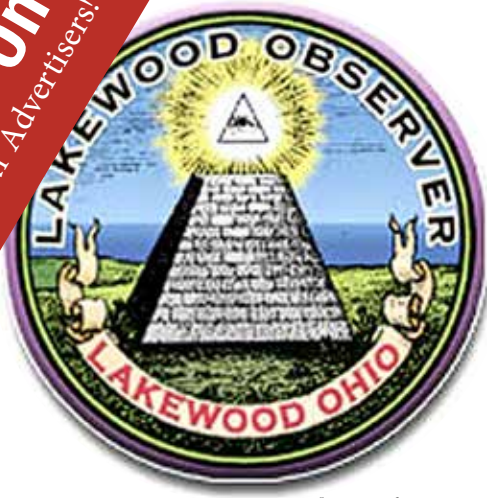


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community Newspapers & Websites

Volume 19, Issue 2, January 18, 2023

“Poverty is a very complicated issue, but feeding a child isn’t.” - Jeff Bridges

3-2-1 Lift-off! Tickets On Sale Now For “Loving Lakewood: Out Of This World”

by Jacqueline Bon

Team LakewoodAlive is inviting you on a Space Mission of major importance. Creating a sense of community is the ultimate goal of our mission. If you choose to accept the challenge of creating vibrant and welcoming neighborhoods on Planet Lakewood, you will be transported to a galaxy far, far away to complete this important work.

LakewoodAlive will host Loving Lakewood: Out Of This World on Saturday, February 25, 2023, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. As always, this event, eclipsing all others, will have you over the moon, enjoying force field foods, Big Bang beverages and more meteoric fun than you can fit into an entire solar system.

Tickets for Loving Lakewood: Out Of This World are on sale now, and can be secured at [OutOfThisWorld-LakewoodAlive.eventbrite.com](https://www.outofthisworld-lakewoodalive.eventbrite.com). For an experience fit for a captain, guests can set their phasers to stun and submit their request to beam up for a VIP experience. A general admission ticket permits guests to cruise this intergalactic experience for the evening.

Proceeds from the evening's festivities will support



LakewoodAlive's programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. Much like those who have ventured into infinity and beyond, we at LakewoodAlive strive to utilize inspiration, determination and tireless drive to assist residents and small businesses of Lakewood to make our community welcoming and vibrant for all earthlings.

More details regarding Loving Lakewood: Out of this World will be unveiled in the coming weeks. For ongoing updates, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/LovingLakewood](https://www.lakewoodalive.org/LovingLakewood).

Be sure to act quickly, tickets will sell out at warp speed.

About LakewoodAlive

Community vibrancy is an integral part of our story which LakewoodAlive strives for as part of our mission each and every day. It is our zenith. The 5.5 square miles comprising Lakewood may be just a blip in this galaxy, but LakewoodAlive serves a vital role in the lives of our community through our Housing Outreach and Small Business Support Programs making our organization truly out of this world.

Rep. Michael Skindell And Seven Others Apply For Empty PUCO Seat

by Jim O'Bryan

As we were going to press news came from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio that 8 people had applied to the seat to be vacated by Beth Trombold, February 11.

Governor DeWine must choose a Democrat or Independent to fill the seat on the 12-person board.

Of the applicants, five define themselves as Democrats, and three as Independents.

They are: **Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood)**, an attorney and longtime lawmaker wh

currently represents the 13th House District;

Jeffrey Crossman of Parma, an attorney who departed the legislature in December after an unsuccessful campaign for attorney general.

Christopher Healey, of Enverve Corp. Director of Utility Regulatory Affairs (D).

Michael Hines, compliance officer in the Department of Transportation (D).

Stephen Serraino, general counsel and chief compliance and ethics officer for

Michigan-based Upper Peninsula Power Company (Independent); Dana Sillman, transportation technical specialist for ODOT (I);

June Taylor, chief performance and strategy officer for Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (D);

John Williams, director of the PUCO's Transportation Department (I).

Governor DeWine will select one for a five-year term beginning April 11. His selection is subject to Senate approval, or a request for a new list of finalists.



Poverty Awareness Month In Lakewood

by Trish Rooney

On January 3rd, Lakewood City Council unanimously voted to approve Resolution 2022-62, introduced by Councilmembers Sarah Kepple and Tristan Rader, designating January 2023 as Poverty Awareness Month In Lakewood. The resolution recognizes that poverty is a root cause of many issues that people face, including crime and inadequate access to education, healthcare, and safe, affordable housing; and that it is important for the City of Lakewood to raise awareness about poverty and its far-reaching negative impacts in our community and to recommit to policies, protections and initiatives that can improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors

January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month, a month dedicated to spreading awareness, understanding, and perspective on the conditions and suffering of our fellow citizens and fellow humans. The US Census Bureau reports that the official poverty rate in 2021 was 11.6%, which is 37.9 million people living in poverty. The recently completed Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report brings to light the impact of poverty in our own community. As you read this edition of the Observer, you will see some of the economic disparities that came to light from the Lakewood CHNA surveys, focus groups, and interviews along with data



from the US Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates.

There are different definitions of poverty throughout the world. A helpful one from the United Nations states, “poverty is the inability of having choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity.” This is a powerful reminder that not everyone – anywhere – has the same opportunities. We need to recognize this before we can dare to hope to change it. Awareness is the first step towards addressing poverty in Lakewood.

Perhaps Nelson Mandela said it best in a now famous speech delivered in 2005 at the Make Poverty History rally in London, when he stated, “Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Beagle Case Resolved: Forever Homes Being Found For All Animals

by Mayor Meghan George

Lakewood is a community with a soft spot for animals, and a recent situation with dozens of beagles being kept in unsafe and unsanitary conditions gave us all reasons to be concerned. Fortunately, many city staff and volunteers came together to get the dogs out of harm's way and then provide care for them as our prosecutor's office worked to resolve court proceedings that would decide the fate of 41 beagles.

Caring for the beagles demanded a lot from our Lakewood Animal Shelter, and we were lucky to benefit from the generosity of the public and the time given by local volunteers. The depth of kindness present in our Lakewood community was on full display.

