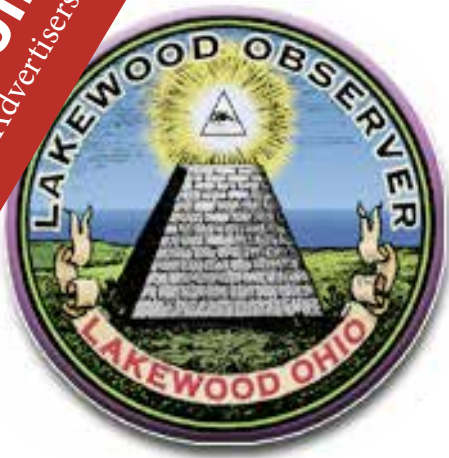


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Volume 16, Issue 01, January 8, 2020

Lakewood City Council Gets Settled In To Govern

Dan O'Malley New City Council President

by Brad Presutto

2020 City Council Swearing In Ceremony

As 2020 begins, Mayor Meghan George and Lakewood City Council are sworn in to start business. Mayor George was sworn in on January 1, and the four ward representatives were sworn in on January 6 (Ward 1 - Tess Neff, Ward 2 - Jason Shachner, Ward 3 - John Litten, Ward 4 - Dan O'Malley).

Mayor George began the swearing in of City Council by introducing Judge Patrick Carroll. Judge Carroll went in order of the wards to swear in the four councilpeople. Each new councilperson brought a loved one up when they were sworn in to share in the experience.

Ward 3 Councilperson John Litten's daughter stole the show when she realized she was helping swear in her dad.

President of Council and Vice President of Council

Once the swearing in ceremony ended, there was a brief recess before the first official Lakewood City Council meeting of 2020 commenced. When the session began, Council at Large Councilperson Tom Bullock led City Council in the selection of President of Council. Councilperson Litten nominated Councilperson O'Malley which was seconded by Councilperson Bullock. There were no other nominations, and it was a unanimous vote for now Council President O'Malley.



Tess Neff, Ward One; Jason Shachner, Ward 2; John Litten Ward 3, Vice President of Council; Dan O'Malley, Ward 4, Lakewood City Council President.

Council President O'Malley initiated the process for the nomination of Vice President

of Council and nominated Councilperson Litten. Councilperson Bullock seconded. Similarly to President of Council, there were no other nominations and a unanimous vote for Council Vice President Litten.

Mayor George appointments

Mayor George made two appointments for City Council confirmation. She appointed Brian Corrigan as Law Director and Roman Ducu for Director of Public Works. Both individuals have a long history of service to Lakewood.

Church property updates

Bryce Sylvester provided

two updates regarding Lakewood acquired properties at Cove and Trinity Church.

Cove Church property has completed step one of a two-step process. Step one was to narrow the eleven bids to redevelop the property down to three. They will publish the results of the search on the city website along with the interview criteria that will be utilized to select the finalist between the remaining three.

Trinity Church will be the new headquarters for Scalish Construction. They are excited to expand upon their almost twelve years of being a Lakewood company.



Mayor George's Inauguration Remarks

From Mayor George's notes:

Thank you. Let's extend a round of applause for the LHS musicians and Cub Scouts that were a part of the ceremony this afternoon. Thank you for taking time out to be a part of this special day for Lakewood.

First, I'd like to say thank you residents of Lakewood. I am honored by the faith you have shown in me and am ready for the work ahead. There are so many that deserve a thank you but I wanted to specifically thank my family. They have been my constant support system and I could not have accomplished this without them.

I'd also like to thank Mayor Summers for his service to our community and wish you well on this next phase. I also want to thank my friend, State Rep Mike Skindell for his

service to Lakewood first on City Council and State Senate and now as State Representative but also for his role today as our emcee. Also a heartfelt thank you to a mentor--Lee Fisher--for his leadership as Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General of Ohio and currently as Dean of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

and for performing today's swearing-in ceremony.

This is certainly a full circle moment for me. Many know that my father was an inspiration to me, but Lee was also. I have fond memories of working on his campaigns.

Sixteen people have

continued on page 3

Three More Listen & Learn Sessions With Dr. Barnes Set

by Christine Gordillo

The next Listen & Learn session with Dr. Barnes will happen on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6 pm in the back room of Taco Tonto's (13321 Madison Ave.). Listen & Learn sessions are informal, one-hour chats with Dr. Barnes. The sessions are a great way to have any of your questions regarding the March levy answered.

Dr. Barnes has added an additional session in February. Also to note, there has been a date change to the March session, which was originally publicized as occurring March 18. The new dates are:

February 4, 2020, 6 pm at the Main Library Auditorium

March 11, 2020, 6 pm at the Taft Center for Innovation, 13701 Lake Ave.

Senator Sherrod Brown Visits Lakewood



by Matt Kuhns

Senator Sherrod Brown recently visited the Bookshop in Lakewood to sign copies of his book, "Desk 88: Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America." More than 100 people attended the event, with the line to meet the senator stretching out the door at one point.

Lakewood Observer

Part Two Of Two

One Lakewood Progress: Impact Of New Tax Abatements

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Property tax abatements are subsidies that lower the cost of owning real and personal property by reducing or eliminating the taxes paid on it.

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

multi-family and multi-floor residential units.

In order to qualify for the tax abatements, developers of *new* multi-unit and mixed-use residential units must abide by the affordable housing stipulations set forth in the policy. Also stipulated in the policy is that the abatements can apply retroactively to the Rockport Square incentive district on Lakewood’s east end by signature of the mayor. Slated new mixed-use developments like One Lakewood Place, and residential developments being planned at the Steve Barry Buick site, and others would qualify for the abatement if they decide they want to include affordable housing units in

their developments.

