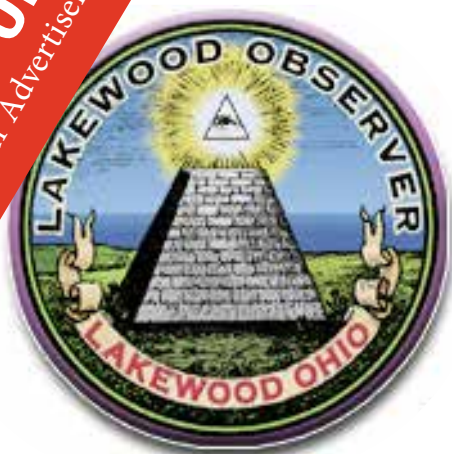


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



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Volume 11, Issue 24, November 24, 2015

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My Thanksgiving is perpetual."
Henry David Thoreau

Patterson Accepts Superintendent Of Year Award

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Jeffrey W. Patterson was honored as the 2015 Ohio Superintendent of the Year at the AASA, The School Superintendents Association's National Gala for Superintendents held in Washington, D.C. on November 14.

Patterson was named Superintendent of the Year by the Buckeye Association of School Administrators in November 2014 for his lead-

ership of the 5,300-student Lakewood City School District.

At the time of the announcement last year, Patterson said: "I am honored and humbled. This award speaks volumes about the accomplishments of our students, the quality of our staff and the commitment from the Lakewood community and our Board of Education."

Patterson became Superintendent in 2011 after serving five years as Lakewood's Assis-

tant Superintendent. Prior to coming to Lakewood, he served as Superintendent of the Orrville City School District for six years.

Patterson has provided effective leadership as the district passed both a bond and an operating levy in the same year with overwhelming support; increased student achievement, particularly for the district's most at-risk students; landed in the top 2% of public school districts for yearly

academic growth; and oversaw negotiations with the district's professional unions that have helped put the district on strong financial footing.

Patterson has continued the Lakewood Schools' legacy of engaging the community in major decisions that affect the district. He has earned a reputation of being forthright and transparent through his many community meetings. He is a member of the Lakewood community and is involved in a number of community organizations including the economic development group LakewoodAlive, the Lakewood Council of PTAs and Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation.

Patterson's outreach to the community was crucial in the passage of a bond issue in 2013 that has allowed the district to move forward with its final phase of its Master Facilities Plan, which will include building three new elemen-



tary schools and completing a rebuild of the eastern half of Lakewood High School.

On selecting Patterson for the award, BASA Executive Director Kirk Hamilton said: "Jeff Patterson is an exceptional school superintendent and leader. His selection as Ohio's 2015 Superintendent of the Year reflects not only his success as a leader, but also all of the wonderful things that have been achieved in the Lakewood City Schools."

All You Need To Know About Light Up Lakewood 2015



Craig Lovejoy's photo of Light Up Lakewood from the air, shows just how big of a party this is! Turn to pages 9-12 for all you need to know about the entire celebration!

Holiday Caring And Sharing On Madison Avenue

by Carol Congeni

Uptown Lakewood Presents Candy Cane Lane... Sharing and Caring to benefit The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. Give the Gift of Warmth and Comfort This Holiday Season...

When was the last time you were excited to receive a pair of socks???

Bring a pair of new socks, gloves, mittens, or scarves to any participating Uptown

Lakewood business and receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of our festive gift baskets donated by the merchants in Uptown Lakewood.

Uptown Lakewood will be donating as well to help those in need this Holiday Season. For a list of participating businesses, visit us at Uptown-Lakewood.com.

We will have music, eats and treats, giveaways, holiday specials and more. November

27th-29th as we celebrate Shop Small & Local Saturday!!! We will have an EXTRA SPECIAL guest and surprises on Saturday the 28th. Winter is fast approaching and we will look forward to Spring; we are planning a wonderful fundraiser for Easter time. More details to follow. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Uptown Lakewood Business Alliance is a coalition of businesses on Madison Ave.

