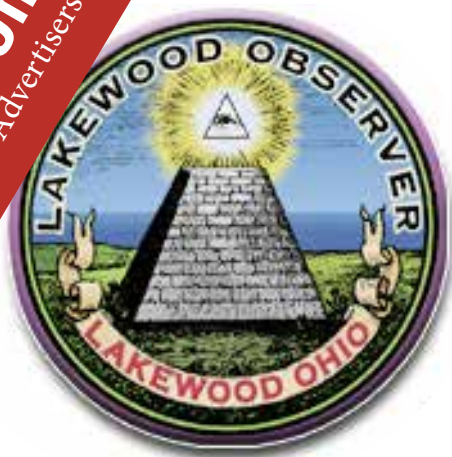


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Volume 16, Issue 05, March 4, 2020

Presidential Primary Election, Levy On St. Patrick's Day, March 17

by Mike West

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections wants all voters to be aware that the March 17, 2020 Presidential Primary Election falls on St. Patrick's Day this year.

"Because of all of the wonderful, celebratory St. Patrick's Day events and festivities scheduled on Election Day, we encourage voters to cast their ballots by voting Early In-Person at the Board of Elec-

tions or to Vote-by-Mail," said Anthony Perlatti, Director of the Board of Elections. "By casting ballots prior to Election Day voters don't have to worry about conflicting commitments on St. Patrick's Day."

Early In-Person Voting and Vote-by-Mail began on February 19th. The Board is open for Early In-Person Voting on the following dates:

Saturday, March 7: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Weekdays, March 9 to March 13:

8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 14: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 15: 1 - 5 p.m.

Monday, March 16: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Board of Elections is located at 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 To request a Vote-by-Mail ballot application visit: www.443vote.us, or call 216-443-VOTE (8683). They are also available at all public libraries.

photo by Danielle Natasha Sutcliffe



Photo sent in by Danielle Sutcliffe Realty, early on in the fire. They were just shutting down Hilliard Ave. More photos on pages 8 and 9.

New Construction Fire On Emerald Canyon Rim Worst Fire In Recent Memory

by Jim O'Bryan

"I was talking with a new client on the phone, coming from a recent listing when I saw the smoke. I got off the phone and started recording, it was like watching hell itself!" were the words of Realtor Danielle Natasha Sutcliffe.

The same was being said by hundreds who arrived all along the rim to watch the new five-story structure burn to the ground.

I saw a small trail of smoke while walking the dog and by the time I was done it had gotten thicker. I mentioned the fire to Deb, grabbed the keys and the camera, three minutes later the flames were clearly massive and higher than the tree line. By the time I had got-



Most people first heard of the fire through weather reports.

ten to Sharkey's Hill, traffic had come to a stop with people abandoning their cars and rushing to the edge of the cliff to see and film the fire.

Suddenly there was an explosion, sending something high into the sky, and ashes onto I-90 which caught the dry grass on fire on both sides of I-90, forcing the closure of

continued on page 9

Next Listen & Learn With Dr. Barnes

by Christine Gordillo

On Wednesday, March 11 at 6 pm, Superintendent Mike Barnes will hold his final Listen & Learn session of the school year. These sessions are informal, one-hour chats about anything Lakewood City Schools. The location has been changed from Taft Center of Innovation to the Ranger Cafe at Lakewood High. Bring your questions, comments, and ideas! On another note, the Open House for the Taft Center that was originally scheduled for March 11 has been postponed to a date to be determined.

Lakewood Rec Looking To Fill Dozens Of Summer Job Opportunities

by Matt Demaline

What better job for the summer than at a swimming pool, ball field, or summer camp? Take the opportunity to work outside, with kids, making a difference. Lakewood Rec is now hiring to fill many open positions for learn-to-swim instructors, lifeguards, pool attendants, baseball scorekeepers, summer camp counselors and more.

Photo credit: Nancy Plair



As winter turns to spring, many of our thoughts turn to warm summer days, filled with playing tee ball, riding the water slide at Madison Park, or making friends at Kids Connection

or Ohio Heritage. Lakewood Recreation is hiring seasonal employees to make all those summer memories continue for a new generation. Applications preferred by March 31, 2020. Find position and application details at www.lakewoodrecreation.com/summerjobs.

Ranger Brothers Grab SWC Wrestling Titles



Brothers Jayden, left, and Milan Jackson.

The Lakewood High School wrestling team competed in its last Southwest Conference championship tournament, and left with two individual titles and a runner-up. Congratulations to senior Milan Jackson, who won the 160-lb. weight class, and Milan's brother, junior Jayden Jackson, who won the 170-lb. weight class.

photo by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Steps Up Again!



Presentation of the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary big check for \$5,000. I personally love "big check" presentations, especially for this crew, everyone a hero.

From left to right: Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst, Rocky River Fire Chief, Aaron Lenart, Lakewood Fire Chief Timothy Dunphy, Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary President Marjorie Corrigan, and Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Membership Director and Swim-A-Thon event organizer Harlan Radford. More photos and story on page 9.



Mayor's Corner

by Meghan George

Welcome to the Mayor's Corner! I am excited to begin using this space to contribute short pieces from time to time to offer insight for Lakewood-ites into issues currently happening at City Hall or important ideas I'd like to communicate to the community. I'm grateful for this forum and I intend it to start ongoing conversations with you.

During my campaign for the Mayor's Office last year and since getting elected, you have probably heard me talk about my priorities for city government: Safety, Neighborhoods, Environment, and Disciplined Finances. In this first edition of the Mayor's Corner I want to talk a bit about Finances.

In the City's Finance Department, we are currently hosting a team of auditors from Auditor of State Keith Faber's office. To most people, the word "audit" suggests a hassle, at least, and maybe serious legal and financial consequences, at most. The Auditor of State and his team are the compliance officers for Ohio taxpayers and their

responsibility is to ensure that local governments like ours are conducting the people's business in an open, honest, and efficient way.

When they are through, they will have spent weeks reviewing our finances in tremendous detail and providing me with any "findings." As I begin my first year as Mayor of Lakewood, my interests (and yours!) are aligned with Auditor Faber's—We want to be sure everything is just as it should be. We will be back to you with their results.

Additionally, my administration has been given the directive to review spending and overtime use to make sure that we are staying within our budget. We are also looking at keeping projects in-house whenever possible to reduce costs. One such project is the re-striping of the Lakewood Park parking lot. This entire project will be completed by our public works employees which will reduce the overall cost of the project.

In closing, I'm looking forward to working with all members of our community for the next four years. The future is bright in Lakewood!



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City of Lakewood

One Lakewood Progress - Issue 28 Critical To Support Lakewood City School Students Social, Academic, And Mental Health

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Lakewood City Schools Director of Student Services, Lisa Bruening, says the district is working with more children with diagnosed mental illness or who present with symptoms. “We are seeing more students with anxiety and depression, which can manifest itself in the form of school avoidance. Families find it difficult to get into outside providers, due to extensive waiting lists. If we are able to work with our students and families within the district, we can help children stay in school and bring support directly to them.”

Currently, the district offers mental health services through Bellefaire and Guidestone agencies. Many people may be surprised to learn that therapists from these agencies work out of the school buildings.

