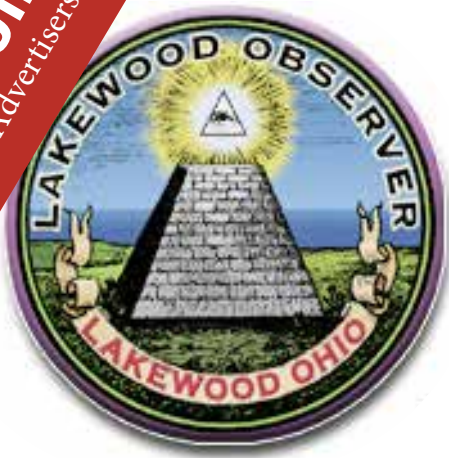


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Charles M. Schulz

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Volume 16, Issue 03, February 5, 2020

A Note From Mayor George Vote For Issue 28 Support Our Schools

by Meghan George,
Mayor of Lakewood

As a third-generation Lakewood resident and proud alumna of Lakewood Schools, I am proud to support Issue 28. I am grateful for the education I received as a student and wish for future Rangers to have that same high-quality experience. Voting for Issue 28 on March 17th will make that possible.

Before serving on City Council and becoming Mayor of Lakewood, I started my career as an educator. I've always valued the role that education plays in setting children up for success. Issue 28 will ensure our students are ready to succeed in life – whatever paths they choose. It will allow the Lakewood City Schools to increase mental health services for all children K-12, expand STEM classes to prepare students for their futures, keep educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date, help recruit and retain excellent teachers, and preserve our community's investment

by keeping all of our school buildings and other assets in good condition. Issue 28 will accomplish all of this while still being mindful of the taxpayer at less than \$2 more per month based on a property valuation of \$100,000.

I believe that strong schools mean a strong community. The basis for vibrant neighborhoods, strong housing values, and overall economic development is a strong education system. Issue 28 supports Lakewood families and our community by enabling the best possible educational outcomes for our students. Everything I do as Mayor remains focused on ensuring that Lakewood is one of the best places in the country to live. Issue 28 supports this effort.

I hope you will join me and our neighbors in supporting Lakewood City Schools on March 17th.

Sincerely,
Meghan F. George
Mayor of Lakewood



Board Of Education Now Located At Taft Center For Innovation, Open House March 11

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education headquarters has moved from its longtime location at 1470 Warren Road to its new home in the Taft Center for Innovation, located at 13701 Lake Ave.

The Board's new home was formerly Taft Elementary School until it closed in 2008. The building has been

completely renovated and beginning in August 2020 the center will also house the District's new all-day preschool program and its higher education partners such as University of Akron and Cuyahoga Community College.

The community is invited to tour the building at an Open House on March 11 from 5-6 pm.



These middle schoolers were honored for their creative art pieces as part of the District level PTA Reflections ceremony on January 28.

PTA Reflections Celebrates Creativity

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the students who entered the Lakewood Council of PTAs Reflections Program. This year's theme, Look Within, challenged our students to actually look within. We are so proud to share the dancer, artists, writers, and photographers who participated.

Each of the nine PTA units could submit up to 24 original works to go on to the Council level. Of those, 70 made it to District Council level. And, from those entries, 27 outstanding pieces were selected from a panel of judges to represent Lakewood in Columbus at the State level.

Submissions were judged on the interpretation of the theme, merit, and creativity in areas of Visual Arts, Photography, Literature, Dance Choreography, Music Composition, and Film Production.

View students' work and see photos from the night at <http://tiny.cc/LKWDRreflections>.

Presenting the awards to the students was their school's PTA Reflections Chair. Offering congratulations to the students were Superintendent Michael J. Barnes, Board President Emma Petrie Barcelona, Vice President Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, member Michael J. Callahan, and Ward 3 Councilman, John Litten.

cilman, John Litten.

Mary Johnson, co-chair of Council Reflections Program, and Council President-elect Rachel Vuyancih hosted the evening's event. Shannon Miller was the keynote speaker and spoke with passion, encouraging students to use art to let go and explore the possibilities. Miller is an art therapist in private practice, focusing on using art as a healing tool and an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

Reflections would not be possible without the chairpersons from each school. Thank you for your time and dedication.

continued on page 2

Lakewood Athletic Boosters 16th Annual Night At The Races

by Bethany Britt

The Lakewood Athletic Boosters are holding their 16th annual Night at the Races fundraiser on Saturday, February 29th. This entertaining event raises funds to support middle and high school student-athletes in the Lakewood City Schools district. Night at the Races is for adults age 21 and older. Doors open at 6 p.m. and races start at 7:30.

Individual tickets are \$40, but come with friends and save! Groups of 8 or more can purchase tickets for \$35 each (a group of 8 tickets is \$280 and a group of 10 tickets is \$350.) Tickets include a pizza, beverages, and dessert, but people are encouraged to bring their

favorite food and drinks to share with friends. To order tickets and buy horses, visit LakewoodAthleticBoosters.com. February 19th is the last day to sponsor a horse. Only 350 tickets will be sold, so don't delay as this event sells out every year! No tickets will be sold at the door.

In addition to horse races, there will be sideboard raffles, \$1 and \$5 raffle baskets filled with items donated by area businesses, as well as a silent auction. Auction items for past events have included beautiful jewelry from Broestl & Wallis, signed NFL jerseys, as well as Cavaliers and Indians items. KB Confections, Panera Bread, Roman Fountain, Melt, Lion &

Blue, and Slife Heating & Cooling are just a few of the MANY local businesses that have supported this awesome event.

To make a donation or purchase an ad in the Night at the Races program, see the donation form on our website: LakewoodAthleticBoosters.com/night-at-the-races Contact us by February 12th to place an ad in the program.

About Lakewood Athletic Boosters - The Lakewood Athletic Boosters is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to supporting student-athletes in the Lakewood City Schools district. Since its inception, the Boosters have donated over a million dollars to the Lakewood City Schools Athletic Department.

Lakewood Observer



Bill Hixson looks back on his walls and walls of antique Valentine’s Day cards dating back to 1800! Stop by Hixson’s 14125 Detroit and check out this amazing collection.

PTA Reflections Celebrates Creativity

continued from page 1

tion. Consider volunteering next year with the Reflections Program at your school or at the Council level.
It’s not too early to think about next year and the 2020-2020 theme will be "I Matter Because..."