The tax abatement rates for these new developments are of a “15-year duration at 100% exemption on the improved value of the new structures only.”

The policy establishes that a baseline tax value for these developments will be maintained throughout the abatement. Generally, baseline taxes are estimates of assessed real property (land and property attached) value at the outset of a development project.

So, developments which take advantage of the abatement will pay no taxes on the appreciation in value of the property for 15 years, but will still pay taxes on the real property value established at the outset of the abatement period.

Schools are projected to spend into a deficit in 2020 and just announced the inclusion of a \$3.9 million operating levy on the March 2020 ballot, the passage of these abatements could not have come at a less favorable time.

According to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), tax abatements cost Ohio schools at least \$125 million in revenue each year. According to Good Jobs First, an economic development non-profit which tracks subsidies’ losses and works closely with the GASB, Lakewood Schools lost nearly \$800,000 from subsidy programs in 2017, the latest data available.

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The LCRAC Presents The 13th Annual Community Diversity Potluck, Jan 23

by Walter Wright

Come bring your family and join your neighbors from around the world as we celebrate Lakewood's diversity with food and fun! The event is January 23, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Women's Club Pavilion in Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue.

Bring a dish to share (vegetarian, vegan or meat) for about six people that represents your family, cultural or

ethnic background. We encourage you to bring the recipe as well, and a label for the dish.

Over the years, Lakewood has welcomed people from all around the world - come be a part of this tradition!

Walter Wright has been a resident since 2006 and is current chair of the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission.

That could prove to be a significant loss for the City of Lakewood and Lakewood Schools, especially if the outcomes for which the abatements exist, affordable housing, are elusive, as the calculations included in this analysis seem to suggest.

Considering that Lakewood

With the majority of Lakewood’s economy made up of service businesses and organizations who employ service workers (who are, in fact, essential to

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Lakewood City Hall

Mayor George's Inauguration Remarks

continued from page 1

served as Mayor since the City of Lakewood's incorporation in 1910. To my knowledge, I am the first person in Lakewood's history to have seen her parent carry the honor and burden of this office and then serve as a mayor in her own right. I would be remiss if I did not thank my father, of course for all he sacrificed so that I could get to this moment, but also for the example he set for me so that I can succeed on behalf of this community for the next four years. Thank you, Dad.

During my time on City Council, listening on the campaign trail, and in these last two months of transition to this moment, I've honed in on a few themes that are important to me and I've heard Lakewood say are important to you as well.

Responsibility. Being Mayor of Lakewood brings with it great responsibility. 51,000 residents. 400-plus employees. A multi-million dollar budget. Safety. Streets. Economic Development. Trash pick-up. Sewers and wastewater treatment are not glamorous topics, but Lakewood's mayor has to know these intimately and be ready to answer questions about them from citizens or regulators at the drop of a hat. I will know these issues and handle them so that you don't have to. Improving upon municipal services that are already being delivered well like trash pick-up will be hard, but we owe it to our taxpayers to strive for more. Lakewood's police and fire departments are models for other communities and are looking for ways to incorporate new technology and services for our community. I want them to have those tools and to provide those services. I've focused my thinking on how to strike a fiscally responsible balance between the wants and needs of Lakewood's 400-plus employees, its 51,000 residents, and countless businesses, nonprofits, and



community organizations. The answer is not simple, but it is straightforward-hard work. The City of Lakewood has an eager and capable staff who want their Mayor to be a leader, a partner, and an enabler for all of the good work they can and will do for our community. I look forward to it.

"I will work to rebuild our sense of neighborly unity."
Mayor Meghan

Opportunity. Being Mayor of Lakewood also brings with it great opportunity. There is a bright future ahead in Lakewood. Lakewood is a great place to raise a family. We have hundreds of talented and engaged citizens serving on volunteer boards and commissions. Combine that with the tremendous human capital we have in City Hall and Lakewood has the raw material to tackle any challenge and seize any opportunity. You may have heard of Smart Columbus or Smart Cities in general. These are cities that are leveraging technology to optimize existing services and improve the lives of their citizens. Smart Lakewood is how we can do more for our citizens while not increasing the burden on our taxpayers. What money we save can be reinvested in quality of life pillars like

our many (but not enough) parks. The future is dynamic and Lakewood needs a Mayor who will embrace those challenges, seize those opportunities, and keep pace with peer communities who are leading the way. I look forward to it.

Finally, Unity. As Mayor of Lakewood, I will work to rebuild our sense of neighborly unity. Regardless of past decisions and quarrels, I see the next four years as an opportunity to heal old wounds, to mend fences, and to build bridges.

This is a challenge I take seriously as the elected leader of this community but one we all face. Ultimately, we are stronger together. I have listened to our community, through my tenure on City Council and especially over the past several months on the campaign trail and I have heard a clear call. Lakewood is a passionate, engaged community who wants a Mayor who will lead responsibly, openly, and transparently, and embrace all the positive opportunities and positive energy that this community has to offer.

In closing, I know there is hard work to do but I am grateful for many capable hands and willing hearts with whom to share it. The challenges are great and the rewards are greater. This is what lies ahead of us and I look forward to it.

Thank you.

