median income (AMI), and 10% reserved for tenants whose annual household income is up to 120% AMI.

“This won’t solve everything immediately, but it is a step in the right direction,” Councilperson Tristan Rader commented. “Having a system in place for the ‘missing middle’ will allow Lakewood to offer a solution to households usually just outside federal programs.”

The first three developments that are taking advantage of the new ordinance are the two Solove projects and One Lakewood Place. The former Barry Buick site will have 140 units, former Spitzer site will have 160 units, and One Lakewood Place will have 200 units. Between the three locations, there will be 100 units dedicated to affordable housing (20% of the 500 units).

“I think this sets up all three developments to be very successful providing affordable living to Lakewood residents,” explained Bryce Sylvester, Lakewood’s Director of Planning & Development. “Being on Detroit, they have easy access to public transit, qual-

ity grocery stores, and are in safe neighborhoods.”

Lakewood is not a city to use tax abatements often. Councilperson Dan O’Malley reminded everyone, “Lakewood has been able to achieve a lot of growth and development without doing tax abatements so attaching affordable housing to it is the key aspect that makes this the right solution for Lakewood.”

The Housing Committee and Planning & Development worked together utilizing different best practices in place in Columbus, OH and Seattle, OR. It needed to be city-wide, tied to residential and mixed-use structures, and needed to be of the same quality (no lower quality materials or separate entrances for affordable units).

“We want to make Lakewood a more accessible, diverse city. Hopefully the way this is written, we are able to chip away from any negative connotation associated with needing affordable housing,” suggested Rader.

“I believe this allows Lakewood to ease into providing more affordable housing, but this isn’t the end,” assured Sylvester. “This will cause more people to look at Lakewood; and as a city, we need to continue to be creative at providing affordable housing for our residents, even if that means coming up with a ninth, tenth, or eleventh action step.”

One World Shop Partners
with Lakewood Rocky River
Sunrise Rotary

by Larry Faulhaber

The Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotay Club is hosting a fundraiser on Friday November 22 from 5 to 7 p.m., at the One World Shop, 19321 Detroit Rd. in Rocky River. The One World Shop offers unique handmade gifts from over 55 developing companies, made by men and women, able and disabled, who are earning a fair wage for their work.

A portion of the sales at the fundraiser will go the the Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club's Community, Youth,

Vocational, and International service activities. Make your Holiday

giving go even further by supporting Rotary and fair trade artisans from across the globe at the One World Shop.

While you are there learn how you can join with over 1.2 million Rotarians around the World dedicated to helping less fortunate people with food and other necessities, eradicate polio, and provide safe drinkable water in underdeveloped contries around the world, as well as support the Lakewood Sunrise Rotary's local projects. For more information contact Kathy Berkshire, sloopyohio@cox.net.

Larry Faulhaber is the PR Committee Chair for the Sunrise Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club.




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Lakewood Business

Book Brothers Bookshop – A New Local Bookstore Now Open In Lakewood!

by Michael Samulak

That is correct -- Lakewood has a new independent bookstore that is now open for business! “Book Brothers Bookshop” is nestled neatly among other favorite local destination right on Madison Ave., just west of Warren road. This unique little shop aims to be counted amid Lakewood’s growing scene of successful, independently owned businesses.

As visitors walk through the doors, they will quickly realize that the “Book Brothers Bookshop” is clearly much more than just a used books store. Comics, DVD and Blue Ray movies, retro and modern video games, pop-culture media items, and a variety of vintage collectables are also available for purchase. Renovations to the current operating space have given the shop a clean and trendy vibe. The look is elevated by custom-made wooden bookshelves that completely cover the walls. These beautiful bookshelves were created and installed with the loving help of Mr. Elfers’ own father, which truly makes this endeavor a family affair.

Chris Elfers, the owner and operator of the shop here in Lakewood, is excited to build on the success that the family has experienced with retail in Provence Town (aka “P. Town”), Massachusetts. Applying the successful formula of catering to the needs of the local people, Mr. Elfers decided to venture on his own and open up this storefront, right here in Lakewood, Ohio. Why Lakewood? Mr. Elfers is



originally from Ohio and eventually found the rich diversity of the people who exemplify the Lakewood community to be similar to the neighborhood in P. Town, thus making Lakewood the ideal spot for this next chapter in the story. Mr. Elfers is all about being included in the local scene and loves supporting the community -- even the logo for the store was done by home town artist, Logan Szymanowski! Early interest and support from the community has already allowed for preliminary plans of expansion to be entertained! The additional space would allow for an even greater assortment of inventory to be made available for patrons.

