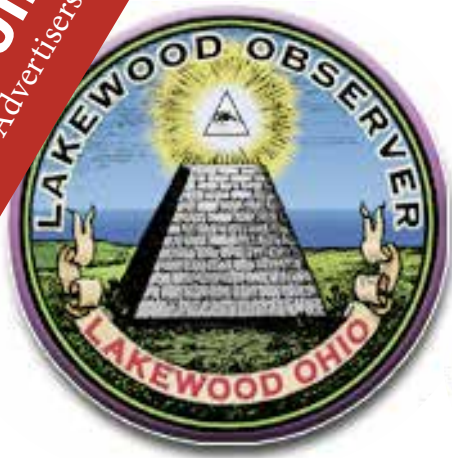


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Volume 15, Issue 24, December 18, 2019

Lakewood Hospital Demolition Already 57% Over Budget

Brad Presutto,
City Hall Reporter

As the year ends, Lakewood City Council and the Finance Committee had to balance the books from their 2019 spending and adjust the 2020 appropriations based on updated information. At the final Finance Committee meeting of 2019, there were several substitutions and changes that were discussed. The most significant changes

were all involving the demolition and remediation of the former Lakewood Hospital site. Due to unforeseen issues around finding hazardous carcinogenic material (Perchloroethylene aka PCE) and the discovery of a creek bed that was unearthed during demolition, the project will require approximately another \$3.7m in funds.

The discovery of PCE added several complications

to the process. When workers noticed the faint, sweet smell they notified superiors who immediately got EA Group, Brownfield Restoration Group, and Buckeye Environmental Network involved. They quickly contained the material that had been dormant while the hospital was above it. While there is a sense of urgency around the removal of both solid and liquid waste, **continued on page 2**

Royalty Honorees Celebrated At Light Up Lakewood 2019

by Matt Bixenstine

A pair of young Lakewoodites received the royal treatment at Lakewood's signature holiday community event. LakewoodAlive and Plantation Home announced Lakewood High School juniors Savannah Monroy and Mohamed Manaa as Royalty Honorees for Light Up Lakewood 2019 sponsored by First Federal Lakewood.

Students chosen for this honor have demonstrated their love for Lakewood through providing outstanding service to the community. In addition to reigning over the Light Up Lakewood Holiday Parade on December 7, Savannah and



Royalty Honorees Savannah Monroy and Mohamed Manaa were celebrated during Light Up Lakewood 2019 on December 7 in Downtown Lakewood. (Judie Vegh/OyVegh Photography)

Mohamed were awarded \$500 scholarships courtesy of Plantation Home in Downtown Lakewood. Both winners have

agreed to provide at least 24 hours of service to the community during the coming year.

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2nd Annual End Hunger In Lakewood Day Raises Over \$19,000

by Trish Rooney

On Saturday November 16th, forty-three Lakewood restaurants and food retail-

ers donated 10% of their food sales to Lakewood Community Services Center to aid in the organization's work to alle-

viate hunger in Lakewood. The results well exceeded everyone's expectations by raising \$19,504 in one day – up from \$11,800 for last year's inaugural effort!

"I cannot begin to thank the restaurateurs and food retailers who participated for the second year and the 12 new participants that chose to join the effort this year. We were thrilled by last year's result, but to see a 65% increase in donations in just our second year is astounding," said Matt Fish, owner and founder of Melt Bar and Grilled, who again spearheaded this initiative. "Donating 10% of food

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Sounds of the Season



LO photographer Jacob Chabowski attended one of Lakewood's many high points during the Holiday Season, Sounds of the Season where LHS's finest voices and musicians came together for a musical celebration. See all his photos online at lakewoodobserver.com

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." Oprah Winfrey



by Matt Kuhns

The Lakewood community is invited to Meghan F. George's inauguration as mayor on January 1, 2020. This event is open to the public.

The inauguration ceremony will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Ave.

George will be sworn in by Lee Fisher, the dean of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, and former Ohio Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Senator, and State Representative.

Lakewood's Oldest Best Holiday Home And Business Decorations Contest

by Jim O'Bryan

LO's Best Holiday Home and Business Decorating contest is in full swing with nominations coming through.

You can nominate up to 4 houses and or businesses daily by going to lakewoodobserver.com and clicking on "Question of the Day" then simply answer the question and LO will go out and photograph the house or business.

Scan QR Code for contest!



You can nominate up to Sunday(12/22) at Midnight. On Monday a photo gallery of all the entries will be posted where the public joins with our panel and votes for the homes they feel capture the spirit of the holiday. Traditional? Modern? Crossover Holidays? Tons of Lights? One light? Red and Green Window Blankets? ALL have made it into the voting process.

Prizes this year are coming from our advertisers including: Melt Bar and Grilled, West End Tavern, India Garden, Woodstock BBQ, Rood Food, Root Cafe, and others.

Please take the time and go out and see the beauty of Lakewood streets especially during Christmas and the Holiday Season.

Holiday Shoppes



Holiday elegance and whimsy courtesy of Detroit Avenue retailers Plantation Home and Cotton. Both shops offer beautiful and unique home accessories.

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Hospital Demolition Already 57% Over Budget

continued from page 1

the recent rain made the collection more challenging. Additionally, hazardous waste sites will only accept up to twelve, forty ton truckloads a day. The environmental experts cited above are estimating over one thousand tons of material are at this site alone.

“Each passing day we learn more about the contaminants and our ability to address them moving forward,” stated Bryce Sylvester, Lakewood’s Director of Planning & Development. “We’re confident by the middle of January we will be in a place where we can provide a ‘no-action letter’ to Carnegie and finalize the deal.”