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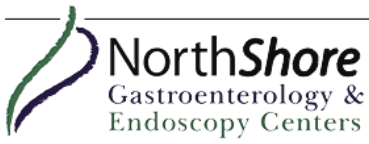
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Lakewood Public Library

Tuesday Genealogy Programs At The Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Do your New Year's Resolutions include learning more about your family history? If so, Lakewood Public Library is the place to be.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Edward Bolte will discuss using



obituaries as a genealogical research tool in his presentation, The Changing Face and Future of Obituaries. President of the Western Reserve Historical Society Genealogical Committee, Mr. Bolte has conducted family history research for more than forty years.

On Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Deborah A. Abbott, PhD returns with her popular genealogy workshop. Dr. Abbott shows fifteen students how to research their ancestors and how to use the in-Library resource, Ancestry Library Edition. Registration is required. To register, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. But you don't have to wait for a workshop. Ancestry Library Edition is free for everyone to use every day at the Library.

Other online genealogical resources can be accessed from the library or from your home via the Library's website. African American Heritage offers a

comprehensive mix of resources specifically pertaining to African Americans. Fold3® Library Edition collects historical military records, including stories, photos, and personal documents. HeritageQuest® Online collects genealogical and historical sources from more than sixty countries, with coverage dating

back to the 1700s.

Both "Data Mining the Deceased" and The Changing Face and Future of Obituaries take place in the Main Library Auditorium. Dr. Abbott's genealogy workshop will be held in the Main Library Second Floor Learning Lab.



Share the Dream - A Celebration Of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Marge Foley

For some children, being off from school on January 20, 2020, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, means sleeping late, playing video games, and watching television. The Lakewood Public Library is offering a meaningful alternative. Your child can still catch some extra shut-eye, however from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. they can take part in a program that will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through stories, songs, and a craft. As part of the MLK Day of Service, participants will create cards which will

be distributed to local nursing home residents. This artistic endeavor will brighten the day of a senior citizen and provide your child with a chance to serve others. The cards will be delivered to a local nursing home by a library staff member at a later date. Each child will also be given the opportunity to make a take-home booklet about the life of Dr. King. There is no need to register in advance. All school-age children are invited to participate in this program which will take place in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

The Magical World Of Bill Gang

by Marge Foley

Do you believe in magic? The Lakewood Public Library invites children and their families to The Magical World of Bill Gang on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. With a repertoire of numerous mystical maneuvers, this program will puzzle and entertain. Try to figure out Bill Gang's secrets as he performs fascinating tricks and

enchanting illusions. Children and parents alike will watch in amazement as magical events take place. Family fun and giggles will fill the evening. This interactive magic program will make you a believer. Families will enjoy this free show in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. You might even see a rabbit pulled out of a hat!

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Nonfiction Book Club
Main Library Meeting Room

Come and join the conversation with our newest book club. There are sure to be serious and thought-provoking discussions about many subjects inspired by these nonfiction works. Tonight we will discuss “This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant’s Manifesto” by Suketu Mehta.

Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (91 minutes)

Lakewood Public Cinema Film Series—Sam Fuller: Audacious Auteur: “The Naked Kiss” (1964), Directed by Samuel Fuller
Presented by Terry Meehan
Main Library Auditorium

Kelly (Constance Towers) is a prostitute troubled by a traumatic experience. She resolves to give up her transient lifestyle and big-city pimp. She leaves her past behind and finds solace in the small town of Grantville, but this small town proves to be just as sordid as a big city. Terry Meehan continues his series Sam Fuller: Audacious Auteur, introducing each film with an original video followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday with the Friends
Concert - The SpYder Stompers and Sugar Pie
Main Library Multipurpose Room

The SpYder Stompers and Sugar Pie quartet cook up a tasty spread with the sounds of high-energy blues, country and ragtime tunes. They will get you up and dancing to foot stompin’ antebellum acoustic country blues. The string band quartet members are vocalists and multi-instrumentalists, who tag team leading tunes out of music genres that are classics from the first half of the twentieth century. This performance will have you hooting and hollering!

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Genealogy Programs
The Changing Face and Future of Obituaries
Presentation by Edward Bolte
Main Library Auditorium

Obituaries and death notices are an important resource when conducting family history research. Learn about the origins of obituaries and their transition from newspaper filler to must-read material. This program will also cover how to use obituary information in your own research. Edward Bolte has conducted family history research for over forty years. He currently serves as president of the Western Reserve Historical Society Genealogical Committee.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Literature Discussion
Mythological Retelling: Circe
Literature Series presented by Barbara Parr
Main Library Multipurpose Room

The second program in our 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, that inspired Miller’s novel. Register online at lifelonglearningcleveland.org or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Author, “Abandoned Cleveland”
Book by Jeffery Stroup
Main Library Auditorium

Today Cleveland is experiencing a renaissance. However, it’s not difficult to find decaying reminders of the city’s dramatic rise and fall. It is these relics of the city’s past that Jeffrey Stroup strives to capture and preserve through the images in this book. Stroup’s passion for photography and love of history have led him to explore abandoned buildings throughout the country. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Booked for Murder Book Club

Main Library Meeting Room

If you share a passion for mystery, join the group each month to discuss your favorites and selections made by group members. Tonight we will discuss “Double Indemnity” and “The Postman Always Rings Twice” by James M. Cain.

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Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (130 minutes)

Lakewood Public Cinema
“Phantom Thread” (2017), Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson
Main Library Auditorium

Set in 1950s London, renowned dressmaker Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis) is at the center of British fashion. Women come and go through Woodcock’s life, providing the confirmed bachelor with inspiration and companionship until he comes across a young, strong-willed woman Alma (Vicky Krieps), who soon becomes a fixture in his life as his muse and lover. Once controlled and planned, Woodcock finds his carefully tailored life disrupted by love.

Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday with the Friends
Lily B.
Main Library Auditorium

Lakewood artist Lily B. will sing songs from the Great American Songbook, as well as selections from today’s more current jazz scene, and other popular musical genres. Lily B. is a powerful vocalist who can hold her own while accompanying Big Band instrumentals. Her musical influences include Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan and Adele. Lily B.’s performance is guaranteed to have something for every music lover!



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Lakewood Education Observed

FAQs About

March Levy Issue

by Christine Gordillo

1. What is on the March 17, 2020 ballot for Lakewood City Schools?

Lakewood City Schools' Board of Education voted unanimously to place a 3.9 mill levy and 1.0 mill permanent improvement (PI) levy on the March 2020 ballot. The funds from this levy would help keep Lakewood City Schools strong and would go toward:

Adding STEM offerings to prepare students for their futures;

Expanding career and technical educational opportunities for middle and high school students;

Keeping educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date;

Retaining and recruiting high-quality teachers by paying them competitive salaries;

Providing mental health services for elementary students;

Expanding early childhood programs for our community's youngest learners; and

Protecting our community's investment by keeping all of our buildings, athletic fields, vehicles, and other assets in good condition.

2. How much will this levy cost a Lakewood taxpayer?

The levy would cost a Lakewood taxpayer less than \$2 per month more than they currently pay, based on a property valuation of \$100,000.

3. How can a 4.9 mill levy only cost a Lakewood taxpayer less than \$2 more per month per \$100,000 property value?

Due to responsible refinancing, sound financial practices, and property value growth, 4.9 mills of the District's current debt service millage will be reduced. With the reduction in millage, a Lakewood taxpayer would not see an increase in their tax rate, and would only see a small increase in taxes.

4. Why does the District need a levy now?

Due to inconsistent and declining State funds, and the increasing costs of operating our schools – like healthcare and utilities – the District will start deficit spending in 2020, which means our expenditures will outpace our revenues. As good fiscal stewards, we must always be looking ahead, proactively monitoring our funding sources, and ensuring our District remains strong while continuing to provide the educational excellence that residents expect.

To read our five-year forecast, visit the www.lakewoodcityschools.org/Content/levy2020.

5. Is this levy for a continuing period of time?

Yes. This issue will be for a continuing period of time to ensure a steady, stable funding stream to allow our District to provide high-quality education.

6. Is Lakewood City Schools fiscally responsible?

Yes. The District 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. But with the District starting to deficit spend in 2020, the Board of Education must look ahead to ensure our District remains stable and continues to provide the educational excellence that residents expect.

7. With Lakewood's property values increasing, has the District received more money from its past levies?

Unfortunately, no. Due to House Bill 920 passed by the Ohio General Assembly in 1976, the District does not benefit from the inflationary growth of its tax base. Even when property values increase while a levy is in effect, the amount of the taxes collected does not increase.

8. What is the difference between an operating levy and permanent improvement levy, and why do we need both?

Money from an operating levy is used for the operation of the school district, including supplies and equipment, essential school programs, teaching staff and services. A permanent improvement levy goes toward any asset with a useful life of five years or more, as determined by the District treasurer, such as technology, equipment, buildings, fields, and vehicles. The Ohio Revised Code states that each type of funding be used for the corresponding purpose.

9. What happens if this levy doesn't pass in March?

Without this funding, the administration and Board of Education would have to make some difficult decisions in regards to its resources and next steps. The District will start deficit spending in 2020, so it is imperative that leaders work to ensure the District remains strong and continues to provide the educational excellence that residents expect.

10. How do I register to vote or update my voter registration?

There are a few ways to choose from:

You can register to vote or update your Ohio voting address electronically on the Secretary of State website.

You can print a blank registration form from the Secretary of State website.

You can call the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 216-443-3298 for a Voter Registration Card to be mailed to you. Complete it and mail it back.

You may also register at one of the following locations in Lakewood:

- Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, 14650 Detroit Ave., Ste. 200, 44107
- Lakewood High School (Main Office), 14100 Franklin Avenue, 44107
- Lakewood Library, 15424 Detroit Avenue, 44107
- Lakewood WIC, 15224 Madison Avenue, 44107
- Madison Branch Library, 13229 Madison Avenue, 44107
- St. Edward High School, 13500 Detroit Avenue, 44107



Lakewood Project Joins Escape - The Journey Tribute Band - January 24th

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School's rock orchestra, The Lakewood Project, will join with the E5C4P3 - Escape - The Journey Tribute band for its Friday, January 24th concert. The concert will kick off at 7:30 pm in the Lakewood

Civic Auditorium. The Lakewood Project and E5C4P3 will each do a set then join for a combined set as well. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for students, in advance, and \$10 and \$5 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the LHS Bookroom or by calling 216-529-4047.

LHS, West Shore Students Earn Scholastic Art Awards

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to students from Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Tech Media Art & Design who won highest honors among the 41 awards earned in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition held in December. LHS and West Shore students won seven Gold Keys, the highest honor given, including two each by senior Natalie Costello and junior Nola Williams-Riseng.

Lakewood students were also well represented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels. Nine students won 12 Silver Keys, including three by senior Jane Kalinowski, two by juniors Timothy Frolo and Cameron Krizman. Eighteen students earned Honorable Mention designations for their art.

Additional Gold Key winners are: Lakewood High art senior Patrick McCallum and Media Art & Design students senior Darnasia Shields and junior Willow Rosser. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 95-year-old competition. Nola Williams-Riseng photograph "Erimari" was also nominated for a special American Visions Award.

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes creative achievement in 7-12 grade students in Northeast Ohio. The young artists compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries.