“All killer no filler,” the owner says, is their motto. Mr. Elfers continues, “Yes, everything in the store is used, but that doesn’t mean it’s not good. We do our best to ensure that the items made available are exceptional in terms of quality and condition. Everything for sale is in excellent or like-new condition.” Mr. Elfers said that he would love to look at items that people may seek to sell or trade for store credit, but items are scrutinized to ensure what is on the selves is what people will want to take home. Indeed the quality selection pro-



cess ensures that what is available at the store lends itself to a premium browsing experience that covers both new releases and classic vintage treasures. Mr. Elfers is confident, “You may not find exactly what you came in looking for, but we hope that you still end up leaving with something you found that caught your eye or interest.”

“Book Brothers Bookshop” is located at 15408 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio. The store is open 7 days a week: Mon-Sat, Noon-9pm; Sun, Noon-8pm. The best way to contact the owner and keep up

with recent happenings at the bookstore is to “Follow” the related Instagram page or to “Like” them on Facebook @book-brothersohio. For more information or questions, please inquire via these social media platforms.

This article was researched and written by: Michael Samulak

Please visit the author’s web page : www.michaelsamulak.com to see the author’s other published works and inquire of services offered. Follow on FaceBook, Instagram, and Twitter@ MichaelSamulak

Rotary Prepares Beck Center Grounds For Winter



Members of the two Rotary clubs of Lakewood and Rocky River braved the elements to complete their annual cleanup of the planting beds at the Beck Center on November 9. Members raked leaves, trimmed bushes and performed general outdoor yard work. The clubs do a similar project at the Beck Center in early May.

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Lakewood Is Art

Buh Buh Buh Buh Buh:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 97

by Buzz Kompier

Midnight - Midnight - My Mind's Eye - 4 songs - 12"

I guess the deal with this one is that the four songs here were supposed to be released as a 12" of this sort many years ago, but it never came to pass. They've appeared on Midnight compilations before, but never in their intended form...until now! I'll be the first to admit I do not know nearly enough about metal to make any particularly good comparisons here, but I think this is pretty good. The totally ripping opener "Lord In Chains" has some great shredding, it definitely rocks, it has hooks (not pop hooks, but memorable riffs and structure and all that stuff), and it sounds enough like Motörhead that I'm pleased (again, someone who knows more about this kind of thing than me could probably tell you 'it's not Motörhead, it's [some band that was influenced by Motörhead], but not I). It's well-balanced by the slower, heavier "Strike Of Midnight." Side B has the spooky "Take You To Hell" (the part where he hits the first "when I take you to Hell!" and the music kicks in is especially awesome) which transitions perfectly into "...On The Wings Of Satan," another total ripper. Tell me you're not waving your fist in the air by the end of this thing. Good record. **3.666/5**

(mymindseye.bigcartel.com)

Jim Shepard - Heavy Action - Ever/Never Records - 29 songs - 3xLP, digital

Jim Shepard is one of the big three of the Columbus underground music scene, at least according to that one Obnox song ("Ron and Rep and Jimmy Shep!"). However, whereas it's easy enough to find Quotas records or Great Plains or Slave Apartments or whatever, it is not easy to find Jim Shepard's. Outside of "The Room Isn't Big Enough" by Ego Summit (which has several very good Shepard originals), I don't know if there's any of Jim's music currently in print. Well, until this new set here. This really is a great summary of Jim's music. There's everything from very out-there experimental songs (both of the cuts titled "Music For Instr., Voice, Machine") to scalding

noise-punk (most of the V-3 material here, like "Photograph Burns" and "Party at Fifteenth and Summit") to acoustic material somewhere in the tradition of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen (both of whom get covered here, along with similar originals like "One Percent Of Nothing") to excerpts from voicemails he left for people (I assume Charles Cicirella, mainly, whose archive I believe most if not all of this is culled from). The first track is "Fuck The Clock," an Ego Summit outtake of a poem recited by Mike Rep. "Prom Is Coming," which was co-written with Robert Pollard, is a really pretty solo tune performed here live, accompanied by Mike Rep again. The 'banter' on the live tracks, as well as the voicemails, reveal something interesting about Jim Shepard's personality, I guess. I don't know, I don't feel like it's my place to say since I didn't know him or anything, but they paint an interesting picture. Just the way he very earnestly tells the audience on one of the V-3 tracks that if they could find his records anywhere, that'd be really cool seems very self-conscious but not quite self-effacing— same thing with one of the "Devil's Editor Messages," where he ponders whether someone covering his song is a good step, and then immediately decides it's probably better than the original. "Tabernacle Moneygun" is a good Dylan-esque folk tune railing against the selling of oneself to corporate interests, or something like that. Side 2 has three live V-3 performances (and a solo version of Leonard Cohen's "Seems So Long Ago, Nancy"), all of which certainly provide good examples of what "heavy action" means. They're heavy and abrasive and maybe even difficult at times, but there's something about them that puts them