I want to personally thank all of you who gave time and resources to make sure that the beagles had everything they needed while in City care. The Lakewood Animal Safety Welfare Advisory Board (LASWAB) and the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) continues to be a key partner for our city staff, and stepped up during this time of need. I also want to thank our internal team – from the police officers who served the search warrant and removed the dogs to our staff at the animal shelter and many others who pitched in to lend a hand in caring for the dogs.

The good news is that the court case regarding the dogs is now fully

resolved, and the City is actively working with partners who will assist us in finding forever homes for all 41 animals. This is possible because our prosecutor's office was able to efficiently resolve the criminal proceedings and get full custody of the beagles.

As you may have heard, on January 6th, the owner of the beagles pled no contest to multiple counts of cruelty to animals in Lakewood Municipal Court. As part of the plea agreement, the defendant surrendered all ownership of the dogs to the City of Lakewood and agreed to pay full restitution for costs incurred for their care. He will enter a 5-year diversion program that requires him to undergo a mental health assessment and grief counseling to address underlying causes that led to his animal hoarding behavior. The defendant is also

forbidden from possessing or having physical control or custody of any dogs during the diversion period and must attend classes on the ethical treatment of animals. If he violates these terms, he faces up to 18 months in jail.

While we were all saddened by this episode, I am proud that our community rallied to quickly address the situation, care for the dogs involved, and ultimately get them into a healthy situation. Lakewood has a tradition of caring about animals – coincidentally, the City was currently expanding and updating our animal shelter capacity when this case came to our attention.

As we explore policy priorities for this year, I will work with CCLAS, the Lakewood Animal Welfare and Safety Advisory Board, our law department, and others to discuss what lessons can be learned from this case to proactively address animal welfare moving forward.



January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month

Hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, disabilities, restricted access to participation in the democratic process. These are just some of the many manifestations of poverty.

Data from the US Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates shine a light on poverty in our own community.

1 in 10 Lakewood residents are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
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Isn't it time you joined this effort to report community news while preserving our history?

LAKEWOOD IS ART®

District Boasts 47 Scholastic Art Award Honors

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the 30 Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Tech Media Art & Design students whose artwork has been honored in the Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition competition. The artists earned 47 awards collectively, including six Gold Keys, the highest honor given. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 98-year-old competition.

Lakewood and West Shore students were well-represented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels as well. Our students won 22 Silver Keys and 19 Honorable Mentions.

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes creative achievement in 7-12 grade students in Northeast Ohio. The young artists and writers compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional



Gold Key winner Sadie Gregg's artwork

Grace Hildebrandt - Printmaking
Hadeal Mohesen - Photography (West Shore)

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

Muriel Bourn (2) - Design; Photography (West Shore)
Reagan Bratko - Digital Art (West Shore)
Rosemary Cronin - Drawing & Illustration
Willow Detmar - Drawing & Illustration
Turner Gilliland - Photography
Lillian Kovach - Photography
Maggie Lane - Drawing & Illustration
Olivia Long - Photography (West Shore)
Amalija Marich (2) - Drawing & Illustration (2)
Aaron Markham (2) - Film & Animation; Photography (West Shore)
Cecilia Miller - Painting
Clare Morrissey - Drawing & Illustration
Helen Roche - Drawing & Illustration
Bee Rohrs (2) - Film & Animation (West Shore); Photography
Benjamin Sorby - Design (West Shore & FSO)
Mia Szymczyk - Digital Art (West Shore)
Lila Wright (2) - Drawing & Illustration; Painting

Honorable Mention:

Muriel Bourn - Film & Animation (West Shore)
Sophia Boyer (2) - Photography
Reagan Bratko - Digital Art (West Shore)
Elma Coralic - Photography
Rosemary Cronin - Drawing & Illustration



Gold Key winner Carolina DeJesus' artwork.

artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries.

All gold and silver award-winning pieces will be on display at the Cleveland Institute of Art Jan.14-Feb. 3.

Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers, Gray Cooper, Dayna Hansen, Anne McQuay and Arline Olear.

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

Sophia Boyer - Photography
Elma Coralic - Photography
Carolina DeJesus - Photography (West Shore)
Sadie Gregg - Photography

tration
Carolina DeJesus - Drawing & Illustration
Olivia Diemert - Drawing & Illustration
Grace Hildebrandt - Drawing & Illustration
Alexandra Hodson - Drawing & Illustration
Emaline King - Drawing & Illustration
Lydia Kress - Film & Animation
Maggie Lane - Printmaking
Aaron Markham - Digital Art (West Shore)
Anna Maurer - Drawing & Illustration



Gold Key winner Hadeal Mohesen's artwork.

Kai McFarland - Drawing & Illustration
Bee Rohrs - Photography
Mia Szymczyk - Digital Art (West Shore)
Scarlett Wankowski - Printmaking



Gold Key winner Grace Hildebrandt's artwork.

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

February Events At Lakewood Public Library

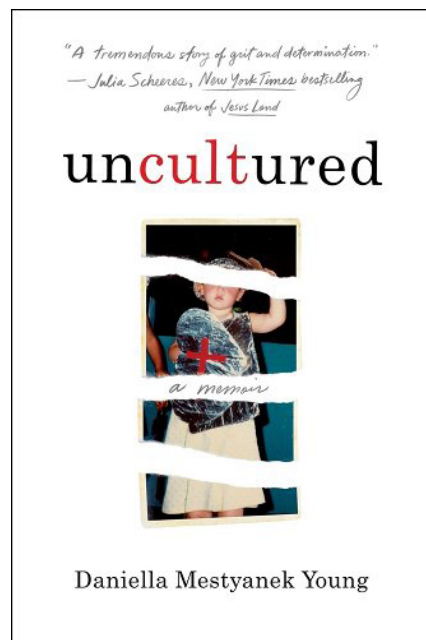
by Lisa Calfee

Lakewood Public Cinema – A Special Preview of the Short. Sweet. Film Fest.

Join us at Lakewood Public Library for a Special Preview of the Short. Sweet. Film Fest, Cleveland's greatest film festival showcasing exclusively short films. From local sensations to international masterpieces, we'll be featuring 90 minutes of our sweetest selections spanning genres for all palates. Come whet your appetite and get ready for the main event with us!

Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium



Meet the Author - "Uncultured" Co-authored by Brandi Larsen

UNCULTURED tells the powerful story of trauma, identity, and the dangers of unchecked group mentality. From a childhood in the notorious Children of God cult to serving in the US Army on deliberate ground combat missions, Daniella Mestyanek Young has navigated male-dominated groups that, though worlds apart, share chilling similarities. Brandi Larsen, co-writer of the critically acclaimed UNCULTURED, will talk about the writing process, the book, and the questions readers ask about their own safety in groups. Larsen's work at Penguin Random House helped create NYT

bestsellers and her journalism pieces earned Emmy nominations. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Booked for Murder Book Club

If you share a passion for mystery, join the group each month to discuss your favorites and selections made by group members.

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Meeting Room

February 16, 2023 "The Maid" by Nita Prose

Knit & Lit Book Club

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress.

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Meeting Room

February 21, 2023 "The Secret Diary of Hendrick Groen" and "On the Bright Side: The New Secret Diary of Hendrick Groen" by Hendrick Groen and Hester Velmans

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Children's And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert
Sunflowers!

Help the Library grow a sunflower (paper) garden. The Library will create a garden inside of the Library as a visual tribute to Ukrainian people. Sunflowers are a Ukrainian symbol of peace. Create one sunflower for the Library's sunflower garden and one to take home. Display your sunflower at home and brighten everyone's days! Registration is required.

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 4:00pm - 5:00pm- Main Library

Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 4:00pm-5:00pm- Madison Branch

Ukrainian Folk Tales and Craft

For Students in Kindergarten through Second Grade. Do you like stories about animals? Ukrainian folk tales and fairy tales often use animals to show us how we can succeed with the challenges life brings us and encourage us to never give up! Join us as we read The Ear of Wheat, retold and illustrated by Olha Tkachenko and create a piece of Ukrainian art. Registration is required.

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Family Weekend Wonders

Looking for weekend entertainment for the whole family? Look no further! Drop in to the Library's special weekend story time. Your whole family will enjoy these programs full of enthusiastic stories, engaging activities, entertaining music and clever crafts. Family Weekend Wonders Drop-In Story Time is offered every weekend throughout the year and features a different theme each week to keep things engaging. No registration is required.

Main Library- Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.


Madison Branch- Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

To sign up for any program, register online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

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LAKEWOOD EDUCATION

LHS Pair Runners Up In NY Times Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Lakewood High senior Helinor Clark and junior Grace Bratko on being selected as runners up in The New York Times Tiny Memoir Contest in which students were asked to write about a meaningful life moment in 100 words or less. Thirteen winners and 23 runners up were chosen out of 12,448 entries. Quite an accomplishment for Grace and Helinor! You can



read their tiny memoirs below:

"Our Records"

by Grace Bratko

I pull out a dusty vinyl and place it on my record player. You sit in admiration while I tap my fingers on the table. You sing in a falsetto. I flip records and chat about the song. We sip tea, burning our tongues, and our knees touch together. It's getting dark out, you think of going home early. "Just wait until the end of this side," I say. We both know that you weren't going to leave, that you just wanted to hear me ask you to stay. I'm glad I said it, and the record keeps spinning.

"Going, Going, Gone"

by Helinor (Ellie) Clark

Filled with prepubescent angst, I attempt to ignore your baseball game antics. Stretching the seventh inning's lyrics longer than the rest of the crowd. Scarfing down a sixth "dollar dog." Betting on Mustard to win the Hot Dog Derby (I preferred Ketchup). Still, I sulk into your shoulder in the nose-bleeds, wondering why you'd waste our bonus night on baseball. And then the unbelievable happens – the deafening strike of wood on cork and cowhide! I stand, but I can't see, even from the thirty-second row, until you put me on your shoulders as Tom Hamilton announces, "It's going, going, gone!"

NASA Brings Hands On Lessons To Grant

by Christine Gordillo

Have you ever wondered what kind of power it takes to launch a into outer space? Fifth graders at Grant Elementary learned all about the power technology that allows NASA to explore outer space from a pair of educators from NASA Glenn, who provided some hands-on lessons about the pros and cons of various power sources when it comes to space travel. Sounds like a powerful lesson!

Ranger Alumni Happy Hour Jan. 26

by Christine Gordillo

Once a Ranger, always a Ranger!

Come join your fellow Lakewood High graduates for a fun happy hour event that will brighten these gray January days! All class years are invited to Immigrant Son Brewery, owned by Class of '90 graduate Andrew Revy, on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 6-8 pm. Snacks and a drink ticket will be provided.

Bring a friend and come re-connect with old friends and share your stories of your Ranger days!

The event is sponsored by the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation.

Kindergarten Info Night Set For Jan. 19

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools' Kindergarten Parent Information Night will be held Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at 6:30 pm at Grant Elementary School. Students must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2023 in order to be eligible to enter kindergarten in Fall 2023. The program will include a presentation by Director of Teaching & Learning Steven Ast, who will share details about the curriculum and the registration process. Registration for next school year begins on Monday, Jan. 23. Preschool registration begins Jan. 17. Call 216-529-4203 for more information.



January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month

All people want the same things: To earn, learn, and belong. But not everyone has access to the supports needed to achieve this.

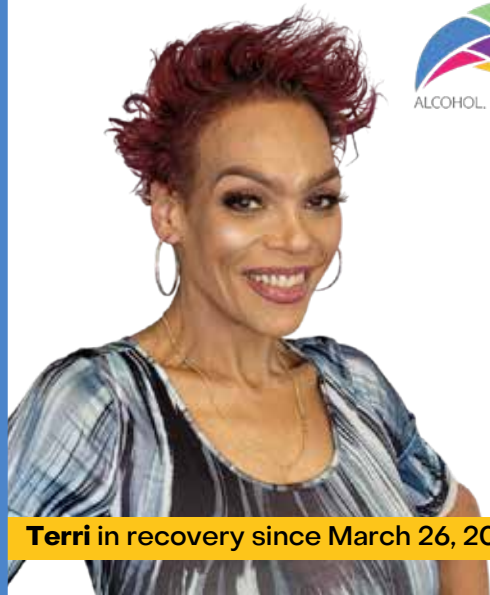
Among all female-headed households in Lakewood who participated in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)*, 22% are below the federal poverty level.