The following students’ sub-
missions were selected to represent
Lakewood at the State level:

Lakewood High School

Chairpersons: Megan Nagel and
Mona Atfield
Aubree Nagel - Literature
Esther Dolatowski - Visual Arts
Hana Johnson - Visual Arts
Jackie Branch - Visual Arts
Jane Kalinowski - Visual Arts
Katy Spilsbury - Literature
Kendall Lunsford - Visual Arts
Rachel Griffin - Literature

Turner Sorge - Visual Arts
Una Bryson - Literature

Garfield Middle School
Chairperson: Amy Maurer
Anna Maurer - Visual Arts
Baylee Martinich - Visual Arts
Kiara Longenecker - Literature

Harding Middle School
Chairperson: Janie Wright
Amalija Marich - Visual Arts
Anna Daso - Visual Arts
Edie Barcelona -
Dance Choreography
Lily Ann Carlin - Visual Arts
Lucy McDonald - Photography
Owen Bees - Photography

Horace Mann Elementary
Chairperson: Beth Kiraly-Bratko

Olivia Markovitz - Visual Arts

Grant Elementary
Chairperson: Shannon Miller
Bridgid Sutliff - Visual Arts
Indigo Moncrief - Visual Arts
Leelu Baxter - Visual Arts
Sean Miller - Literature

Roosevelt Elementary
Chairperson: Mary Johnson
Evelyn Lucko - Visual Arts
Scarlett Cooper - Visual Arts

Lincoln Elementary
Chairperson: Amy Chin Armour
Sebastian Tougouma - Visual Arts

New this year is a commemorative
2020-2021 academic calendar featur-
ing all of the work of students who
went on to the Council and State level.
The calendar, which starts in August
2020, features important school dates
and PTA dates. Order your calendar
online <http://reflections.cheddarup.com>
for \$10 by February 25, 2020.



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Lakewood City Hall

Cuyahoga County Tree Canopy Assessment – The Lakewood Story

by Chris Perry

On December 1, 2019, the Cuyahoga County Planning Department released a new Tree Canopy Assessment for all of Cuyahoga County. This latest assessment takes satellite data measured in 2017 to update the countywide canopy cover percentages from the first canopy assessment from satellite data gathered in 2011; for which that report was released in December of 2012.

What is tree canopy? Tree canopy is the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. The countywide assessment shows an overall loss of tree canopy of 6% from 2011 to 2017 for all of Cuyahoga County.

The City of Lakewood saw its canopy cover decrease 27.96% to 22.77% canopy cover from 2011 to 2017, which equates to a loss of 182 acres of tree canopy cover citywide. To further explain the canopy loss, a change from 27.96% to 22.77% canopy cover represents a 18.55% loss of canopy calculated as follows: $27.96\% - 22.77\% = 5.19$ / $27.96 = 18.55\%$. Although this is only 5.19 percent difference, the percent change for actual loss of the existing tree canopy itself is higher – 18.55%

It is worth noting as part of this assessment that Cleveland Metroparks

Net gain of trees planted versus trees removed:

2013 net gain 75 trees = 273 planted - 198 removed
2014 net gain 139 trees = 394 planted - 255 removed
2015 net gain 186 trees = 415 planted - 229 removed
2016 net gain 232 trees = 424 planted - 192 removed
2017 net gain 281 trees = 480 planted - 199 removed
2018 net gain 212 trees = 422 planted - 210 removed
2019 net gain 306 trees = 544 planted - 238 removed
Total planted 2013 thru 2019 = 2,952 Trees (422 per year)
Total removals 2013 thru 2019 = 1,521 Trees
(217 per year = 1.6% of total city tree inventory removed annually)
Average net gain per year 2013 thru 2019 = 205 trees per year.

had a loss of 5.8% of its canopy from 2011-2017, an indication that natural losses, and not development or urban sprawl, may play the largest role in the overall decline in tree canopy within our region.

Of the 18.55% tree canopy loss in Lakewood since the last assessment done seven years ago, 71% (129 acres) of that total canopy loss has taken place on private property, 24% (44 acres) from City of Lakewood - public property and 5% (9 acres) from Lakewood City Schools and private school property.

The highest percentage of tree canopy loss occurred in the Clifton Park neighborhood census tract (northwest portion of the city) of Lakewood with a

loss of 28% canopy cover of which 99% occurred on private property. The only portion of Lakewood that saw a canopy increase was in Birdtown with an increase of 1%.

The loss of canopy cover from private property in the Clifton Park portion of Lakewood alone resulted in over 20% of the total canopy loss (37 acres) in Lakewood.

This data may seem a bit puzzling as the current City of Lakewood public tree inventory sits at an all-time high of 13,407 trees (an increase of 1,434 trees from the 2012 inventory of 11,973 trees) and that the city has been planting trees the past seven years at a prolific rate. Just this year alone, we planted 544 trees throughout the city at the conclusion of the fall planting season; the largest single year planting effort in our history, eclipsing the previous high of 480 trees planted in 2017.

The fact is, as the below snapshot of key reforestation data shows, that the City of Lakewood is well positioned to grow the next generation of urban tree canopy and will, over time, increase of overall tree canopy on public property.



One of the city's trees that was cleared out.

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

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Lakewood Public Library



Sherlock Holmes On Stage At Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

Live theater provides a unique experience for both performers and audience. Great Lakes Theater has been educating young people in the magic of live theater since 1990, when they began presenting annual touring productions in venues throughout northeast Ohio.

Lakewood Public Library is proud to present GLT's offering for 2020, "Sherlock Holmes Meets the Bully of Baker Street," on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Designed for elementary and middle school audiences, this original play by David Hansen is inspired by characters created by Arthur Conan Doyle. Four actors will bring humor, logic and song to the stage in this fifty-minute performance, fully staged with sets, costumes and music.

The play begins on the eve of the coronation of King Edward in 1901. Sherlock Holmes meets an orphan and becomes involved in solving the mystery of a stolen painting and rooting out corruption in the Shaxper Asylum for Fatherless Girls. The acerbic personality and deductive reasoning skills of Sherlock Holmes are on full display, but instead of Watson, Holmes is accompanied by Vicky, the orphan who tried to pick his pocket. Hansen chose to create an original story rather than adapt an existing one in order to introduce a female narrator and make the play acceptable for a young audience.

