LAKEWOOD CBSERVER

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Volume 16, Issue 04, February 19, 2020



Left to right: Stephanie Federico, VP of Government & Public Affairs, Cox Communications, Lizz Maxwell, Site Coordinator, GiGi's Place, Emily Monteleone, Vice President Gigi' Playhouse Board, Meghan George, Mayor of Lakewood, Dan O'Malley – City Council of Ward 4, Robert Brill, Market Vice President, Cox Communications

Cox Communications Returns To Award \$30K In Grants To Local Nonprofits

by Jim O'Bryan

Despite the important work nonprofits and community organizations do in the communities they serve, many are lacking the modern technology tools needed to perform their missions to the fullest. To bridge this technology gap, Cox Communications today announced the 2020 recipients for its "Tech Boosts" program, which awards grants to nonprofit groups committed to investing in technology equipment for the betterment of its patrons and mission.

In Ohio, the company presented GiGi's Playhouse Cleveland with a \$15,000 Tech Boost grant. GiGi's will use its grant to purchase high-tech devices ranging from light tables and tablet devices to fitness trackers and a silhouette cutting machine. The new equipment will help GiGi's enhance its free, purposeful programs in ways that support learners with Down syndrome who thrive under a multi-sensory approach. In addition, the new equipment will reduce

continued on page 2

2020 Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off

by Anna Bacho

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is calling all pizza lovers to the 8th Annual Pizza Bake Off. Kiwanis is again hosting the party of the year at Lakewood High Cafeteria on February 27 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The plan is to have 12 or more of Lakewood's finest pizza shop's showcasing their best pizza for your enjoyment and vote. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-12, 5 and under are free. This includes all your pizza samples and one beverage. Sorry, no carry-out containers allowed. The club will also be selling ice cream.

For the raffle this year, which is always fun, they have a 3rd Gen. 256GB IPad Air to be awarded at the close of the

evening. Raffle tickets are on sale now. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Along with the IPad awarded, the tally will be taken and announced for the following categories of pizza awards:

Peoples choice (best overall), Best pepperoni pizza and best specialty pizza. Best franchise pizza, and lastly best franchise pepperoni pizza. And you get to decide.

All proceeds will be used locally to support the children of Lakewood, with a portion going for bike safety helmets this year, supporting Ohio District Kiwanis First Family Project.

Lakewood Kiwanis is the leading service organization

continued on page 6

Vote Yes On Issue 28

by Michael Callahan

I am voting for Issue 28 to support the Lakewood City Schools. As a parent of two current students in the district and a third future student, my family has experienced the wonderful teachers, robust curriculum, and many co-curricular opportunities the district offers. My wife and I have children in two different schools each of whom are engaged in a positive, challenging environment. The



educators in our children's lives have been very impactful and have met our children where they are academically

Taft Open House Postponed

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools' Taft Center for Innovation Open House that was announced for March 11, 2020 has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date. The Listen & Learn scheduled for the same night at 6 p.m. still will be held but will now happen at the Ranger Cafe at Lakewood High School.

and challenged them to move forward. Our children have learned a great deal from their peers who represent diverse cultures.

As a member of the Lakewood Board of Education I fully support district leadership. Our leaders have demonstrated excellent community engagement as evidenced by the Vision of a Lakewood Graduate. The district has also been fiscally responsible, given that nearly seven years have elapsed since the last levy. Sound fiscal stewardship has carried the district far, however operational costs have risen. Issue 28 will relieve the district of a deficit spending situation and ensure that our schools and community stay strong.

A successful issue 28 will help the district recruit

continued on page 9

LHS Mock Trial Team Competes In District Competition

by Dan Shields

On January 17th, The Lakewood High School Mock Trial team competed in the district Ohio High School Mock Trial competition sponsored by the OCLRE (Ohio Center for Law Related Education) and held at the Cuyahoga County Courthouse in Cleveland. The LHS team came away with a trial victory and individual awards for three team members.

Each fall, high school teams from around the state prepare a trial based on a case prepared by OCLRE. They prepare as plaintiff and defense, with two witnesses each. This year's case, Moldanado v. Vega, involved a student suing a teacher and school district for violating her right to free speech. The issue was whether the principal was able to suspend the student over a rally she organized promoting gun rights.

The LHS team participated in two trials. After each trial, the best attorney and best witness were selected from the two teams. LHS won the first



The students are, front row, from left: Hudson Fordu, Max Gilliland, Lilly Bacon, Laura Shields, and Bella Segreto. Back row, from left: Trin Ritchie, Jakob Hamilton, Ivy Rook, and Jack Wynn.

trial against a strong team from Orange High School and took home the Best Attorney and Best Witness awards. In the afternoon trial, LHS lost a narrow battle against the St Edward High School team, but also took home the Best Witness award.

The students worked hard on their own for over three months to prepare for the competition. They were advised by local attorneys Amelia Leonard and Dan Shields. According to the advisors, the team did a magnificent job

and thoroughly impressed the judges in both competitions.

The Plaintiff's team consisted of Lily Bacon and Laura Shields as attorneys and Hudson Fordu and Ivy Rook as witnesses. The Defense team members were Bella Segreto and Jack Wynn as attorneys and Max Gilliland and Jakob Hamilton as witnesses. Trin Ritchie served as bailiff for both teams.

Laura Shields won the Best Attorney award and Ivy Rook and Jakob Hamilton won Best Witness awards.

Observer

Cox Communications Returns To Award \$30K In Grants To Local Nonprofits

continued from page 1

reliance on a handful of devices between volunteers and employees, a change that will allow GiGi's team to be even more hands-on with program participants and more efficient in their instruction.