This year's regional winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on January 18, 2020 at the Cleveland Institute of Art and their work will be on display in the CIA's art gallery through February 1. Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers Dayna Hansen, Anne McQuay, Arline Olear, Autumn Sabin and Amy Sedlak.

Gold Key Winners: (approximately 7-10% of regional entries)

Natalie Costello (2) – Drawing & Illustration

Patrick McCallum – Printmaking

Willow Rosser – Digital Art (West Shore)

Darnasia Shields – Digital Art (West Shore)

Nola Williams-Riseng – Drawing & Illustration; Photography (WS = West Shore)

Silver Key Winners: (approximately 10-15% of regional entries)

Natalie Costello – Drawing & Illustration

Esther Dolatowski – Mixed Media

Isabella Dombrowski – Drawing & Illustration

Timothy Frolo (2) – Design & Digital Art (West Shore)

Jane Kalinowski (3) – Drawing & Illustration (2); Mixed Media

Cameron Krizman (2) – Digital Art; Design (West Shore)

Patrick McCallum – Printmaking

Katherine Skourlis – Film & Animation (West Shore)

Melody Stone – Film & Animation (West Shore)

Honorable Mention:

Gaby Bush – Design (West Shore)

Ryan Constantinescu – Film & Animation

Natalie Costello – Drawing & Illustration

Chloe Derethik – Printmaking

Isabella Dombrowski – Drawing & Illustration

Justine Jaworski – Drawing & Illustration

Hana Johnson – Drawing & Illustration

Jane Kalinowski (2) – Printmaking & Art Portfolio

Ivy Keeper – Mixed Media

Cammi Kresila – Photography

Erin McHugh – Photography

Kallie Mitchell – Drawing & Illustration

Eleanor Seikel (2) – Digital Art (West Shore)

Darnasia Shields – Drawing & Illustration

Antonio Spencer – Photography (West Shore)

Gabby Toms (2) – Digital Art; Photography (West Shore)

Christina Westlake – Photography

Lila Wright – Drawing & Illustration

Lakewood Education Observed



Were you one of the lucky recipients of these handmade gifts?

Hayes Elementary Students Get Creative

by Susan Jarecke

The week before winter break, students from Hayes Elementary School finished up their 11th annual Holiday Craft Week. More than 300 students handmade five unique crafts. This year's gifts included: Seasoning Salt, a Hat Ornament, Room Spray, a Necklace and a Photo Holder.

Each student also wrote a holiday greeting card which will be sent to recovering troops at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Virginia and veterans at the Louis Stokes VA hospital in Cleveland.

Hayes Elementary and the Craft Week Team would like to thank all of the parent and grandparent volunteers who provided donations and their time to make this week a success. And a special thank you to Meghann McKay for her leadership for the past 5 years. Consider yourself fortunate if you received one of these handmade treasures this holiday season!

Susan Jarecke is a Lakewood implant, mother of four and a busy volunteer.

News Flash! The Piping Plover Is Endangered In Ohio!

by Rafael Santos

Piping plovers birds are an endangered bird in Ohio.

A lot of people don't know about this bird!

The Great Lakes population of the piping plover was listed as an endangered species in 1986.

Piping plovers used to nest on the larger Lake Erie beaches, but due to the disturbance and destruction of their habitat, their nests have disappeared in Ohio.

The last nesting record was in 1942; the piping plover is now only a migrant species. This means it lives in Ohio for a short time. The bird does not nest here anymore.

Piping plovers prefer sandy beaches, but migrants use large flat muddy land.

Piping plovers make a two-noted piping call.

Piping plovers eat insects, small crustaceans-- like crabs, fly larvae, and beetles.

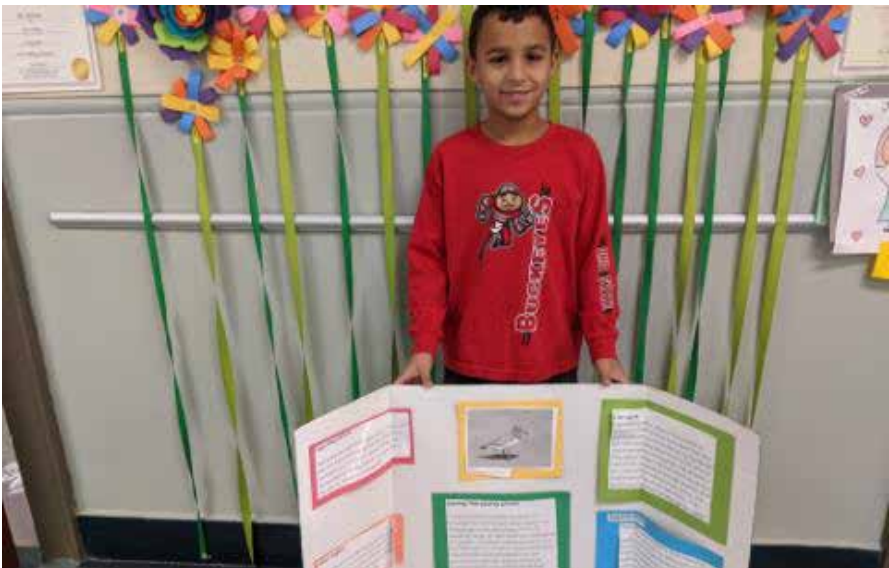
The piping plover has been threatened since 1985! This means the piping plover is in danger of becoming extinct.

Only 8,000 piping plovers are left in the world!

The piping plover is a small sand-colored, sparrow-sized shore bird that nests and feeds along coastal sand and gravel beaches in North America.

