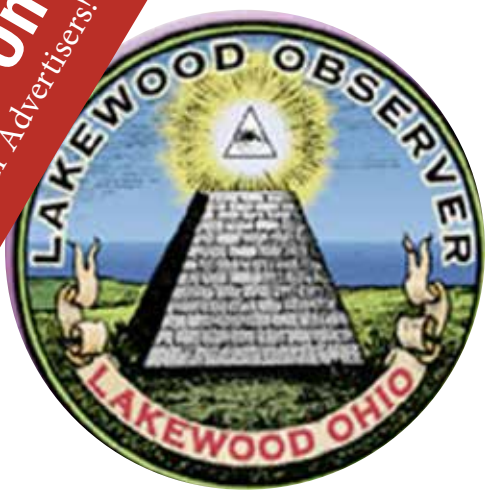


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Volume 16, Issue 17, September 2, 2020

“Ideologies separate us. Dreams and anguish bring us together.” - Eugene Ionesco

The Return Of The Annual Lakewood Kiwanis Scarecrow Festival

by Diana MacNamee-Gold

Wind nor rain nor COVID 19 will stop the scarecrows from arriving in the fall on Madison Ave. Madison Avenue will become a parade of playfulness with scarecrows lining the entire avenue: West 117th to Riverside Drive, from October 11-25, 2020 for the 7th Annual Lakewood Scarecrow Festival. Make plans to build your own scarecrow and participate in this fun opportunity for indi-

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Message From Superintendent Barnes: Focus Forward

by Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent

Dear Lakewood Families:

When we closed schools so abruptly last March, never did any of us think that we would be starting our new school year the same way we ended the last one. It is an unfortunate situation that we all must cope with and do our best to provide your children with the high quality education they deserve, despite the challenging circumstances. I know that Lakewood City Schools is up to that challenge.

Last March, our teachers were forced to abruptly switch their instruction to remote. This time around, our staff has had ample professional development in online instruction and will be much more familiar with the tech tools that were new to some staff last spring.

As I think about the environment we are all living through, a recent article I read in School Administrator magazine comes to mind. The article talks about a concept I learned years ago at a leadership conference at the U.S. Army War College. It is a concept that reassures me that we as a school community will emerge from this pandemic stronger and more resilient. The concept is VUCA. It was developed by the military to describe the state of international affairs following the conclusion of the Cold War. It stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. We certainly are living in a VUCA world right now! There are strategies to survive and even thrive in times like today, and I believe that the foundation that our District and community is built on is one that can with-

stand the VUCA vortex.

Rising above the four components of VUCA takes a strong vision to weather the volatility, knowledge of your strengths to temper the uncertainty, courage to tackle the complexity of issues, and agility to manage the ambiguity. Our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate keeps our focus forward. Our faculty and staff and spirit of inclusivity are the strengths that will shepherd our students through. Our principals and Central Office administrators will continue to tackle the seemingly endless difficult issues that arise. Our Board of Education continues to provide the steady hand of leadership and support. And all of us must remain agile, flexible and adaptable in a time when the answers to the many questions are so ambiguous.

So I propose we flip the VUCA script and instead view it as an acronym for Vision, Understanding, Courage and Agility. Yes, we are in a VUCA environment, but it's an environment that we will embrace and use to Focus Forward for the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you for your enduring support and patience during these past months. I look forward to what the new school year will bring and to see what the connection between our staff and students will create. While this will be a very different school year, our commitment to your children's well-being remains the same as always.

#OneHeartbeatOneLKWD

**Dr. Michael Barnes
is the Superintendent
of Lakewood City Schools.**



Nickie J. Antonio, Ohio Senator representing the 23rd district.



Michael J. Skindell, State Representative for the 13th district.

Equality Ohio Recognizes Antonio & Skindell Among Top Allies

by Matt Kuhns

Equality Ohio recognized both of Lakewood's state legislators among three Allies highlighted, recently, out of more than 130 lawmakers.

State Senator Nickie Antonio and state Representative Michael Skindell each received an "A+" grade, from the LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, based on voting records and public statements. Equality Ohio further honored Antonio and Skindell as featured Allies, for years of support including ongoing efforts to pass the Ohio Fairness Act.

Equality Ohio called Antonio "a tireless advocate for LGBTQ+ Ohioans throughout her career," noting that she is the first and only member of the LGBTQ+ community openly serving in the Ohio legislature.

Skindell's "unwavering

support for LGBTQ Ohioans over his nearly 20 years in the Ohio Legislature earns him a permanent spot on our list of allies," the organization said.

Equality Ohio's third notable Ally for 2020 was state Representative Bret Hillyer, a first-term Republican who provided the Fairness Act its first bipartisan primary sponsor last year. The Fairness Act, which would provide statewide nondiscrimination measures like those passed by Lakewood and other cities, has earned a growing coalition of support through years of effort, though it currently awaits action in the Ohio General Assembly.

The full report card includes summaries of legislation, and grades for each of Ohio's state legislators, as well

continued on page 4

Remember To Vote

by Daniel Shields

Lakewood friends and neighbors!

As we head into the November election, The Observer would like to help you make sure your voice is heard. Here is how YOU take part:

First, register to VOTE! You have until Monday, October 5, 2020 to register in Ohio.* It takes two minutes and can be done online in Ohio at:

Olvr.ohiosos.gov

To register online you will need to provide the following:

- Ohio driver's license or Ohio identification card number

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Last four digits of your Social Security number

Not online or have questions? Call:

General inquiries - 216.443.VOTE (8683)

Bilingual information - 216.443.3233

Hearing Impaired - Ohio Relay Service 711

In Person: Cuyahoga County Board of Elections
- 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115

Remember! Remember! Remember!

Voter Registration Deadline:

Mon Oct 5, 2020

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Annual LHS Alumni Ranger Marching Band Celebration - Canceled Due To C19

by Mirian Roman

The Lakewood High School Alumni Ranger Marching band forfeits the privilege of marching with the current Lakewood Ranger Marching Band at Homecoming due to Covid-19. While this decision saddens us greatly, we are most

concerned with the health and well-being of the students, their families, the staff, and the alumni who regularly attend. We do, however, look forward to any and all future opportunities to perform with the band.

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Lakewood City Services

“If In Doubt, Leave It Out”

by Denis DeVito

In these tumultuous times, I know there are more important things to think about than recycling. However, many Lakewoodites are passionate about recycling and as a 21 year veteran of the Lakewood Refuse and Recycling Department I hear questions and concerns from residents daily. Hopefully, I can provide some simple guidelines that will help you recycle correctly.

“If in doubt, leave it out” is a very simple way of deciding what goes in the recycle cart. It really comes down to ONLY four categories of recycling and nothing more.