Join Great Lakes Theater at Lakewood Main Library on February 16, 2020 for this touring production of "Sherlock Holmes Meets the Bully of Baker Street."

Spring Art Programs At Lakewood Public Library

by Nic Starr

Spring inches ever closer, which means there is a bouquet of art programs at the Lakewood Public Library for students to choose from. Take a break and come on down to the Lakewood Public Library for some creative inspiration.

Illustration Creation: a picture book art program for students in kindergarten through first grade. This six week program will feature a different children's book illustrator each class and culminates with an art show on April 30, 2020. Thursdays, March 12, 2020; March 19, 2020; April 2, 2020; April 9, 2020; April 16, 2020 and April 23, 2020 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Strokes of Genius: a six-week program for students in second through fourth grade. Art activities and stories open up the world of art and culminates with an art show on April 21, 2020. Space is limited. Registration is required. Tuesdays, March 3, 2020; March 17, 2020; March 31, 2020; April 7, 2020 and April 14, 2020 from 4:00 to

5:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose and Activity Rooms.

Art Explosion: for students in fifth through eighth grade. Learn about different artists in this six-week program, then experiment with and create your own style to display at the culminating art show on Monday, April 6, 2020. Mondays, March 2, 2020 to March 30, 2020 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Art Connection: for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Students can join us for a one-day program of art activities designed to let them express their view of the world and create. They will create their own unique piece of art to take home and show to family and friends. Monday, March 23, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

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

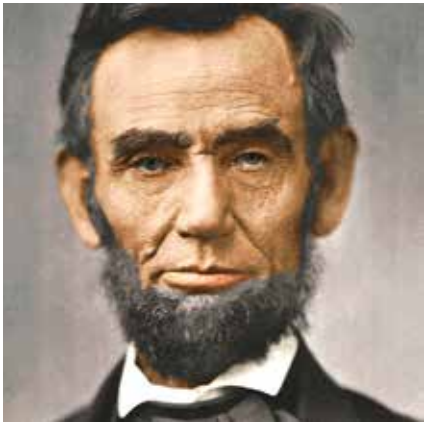
Lincoln's Assassination: The Complete Story With Mel Maurer

by Lisa Calfee

One of the darkest evenings in American history played out at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865. The brutal plot designed to kidnap President Abraham Lincoln for ransom turned into a murder, with John Wilkes Booth at the center of the nation's heartbreak, but not acting alone. His small group of co-conspirators believed the slaying would boost the Confederate cause in a Civil War that, for them, was not over, in spite of Lee's official surrender five days earlier.

The Lakewood Historical Society welcomes Mel Maurer as he presents the complete story of Lincoln's assassination with details of its planning, completion and aftermath at Lakewood Public Library on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Main Library Auditorium.

The mission of the Lakewood Historical Society is to enhance the quality of life



in Lakewood by offering educational programs for all ages; providing stewardship of artifacts and buildings; and advocating for our historic community.

Mel Maurer's presentation of "Lincoln's Assassination: The Complete Story" is part of an ongoing effort between the Lakewood Historical Society and Lakewood Public Library to provide public programming that educates, entertains and enlightens.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Lakewood Public Cinema

Sam Fuller: Audacious Auteur: “The Big Red One” (1980)

Directed by Samuel Fuller, Presented by Terry Meehan

Main Library Auditorium

This film follows the World War II exploits of the US First Infantry Division in Africa and Europe, including landings in Sicily and Omaha Beach. The grunt’s-eye view screenplay written by Sam Fuller stems from his experience filming the liberation of the Falkenau concentration camp. Terry Meehan concludes his series Sam Fuller: Audacious Auteur, introducing each film with an original video followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday with the Friends

Women in History – Susan B. Anthony

Main Library Auditorium

Champion of temperance, abolition and the rights of labor and equal pay, Susan B. Anthony became one of the most visible leaders of the women’s suffrage movement. Anthony paved the way for the historical Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, which passed fourteen years after her death. Women In History is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the education of all people through the dramatic re-creation of the lives of notable women in US history.

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Documentary: “Somewhere to Be” (2018)

Directed by Peter Odabashian

Presented by Lakewood Division of Aging

Main Library Auditorium

Somewhere to Be is an eye-opening look behind the doors of a Greenwich Village senior center, where every New Yorker over sixty is welcome to come to the Center On The Square and take an Italian class, have some lunch, write a poem, paint a picture, or make a friend. Using a mix of verité and interviews, this documentary explores the human need to be with others. Joining us to discuss the film will be a representative of the Lakewood Division of Aging.

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Literature Discussion:”Palaces for the People:How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life”

Madison Branch Auditorium

In “Palaces for the People,” author Eric Klinenberg writes that the future of society rests on shared spaces: the libraries, community centers and parks where connections are formed. This “social infrastructure” is helping to solve societal challenges.

Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Great Decisions in Libraries

State of the State Department and Diplomacy

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Throughout the Trump presidency, many positions in the State Department have never been filled, and meetings with foreign leaders such as Kim Jong-un and Vladimir Putin have been undertaken with little advance planning. How will these changes affect ongoing relationships? After a brief video, a local expert will lead a discussion and help to answer some of the complex questions surrounding diplomacy. Readings will be available one week in advance.

Thursday, February 13, 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 “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander.

Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Lakewood Public Cinema

Film Series—From Books to Films: “Room” (2015)

Directed by Lenny Abrahamson

Main Library Auditorium

Held captive for seven years in a tiny shed converted into a living space, single mother Joy (Brie Larson) and her five-year-old son, Jack (Jacob Tremblay), who was born in captivity, break away from their captor after a daring escape. Mother and son are thrown back into society after years of isolation and struggle to adjust to life outside of the room. Based on the 2010 novel by Emma Donoghue, this film continues our series of films based on books.

Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday with the Friends

Great Lakes Classics on Tour Presents: “Sherlock Holmes Meets the Bully of Baker Street”

Main Library Auditorium

Children And Youth

compiled by Nic Starr

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tail Waggin’ Tutors, For school-age children

Main Library Multipurpose Room

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

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sew Your Own Library Tote, For anyone age 8 and up

Main Library Homework Room

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

Wednesday, February 11 – Thursday, February 12, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Space is the Place: Eggstronaut Drop

For students in third through fifth grade

One of the most important aspects of planning a manned mission to space is the return trip. Scientists spend years working on various models to find the safest way to bring astronauts back home into Earth’s atmosphere. Using eggs as our astronauts, participants will design and construct a space capsule to safely deliver their eggstronaut to the library floor. Participants must be able to attend both sessions.