Riverside, Madison Intersection Closing For Two Weeks

by Colin McEwen

Starting on Monday, November 23, the Madison and Riverside intersection will be closed for approximately two weeks (weather permitting) for sewer repair.

During recent repairs to

an underground utility line, a 20-foot section of sanitary sewer pipe buckled underneath the intersection and needs to be excavated and replaced. "This wasn't planned, but it's something that we need to address right away," said city engineer

Mark Papke. "We're grateful for residents' and motorists' patience while this issue is resolved."

Barricades and detour signs will be posted during the construction. Local traffic will utilize Daleview, Fries, **continued on page 4**

Christmas Sale On The Grounds

by Heidi Murray

The Lakewood Historical Society's annual Christmas Sale on the Grounds has everything you need for holiday decorating, entertaining and gift-giving.

Spending the first weekend in December shopping at the Nicholson House, Lakewood's oldest structure, has become a holiday tradition for many savvy shoppers. If you've never been, you must come! Beautifully displayed new and nearly-new gift items, tree trimmings, decorations, wrapping paper and anything you need for holiday entertaining share the space with antiques, collectibles, vintage linens, glassware, silver and delicate heirloom ornaments.

Christmas Sale on the Grounds offers the opportunity to recycle treasures of the past, providing one-of-a-kind gift ideas. Donated by a legion of Historical Society supporters of all ages, the items reflect

the treasures of the past 100 years and today. Relive your childhood with games, dolls and toys from days gone by, add to your Christmas village collection or find a treasured collectible. If you're watching your budget, you can't afford not to shop here--don't miss this event!

Shop Christmas Sale on the Grounds at the Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit, on Friday December 4, from 4-7 p.m. A \$10 admission charge at the door ensures you be the first to preview our sale. Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, December 6, noon - 3 p.m. Admission is free Saturday and Sunday so come and take a look. We accept cash and checks. Parking is available across the street at St. Ed's.

All proceeds support the programs and projects of the Lakewood Historical Society. Questions? Call the Society at 216-221-7343.

Observations



Changes Coming To The Lakewood Observer

by Jim O'Bryan
Publisher, Lakewood Observer, Inc.

After more than ten years serving all sides of Lakewood's news, discussions and images we are looking for way to serve everyone better.

The most important change was bringing the Lakewood Observer and the Observation Deck to the smart phone and tablet, a change long overdue, and asked for.

We are now looking at ways to cover the news and serve the community better and faster. The first sign of this is our hotline which can be called or texted 24-hours a day, if you see a news story, have a hot tip, or have a question about the Lakewood Observer. We are still powered by volunteers, so speed of response will be based on who is answering the hotline that night.

We have assembled a team of users, founders and newbies to take a look at the Observation Deck and determine what can be added or changed to not just serve the community better, but to help us make sure we are offering the best experience for talking about everything Lakewood while we keep a running history of what is going on.

Speaking of history, we recently brought back nearly 40,000 posts going back to 2003, that had been separated from the Deck and kept in the Archives. One of our founders, Stephen Davis was adamant about putting the libraries back together so that we can instantly search over a decade of topics. There are over 12,573 topics and 102,000 posts about everything and anything. Want to understand a topic better? Try our search features. Find exactly what you are looking for, from whom, in under 30 seconds. You don't have to guess, you now can quote facts and statements with one click.

Want to understand someone better? Then read what they have to say over a period of time, and see first-hand one of the true beauties of this project. Not only can you read what people say, but you can see how they handle themselves and others during discussion. This is one of the center themes of the Lakewood Observer Mission Statement: Learn more about our city and our residents than any city has ever known before.

We were created for the residents and businesses of Lakewood, and now we look to you, to help us grow. The best is yet to come.

YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR IT
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DRINKERY FUNKERY

HOT OFF THE DECK - WHERE LAKEWOOD TALKS				
http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum				
Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
"Catching the Light"	Alex Belisle	200	10035	Mon Nov 23
Lakewood Hospital Foundation	Bill Call	5	409	Mon Nov 23
Assets To Be Transfered to Cleveland Foundation				
Statistics	Corey Rossen	10	376	Mon Nov 2
Clouds got in the way...	Jim O'Bryan	288	38606	Sun Nov 22
"Grandest" City	Meg Ostrowski	8	910	Sun Nov 22
Corruption Scandal Ever?				
No More Lakewood	Brian Essi	7	532	Sun Nov 22
Neighborhood News?				
Thanksgiving Food Deliveries	Alex Belisle	0	231	Sat Nov 21
Can The Hospital Lawsuit	Lori Allen	9	527	Sat Nov 21
Be Tried Fairly in Cuyahoga County?				
Lakewood Law Director is finalist	Patrick Wadden	3	319	Sat Nov 21
LHS Varsity Basketball	Alex Belisle	0	79	Fri Nov 20
scrimmage 11/20/15				
Fairview Hospital has no	Lori Allen	17	897	Fri Nov 20
beds for surgery patients				
Response to Alex About	Lori Allen	5	918	Fri Nov 20
Drugs in Lakewood				
Defendant Summers Objects	Matt Markling	151594		Thu Nov 19
To Testifying Under Oath As				
To Lakewood Hospital Issues				
Kaptur Goes Republican	Michael Deneen	0	215	Thu Nov 19
Lakewood's refugee children	Alex Belisle	8	537	Thu Nov 19
District Hosting Breakfast	Christine Gordillo	2	128	Thu Nov 19
for Senior Citizens				
Superintendent Patterson in	Betsy Voinovich	6	330	Thu Nov 19
D.C. for award ceremony				
Girl Power - LHS	Alex Belisle	0	9	Wed Nov 18
"Powder Puff" games				

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

Become an Observer!

As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
November 29, 2015	December 8, 2015 (last issue of 2015)
December 27, 2015	January 5, 2016

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City News

Council Discusses Changes And Appointments

Council President and Ward IV Councilwoman, Mary Louise Madigan, called the November 16, 2015 Council meeting to order at 7:46 P.M. with apologies for the delayed start. Council had been held up in a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Skipping ahead to new business, the first matter of business was a communication from Councilman Tom Bullock recognizing Lakewood Alive and Paisley Monkey for statewide awards they received from Heritage Ohio. Lakewood Alive was awarded Heritage Ohio's Best Committee Event for their second annual Wine and Craft Beer Festival which was held September 13, 2014, and Paisley Monkey was awarded the Heritage Ohio Main Street Business of the Year for their unique custom children's boutique.

Councilwoman Madigan and Councilwoman Cindy Marx both thanked Lakewood Alive for all they do for the community and attracting residents with diverse events such as the Wine and Craft Beer Festival.

Council then passed two resolutions, one recognizing Lakewood Alive and the other recognizing Paisley Monkey.

by Christopher Bindel

Next Councilwoman Madigan delivered a report from the Committee of the Whole regarding the newly established Public Art Task Force. When the Task Force was established it was decided that it would be made up of seven members, two would be appointed by Council, two by the Mayor, and the remaining three would consist of a member from the Planning Commission, a member of the Architectural Board of Review, and a member from a leading community arts organization. During their meeting the Committee reviewed applications for their appointees to the Task Force and settled on their choices. However, due to a proposed change to the makeup of the Task Force that would be presented by the Mayor later in the meeting, Council decided to defer the resolution appointing those members until the latter issue had been resolved.

The Mayor then asked Council to consider his resolution changing the makeup of the Task Force. The proposed change would keep the Task Force at seven members but eliminate

the requirement that there be members from the Planning Commission, Architectural Board of Review, and an arts organization. Instead, the appointments would simply be split between Council and the Mayor, giving four to Council and three to the Mayor. The Mayor believed that this would give more flexibility to the process and allow for the inclusion of more of the people who submitted applications.

Council proceeded to pass the resolution approving the changes.