This marks the third year of the Cox Communications Tech Boosts program, and the mission remains the same: to invest in technology equipment and services that support a common goal of enriching the lives of community members and fulfilling their missions to the fullest. The company recognizes community organizations across its Northeast footprint, which includes Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Ohio.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a 2020 Cox Communications Tech Boosts recipient," said Lizz Maxwell, site coordinator, GiGi's Playhouse Cleveland. "This injection of new equipment from the Tech Boosts program will undoubtedly help us enhance our therapeutic, educational, and career development programs and empower our participants and volunteers to explore new possibilities in education and training for the future."

"GiGi's Playhouse is an organization that empowers people with Down syndrome and their families throughout Northeast Ohio by maximizing opportunities for daily achievement and lasting acceptance," said Rob Brill, Cleveland market vice president, Cox Communications. "We are confident they will use their Tech Boost to enhance their programs and prepare our youth

for the jobs of the future so that they can contribute in deeply meaningful ways."

Other organizations receiving a 2020 Tech Boosts grant from Cox include the Boys and Girls Club of Meriden, Connecticut. All applicants are required to demonstrate how their request addresses community well-being in one of four focus areas: conservation and environment; early childhood education; empowering families and individuals for success; and community health.

About Cox Communications

Cox Communications is a broadband communications and entertainment company, providing advanced digital video, Internet, telephone and home security and automation services over its own nationwide IP network. The third-largest U.S. cable company, Cox serves approximately 6 million residences and businesses. Cox Business is a facilities-based provider of voice, video and data solutions for commercial customers, and Cox Media is a full-service provider of national and local cable spot and digital media advertising. Cox is known for its pioneering efforts in broadband, voice and commercial services, industry-leading customer care and its outstanding workplaces. For 10 years, Cox has been recognized as a best operator for women by Women in Cable Telecommunications; Cox has ranked among DiversityInc's Top 50 Companies for Diversity 13 times. More information about Cox Communications, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cox Enterprises, is available at www.cox.com and www. coxmedia.com.



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Lakewood Observer

PUBLISHER EDITOR IN CHIEF Debra O'Bryan Margaret Brinich ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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ADVERTISING Sales Manager 216,407,6818

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City of Lakewood

One Lakewood Progress:

Vote for Schools. Vote FOR Issue 28

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

I always support school levies.

On the March 17, 2020, primary ballot, Lakewood voters will decide whether or not to pass Issue 28, a 3.9 mill operating and 1 mill improvement levy to fund Lakewood City Schools. It has been nearly 7 years since a school levy was last placed on the ballot. The 2013 levy - a \$3.9 mill operating levy - was the lowest millage request made since the 1970's.

Monies collected by this levy would be used to provide mental health services for elementary students, add STEM offerings to prepare students for the economy of the future, retain and recruit high quality teachers, expand career and technical education opportunities for middle and high school students, update and maintain technology and learning materials, maintain buildings, vehicles and athletic fields, and expand early childhood education programs.

Funds generated from school tax levies compose a significant part of financing for Ohio schools, which are financed with a combination of federal, state and local funds. Ohio school districts receive funding from the Ohio Department of Education's general revenue funds and Ohio Lottery profits, which can be inconsistent. At the local level, school districts receive funding from locally levied property taxes.

One of the reasons I support levies is because I worked in education, implementing reform policy both inside and outside of school buildings and classrooms, helping under-served students access better educational opportunities through promoting one on one supplemental tutoring, securing funding to provide wrap-around services that include preschool and after-school

care, and promoting extended early childhood education.

I understand the data and statistics that place American children behind other nations in science, technology, engineering and math. Reduced and inconsistent State funding, coupled with the rising costs of educational advancement make this school levy a must if Lakewood is to keep pace with educational advancements

and the needs demonstrated by the families of this community.

School levies are a perennial part of life for school districts. Funding from Issue 28 will not only improve the educational lives of its students, but ensure those students are equipped to be successful, both in the classroom and in the buildings where they are expected to learn everyday. A vote for Issue 28 on March 17th is not a vote for a levy, but a vote for schools, which raises our community profile, keeps property values

continued on page 8

Letter To The Editor

In Support Of Issue 28

Dear Editor,

I am writing to share why I am supporting Issue 28 in our upcoming March election.

As I reflect on the eleven years that I have been a Lakewood resident, I am struck by how the services, programs and amenities of this community have profoundly affected my family's quality of life. The Lakewood Family Room provided me parenting skills and resources to better care for my young children, and we made many new friends there.

My children have now grown into the public school system, and I have been impressed with every teacher, specialist and staff member I've met. These individuals have been responsive to my family's needs, and more importantly to the needs of all of the children they work to serve, educate and uplift every day. Our community is uniquely diverse, and so are our children. The Lakewood schools are committed to supporting the learning and growth of every child in our community.

Issue 28 will enable our schools to:

• Recruit and retain high-quality teach-

- Offer more counseling, mental health and health services for students;
- ers by paying them competitive salaries;
 Expand STEM classes to prepare
- students for their futures;
 Keep educational technology and
- Keep educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date; and
- Maintain our community's investment by keeping all of our school buildings, athletic fields, vehicles, and other assets in good condition.

Our community and families stay

strong when we invest in our schools. The Lakewood City School District is known for its strength in academics and fiscal responsibility. The District manages its money well, having stretched the last operating levy for six years with staffing and operational efficiencies, reductions in long-term costs, and savings in future debt service costs through responsible refinancing.

The levy will cost less than \$2 per month more than taxpayers currently pay, based on a property valuation of \$100,000. I feel proud to live in a community that prioritizes the needs of its children at all stages of development, and I can think of no better investment in our schools and our community than to pass Issue 28.

Sincerely,

Kate Ingersoll

Kate Ingersoll is the Secretary of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation.



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VOTE FOR ISSUE 28 on or before March 17.

Issue 28 keeps our schools and community strong and stable.