*To read the complete CHNA report, go to commsols.com/Lakewood

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LAKEWOOD SPORTS

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up:

By Dr. Charles Greanoff

Basketball

Jan 14, Rangers vs. Normandy Invaders

This blustery, snowy night—and the Normandy Invaders—could not stop the raucous Lakewood student section and senior Brayden Volcansek who scored 12 second half points on torrid 3-point shooting. Brayden was the key to breaking open a tight game (36-34 after 3 quarters) as the Rangers dominated the 4th quarter and won 51-36. Stout team defense eventually shut down the Normandy 3-point game, and held the Invaders to a mere two fourth quarter points. As usual, sophomore guard Luke Vannucci led all scorers (15) and played a strong floor game, and junior Drew Jablonowski—the only starter over 6 feet tall—dominated on the boards and scored 12 hard fought points in the paint. While Luke and Drew did their thing, the beauty of this game was the totality of effort by the entire rotation. Junior Jack Gowan and senior Osied Albaradin each chipped 2 points and provided rebounds and defense. Junior Dominic Peck didn't score, but played solid defense on the ball for much of the game. Sophomore guard Lucas Seguire scored four and played important minutes down the stretch. Sophomore Peter Checkett made the most of his minutes, scoring 3.

The Rangers have now won four in a row in what is becoming a very satisfying season. Basketball is a fabulous team sport, but the Lakewood Friday Night experience with a large student section, a peppy Pep Band, and an energetic Ranger Cheer squad creates a purple and gold mosaic that is the magic of community based sports. Before the game, assistant Coach Brian Higginbotham ramps up the crowd, doing those extra little things that make the experience so special.

In an increasingly global, and sadly I would say cynical world, our hyper-local games are, to say the least, refreshing. Kudos to Coach Cammock and the entire 44107 crew. The

Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town, that gives it their all. Long Live Lakewood.

January 10, Rangers vs. Buckeyes

Tonight, the Lakewood Rangers started strong and ended strong, weathering a mid-game lull to defeat a determined Buckeye team 45-39 in the New East Gym. Sophomore Guard Luke Vannucci again led the team in scoring (17), and used the 3 point shot to push the Rangers to an early lead. Junior Drew Jablonowski fought like a bulldog all night against the taller Bucks, grabbing 13 rebounds and scoring 11. Senior Osied Albaradin, per usual, did many "non box score" things, tracking loose balls and playing tough defense, while chipping in 7 points. Senior Braydon Volcansek (3) also played stout defense, as did junior Jack Gowan (7). Sophomore Lucas Seguire scored 3 and handled the ball well against the Buckeye pressure. Junior Dominic Peck did not score but played strong defense and also handled the ball well. Down the stretch, when the Bucks had trimmed a 14 point lead all the way down to 3, Seguire, Jablonowski and Vannucci hit clutch free throws to seal the victory. The Rangers, who have won 3 straight games, had great support from the student section, pep band and the LHS Cheer-Sparkle squad (pictured). Coach Cammock and his staff have our team giving great effort night after night, playing an exciting brand of team basketball. The Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town, that give it their all.

January 6, Rangers vs. Parma

Microcosm—"a representation of something on a much smaller scale." If you were at tonight's 53-35 win over Parma, you would have seen a microcosm of the season; the hustle and teamwork, as well as the individual strengths/contributions of each player. Sophomore starting point guard Luke Vannucci, carrying a heavier load due to teammate injuries, controlled the tempo, distributed the ball, and hit four 3 pointers, the first two of which jumped started the Ranger offense. The other starters all contributed on both ends. Junior Dominic Peck (2), and seniors Brayden Volcansek (3) and Drew Jablonowski (3) fought hard for rebounds and loose balls, and established a lead that they team would never relinquish.

Sophomore Peter Checkett came off the bench and led the team in scoring (13), got hustle rebounds, and played with great energy. Speaking of the bench, Lakewood's is getting stronger every game. Junior Jack Gowen and Sophomore Aiden Smith provided points (7 each), rebounds and strong defense. The other starters all continued on both ends. Junior Dominic Peck (2), and seniors Brayden Volcansek (3) and Drew Jablonowski (3) fought hard for rebounds and lose balls, and established a lead that they team would never relinquish. Coach Cammock and his staff have

our Lakewood Rangers playing exciting, uptempo team basketball. Based on their body language and relentless team defense, it is clear that the players put team first and are committed to doing their best. (It was also great to see the faithful student section out in Parma tonight) The local high school team is a unique element of the American sports scene. Our Cavs—ever so likable—represent an international all-star team. Our Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town that gives it their all every time out. Long Live Lakewood.

January 3, Rangers vs. Valley Forge Patriots

Shorthanded due to injuries but undeterred, the Lakewood Rangers used the sizzling shooting of sophomore Luke Vannucci (23 points) and a deep bench to defeat Valley Forge 58-49 tonight at the New East Gym. The Rangers pounced on the Patriots early—15-3—on five 3-pointers (four by Vanucci and one by sophomore Peter Checkett—5 points). From then on, Valley Forge chipped away, and eventually took the lead early in the 4th quarter. It was then that the "grinders"—junior Drew Jablonowski (10 points and a key steal), senior Osied Albaradin (7 points) and junior Jack Gowan (4 points) did their thing, fighting hard for rebounds, scoring on put backs, and tightening up on defense. It



was a great team effort tonight. Senior Brayden Volcansek chipped in with 2 points, junior Dominic Peck did not score but played solid defense, and sophomore Aiden Smith came off the bench to score 7 points, including a key basket down the stretch. The oldest cliché in the book—"next man up"—was on full display tonight. Kudos to Coach Cammock, his staff and the entire squad...and the fabulous Lakewood Ranger student section...and our terrific cheer squad, and our fired up Pep Band. Everyone pitched in, and everyone had fun. Long Live Lakewood.



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Foundation Awards \$78,532 In Grants

by Lynn Donaldson

Grants totaling \$78,532 from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation will provide scholarships, encourage student achievement, fight hunger, and foster programs for community health and wellness.

Each year, the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River seeks grant applications from non-profit organizations that serve our youth, adults and community within Lakewood and Rocky River. Since its creation in 1952 by then-Club President Carl Dryer, the Foundation has enabled the club to provide over \$1.25 million in student scholarships and grants. This has been accomplished due to the generosity of the club's philanthropic membership.