“The circumstances of the discovery are unfortunate, but it could have been much worse if it had not been found while the site was wide open with the necessary tools on hand,” stated Mayor Mike Summers. “The site is a Lakewood problem because the chemicals were used by the Lakewood Hospital and by Lakewood employees.”

Councilperson-elect Jason Shachner added, “Standards may have been different in the 50’s when this problem was created, but Lakewood needs to be financially responsible for the clean-up now.”

In addition to the clean-up costs

of the hazardous material, the buildings will now need to be equipped with vapor mitigation systems (which are common in brownfield site redevelopment). According to Sylvester, the project is only about two and a half months behind schedule; and the vapor mitigation system requirement should not deter tenants. They anticipate total completion of the project with tenants to be completed by 2024.

There will also be an additional \$600,000 in new sewer infrastructure that will be needed as a result of the discovery of the creek bed. This is unrelated to the hazardous material discovery.

Originally, the city had set aside \$7 million for demolition and remediation. While confident they would come in under budget, it allowed the city to have at least \$12m remaining from the Lakewood Hospital funds for one time use projects like the purchase of the Cove Church site, updating Fire Station #2, and potentially spending some money to update our aging pools. With potentially only \$8m or less available, Mayor-elect Meghan George feels those funds might be best used as reserves in case there are any additional unforeseen issues.



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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
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January 22, 2020	January 17, 2020

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One Lakewood Progress

How Affordable Is Lakewood’s New Affordable Housing Policy?

by Laura Rodriguez Carbone

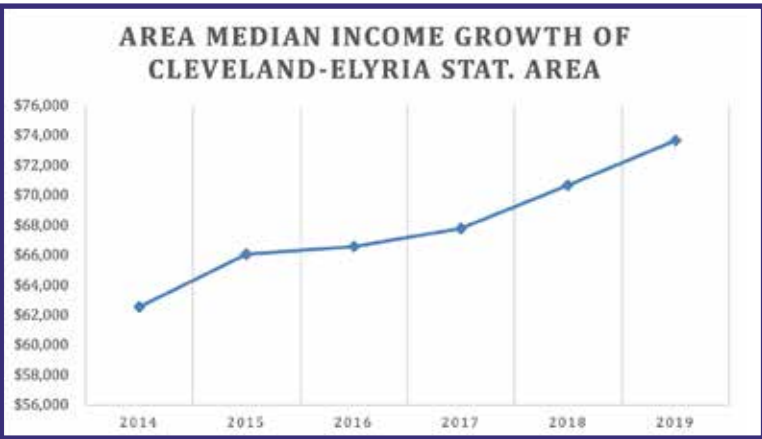
Affordable housing has been on the minds of many Lakewood residents. Over the past two years, Lakewood has seen rents and property tax rates skyrocket during the city’s real estate boom. Many have demanded solutions from city council on rising property taxes, as well as equity of access to housing for lower income Lakewoodites.

In response to concerns from the community, Lakewood City Council, on December 2nd, adopted a resolution to amend an existing ordinance (Ordinance 58.04). The impetus of the policy amendment, “fostering the investment and development of affordable housing in new multi-family and mixed-use construction projects in Community Reinvestment Area #1...[and] #2,” utilizes tax abatements to encourage the development of affordable housing in both single unit residential and multi-family and multi-floor residential units.

In the previous version of the ordinance, tax abatements were utilized by the city for renovations to dwellings containing no more than two family units and single condominium units.

One big change in the ordinance is language that sets rents for 20% of the units in *new* multi-family and mixed-use developments of 100 units or more based on a percentage of Area Median Income (AMI). The updated policy states that in these new developments, “(i) 10% of units be set aside for households making up to 80% AMI at the time of the initial lease and (ii) 10% of the units be set aside for households making up to 120% AMI at the time of the initial lease.”

The policy states in its own interpretive guidelines, that the AMI of Lakewood should be set at the median income of the Elyria-Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).



The Area Median Income set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Elyria-Cleveland MSA, as of this writing, is estimated to be **\$73,700. That’s \$25,000 more than the widely reported, and accepted, median income estimate for the city of Lakewood of \$48,700.**

Identifying this number is important: not only does it determine the relative affordability of the affordable housing units, but it also determines the rent charged and percentage of rent estimate relative to net take-home pay.

The new policy stipulates that allowances for electricity, gas and water must be included in determining the rate of rent and that the total rent collected each year cannot exceed more than 30% of the recalculated percentage of AMI.

At the AMI set by the policy, estimated rents could be as much as \$1,474 per month at 80% of AMI or as much as \$2,211 per month at 120% AMI.

The rate of rent for these new units does not fluctuate according to

how much a person or family actually makes. This comes into play only to determine who is eligible to rent the unit. At the time of this writing, a renter cannot make more than \$58,960

per year to qualify to rent 10% of the units in a given development that participates in the abatement, and not more than \$88,440 to rent the other 10% of the units.

Utilizing the Cleveland-Elyria statistical area average instead of the real median family income average of Lakewood proper raises rental rates for these units by as much as 66% over

what the rent would have been had city council used the average income of Lakewood residents alone. The area median incomes of other, more affluent cities like Rocky River, Bay Village and Westlake are factored into the area average city council utilized to determine the maximum rent value.

An average family making \$45,000 per year has a semi-monthly estimated net take-home pay (after taxes) of \$1,478 according to SmartAsset. This hypothetical family, according to the new policy, would qualify to rent an affordable housing unit at 80% of AMI. The rent for that unit cannot exceed 30% of that recalculated value. At the maximum rent level of 30%, the estimated rent charged, less the estimated utility allowance would be \$1,274 per month, or up to 43% of this family’s net take home pay per month. This number is not much different than many rentals across the city that are currently going for \$1,200-\$1,400 per month in rent.