Many districts in the United States, in an effort to address psychosocial barriers to students’ educational advancement like food and financial insecurity, lack of family support, and the presence of mental illness, have taken a 360-degree approach by providing wrap-around services that support the whole life of the child. Studies show a child’s social environment affects physical and mental wellness and their ability to function....”[S]tudents seen are typically Medicaid eligible but dependent on funding, stu-

dents, not medicaid eligible, can receive up to 6 sessions as a consult or in a group. We also have a social worker 4 days a week at the medical clinic [operated by the Cleveland Clinic] based at Lakewood High School...[and]... a resident social worker that completes a rotation [there]. One day a week we [also] have an adolescent psychiatrist based at the...clinic.”

The Three Arches Foundation partnered with the Cleveland Clinic and Lakewood Schools, as well as Bellfaire to fund two one-year grants providing a patient navigator to the schools who runs groups, and works with families, staff, and students, as well as a full-time therapist who works with any child regardless of the presence of health insurance.

“[Issue 28] will allow Lakewood Schools to bring social workers and mental health therapists into the school buildings, and work with students and families regardless of insurance,” says Bruening. “The goal would be to not only support students and families but link them up to needed providers. We are already working with our families to provide needed physical and mental health services, but our goal would be to increase the services and supports in our district. We know that we must take care of the whole child, for the child to reach their fullest potential.”

Issue 28 will provide essential

services based on the needs demonstrated by our community. The monies raised from this levy will ensure that every student, regardless of whether or not they have health insurance, and no matter their socioeconomic background, has the tools available for success. Lakewood’s students face

a variety of challenges as they grow, learn and succeed: challenges they often cannot help, and at times did not ask for. Its up to our community to do what is necessary to support the health and wellbeing of our smallest residents. You can do that by voting YES on Issue 28 on March 17th.

Should I Vote For The Levy?

by Jim O'Bryan

Unlike many of the people we see pushing the levy, I have no day-to-day connection with Lakewood Schools. I am not dependent upon them for teaching my children, or relatives' children. I am semi-retired and on a very fixed income. I do not rely on Lakewood Schools for my day-to-day living, or my day-to-day well-being. I really have no dogs in this hunt. Or do I?

The real fact is, like it or not, we all do, and the connections are as varied and real as the schools' needs for this levy.

For over a decade we have discussed and proven that good schools, i.e. schools that have the support of their community, provide a financial foundation to all who own homes, businesses and property in Lakewood. Good schools and Lakewood’s dedication to both building and funding the new schools are huge reasons while people

move here and stay here.

This is an operating levy brought on by many things, including the cost of living always going up and House Bill 892 which in an effort to make schools more accountable also makes them turn to their residents every 3-5 years for a new slightly larger operating levy. This will be Lakewood’s first levy in 7 years. An amazing figure underlining just how frugal they have been.

Educated children, a great byproduct: The schools and the school system continue to improve and educate our children, i.e. our neighbors. An education that opens the doors of opportunity to them, instead of them breaking in and forcibly opening your house door. Lakewood, and Lakewood Schools have great ways to keep our children learning and occupied in various ways, helping the city and becoming the adults we want as neighbors.

continued on page 11



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Lakewood Education Observed

Staff Spotlight Honorees:

Giuliano & Prindle

by Christine Gordillo

Each month Lakewood City Schools selects two staff members to honor. These staff members are nominated by their peers for their outstanding work. This month's nominees are assistant custodian Tony Giuliano and Emerson Elementary kitchen manager Leanne Prindle. Congratulations to both!

TONY GIULIANO

Moving a file cabinet from one second story location to another, with no elevator, is not easy. Imagine moving 100 of those, fully loaded. That is what Lakewood Schools assistant custodian Tony Giuliano and his fellow moving crew members did over the course of 4-6 weeks to transition the Board of Education office on Warren Road over to the new Taft Center for Innovation. Add to the heavy file cabinets, moving hundreds of boxes, computers, furniture, and random miscellaneous items as well. It was a big job and Tony proved he was up to the task!

"Tony took complete ownership to make sure move went as smooth and complete as possible. He went over and



Tony Giuliano

above my expectations," said Operations Assistant Manager Ed Deblock.

Tony's nominators – most of his fellow moving crew members – not only praised his hard work and organization, but his positive attitude and sense of humor that made an exhausting, relentless job more enjoyable.

"Tony's crazy personality keeps his coworkers' mood up and makes tedious jobs fun," says fellow utility custodian George Mihalek.



Leanne Prindle

Tony joined the District in 2008 as a food handler and delivery driver. He became a jack of all trades when he moved into his current utility role, which includes delivering district mail. He loves the variety of the job where he never knows until he walks in the door each morning what his task will be for the day. He also loves working in the district where he went to school.

"I've gone from being a student to having keys to my former classroom," Tony says. "I love how my life's come full circle."

LEANNE PRINDLE

When a group of Leanne Prindle's Emerson Elementary colleagues submitted her name for Staff Spotlight, a common theme ran through the 11 nominations: kindness and caring.

While this is only Leanne's first year as the school's kitchen manager, her impact already has been greatly felt on the school community.

Her colleagues say in a short time, Leanne has helped make the school cafeteria a welcoming and positive place for students. Always with a smile on her face, Leanne works to get to know each student and discovers what they like and dislike in order to better serve them at lunch or breakfast.

Leanne is always putting the students first, making sure they have what they need so that they can continue learning in the afternoon.

"She cares about their wellness and makes sure they are getting the healthy choices that are available even when it means extra work for her," says school secretary Jenean Carlson.

When a student was unable to get a salad because the kitchen ran out, Leanne made a special trip to that student's classroom to bring him fresh fruits and vegetables in order for him to get a healthy lunch. She now makes sure there are always extra salads on hand.

Her colleagues emphasize how Leanne always puts the children first and values her relationships with them. She even pops out to say hello and offer snacks to those students who don't buy their lunch so that they feel included.

For her part, Leanne feels like what she does is nothing special, "I just do my job and love being around the kids."

LHS To Perform "The Addams Family" March 19-21

The Lakewood High Barnstormers Drama Club will perform The Addams Family March 19-21 at 7 pm in the Civic Auditorium. Over 100 LHS students are involved in the musical as actors, musicians, and crew members -- it's a show you won't want to miss! Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$8 by calling the LHS Book Room at 216-529-4047; tickets will be held at will call. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$10.

Harding Club Lends Hand To Senior Shoppers

by Christine Gordillo

Nearly 10 years ago as a teacher at Garfield Middle School, Pam Thompson saw a need for bringing together girls outside the classroom to form a group that could encourage and support each other during the often difficult middle school years. She wanted a group where the girls could form strong bonds and a sense of belonging. That group became the Margaret Warner Ladies Luncheon Club thanks to a Margaret Warner Educational Grant from the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation and is in its third iteration at Harding.

Beyond the relationship building within the group, Thompson strived to share experiences with the girls outside

of their school community with trips to local colleges and museums. She also added a service component where the girls helped senior citizens and people with disabilities with shopping at Giant Eagle twice a month after school. The club has since survived two building moves for Thompson and is now thriving at Harding Middle School as the Margaret Warner Volunteers.

"I believe the club is so important for all girls, but in particular the middle school age, as that is when students are trying to come to terms with the oftentimes challenging phase of growing from childhood to adolescence and how to 'fit in' within their peer group without compromising their integrity,"

Thompson said about the club.

Besides the Giant Eagle aspect, the club also participates in after school get togethers where the girls create dream books. The books are similar to scrapbooks where the girls place photos from club activities and images clipped from magazines to promote goal setting - future college, career, house, etc.

Thompson strives to promote an encouraging environment for girls to develop a strong positive self-image and learn successful peer and community interactions. The formula is working.