The Mayor then took a moment to recognize Small Business Saturday. Starting in 2010, Small Business Saturday was created in response to Black Friday as an incentive to get people to shop at local small businesses and support them during the holiday season. In collaboration with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, this is the sixth year Lakewood has participated. This year Small business Saturday will be Saturday, November 28th. The Mayor asked people to join him this holiday season by shopping at local merchants in celebration of Small Business Saturday, and Lakewood.

Next, Finance Director, Jennifer Pae, kicked off the 2016 budget season by presenting Council with 16 ordinances that will make up the bulk of the 2016 budget. Council proceeded to read through them all and place them on first reading and referred them to the Finance Committee where they can be discussed. A schedule for the budget

hearings had already been put together, and will likely have begun by the time you read this.

Director of Planning and Development Department, Dru Siley, then asked Council to review the recommendations from the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee, which is made up of volunteer citizens, has the nearly insurmountable task of combing through applicants and working through legal limitations to recommend to Council ways the City should spend its continually dwindling Community Block Grant. After six weeks and countless hours the Committee compiled their recommendations and have submitted them to Council for their consideration.

Council referred the recommendations to the Committee of the Whole.

The last item on the agenda was a request from Police Chief Malley to pass a resolution in support of the Division of Police's grant application accepting support in the amount of \$51,284 from the Ohio Attorney General. The grant would support the salary of the officer who facilitates the D.A.R.E. program.

Council proceeded to pass the resolution.

Coming to the end of the agenda items, the meeting moved on to the public comment section. Several members of the community spoke, all speaking in regard to the Lakewood Hospital Situation. The public comment section began at 8:17 and continued until 8:52.

Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:53 P.M.



Are you or is someone you know diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease?

You might be able to help with a clinical research study looking at potential new treatment for mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's Disease

Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

The purpose of the study is to assess if adding investigational drug to donepezil will improve memory, thinking, reasoning when compared to donepezil and placebo.

Enrollment Criteria:

- Aged 50 years and older
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- Have a caregiver who can join you every study visit
- Taking a drug containing **donepezil** for at least 6 months

If this is you, or someone you know, we would like to hear from you.

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the Cleveland Clinic.

For full details about what is involved and to find out if you might be suitable to take part in this study, please call: **216-445-9009** or email cbhresearch@ccf.org

City News

Mayor Summers, US Senator Sherrod Brown Celebrate

Housing Investments In Lakewood’s Birdtown

by Colin McEwen

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown recently joined Lakewood Mayor Michael Summer to celebrate the completion of the last of four houses that are part of a collaborative effort to improve housing stock in the historic Birdtown neighborhood.

The 114-year-old home at 12217 Plover Street had been run-down and vacant for more than two years, before the city purchased it last year, using federal Community Development Block Grants and HOME funding.

“Lakewood’s housing stock is our economic backbone,” said Mayor Summers. “Like so many of the buildings in Lakewood, homes here have begun to hit the century mark. It’s essential that we keep our homes and our neighborhoods strong and vibrant for the next 100 years. Government — on all levels — has a big role to play here.”

This one of four houses — all in Birdtown — which the city has purchased, renovated and sold to help improve the neighborhood. During the past three years, the city has successfully acquired, rehabilitated and sold 10 homes to new Lakewood families. That includes two new-construction projects.

“Vacant lots, abandoned homes, and empty neighborhoods throughout Cuyahoga County are more than just an eyesore – they hinder economic

development,” said Senator Brown. “Because of the work being done in the city of Lakewood, we are strengthening our neighborhoods, providing opportunities for home ownership, and attracting new economic development. The Community Development Block Grant and the federal HOME

Investment Partnerships Program have provided resources to redevelop homes like the one we’re standing in front of today.”

The home at 12217 Plover Street is one of four such investments in the Birdtown Neighborhood. The others are located at 2126 Quail; 2070 Dowd;

and 2147 Dowd.

“This is part of our city’s proactive housing strategy,” said Mary Leigh, the city’s programs manager in the department of community development. “These federal funds allow us to intervene in the market where we can have the highest impact.”