Paid for by Citizens for Lakewood's Children ForLakewoodSchools
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Lakewood Public Library

Language Learning At Lakewood Public Library

by Doug Fink

Are you interested in learning another language but aren't sure where to start? Perhaps you've been working on learning a language and need some additional practice and resources. Looking to refresh a language you learned but haven't used in a while? Lakewood Public Library offers a number of language-learning resources to assist with any language-learning journey.

Accessible anywhere with an Internet-enabled smartphone, tablet or computer, Lakewood Public Library offers three language-learning resources: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Mango Languages and Transparent Language Online. Each resource offers a robust learning experience that includes the ability to listen and speak, allowing learners to evaluate their pronunciation. Further information about these resources will be available at information sessions taking place on



Sundays, March 8, 2020, May 3, 2020 and July 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab.

Language learners without their own device or who seek a quieter space will be able to use these resources in the Main Library Learning Lab during Language Learning at the Library Open Lab. Each Sunday at 7:00 p.m., beginning on March 1, 2020, language learners will be able to check out a microphone headset to use with one of the Library's language-learning resources.

No registration is required. For questions, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Silly Fun With Magic Bob

by Nic Starr

Witness a fascinating display of tricks and illusions and be dazzled by this versatile performer when Lakewood Public Library presents Silly Fun with Magic Bob. Children and their families are invited to join in the fun as Magic Bob executes dazzling illusions and clever sleight of hand tricks. Classic magic fills this childfriendly presentation that will be a delight for all ages.

These mystical maneuvers will

take place at the Lakewood Public at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room, which is vices. This show is free and open to the public and no registration is required. Enjoy an entertaining program of comedy magic that will keep you laughing while amazing you with a trunk of unbelievable feats. You might even see a rabbit pulled out of a hat!

Library on Saturday, February 22, 2020 located in Children's and Youth Ser-



Ekklésia Reed Quintet Performs Free Concert

by Elaine Rosenberger

The idea of music performed by a reed quintet is relatively new. In 1985, five Dutch high school musicians formed Calafax, launching the first reed quintet and pioneering a new genre in classical music. Initially, Calafax had to arrange all of their own music, but once the reed quintet gained popularity, musicians began composing and arranging music for them.

Now, Cleveland has its own reed quintet: Ekklésia Reed Quintet (ERQ). A chamber music ensemble comprised of oboist Stefanie Cohn, clarinetist Emilio Rosario, saxophon-

ist Thomas Lempner, bass clarinetist Travis Hogue-Smith, and bassoonist Philip Kish, ERQ offers a unique musical sound. Though strongly influenced by classical music, ERQ also explores world music, jazz, and improvisation.

As part of its mission, ERQ seeks to inspire young wind players and to encourage the commissioning of new works for reed quintet by Northeast Ohio composers.

ERQ's Concert takes place on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium as part of the Library's Sunday with the Friends series.

WordStage Performs **Mythological Competition**

by Elaine Rosenberger

In ancient Greece, tragedy competitions were a popular cultural event held in an amphitheater in front of fifteen thousand spectators. Lakewood Public Library will host its own tragedy competition when WordStage takes the stage on March 8, 2020.

As part of the Library's Imagine Your Story series of programs, WordStage presents their very own mythological competition. In this literary concert, the judge is a formidable woman: the Muse of Tragedy, Melpomene. Melpomene will judge a mythological competition where the competitors are the greatest of the Tragedians: Aeschylus, Euripides and Sophocles. Their attempts at outperforming each other and the acerbic comments made by Melpomene offer a drama in and of itself designed to entertain and inform audiences of all ages.

WordStage performs literary concerts throughout Ohio. WordStage's mythological competition performance takes place on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Admission is free and open to all ages.



Dear Valued Customers



Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Author "Conditioning Your Mind To Fuel Creativity" **Book by Jennifer Yaros**

Main Library Auditorium

Jennifer Yaros shatters preconceived notions about what creativity is and means. She explains it is not a talent only some people are born with and instead is an innate skill everyone possesses. Practice is the only way to nurture and grow it. Through a series of unique and divergent learning activities, you'll learn how to prepare your body, thinking and ego to be more creative. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Thursday, February 20, 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 "Blood on Snow" by Jo Nesbo and "The Thief" by Fuminori Nakamura.

Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (116 minutes) **Lakewood Public Cinema** "Arrival" (2016), Directed by Denis Villeneuve **Main Library Auditorium**

Aliens have landed on Earth in twelve different locations. Language professor Louise Banks (Amy Adams) joins a US Army team at one of the locations in Montana. Her job is to try to learn the aliens' language and enable communication with them. The important question: are the aliens friend or foe? Other nations begin to view them as a threat, making it a race against time for Banks and her team, as war with the aliens could erupt at any

Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. **Sunday with the Friends** Diana Chittester with Sam Kristoff Main Library Auditorium

Lakewood's own singer and songwriter Diana Chittester is renowned both for her vocals and for her energetic acoustic guitar-playing. She blends intelligent lyrics and storytelling to create music that resonates with the audience. She is joined by cellist Sam Kristoff formally of the award-winning americana band The Speed Bumps. Together, the duo offers an endearing and often moving acoustic performance with a little something for everyone.

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. (58 minutes) Weekday Documentaries "Body and Soul: An American Bridge" (2017) Directed by Robert Philipson **Presented by The Lakewood Music Collective**

Main Library Auditorium

Of all the cross-cultural encounters in American popular music, none has been as prominent and conflicted as the relationship between African Americans and American Jews. Body and Soul: An American Bridge focuses on this cultural knot through the early performances of the jazz standard "Body and Soul," one of the most recorded songs in the jazz repertoire. A member of local music lesson studio The Lakewood Music Collective will join us to discuss the film.