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Lakewood Education Observed

Staff Spotlight: Hvizdos & Smith

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools each month honors colleagues chosen by their peers as shining examples of an outstanding employee. This month's Staff Spotlight honorees are Hayes Elementary teacher Nancy Hvizdos and Roosevelt Elementary teacher Renee Smith. Please read below why these two are such exemplary staff members.

NANCY HVIZDOS

While many people who have been at the same job for decades suffer burnout and apathy, Hayes first-grade teacher Nancy Hvizdos continues to feel energized and excited about her students and works to make school fun even in her 34th year with Lakewood City Schools.

"Every year is different, and it keeps me interested," says Hvizdos, who has been at Hayes for the last 24 years. "I'm always trying to think outside the box...and bring hands-on fun to the class." One example is the



Nancy Hvizdos

lemonade stand project her student engaged in to learn to experience firsthand the principles they were learning in their economics unit.

Hvizdos's nominator, fellow first-grade teacher Ellen Perez, is impressed with Nancy's ability to generate new ideas.



Renee Smith

"Nancy is a creative and innovative teacher," says Ellen. "She continues to intrigue her students, particularly through STEM lessons."

Hvizdos freely and frequently shares the wisdom she has learned as a longtime teacher and is always open to input and ideas from others. She is a true team player, say her colleagues.

RENEE SMITH

When you ask Roosevelt teacher Renee Smith what one of the things is that she most loves about teaching, she'll tell you it's the connections she

makes with her students. After 30 years – all at Roosevelt – she finds a way to make each child feel special.

Smith's love and care for her second graders doesn't stop once they leave her classroom. Even a child that is in her class for a brief time reaps the benefit of Smith's big heart. Earlier this school year, a student who had been a foster child was moving to join his adoptive family. As a going away gift, the class created a memory book and a Cleveland Browns fleece blanket for the boy to remember his time at Roosevelt. "He just got to me," says Smith.

Building that connection between teacher and student is the foundation of Smith's classroom. She loves to share stories of her dog, Bailey, and other aspects of her life with her students because as she says, "you have to let them know you're real to build that trust." Each morning, the class spends the first five minutes sharing about their lives.

Smith's joy of teaching shines through and her love of Roosevelt and her colleagues, particularly fellow second grade teacher Maureen Manderfield – who has been by Smith's side all 30 years – is strong. It is home for her, and she makes it feel the same for her students.

Open Enrollment Begins March 1

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools open enrollment period for the 2020-2021 school year will begin on March 1, 2020 and continue until March 31, 2020. An online form will be available on the Lakewood City Schools' website (www.lakewoodcityschools.org) beginning the morning of March 1, 2020. Notifica-

tion of open enrollment status will be as follows: The first-round of notifications will occur the week of June 15, 2020. The second-round of notifications will occur the week of August 10, 2020. Kindergarten notification will only be made the week of August 10, 2020. If you have any questions regarding open enrollment, please call 216-529-4203.

Rotary Foundation Offering Five Scholarships

by Lynn Donaldson

The Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Foundation is offering grants for study in any accredited post-high school educational institution. Five grants of \$3,000 will be awarded toward the cost of one year's tuition.

Applicants must be a member of the 2020 graduating class of any accredited high school, and be a resident of the Lakewood or Rocky River school district; show a record of academic success in his/her high school career; have applied to a specific col-

lege, university, community or junior college, or trade or professional school; and have no direct relationship to a current or honorary Rotarian.

Applications must be received by 3 p.m. Monday, March 2. The awards will be presented on April 20.

Required information must be submitted on the application form that can be downloaded or completed online at <http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org>.

Guidelines for submitting the application, as well as other criteria, are included.

LHS Swimmers Shine At Conference Championship Meet

by Christine Gordillo

At its final Southwest Conference Championship Meet, the Lakewood High School Swimming & Diving team turned in some great individual and relay performances that earned a number of competitors spots on the awards podium at the Westlake Rec Center on January 24 & 25, 2020.

Junior Sistina Simcox and sophomore Sarah Donaldson were the highest placers with a 3rd in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke, respectively. Simcox also earned a trip to the podium as part of the 200-yard medley relay that consisted of herself, Donaldson, freshman Charlotte Beno and senior Sophia Miranda, and also with the 400-yard freestyle relay of Simcox, Miranda, Beno,

and junior Ethel Woodford. Charlotte Beno earned two individual places with a 6th in the 50-yard freestyle and a 5th in the 100-yard butterfly. Ethel Woodford reached the podium with a 4th in the 100-yard butterfly. The team overall placed 5th out of nine teams.

On the boys' side, senior Parker Polen led the way with a 5th place in the 50-yard freestyle and a 6th in the 100-yard freestyle. Polen was also part of the 5th place 200-yard freestyle relay team of himself, junior Mateo Bussert, senior Cormac Peppard-Kramer and sophomore Ronson Tucker. Senior Tru Smith finished 4th in the diving competition. The team placed 7th of 9 teams overall. Next up for the team is Sectionals on February 8 at Cleveland State.

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Lakewood Children

Dr. Martin Luther King Remembered at Barton Center

by Adelaide Crnko

On January 20 the Barton Senior Center offered several events honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. The day long celebration was initiated by Cheryl Shaver, Barton Center Manager of Marketing and Development. Most of the activities were coordinated by Patricia Wellborn, a Barton member.

Beginning at 10 a.m. in the Center's auditorium, the "Black Voices Open Mic" session began. Multi faceted aspects of the Black experience were illuminated by various speakers. Participants included Michael Knight who read two poems, "Let America Be America Again," by Langston Hughes, and "(SOS) Save Our Sons," by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Ms. Wellborn's daughter, Melanie Swiat, accompanied by her daughter, Ashtyn, discussed activist Angela Yvonne Davis who was a prominent voice in the

late 1960's. Like many who have spoken out against injustice, Davis was controversial because of her views. She believed that the struggle of Black women represented the fight for rights by all members of society. Eight-year-old Ashtyn Swiat earlier read a poem, "I'm Glad To Be Me" (author unknown).