Read the entire article online at: lakewoodobserver.com

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

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.

Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Lakewood Public Cinema, “Crossfire” (1947)
Directed by Edward Dmytryk, Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill
Main Library Auditorium
When a Jewish war veteran is found beaten to death, clues lead police captain Finlay (Robert Young) to unlikely suspects: a group of demobilized soldiers. The gang includes Monty (Robert Ryan) and Mitch (George Cooper). As the accused scrape together alibis, Finlay investigates the incident as a hate crime and is determined to find the real killer. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

December 24/25, 2019
Library Closed in observance of Christmas Eve.

December 31, 2019/January 1, 2020
Library Closes at 12/31 6:00 p.m. in observance of New Year’s Eve.

Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Lakewood Public Cinema, Film Series—From Books to Films: “The Wife” (2017), Directed by Björn L. Runge
Main Library Auditorium
Joe (Jonathan Pryce) enjoys his public role as a Great American Novelist, and behind any great man is always a greater woman. Joan (Glenn Close) pours her intellect, grace, charm and diplomacy into the private role of Great Man’s Wife. As they head to Stockholm where Joe will receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, Joan questions her life choices. Based on the 2003 novel by Meg Wolitzer, this film continues our series of films based on books.

Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday with the Friends
Concert - Hip to That
Main Library Auditorium
Hip to That is a Cleveland jazz quartet that has been performing together for five years. They specialize in jazz standards, Great American Songbook charts and pop tunes that have a distinctive jazz twist added to fit the band’s own style. For example, their favorite number to play together is a mash up of two standards, Ray Charles’ “Hit the Road Jack” and Peggy Lee’s “Fever.” This is a diverse, young jazz combo determined to knock your socks off.

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Weekday Documentaries; Data Mining the Deceased: Ancestry and the Business of Family (2017), Directed by Julia Creet
Presented by Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society
Main Library Auditorium
More than half of North Americans are fascinated by genealogy and are invested in their histories. The genealogy industry is arguably the largest historical enterprise in the world and one of the largest data mining operations, driven by big religion, big business and big technology. This documentary explores the industry behind the exponential intensity of genealogy. A member of the Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society will join us to discuss the film.

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Literature Discussion; Mythological Retelling: “Circe”
Literature Series presented by Barbara Parr
Main Library Multipurpose Room
During this four-part course led by Barbara Parr, an instructor with Case Western Reserve University’s Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program, participants will read “Circe” by Madeline Miller alongside selections from the epic poem “The Odyssey” by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson that inspired Miller’s novel. Please read the first 100 pages of “Circe” for the first class. Register online at lifelonglearningcleveland.org or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Great Decisions in Libraries; The Middle East: Regional Disorder
Presentation by Karl Kaltenthaler, PhD
Main Library Multipurpose Room
As the Trump presidency passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. After a brief video, Karl Kaltenthaler, professor at Akron University and Case Western Reserve University, will lead a discussion and help answer the complex questions surrounding the Middle East. Readings will be available one week in advance.

Events For Kids

compiled by Nic Starr

Monday, December 23, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Art Connection, For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Main Library Activity Room
Art activities let you express your view of the world. Create your own unique piece of art to take home and show off to family and friends. Registration is required.

Sunday, December 29, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Lakewood LEGO® League
For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)
Main Library Activity Room
Use Lakewood Public Library’s collection of Lego® Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.

Monday, December 30, 2019, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Upcycling – From Rags to Riches
For students in third through eighth grade
Main Library Multipurpose Room
Monday, December 30, 2019, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Transform old clothing into new treasures by turning an old t-shirt into strand necklaces, infinity scarves or a tote bag. Discover more about upcycling and then use your imagination to create your own work of art. Some materials will be provided, but students are required to bring an old t-shirt and sweater to use for upcycling projects. Registration required.

Fridays, January 3 – February 21, 2020, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Otaku Cafe, For students in sixth through twelfth grade
Main Multipurpose Activity Room
Do you read manga? Love anime? Are you interested in manga and anime but don’t know quite where to start? Trading card games, video games, drawing, crafts, Japanese culture, memes...we’re serving it all up at Otaku Café! Join our fun and friendly group for anime viewings, art and crafts, activities, chats and more. Whether you’re a total otaku or an anime noob, this is a great place to meet some like-minded friends and have a lot of fun. Registration is required.

Friday, January 3, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Art Connection, For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Main Library Multipurpose Room
Art activities let you express your view of the world. Create your own unique piece of art to take home and show off to family and friends. Registration is required.

Sunday, January 5, 2020, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Adapted Storytime, For you and your 3-7 year old child
Main Library Toddler’s Story Room
Registration is required. Register online at connectingforkids.org/register, email info@connectingforkids.org or call (440) 570-5908.

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Lakewood Public Library

Meet The Author Of “Abandoned Cleveland,” Jeffrey Stroup

by Lisa Calfee

A battered door hanging by an overburdened hinge; hopeless stairways no longer going anywhere anyone needs to go; a hobbled desk where decisions were once made in an office reclaimed by earth and sky – these are the remains of the forsaken buildings of Cleveland.

Jeffrey Stroup has documented these haunts before they inevitably disappear in “Abandoned Cleveland.” The talented photographer will visit Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss his adventures in urban decay.

Stroup and his camera have taken on the crumbling -- or non-existent – floors, the rotted ceilings and the rusting framework of disintegrating monoliths that stand like tombstones throughout our city.