1. First and foremost is PAPER and CARDBOARD. Paper should be placed loose in the cart. If you must use bags to hold your recycling, use brown paper bags, instead of plastic. Recycling centers DO NOT want plastic bags. They do accept them, but they really ARE NOT recyclable. Also, flatten your cardboard. Many residents fill-up their recycle cans with one or two boxes (not broken down) and place the rest on the tree lawn. This makes it very labor intensive for the refuse workers to collect. Also, in this new era of on-line shopping, more and more folks are placing large amounts of cardboard outside the carts. This also is putting a huge burden on the refuse department. If at all possible, save your cardboard until you have enough to warrant a trip to the Lakewood drop-off facility. Styrofoam is absolutely NOT recyclable. This is a huge problem in Lakewood. Place all Styrofoam in the garbage cart. If a TV box is placed on the tree lawn with Styrofoam in it, it will be collected as garbage and of course end up in a land fill. Food boxes that are thoroughly free of ANY food or food residue should be placed in carts. NO DELIVERY PIZZA BOXES.

2. METAL and ALUMINUM CANS. All metal and aluminum cans such as pop, beer, soup and pet food cans ARE recyclable, but MUST be emptied and rinsed before being recycled. This is very important. One item that is not thoroughly washed out will contaminate the entire recycle cart.

3. RECYCLABLE GLASS refers to food and beverage bottles and jars of any color. Again, they MUST be emptied and rinsed.

4. CARTONS, including milk,



juice, soup/broth and wine cartons are recyclable, but again **MUST** be thoroughly clean.

I certainly could go on and on about what IS NOT to be recycled in the cart, but here are just a few of the common mistakes. No plastic bags or wrappers. No durable (hard) plastics such as toys, garbage cans, hoses etc. Cups, lids, utensils, clamshell containers and pretty much **ALL TAKE-OUT** containers are not to be in the recycle cart. Once again, here is the big no no, **NO STYROFOAM**. Ceramic or heat resistant glass such as dishware and ovenware, mirrors, window glass, light bulbs, cell phones, empty motor oil and anti-freeze cans and all electronic devices **DO NOT** belong in the recycle cart.

There are many items that can be recycled at the Lakewood Refuse and Recycle drop-off center. **Please go to OneLakewood.com or call 216 252 4322 for more information.** Another resource is Cuyahogarecycles.org. Lakewood like most Cuyahoga County cities follow the guidelines found on this web site.

As most of you have probably read or seen on news programs lately, the entire recycling movement is meeting more and more challenges. From

it recycled. Without naming names, it has happened in other cities.

As Lakewood continues to grow and prosper, our already heavily populated area faces challenges in the weekly collection of refuse/recycling. Our automated process while being more efficient, sometimes makes it quite difficult to retrieve the carts. Here are some very important steps that will greatly help the refuse/recycling men and women retrieve your trash, yard waste and recycle.

First, your cart must be accessible. Most carts are collected by an automated truck and there must be adequate space to reach your cart. If you live on a non-parking side of the street there is usually not an issue. Just don't have an obstruction such as bulk trash, trees, fire hydrants or other carts in front of the cart. Place the cart no further than 3 feet from the curb with the lid opening facing the street. If you have multiple carts on the tree lawn, leave at least 6 inches between them. This allows for the automated arm to grab it securely without knocking down the remaining carts.

Second, if you live on the side of the street where cars are parked, this can present some challenges. The best scenario is to place your cart in the driveway, so no parked cars can obstruct the retrieving process. If the driveway is not an option, place the

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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CORNER

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Mayor's Corner

The City Of Lakewood Delivers

by Meghan George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

In these unprecedented times, everyone is strained to fulfill commitments, but the City of Lakewood is delivering. My first priority is protecting the health and safety of our residents, workers, shoppers, diners, and visitors. That has meant an emphasis from my administration on ensuring that all City services have been open and available to the public every step of the way. While many cities are laying off staff, the City of Lakewood has been able to maintain services while cutting costs. By reducing overtime and instituting a voluntary furlough program, we have saved the City nearly \$700,000. If you need an in-person meeting, City Hall is open for appointments.

I am taking a 360-degree approach to all City policies, services, and operations during the pandemic and beyond. We have expanded dining space for our restaurants. We have created express parking permits for carry-out/drop-off businesses. I have been working with my team to develop a set of new grant programs--the Residential Rent Relief grant program and Small Business Rent Relief grant program--to help both residential and commercial landlords and renters to get through these difficult times.

The City of Lakewood's Small Business Rent Relief grant program provides emergency assistance to income-eligible Lakewood small businesses that have experienced a reduction in revenue as a result of the current public health emergency. Assistance is up to \$7,000 per business to cover rent and eligible payroll expenses. In the early days of the quarantine, my team created the Small Business Rent Relief grant program to ensure City resources were supporting the small business community in a direct, streamlined, and useful way. In this second round of the grant program, more resources are available and we adjusted eligibility requirements to reach applicants in need who may not have qualified during our initial rollout. To learn more about the Small Business Rent Relief grant program, visit <http://www.onelakewood.com/rent-relief-program/>.

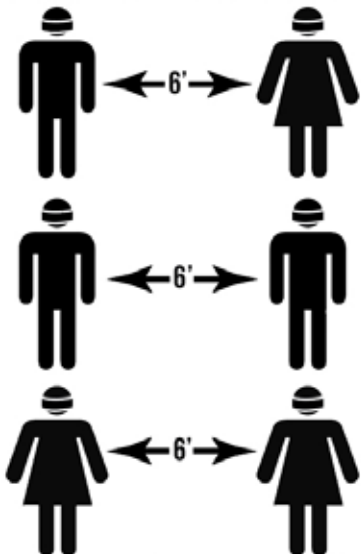
The City of Lakewood's Residential Rent Relief grant program provides support, retroactive to April 1, 2020, to Lakewood tenants who are income-eligible according to HUD 2020 Income Guidelines. All rent payments will be made directly to landlords on the tenant's behalf. The City of Lakewood is utilizing approximately \$1.5 million in CARES Act funding to prevent housing

instability and displacement among low-moderate income Lakewood tenants who are unable to pay their rent due to pandemic-related economic hardships. To learn more about the Residential Rent Relief grant program, visit <http://www.onelakewood.com/residential-rent-assistance-program/>.

I understood at the very beginning of this pandemic that the public health crisis was the front end of the equation--the economic fallout would be severe. We are still waiting for our federal leaders to provide us all with the relief we need, but, in the interim, some federal dollars have reached us and I am pleased to offer these unique grant programs to support our residents and small businesses. As vibrant as our community is, we are vulnerable to the kind of disruption or total shutdown that has resulted from the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. I want to do everything within the power of the Mayor's Office to support our community. I'm grateful for the support of our partners, LakewoodAlive, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, the Lakewood Community Services Center, and CHN Housing Partners, for their roles in making this happen for Lakewood small businesses and residents.

Looking forward, please enjoy these last days of summer, complete your Census, check in on your neighbors, and remember that we're in this together. Let's be part of the solution, Lakewood.

ARE YOU
PRACTICING
SAFE SIX?