"The most important part is that we get to know the shoppers and they get to know us," said seventh-grade club mem-

ber Natalie Goncalves. "This is part of the reason Margaret Warner means so much to me, because of the relationships and intriguing conversations we have with our shoppers and our fellow volunteers. How I see it, Margaret Warner is a club created to help our elderly shoppers while also helping ourselves through the experiences of meeting new people and becoming a part of something in the school and in our community."

Adds seventh-grader Roselyn Graulich: "It's a great way to make new friends in school and also with older people. It feels good to know you are helping someone that needs it."





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Could your child have scoliosis? How to recognize and manage the condition.



Ernest Young, MD
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Do you think your child has a curve in his or her spine?

Cleveland Clinic pediatric orthopaedic surgeon, Ernest Young, MD, explains what to look for and options for managing the condition.

“Signs of scoliosis are fairly recognizable,” says Dr. Young. “Your child may have one shoulder

which is higher than the other, or a protruding shoulder blade. Also, your child’s waistline may appear to be uneven. When he or she bends forward, the spine rotates and you can see a hump.”

If you detect these signs, see your pediatrician or a specialist, who may order an X-ray to measure the degree of spine curvature.

“If the curvature is less than 25 degrees, we monitor the condition,” says Dr. Young. “For young children with curvatures between 26 and 45 degrees, wearing a brace can prevent the problem from worsening.”

Curvatures greater than 45 degrees generally require surgery because they are likely to

progress, regardless of the child’s age. “Our main goal in surgery is to correct the current condition and prevent further curvature so the deformity doesn’t harm the lungs and heart or cause pain in the future,” says Dr. Young.

Exercises that stretch and strengthen the core, such as yoga, can also help your child manage the condition, he adds.

Dr. Young sees patients at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, Middleburg Heights Orthopaedics and Avon Hospital. For an appointment with Dr. Young or another Cleveland Clinic Children’s pediatric orthopaedic specialist, please call 216.444.2606.

A Healthy Start for Mom & Baby

Saturday, March 21 | 12:00-2:00 p.m.
John Marshall High School, 3952 W. 140th Street, Cleveland

Join a panel of Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital caregivers and community partners as they discuss various issues facing new or expectant mothers and their families.

- Prenatal & Postpartum Education
 - Preterm Labor & Birth
 - Maternal Health & Mortality
- Infant Development
 - Social Determinants of Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Health

There will be a complimentary lunch and we’ll be raffling off a car seat and a Pack & Play!

Register at ClevelandClinic.org/AHealthyStart.

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Lakewood Public Library

Life In The Rust Belt:

Author Eliese Colette Goldbach To Visit The Library

by Melinda Frank

At 29-years-old, Eliese Colette Goldbach never expected to be wearing a hard hat, operating a crane, or driving a forklift. In fact, working at the ArcelorMittal Cleveland mill was never part of the plan. As a high school graduate, she was destined for the convent and life in a religious order.

Her youthful faith took a blow when she was sexually assaulted in college and soon after diagnosed with bipolar disorder. With a dose of the rust belt resolve that runs deeply in Cleveland, Goldbach looked for a new career path. The promise of a high-earning paycheck brought her to the unlikely vocation as a steel worker.

Like most Cleveland natives, she had passed by the orange flame of the steelyard for years without a second thought. It wasn't until she was inside the belly of the mill that she that realized the world it represented. What outsiders saw as a sign of pollution symbolized a booming business and a healthy economy to those inside the mill walls.

With the contentious 2016 election as a backdrop, her memoir reflects on her life inside and outside of the mill. As a young liberal female in a male-dominated industry, her ideology

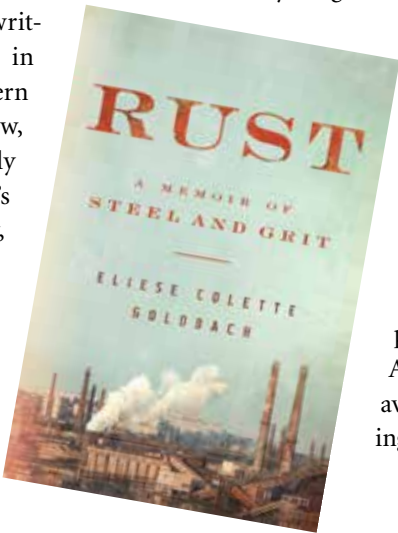


Author Eliese Colette Goldbach, courtesy of Flatiron Books.

was vastly different from her blue-collar conservative counterparts. But according to Goldbach, "There was no division so great that it could eclipse the unity that had been forged in the light of the mill's orange flame."

Goldbach is a graduate of Saint Augustine Academy, the current site of Lakewood Catholic Academy. After graduating from John Carroll University, she received an M.F.A. in

nonfiction from the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program. Her writing has appeared in Ploughshares, Western Humanities Review, Alaska Quarterly Review, McSweeney's Internet Tendency, and Best American Essays 2017. She received the Ploughshares Emerging Writer's Award and a Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant from the Ohioana



Library Association, which is given to a young Ohio writer of promise. She now works at John Carroll University and lives in Cleveland.

Goldbach will discuss her debut book, Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Friends Of Lakewood Public Library Spring Book Sale

by Lisa Calfee

Whatever the season, the Friends of Lakewood Public Library are always working hard to move, sort and organize the thousands of generous donations pouring in from the community, making sure the next sale will be even greater than the last.

The hardworking crew has done it again, with a whole new supply of books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and record albums waiting for you at the Friends' Spring Book Sale on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 9:00 a.m.

to 5:00 p.m.

Would you like to get an early start on the bargains? The Members-Only Preview Sale will be on Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. To attend the special sale, memberships can be purchased at the door for as little as three dollars.

Proceeds support Lakewood Public Library's acclaimed programming, including free lectures, concerts, films, youth programs and the library van, which delivers books to classrooms and homebound readers.

Rep. Skindell Named AMVETS Dept. Of Ohio 2019 Legislator Of The Year

by Barbara Brisbane

State Rep. Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) was presented this past weekend with a "2019 Legislator of the Year Award" in appreciation for his outstanding service, support and leadership in government on behalf of Ohio's veterans.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award," said Skindell. "To be recognized by an organization, such as AMVETS, which is known for its outstanding services to our veterans is truly humbling."

AMVETS Dept. of Ohio works to improve and protect the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorably. The leadership, advocacy and services provided

helps to improve the quality of life for veterans, their families, and the communities where they live.

Rep. Skindell represents Ohio's 13th House District. He previously served four terms in the Ohio House before moving on to serve as State Senator for Ohio's 23rd District in 2010. He returns to the House motivated to work across the aisle ensuring children and families have access to affordable healthcare and live in a clean and safe environment. He received his B.A. in Business and Political Science from Walsh College in Canton, Ohio and his J.D. from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

Barbara Brisbane is a Legislative Aide to State Representative Michael J. Skindell.

Popular Play & Say Program Will Now Be Offered In Lakewood

by Lorilynn Wolf

Join us for a new playgroup that is safe and welcoming for families in all communities who are seeking more connections and a supportive environment for their child (ages 0-6 years). The first Play & Say in Lakewood will take place on Thursday, March 5, 10 a.m. at Lakewood Family Room Main. It is supported by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River.

At Play & Say, you'll learn new skills, meet other families and connect to community resources. An experienced Speech-Language Pathologist from the Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center will highlight a new topic each month and families will go home with an educational handout. As participants practice social and communication skills, staff members will be available to answer questions and offer tips. This program is free and open to the public of any community and is designed for children with and without developmental concerns. Registration is preferred, visit connectingforkids.org/play-say. Co-sponsored by the Lakewood Family Room.