Author Jeffery Stroup

So skip the ride on Lolly the Trolley and join us for Jeffery Stroup’s visual tour of Cleveland’s forgotten places. This special Meet The Author program will be held in the Main Lower Level Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

An Ancient Tale Retold: Discuss “Circe” At The Library

by Melinda Frank

A well-written and well-told story has the power to stand the test of time. In the Greek tradition, the ancient poetic epic "The Odyssey" by Homer remains the second-oldest surviving work of Western literature. Filled with tales of bravery, war, and tragedy, "The Odyssey" is a story of ancient mythology that has captivated audiences throughout the ages.

Homer’s epic is given a fresh perspective in Madeline Miller’s New York Times bestselling novel "Circe." The most infamous female figure in "The Odyssey" is reimagined and retold as Miller explores the life of the legendary sorceress best known for turning Odysseus’s sailors into swine.

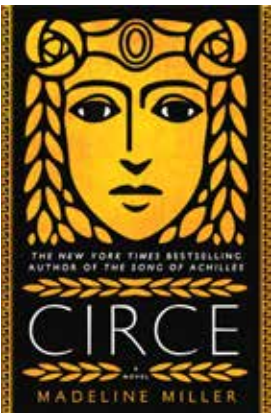
Discuss "Circe" alongside selections from Emily Wilson’s translation of "The Odyssey" with Barbara Parr, an instructor with Case Western Reserve University’s Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. This four-week discussion will begin on Wednesday,

January 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room and continue on January 15, 2020, January 22, 2020, and January 29, 2020.

The Siegal Lifelong Learning Program connects the academic world and Northeast Ohio’s wider community through innovative and engaging programming. Adults of all ages pursue their love of learning by participating in courses and lectures with internationally renowned scholars and local experts who share their cutting-edge research and current topics of interest. Instructor Barbara Parr

received a BS from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Education from Cleveland State University. After retiring from teaching English and literature at Rocky River High School, Barbara now leads discussions throughout Greater Cleveland.

Enter the mythological world of ancient Greece and join the discussion. Participation is open to all, but registration is required. **Register online at lifelonglearningcleveland.org or by calling (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.**



Participants from last year's upcycling program display some of their creations.

The Magic Of Upcycling

by Fran Storch

Be future-friendly and make a New Year’s resolution to upcycle. Start by bringing your children to Lakewood Public Library for some upcycling fun! We will show your kids how to repurpose old unwanted clothing and keep them busy over winter break. Students in third through eighth grade are invited to join us for Upcycling: From Rags to Riches on Monday, December 30, 2019 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

What’s upcycling? Upcycling turns old things into something new - which is basically magic! It’s taking an item that is no longer wanted or needed and giving it new life as something useful or creative. Children will learn how to transform old clothing into new treasures. Turn an old t-shirt into a strand necklace, infinity

scarf or tote bag. Rework an old sweater into a slouch beanie with matching mittens to keep warm during the cold winter months. Participants learn more about the upcycling movement and then use their imagination to create unique wearable art.

No experience is necessary to participate in this program. Some materials are provided but registrants must bring an old t-shirt and/or sweater which will be cut up for upcycling projects.

Space is limited for this creative program and registration is required so sign up your children today. To register, stop by the Children’s & Youth Services desk at the Main Library, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org, select the Youth tab and Programs for School-Age Students, then scroll down to the event and click on Read More.

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Lakewood Education Observed

LHS Students Integral Part Of Youth Council Creation

by Christine Gordillo

When Lakewood High junior Olivia Patterson was asked by one of her teachers to apply for a new City of Lakewood task force that would be in charge of developing the city's first Youth Council, Olivia jumped at the opportunity. "I really wanted to make a difference and youth don't usually get the chance to make a change in the city," Olivia said.

The new Lakewood Youth Council will officially launch in January but the hard work behind the creation of this exciting new advisory group for our city has been going on since April thanks to the dedication of Lakewood High students such as Olivia, who is the task force's chair, and senior Tully Worrton, vice chair. Olivia, Tully and seven other current or recently graduated Lakewood High students worked with city officials to develop the framework of the new council including its guiding by-laws. The by-laws and council's mission statement were approved by the city in July and City Council



Lakewood Youth Council Task Force members Olivia Patterson (left) and Tully Worrton.

cil then appointed those students on the task force that were not graduating to become members of the Youth

District Expanding STEM Options

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools is responding to the community's desire for more STEM instruction in our District by boosting the opportunities for students in this area across all grade levels. Through community listening sessions and surveys conducted last year, this was one of our stakeholders' top curriculum priorities.

While the successful Ranger Hub makerspace and Project Lead the Way engineering program of West Shore Career-Tech were serving our high school students, it was evident that more needed to be done at the elementary and middle school levels. In response, the District has developed a comprehensive STEM curriculum continuum for all grade levels that ranges from discover, to immersion, application and finally career and entrepreneurship.

This school year, our middle schoolers have already seen increased



Lincoln students tinkering around in the school's new makerspace.

STEM instruction as students are required to take a STEM class one quarter each year. The District also realigned staff assignments to strengthen the STEM instruction and have increased funding to provide for new technology.

The District has also provided funding to each of our elementary schools to develop their own makerspaces – a place where students can make, learn, explore and share creative ideas using high tech tools or simple

continued on page 7

idents of Lakewood and can be in eighth grade through freshmen in college. Current members from the task force besides Olivia and Tully are Yusra Abdi, Siwita Ali Shah, Collin Hunt, and Tristan Rumsey. Class of 2019 members of the task force were Elizabeth Halko, Jack Hueter, and McKenzie Lane.

The task force members appreciate the city giving our community's youth the chance to be heard. "It's nice to have a voice outside of school," Olivia said.

Some of the issues the task force envisions the new Youth Council tackling include vaping, drugs, and mental health.

The task force members have undoubtedly gained valuable experience and skills navigating the process of creating a government advisory body.