This year, the club will award

Rotary Contributed 300 Loaves Of Bread To Thanksgiving And Christmas Food Distribution

by Larry Faulhaber

Members of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise meet at Breadsmith Bakery in Lakewood every Friday night to pick up leftover bread and rolls. Breadsmith owner, Sabine Kretzschmar, former Club member, generously donates the day's leftover bread and rolls. Club members then bag the bread and rolls and then take them to Rotary freezers located in churches and homes in Lakewood. Every November and December they bring the donated items to the Lakewood Masonic Hall for the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation's food distribution. The bread is packed for delivery to needy families in Lakewood. Any leftover bread during the year is delivered to local food pantries such as Trials for Hope in Ohio City.

This is just one of many community, youth, vocational and international projects of area Rotary Clubs. To learn more about how you can join with men and women in your area to give back through service in your community, and internationally, contact – sloopyohio19@gmail.com

\$15,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and present \$7,000 in prizes to student winners in the club's annual speech, music, and art competition.

A grant of \$2,340 was used for the club's annual literacy project, purchasing dictionaries for 624 third grade students in Lakewood and Rocky River.

A \$4,572 award went to Rocky River Meals on Wheels to purchase food and cooking equipment.

Three organizations each received a \$4,500 grant – Trials for Hope to establish the new Cove Center Dry Goods Pantry; LakewoodAlive for its Home Safety Repairs Volunteer Program; and Elle's Enchanted Forest Playground for new equipment for disabled children.

Grants of \$4,000 each were awarded to the Lakewood Community Services Center to empower seniors to cook and eat well and promote health self-awareness; and Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. to purchase a total of 600 food baskets for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays' distributions.

Rocky River Assistance Program received \$3,500 for its free supplement monthly food supplies distribution. Twice Blessed Free Store (RRUMC) received \$3,000 to purchase personal hygiene items to give away to residents.

Grants of \$2,500 each were awarded to St. Edward High School for seed money for its new bee keeping program; Neighborhood Family Practice to help provide critical medical care for low-income residents; Connecting for Kids for a resource fair for parents of disabled kids; and Barton Senior Center to subsidize fresh fruits and vegetables.

Grants of \$2,000 each went to Rocky River Parks and Recreation Foundation for its summer concert series; the Rocky River Senior Center to assist with senior transportation; HELP Foundation for its wellness and adult day support programs; H2O (Help to Others) for its



Left to right: Inga Wilhelmy, Sydney Wilhelmy, Lillian Germaine, Sam Saracina, Cale Clemens, Amal Elhachdani, Teeghan McGann, Michael Butterfield, Hanna Martin, Nate Sinagra, Collin Hunt.

Lakewood Kiwanis Celebrates Returning Scholarship Recipients

by Anna Bacho

Kiwanis Club of Lakewood recently welcomed back 11 scholarship recipients to the luncheon. Such an entertaining program with all the accomplishments the students have achieved and looking to do. Travel-

ing to Bangkok, working with law enforcement agencies, interning with US Coast Guard and so much more. The club was thanked by each student for the scholarship awarded to achieve their dreams.

Lakewood Kiwanis has awarded over \$ 2.6 million in scholarships since 1950 to Lakewood resident high school seniors. And looking to do more. The new scholarship application will be online December 31,2022 through the web site www.Lakewoodkiwanis.com If you have a graduating high school senior or know of a graduating high senior the lives in Lakewood who could use a little help with college financing, please share this information. Kiwanis wants to help.

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Home Alone Program for grade school kids; and to Youth Challenge for its one-on-one activities with disabled children and young adults.

A \$1,900 grant was awarded to the Lakewood Public Library to purchase S.T.E.A.M. educational kits for grade school students. Rocky River Senior Center received \$1,000 for new technology to reach isolated seniors. The Lakewood Historical Society was awarded \$750 for the Ohio Heritage Program for grades three to six during summer recreation.

The local club was chartered in 1926. Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in more than 160 countries worldwide. Rotary, along with its partners, has reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide since its first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.





January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month

Although we cannot eradicate poverty individually, we can make ourselves more aware and cultivate a culture of empathy and care. We can volunteer time or donate to charities and organizations that support safe housing, access to healthy food, and clean water. We can use our vote to endorse measures and politicians prioritizing poverty, affordability, and access to life's essential needs.

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LAKEWOOD BUSINESS



Cultivate Yoga Opens In Lakewood - Nonprofit Yoga For ALL!

by Evan Scharfeld

Cultivate Yoga is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that exists to remove the financial barriers that can prevent people from accessing a quality yoga practice. They do this by offering what they call "GIFT-BASED YOGA" at their brick and mortar studio locations in Avon and, as of 1/2/2023, at their new location in Lakewood.

Located at 18615 Detroit Extension Suite 207 in the West End/Georgetown neighborhood, Cultivate Yoga Lakewood provides all of their offerings for free out into the community



for anyone who needs them to be. What they ask in return, and the underlying premise for GIFT-BASED YOGA is that the recipient of this gift of yoga recognizes that there is a responsibility to reciprocate the gift back out into the community in any way they choose - to elevate us all towards a common place of compassion, love and acceptance for all.

Giving back could be a financial donation to the Cultivate organization or volunteering with another organization or picking up litter on the way home from class to clean up the neighborhood - the method for giving back is at the sole discretion of the client.

Cultivate is sustained completely by the generosity of its community members - those students that have the ability to donate to the organization financially and choose to do so.

The choice to offer yoga for free is at the core of the Cultivate Yoga organization and they do so in order to open this ancient practice of self-empowerment and self-care to as many people as possible around our community.

Cultivate believes that providing loving space for individuals to explore and evolve themselves is of the utmost importance to a healthy and thriving community overall.

All classes at both locations (Lakewood and Avon) can be booked on their website:

www.cultivateyoga.org

Evan Scharfeld is a resident of (and lover of all things) Lakewood since 2008 and founder of Cultivate Yoga (Lakewood & Avon locations).

A Taste of Mexico In The Heart of Lakewood, Ohio

by Pebbles Brown

As soon as I took a bite of the delicious meal I ordered at Cilantro Taqueria, the word "real" immediately popped into my head. If you are craving true Mexican cuisine, this is seriously the place for you!

Despite the popularity of Mexican cuisine across the United States, you might be surprised that few restaurants offer an authentic taste of this iconic fare, especially in the Midwest. That's why the owner of Cilantro Taqueria has set out on a mission to bring bold Mexican flavors to the heart of Lakewood Ohio, and the results speak for themselves.