Lorilynn Wolf is the Communications Director for Connecting for Kids.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
College Now Greater Cleveland FAFSA Workshop
Main Library Learning Lab

Presented by College Now Greater Cleveland and Lakewood High School. College Now Greater Cleveland is the College Access program available at Lakewood High School. Pam Sandoval is a College Now Greater Cleveland Adviser available to help parents of senior students and students with the financial aid process. Join College Now for a hands-on FAFSA workshop. To register, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (98 minutes)
Imagine Your Story, Film: “The Princess Bride” (1987),
Directed by Rob Reiner
Main Library Auditorium

While home sick, a young boy listens as his grandfather reads the story of a farmboy-turned-pirate named Westley (Cary Elwes). When Westley’s true love Princess Buttercup (Robin Wright) is kidnapped by a ghastly gang and forced into betrothal with the evil Prince Humperdinck (Chris Sarandon), this classic tale takes an adventurous turn. Join us this season to Imagine Your Story with films that draw upon fairy tales, folklore, fantasy and mythology.

Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
Imagine Your Story, Performance—WordStage Literary Concerts
presents: A Mythological Competition
Main Library Auditorium

Before Hollywood, before Elizabethan drama, before even Roman theater, were the Ancient Greek tragedy competitions. In this literary concert, the judge is a formidable woman: the Muse of Tragedy, Melpomene. The competitors are the greatest of the Tragedians: Aeschylus, Euripides and Sophocles. Their attempts at outperforming each other and acerbic comments made by Melpomene offer a drama in and of itself designed to entertain and inform audiences.

Sunday March 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Introduction to Language Learning at the Library
Main Library Learning Lab

Those desiring to learn another language can attend drop-in information sessions about the three language-learning resources offered through the Library: Mango Languages, Transparent Language Online and Rosetta Stone Library Solution. Each session will include a comparison of the resources and brief demonstrations to assist learners in deciding the right tools for them. All levels of language learning are welcome. Time for questions will be included.

Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Language Learning at the Library: Open Lab
Main Library Learning Lab

Language learners can check out a microphone headset to use with one of three language-learning resources: Mango Languages, Transparent Language Online and Rosetta Stone Library Solution. All levels of language learning are welcome. This time is for self-guided learning; no instructor will be present.

Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
“Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight
Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life”
Book by Eric Klinenberg
Playhouse Square, Mimi Ohio Theatre

One Community Reads will host an evening with Eric Klinenberg at the Mimi Ohio Theatre in Playhouse Square. The author of “Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life” will speak and there will be a book signing after the talk. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Register by calling 216-771-4444 or at playhousesquare.org

Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Lives Stream: “Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure
Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic
Life”, Book by Eric Klinenberg
Main Library Auditorium

The author of “Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life” will speak at the Mimi Ohio Theatre. Join us for a live stream of the event taking place downtown.

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. (100 minutes)
Weekday Documentaries: “13th” (2016), Directed by Ava DuVernay
Presented by Policy Matters Ohio
Main Library Auditorium

The 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, adopted in 1865, abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime. In 13th, filmmaker Ava DuVernay follows the progression from that clause to the horrors of mass criminalization. The sprawling American prison industry is discussed by an array of activists, historians and formerly incarcerated individuals. Daniel Ortiz, Outreach Director of Policy Matters Ohio, will join us to discuss the film.

Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Preview Book Sale
Main Library Friends Book Sale Room

Friends of Lakewood Public Library host the members-only Preview Book Sale. Memberships may be purchased at the door for as little as \$3.00.

Thursday, March 12, 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 “Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life” by Eric Klinenberg.

Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Children And Youth

compiled by Nic Starr

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons Roundtable
For students in seventh through twelfth grade.
Main Library Multipurpose Room

Join us for a round of Dungeons & Dragons, a fantasy role-playing game in which you will develop your own heroic character in a collaborative story with other players to embark on various quests to slay monsters, explore dungeons, find treasure and vanquish evil. Beginners and veterans alike are welcome. Registration required.

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.
Illustration Creation
For students in kindergarten through first grade.
Main Library Activity Room

A six-week program featuring an art project each week based on a children’s book. Registration required.

Saturday, March 14, 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



LUNCH & LEARN

Medicare and Long Term Care: What Does Medicare Pay For?

Thursday, March 19, 2020 | 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Shelley Reddy, Kaz Company

Assisted Living Building
4th Floor Education Room

Please RSVP to Tammy Sibert
at 216-912-0800 or
ALDir.LW@ONeillHC.com
by March 17, 2020

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FIRE!



photo by Brian James

Photo from the William Mather Steamship and Museum which is docked behind the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame shows just how big the fire was. Photo sent in by Brian James, the Observer’s car and vehicle photographer.



photo sent in by Julia and Luara Shields

Photo of the fire from down in the Metro Park’s Emerald Canyon. Photo sent in by Julia and Laura Shields.



photo sent in by the Waltz family

As seen from a backyard on Atkins Ave. Photo sent in by the Waltz Family!



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Seconds before the walls all came crashing down, you can see that every board in the building was



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Spectators view the massive flames that blanketed Hilliard and I-90.

FIRE!

New Construction Fire On Emerald Canyon Rim Worst Fire In Recent Memory

continued from page 1
the I-90, and starting small fires on the other side of the freeway in residential trees and homes. In other words, a true fire inferno.



I-90 ablaze during the fire.

together, having trained for years, got the fire under control with minimal destruction to surrounding buildings with no injuries! Great job Rocky River/Lakewood Fire and Police Departments.

You can see all of of the photos and videos sent in by going to:
lakewoodobserver.com/forum
on Face Book = lakewoodobserver
on Twitter = @thelkwdobserver
Or follow the QR Code on your smart phone or smart pad.



on fire.



photo by Jim O'Bryan



As the fire winds down, you can still see the heat and ashes coming off the fire.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary

Sunrise Rotary Supports Trials Of Hope At Fundraiser May 1, 2020

by Larry Faulhaber

The 2020 Annual Dinner and Auction Fund Raiser will be Friday, May 1 at 6 p.m. at the Don Umerley Center in the City of Rocky River Civic Center complex at West 210 and Hilliard Blvd. It will include a full course served dinner with cash bar and silent and live auction raffles. Trials of Hope will be a major benefactor of this year's event. Tickets are just \$30 per person.

The mission statement of Trials for Hope is to deliver dignity and hope to those who fall between the cracks, bringing wholesome food, personal care items, and warmth to the greater Cleveland area.

In 2010, Trials of Hope founder, Johnathan Gray was gifted a large donation of trial-sized toiletries and decided to bring it to a local community meal. A line quickly formed, and the expressions of gratitude were encouraging, but a greater need was also revealed.

Many in the community had needs and requirements that weren't being met by assistance programs and they had fallen between the cracks. Whether it was the inability or lack of funding to provide medical, clothing, or personal care - the community was struggling, and Jon saw a way to answer the need. Through dedication, personal connections, and tireless outreach to both the giving communities and those in need he has been able to continually answer 'yes' when those who struggle reach out for help.

As Johnathan began regularly passing out these trial-sized toiletry donations to various homeless camps throughout Cleveland, the individuals served began remarking, "You give us hope." Johnathan knew he had found a calling and formalized his outreach by forming the non-profit: Trials for Hope. Ten years later, Trials for Hope continues to provide unending sup-



port to those in need. Johnathan Gray (founder and CEO) donates the most valuable asset anyone has - time - and does this tirelessly without taking any sort of salary for himself. Not only does Johnathan give his time to helping those who are most in need but he knows how to connect with those he helps as he was once in similar circumstances as them.