‘Green Pavement’ Unveiled On Franklin Boulevard Bike Lanes

by Colin McEwen

The city of Lakewood took another step forward in its goal to becoming the most bike-friendly city in the state of Ohio.

Crews from Ennis-Flint put the finishing touches on new “green asphalt” in two locations on the designated bike lanes on Franklin Avenue, near Lakewood High School.

The new stretches of bike lane — made of a composite plastic material — are designed to provide an additional visual cue to remind both drivers and cyclists of the shared space on the roadways.

The city of Lakewood selected the two high-traffic locations as part of a pilot project effort.

“This installation will help to better inform us on our continued

approach to provide safe, convenient, and integrated transportation options throughout the community,” said city planner Bryce Sylvester, in the city’s department of planning and development.

“We’re continuing our effort to move Lakewood toward being the most bike friendly community in the state. This project certainly helps.”

The goal with this pilot project is to increase safety for cyclists in high-density areas. City officials will review

the results of the pilot in the spring, to evaluate how the lanes withstood winter conditions.

“Lakewood is the first in Cuyahoga County to use green asphalt to more visibly and safely demarcate bicycle-vehicle conflict zones,” said at-large city councilman Tom Bullock. “I look forward to broader use of green markings and to more best practices in Lakewood as we pursue our goal of becoming the most bicycle-friendly city in Ohio.”

Kids Cove Playground Getting A Makeover: Resident Feedback Sought

by Colin McEwen

Most in Lakewood agree that the Kids Cove playground at Lakewood Park could use an update.

The city of Lakewood is currently undergoing a planning process for the redesign and reconstruction of Kids Cove. City officials are looking for input from residents to get the process moving. “Kids Cove has been a vital piece of our community and we want to ensure future upgrades meet the needs and desires of parents and children alike,” said City Planner Jason Russell.

The goal is to begin construction of Kids Cove in the fall of 2016.

The city hosted a public meeting November 17 to review the conceptual

site plan and preliminary playground equipment selections. Residents’ thoughts, comments and feedback will greatly influence how current and future Lakewood children enjoy Kids Cove. Residents are encouraged to fill out a short survey to collect feedback about Kids Cove (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kidscove>) and other playground experiences to help inform the process.

“We’re hoping that residents help spread the word about the meeting and share the link to other parents in the Lakewood community,” added Russell. “We truly want this project to reflect what our community wants as a premier playground.”

Riverside, Madison Intersection Closing For Two Weeks

continued from page 1

and Larchmont/McKinley avenues as a detour route. Truck traffic southbound will be detoured at Riverside/Detroit and Detroit/West Clifton to head east on Detroit to south on Warren/Alger to west on Lakewood Heights/North Marginal to west on Hilliard to Riverside.

Truck traffic northbound will

be detoured at Riverside/Hilliard to head east on South Marginal/Ferndale to north on Alger/Warren to west on Detroit to Riverside.

For a map of the detour routes, visit: <http://www.onelakewood.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Madison-Riverside-Intersection-Work%E2%80%93Detour-Route.pdf>.

City Of Lakewood Planted Hundreds Of Trees This Fall

by Colin McEwen

The City’s Division of Streets and Forestry is putting down lots of roots in Lakewood — more than 210 trees this fall alone. “We are continuing to optimize Lakewood’s level of investment in trees,” said Chris Perry, the city’s public works unit manager, who oversees the forestry department. “This planting encompasses 18 different species, in an effort to increase the diversity of the city’s urban forest.”

At the conclusion of the fall planting season, the city will have planted 807 trees during the past two years to grow the next generation of trees while continuing to maintain the health and vigor of all trees in the Lakewood Urban Forest.

The idea is to capture the long-term ecological, economic and social

benefits — and improve public safety. Tree canopy provides many benefits to communities, improving water quality, reducing storm water runoff, saving energy, lowering city temperatures, reducing air pollution and increasing property values. “Species diversity is important so that the urban forest is resilient to insect and disease threats and the impacts of climate change,” added Perry. “Many pests and diseases attack a whole genus, so diversity is a must. Street monoculture has proven to be detrimental and will be avoided.”