above lots of music like that. There's something more tuneful and, well, just more interesting about them. Jim's guitar playing on these is what everyone who plays this type of music wishes they good sound like— it just slashes through you. Even the heavy bass on "Photograph Burns" can't overpower the incendiary leads Jim plays throughout. The second record has a few dark, lo-fi, usually somewhat morose solo tunes: "Come Carry Me Down," "Star Power," and "Damage Control," for example. Not quite folk and not acoustic, but with the same raw feel as a solo acoustic performance tends to have. There's also a great cover of Dylan's "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue," played pretty straight but with the double-tracked vocals occasionally slipping out of time with each other and adding a slight layer of strangeness. There's also something he changes about the melody in the verse a couple times that's very interesting: I can't quite tell whether he makes it more uplifting or more melancholy. "Sanctuary" is another live V-3 recording where they're joined on vocals by Charles Cicirella, who gives a wild performance— he sounds mad, and it's up to you to decide which definition of 'mad' works better here— with his energy totally matched by Jim's guitar. This record, and the "Heavy Action" set proper, closes with a cover of the Gun Club's cover of Robert Johnson's "Preaching The Blues." I actually might like it more than the Gun Club. Jim really sounds like he's giving it his all on here. The final record here is "Onward-Forward-Infinite," a 12" that sort of functions as a tribute record from Jim Shepard's collaborators and friends. Robert Pollard covers "Bristol Girl" and Nudge Squidfish covers "Son Of Sam Don-

aldson," both pretty incredible songs. Both of them do pretty good versions, but at the same time I'd prefer to hear versions by Jim Shepard himself and it seems kinda weird to me that original versions weren't included. I don't know. Don Howland ("Buckeye Jim") and Dennis Callaci ("The Other End Of The Bar") both do original tribute songs, which are both rather haunting in their own ways. "Buckeye Jim" is dissonant the whole way through, with Howland's nasal yowl in fine form, and by the end of Dennis Callaci's song it sounds like he's all but destroyed the guitar he's playing. Charles Cicirella does a memorial poem about what Shepard's music means and what his death means ("The Death Of Jim Shepard And The Dying Of A New Age"), which is as fine a tribute as any on here. The final track here, and the final track of the whole thing, is one more by Jim Shepard Himself, called "Loaded Gun." It's a dark one. It's angry, it's intense: the lyrics, the vocals, the guitar. Pretty vicious stuff. It closes with a recording of someone yelling "Jim, you gotta make up your mind!" a few times. I don't know if that was put there by Shepard himself or by whoever assembled this, but it's a memorable close. Unlike a lot of these hyped-up long-posthumous sets, this one really delivers. It's not perfect, but it's very good. I wish more of Jim's stuff was in print, because if what's on here and what I've heard elsewhere is anything to go by, he's got some really great stuff, but for now, this is a good overview. Great, touching, and funny liner notes from Tom Lax of Siltbreeze as well. Recommended. **4.5/5**

(evernever-records.bandcamp.com)

Lakewood Tool Box Ornament

Just In Time For Holiday Season

by Matt Bixenstine

Give the ever-festive gift of home repair this holiday season.

In celebration of a successful inaugural season of The Lakewood Tool Box, LakewoodAlive announces a limited-time, special membership offer for its tool lending library. Any Lakewood resident who purchases a Tool Box membership (\$30) for the 2020 season by December 19th will receive a complimentary holiday ornament depicting a wreath-adorned version of the Lakewood Tool Box. Secure your Lakewood Tool Box membership and holiday ornament now by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/Ornament.

This same offer also extends to Lakewood residents who opt to become a "Friend of the Tool Box" (\$50), whereby they secure Tool Box membership and also make a tax-deductible donation to LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program.



Any Lakewood resident who purchases a Tool Box membership for the 2020 season by December 19th will receive a complimentary holiday ornament.

Each ornament is handcrafted out of cardstock paper to replicate the Lakewood Tool Box, which is housed in a shipping container located on the grounds of the Screw Factory in Lakewood's Historic Birdtown Neighborhood.

"It's been a wonderful first season for our Lakewood Tool Box, and we're excited to unveil this holiday ornament as a way to commemorate this commu-

nity resource," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director. "Ultimately, our goal is to help ensure all Lakewood residents live in healthy and safe homes, and The Lakewood Tool Box helps us to accomplish this by affording community members the opportunity to rent tools, while also enabling us to better assist low-to-moderate income residents with their home repairs."