The Lakewood/Rocky River Sunshine Rotary club has been so moved by the work of Trials for Hope that they have joined in to help. The club packed over 200 toiletry bags at their last weekly meeting. In addition, on select Saturdays, the club assists in packing additional toiletry bags and frozen meat bags as well as helping to organize the Trials for Hope storage basement. While Johnathan is out distributing his donations to the community and purchasing more supplies from the food bank, he has little time to organize his inventory and the Rotary club has volunteered to help alleviate this issue.

In addition to volunteering time, the Sunrise Rotary club worked with neighboring clubs to help fund a walk-in freezer that will make short term storage of food easier. The funding was approved this past year and the freezer has been ordered, pending installation once the concrete pad is poured for installation. The accompanying photo shows Sunrise Rotary Club's President, Lynda Carter giving a \$6,600 check to Trials of Hope founder for the freezer purchase and installation. Rotary believes in service before self and working with Trials for Hope is a perfect fit for our club.

You can help by supporting the May 1 Sunrise Dinner and Auction as a sponsor, auction item donor, and/or attending the Event on May 1. Tickets are just \$30 per person. Visit Sunrise Club web site lrsunriserotary.org or Contact Lynda Carter, lcarter@cectraining.com or Jim Rowe jarowe1378@gmail.com

Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Steps Up Again!



by Jim O'Bryan

At the Lakewood/Rotary Swim-A-Thon not only could you get a nice snack, something to drink, after a little swimming but you could also see Lakewood Fire Department showing off another one of their boats. This one can be used for many more things than simply saving people in water.

Lower right: Some of the swimmers showing support stop by and say hello to the firefighters.



From the back to the front: Lakewood Fire Chief Timothy Dunphy, Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, Firefighter Joe Kappa, Captain Dean, Captain Nypaver, Captain Chaky and Firefighter Dominic Schirripa. Thanks to Lakewood Fire Department for another amazing demonstration, and everything else you do.



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BACK PAIN GOT YOU DOWN?

Letters To The Editors

Vote FOR Issue 33 To Keep Seniors Independent, Support Life Flight & Trauma Center

by Tom Bullock

I urge my Lakewood neighbors to vote FOR Issue 33, Cuyahoga County’s Health and Human Services levy.

400,000 Cuyahoga County residents are helped by the services paid for by Issue 33: seniors who want to remain in their homes; kids in preschool; children at risk of abuse or neglect; people who need mental health or addiction care; foster kids; people with disabilities, and more.

On top of this, Issue 33 helps all of us through investments in Metro-Health’s life flight, trauma center, and neonatal intensive care unit.

The City of Lakewood will benefit from Issue 33: our senior services, juvenile diversion, and youth programs receive more than \$500,000 in funding from Cuyahoga County that would be strengthened by passing the levy. As Chair of City Council’s Finance Committee, I can affirm this is a meaningful

amount of funds to help our human services operate each year. Lakewood could not serve as many residents without this cost share from the County.

Passing Issue 33 will cost property owners a little under \$3.50 per month more per \$100,000 in property value. This is a small but crucial investment in strengthening our neighborhoods and helping our neighbors in need. It’s needed because state and federal governments have been limiting their support for human services, so meeting the needs of our families and neighbors falls to us.

Issue 33 appears last on the ballot, but make it your first priority. Strengthen Lakewood’s seniors and youth by voting FOR Issue 33.

Tom Bullock serves Lakewood residents as their at-Large representative on City Council. Share ideas or concerns with Tom at 216-395-7LWD (-7593) or tom.bullock@lakewoodoh.net.

Letter to the Editor - Levies

HERE THEY COME, HATS IN HAND!

Men, grab your wallets securely and women, make doubly sure your purses are extra tightly closed!

There are 2 real estate tax levies on the primary ballot March 17. Cuyahoga County has the HIGHEST real estate and sales tax rates in the State of Ohio, which is NOT a distinction to be proud of. These ever-rising rates are hardest on those living (a more correct word is “existing”) on fixed incomes. There will come a day when the ever-increasing tax burden will force many to leave Cuyahoga County.

One levy is Issue 28, which concerns Lakewood residents and I join my fellow resident who urged voters to vote it down in a recent issue of The Lakewood Observer. While 6 years have elapsed since a levy was put before the voters in Lakewood, 1 component of the current levy is a portion set aside for maintenance/general permanent improvements - a similar split took place with the last levy.

To an accountant, this is a blank check and accountants have no use whatsoever for handing out blank checks. Also from an accounting standpoint, consider the “cost per pupil” - Lakewood’s cost of \$13,051 is \$3,327 above the statewide average of \$9,724.* This indicates there are economies other schools are benefitting from that Lakewood is not.

The performance of the football team has been abysmal for years. Even the hiring of a new coach a few seasons ago has not resulted in more wins than losses. Can the administration show us a return on the resources expended on the football program? The answer is obviously “no” as regards wins. Discontinuation thereof would free up those resources for other purposes.

Lakewood Board Of Education, your work is cut out for you: reduce your cost per pupil, get rid of the blank check issue, come to an objective decision about the football program, then determine if a new levy is actually needed and if so, bring it before the voters in a subsequent election; for now, this issue absolutely and unequivocally deserves an “Against the Tax Levy” vote.

The other levy is Issue 33, another Health And Human Services levy - they raided our pockets 2 years ago and are already coming back for more - how dare they! It is way past time to tell them “NO MORE!” HHS is already very well-funded; it is high time to demand that they do what everybody else does - live within their means. Their claim is more people are coming in, looking for whatever handouts they can get for free - beggars, if you will. It pains me to see my hard-earned money being handed out freely to able-bodied men and women who lack the motivation to do what I and hundreds of millions of others do - go to work. It was once said that this world owes no man a living - that is a statement that needs to be brought back to the forefront and made known to the loafers and deadbeats who are content to live at my and your expense. An “Against the Tax Levy” vote on this issue may be the impetus needed to get them working.

If you would rather have this money in YOUR pocket, make sure you join with me and vote “Against the Tax Levy” on Issues 28 and 33 and urge your co-workers, friends, neighbors and relatives to do likewise.

**Source: <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/finance/019687>*

Ted Coons is a 44-year Lakewood resident, retired accountant, and active Voting Location Deputy Manager.

Correction

by Jim O'Bryan

In the last issue of the Lakewood Observer we incorrectly added Katie Ingersoll’s title “Healthy Lakewood Foundation Secretary.” Her letter in support of the School Levy Issue 28, was sent as a resident and parent, not in association with “Healthy Lakewood.” Sorry for the mix-up.

Letter to the Editor - Issue 28

I am writing to show support of Issue 28 for Lakewood City Schools.

As a parent of Lakewood students, I understand how Issue 28 will maintain and grow vital services that make this district strong. I had a choice when searching for a new place to call home. As someone who works with local schools and districts, I realized that a letter grade assigned to schools showed a small part of the picture. I was seeking a school system that would be challeng-

ing and supportive for my children and would look at their whole person to help them grow. I found this in Lakewood. I also found a true community. One that myself and my children are proud to be a part of. I found a community that understands the need to invest in our future. Issue 28 is a small investment with big returns. Join me on or before March 17 and vote for Issue 28.