Said Tully: "I have already learned so much about government and the process of government in just the few short months...I have been lucky enough to gain leadership experience as well as feeling even closer with my community."

City of Lakewood Community Relations Specialist Melissa Garrett, who has been working with the task force, has been more than impressed with the group. "The students have been amazing—they give me hope for our future," Garrett said. "They put together the guidelines for the council in a very short period of time and have been working diligently to get this Youth Council up and running. I can't wait for their first official meeting."

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When God is Silent

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ABOUT SOMETHING SO DESPERATELY & GOD
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IG: @LAKEWOODSDACHURCH

Emerson School Shines

Save Ohio's Wetlands And The Copperbelly Water Snake!

by Dante Warren
Emerson Elementary
Mrs. Gerg's class
Third grade

Did you know that the copperbelly water snake is endangered?
Did you know that the copperbelly water snake lives in Ohio?!
The copperbelly water snake is a non-venomous snake that grows 2 to 4 feet in length.
It has a black back with a bright orange-red belly. Females grow larger than males; most copperbellies over 30 inches long are females.
Copperbelly water snake habitats are wetlands such as streams and ponds and wet grass areas.
Copperbellies hibernate in crayfish burrows and in wetlands

Kindergarten Parent Info Night, Registration Coming In January

by Christine Gordillo
Kindergarten registration will take place at the Lakewood Board of Education's new home at the Taft Center for Innovation, 15701 Lake Ave., by appointment only, starting on Thursday, January 16, 2020. Students must be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2020 in order to be age eligible to enter kindergarten. Registration materials can be found on this website under Student Registration. Registration is by appointment only.
After collecting all required documents and completing all pre-registration forms online, you will be prompted to schedule an appointment to register your child. If you have any questions, please contact the registration secretary by phone at 216-529-4279 or by email at priscilla.cruz@lakewood-cityschools.org.
Please Note: The Residency and Custody Affidavit provided must be signed in the presence of a Notary Public.
You will need to provide the following documents at registration:
• Child's birth certificate, original or certified copy; passport or visa
• Child's immunization record, doctor's name and phone number
• Driver's license or State ID of the residential parent/legal guardian registering the student
• Proofs of residency - provide two (2) in the form of:

with lots of trees.
They stay underground from late October until late April.
Why are copperbelly water snakes endangered?
People are using their wetland habitats for roads, houses and other development like shopping malls.
The copperbelly water snake needs many wetlands over a large area. When people destroy parts of their habitats, they die.
Predators such as skunks, raccoons, raptors, and snapping turtles, eat copper belly water snakes especially if the snakes travel across cleared areas, such as roads, mowed areas and farmlands.
Copperbelly water snakes are collected because of their rarity,

- Utility bills (gas, electric, water) ~Pay stub
 - Valid signed lease ~Business mail
 - Section 8 documentation ~Voter registration card
 - Municipal Income Tax Return (RITA)
- OR:** The Owner Affidavit form which must be completed by the landlord, owner, or manager and signed in the presence of a NOTARY PUBLIC when no other proofs of residency can be provided.
- Custody documents (If Applicable) only legal residents who are the parent or legal guardian of the child may complete the registration process. Applicable court documents must be a certified copy and contain any and all exhibits or attachments referenced to show custody.
 - Copy of a signed Current IEP and ETR (if Applicable)
 - Children attending the Lakewood City Schools' pre-kindergarten program are enrolled in the District and do not need to re-register. Kindergarten information will be given to these families.
- Parents can learn more about the District's kindergarten program at the Kindergarten Parent Information Night. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Grant Elementary Cafeteria (1470 Victoria Ave.)



Dante Warren speaks for Ohio's endangered copperbelly water snake. large size, cool colors, and value in the pet trade.
Under the Endangered Species Act, it is illegal to collect them without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
The copperbelly water snake is protected under the Endangered Species Act when it was listed as threatened on February 28, 1996.
What Can I Do to Help Prevent the Extinction of Species? (From U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)
Learn more about the copperbelly water snake and other endangered and threatened species.
Understand how our choices in land use can lead to the destruc-

tion of habitat. This leads to loss of endangered and threatened species.
Tell others about what you have learned.
Protecting and improving habitat is often the best way to benefit endangered or threatened species, including the copperbelly.
Actions taken to restore wetlands, plant trees, and reduce habitat fragmentation are essential to the long-term survival of the copperbelly in the northern part of its range.
If you believe you have seen a copperbelly in Ohio please report sightings (with a photograph if possible) by sending an email to the Fish and Wildlife Service at copperbelly@fws.gov.
What are the benefits of helping an endangered or threatened species? (From U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Supports other wildlife
Actions taken to provide habitat for the copperbelly and other listed species also benefit a variety of wildlife that uses similar habitat.
You guys and girls need to let go of your fears of snakes and start saving this rare Ohio snake!

District Expanding STEM Options

continued from page 6

craft supplies. Makerspaces help build many of the competencies of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate from critical and creative thinking to collaboration, communication and growth mindset.
Beginning next year, our STEM curriculum at the middle school will expand to include Project Lead the Way and subject-specific STEM classes

by grade that include:
Grade 6: Green Architecture
Grade 7: Design & Modeling
Grade 8: Automation & Robotics
At the high school, the Ranger Hub in January will be expanded so that more classes may take advantage of the extensive STEM equipment available, made possible by a generous grant from the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation.

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Lakewood Business

Sunrise Rotary Sends Christmas Boxes To Nicaragua

by Larry Faulhaber

Recently, the Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Clubs packed 75 boxes of school supplies, clothing and toys, and 10 Layettes to be delivered to Chinandega Nicaragua as part of Northern Ohio Rotary District program called "Children of the Dump." It all started over 15 years ago when several Rotarians followed up on an ABC TV program.