Helen Green praised her hero Barbara Jordan as someone who "stood out as a person I would like to be." Among her many achievements, Jordan was the first Southern African American woman elected to the US House of Representatives and a crusader for civil rights. She is quoted as saying, "what the people want is very simple -- they want an America as good as its promise."

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



Lakewood Kiwanis K Kids Awareness Week

by Anna Bacho

February 17-21, 2020 is Kiwanis International recognition week for Kiwanis K Kids. Lakewood Kiwanis is proud to sponsor 4 K Kid Clubs in our community: Grant Elementary School, Horace Mann Elementary School, Family Life Before and After Care at Harrison and Emerson Elementary Schools.

K Kids is the youngest youth leadership club in the Kiwanis family. Each K Kids club has a school/administrator advisor and Lakewood Kiwanian advisor. Each club has their leadership team of K Kids selected through essays submitted or elected at the beginning of school. After that is in place, the voting of projects by the kids are done for the year. Our K Kids projects include food drives, community trash cleanup in the Spring and local initiatives that they have chosen to do. The kids learn that they have a voice in the club and need to make the commitment to complete their projects. As advisors, we try to have different speakers come in to connect the kids to the community service they complete. Win, win for all. Lakewood Kiwanis also sponsors Builders Club

at Harding Junior High and Key Club at Lakewood High School.

Our K Kids have been busy this school year. Grant School K Kids just completed a successful food drive for LCAC (Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp.). By making posters and having Special Days (Hat Day, Pajama Day) through the week, the K Kids drew attention to the importance of the food drive. Grant K Kids are now planning a Save Lake Erie project this Spring. Horace Mann K Kids collected toys for the Lakewood Christmas Store. Again, posters were made, and the kids promoted the collection to their classmates. Horace Mann K Kids also had an Alex's Lemonade Stand this month for Pediatric Cancer. Family Life K Kids at both Harrison and Emerson Elementary made Snowman Soup (hot chocolate mix, marshmallows, a candy cane and a holiday poem) for a homeless ministry in the area.

K Kids motto is to Build Leaders and Lakewood K Kids are doing it in Lakewood. #KidsNeedKiwanis

Anna Bacho is a member of Lakewood Kiwanis.

No More Monkeys Is Celebrating Its One Year And Its Grand Reopening!

by Heather McCormick

Come one come all! The Monkey Place is back open as of Tuesday February 11th.

NMME is so very excited to announce its Great Big Grand Reopening on its One Year Anniversary of opening. Join Miss Heather and the kiddos to play on National Make a Friend Day! Miss Heather had her big surgeries and is ready to get back down to Monkey Business. No More Monkeys Enrichment opened on February 11th of last year and is so happy to be a part of the Lakewood community.

No More Monkeys Enrichment is a drop in play zone featuring free coffee, tea, cocoa and wifi. This cozy little gem in The Northland Plaza has comfy couches and plenty of socialization for the kiddos and grownups alike. NMME is all about Manners, Kindness and Diversity! Original classes featuring music by local artists, tea parties,

bubble dance parties, birthday parties, and date night childcare are just a few of the fun goodies offered. They even offer drop in childcare and some full time childcare too. Everything from Girl Scout patches to Craftint fun can be found at this amazing little Lakewood find.


Miss Heather has worked with children for 30 years now and she always has bubbles in her purse. Come celebrate and bring a friend or two. Instilling Kindness in Our Tiny Humans is the No More Monkeys mission, and NMME would love to be a part of your family. KindMonkeys.com

Heather McCormick is the owner of No More Monkeys Enrichment here in Lakewood. She is so honored and excited to be a part of the community, and to bring more kindness to our young kiddos.

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Lakewood Is Art & Music

100 Ways To Do Something Or Another, I Can't Remember Anymore: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 100

by Buzz Kompier

I've been doing this for five years now. This is the 100th review column I've written. I'm not sure how many total reviews that adds up to (seeing as these columns range between one and four reviews, usually), but it's a good few. So, for this one, seeing as it's moderately special (100 is a big number! Triple digits!), I'm doing a special column. These are quick re-reviews of some of my favorite releases of the past five years that I've reviewed here (note: there are things I liked but never reviewed that have been excluded, as well as things older than five years that I did review, but have cut since they're not within the timeframe I'm trying to work with. I also have reviewed some non-Ohio releases that I loved and could've included here, but I tried to keep this Ohio just because otherwise it would be way too long!). There were a ton of records I cut from this list, and it pained me to do so, but I could really go on and on about how much great music has come from Ohio and fill this whole paper with the one column. Thanks for reading, and thank you very much to all the bands and artists who've been in some way a part of this column. Here's to 100 more, I guess.

archival releases:

Bernie & The Invisibles - All Possibilities Are Open LP (My Mind's Eye)

This group was one of the lost acts of the late '70s Cleveland punk scene, with only three tracks ever being officially released across various compilations. This record solves that problem. Sure, it's lo-fi, but the music contained is truly some of the best punk rock ever. Bernie is smart, funny, touching-- in certain ways, it's like a cross between the Modern Lovers and the Urinals. It's absolutely great.

The Choir - I'd Rather You Leave Me 7" (Norton Records)

Two tracks from Cleveland's first power pop group (?), both very good. Sure, I've got problems with this record (the lack of liner notes, the fact that it's on lavender vinyl...), but the music is good enough for me to look past it. Every bit as great as "It's Cold Outside."

Bill Fox - Before I Went To Harvard LP (Eleventh Hour Recording Company)

Perhaps this material isn't as essential as what's on "Shelter From The Smoke," but most of it is still prime Bill Fox. Plus, three Radio Flyers songs, so you need it for that alone.

Great Plains - The Mark, Don, & Mel E.P. +4 LP and Born In A Barn LP (Rerun Records)

Sure, it's cheating to include both of these, but how could I possibly choose between them? Ron House is one of the greatest lyricists of this generation or any other generation, and the eerie, Midwestern mood these records conjure is like nothing else I've ever heard. Two essential records.

Kill The Hippies - Let's Start A Band Nobody's In CD (Phoenician MicroSystems)

It's mildly funny to me that this is in the archival section here, but it is an archival release! It's just that this band is still active, which is great. Two unreleased albums and an unreleased single in one package. And it's a shame these records weren't released, because they're pretty great. Still one of the best punk bands around.