Thank You,
Karyn Torigoe

Should I Vote For The Levy?

continued from page 3

You can’t drive a Ferrari on fumes. Together the City of Lakewood has built over \$160 million dollars in monuments to our dedication to education, learning, the arts, and sports through bond issues. New schools and new libraries. Why would we build these state-of-the-art institutions, and not fuel them up with great teachers, programs, activities? All of which need to be paid for in a Levy.

At the end of the day, we all will make up our own minds about what we

can afford, and what we feel the schools need. I just hope you take a long hard look at the brand Lakewoodites have built together, not one of plentiful drinking, but one of plentiful opportunities to learn and educate ourselves, our families and yes our neighbors.

Education is a good thing, and the yearly cost to our tax bill makes this a great and needed investment in all of our futures.

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Psychology: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 101

by Buzz Kompier

Cheap Clone - New Paltz/Walk To Canada - Just Because Records / Peanut Butter Records - 2 songs - cassette, digital

These are, sadly, the final recordings from my beloved Cheap Clone (hopefully just temporarily, but for now, this is it). At least they've gone out on a high note! (and that's not a joke about Drew's vocal range). "New Paltz" is a totally great power pop track with jangly/chorus-y guitars throughout and some siren-like noises at the start. It's a really catchy track, and that alternating-two-notes guitar lead throughout works really well. The "flip" (although not really, since both songs are on the same side— and actually, both repeat on the other side as well) is another good track, "Walk To Canada," parts of which remind me of The Mice. There's also part of the guitar lead that I really like and can't quite place what it's reminding me of. In any case, this is really good, much like everything else Cheap Clone has released. I will deeply miss this band

and I keep my fingers crossed for their eventual return. 4/5

(cheapclone.bandcamp.com to listen, you may have to bug the band or label directly for the tape)

The Mind - Edge Of The Planet - Drunken Sailor Records - 8 songs - 12", digital

Eight solid tracks of drum machine-driven post-punk from The Mind here, although to just say drum machine post-punk is overly simple. Steve Pepper is a member of this group, which should tell you immediately that it's both better and more strange than just "drum machine post-punk." In some ways, it kinda feels to me like if Factorymen was a more accessible and less immediately weird project. Sorry if those two sentences seem a bit contradictory— these are catchy tracks in a definable genre, but there's still strange and sometimes eerie synth swells, disjointed guitar parts from Jordan Darby, and melancholy, at times almost haunting vocal melodies from Vanessa Darby. The tracks here are all at least a little hypnotic in a way, and they all live up to the tone set by the cover art: a twilight highway with weird neon lights running across it (at least that's what I'm seeing, and, I guess, hearing). A good record— I don't know if I'd necessarily say each track works on its own, but as one piece, this thing is good. My favorite songs are "Running On My Head" and "Technical Intuition," but again, you kinda gotta hear the whole thing. Steve gets a great bass tone on here. A cool project that I hope to hear more from. 4/5

(drunkensailorrecords.co.uk)

Various Artists - We Were Living In Cincinnati - HoZac Records - 18 songs - LP, digital

To my knowledge, this is the first KBD/Bloodstains-style comp covering Cincinnati. It's very interesting to listen to this and hear how the Cincinnati version of punk/new wave/no wave/whatever differed from the Cleveland "sound" or the Akron "sound." It's kinda hard to put into words, but there's just something regionally different about it, I guess. This covers a good mix of styles— 11,000 Switches (whose "Drinking Elvis Wine" provides this comp with its title) do weird no wave that's almost proto-industrial, Dream 286 do gothy synth-punk, The Erector Set do ska (which has no place in my world, but here they are anyway), The Verbs do power poppy punk, The Ed Davis Band have "oi! oi! oi!" backing vocals...a little bit of a lot of things on here. Not all tracks are great (the aforementioned foray into ska, the hard rock/glam thing that Bitter Blood does, the bar band new wave of The Rockers (if that band name doesn't tell you everything, the fact that, according to the liner notes, their other song was 'forgettable faux-reggae' sure should)), but there are some great tracks on here. Both tracks from The Customs are pretty top tier punk 'n' roll— obviously

"Long Gone" is an indisputable classic of the subgenre, but "Let's Get It On" is also very good; the singer of Beef makes ridiculous/great vocal sound effects, like an ambulance and the titular "Nosedive"; BPA's "Dead Boy" is a great song to get people to leave your party (and it's quite an earworm) and their vocalist seems to have been having a competition with the singer of The Dents to see who had the more annoying voice; The Verbs have a great catchy punk track in "Little In Doubt," as do News with "Stop"; and Teddy & The Frat Girls closing this sucker out with "Clubnite" is amazing— no wave/noise punk with incredible screamed vocals. I heard an advance review of this comp from a label guy who said "Cleveland did this sound so much better," and while I don't disagree, that's a bit unfair because Cleveland did (and still does) punk better than anywhere else, not just Cincinnati. For what it is, this is pretty good. Again, not all winners, but a solid comp with stuff that's worth hearing on it. 3.5/5

(hozacrecords.com)

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

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3 Items	\$8.50	\$10.75	\$14.00	\$16.50
4 Items	\$9.00	\$11.50	\$15.00	\$18.00
Deluxe	\$9.50	\$12.25	\$16.00	\$19.50
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Ext. Cheese/Spec. Topp	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50

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“Working While Watching Life Walk By #37” original art by JOB

There's More Than Just Coffee At The Root

by Eva Starr

What does one do on a damp, chilly, cloudy, rainy day in January, when there’s no football on TV? Well, I’m not sure about you, but for me, since hopping on a plane, heading to some exotic beach with white sands and sipping on a Pina Colada wasn’t an option, I decided to check out the Root Café.

I had only been there once before, after moving back to Lakewood, from San Diego, after the passing of my mother. A good friend and local musician Marysa, said “they’re having a band at the Root Café tonight, and I know a couple people, let’s go.”

That was a warm, sunny evening and I did end up with Happy Feet dancing the night away. Let’s try this joint again, I thought to myself, hoping to get the chill off me and drink a latte. I walked in around 2pm on a Sunday, the place was definitely bustling and hustling with customers, mostly millennials. However, I did notice a few



families and an elder grandfatherly type sitting at the bar. The atmosphere was bright, plants abounded (I like to see living things in restaurants other than the people).

I walked up to the ordering counter, looked at the board with the latte

flavors, decided on a brown-sugar cardamom latte and a vegan lemon-poppy seed muffin. I hunted for a seat, saw someone leaving and made my landing. I’m not vegan and was a bit hesitant as to if my muffin would have any flavor or not? I was pleasantly surprised, gobbling that up with my latte.

Upon looking where to dump my dishes, I noticed a sign by the bus pan: “Don’t scrape your plate we compost.” Hmmn, that’s good for the environment. Root procures much of their food from local and organic producers, carries Rising Star and Duck Rabbit coffee, along with Asian and herbal teas. The menu, which includes a Sunday Brunch, is quite diversified, offering pizza, breakfast, salads, sandwiches, and dessert. Everything is made with a pinch of love, a dash of culture, and a sprinkle of community. *Check them out on FB for current artistic and/or musical events. Mon-Fri 6:30-9pm Sat 7-9 Sun8-9pm 15118 Detroit (216) 226-4401*

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Let The LO Buy You Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner or Dessert

by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood Observer along with Foodwood, has bought over 25 lunches and dinners for Lakewoodites since we started our Foodwood section of the Observer. Everything from Pier W to Mr. Hero has been submitted and paid for.

How can you get your big check and let us buy you breakfast, lunch or dinner?