Wednesday, February 26, 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"

Main Library Multipurpose Room

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 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Women in History – Rosa Parks

Barton Senior Center, 14300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH

Rosa Parks earned her title as "the mother of the civil rights movement," when she refused to give up her seat for a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. Her resistance set in motion one of the largest social movements in history, the Montgomery Bus Boycott. 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 U.S. history. This special program takes place at the Barton Senior Center, 14300 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH.

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Great Decisions in Libraries - Refugees and Global Migration Presentation by Avidan Cover, PhD Main Library Multipurpose Room

No countries have open borders. Every state in today's global system has its own laws and policies about who is permitted to cross its borders, and how they will do so. Who determines whether someone is a refugee or a migrant? After a brief video, Avidan Cover, professor at Case Western Reserve University will lead a discussion and help to answer some of the complex questions surrounding global migration. Readings will be available one week in advance.

Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (90 minutes) Lakewood Public Cinema, Film Series—From Books to Films: "Trainspotting" (1996), Directed by Danny Boyle

Main Library Auditorium

Mark Renton (Ewan McGregor), a young man with few prospects and fewer ambitions, lives in economically depressed Edinburgh. Renton is a heroin addict who loves the drug's blissful nothingness, and financing his habit provides excitement that his life otherwise lacks. He tries to get clean despite the allure of drugs and the influence of his friends. Based on the 1993 novel by Irvine Welsh, this film concludes our series of films based on books.

Children And Youth

compiled by Nic Starr

Sunday, February 23, 2020, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Lakewood LEGO® League

Main Library Activity Room

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

Use Lakewood Public Library's collection of Lego® Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.

Sunday, March 1, 2020, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Adapted Storytime**

Main Library Toddler's Story Room

For you and your three – seven year old child

In this story time, children with varying learning styles and abilities will learn with their caregivers together in a safe, supportive environment where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged. This thirty-minute story time is designed for children who may not be flourishing in a traditional story time experience. Siblings may also attend but must register separately. Registration is required. Register online at connectingforkids.org/register, email info@connectingforkids.org or call (440) 570-5908.





LUNCH AND LEARN

Macular egeneration

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 | 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Scott Seidel, Optometrist **MetroHealth Medical Center**

4th Floor Education Room Complimentary Lunch

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert at 216-912-0800 or ALDir.LW@ONeillHC.com by February 24, 2020

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Lakewood Education Observed



Photo l-r: Isabelle Cooper, Emily McIntire, Jasmine Magda, Aubree Nagel, Quinn Costanzo, Ava Clause, Emily Hirsch

Lakewood High School Girls Soccer Well Represented In The National Honor Society

by Ted Nagel

Lakewood High School held its annual National Honor Society induction ceremony 6 February 2020. The Lakewood High School Girls Soccer Team was very well represented. The current Society President, Emma Hirsch opened the ceremony and delivered a very moving speech to the audience summing up the four pillars of the National Honor Society: Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character. Her speech was the summary event after each of the other Society Officers covered one of the four pillars each. One could have been confused that they were not at a Toast Masters event given the eloquence and obvious preparation each speaker delivered. Lakewood Boys Soccer was also well represented by Team Captain Cameron Levis who delivered a terrifically entertaining talk with humor and poise.

But I'm not sure that there was

another school organization as well represented as the Lakewood Girls Soccer Team. Team Captains Emma Hirsch (President of this year's National Honor Society), Ava Clause and Emily McIntire were joined by team member Isabelle Cooper as four members of the current National Honor Society. These great leaders welcomed new members and next year's Team Captains Aubree Nagel, Quinn Costanzo and Jasmine Magda. In addition, senior player Nikena Norris was also inducted this year. Three Senior Captains welcomed next year's three senior captains. This team also had the highest team GPA at the Lakewood High Fall Awards Ceremony. Ranger Nation is very proud of these great leaders. Work hard and you too can join the ranks of these terrific young women.

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

2020 Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off

continued from page 1

in Lakewood celebrating 99 years of service in the community. Through our Lakewood schools with Key Club at Lakewood High, Builders Club at Harding, and K Kids at Grant, Horace Mann, Family Life Before and After Care at Harrison and Emerson Elementary Schools.

The club also awards 10 scholarships annually to Lakewood resident high school seniors.

So come, bring friends and family to some good fun and support Kiwanis. #KidsNeedKiwanis

Anna Bacho is a member of Lakewood Kiwanis.

Laurel Student Jane Jusko '21 Receives National Speech And Debate Association's Academic All American Award

by Sarah Miller

Laurel Junior and Lakewood resident Jane Jusko was recently awarded the National Speech and Debate Association's Academic All American Award.

This coveted award is earned by less than 1% of the 141,000 student members of the Association and recognizes academic rigor, competitive speech and debate success, and personal excellence.

Jane's accomplishment places her at the top one percent of all student members across the country.



Laurel Student Jane Jusko '21

LHS Academic Challenge Team Returning To Nationals

by Christine Gordillo

Due to its very successful outcomes in recent tournaments, the Lakewood High School Academic Challenge Team once again has qualified for the National Academic Quiz Tournaments' National Tournament in Atlanta in late May. This will be the seventh straight year that the team has qualified for a national tournament.

In early fall, the team competed at Tiffin High School, finishing second out of 24 schools, and in November the team competed at Cloverleaf, finishing third of 24 teams. Senior Evan Bell finished second overall individually in both tournaments, which exceeded 150 competitors in both events.

Over the next several months, the team will be matched against all the Southwest Conference teams and will also compete in two more large Saturday tournaments at Solon and Copley. The Copley meet will include more than 50 schools. In March the team will be taping for the WEWS Westfield Insurance Academic Chal-

lenge television broadcast that will be aired later in the school year. The team is coached by teachers Peter Petto and Bob Sedlak.