To learn more about this holiday ornament offer for The Lakewood Tool Box, visit LakewoodAlive.org/Ornament or call LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655.

The Lakewood Tool Box offers Lakewood residents, tenants and landlords an affordable and educational option for borrowing tools that are essential for completing home repairs to ensure we live in healthy and safe homes. For more information, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/ToolBox.



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Lakewood Fiction

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 18: “The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues

fiction by Scott MacGregor

Maynard Gridley’s funeral was a pip. Many of his neighbors in Parma, Ohio - the same people who had shunned Maynard out of fear and mistrust, were startled to witness the legions of Maynard’s friends that overwhelmed St. Christina - The Astonishing Catholic Church. Hundreds had come to pay their respects, including Maynard’s ragtag Vietnam veteran buddies, Color Guard members representing three regional V.F.W. Posts, and police officers who’d once had the pleasure of arresting Maynard. The roar and pop of Harley-Davidson engines outside the church announced the arrivals of motorcycle clubs from all over the midwest. They all came because they all loved Maynard.

His mother, Rowena Gridley, wanted everyone who had come to the funeral, to leave with a well-rounded appreciation of “the Maynard.” For example, it was a surprise to many that Maynard had been the recipient of a Silver Star for gallantry in Vietnam. Rowena couldn’t have known that during the course of telling her favorite Maynard tales to the crowd, she’d inadvertently exposed a few old grudges



still simmering among many in attendance. When a fight erupted between groups of bikers and Vietnam vets, a gaggle of nuns and Color Guardsmen rushed in to break it up.

The fracas came to a screeching halt after the flag-bearer from V.F.W. Post #69 was knocked to the ground. He was unhurt but ‘Old Glory’ fell to the floor where it became snagged and torn on someone’s spurs. The fighting stopped immediately and the aggrieved parties shouted out the cost of dam-

ages. Without an argument, payment in full was agreed to by the guilty parties. Everybody was really very very sorry.

Then, an older policeman stepped forward. He removed his policeman’s cap and gave a speech about the time he’d stormed the beach at Iwo Jima. With gut cleansing detail, he reminisced on the carnage associated with that famous battle and what it felt like to witness the American Flag being planted on Mt. Suribachi. No, he clarified, not the famously photographed flag raising

(which he revealed to the mourners as “totally phony”). He was talking about Captain Kit Kadolewski from Butte, Montana who owned a 4”x6” American Flag that his mother gave him right before he shipped out. Once his squad had reached the top of the defunct volcano, Ol’ Capt. Kit yanked that flag off his cartridge belt and palm-slapped it on Suribachi’s summit BEFORE any and all other flags. That’s TRUTH! The cop further confided that as far as anyone knows, Kadolewski’s flag is still there on Suribachi’s summit “under a heart-shaped rock.”

There wasn’t a dry eye in the house after that. The most hardened biker hombres in attendance went to absolute pieces. Before long, the bikers were hugging the Vietnam Vets and the Vietnam Vets were hugging them back. Precisely at that moment, the voice of Rowena Gridley rang through the church, “QUIET EVERYONE! QUIET! LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!!” Everyone went silent enough to hear a pin drop as they gave Rowena their full attention. “I know some of you will find this hard to believe,” a wistful Rowena said from the pulpit, “but, all of this corned beef conflict...and cole-slaw passion...I, mean... this is just SO Maynard.”

Unnoticed in all the chaos was a forlorn Tom Graber, Rockport’s Chief of Police. He’d attended the funeral hoping to meet up with his #1 fugitive from justice, Little Dan Newman.

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by Eva Starr
DECEMBER

Aries: Playfulness is the key word for the Ram this Holiday season, put those Ram horns away, let “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” be your theme song, show up with a Rudolph nose.

Taurus: I know the Bull is stubborn, but there are “other” ways the world turns, everyone you meet this Holiday season has been sent to teach you something, “Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Gemini: The Twins known for their intellect, are being asked to follow your heart, light up the town & the tree with “All I want for Christmas is You” love is in the air, spread it around.

Cancer: The Crab needs to come out of its shell, Divine Timing is clearly evident, & you won’t want to miss it because you’ve buried your head in the sand, “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

Leo: Change is constant in the Jungle, & this time of year is no different for the Lion, so when you find out “Grandma



Got Run Over by a Reindeer” you’ll just smile & come to her rescue

Virgo: Start to listen to your intuition instead of that Monkey Mind that keeps driving you crazy with its nonsense, put that to rest with “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” & you’ll sleep better too.