MASKING
For A Friend



Remember To Vote

continued from page 1

Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:

Received by Sat Oct 31, 2020 12:00PM EDT

Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot:

In-Person, Received by Tue Nov 3, 2020 7:30PM EST

Ohio General Election

Nov 3, 2020

Early Voting: Not available

In-Person Absentee Voting: Oct 6, 2020 - Nov 2, 2020*

*Taken from usvotefoundation.org and rockethevote.org

“If In Doubt, Leave It Out”

continued from page 2

cart on each side of the driveway in the street, right against the curb. This prevents a parked car from blocking your cart. There are obviously exceptions to these rules in a city as congested as Lakewood, but these are some simple suggestions.

Third, Lakewood has dead-end streets, one-way streets and condominiums that require manual collection. This is a very labor intensive process. To avoid unnecessary labor, if your trash cart and especially your recycling cart are not full, wait till the following week to set it out, especially in the winter months when the cart has to be dragged thru the inclement weather. Please keep in mind that you **DO NOT** have to have your cart out every week.

We all know what an awesome city of vibrant homes Lakewood is. However, I hear many complaints from

residents about neighbors putting trash out on the wrong collection day. As a resident of Lakewood myself, this is one of my biggest complaints. Please be courteous to your fellow Lakewoodites and abide by the city's guidelines. Your trash can be placed on the tree lawn the day before your collection day, no earlier than 6:30pm. It must be out before 6:30am on your collection day. Let's keep Lakewood streets free of unsightly trash and beautiful.

With the new challenges to the City of Lakewood's finances brought on by the Coronavirus it is vital that every Lakewood resident tries to help ease the burden of trash collection. The fine men and women of the Lakewood Refuse and Recycling Department collect hundreds of tons of trash, recycling and yard waste weekly, as well as perform other duties. Abiding by the above suggestions is really appreciated by the department and will aid us immensely in making it the wonderful city that it is.



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SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
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Politics Local And State

From Inside Lakewood Council

by Jason Shachner
Councilman Ward 2

Lake Avenue Speed Limit

Councilmembers At-Large Tom Bullock and Tristan Rader introduced an ordinance that would reduce the speed limit on Lake Avenue to 25 MPH. They shared that the vehicle traffic volume has decreased, and pedestrian and bicycle traffic has increased. Mr. Bullock and Mr. Rader also pointed to the residential nature of the street as a reason to lower the speed limit. This issue will be further discussed at a future Public Works & Sustainability Committee meeting.

Census 2020

The Census Bureau announced

that it will complete data collection by September 30, 2020. If you have been procrastinating completing the Census, now is the time! As of August 27th, only 70.6% of Lakewood households have responded.

The census counts every person living in the U.S., regardless of citizenship or immigration status, and provides a basis for the distribution of federal funds (like Education and School Lunch Programs, Food and Healthcare programs, SNAP, Children’s Health Insurance, Head Start and housing vouchers, Low-income home Energy Assistance, Low-income housing Tax Credit Community Development Block Grants, Medicaid, Transit, and Schools and roads) and reapportioning congressional seats. Your response will affect the next 10 years

in Lakewood!

For more information, visit 2020census.gov or contact City Hall at (216) 529-6600 or via email at census2020@lakewoodoh.net.

Temporary Parklet Support Resolution

At last week’s City Council meeting, Councilmember At-Large Tom Bullock introduced a resolution that would authorize and direct the City to expend \$0 to \$10,000 to assist in the implementation of temporary parklets. As you may remember, parklets are conversions of on-street curbside parking into areas of outdoor dining.

Councilmember Bullock introduced the resolution in response to concerns from business owners that the cost of the required jersey barriers is an impediment to the

successful implementation of the temporary parklet program. Mr. Bullock pointed out that Cleveland provided jersey barriers to businesses to allow expanded outdoor dining. He explained that the text of the resolution does not require the City to expend any funds, but allows for the provision of jersey barriers by means that would be of no cost to the city, like borrowing the jersey barriers from another city or using jersey barriers that the city has on hand.

Although I was in favor of the resolution because I believe that the small investment would provide a meaningful public benefit, ultimately Council voted 4-3 against the proposed language. As always, I appreciate the thoughtful and comprehensive discussion with my colleagues. Subsequently, the resolution unanimously passed with the following amended language: “That Council recommends the administration take action to achieve a temporary parklet in 2020.”

On August 18th, the Planning Commission unanimously approved LBM’s application for a parklet. LBM announced that the parklet will be constructed by Labor Day.

Jason Shachner is the Ward 2 Lakewood City Councilmember. He is currently serving as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Lake County Prosecutor’s Offices’ Criminal Division. He can be reached at Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net or at (216) 714-2150.

Election 2020 Process Outlined
By Senator Nickie J. Antonio

by Nickie Antonio
State Senator

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed many aspects of our daily lives; what we wear, where we go, and who we can visit—but it does not change your vital role in our democracy. With the 2020 General Election right around the corner, it is important to be aware of upcoming deadlines and processes to make your vote count and your voice heard.

Before heading to the polls on November 3, 2020, you must be registered to vote. The deadline to register to vote for this election is October 5, 2020. To register, you will need your Ohio driver’s license or Ohio identification card number, name, date of birth, address, and the last four digits of your social security number. If you have recently moved, you will need to update your voting address. Last year, the Ohio Secretary of State’s office purged thousands of citizens from voter rolls. Some of these names were removed in error, so even if you have not moved and you have previously voted, you should verify your voter registration out of an abundance of caution.

The unpredictable nature of a global pandemic makes the possibility of in-person voting unclear for many. To be safe, you can vote by mail. To do so, you will need to complete and mail



State Senator Nickie Anotonio showing how easy it is to stop by Board of Elections and drop off your vote.

an absentee ballot application to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid Ave Cleveland, OH 44115. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is three days before the election, but it is highly recommended that requests are submitted as soon as possible. Once you receive your ballot in the mail, you will need to return it to the Board of Elections, which can be done by mail or in person. When mailing the completed ballot, it must be postmarked no later than the day before the election (November 2, 2020) and received no later than ten days after the election. You can also deliver your ballot in per-

son prior to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

Election Day 2020 will look different, but you too can help the process run smoothly by signing up to be a poll worker if you are less vulnerable to the virus. Many of our older Election Day volunteers will be unable to help in November due to Covid-19 related risks, so it is a great time for young people to sign up as paid poll workers through the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

While this election will present new challenges, we must remember that our foremothers and fathers fought for our right to vote and make our voice heard. This is an important time to participate in our democracy.

State Senator Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) is honored to be serving in her first elected term in the Ohio Senate District 23, following 8 years of service in the Ohio House of Representatives, 13th House District with 5 of those years serving in leadership as Minority Whip. Antonio has also served as Lakewood City Councilmember, Executive Director of an outpatient drug/alcohol treatment program for women and teacher for children with special needs.