As calculated by using formulas developed by the U.S. Forest Service related to carbon storage and sequestration, Lakewood’s existing 28.5 percent urban forest canopy cover stores 4,315 tons of carbon and sequesters nearly 45 tons of carbon each year.



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Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, December 3
Friends Preview Book Sale
Memberships may be purchased at the door.
6:00 p.m. in the Friends Book Sale Room (basement)

Thursday, December 3
Origins Science Scholars West - From Atoms to Quarks
Presented by Glenn Starkman, PhD
Matter is made out of atoms, but what are atoms made of? In the process of answering that question, researchers have moved from small experiments in undergraduate teaching laboratories to the construction of the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, the largest machine in the world. In the process, scientists have come to uncover and understand the Standard Model of particle physics; the single best-tested theory in all of science. In this lecture, participants will experience that journey of discovery for themselves.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, December 5
Friends Holiday Bag of Books Sale
9:00 a.m. in the Friends Book Sale Room (basement)

Saturday, December 5
“River of No Return” (1954)
Directed by Otto Preminger
As an actor, Robert Mitchum was best known for playing tough guys and antiheroes, but it could be argued that he was never more Robert Mitchum than here where he plays a very decent man. After being released from prison for a crime he had to commit, a widower reunites with the son he barely knew and sets out to start a new life, setting up a little farm while other men around them seek their fortunes hunting for gold. Marilyn Monroe, best known as an icon, also surprises, not only with her acting, but with her singing and her action chops, too. (Don't let anyone tell you that isn't Marilyn singing.) Monroe plays a tired saloon performer in love with a professional gambler. When she and her no-good beau lose control of their raft, Mitchum rescues them and is robbed of his horse and rifle for his trouble. The gambler takes off to register a claim he's won in a poker game, leaving his fiancée, the farmer and the boy all alone in hostile wilderness with no mean of protection. You may see it coming, but the lesson learned takes our breath away every time.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, December 6
Top of the Hill
As the trees bare their limbs, the greens of summer turn to brown and a blanket of white threatens to cover all, let's escape to the Emerald Isle for an afternoon of traditional Irish music. Carefree jigs, reels, slides and airs will be performed on fiddle, mandolin, tenor banjo, tin whistle and uilleann pipes by a trio of accomplished musicians. Paul Dreisbach is a professor who teaches reeds at Hiram College. Kevin Johnson has traveled the world with his music—most recently in Tajikistan on behalf of the Department of State. And John Reynolds has been playing traditional music for over forty years, including a stint as a mandolin soloist with Akron Baroque. You will find that this timeless music has not a mote of dust on it when you hear it played in the spirit of spontaneity and fellowship.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Tuesday, December 1
Jr. Video Game Creation
For students in first through third grade
Build and play your own video game creation using Scratch. Registration required.
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Wednesday, December 2
Intro to Arduino
For students in fourth through eighth grade
Learn how to program a microcontroller, create circuits, and a breadboard. Registration required.
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Sunday, December 6
Lakewood Lego® League
For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)
Use LPL's collection of Lego®Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Saturdays & Sundays
Family Weekend Wonders
Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. These free programs are offered every weekend throughout the year at both the Main Library and Madison Branch. No registration is needed. Check out our website (www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) for times and upcoming themes.
Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium



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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

“Santa Claus is Coming to Town”

Wednesday, December 16

2:30-4:00 p.m.

All are welcomed to join us in our Assisted Living for holiday cookies, punch, party favors, story-telling & photos with Santa (to arrive at 3:00). All attendees will receive an entry for our holiday raffle prize!

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Lakewood Public Library

Holiday Bag Of Books Sale

by Genevieve Jaskulski

Picture this, the snow is falling outside in big fluffy flakes, a glance at the ground shows that it has clearly been snowing all night, and florescent white reflects brightly outside, looking picturesque as a postcard. The only thing that could complete this perfect scene is a good book and something warm to drink as you swim lazily through the pages of a captivating mystery, or a breezy comedy.