With the upcoming National Tournament in Atlanta, the team will again be soliciting funds to help defray the cost of the trip. Any help from Lakewood Academic Challenge supporters is most welcome. Donations can be sent to: LHS Academic Challenge Team, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood OH 44107. Checks should me payable to Academic Challenge Team Fund – LHS.

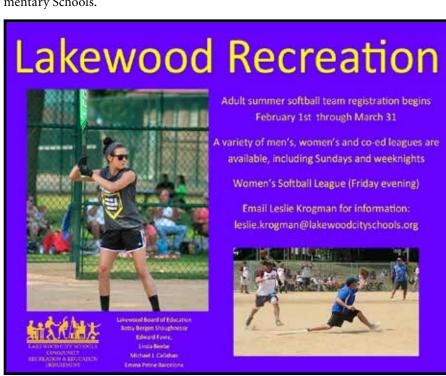
Team members:

Freshmen: Jonas Evans, Jack Gollon, Jill King, Sam Thomas

Sophomores: James Allio, Joey Daso, Aidan Dever, Emma Hart, Zoe Hunter, Julia Jackson, Josh Mika, Sam Stallbaum, Anna Weiss

Junior: Simon Thompson

Senior: Evan Bell (co-captain), Aidan Bohac (co-captain), Johana Guci, Alice King, Dalton Lammers, Kathryn Oleksa, Emma Pagsuyoin, Tristan Rumsey, Sidney Wilhelmy





Lakewood Cares

Jennifer O'Donnell For Judge: Experienced Public Defender Advocates Reform

by Matt Kuhns

Public defenders are entirely unrepresented in Cuyahoga County's court of common pleas, general division, right now. Of 34 current judges, not one has a public defense background.

Jennifer O'Donnell is running for judge to change this, and improve a local justice system in need of reforms.

Conditions in Cuyahoga County's jail have made headlines and prompted formal investigations, and O'Donnell says that real solutions remain incomplete. "We are still in a situation where it is incredibly overcrowded, we have inmates that are sleeping on the floor," she notes.

O'Donnell advocates greater transparency and more efficient courts, along with bail reform and lasting solutions to the county jail's problems.

The need for criminal justice reform is about serving the entire community, as much as the rights of the accused, says O'Donnell. "If we want our communities to be safer, the way that we do that is by equipping the members of our community that are coming in front of the court with the tools that they need to be successful."

O'Donnell offers 12 years experience as a public defender, and an additional perspective missing from the court of common pleas. On March



Jennifer O'Donnell for Judge.

17, she will seek voters' support in the Democratic primary.

State Senator Nickie Antonio has endorsed O'Donnell, along with Lakewood City Council President Dan O'Malley, At-large Councilperson Tristan Rader, and many community leaders throughout Cuyahoga County.

"We need smart judges with fresh energy and a commitment to fairness for all," says Antonio. "Jennifer O'Donnell fits that bill."

For more about O'Donnell, visit jenniferodonnellforjudge.com.

Matt Kuhns is a freelance graphic designer, and occasional author.

Swim-A-Thon To Benefit Lakewood And Rocky River Firefighters

by Lynn Donaldson

Firefighters in Lakewood and Rocky River will be the beneficiaries of support raised at the Rotary Club of Lakewood-Rocky River's Swim-a-Thon on March 1 at the Rocky River Recreation Center indoor pools from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Nearly \$15,000 in funding is needed to purchase an infrared cycle sauna decontamination unit for the Rocky River Fire Department and a commercial grade Stairmaster for the Lakewood Fire Department.

The initiative's goal is to help firefighters and first-responders remove toxins from their bodies after fighting fires. After completing a five-year study of nearly 30,000 firefighters, researchers from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) concluded that firefighters in the study had a greater number of cancer diagnoses and cancer-related deaths.

The infrared sauna, with moderate exertion from riding the bicycle, promotes sweating, which is believed to be an effective way to remove toxins (particularly metals) from the body. While located at the fire sta-

tion, the sauna is expected to be available to fire and safety personnel within the community.

The Stairmaster has been identified by the state fire marshal and the Lakewood Committee on Public Safety as an important piece of apparatus for fitness and training purposes. As Lakewood has numerous high-rise buildings, firefighters must have the strength and the endurance to carry heavy equipment into these buildings in intense heat.

Swim-a-Thon participants are invited to swim, aqua jog or water walk. Donations should be made payable to "Northern Ohio Firefighters Charities" and are tax-deductible. For information on the event, contact Harlan Radford, event coordinator, at harlanrjr@yahoo.com or (440) 376-5180, or Michelle Eibel, Rocky River civic center aquatics manager, at meibel@rrcity.com or (440) 895-2591.

There will be free refreshments and certified lifeguards on duty. The recreation center is located at 21016 Hilliard Blvd.

Lakewood Is Art



Art by Garrett Bodnar of Lakewood, Ohio chosen for University of Hartford's Goldfarb Juried Student Exhibition.





Lakewood Cares

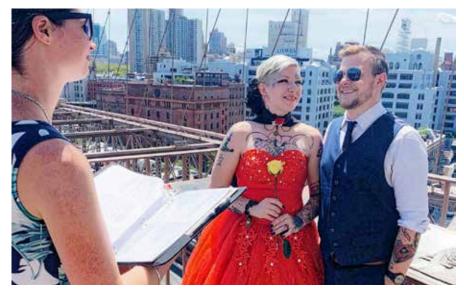
"Buy Nothing Lakewood" Brings Small Town Feel To Big City

by Brad Presutto

Lakewood is known for being one of the larger cities in Cuyahoga County. In fact, it is the most dense city in the state. The over 50,000 person population of Lakewood is not preventing residents from creating the small town feel by encouraging interactions with their neighbors through sharing goods, services, and experiences. One of the ways they are able to create this environment is through their participation in the global Facebook phenomenon of the Buy Nothing Project.