The bird is difficult to see when it is standing still, because it blends well with open, sandy beach habitats. It typically runs in short spurts and stops.

- Why is the Piping Plover Endangered?
- The piping plovers have lost beaches where they build nests.
 - People build homes, stores and other buildings on or near their beaches.
 - People build dams and raise and lower water levels of lakes and rivers.
 - Too much water in the spring floods the plovers' nests.
 - Too little water lets grasses and other plants grow on the nesting beachings.
 - The birds cannot make good nests in these conditions.
- People need to leave piping plovers alone!
- If people disturb these birds or their nests, the parent birds will abandon their nests.
- Be careful where you walk on the beach. Sometimes people crush eggs or young birds.
- Dogs and cats sometimes kill the birds. Other animals, such as fox, gulls, and crows, eat young plovers or eggs.
- What can we do to help the piping plover along our Great Lakes?
- Report the location of Piping Plovers and their nests.
 - Stay away from nest exclosures and posted Piping Plover breeding areas.
 - Always keep dogs leashed.
 - Pack out your food waste and garbage.
 - Leave driftwood and algae on the beaches.
 - Do not operate vehicles on



Rafael Santos wants Ohioans to care about the endangered Ohio bird, the piping plover.

beaches with nesting Piping Plovers.

Thank you for saving the piping plover in Ohio!

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You can see all 238 homes that were entered this year at the Lakewood Observer photoblogs. If for some reason you do not see a house that should have won, well it either was not submitted or voted on by enough. Next year, submit and vote. Each vote matters. Even with over 3,000 votes cast, 6th and 7th were decided by 3 votes!lakewoodobserver.com/



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Lakewood Is Art

For The Modern Teen:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 99

by Buzz Kompier

Ricky Hell & The Voidboys - L'Appel Du Vide - Quality Time Records / Greenway Records - 10 songs - LP

This is either the second or third Ricky Hell & The Voidboys album (depending on whether you wanna count "Satan Of Cool," which had 8 songs and was cassette only– and actually, it could be the fourth or fifth if you say "Killed By Ricky" and "Hell Is Real" are Voidboys releases, since they do have that band on them and since they were combined to make up "Welcome 2 Hell," which was then rereleased as "Ricky Hell & The Voidboys" later. This band has the most complicated discography of any Quality Time group as far as I'm concerned.) It kicks off with some kind of blaxploitation spoof before kicking into the opening song, "Life In A Northern Town Again," a nod to Dream Academy's 1985 release. Side A is made up of mostly the kind of things you expect: decent, usually catchy punk-pop. "It's Not Really You" is pretty good, as is "Strychnine" (which has what I think is a pretty cool melancholy clarinet line during the chorus, but it's so deep in the mix I'm not certain it's clarinet). Clarinetist Adam Spektor also does some good stuff on "She Always Knows What To Do"; he's at his best here when he's providing a melodic line instead of just the noise stuff, which feels unnecessary a lot of the time. Side B is definitely the winning side here. "Alaska" starts with an electronic kind of intro that gives way to an early '80s sounding post-punk/synth thing, which then abruptly ends and then the actual song, a slow and kinda sad one starts. Noah Depew plays lead guitar here and Kevin Roche (who I think was

in Pack Wolf) adds a nice glockenspiel part. It doesn't sound like anything else here, and that's good. "We're So Vain" and "Burn The House Down" are both pretty good, catchy power pop/punk/indie rock type things, and along with "Romantic Comedy" remind you that Ricky really can write good, catchy songs. "Romantic Comedy" is the one that really sticks in my head here, and since there's no backing vocal credit for it, I assume that it's Ricky doing a falsetto, which is a new move for him, I'm pretty sure. "Amnesia" closes out the album with a typical Voidboys style punker, but with Ricky's usual soft and murmury vocal stylings. He's kinda buried in the mix here and the song also feels like it's over after about 20 seconds. I'm not sure it was the best choice for a final track, but there it is. I still don't really like the sound of this band (or maybe I just don't get it)– I don't like the drum machine, I don't like the layer of noise gunk or whatever you wanna call it on them, and sometimes the performances seem less than lively. I guess the band has an actual drummer now (John from The Roobydocks) and he'll be on the next release, so I'm interested to hear how that changes things– almost certainly for the better in my book. I know it seems like I'm always very harsh with this band, but it's because I truly respect all the guys involved and I know that they can make great stuff, so when they're making stuff that's less than great, it's frustrating. That isn't to say that this record is a waste of time or anything by any means; again, most of the songs on the second side are really good and there's a couple winners on the first side as well. By and large, I am a fan of Ricky's work and if you are as well, it's worth checking out. 3.33/5 (try a local record store)



touch of metal. It's pretty good stuff. The band is super tight and a lot of the riffs are killer ("Cat Nip" is a great example). I'm wondering if they got Mr. California a real synth to play on here or he just used his phone– either way, the synth sounds cool. The really unique element that this band has is their singer Meggie, who's a very distinctive presence here. The label description made a comparison to Patty Donahue from The Waitresses, but that's

not quite it (well, maybe on "Sad" a little bit). I can't quite place it, really. She sings with the energy of an amped-up ten year old (and sometimes with the lyrics to match– see "Food" for one, not that the tale it tells couldn't necessarily be a universal experience), and I mean that in the best possible way. The sum of all the players here makes for a really enjoyable experience. The music rips and the whole thing is just a good time. Even on the songs that aren't really the standout ones, or even when sometimes it sounds a bit samey, it's still really fun to listen to. My favorites here were the opening track "Gross," which really lets you know what you're in for, "Ways To Die," the aforementioned ripper "Cat Nip," the pounding and manic (well, they're all pounding and manic to some extent) "Happy Bunny," "Reality Land," and "Magic Donkey," especially the part at the end where all the free jazz and feedback starts to sound like sirens and then Meggie starts singing along with it. My biggest complaint here is that I don't like the cover art at all– it really doesn't fit with the band. The Hawkwind-esque (Hawkwind-by-Rubber Mate, perhaps) art on the back is very cool, though. Altogether, a pretty cool record. 3.9/5 (itsajinxrecords.bandcamp.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com