The One Way Street - The One Way Street 2x7" (My Mind's Eye/B-W Records)

A killer reissue of one of the greatest, dumbest, nuttiest (no pun intended) garage rock records ever (both sides are on the first "Back From The Grave" if that tells you anything) and a second, more straight-laced but still very good single with two unreleased songs. It has to be heard to be believed. The peanuts are nice but the acid is rare!

Jim Shepard - Heavy Action 3xLP (Ever/Never Records)

A really great set of all the types of music Jim Shepard made. There are heavy, ripping noise-punk tracks from the band V-3, there are sparse, melancholy, acoustic pieces, there are strange audio collages and answering machine messages. A truly fascinating, touching, tragic, and just good portrait of one of Columbus's best.

The Society - You Girl 7" (My

Mind's Eye/B-W Records)

This thing's been getting a lot of hype lately in garage rock circles, but it absolutely lives up to that hype, without question. A total blaster on Side A (with a ripping fuzz guitar solo less than a minute into the song!) and the moody, organ-driven "Lonely" on the flip, both nearly perfect examples of the genre.

The Styrenes - CLE 76-79 Unreleased 3x7" (My Mind's Eye)

This is maybe not the most essential Styrenes material, nor the best place to start with them (I did like it more than "The Essential Styrenes," though), but well worth hearing. Alternate/early versions of some their classics (a killer version of "I Saw You" and an instrumental version of "Where The Girls Are" that lets you appreciate just how fantastic the guitar playing is on it are two highlights), plus two totally unheard tracks, "Empty Vessels" and "Murder Me," both of which are very good, especially the latter. For the fans, perhaps, but necessary for the fans.

Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments - Straight To Video LP (Straight To Video)

The first-ever vinyl release of the second TJSA's album, in many ways just as essential as their first one, "Bait & Switch." Every song on here

is great, from the hazy opener "Secret Museum" to the centerpiece "Outside My Scene" to the closing destruction of "When The Entertainment Ends." Other favorites along the way include "Rump Government," "Lightnin' Rod," "Whisper In Your Mouth," "El Cajon"...ah, they're all good.

contemporary releases:

Cheap Clone - Cheap Clone LP (Peanut Butter Records)

This was a pretty early 5/5 in this column, and while I waver on most ratings I give everything, I'll stand by that 5/5. Every song on this thing is great. This was a great band. It's a darn shame this band is now no more, but they live on with this record (and their EP on Just Because is pretty good, too).

Cloud Nothings - Life Without Sound LP (Carpark Records)

Yeah, here's my big mainstream pick. I don't care; this is a local band and I still think this record is great. I know that makes me a poser fan since it's their most "pop" record, but whatever, it's still probably my favorite LP by them. Great guitar on this thing, great drumming, great songs in general.

Counter Intuits - Monosyllabily LP (Pyramid Scheme Records)

Ron House may have more entries

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100 Ways To Do Something Or Another, I Can't Remember Anymore:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 100

than anyone else on this list. As well he probably should, he is that great.

Cruelster - Terminal Windmill 7" (Turbine Piss)

Every Cruelster record holds a special place in my heart, but this one might be the most special. I'm not quite sure why— maybe because it was the first Cruelster record to be released in the time of this column ("Potatoe Boys," also great, was out already when I started). Some of Cruelster's greatest hits are on this thing, I'd say. A fantastic EP, and I think one that's only grown on me since first hearing it.

Fascinating - Dice Game LP (Quality Time Records)

Though not without its issues, Fascinating is still one of my favorite Ricky Hamilton products and this is probably their best moment ("Picture This" is very good as well— I never heard the third one because it never got a real release and someone was supposed to send me the tracks at some point but never did...I don't know, stay tuned, I still might get it sometime). "Emily Street" and "Typical" are Ricky at his glammy power pop best and "Whirlwind Romance" has his most aggressive vocal performance possibly ever, and it's great. Alfred Hood's lead guitar is always at least pretty good— his backing vocals are all over the place, but that just adds to what I like about it.

JuJu Shrine - JuJu Shrine cassette (Quality Time Records)

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I will forever consider this one of the most underrated Quality Time releases. Totally ripping garage punk with great hooks and, it goes without saying, shredding guitar. Well worth seeking out. Like a lot of the cassettes on this list, it's a shame this one never got released on a better format. Great stuff.

Carter Luckfield - Crowley 666 cassette (Quality Time Records)

A strange, lo-fi mix of Nick Lowe, country rock, and a hint of glam. Loner psych or whatever people say. It's good. Carter's since brought some of these songs out into full rockin' territory with the Red Devil Ryders, but there's something special to me about these quiet, home-recorded versions on here.

The Nico Missile - Live In Birmingham/Live In Chicago cassette (Quality Time Records)

This is how I always wished this band sounded. I like their studio material, but this is so much better. Far more energetic and even more Marty Brass shredding. Once you hear this, it's hard to go back to the studio stuff. Ricky Hamilton tears it up on the drums and his singing, if at times off the tracks, has rarely been so full of punk rage.

Obnox - Wiglet LP (Ever/Never Records)

I had a hard time choosing between this record and "Boogalou Reed" to make this list, but this one won out. It's perhaps not the most representative of Obnox's sound, but it's probably my favorite one. Some of his best punk tracks are on here ("If You Wanna Know The Truth") and some of his most catchy ones as well ("Burning Sage W/ Roseanna").

Perverts Again - Our Big Party LP (Noncommercial Records)

Some people have a party trick where they can quote entire Cheech & Chong records. I'm pretty sure I can quote this whole record. Every Perverts Again record is absolutely great, but this one really set the tone. So many lines from this thing pop into my head at random and not-so random times (for example, any time myself or someone near me hurts their knee).

Queen Of Hell - 12-Inch Maxi EP 12" (My Mind's Eye)

One of the best glam rock/art rock/rock 'n' roll/hard rock/punk/

prog/costume-wearing/cross-turning-upside-down bands out of Cleveland ever. Absolutely ripping and it doesn't take itself so seriously that it becomes a bore. The titular "Queen Of Hell, Pts. I-V" is worth it alone, but the Motör-head-worshipping "Crowd Control" and rockin' "The Ziggurat" make it even better.