The Rotary delegation noticed that children were going through a large local dump to salvage clothing and other items. A member of

the delegation, Jack Young of the Rotary Club of Conneaut, came up with an idea for an International Service Project. Rotary Clubs and Rotary members from this Rotary District would collect items needed by the children and families in this area of Nicaragua and pack them in boxes about the size of a large shoe box. Now it is called the "Shoe Box" project by many clubs. Items are either purchased by Club Members or from fund-raising activities of the Club. They include school supplies, personal items like soap, shampoo,

toothbrushes and tooth paste, and even an outfit of clothes, and some toys. Packing of the boxes are a Club social activity with children joining in to get experience with service work.

Several years ago, the purchase and packing of layettes for mothers of newborn children was added to the project. Blankets, towels, and personal items for the babies and mothers are packed in special Layette bags and are now shipped with the "Shoe Boxes," and distributed to a maternity center near Chinandega.

Boxes are eventually gathered from several areas of the country

and for delivery to a port city. In a recent year there were 11 pallets weighing over 18,000 pounds gathered and shipped. To promote school attendance, only children regularly attending school receive a "Shoe Box."

This is just one of many community, youth, vocational and international projects of area Rotary Clubs.

To learn more about how you can join with men and women in your area to give back through service in your community, and internationally, contact – sloopyohio19@gmail.com

Barton Center Healthy Food Tasting A Hit

by Adelaide Crnko

Still believe that eating "what's good for you" could not possibly be satisfying or fun? Ask those who attended the Barton Senior Center's "A 'Healthier' Taste of Lakewood" on December 4 for their take on it.

Barton welcomed locally owned restaurants as they delivered select menu items for guests to savor which they received free of charge. Participants included Aladdin's Eatery, Angelo's Pizza, Cleveland Vegan, Melt Bar & Grilled, Ohio City Burrito and Two Bucks. The event included Mayor Michael Summers discussing his initiative to make Lakewood the "healthiest city." It was sponsored by Oak Street Health, a primary care center for adults on Medicare.

"A 'Healthier' Taste of Lakewood" encouraged seniors to consider bet-

ter nutrition as part of their wellness program. It was also designed to strengthen ties between city businesses and the community. Some who tried the offerings hinted that they now might be interested in visiting those establishments after becoming more acquainted with them.

PK McLellan, a Barton Center member, expressed her appreciation for all the edible samples. "Many of us don't get out, so it was nice they came to us." "The food was excellent," and "we loved it" were comments from others. Raves were given to Melt's "Vegetarian 4 Bean Chili" and Two Bucks' "Cauliflower Wings." PK summed up the afternoon's feast with "I can't say enough about it!"

Perhaps someone may have even awakened their "inner foodie" while engaging in more wholesome dining.

Comfort Dental Providing Free Care For All December 23rd

by Kevin Coughlin

All Ohio Comfort Dental locations will be hosting their 36th annual Care Day Monday, December 23, 2019, offering free dental care to those in need.

All fifteen Ohio Comfort Dental offices will be open on December 23 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cleveland area patients can visit Comfort Dental in Lakewood located at 17500 Madison Avenue.

"Every year we take time out to give back to the community and encourage people to check in on their oral health," said Dr. Dave Wise, owner of Comfort Dental in Lakewood. "There is no better time than the holidays to provide free dental care."

Beginning in Colorado in 1984, Comfort Dental has offered free dental care on Christmas Eve Day. Care Day was started as a way of improving accessibility to dental care to those in most need. On Care Day, all services are free to anyone. Patients are helped on

a first-come, first-served basis receiving a variety of basic dental care from cleanings to extractions. More serious dental problems are handled on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the individual dentist. Nationally, approximately 300 Comfort Dental dentists and 1,300 staff members donate their time on Care Day.

Last year on Care Day, Comfort Dental offices saw 4,000 patients nationally, and gave away \$1.4 million in free dental services. Since Care Day's beginnings in 1984, Comfort Dental has given away over \$22.8 million in dental services. Dr. Rick Kushner, D.D.S., founded Comfort Dental in 1977 and pioneered the concept of fair pricing dentistry.

The general public should contact their local Comfort Dental office for more information. For office locations see ComfortDental.com.



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Lakewood Is Art

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 98 - Autographed Copy

by Buzz Kompier

Spike Pit - Animal Of Disrespect - My Mind's Eye - 13 songs - LP, digital

Spike Pit (featuring members of many other bands and a newcomer on vocals) make their vinyl debut with a full-length, an unusual and interesting move in the hardcore world. So I'm told, anyway. And it's a ridiculous one. Perhaps the stupidity wouldn't have come across enough on a 7". Musically, the comparison that first came to mind was the Inmates, so somewhere in that style of hardcore. Some of the songs sound a lot like Street Gurgler (particularly "Work Sucks"), but that's almost certainly just a side effect of them sharing a guitarist. The lyrics are pretty nuts. Spike Pit, or at least their wordsmith, are in favor of murder ("Murder," "Lil Sharpshooter," "Kill Bums"), robbing people ("Licks"), and hentai ("Hentai"). They are against cops, work, high school, bums, and fruits and veggies. You oughta know what you're getting into based on all that alone, but just in case: there's also a song called "Diaper Rash/Diarrhea." Did I mention this was a stupid record? Don't get me wrong, however, that doesn't make it a bad record. In fact, it's pretty good, especially when the rage is focused ("Ops" and "White Devil" are particularly good examples) or when it's completely juvenile but not in a way that detracts from it (for example, "High School" and "Lust"). And it ends with a mysterious voiceover that could only be producer Poopy Necroponde himself (and no matter how many times I hear them, "...animal of disrespect...spect spect spect...spect..." and the fake wind noises that are obviously a person going "whoosh" continue to make me laugh), what more do you need? Undoubtedly, this is not for everyone, but hey, I like it. 3.69/5

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(mymindseye.bigcartel.com for the record, spikepit.bandcamp.com for the digital)

Root Celebrating Ten Years Of Good Living

by Julie Hutchison

We grew up here.
We made space here.
We knew what good living could look like.
We built it with our hands.
We manifested how we wanted to exist in our neighborhood.