The Buy Nothing Project's Mission, according to their website: "We offer people a way to give and receive, share, lend, and express gratitude through a worldwide network of hyper-local gift economies in which the true wealth is the web of connections formed between people who are real-life neighbors."

While the Buy Nothing Project started in 2013, Buy Nothing Lakewood started in late 2017. The key concept around Buy Nothing is to create hyper localized neighborhoods where they



Buy Nothing Lakewood member Brandi Larsen performs wedding ceremony on Brooklyn Bridge for fellow members Brittany & Nick Davies.

work together to cut down on waste while also helping their community.

Jen Collins commented, "It's like the old adage 'it takes a village to raise a child,' The Buy Nothing group has become our village."

Roz Matthews added, "It is nice to see 'some people's trash is another person's treasure' put into action." The most popular event is their weekly "Wish Wednesday." A thread is started by one of the admins early Wednesday morning, and members post items or services they need. Members will also peruse the thread to see if there is anything they can give to someone in need. Examples for requests have been seasonal items, hand me down clothing, and even acts of service like moving a dresser or jumping a car battery.

"We all strive to help each other out in any way we can. We are a modern way of 'borrowing sugar from your neighbor." Charlotte Minniti continues, "Simple acts of kindness make a huge impact on a community. I can't think of a better way to get to know those who live around you"

Some achievements the group is most proud of are creating a meal train when a member was injured, helping furnish a home for a citizen in need, and even having fun events like toy or clothing swaps to help members conserve money. One member even accompanied two other members to New York City so she could perform their wedding ceremony on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Due to the popularity of Buy Nothing Lakewood, the group decided to split. Buy Nothing feels that to maintain the success of the group, keeping membership to a manageable number (approximately 800) in a specific geographic area increases participation. When this happens a new group "sprouts."

"While a sprout can potentially feel like a fracture in the group, it actually means more growth, allowing new neighbors a chance to form these friendships," noted Nicole Leffew.

There are currently two Buy Nothing Groups in Lakewood, Buy Nothing East and Buy Nothing West. Buy Nothing East was the original group that formed in Lakewood. Currently, the dividing line is Warren Road.

"I hope more residents of Lakewood will find out about this group. We are committed to helping each other and building relationships!" exclaimed Rachael Gibbons.

If you would like to join one of the groups, you can search Buy Nothing Lakewood East or Buy Nothing Lakewood West. There are a few questions asked to verify your location and keep the group safe. You can also reach out to one of their administrators.

Buy Nothing Lakewood East Admin: Kristel Smith

Buy Nothing Lakewood West Admins: Rachael Gibbons, Nicole Leffew, Roz Matthews, Charlotte Minniti

One Lakewood Progress:

Vote for Schools. Vote FOR Issue 28

continued from page 3

stable, provides critical early childhood programs, expands educational opportunities through STEM, supports our students' mental health, maintains our buildings and high quality teachers for the benefit of our kids.

The unit of value for expressing the rate of property taxes in Ohio is the "mill." A mill is defined as one-tenth of a percent or one-tenth of a cent (0.1 cents) in cash terms. Millage is the factor applied to the assessed value of property to produce tax revenue. 4.9 mills of the District's current debt service millage will be reduced, hence a Lakewood taxpayer would not see an increase in their tax rate, and would only see a small increase in taxes - less than \$2 per month per \$100,000 in home value - for this levy.

Millage approved by voters are subject to the property tax reduction factor, House Bill (HB) 920. HB 920 reduces the

taxes charged by a voted levy to offset increases in the value of real property. This means the amount of voted millage taxes collected on property will not exceed the amount collected at the property's value in the first year the taxes were collected. Although property values may increase while the levy is in effect, the amount of taxes collected on those properties do not increase. Due to HB 920, the increase of property values seen in Lakewood over the past few years do not translate into an increase in revenues collected on the 2013 levy, making the need to place another levy on the ballot essential to maintaining the quality and operation of our schools.

School levies are necessary for supporting strong communities. Voting for this school levy is not only critical, but it's responsible, and we owe it to our kids to fight for the success of their futures.





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Spilled Ink

The Ohio Question

by Jakob Hamilton

The great state of Ohio is the unquestionable forebearer of industry in the United States. We have given unto this country efficient rubber, strong glass, reliable steel, and the dedication of our men and women only found in the mid-west. And with that, the drive that ushered in the automobile phenomenon after the second World War. But before we built our cities and towns around the dependability of Ford, Chevrolet, and the once steadfast Plymouth, we relied upon the railroad.

Cleveland, Ohio was a city dedicated to its rail service. Our streetcars and inter-urbans spanned dozens of miles in every direction except northless than twenty years ago Lakewood still had streetcar lines that yearned for service again, but we declined. The automobile became popular, the city was bought out by Goodyear in favor of buses, the streetcar and inter-urbans passed along our thoroughfares for the

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last time-- and inconsequently or not, our population quivered.

In 1827, under President John Quincy Adams, the Tom Thumb became the first passenger train in the United States on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, ushering in a new era of industry on this continent. In 1869, Ulysses S. Grant accomplished what many believed to be impossible: connect the East and West coasts by rail. William H. Taft laid the groundwork for the greatest expansion of the railroad in history. And in 1970, President Richard Nixon saved national rail by signing into law the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. If these four presidents who believed so much in our railroad infrastructure had one thing in common, it would be their party, their Republican ideals. However, the modern party of these presidents has disbanded and abandoned their allegiance to this most critical of needs.