It is easy, just write and submit a 100-250 word story about your dining experiences at any restaurant in Lakewood. Take a picture of the meal, a photo of the bill and submit it to the Lakewood Observer and if we run the story, we will pay your bill! It is that easy. Of course you have a better chance of getting chosen if you are writing about a restaurant we have not written about,



and/or you have an interesting twist or story about the restaurant. With over 138 places to buy prepared food in 5 square miles, ysquare miles, yet no place where it is legal to touch the lake, you have to admit, “Food”wood makes more sense than “Lake”wood. So go to Lakewood restaurants and share your experience, it is just that easy.

To submit any story go to: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/members/>

AROUND THE CORNER

Friday Fish Frys during Lent

Every Fish FRYday buy one fish fry and get the second half off! Dine in only! Friday, March 8th starts our famous Lent specials. Come in for our Perch Dinner, Haddock Fish Fry, Shrimp Louisiana, Beer-Battered Cod, cabbage and noodles, and much more!

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LO Storytime

The Rockport Miracles - Part 4: Episode 23: "The Ballad Of Derecho Dan" Continues

Fiction by Scott MacGregor

The thunder strikes of Storm 5.6 sounded as though they'd emanated from the lower regions of hell. Those citizens that were still living in Rockport said it sounded like a distant bus being chewed apart along with booming sounds like cannonade. Rockporters remember this storm as "The Serpent Storm" or simply, "the Serp." It was the storm that made Little Dan Newman a household name throughout the country. Somebody even wrote a chart-topping song about it called, "The Ballad of Derecho Dan."

He was just a boy
Who pumped the gas,
Until the day,
He turned badass.
And became...
Derecho Dan!

(Oh! Derecho Dan!...Oh! Derecho Dan!)

Upon hearing the thunder, Police Chief Tom Graber lost the last few crumbs of his patience. For a full week he'd been hunting down Little Dan Newman without success. He'd come to Rockport Hospital that day to see Little Dan's mother, Wilmena and tell her the happy news about Little BD. He'd been thought dead in the Gas & Lube explosion, and was found alive and unharmed. Rowena Gridley, Wilmena's younger sister was in the room when he arrived. The heraldic thunderclaps of Storm 5.6 incited Chief Graber to forget the niceties and whip out his handcuffs.

"Rowena," threatened Chief Graber, "you'd better tell me where Little Dan is RIGHT NOW, or I'll throw your ass in the hoosegow for harboring a fugitive!" Wilmena begged her to cooperate. "Rowena! Take the Chief to Little Dan," she pleaded in her raspy voice, "before he ends up dead like Maynard!" Rowena bristled at Wilmena's tactless comment. "Wilmena, I don't need you to remind me that my son is dead!!" she barked tearfully.

Turning back to Chief Graber, Rowena replied, "OK, Tom. I can't describe to you where my nephew is, but I can take you there. He's at a hidden location down in the Cleveland Flats!" She went on to explain that he was staying on Maynard's cabin



cruiser moored in a hidden location on the river. She failed to mention that the boat was a floating bomb or the diabolical goals set forth in Maynard Gridley's "Manifesto With Cheese." There was no need to delve into that... Or, so she thought!

Rowena was unaware that time had already expired. Little Dan, having memorized the hallucinogenic strategies outlined in Maynard's manifesto, was busy making his final preparations to carry out "the plan." It had been common knowledge that Maynard, and many like him, returned from Vietnam angry and confused. He'd felt duped and discarded by his own country. His hurt cycle ran non-stop, like an early 60s song he couldn't get out of his head.

At some point, however, Maynard Gridley had made a dark decision. He'd packed a 1959 Chris-Craft 33' Sports Cruiser to its gullets with plastique explosive. The boat, known appropriately as "The Friggin' A," was to be the instrument of his revenge on something or somebody. Whoever or whatever it was, remained Maynard's secret to the end.

Once the fates had spoken, the boat became Little Dan's personal ship of doom. The naive boy was now an angry man with his own reasons for blowing things up. The storms caused his Dad to die of a broken heart. Another storm had nearly taken his Mom. Then, Storm 5.5 destroyed the Gas & Lube, set fire to the neighborhood, and killed his dog... Or, so he thought!

Little Dan had been obsessing over a story Maynard told him on that last day at the Gas & Lube. The story was about a massive storm in Viet-

nam known as, "Monsoon Charlie." Maynard described how his platoon was saved after the storm had been cleaved in two by the force of a massive explosion. "I'm can see clearly, now, Maynard," muttered Little Dan to himself, "We'll make 'Monsoon Charlie' look like a string of lady-fingers!"

As he performed his final checks of the boat, Little Dan began to feel peculiar. The mysterious "sunshine pill" was having an effect. To his eyes, all of the Cleveland Flats bridges had

turned into dinosaurs and the reddish brown waters of the Cuyahoga River had become a highway of blood. He remained calm. In his altered state, everything was finally making sense. The frightening sounds coming out of the north was the "roar of the giant lizard" that Maynard had warned of in the manifesto. Rising from the shallow depths of Lake Erie, a monster was on its way to lunch and wreak havoc on the good people of Rockport.

Someone had to stop it.
Derecho Dan!
Oh! Derecho Dan!
He can break the wind,
like nobody can!
He can scrape the clouds,
and scour the sky,
He's Derecho Dan,
One heck of a guy!

(Excerpts from, "The Ballad of Derecho Dan" ©1975 Music and Lyrics by: Googie Arthur and Dickie Don Rio for Agita Records-All Rights Reserved)



MARCH

Aries: The Ram likes things fast, however, during this time of 'giving up things' the Ram would benefit from letting go of its ego. Surrender to the divine timing of the Universe, be patient.

Taurus: Venus, the Planet of Love & Money is in the Bull's Pen this month, asking you to surrender the fearful stories you are telling yourself...stay in the moment & eat pierogis.

Gemini: The Twins are usually easygoing, relaxed & the life of the party, but this month, you've got a bug up your butt, let go of controlling your relationships, it's so unlike you.

Cancer: The Crab earned its wings this month, the only thing the Universe is asking you to give up is...surrender yourself to the beauty of nature, relax, take a break & revel in the ecstasy of it.

Leo: You're not normally known for your stubbornness, however, this month listening to the others in the Jungle will give you the much needed insight into the needs & wants of others.

Virgo: OK Virgo, we all know you like to keep everything organized in your neat little corner of the world, but there's a whole Universe out there waiting to be discovered, give up your routine!

Libra: You've got it tough, having to balance everything out, weighing

this decision over that, STOP, give it up, and just BE, quit trying to decide, surrender to the Inner Peace, just because.

Scorpio: You got lucky, you've been given permission to surrender to the Passion, something the Scorpion knows only too well...get out of your head & feel the fire rise in your belly...

Sagittarius: Put that visionary power the Centaur is known for to good use this month, & let it rip through the Universe like a tsunami, your creative juices are flowing, solutions are forthcoming.

Capricorn: The deck is stacked in the Goat's favor this month, Mars just entered the playing field, & you've already got Jupiter, Saturn & Uranus loading the bases, surrender your FEAR.

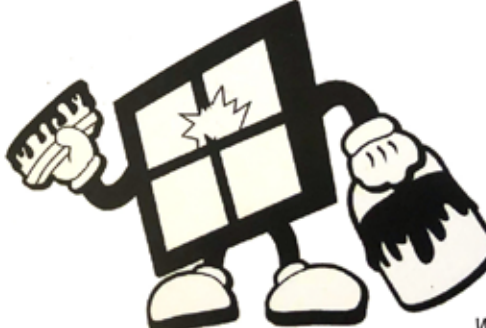
Aquarian: Move aside Leo, Aquarius has just taken over the Jungle this month, your eclectic energy is soaring sky high, use your power, step into it, own your creativity, & quit playing small.