Good living is 'eating well, not too much, mostly vegetables' (-Michael Pollan).

Good living is gathering with friends, taking time to gather your thoughts and dropping by for a hug.

Good living is being mindful of where a thing comes from before it is in your hands, and where it goes after.

Good living needs art and music and your nose in a book.

Good living ritualizes your morning coffee.

Good living is practicing choice in every moment and bringing in your own travel mug.

We sure ain't perfect, but we prac-



Julie tasting Root's big coffee flavor.

tice. And we dance.

In 1999, a young college student took over the ownership of a tiny cafe.

We can write a book about that era (who is going to write that book?)

After friends were made who became a family that grew, the tiny cafe was bursting at the seams. So a new space was created to realize its potential.

On December 21, 2009, the Root

took over from there.

We are all servants to its mission: to nurture a space where every person can create a familiarity with others through sharing food, coffee & tea, music, art and culture.

The beautiful people who have dedicated their lives to service at the Root at some time within these ten years are a testament to and the foundation of its success. The Root is grateful for every talent, idea, amazing recipe, joke, and all the hard work and dedication that came out of each person.

And the thousands of people who have blessed the doorways of the Root cafe will always be its pulse and continue to give it life into the next decades. And it goes on like that, a spiraling chain of giving and receiving in gratitude.

Come celebrate with us this Saturday, 21 December 2019.

8 am yoga in the cafe

all day specials and samples

9 pm after hours dance party

Royalty Honorees Celebrated At Light Up Lakewood 2019

continued from page 1

This is the eighth year that David Stein, owner of Plantation Home and Cotton, and president of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, has sponsored the scholarship. Stein states, "It's an honor for us to encourage the youth of our community, and to thank them for their commitment to volunteerism."

Savannah and Mohamed received their checks and sashes at Plantation Home and were crowned by the 2018 Royalty Honorees, Yusra Abdi and Tristan Rumsey, during the Lighting Ceremony as part of Light Up Lakewood 2019.

About Savannah Monroy

Savannah's extensive involvement at LHS ranges from Help to Others (H2O) to athletics to participation in various student organizations. In addition to volunteering for the American Red Cross and competing as a member of three Rangers' sports teams (cross country, gymnastics and track & field), Savannah plays an important role in the Race and Diversity Club and in Model United Nations. Said Savannah in her application: "Being a leader of a club where people come together to discuss pressing issues of our society has been a big source of my growth... We all volunteer, talk, and take action when we feel it most necessary. That's what Lakewood stands for – community through diversity."

About Mohamed Manaa

Mohamed exemplifies leadership in many ways at LHS, serving as president of the History Club and vice president of the Lakewood High School Camerata Orchestra. He's a proud participant in The Lakewood Project and volunteers his time with the May Dugan Center by helping to serve food to less fortunate members of our community. Said Mohamed in his application: "Living in Lakewood has afforded me wonderful opportunities to contribute to my community in the sense of encouraging community engagement and entertainment. I will forever retain the lessons that living in Lakewood has given me, and my only hope is that I am to continue contributing to my community."

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Lakewood Observer

2nd Annual End Hunger In Lakewood Day Raises Over \$19,000

continued from page 1

sales on a Saturday is no small gesture. This outpouring of support for needy Lakewood residents speaks to the generosity and community-mindedness of my colleagues in the food industry here in town. I am sure that hearing the staggering number of Lakewood residents living below the poverty level moved many to jump on board and join this very worthwhile effort.”

“This amazing donation will allow us to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables everymonth for all of 2020, which will have a huge impact on the wellbeing of our clients who rely on us for food,” according to Trish Rooney, LCSC’s Executive Director. “Our goal has always been to secure more healthy food choices to supplement the shelf-stable groceries we provide, but it is easier said than done. Fresh produce is not inexpensive and not always readily available. This incredible support will open up our options to buy product from a number of vendors in Cleveland who either offer us significantly reduced pricing or who rescue food from local farmers.”

As was hoped, the event was another win-win. Many participating businesses reported a busier than ever Saturday as well as kudos from their customers for being one of the partnering establishments

There are so many people to thank, most importantly, the partici-



pating establishments:
Addicted Coffee , Forage Public House, Melt Bar and Grilled, Aladdin’s, Gatherings Kitchen , Molto Bene Italian Eatery, Angelo’s Pizza, Georgetown, Rood Food & Pie, Around the Corner, GoodKind Coffee , Salt, Barrio , Gray Dog Diner, Sarita a Restaurant, Barroco, Harlow’s, Sauced Taproom, Blackbird Baking Company, Humble Wine Bar, Sweet Designs Chocolatier, Bottlehouse Lakewood, Ice Cream Joy Café, Taco Tontos, Buckeye Beer Engine, Italian Creations, Thai Thai, Cleveland Vegan, KB Confections, The Root Café, Deagan’s, Lakewood SouperMarket, The Tea Lab, Dewey’s Pizza, LBM, The Winchester,, Dinerbar on Clifton, Little Lakewood Pasta Company, Woodstock BBQ, El Carnicero, Mahall’s 20 Lanes, Fear’s Confections, Malley’s Chocolates

Watch for the date of the 3rd Annual End Hunger in Lakewood Day soon.