Now, of the seven largest states in our great nation, in which Ohio hails seventh, we continue to be the only state that fails to connect our largest metropolitan centers by rail. Columbus, Ohio is the largest city in the country without a passenger system passing through it. It is morally reprehensible how we turn a blind eye to even the idea of development of light rail projects in this state. There have been plans, and ideas, and dreams that have been uttered through the halls of our state capital building for nearly two decades, none truly coming to fruition. And though the idea of a space-age vacuum tube powered by magnets would undoubtedly galvanize the region, other communities have done a great deal more to appeal to their financiers.

Though my statement reads more like a history lesson than an endorsement or appeal, it summons a very solid question. We might lose an electoral vote after the 2020 Census, the growth rate of our state is stalling, and our leaders seem to be doing very little to hamper this decline. How do we address this pivotal moment in the history of our state?

If one thing is certain, prosperity abounds where our governments invest in the people. It's just a thought to share as we head to the polls over the next few months.

Jakob Hamilton is an active student and concerned citizen interested in the enrichment of our community through dedicated and impassioned journalism.

Vote Yes On Issue 28

continued from page 1

and retain high-quality teachers with competitive salaries, expand STEM education, and keep educational technology up to date. Issue 28 will also allow the district to offer more counseling and mental health services, and will provide resources to maintain our community's investment by keeping the district's facilities and assets in good condition. Please vote yes on Issue 28 on March 17!

Michael Callahan is a lifelong resident of Lakewood. He and his wife Kristyn (Kadow) have three children. Callahan is a member of the Lakewood Board of Education and works in the public sector as a parks & recreation professional with the City of Bedford.









LO Storytime

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 22:

"The Ballad Of Derecho Dan" Continues:

Fiction by Scott MacGregor

"The lizard's roar will come from the north. When you hear it, destroy the manifesto! Say your prayers! Take the sunshine pill, and fire up the engine! It is time to put that treasonous lizard into a watery grave!" (Excerpt dated 8/30/75 from Maynard Gridley's "Manifesto With Cheese.")

Police Chief Tom Graber wasted no time rushing to the Rockport Animal Hospital at Fire Chief Nicholson's request. Graber had been on a fruitless search for Little Dan ever since he'd escaped from the hospital days earlier. The Chief had a hunch, however, that his luck was about to change.

Fire Chief Ned Nicholson had already entered the exam room with the veterinarian by the time Chief Graber had arrived. Graber immediately noticed a car tire outside the door. Entering the room he saw a pile of empty potato chip bags, Hostess Twinkie wrappers, and a plastic sandwich bag labeled "TUNA SALAD SANDWICH – 59¢."

The veterinarian and Chief Nicholson were standing over a small, somewhat disheveled object, wrapped in a blanket. "Hey Tom--check it out!" said the Fire Chief, motioning him over to the table. Tom Graber gently pulled the blanket away so he could see what all the fuss was about. His eyes nearly

bugged out of his head. The police chief raised his arms towards the heavens and screamed, "Hallelujah!!"

Meanwhile, Rowena was Rockport Hospital visiting Wilmena, who was her big sister and Little Dan's mother. Wilmena had been gravely injured during storm 5.4 when the house that she and the late Big Dan Newman bought in 1955, collapsed on top of her during the storm. She was critical for weeks and probably

should've died. Fortunately, Rockport Hospital was only five minutes away and because it was so close, they were able to save her.

When Rowena walked into her room, Wilmena shouted weakly, "There you are! Where's my son?! Where's Little Dan?" Rowena tried to calm her down. "Wilmena, you haven't been well and I was just waiting for the right time to..." Wilmena abruptly interrupted her, "NOW IS THE RIGHT



TIME!" she screamed.

Rowena sat down on the edge of the bed and told her everything that had happened. "I'm so sorry. I loved Maynard. But, I don't want to lose my boy, too!" cried a despondent Wilmena, "You have to bring him in before he gets hurt!" At that very moment, both Chiefs of Rockport barged into Wilmena's hospital room clutching the mysterious object wrapped in a blanket. Rowena reacted angrily, "What is

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this? My sister cannot be put under any stress!" Both chiefs stopped. "Relax," said Chief Graber, holding up his hand in defense, "we have something here that will help RELIEVE that stress!"

As the two chiefs unveiled their surprise package, Little Dan was still in the Cleveland Flats, secluded on Maynard Gridley's dynamite loaded boat, "The Friggin' A." He'd just finished reading the last passage from Maynard's wine-stained "Manifesto with Cheese."

The passage instructed whoever piloted the boat to "take the SUN-SHINE PILL and fire up the engine." Little Dan was able to locate the so-called "sunshine pill" inside an ashtray laying on the boat's control console. It was wrapped in a piece of rainbow colored paper with a note attached. The note said, "Have a good trip, you bull-goose looney! We'll miss you Maynard-man!" It was signed, "Yer prankster pals, Ken K and Stanley O."

Back at Rockport hospital, everyone in Wilmena's room were focused on the object wrapped in a blanket. "Goddam, what izit?" demanded an impatient Rowena. Finally, the blanket was unpeeled and its contents caused Wilmena and Rowena to let out gasps, followed by cheers and tears of joy.

It was Little BD, the Newman's beloved Boston bull dog!!!

He'd been given up for dead after the Gas & Lube explosion, but there he was! The Fire Chief explained he'd been trapped inside a used tire that'd been blown into a tree by the explosion. Lester Brown's lost cockatiel kept the dog alive with potato chips and twinkies flown in from the smoldering ruins of the Gas & Lube. "We can't explain the tuna sandwiches..." said Cheif Nicholson, "...too heavy to be carried by a cockatiel."

Days later, an examination of the bird droppings on the tire indicated that Little BD had received additional support from a good samaritan crow able to deliver take-out sandwiches.