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Street Gurgler - Primal Business - It's A Jinx Records - 13 songs - LP, digital
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Lakewood Observer

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4:

Episode 19: “The Ballad of Derecho Dan” Continues

fiction by Scott MacGregor

“...long before now, that river had been an open sewer. When it caught fire in 1969 the entire USA went ape. Do they think that was the first time it caught fire? Shit, it was the 13th TIME! There is something to be said about a city that drinks from the same waters it craps in, I just haven’t got a name for it. No doubt some smart business guy will say it’s a good thing. If businessmen ever rule the earth, they’ll reduce us to serfdom within a generation and life will stink like never before.” (Excerpt dated 7/21/75 from Maynard Gridley’s “Manifesto with Cheese.”)

Little Dan found these and other assertions in the last testament of Maynard Gridley. The document was a rambling, sometimes incoherent declaration of principles and other things Maynard just didn’t like about the world. He titled it, “Manifesto with Cheese.”

Two days earlier, Little Dan told Rowena that Maynard appeared to him in a dream and told him to use his boat for an unknown “mission.” Rowena’s faith in Maynard’s ability to come back and haunt someone was unshakeable. She directed the Three Joes to whisk Little Dan from his hiding place in Little Italy to the Cleveland Flats where Maynard’s boat was tied up. After locating it, Little Dan shook each of the Three Joes hands, said his goodbyes, and jumped onboard the vessel.

The boat was a 1959 Christ Craft 33’ Sports Cruiser aptly christened , “The Friggin’ A.” The boat had been cleverly hidden astride an abandoned



19th century side-wheeler that some dreamer tried to turn into a floating night club. After the project went bust the old ship sat abandoned and rotting on the river for a nearly decade. Wedged in the shadow of the older boat and camouflaged by the usual river debris, “The Friggin’ A” could hide in plain sight.

Once Little Dan had stepped onto the boat he knew something was very wrong. The boat was sitting low in the water like it had been taking on water. Little Dan popped open a hatch on the boat deck and tried to look into the guts of the boat. He was surprised to find that the ship’s hold had been filled nearly to the hatch brim with a mysterious putty like material that had the words “C4 Explosive” printed across it. He opened another hatch and, it too was full to the brim.

Then he opened up a large cupboard and found plenty more of the gray putty-like stuff jammed inside. Further exploration revealed the

material had been jammed inside and around every nook and cranny on the boat. Next to the ship’s wheel was a metal cylinder that led from the deck straight down into the hold. The cylinder was capped with a picture of George Washington.

Little Dan took the cap off of the cylinder and inside it was a plain old alarm clock attached to 6 volt lantern battery. That’s when Little Dan realized that he wasn’t on a boat. He was standing on a giant floating bomb.

It was all too much for Little Dan to fathom. He shook his fists in the air and wondered loudly when his luck would ever change. Dejected, Little Dan looked down at the powerful weapon under his feet and whispered, “Friggin’ A Maynard!”

Needy Hospice Family Receives Gift Card Donation From Local Business

by Laurie Henrichsen

The holidays are full of celebrations, but they can be stressful for family members who are caring for loved ones with an advanced illness. One local business is doing its part to make a difference. Helder Rosa, Vice President of Operations for Mercedes-Benz of North Olmsted, visited Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake recently with a gift to make the season a little warmer for one local family receiving care from Hospice of the Western Reserve’s Lakewood team. The

dealership donated \$350 in gift cards to Giant Eagle and Target. The gift cards will go to a “sandwich generation” caregiver who is not only taking care of her children and grandchildren but serving as the primary caregiver for a dying family member.

Accepting the gift cards on behalf of the family was Khannah Wetmore, a social worker for Hospice of the Western Reserve’s Lakewood home care

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



JANUARY

Aries: Don’t be in such a hurry Ram for 2020, just follow your heart & enjoy the cool stuff that happens along the way, as you pave unforeseen roads on your new adventure, slow down...

Taurus: It’s time for the Bull to ignore all that chatter your Monkey Mind is throwing at you, be still, listen to the yearnings of your Soul, gain clarity, get crystal clear, then make your move.

Gemini: The Twins can have fun like nobody else, spread Joy everywhere you go this year, lather it on like butter, become the Orville Redenbacher of Joy

for 2020, you’ll reap double.

Cancer: The Crab comes out of its shell this year, recognize your own beauty, own it, show it, be it...no more hiding under that shell, 2020 is your year to mingle & you’ve got what it takes.

Leo: It might be time to delegate some of those duties in that massive Jungle of yours Lion, this is the year to share some of that throne, there’s no need for you to do everything, rest a little.

Virgo: Quit analyzing every detail of your life’s path & where you need to

be, you’ve already arrived, no need to add any more to that way overloaded to-do list, get yourself a hammock...

Libra: Diving timing is evident going into 2020...however, you do need to make a decision for once in your life, the Universe has your back, just don’t be so wishy-washy, decide already!