I was incredibly pleased to see that Cilantro Taqueria focuses on creating memorable flavors by using freshly sourced ingredients that pack a powerful punch with every dish. For guacamole lovers, their homemade dip is a must-try, thanks to its notable hints of cilantro that give you a refreshing, creamy bite with each dip.

And Cilantro takes extra care to ensure that each of its protein options is seasoned to perfection, whether you choose traditional Mexican options like carnitas and barbacoa or a more modern choice like their flavorful vegan chorizo. I personally ordered three shredded chicken tacos, which were loaded with lettuce, cheese, and hot sauce. Of course, I couldn't leave without getting a traditional Elote, Mexican street corn. One fan favorite, the grilled shrimp tacos, is known for their deliciously charred flavor that keeps guests coming back for more.

Although Cilantro Taqueria focuses on serving authentic Mexican cuisine, that doesn't mean you can't customize your own experience. Cilantro offers a broad menu, including tortas, tacos, fajitas, burritos, quesadillas, and bowls, which give you the freedom to pick your toppings from the freshly made selec-



tion. And if you're looking to end your meal on a sweet note, their classic Mexican desserts like Chocoflan and Tres Leches Cake are guaranteed to satisfy your sugary cravings.

Thankfully, you won't have to travel far to sink your teeth into the flavors of Mexico. Cilantro Taqueria is proudly serving up authentic Mexican cuisine at 5 locations across the greater Cleveland area, with each location featuring a dedicated and friendly staff who deliver lightning-fast service. If you're in a rush, you can grab your grub to go with their convenient online ordering options.

The Lakewood Cilantro Taqueria is located at 18260 Detroit Ave. To read their full menu visit www.cilantrotaqueria.com.

Pebbles Brown is a foodie. She is excited to share the things that interest her the most- Culture and Food. She hopes that as you follow along with her journey, She will spark your excitement and help you nurture your own passions and projects, whether that be food and culture, or something else. All her content is entirely unique to her thoughts and experiences, and she hopes you enjoy what she has to say.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood League Of Women Voters 100th Anniversary 100 Pillars Spotlight:

Mary Osburn

by Carol Thum

Mary Osburn is a facilitator. She has spent her career helping people and programs get a new start on life, both in the League of Women Voters and in her community. Born in Brooklyn, the family moved to North Royalton where she found school boring, especially math. But her father, a bank president, and her mother were firm believers that all three of their children needed a college education, and so she persevered and graduated from Ohio Northern University with a degree in sociology.

Her first job was with the Lorain County department of Human Services as a social worker. Although she loved the work, in a while, through the “lucky indulgence” of her parents, Mary spent a year doing dinner theater in North Royalton. “After a while, I decided to put on my big girl pants and went to work for the Red Cross as a donor recruiter. The Powers that Be believed that if you could get 300 million people to use deodorant, you should be able to get them to give blood! Of course, having someone put a needle in your arm is a lot different, but that was the mind set.” About that time the Red Cross lowered the age for blood donors to 17, and Mary was charged with recruiting high school students. “They were a great source. They were happy to get out of math or science for an hour or two. The funny thing was, it was the big beefy guys who were most likely to faint, whereas those skinny little girls would put rocks in their pockets to make the weight requirement. The students really wanted to donate. Back in the day, Lakewood High



Mary Osburn
(Lakewood Observer file)

led the county for the most blood donors. I was invited to the senior government classes to recruit and I would explain the process, how the Red Cross separated the blood, and what they did with it. They needed a lot of blood then, for liver and hip replacement surgeries, procedures that were new at the time.”

From the Red Cross, Mary moved on to become the ombudsman for Lakewood Hospital. “I was the liaison between patients and their families and the staff. Much of it was the social work that I loved doing.” The job changed dramatically in 1999 when the Institute of Medicine published a report called “To Err is Human.” Their research indicated that medical errors caused the deaths of 98,000 people every year, and gave specific and detailed recommendations for

improvement. Through the agency of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a list of patient rights was created and the ombudsman became wedded to overseeing that patient safety and rights became a top priority. “This elevated the position. Now the hospital was responsible for following up on grievances with a written letter telling the patient what had been done to correct a situation, and we had to provide the phone numbers for the Ohio Department of Health, the joint Commission, and CMS in Chicago in case the complainant was not satisfied. I wrote letters and did investigations. I enjoyed the work. It was always something different. One minute I would be looking for someone’s dentures, and the next I’d be in the ICU with an end of life dilemma. It’s not the kind of job where you can go in and think, I’ll do this and this and this today. You had to be flexible and expect the unexpected.”

Mary joined the League of Women Voters in the early 1990s following a Women’s Fair at Lakewood Hospital. “I had a lot of friends in the League, Linda Beebe, Pam Smith, and a lot of others; Lakewood is a nice chapter, and very active.” Mary

helped put together programs for First Thursdays, monthly forums with speakers on community issues held at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland. She wrote questions for the League’s 411 Voter Guides and followed up by reminding candidates of deadlines. In 2019, with the help of Janet Patterson and Pam Smith, Mary put together a power point presentation featuring the life and times of suffragist Alice Paul and her fight for women’s rights and the 19th amendment. “I had a suffragist outfit with the sash and all, and we went to high schools, Plymouth Church downtown and various locations and were very well received. Then came Covid and everything shut down, but it was a wonderful experience.” For now, Mary is active on the board of Lakewood Senior Citizens, Inc. in connection with the Barton Senior Center. She is stepping back a little from the League to give the next generation the opportunity to contribute. “I’d encourage anyone to join the League. Yes they can be slow and deliberate, but that’s what gives them their credibility.”

Carol Thum is League of Women Voters Member and wordsmith.

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January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month

All people want the same things: To earn, learn, and belong. But not everyone has access to the supports needed to achieve this.

50% of Black households who participated in Lakewood’s Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)* survey have a household income below \$25,000.