Just then, everyone in Rockport heard the sickening, ominous sound. It was loud enough to be heard as far north as Windsor, Canada and, as far south as Akron, Ohio. Down on the Cuyahoga River, Little Dan heard it just as he'd finished reading the last page of Maynard's manifesto. Back at Rockport Hospital, the joyous reunion of Little BD, Rowena, Wilmena, and the Safety Chiefs was cut short by the sounds of the approaching storm. "ROWENA!" Wilmena shouted hoarsely, "You must take these men to Little Dan, at once!"

Then, another roar came sledding down from the darkening northern skies over Lake Erie. Little Dan knew it was his cue to "take action." He tore the "Manifesto with Cheese" in two and tossed it into the Cuyahoga River. Then, as instructed, he swallowed the "sunshine pill," shook his fist at the blackening skies, and screamed, "GODZILLA!!!"







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Lakewood Living

LakewoodAlive To Host "Knowing Your Home:

Creating A Sound Investment" Workshop On March 12

by Matt Bixenstine

Ready to think spring and tackle your home improvement projects? LakewoodAlive is here to help.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Creating A Sound Investment on Thursday, March 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Sauced Taproom & Kitchen (14701-4 Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood). This kickoff workshop features of a panel discussion addressing the process for completing major home improvement projects.

Our homes are 80+ years old, well-built, and just plain amazing structures. Sometimes the layout, design or aesthetics simply don't fit with the needs of the house and family. Larger projects can be daunting and oftentimes people don't know where to start or they get stuck.

Panelists will share wisdom and insights to make the construction process more streamlined and effective, equipping you with the knowledge you need to pursue your project with confidence. Moderated by Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive, the panel of experts



for "Creating A Sound Investment" consists of:

Bill Gaydos, William J. Gaydos & Associates, LLC

Chuck McGettrick, Architects
C.A. McGettrick, Inc.

Chris Parmelee, City of Lakewood

Dana Paul, Prairie Stone Caroline Purcell, First Federal Lakewood

Mike Quinn, Cleveland Lumber Company

dAlive.org/SoundInvestment or call 216-521-0655.

Now in its seventh year, Lake-woodAlive's "Knowing Your Home" series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Our workshop series is generously supported by: City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

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

LakewoodAlive, ESOP Join Forces To Offer Free Tax Preparation On March 7

by Matt Bixenstine

LakewoodAlive has teamed with Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) to offer free tax preparation and filing to working low-income families and individuals on Saturday, March 7. "Super Saturday" takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harrison Elementary School in Lakewood's Historic Birdtown Neighborhood (2080 Quail Street).

"Knowing Your Home: Creating A

Sound Investment," visit Lakewoo-

Call 2-1-1 or visit refundohio. org to schedule your appointment to have your taxes done for free by one of ESOP's certified tax preparers. Walkins are welcome but will be seen after all scheduled appointments.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program provides free tax preparation to working low-income individuals and families by trained, certified volunteers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Tax preparers will help participants receive their full income tax refund – as much as \$6,557 in refund monies utilizing electronic filing and direct deposit.

Tax Credit Eligibility Guidelines for Tax Year 2019:

Families with three or more qualifying children who earned less

than \$50,162 in 2019 (or less than \$55,952 for married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$6,557.

Families with two qualifying children who earned less than \$46,703 in 2019 (or less than \$52,493 for married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$5,828.

Families with one qualifying child who earned less than \$41,094 in 2019 (or less than \$46,884 for married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$3,526.

Individuals who do not have a qualifying child, but are between the ages of 25 and 64, with earned income of less than \$15,570 in 2019 (or less than \$21,370 for married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit up to \$529.

Participants should bring the following items on March 7: IRS 2019 W2s and 1099s, Social Security Cards for all family members, government-issued photo of each person signing the return, childcare expense statement including the provider's Tax ID number, bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refund and last year's tax return, if possible.

For more information, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/TaxPrep.

Rotary Recognizes Ian Andrews With Paul Harris Fellowship

by Lynn Donaldson

Ian Andrews, executive director, LakewoodAlive, has been awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River in recognition of his leadership in the Lakewood community.

Called "the engine behind LakewoodAlive," Andrews organizes many Lakewood community events throughout the year including Light Up Lakewood, Summer Meltdown, and Chocolate Walk. He also helps coordinate home improvement projects for elderly and/or low-income homeowners.

Paul Harris Fellowships are given to recognize exceptional contributions made by individuals who further Rotary's mission of encouraging the ideals of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, high ethical standards, community service, and the advancement of international understanding and goodwill.

Named for Paul Harris who founded Rotary in 1905, the award was established in his honor in 1957 and is usually reserved for individuals who contribute \$1000 US to the Rotary Foundation.

A community development corporation with a mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods, LakewoodAlive sees housing is the foundation of Lakewood's economy. During a given year, as many as 500 volunteers contribute an estimated 8,500+ hours to serving LakewoodAlive and the community, focusing on Housing Outreach, Special Events



Ian Andrews

and Committee Participation.

The Rotary Club was one of only 11 Northeast Ohio clubs that achieved 100% member giving to Rotary International's Annual Fund, earning the club the opportunity to award a Paul Harris Fellow to an individual who has made a difference in the community.

Gifts to the Annual Fund help Rotary clubs take action today to create positive change in communities at home and around the world. Contributions help strengthen peace efforts, provide clean water and sanitation, support education, grow local economies, save mothers and children, and fight disease.

Club members attending the event were Jim Lechko, Jon Clark, Steve and Linda Clark, Mark Bacon, Vicki Foster, exchange student Este Orpheu Pinheiro de Castro, and Marjorie Corrigan.



The Back Page











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If you would like to help this history-making 17-year-old project continue getting out the words, stories and images of your fellow Lakewoodites and you have a business, contact production@lakewoodobserver.com and we will send out an advertising kit!