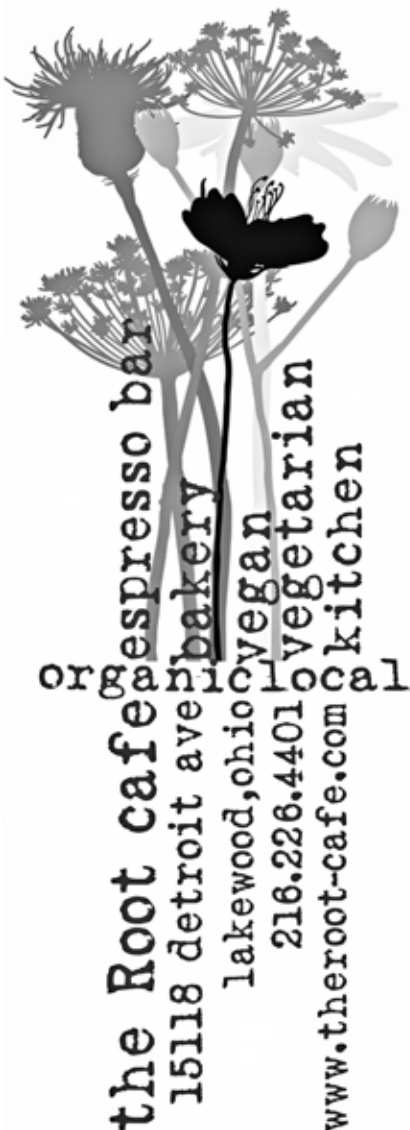
Equality Ohio Recognizes
Antonio & Skindell Among Top Allies

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as the Democratic and Republican candidates for president and vice president.

“I think the report card is a really helpful resource, especially this year, for people to learn who is supporting the LGBTQ community with real actions,” said Antonio.

Skindell said he appreciates the honor, and hopes it will provide a reminder of the important, incomplete work for fairness and equality. “In much of Ohio, people can still be denied jobs, housing and services based on sexual orientation or gender identity,” said Skindell, “and it’s our obligation to change that.”



Education

ACCEL Schools Across Ohio Reopened

by Ari Jackson

K-12 students at ACCEL Schools have the flexibility to choose from Traditional (5 days at school), Online (5 days at home), and Hybrid (2 days at school and 3 days at home) learning options at over 40 tuition-free, public charter school locations in Northeast Ohio, Columbus, and Cincinnati.

“What felt important to us in planning to reopen for the 20-21 school year was to consider the needs of our community,” says Dr. Sheila L. Sherman, Superintendent of East Academy and Lincoln Park Academy in Cleveland. “It’s very real to us that at-home learning is



not possible for all families, yet is the preference of other families, so we had to get creative to meet the range of needs.”

When asked about safety guidelines, Sherman cites an extensive

manual created by ACCEL Schools that captures all the guidance for schools presented by the CDC and Ohio Department of Health. New protocols include daily temperature checks, water bottle refilling stations, hand sanitizing stations, and the requirement of face masks for all students and staff. Each school is providing three-ply surgical masks for students and n95 masks for teachers and staff on a daily basis.

“We take the recommendations of local government very seriously,” says Dr. Rodney Bly, Superintendent of Hope Academy Northwest & Northcoast in Cleveland and Case Preparatory Academy in Akron. “We know there is a possibility that we may be required to suspend face-to-face learning like last spring, and we will of course comply with that

if the time come But as long as we are provided the flexibility to operate carefully with vigilant safety protocols, then we will pass that flexibility along to parents by offering as many options as we can.”

Eleven schools have reopened this week and the remaining 32 schools will open by September 8. According to Sherman, so far the feedback has been positive from parents. “Our parents have been vocal about the things they want, which are Quality Education, Regular Routines, and Daily Support,” says Sherman. “We’ve been pretty upfront with our families that it will take time to settle into new routines, but that we will get there. Our parents appreciate that our school is working hard to provide them options. They understand that there is some flexibility on their part which is required in order to do this.”

ACCEL Schools continues to enroll K-12 students for the fall semester. To learn about more options in their neighborhood, parents can visit accelschools.com/choice-2020 or call (216) 750-1200. The nearest school is Northwest Academy located at 1441 West 116th Street Cleveland, OH 44102

Parents Petition Lakewood City Schools For Ongoing Online Education

by Betsy Voinovich

District’s Re-Opening Plan Does It Make Lakewood Less Safe For All?

A petition launched by Lakewood parents is asking that Lakewood City Schools (LCS) make online learning with Lakewood teachers and classes an ongoing option for families who require it. Currently, when buildings reopen, the online option ends.

Children from families with health issues, who can’t risk going into into buildings, must switch to a generic online eLearning course, losing their chance to complete the LHS courses they’ve started and contact with their teachers and classmates.

The current reopening policy:

1.) PROMOTES COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19 by requiring that children--who would stay home if there was an online option--go into buildings to continue their LCS education. This will increase class-sizes and exposure for in-building learners and staff, along with the chance that vulnerable children and their families will get sick.

2.) DISCRIMINATES AGAINST AT-RISK FAMILIES by depriving their children of access to Lakewood teachers, courses and fellow classmates. These families pay taxes, along with all Lakewood residents, to support the provision of authentic education for all Lakewood children. Some families will withdraw from the District, choosing to homeschool or enroll in more accommodating schools. They may not return.

The petition calls for a Hybrid Model which would keep the school community together when buildings open:

This would allow for kids at home and kids at school to remain classmates, with recorded in-school lectures uploaded for home learners, and weekly Zoom sessions which would bring the classes together. This option also allows for in-building learners who get sick or who have to quarantine to continue their education uninterrupted from home, and would provide a seamless transition back to remote schooling for all students in the event of another shut-down.

Though this model is being offered in surrounding districts, currently it is not an option for Lakewood. District officials have said they are aware of the need and are “working on it and are committed to finding a solution.”

Based on these words, families with health risks who would have signed up for eLearning--not because they didn’t want an actual Lakewood City Schools education, but because they needed a guarantee that their children could stay home--decided to roll the dice and allow their students to choose the authentic Lakewood teacher-led version of online learning. Their hope is that their students will be able to stay home online with their LCS classes and teachers when buildings reopen.

They are trusting that this petition furthers the finding of a solution.

To access the petition go to: <https://www.petitions.net/lakewood-parents-for-ongoing-remote-learning>



From "Today Is Gonna Be A Great Quarantine" by Sarah Bene <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkFzAau2Bwg>

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Lakewood News

Community West Foundation Forms Partnership With Common Threads For SocksPLUS Initiative

by Maria Estes

Community West Foundation announced they have partnered with Common Threads, a charitable thrift store, to be the SocksPLUS in-kind donation drop-off location. Monetary donations, however, should still be sent to the Community West Foundation office located at 800 Sharon Drive in Westlake.

Community West started the SocksPLUS initiative after learning that socks were, and still are, the number one requested item by the homeless. Due to the exponential growth since its inception in 2014, the foundation needed a resource to help house the donations of socks and other items that were arriving at their office. Common Threads has the means to accept donations on the foundation's behalf and house them until they are delivered to the homeless through the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH).

Common Threads is an initiative of Building Hope in the City, a Cleveland faith-based nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the good of the city, magnify the mission of Jesus and unleash the capability of underestimated people. As a 100% nonprofit thrift store, Common Threads has a unique model where all sales from donated items directly benefit people in Greater Cleveland.