The Roobydocks - Reliant Robin 7" (My Mind's Eye)

To me, this record is what a good punk record should sound like. I mean, not exactly like this, but this is a great example of what makes a good record. It's got raging lyrics, but doesn't take itself too seriously, and certainly not so seriously that it becomes boring ("Life Is Joke" is a defining statement of the era). It's 100% punk and doesn't have any dumb gimmicks, but it does have unique elements that make it stand out (the most obvious one is the clean guitar). What a punk record should be.

Shitbox Jimmy - The Movie LP (Just Because Records)

This is SBJ in all their lo-fi, recorded live at the Franklin Castle glory. I might've preferred a slightly cleaner recording (and I'd love for Joey to stop obscuring his vocals, but oh well), but the energy is right there, man. This is an important transitional record for them, right between the garage rock of "Deliverance" (the fact that "Deliverance" is not out on vinyl is an absolute crime, it is so good) and the power pop of their tracks from the split with Goldmines. It's really them at their best, and I like that some of the banter was left in. "Tug it, Joe!"

The Sight - Nite Vision cassette (Blow Blood Records)

I'm obviously a sucker for good power pop, and this is good power pop. Four great tracks on this thing, particularly "Tip Of My Tongue" and "Time Lapse." Great guitar interplay between Adam Spektor and Carter Luckfield and the secret weapon of this band, in my opinion, is drummer Noah Depew, who just kills it on every track and takes them above and beyond. Their second tape is pretty good, too, but this is the one.

Splat - Splat 7" (Saucepan Records)

One of the best, catchiest hardcore records I've heard in the course of doing this. I think this band gets ignored or somewhat shafted as "Bad Noids side project" or something, but

Splat deserved so much better than that. This EP is a total killer from start to finish. Their side of their split tape with Fat Vegan is also excellent.

Wetbrain - Acoustic 12" (Start Sucking)

This sounds like such a stupid concept: Wetbrain, an excellent hardcore band (sadly now defunct), play some of their hits...unplugged. Most bands could not pull it off. Wetbrain is not most bands. Somehow, this is just as incredible as anything else they've done. Larry is a born lounge singer and it really is impressive that the band is able to play songs that you wouldn't think would translate well to acoustic versions as well as they do. Someone's gonna put out that other Wetbrain live bootleg "Killed By Wetbrain" at some point, I can just feel it.

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

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LO Storytime

The Rockport Miracles - Part 4: Episode 21:

"The Ballad Of Derecho Dan" Continues

Fiction by Scott MacGregor

“The Giant Lizard’s roar is your signal to take action. When you hear it, take this boat out onto the fetid waters of Lake Erie and stick it straight up the Lizard’s ass!” (Excerpt dated 7/4/75 from Maynard Gridley’s “Manifesto With Cheese.”)

Little Dan was taken aback as he sat on the deck of Maynard's boat named "The Friggin' A." He couldn't comprehend the malice that lurked in the heart of Maynard Gridley. After all, Maynard was just a fella from Parma, Ohio. His biggest accomplishment in life was to drink 50 bottles of Stroh's in

less than one hour.

Yes, it was true that Maynard had been banned from the Yucatan Peninsula for life. South Dakota was sure happy to see his backside. Then there was that harrowing incident outside Taos, New Mexico. Apache elders had discovered Maynard trespassing atop a sacred mesa and smoking peyote. He was lucky to crawl away from that scuffle but, not before the face of Geronimo had been branded onto one of his butt cheeks.

It's all true! Maynard was hellion. Maynard was a rambunctious hooligan, a rebel, a prankster, and a glorious heathen. But, Maynard Gridley was NOT

a mad bomber. That's not how he was raised, although Rowena must have known her son was up to something. There were enough explosives on that boat to take out a hundred giant lizards.

And, just who was this “lizard”? Nowhere in his rambling, wine-stained “Manifesto with Cheese” did Maynard mention which “Giant Lizard” he was referring to. Was it Gorgo? Giant Behemoth? The Giant Gila Monster? Dinosaurus? Or, perhaps he meant the Babe Ruth of giant lizards, Monster Zero-One himself...**GODZILLA!**

Little Dan remembered that he was five when he saw Gorgo at the

Detroit Theatre. He'd been a Gorgo fan ever since. He favored Gorgo because his ears were distinctive and downright cute when compared to the other giant lizards. His head looked like a UHF antenna. "A little too cute for a guy like Maynard," whispered Little Dan. He concluded that Godzilla was the monster in Maynard's manifesto.

Meanwhile, back in Rockport at the scene of the Gas & Lube explosion, Fire Chief Ned Nicholson had made an incredible discovery. When the gas station exploded, hundreds of used tires, many on fire, were blown into the neighborhoods. One of the tires had been snagged in the branches of a large oak tree. When Chief Ned climbed the Hook & Ladder to retrieve it, he was greeted with the colorful face of Lester Brown's lost (and feared dead) cockatiel, named "Kodachrome."

When the Fire Chief peered inside the tire he couldn't believe his eyes. "OH MY GOD!! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES," he screamed, "IT'S A MIRACLE!!" Clutching the used tire like it was made of money, he ordered the hook and ladder operator to fire up the engine and get the heck out of there. "Where to?" shouted the driver. "I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY--GET MOVING!!" blared the Chief.

Firemen on scene reunited the little bird with its ecstatic owner, Lester Brown. Lester runs the Rockport Camera Shop. With the plucky cockatiel balanced on his finger, the joyful Lester twirled like a dervish and sang, "I Feel Pretty," the bird's favorite song from "West Side Story."

The sound of Lester's singing had an unintended and beguiling effect on his traumatized neighbors. They gathered around him and joined in an impromptu, "Sing-Along With Lester." Kids, dogs, seniors, and everyday people along 150th Street danced and sang. Music, as always, worked like a tonic and helped them forget their troubles for a few minutes. Unfortunately, the revelry grew so intense that it freaked out the cockatiel and he flew away...never to be seen again!

With lights and sirens blazing, the Hook and Ladder truck rushed through the streets of Rockport. Seizing the radio microphone like a hunk of cheese, Fire Chief Nicholson placed an urgent radio message to Police Chief Tom Graber. "Tom," said the Fire Chief, "we've got a way to bring in Little Dan Newman...VOLUNTARILY!! Meet me at the Rockport Animal Hospital in TEN MINUTES!!"