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Light Up Lakewood 2019

by Matt Bixenstine

Glittering lights illuminated Detroit Avenue, fireworks sparkled in the December sky and an aura of merriment filled the city’s downtown district. The holiday season is now in full-swing in Lakewood.

People from across the region visited Downtown Lakewood in droves on Saturday, December 7, to partake in the holiday tradition that is Light Up Lakewood. A large, festive crowd enjoyed LakewoodAlive’s 13th annual holiday community event celebrating the spirit of the season and the richness of the city’s vibrancy.

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood, Light Up Lakewood 2019 kicked off with Lunch with Santa at Dewey’s Pizza followed by joyous musical performances at Lakewood Baptist Church. The festivities then shifted to Plantation Home, where Lakewood High School juniors Savannah Monroy and Mohamed Manaa were celebrated as Royalty Honorees of Light Up Lakewood. Savannah and Mohamed were both awarded \$500 scholarships from owner David Stein in recognition of their outstanding service to the community.

Three features kicked off the evening’s main festivities. The Light Up Lakewood Beer Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance opened near the intersection of Detroit and Mars Avenues, welcoming guests to enjoy local craft beer in a unique, festive setting. The Holiday Market at the historic Lakewood Masonic Temple beckoned shoppers, and the Holiday Train sponsored by Laskey Costello and Paisley Monkey began offering rides aboard this beautifully restored classic trackless train.

Crowd-pleasers Buddy The Elf and The Grinch highlighted the popular Holiday Parade, which included participants ranging from student



photo by Jacob Chabowski

organizations to huskies to, of course, Santa. Festival-goers lined both sides of Detroit Avenue taking in the sights and sounds of the parade, which featured 30 participating groups. Local favorite media personality Mark Nolan emceed both the Holiday Parade and the ensuing Lighting Ceremony, enhancing the already-festive atmosphere.

The Lighting Ceremony commenced at Lakewood City Center Park with remarks from Tom Fraser, CEO of First Mutual Holding Company – the parent company of First Federal Lakewood. A surprise announcement followed, providing the exciting news that The Cleveland Orchestra will perform a free concert at Lakewood Civic Auditorium on February 16. Three members of the Orchestra’s brass section delighted the crowd with holiday music.

After a crowning ceremony for Savannah and Mohamed, Zenovia Parkanzky – a fourth grader who won the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce’s “Why I Love Lakewood” essay contest – read her piece, and the Peddlers of Mirth performed holiday carols for the festive crowd.

Buddy, Santa and his elf joined Ruby to flip the big red switch and illuminate City Center Park before fireworks burst over the rooftops of Downtown Lakewood to culminate the joyful celebration.

The free, family-friendly community event also included musical performances at Lakewood Public



photo by

Library, live music courtesy of The Sell-outs, outdoor carolers and musicians, DJs, ice carvings, free hot chocolate, food trucks and children’s games.

“It truly takes a village to orchestrate a volunteer-driven event the magnitude of Light Up Lakewood,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director for LakewoodAlive. “We’re extremely grateful to the City of Lakewood, First Federal Lakewood, our Light Up Lakewood Committee, our partner organizations and businesses, our sponsors and the numerous volunteers who made this wonderful community celebration possible.”

Light Up Lakewood is generously supported by the following sponsors:

Title Sponsor and Fireworks Sponsor: First Federal Lakewood, Snowflake Sponsor: City of Lakewood, Beer Garden Sponsor: Roundstone Insurance, Lighting Sponsor: Lakewood City Center, Photo Booth Sponsor: Eric Lowrey and Chris Bergin, Berkshire Hathaway/Lucien Realty, Sparkle Sponsors: Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center | Topgolf Cleveland, Royalty Scholarship Sponsor: Plantation Home... See the rest of this article online at: lakewoodobserver.com

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YES WE HAVE HELIUM!

ASK ABOUT DELIVERY

Happy New Year

It's A Party

New Years Eve Party Supplies
Kits for 10-50 people
Balloons for your Party (Order early)
Balloon Bouquets \$10 - \$25
Birthday Patterns (Adults & Children)
Party Staples: Table Covers, Plates (7"-9")
Cutlery, Napkins

Hours: Mon - Wednesday 10am-6pm,
Thurs - Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday 10am - 2pm

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The Back Page

LAKEWOODITES ROB MASEK

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST IS ON, WITH OVER \$700 UP FOR GRABS!

IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT, HERE ARE A FEW CHRISTMAS DECORATION THEMES I'D PERSONALLY LIKE TO SEE...

A DIE HARD CHRISTMAS! DECORATE YOUR FRONT YARD WITH POLICE CARS, SHATTERED GLASS AND DEAD TERRORISTS!

NOW I HAVE A MACHINEGUN HO HO HO

YIPPEE K! MOTHERF!

GREMLIN CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA

HOW THE KISHKA SAVED CHRISTMAS! DECORATE YOUR TREE WITH PIEROGIES AND SAUERKRAUT AND BREAK OUT THAT ACCORDION!

Roman Fountain
Pizza & Subs

Re-Opening Soon!

at RomanFountain.com

Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved businesses in Lakewood. At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites: pizzas, subs, calzones, stromboli, salads, pasta, and more. When you order for pickup or delivery, we provide you with the freshest of toppings (over 25 to choose from) on our pizza. With dough and sauce made daily from our own recipe and freshly grated blend of mozzarella & provolone cheese, we provide a great pizza for you and your family.

• Pizza	• Subs
• Calzones	• Wings
• Stromboli	• Appetizers
• Salads	• Desserts
• Pasta	• Dinners

To see our menu or coupons please go to www.romanfountain.com
Or stop by at
15603 Detroit Ave.
Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633

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