"It's a win-win for both organizations," commented Marty Uhle, Community West Foundation President and CEO. "We are receiving the help we need to manage SocksPLUS items that are donated and we are also encouraging our donors to consider Common Threads for any other items they want to donate." For a complete list of SocksPLUS items most needed for the homeless or to learn more about the partnership, visit SocksPLUS.org.

Rotary Shoe Boxes Aid Children Of The Dump

by Lynn Donaldson

On August 26, members of the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River joined Rotarians across the United States by participating in an international service project known as "Children of the Dump."

Shoe boxes for the Children of the Dump in Chinandega, Nicaragua, were filled with personal care items, clothing, school supplies and age-appropriate games or toys.

Club members participated by donating money, shopping, and purchasing needed supplies for children as well as preparing and filling the boxes for shipment. Club member Vicki Foster led this year's initiative and enjoyed strong support from 22 club members who directly participated in making the project a big success.

Fifteen shoe boxes were filled for young boys and 20 for young girls. A sampling of items included were personal items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, pair of underwear, flip flops, one outfit of top and pants for girls or an outfit of shirt and pants or shorts for boys, a baseball cap, a doll and toys for girls and toys such as a yo-yo, match-

box cars for boys, card games, coloring book with crayons and markers, notebook, three pencils, pencil sharpener, and a pocket folder.

Each year Rotarians travel to Nicaragua to personally witness and participate in the work being done there. They will also help deliver the supplies to the children.

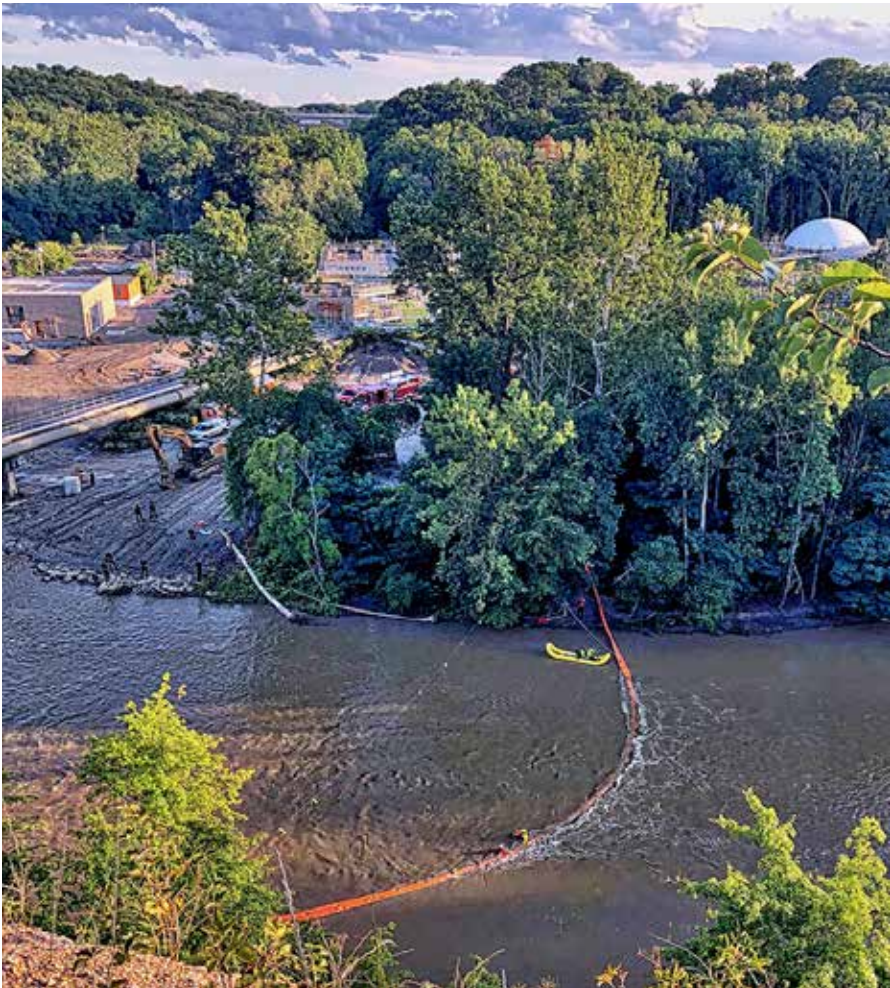
The shoe boxes will be delivered to an area collection facility where they will be picked up and be transported with other clubs' boxes to Nicaragua.

The shoe boxes serve as an incentive to the children to remain in school. In order to receive one of the gift shoe boxes, the child must be attending school on a regular basis and earning satisfactory grades. The goal is to break the cycle of poverty by providing food, education and programs to encourage good health. The ultimate goal is to relocate the children from the dump to a life of dignity.

It is estimated that there are 800 children in Chinandega, under the age of five, fending for themselves, often competing with dogs, cattle and goats for the food. These children seemingly have no other choice if they are to survive.

continued on page 11

Daring River Rescue



Last week two kayakers fell into the river and were rescued by a Metro Park Rescue Swimmer and Lakewood Fire Department, who launched their water rescue craft to bring mom and son onboard. While it looks easy, that is because of the constant training of these professionals. Thank you Lakewood Fire, Police and Metro Rangers! You can see this and other breaking news and photos at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>. Stop by-- it's free.



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Business

Back To Work And School - At Home

by Chris Cowen

Many of us are finding ourselves working from home including our children when school is back in session. A shortened commute! No trips to the gas station! Pants optional!

Those are some of the benefits.... However achy necks, shoulders and low backs are some of the consequences of setting up at home especially if using our laptops all day long. If adults and children are sharing a workspace in the

home, chances are that there are people of different sizes using the same chair and desk. One set up does not fit all however with a few adjustments it just might be able to!

I am an occupational therapist and ergonomic specialist who works with clients in their homes and offices. Since Covid, I am also offering virtual evaluations of their workspaces. Recommendations are made for the set-up of the current equipment, adjustments of the chair, placement of work equipment, stretching and best work practices to ensure you are as comfortable as possible during the work or school day and to minimize the chance of future musculoskeletal or neurological disorders.

Often no cost or low cost solutions can make a big difference in how you feel. Being comfortable during your work or school day can impact your ability to concentrate and learn and your productivity.

No matter what your workday looks like remember this: Movement is important. Remember to get up,

stretch and put movement into your day as much as possible.

To learn more, please visit <https://mywellnessatwork.com>

Chris Cowan is an occupational therapist who specializes in ergonomics. She has lived in Lakewood for about 25 years and loves it. She is a volunteer with LEAF (Lakewood Earth And Food), has been a community garden member, has a garden of her own, likes to hike and loves the Metroparks.