FEBRUARY

Aries: It's time for the Ram to get clear, & trust that intuition for this month of love & roses, Venus is at your house for most of the month, when you get a hunch about that hottie, go for it.

Taurus: This is your month Bull, your ruling Planet is Venus, you're a natural Romeo, the heavens have aligned for you, you won't have to do a thing, let divine timing take care of this.

Gemini: Wow, Twins s-l-o-w down just a wee bit, you've got too much on your plate, if you don't get clear & focus, you'll end up with a double dose of too much love, & double-trouble.

Cancer: Get out of that shell Crab, it's time for you to seize what you want, & gather up the courage to do so, don't just knock on that door of your sweetie, bust the damn door down!

Leo: The King & Queen of the

Jungle just hit the jackpot, follow your heart, you DO have the biggest heart in the forest, your romantic GPS knows the best routes, go after thee fair maiden.

Virgo: Take a weed whacker to that mind of yours, those negative thoughts are choking the tree of positivity from blossoming, when you're on the positive train, everyone wants to jump aboard.

Libra: You're the other half of Venus' rulership, although most of your relationships are platonic, have patience my dear, the scales have just balanced themselves out, love is awaiting.

Scorpio: Get thee out of thee cave, you won't find love in the dark, well maybe you will, however, the skies are ablaze with confidence stars this month, make your move, be brave.

Sagittarius: Take action Centaur, Mars is in your sign, aim that bow & arrow straight at the target of your devotion, then jump on that white horse & ride off into the Lake Erie sunset.

Capricorn: The Goat must've doubled up on your multi-vitamins this month, you're like a warrior ready to take on your next conquest, go save that damsel in distress, Jupiter is with you.

Aquarian: The Sun is in Aquarius, & nobody does unconventional & spontaneity like you do, go for your craziest, wildest, out-of-the-box love idea, he/she will do backward flips over it.

Pisces: A month of options for the Fish, shall you woo your Mermaid under the Moonlight, or by the light of day at the seashore, decide early because Mercury goes Retrograde on the 16th.


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 Living

LakewoodAlive's Pride Fund Assists Lakewood Residents With Home Repairs

by Matt Bixenstine

Last year LakewoodAlive launched the Lakewood Pride Fund with support from First Federal Lakewood. This innovative program leverages a collection of funds to secure home repair loans for Lakewood families who otherwise might not have access to conventional bank financing, helping families complete health & code compliance repairs.

This program has been designed to often be a last-resort option for folks who have nowhere else to turn. LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program works tirelessly to connect residents to available resources to keep their homes in good repair, and this program is now another tool in our organization's tool box. The ideal candidate is someone who perhaps had a temporary job loss or a life change that made staying on top of their household bills difficult, but are now working to get back on track. The Lakewood Pride Fund will help these clients make essential health, safety and code compliance improvements ultimately enhancing their quality of life, one repair at a time.

"The Lakewood Pride Fund is a tool to help families repair their

homes as well as their credit by educating them about simple behavior changes like setting up a budget or creating a home maintenance schedule," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director. "With these dollars, we will be able to assist homeowners in-need while preserving the tremendous pride in our neighborhoods, and helping to keep Lakewood alive and thriving."

The Lakewood Pride Fund will:

- Improve access to bank

financing for those who are unable to qualify for conventional bank loans through financial and home repair education

Reduce the risk of homes falling into foreclosure and causing blight to our community

Build stronger neighborhoods by maintaining and sustaining our housing stock through home repairs and improvements

Advance housing outreach to homeowners to help maintain Lakewood's historic housing stock

The Lakewood Pride Fund is only available to Lakewood residents who own and occupy their home. The program is currently able to serve households that are considered up to 120% of area median income, with loans capped at \$8,500.

For more information regarding the Lakewood Pride Fund, including access to the Lakewood Pride Fund Application, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/PrideFund or contact Allison Urbanek at 216-521-0655.

LakewoodAlive Honors Volunteers With Appreciation Happy Hour

by Matt Bixenstine

As the saying goes, it takes a village. This is certainly true in the case of LakewoodAlive, a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that relies heavily on community members to help fulfill our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods.

LakewoodAlive hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Happy Hour on Thursday evening, January 30, at the new office of Blue Ridge Media Company, a Lakewood-based marketing agency. The event, attended by more than 50 volunteers, featured refreshments, friendships and stories of remarkable volunteerism. LakewoodAlive cele-

brated the nearly 750 volunteers who, in 2019, contributed their time and talents to supporting our organization and to helping improve quality of life in Lakewood.

Volunteer Champion Awards were bestowed upon the following individuals for their outstanding service to LakewoodAlive:

Outgoing LakewoodAlive Board Members

- Steve Clark
- Dr. James Hekman
- Housing Outreach Program
 - A-Team - Aaron Cooper, Jeff Davis, Jim Hayes, Carl Orban and Dana Paul
 - Cleveland Lumber Company
 - Chris Gonda
 - Help To Others (H2O)
 - John Turner
- Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance
 - Dani Krasnicki
 - Tamara Racin
- Lakewood Summer Meltdown
 - Ann Bish
- Spooky Pooch Parade
 - Whitney Callahan
- Light Up Lakewood
 - Melis Uras
 - Katie Lang
- Above & Beyond
 - Lauren Cantrell
 - Kelly Florian
 - Nora McNamara

A special award is bestowed each year to a volunteer who demonstrates

uniquely outstanding commitment to LakewoodAlive. The Laskey Service Award was named for Tim Laskey, a founding member of LakewoodAlive. This year's Laskey Service Award recipient is Jim "JP" Ptacek.

JP, a LakewoodAlive board member, has made an exceptional impact on our organization in many ways. He helped lead the launch of The Lakewood Tool Box last year, donating his professional skills as an architect to the design and execution of this important undertaking. As chair of the Housing Committee, JP assists Allison Urbanek, our Housing & Internal Operations Director, with spearheading many of LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach initiatives, and is an active participant in various volunteer housing projects. In perhaps his most unique role within our organization, JP also serves as "Charlie Chonka" each October during the ever-popular Lakewood Chocolate Walk.

"The outpouring of support we receive from our dedicated volunteers is simply incredible," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director for LakewoodAlive. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to these folks for all they do for Lakewood, and for helping us fulfill our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods."

To learn more about how you can get involved with LakewoodAlive, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/Volunteer.

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