*To read the complete CHNA report, go to commsols.com/Lakewood

LAKEWOOD REMEMBERS

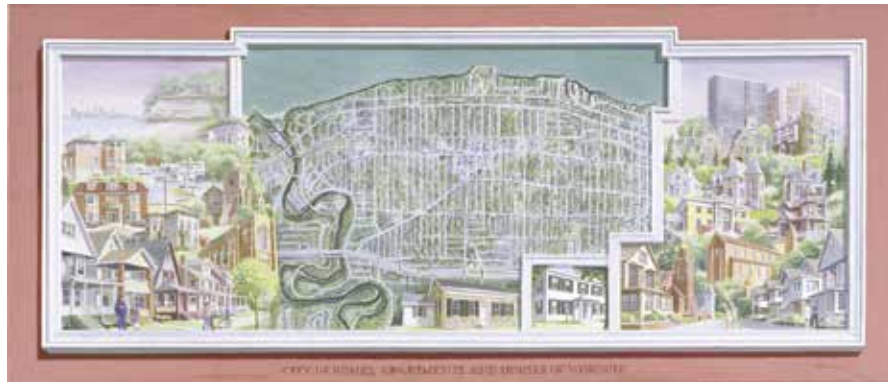
Lakewood of My Youth - Revisited

by Tim Rowell

"I believe I will go to my grave without seeing any significant change to my old neighborhood in Lakewood." This was the first line in a November 2006 article I read in the Lakewood Observer titled "Lakewood of My Youth." The author, Mike Reilly, who grew up on the corner of Edgewater and Abbieshire, wrote of life in his neighborhood in the sixties, recalling the families on the street and the memorable experiences they shared. At the time, I lived on the same corner, having similar experiences with my family, but 40 years later. I saved the article and vowed to share the Lakewood of My Youth – Revisited, sometime down the road.

My wife Nancy and I raised our four children and assorted pets on the corner of Edgewater and Abbieshire for 28 years from 1986 until we moved in 2014. (Actually, our first home was next door on Abbieshire, and seven years later we bought the corner-house because we were so fond of the neighborhood).

When the author walked down the street in the 60's, he recalled the families that lived on the street. 40 years later, three of the families he mentioned - Mrs. Jenson, the Schubert's, and Gerlach's – were still there. But by 2006, most the houses had turned over to a new group of homeowners - the Velcios, Millers, Boratos, Morans, Monts, Vigliancos, Kramers, Rowells, Singletaries, and Shaikhs – whose families grew up on the street in the 90's



"Lakewood City of Homes, Apartments and Houses of Worship" by Richard Haas hangs in Lakewood Public Library Great Reading Room.

and 2000's. Many are still there.

In the 60's, the circle on the Abbieshire-Edgewater corner became a baseball diamond, with one of the corner yards serving as left field and the side of their house as "the gray monster", named after Boston's left field wall, the green monster. That gray monster was our house, and over the years alternated blue, then putty, before returning to dark gray as it currently stands. In the 2000's, youth sports were played more in local leagues and travel teams, but the circle was still active on summer evenings with more casual games of kickball or 4 corners, and after dark became the setting for games of ghosts in the graveyard, capture the flag or chasing lightning bugs.

Our corner house was physically very close to our neighbors on both sides. We by necessity got to know each other very well and felt blessed that our proximity helped nurture our becoming close friends. There were no fences

or driveways between our three houses, which enhanced those night-time games of ghosts in the graveyard.

We had a side yard on Abbieshire between our and the Kramer's houses. There we built a wooden swing set/fort which became a neighborhood park and toddler play area. For some reason, Mr. Kramer would cut our grass every week. He was either the world's nicest neighbor, or pre-empting me from mowing – as my landscaping standards were slightly lower - or both. In the winter we could return the favor. I only needed to use the snowblower a few times a year, but during a big storm, could plow the Abbieshire sidewalks from Lake to Edgewater and around the corner with little effort.

Our Edgewater-side neighbors were the Singletaries. Only 6-8 feet separated our houses, which made for some warm and unforgettable experiences. We recall with a smile how our children would at times say good night across bedroom screen windows like John Boy on Little House on the Prairie – "Good-Night Abbey." "Good-Night Dan." The unforgettable occurred on a summer day when a roof replacement accident at the Singletaries caused a house fire. The fire department's swift response included both extinguishing the fire at the Singletaries, and hosing the side of our house to prevent the fire from spreading. Fortunately, no one was hurt and the homes were restored.

We called our street a 'Fourth of July Street'. The annual parade would pass by the end of our street on Lake. Our Lake-corner neighbors, the Ziegenrueckers, would treat all gathered to donuts while viewing the parade and waving at friends from Safety Town, H2O, Taft Unicyclists,

and the High School Bands. After the parade, most families would picnic with extended families and friends, and by late afternoon the street's population increased 10+fold. Near dusk, children and parents would gather at the Kramers front yard for games of 'Rini-Says' (a version of Simon-Says) with prizes and bragging rights for the winners. Finally, around 10 pm the Lakewood Park fireworks show would cap the evening. We would be joined by total strangers viewing from cars, bikes, and the tree lawns on the circle for a prime view. On July 4th's when winds came from the northeast, the fireworks appeared to be almost directly over our heads, making the show more special.

Like many Lakewood streets, we had a summer block party. Parents organized games, bike parades, and even pooch parades. During the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the block party had a parade of nations with homemade flags and the 'Abbieshire Games.' One year the Lakewood Fire Department visited with a fire truck for show-and-tell.

Being close to Lakewood Park, we would walk or bike to the park to enjoy the playground, pool, fields, Friday Night at the Movies and Sunday Night Concerts. We would feel comfortable letting our children meet friends at the park or bike to their homes – everyone we knew seemed a mile or less away.

We left our Lakewood-Abbieshire home in 2014 after our youngest child left for college. We feel lucky we were able to 'downsize' to a home in Lakewood's West End. We still keep in touch with our old neighbors with whom we shared so much.

As I pass our old neighborhood again today, I notice things do change. Most things are the same. But the gold autumn leaves of our old shag-bark hickory tree that towered over Abbieshire are gone and have been replaced with the red leaves of the maple tree we planted just after moving in. Lakewood Park's more diverse group of daily visitors no longer find a skating rink at the Oldest Stone House Field in winter, but do find the Park's new Solstice Steps to applaud a spectacular Lake Erie Sunset. The old gives way to new. The good remains, and some of the good gets better. And that's reassuring.