Chris Cowen

Annual LHS Alumni Ranger Marching Band Celebration - Canceled Due To C19

continued from page 1

In the meantime, show your support and “Like” Lakewood HS Bands and LHS Alumni Ranger Marching Band on Facebook for up-to-date events and fundraisers. You may also visit the Lakewood High School Bands website (www.lakewoodbands.org)

Alumni page to register as an alum band member. There are no membership fees and email communications are minimal. Contact us at lhsarmb@yahoo.com with any questions you may have. GO RANGERS!

Mirian Roman is Assitant to the Alumni Band Directors.

The Return Of The Annual Lakewood Kiwanis Scarecrow Festival

continued from page 1

vidual, families, businesses, clubs and organizations.

Business owners bring more atten-

tion to your storefront by building a scarecrow that is unique to your business. Families can bring school lessons or a family activity to life with their scarecrow. This is a great activity as we practice social distancing and get out from behind the screen and get creative.

As a community, we have supported each other through these difficult times. Madison Avenue will be the perfect route to walk from October 11-25th. Now is the time to have some fun together and still stay safe.

Details and applications are available by visiting www.kiwanisfoundation.com

Cost: scarecrow entry fee is \$25. Sponsorship entry fee is \$125(name of window poster, t-shirts, and local media).

All proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Kiwanis Centennial Project.

Register and pay by visiting: Kiwanisfoundation.com

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Foodwood

Heaven On Earth At The Elmwood Bakery

by Eva Starr

Being that I lived in Lakewood in the late 80s and thru the 90s I don't know how in God's name I missed this little slice of Heaven. Since I moved back to Lakewood in 2016, I've become a serious gastronome. Let's face it, how do you live in Lakewood without become a foodie, oenophile, or a libationist?

One fine day, (no George Clooney was not there) I checked out

this obscure bakery with my friend Sparky. The owner Andy Rerko was understandably in the back busy baking his culinary delights and didn't have time for chit-chat. We ordered a bear claw, a lady lock, sticky bun and a cheese/fruit Danish, and off we went.

I went home and treated my taste buds to some homemade sweetness. Sparky devoured the Lady Lock, and the sticky bun, sav-



Storefront Elmwood Bakery

ing the bear claw for a Harley road trip through the Blue Ridge Parkway the next morning.

Left to my own research, I found out this last of the old-school bakeries has been around since the 1940s. It's claim to fame, not to be out done by the awe-inspiring patisserie, and easy on the wallet prices, is a spotlight in the 2003 movie American Splendor.

From the plethora of reviews I've read online, they're known for the date-nut cake, pepperoni bread,

apple dumplings, pretzels and the beat goes on. Rave reviews were plentiful on the wedding cakes, specifically the aforementioned date-nut bread.

Check it out for yourself, I know I'll definitely be back to give the pepperoni bread a shot.

Elmwood Home Bakery
15204 Madison Ave. 2
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Hours:
Tues-Fri 7-5pm Sat: 6-3pm

MTO - Madison Take Out

by Deb O'Bryan

Bright sunny days have finally arrived in Lakewood! If you're dividing your time between hiking, Zooming and social distancing with friends, leave it to Madison Take Out, a new healthy food cafe near Madison Park, to keep you well-fed and feeling your best when you're on the go.

Located in the old Thai Hut space, Madison Take Out, or MTO as it's affectionately known, offers soul-satisfying breakfast items, bowls, sandwiches, wraps and smoothies. While you're there, grab a Duck Rabbit coffee and peruse the constantly rotating selection of grab and go items.

The menu offers something for everyone. Locally sourced ingredients from Wiencek's Meats, Meister Dairy, and Narrin's spices are key to deliver-

ing the savory flavor punch in popular dishes such as the Chicken Feta Sandwich and Red Lentil Bowl. And, MTO is the ONLY place in Lakewood that you can get fresh cold-pressed juice made in house by master juice mixologist Mike (we recommend the refreshing Dawg Pound).

MTO is the brain-child of Steven Trapp, who enlisted good friends Mike, Javiera and Jeff as partners. Steven never imagined opening MTO in the throes of a pandemic but has made the most of it. "Thanks to input from my amazing team, we have evolved our menu items and go-to-market strategy. We're looking forward to launching new products soon!" says Steven.

MTO is open Tuesday - Sunday from 7:30am-3pm. Order online for pick up: <http://mtolakewood.com>

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Plain	\$7.00	\$8.50	\$11.00	\$12.00
1 Item	\$7.50	\$9.25	\$12.00	\$13.50
2 Items	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$15.00
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
Extra Items	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.50
Ext. Cheese/Spec. Topp	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50

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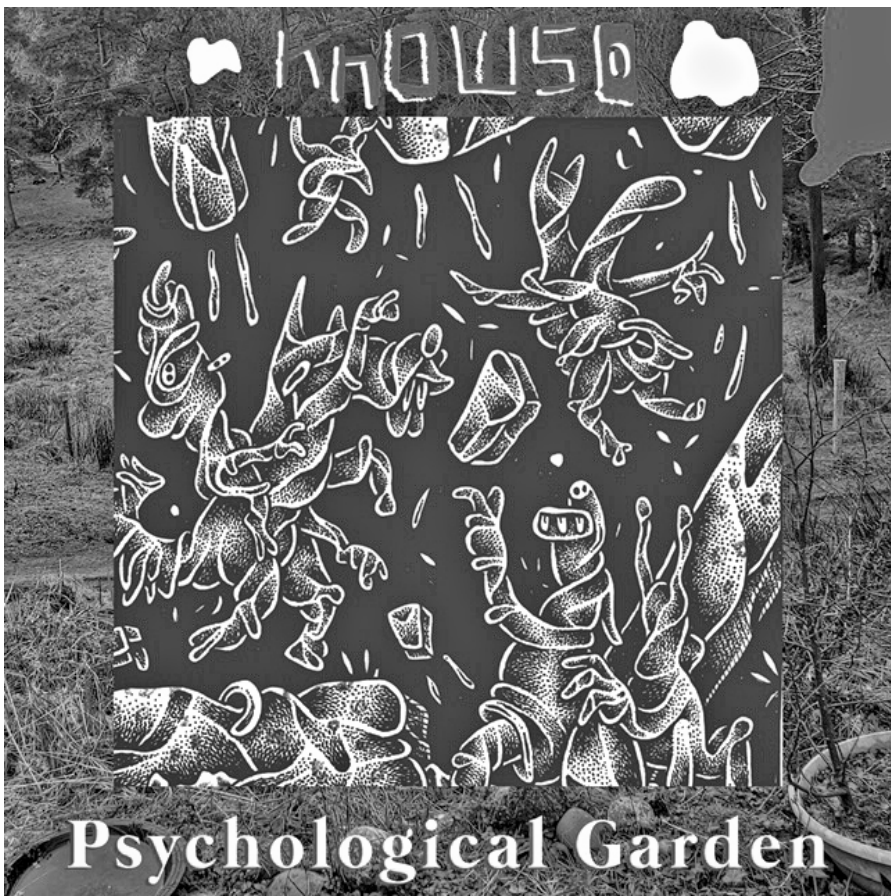
Lakewood Observer