Libra: Connectedness is beckoning to your Soul, look beyond your own community, there are no boundaries, pretty soon it’ll become quite obvious

that “Christmas is All Around”

Scorpio: Mars is in the Scorpion’s Cave, & its intensity has gone over the top, quiet that “Little Drummer Boy” to become aware that your inspiration is speaking louder than that, create...

Sagittarius: The Sun & Mercury have aligned themselves in the Centaur’s forest, Magic is alive everywhere, & all the creatures gather round for “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” rejoice.

Capricorn: Finally, there will be “Peace on Earth” this Holiday season for the Goat, even though Jupiter has shown up at your door to stay, & Venus is visiting, enjoy the silence & calm.

Aquarian: The Aquarian is the out-of-the-box thinker, life’s changes are nothing new to you who welcome the eclectic, & the radical thinker, so it is with “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”

Pisces: The Fish’s pond is most assuredly frozen over this time of year, a little spontaneity is called for, there are other ways to enjoy the Holidays, try singing “The Chipmunk Song.”

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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Downtown Lakewood

Deck The Halls

continued from page 1

table. Hundreds of ornaments and lights galore. If you're watching your budget, you can't afford not to shop here--don't miss this event!

Shop Christmas Sale on the Grounds at the Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit, on Friday December 6, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m, Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sunday, Decem-

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 18: “The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues

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Chief Graber had to admit that he'd underestimated Little Dan by expecting him to resurface on his own. By the day of the funeral, there was still no sign of Little Dan and Graber was in hot water because of it.

Chief Graber had also underestimated the three Joes. After all, it was they who'd facilitated Little Dan's escape out of Rockport. They were moving Little Dan out of Little Italy to a new location as Maynard Gridley's funeral was underway. Only Rowena knew where they'd taken him.

It had all been planned the day before, after Little Dan had finally come to his senses in a Little Italy basement. He'd told Rowena about a dream he had. During that dream, Maynard's spirit had appeared to Little Dan and taken him for a ride on a mysterious

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boat. Then, Maynard gave him a “mission” without telling him what it was. It was up to Little Dan to figure out what that mission was.

Rowena knew her boy, Maynard, like no other. She believed Little Dan's dream was a legitimate Maynard message sent from the “other side.” With Little Dan and the three Joes huddled around her in the basement, Rowena yanked a AAA map of Cleveland out of her purse. She splayed the map across a table and began searching locations on it with her finger. When her finger stopped over a specific area she marked the spot with a splat of tuna fish salad borrowed from Little Dan's sandwich. The spot marked an industrial area along the Cuyahoga River.

“Maynard wants you to go HERE,” she said, “and...we're not going to disappoint him!”



LakewoodAlive's latest community forum drew more than 50 attendees to Harrison Elementary School.

“Transportation For A 21st Century City” LakewoodAlive's Community Forum Tackles Challenges, Opportunities

by Matt Bixenstine

They gathered as residents, neighbors and community leaders to discuss the present and future of transportation within our ever-evolving society.

More than 50 attendees ventured to Harrison Elementary School on Thursday evening, November 14, to participate in a community forum entitled Transportation for a 21st Century. Hosted by LakewoodAlive with assistance from the Lakewood City School District and Lakewood Public Library, this community forum offered insightful dialogue regarding how we can improve our transportation system to address today's unique challenges, capitalize on changing lifestyle preferences and enhance quality of life for individuals without adequate access to transportation.

After introductory remarks from LakewoodAlive Executive Director Ian Andrews, moderator Michael P. Summers, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, oversaw a discussion covering a variety of topics, including the evolution of transportation within our society, best practices for urban mass transit, and transportation solutions ranging from expanded public access and walkable neighborhoods to biking alternatives and rideshare options.

A distinguished panel of experts and leaders participated in this community conversation. Panelists included Grace Gallucci, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency; Toni Gelsomino, Director of Human Services, City of Lakewood; and Matthew Marko, Emerging Mobility, Progressive Insurance.

In addressing the panel and the

audience, Mayor Summers encouraged community members to rethink the way we perceive modern mobility as our society moves further away from the automobile-dominated 20th century. In addition to the many social and environmental benefits associated with public transit, it's estimated that every \$1 invested in public transportation within the United States generates \$4 in economic returns.

LakewoodAlive thanks the Community Forum Committee volunteers for spearheading the planning process for this forum.

LakewoodAlive hosts community forums pertaining to topics relevant to Lakewood citizens. For more information, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/CommunityForums or contact LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655.

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