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OBSERVATIONS

Legal Aid Can Help With Rental Housing Questions

by **Tonya Sams**

There are a number of questions that may come up when you are tenant of a rental property. Renters may feel that

they have very few rights because they do that own the property that they dwell in. If tenants are unaware of their rights they can be taken advantage of by their land-

lords. Legal Aid can help answer your questions regarding these rights.

Tenants can call Legal Aid's Tenant Information Line at 216-861-5955.

Tenants can leave a message and a housing specialist will call back during normal business hours, within 1- 2 business days. Legal Aid housing specialists can answer several tenant questions such as:

Am I allowed to break my lease?

My landlord needs to make repairs. How can I get them to do this?

What can I do to get my security deposit back?

Do I have to keep paying rent if my landlord is not paying utilities that they are responsible for?

Do I need to move if I received a 3-day notice?

How much can my landlord charge for late fees?

Legal Aid's Tenant Information Line is for information only. Callers will get answers to their questions and will also receive information about their rights. Some callers may be referred to other organizations for additional help. Callers who need legal assistance may be referred to Legal Aid's intake or a neighborhood Brief Advice Clinic. For a list of upcoming free Brief Advice Clinics dates and locations, visit laslev.org/events. For more information about Legal Aid's Tenant Info Line, visit laslev.org/tenantinfo.

Tonya Sams is the Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

You Gotta Make Up Your Mind:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 130 (Part 1)

by **Buzz Kompier**

V-3 - **No One Speaks My Language Here** - Bravecloud Records - 11 songs - LP

V-3 - **Hit Dead Center With My Disease** - Bravecloud Records - 10 songs - LP

V-3 - **The Enemy Within** - Bravecloud Records - 11 songs - LP

I was originally going to write this as three separate reviews but once I started on that endeavor I realized this way probably made more sense (especially since I think a lot of people are probably going to pick up all three as a unit anyway— and maybe that's how they're supposed to be heard, who can say). These three records are made up of recordings made (mostly) from 1986 to 1991 by the Jim Shepard/Nudge Squidfish/Roxanne Newman/Rudy Smith lineup of the group. I guess for context within the overall musical career of Jim Shepard this is a somewhat transitional era between the more experimental early stuff and the less experimental later stuff? I kinda think

the experimental element was always present, but this material is a middle ground of sorts.

So what's on all of these? All sorts of stuff! There's some Shepard classics, like a pretty cool version of "4 Ever Low Man" and a killer "Photograph Burns." There's bizarre stuff, like "Reflector" (where Jim tells a story about a bike reflector being mistaken for something extraterrestrial over a pretty good instrumental) and "It Was Reported" (which is hard to describe but has multiple Shepard vocals while someone snaps their fingers to provide accompaniment). The liner notes (more on those later) say that they were going for "weirdo pop" but I don't really know if I'm necessarily picking up on the pop part of that— certainly there's a lot of very catchy and hooky material here, but is it necessarily pop? I will say that V-3 exists within Robert Pollard's "four P's": pop/prog/psych/punk. They've got a little bit of some of those and a lot of others. Certain songs ("Inside Out Post," "Voices In The Woods") I wrote down in my notes as prog-punk. Defi-

nately not a genre combo that a lot of people can pull off, but somehow V-3 makes it work. Roxanne Newman's songs are pretty interesting, usually pretty dreamy and semi-psychedelic. "Songs Always Linger" and "Twisted Words" were my favorites of those. I especially like the tracks where both she and Jim play guitar— Jim's style is already pretty chaotic ("Don't Blame Me" is a good example) and, as the insert points out, Roxanne had no training in guitar, so that makes for a pretty noisy mix (see "It's Not Easy" and "Prime Minister Keyes"). Two of these albums contain a really good song called "Go On" that's about as close to true pop as they get (still pretty weird, though!)— they're different but I can't say that one or the other is superior.

(available at your local record store or at a variety of distros: Goner, Total Punk, etc.)

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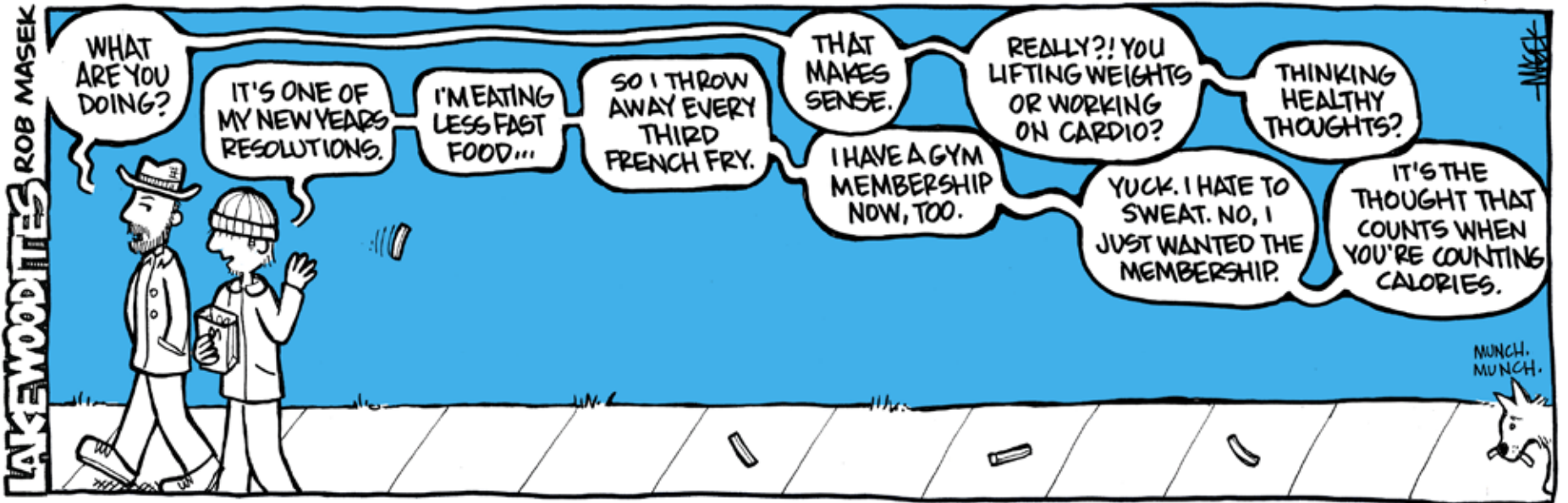
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