Filling Up The Streets Is The Only Thing That Works: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 106

by Buzz Kompier

Knowso - Psychological Garden - self-released - 5 songs - digital

The first of two digital-only (for now?) Knowso EPs released in the past few months. They're down to a two-piece here, with Jayson Gerycz on drums and Nathan Ward on everything else. In that way, it's kinda similar to the first Knowso tape, which I think was just Nathan and Jo Coone. They actually redo a track off of that original tape, "Into A Bug," which already has pretty funny lyrics but is improved even further by Nathan's deadpan delivery. "Isn't it funny how things work out...My life is done now," or the brilliant couplet "My brain's on overdrive / I'm on news channel 5." (A quick digression here, but you know what song from that tape they should bring back out? "Chemical Drink." What a ripper.) This is a slightly more herky-jerky version than the original, as I recall, but still good. Herky-jerky is something of an essential element of the current Knowso sound, after all. The songs on this EP in particular are comprised of a clean guitar and a distorted bass playing the same thing (which actually makes for a pretty cool sound), with the same thing usually being a staccato, pretty rhythmic punk tune in a weird time signature-- not in a math rock kind of way because I don't think they're doing this for those reasons, but more in the way that that's just how Nathan writes, kinda like Spike In Vain. I mean, "Staring At The Spiral" sounds like Neo Neos and that's



about as far from math rock as you can be. Certainly less aggressive than past material as well, particularly in comparison to, for example, "Look At The Chart," but again, it's a closer sound to that original demo in a lot of ways. Also, there's more of a lean towards post-punk here, while still being, I'd say, punk. The lyrics on this EP are generally kinda out there, a little bit sci-fi but not quite in a Darvocets way. Sometimes they're about completely normal things, but seen through a filter where it's just a bit off. Like a photo where the color balance is wrong but you can't

quite say how. There, that's a poetic description for you. My favorite here, particularly lyrically, is probably "Turning Planet." I really like the lines about "skipping cinderblocks in a cemetery" and "stepping on the names of the dead and dying." Cool stuff. **3.5/5**
(knowso.bandcamp.com)

Knowso - Rare Auld Trip - self-released - 4 songs - digital

This is the other of the two Knowso releases in this week's column (and I hear they've got another real record out now as well, so stay

tuned for that) and my preferred one of the two. Same lineup and same general sound, but this one's more aggressive, musically and lyrically. "Psychological Garden" lived up to its title, sorta; this one is a punk record. The recording also sounds a little fuller and crisper, too. This EP kicks off with the driving "The Plants," which has some great misanthropic/general world-hating lyrics, which I love to hear Nathan Ward doing because he's very good at songs like that. It doesn't let up after that, either, going right into "Fucker Such As You," which is as positive and happy as you'd think with that title. Really great. The musical energy goes down but not the anger of the lyrics for "You Lick The Boot," where Nathan decries the state of things in the same monotone he sings all these songs with, yet you can tell that he's serious. And justified. Cool intro and outro, too. "4th Wonder" closes this thing out with a kind of circular riff, another weird time signature one, with Nathan's rambling-- I can't tell whether this one is a positive or negative one. Maybe something in between? Another good record from Knowso. **4/5**
(knowso.bandcamp.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.



SEPTEMBER

Aries:

Mars in the sign of the Ram is about to go Retrograde, you're in a holding pattern, which is hard for you, you want everything now, decide to channel your energy on reevaluation.

Taurus:

Forgiveness has crawled into the Bull Pen, & it's asking you to let go of the old story, holding onto your resentments is like taking poison & expecting the other person to die.

Gemini:

Double up on your Love Potion #9, the Twins are in for some love, get out & about with your loved one, or if you're flying solo, strut your stuff to the world, someone's watching.

Cancer:

The Crab has spent so much time in its shell on self-reflection, it was getting claustrophobic in there, going deep into the Soul has paid off, healing is happening.

Leo:

Lady Venus has just entered the

Jungle & she's dressed to the hilt, the Lion/Lioness is looking for love, jump for Joy...you don't have to look far, the L-O-V-E bug has hit the Jungle.

Virgo:

The Sun is in your sign, & it's trying to get an important message to you, however, you'll need to open up those elephant ears of yours & listen, you won't hear the message if your talking.

Libra:

Mercury the Messenger Planet is in your sign, it's all about communication, you won't get the help you're looking for unless you open mouth & use your voice, ask the Angels too.

Scorpio:

The Scorpion of all people should know to trust your intuition, stop seeking advice from others, spend time in that cave, deep in meditation, you'll find all the answers you'll need.

Sagittarius:

Let go of what was, in order to make room for what's to come...the past is over, what's done is done, learn

from the experience, it's time for the Centaur to greet the new day.

Capricorn:

Shout from the mountaintop Goat, Jupiter is going direct, it's time for a little change-up, let loose of the stoic stance, embrace your sensitivity, be gentle like the deer.

Aquarian:

So often we curse the seeds that haven't taken root, failing to realize it's not their time, healing happens in seasons, it has no schedule, a deeper Soul healing is taking place.

Pisces:

Put that Mermaid suit on fish, you're the shining star in the sea, when someone gives you a compliment, smile, flip that tail & say thank you, your self-esteem is raising, enjoy the kudos.

Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at evastarr.com

Lakewood Cares



Another wall cloud heads across the Emerald Canyon bringing much needed rain to the community. This and other photos online at: lakewoodobserver.com

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4:

Episode 32: “The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues:

fiction by

Scott MacGregor

Though, not exactly the Battle of the Somme, the tragi-comical skirmish between the citizens of Rockport and River City, known as “Shale Wars I”, had unfurled like a mud pie in the rain. Emanating from long simmering resentments between the two towns, the battle was later hyped in the Cleveland newspapers as the greatest clash of suburbanites since the “Beer Night” riot of 1974.

In the dead center of this fray was Little Dan Newman. Hallucinating wildly from an ill-advised dose of LSD, he’d sailed a dynamite-laden boat called, “The Friggin’ A” onto Lake Erie to destroy a storm he’d understandably mistaken for a giant lizard.

Miraculously, Little Dan’s hare-brained scheme had successfully diverted the storm away from beleaguered Rockport. Unfortunately, the massive explosion had re-directed the storm’s energy toward the unsuspecting, boat obsessed, endlessly barbecuing citizens of River City. The direct hit caused millions of dollars in property damage and coated 10 square miles of River City in a thick, malodorous blanket of fish guts.

The long suffering citizens of Rockport were wholly unmoved by River City’s plight. Many felt that the tony town of 10,000 Orthodonists had finally received the come-uppance it richly deserved. For the smarms and swells of River City, however, vengeance ruled the moment. From every spa, country club, and cabana in River City, people raised their tiki-cocktails and squash racquets in the air and called for the head of Little Dan Newman on a pike.

Sadly, Little Dan was already in pretty bad shape. His body had been spit from the cataclysm he’d fomented like a hocker from hell. Injured and unconscious, he’d been catapulted up the mouth of the Rocky River by a huge tsunami created from the explosion. As he lay motionless on the roof of a houseboat in the river channel, hundreds of vigilante Riverites, most of them acolytes of the recently nose-less Mayor Ridgewood,



appeared along the shale cliffs above the Yacht Club seeking revenge.