Scorpio: Life is a buffet for the Scorpion this year, you’ve got plenty of options, a plethora of choices is tempting you, go for it, take a risk, who says you can’t come out of your cave?

Sagittarius: Mars is lined up in the Centaur’s forest, it’s time to take action & rewrite that storyline you’ve held onto for way too long, no more wicked witches, & evil goblins, angels are here.

Capricorn: You’ve gotten the Golden Buzzer for 2020, Jupiter will stay in your sign all year, it is the Santa Claus of the Zodiac, to double your bets, get that forgiveness work out of the way.

Aquarian: Mercury & Venus have come for a visit, what better time to don that Superman cape & take a chance

on that new hottie at the water cooler, you’ve got the green light all the way.

Pisces: For the second half of January, Venus has moved on over to the Fish’s pond, bringing with it cupid’s arrow heading straight for the heart, there’s plenty of fish in the sea, be choosy.

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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Lakewood Non-Profits

Batter Up! Tickets On Sale Now For "Loving Lakewood: All-Stars"

by Matt Bixenstine

Here's your chance to come out to the ballgame and root, root, root for the home team.

Tickets are now on sale for Loving Lakewood: All-Stars, LakewoodAlive's annual winter fundraiser taking place Saturday, February 22, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. Guests are cordially invited to don their favorite jersey and bring their 'A' game as they take to the gridiron for a sports-inspired celebration of the heart, hustle and teamwork

that's built Lakewood into a community of champions.

Sponsored by Cleveland Property Management Group, Loving Lakewood: All-Stars features sports-themed food, drinks, décor and entertainment that will have you saying, "I don't care if I never get back." This limited-capacity event is expected to sell out, so act faster than a sprint to the goal line to secure your tickets by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/AllStars.

\$100 Heavy Hitter Ticket

This grand slam opportunity includes all Big Leaguer Ticket offerings plus early entrance at 6:30 p.m., access to closer (first come, first served) free parking, open bar for the first hour, two drink tokens and a chance to claim victory in the VIP-only "Heavy Hitters Club" raffle drawing that will get you front-row access to the Lakewood big leagues.

\$50 Big Leaguer Ticket

This ticket will be your call up to the major leagues just in time for first pitch at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, where you'll receive unlimited food, one drink token and feel like a big leaguer with access to all of our All-Star festivities including sports games, raffles, auctions and more. You'll be saying, "Put me in coach!"

No matter which option you



choose, you're in store for an experience that's sure to be a slam dunk, a home run and a hole-in-one. Guests are encouraged to flaunt the look of their favorite sports star and step up to the plate for a memorable evening celebrating community vibrancy at this historic venue-turned-arena in Downtown Lakewood.

Proceeds will support LakewoodAlive's programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. Much like a team of destiny with a Cinderella story on a championship quest, we at LakewoodAlive possess the dogged determination and tireless work ethic necessary to assist the wonderful residents of Lakewood along the journey to achieving an even more vibrant community.

More details regarding Loving Lakewood: All-Stars will be unveiled

in the coming weeks. For ongoing updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/AllStars.

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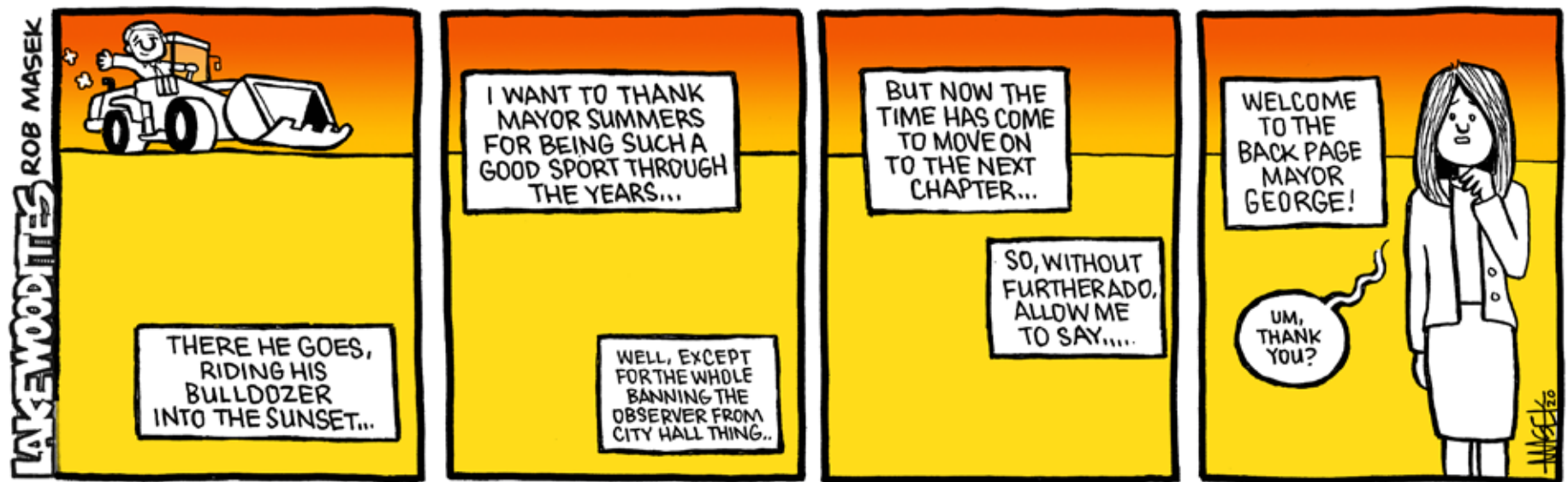
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