Pisces: With the Sun & Mercury in your sign, you're being asked to take a look at your addictions, & embrace life's lessons, swim toward the path perfectly designed for your Soul.

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 Unveils “Knowing Your Home” Schedule

by Matt Bixenstine

When it comes to your home, you are never alone. There’s no better time than now to take proper care of this important investment, and LakewoodAlive is here to help you every step of the way.

LakewoodAlive announces the schedule for the 2020 edition of “Knowing Your Home,” a free educational series focused on sustainability and home maintenance best practices empowering homeowners to tackle necessary repairs and improvements. Orchestrated by LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Program, this series is designed to benefit a wide range of residents:

- Those considering a home DIY project
 - Those planning to hire a contractor
 - Those simply interested in better understanding how their home works
- The seventh year of this popular home maintenance program features a collection of 14 workshops taking place from March through October led by experts within the industry. These workshops will cover a wide range of topics designed to educate residents regarding improvements and best practices for their homes. The best part? Each workshop is open to the public and free to attend.

The 2020 season commences with “Knowing Your Home: Creat-



2020 Knowing Your Home Series Schedule			
Date	Workshop	Time	Location
March 12	Creating a Sound Investment	7 - 8:30 pm	Sauced Taproom & Kitchen
April 4	Garage Repair & Replacement	10 - 11:30 am	Cleveland Lumber
April 16	Solar 101	7 - 8:30 pm	Buckeye Beer Engine
April 25	Container Gardening	10 - 11:30 am	Church of the Ascension
May 14	How to Contract a Repair	7 - 8:30 pm	Lakewood Public Library
May 16	Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling	10 - 11:30 am	Cleveland Lumber
June 11	Universal Design	7 - 8:30 pm	Lakewood Public Library
June 18	Ask an Expert	7 - 8:30 pm	Sauced Taproom & Kitchen
July 16	Cabinet Refinishing	7 - 8:30 pm	Sherwin-Williams Lakewood
September 10	Floor Painting Prep & Techniques	7 - 8:30 pm	Sherwin-Williams Lakewood
September 19	Weatherization Basics	10 - 11:30 am	Cleveland Lumber
September 24	Waterproofing	7 - 8:30 pm	John Turner Shop
October 8	Window & Door Repair	7 - 8:30 pm	TBD
October 15	Porch & Step Maintenance	7 - 8:30 pm	John Turner Shop

ing a Sound Investment” on Thursday, March 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Sauced Taproom & Kitchen. This kickoff workshop consists of a panel discussion addressing the process for tackling major home improvement projects. 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

LakewoodAlive’s “Loving Lakewood: All-Stars” Draws Sellout Crowd For Major League Fun

by Matt Bixenstine

Our community swung for the fences and delivered a celebration befitting a championship-caliber city.

LakewoodAlive hosted Loving Lakewood: All-Stars sponsored by Cleveland Property Management Group on Saturday night, February 22, at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, drawing a sellout crowd of 230 jersey-clad guests to party in the name of community vibrancy. Proceeds from this sports-themed fundraising event will support LakewoodAlive’s programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood.

Guests entering the Lakewood Masonic Temple’s ballroom were treated to a transformation of the historic building’s interior into a full-fledged sports arena. The lobby featured a vintage locker room and the stage sported an elaborate scoreboard with signage proclaiming “LakewoodAlive Field.” Championship banners hung from the walls displaying four pillars of LakewoodAlive’s mission – Housing Outreach, Community Events, Thriving Commercial Corridors and Vibrant Neighborhoods.

As they enjoyed sports-inspired refreshments courtesy of Karen King Catering and ice cream from Trikeable Treats, guests partook in games like pop-a-shot basketball and miniature golf. They were greeted by a surprise mini-concert from 30 members of the Lakewood High School Marching Band and Cheerleading Squad, as well as an impressive performance from volunteers Dan Folino and Erin Wereb as the “Spartan Cheerleaders” of Saturday Night Live fame. A “Kiss Cam” offered guests an opportunity

plete specific repairs.

“We are excited to announce our 2020 season of Knowing Your Home workshops,” said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive’s Housing & Internal Operations Director. “This workshop series has grown considerably over the years but remains near and dear to us at LakewoodAlive. We truly hope this free series is able to prove helpful and useful for every Lakewood resident.”

Now in its seventh year, LakewoodAlive’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.

Matt Bixenstine is the Marketing & Development Manager for LakewoodAlive. He enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his basset hound through Madison Park.

for a public smooch broadcast live on a makeshift jumbo-tron.

During the program, LakewoodAlive board member Michael Bentley was honored with the 2020 Founders Award – and given a congratulatory


confetti shower – for making an indelible impact on our organization. Fellow community leaders Robert

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

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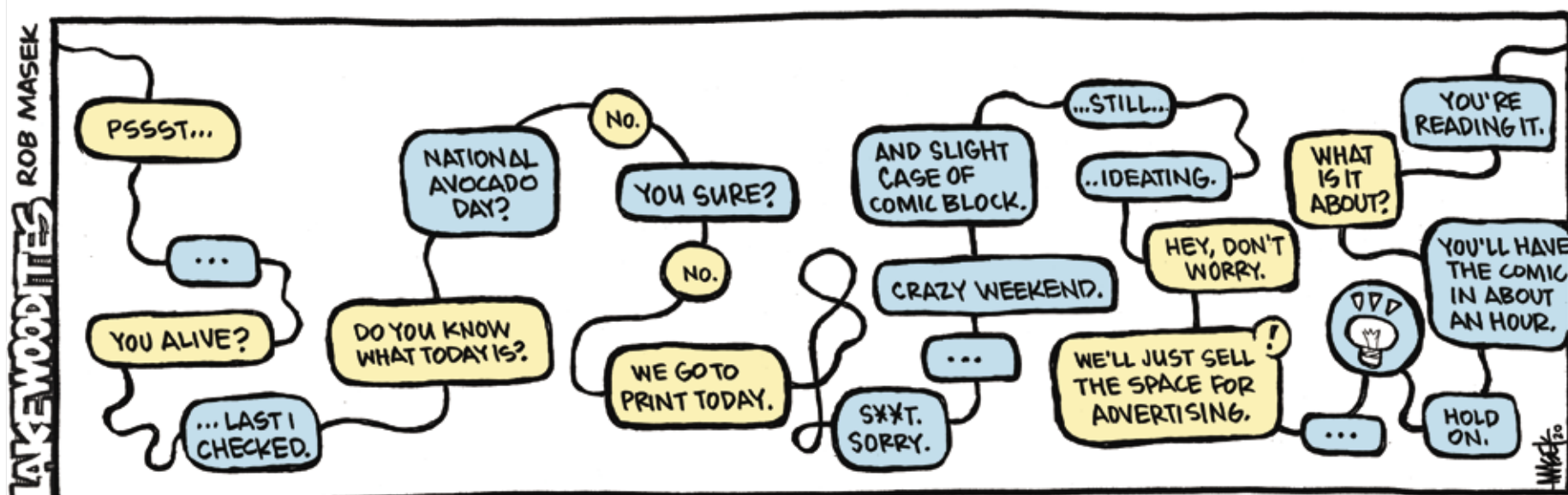
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