The crazed and discombobulated mob had murder on their minds. Because of Little Dan, a half mile of the city’s pristine coastal properties had been turned into something that looked and smelled like the dumpster behind Captain Frank’s Seafood Restaurant. Then, some guy in army fatigues came rappelling down the shale cliffs like Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos! He brazenly tied a rope around Little Dan’s chest and commanded his paisans atop the cliff to start hauling them both up. Something had to happen quickly to save Little Dan from mob justice and, something surely did!

From atop their own cliffs on the other side of the river, hundreds of Rockporters had gathered to see what was going on. When they caught sight of Sgt Fury trying to capture their hometown boy, they became apoplectic and streamed en masse into the river valley to save him. By the time they arrived, the pseudo soldier and unconscious Little Dan were dangling 20 feet in the air.

That’s when Mickey Mars, an intrepid Rockporter with acrobatic skills, scurried up the 90 degree cliff face like a gecko on a hot date. With great agility, he leapt onto the rope holding Sgt. Fury and Little Dan!

The extra weight dragged the three of them down far enough for Rockporters below to grab the end of the rope and then a great Tug o’ War ensued. At that pivotal moment, the Rocks of Rockport showed up and Little Dan suddenly woke up!...sort of.

He’d awoken in the technical sense only. It would be many days before he would again dwell in his right mind. Trapped in a waking dream, Little Dan began groping at the air. Mickey Mars grabbed hold of Little Dan to stabilize him while busily punching and kicking Sgt. Fury.

The Rocks of Rockport were donning their riot gear when Coast Guard Cutter “Darryl A. Levy” steamed up the river channel and came upon the surreal scene. Also on board the cutter were Rockport’s Police Chief Tom Graber, Rowena Gridley, and Little Dan’s beloved Boston Terrier known as Little BD. When she saw her nephew dangling high the air and in the grips of two men, Rowena let out a horrified scream and pleaded with the Skipper to save her nephew.

The Coast Guard Commander in turn ordered his crew to General Quarters. Doors and lockers up and down the ship’s deck were flung open revealing an impressive array of weaponry, including M16 machine guns. As members of the ROR struggled to wrest

control of the riot from the warring mobs, the sailors of the “D.A. Levy” and Chief Graber joined in on the fight. Standing alone on the bow of the ship, Rowena saw Sgt. Fury whip out what looked like a handgun from his pocket.

Being the mother of the legendary hellion known as Maynard Gridley, Rowena was no shrinking violet herself. She immediately looted one of the open weapons lockers and while cradling an M16 rifle in one arm and a Boston Terrier in the other, she laid down an impressive line of suppressing fire just below the cliff tops. Those that didn’t poop their pants on the spot, ran for their lives. The Riverites tugging from above panicked and let go of the rope causing Little Dan, Micky Mars, and Sgt. Fury to plummet 20 feet into the Rocky River.

Chief Graber quickly moved in and at last had his man/boy in custody. He ordered one of several waiting ambulances to rush Little Dan off to Rockport Hospital. The Battle for Little Dan Newman was finally over. What happened in the days that followed, no one on earth could’ve ever predicted.

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Catch up on previous episodes at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/read/special-section/the-rockport-miracles>

Lakewood Is Alive

A Child's Plea

by Michael Lauer

~ Love Me Always ~

When you feel cheerful and kind. When you feel sad and bored. When you feel affectionate and loving. When you feel abandoned and frightened.

~ Love Me Always ~

When you feel generous and festive. When you feel bitterness and anguish. When you feel hope and admiration. When you feel oppressed and empty.

~ Love Me Always ~

When you feel free and accepted. When you feel unmotivated and humiliated. When you feel good and appreciated. When you feel tired and hostile.

~ Love Me Always ~

When you feel gratitude and empathy. When you feel anxiety and betrayal. When you feel pride and integrity. When you feel revengeful and manipulated.

~ Love Me Always ~

When you feel attached and approved. When you feel remorse and pain. When you feel enthusiasm and peace. When you feel hate and wrath.

~ Love Me Always ~

When you feel honest and happy. When you feel shame and guilt. When you feel harmony and honorability. When you feel failure and loneliness.

~ Love Me Always ~

—The Unforgiving Light Society

Michael Lauer is the Director of The Unforgiving Light Society.

Rotary Shoe Boxes Aid Children Of The Dump

continued from page 6

Young men are often the first to climb aboard the trucks and wagons loaded with overflowing garbage headed for the dump. Even before the drivers stop with the stinky trash, sometimes bagged and sometimes not, the young men know this could be a grim opportunity for those who act quickly.

They know that in that stinky trash they may find items of value like plastic bottles, aluminum cans or even food. Women will rake the sides of the loads with sticks fitted with hooks, pulling the debris loose and onto the

ground. At that point, the rotten mess comes in reach of the young children.

The story of the Chinandega dump began in 1998. Hurricane Mitch stayed over Nicaragua for days, dropping more than 60 inches of rain. A 30-foot wall of water flowed down the volcano, picking up trees and boulders before smashing into a village, destroying everything in its path. Before the mudslide, the town had about 4,500 residents. Twenty-eight hundred remain buried from the disaster.

Read the rest of this story at: lakewoodobserver.com

Update On Services From Lakewood Public Library

by Lakewood Public Library Staff

Returned Items Are Quarantined

The Library continues to quarantine returned materials for a minimum of four days. During this time, items will still show as checked out to your library account. After the quarantine period, all items are checked in as of the day they were returned, so no overdue fees are accrued.

Proctoring Services

Students can have written and electronic tests proctored by appointment at the Main Library. Visit the Library's proctoring page for more information or to request an appointment, and a Library staff member will contact you to schedule your proctored exam.

Black And White Printing Available By Request

Patrons who need to have documents printed can email their print request to the Library. A staff member will print the requested documents, maintaining patron confidentiality, and will notify the patron when the documents are ready to be picked up.

Patrons may request a total of 100 pages per day for printing. The first twenty-five pages are free. Additional pages are charged at ten cents per page, payable upon pickup by cash or debit card.

Students In Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade Have A Quiet Place To Study

The Main Library's Homework Help Room and Multipurpose Room are available during regular Library hours as a quiet place for students to study and complete school work. Students must bring their own laptop and headphones. Both rooms provide free WiFi and outlets for charging devices.

Homework Help For Students In Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

Students who need a little extra help with homework can come to the Main Library or Madison Branch to get assistance Monday through Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A library staff member is on hand and available to assist with everything from spelling words to solving math problems. No registration is required.

Homebound Service for Lakewood Residents

The Library continues to offer homebound service to Lakewood residents who are unable to leave their home, whether on a temporary or permanent basis. Homebound patrons can have Library items picked up and delivered directly to their residence. Deliveries are made every Tuesday.

Visit the Library's homebound page or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 110 for more information.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we focus on keeping our patrons and staff safe.

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