Luckily, The Friends of Lakewood Public Library are here to help provide

you with just the right book, movie, CD or graphic novel this Holiday season.

We will be having our holiday Bag of Books Sale on December 5 and that will begin bright and early at 9 a.m. downstairs in the basement, the sale will go until 5 p.m. and will be happening in conjunction with all of our activities scheduled in the afternoon for Light Up Lakewood.

If you would like first dibs on all the goodies, sign up to be a Friend of the library at our front desk, and attend the preview sale being held

Thursday December 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. It should be noted that the preview sale is not a bag sale.

Some of the things we are excited to share in this upcoming sale are the remaining music collection donated by Lynnette Guttman, a wide variety of graphic novels, Allied Health nursing books and some brand new, never before used, fiction and mystery books.

We hope to see you, as we finish up the year as only Lakewood knows how, with family, diversity and learning as the center of our community. In a time when so much in the world does not reflect what we have here in our Lakewood neighborhoods, we will do our best to keep serving and providing in order to uphold the things that make people proud to call this city home.

Particle Physics,

Backaches And The

Theory Of Evolution

by Amy Kloss

How did we begin? This question has engaged thinkers for as long as human consciousness has existed. Lakewood Public Library is offering a chance to contemplate the science of origins on three successive Thursdays in December, beginning on December 3rd at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Led by prominent scholars from Case Western Reserve University, the three presentations will cover the Standard Model of particle physics, problems plaguing us because humans evolved to walk upright and a discussion of Darwin and his theory of evolution.

In 2008, after CWRU included origins in the university's strategic plan, a group of faculty decided to work toward creating an institution to study the subject. Thus began the Institute for the Science of Origins (ISO), which brings together researchers in multiple departments at Case and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Their mission is to advance and promote the scientific understanding of origins through research and education.

and the director of ISO, will discuss the Standard Model of particle physics in his lecture "From Atoms to Quarks." Though still called a model, the Standard Model is a fundamental and well-tested physics theory that explains what the world is and what holds it together.

On December 10th, Professor of Anthropology, Anatomy and Cognitive Science Bruce Latimer will help us blame our bunions and backaches on human evolution. An internationally recognized expert on the evolution of human locomotion, Dr. Latimer will discuss the physical challenges of upright walking in "A Backache of Longstanding."

Patricia Princehouse, Director of the Evolutionary Biology Program at CWRU, is an award-winning teacher, evolutionary biologist and historian of science. She will discuss Darwin and his development of the concept of natural selection on December 17th.

Join us for what promises to be a fascinating and enlightening series. All programs are free and open to the public and will begin in the Main Library Auditorium at 7 p.m.



Learning about famous artists and viewing their works sparked these children to produce their own masterpieces.

Strokes Of Genius

Comes To A Close

by Marge Foley

The Fall session of Strokes of Genius at the Lakewood Public Library came to a close in November as participating second, third, and fourth graders proudly showcased their talent at an art show for family and friends. Each week students learned about the life and work of a different artist and then completed an art project in the style of that artist. Artwork created by Henri Matisse, Vincent Van Gogh,

Claude Monet, Rembrandt van Rijn, Piet Mondrian, and Pablo Picasso provided the inspiration for the students' creative efforts. Cut paper, oil pastels, watercolor paints, colored pencils, crayons, and markers were the art mediums used. Each participant took home their creative work, a certificate, and a purple ribbon.

Look for information about our Spring session of Strokes of Genius in the Lakewood Public Library's Spring/Summer mailer!

Terrific Technology For Kids:

STEM Programs At LPL

Tuesday, Dec. 1
Jr. Video Game Creation

For students in first through third grade

Aspiring video game designers or just anyone who wants to learn more about programming will not want to miss this workshop! Get started making your own video games with Scratch, a free visual programming language from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Labs that you can use at home long after the class is over. Scratch is a great program for all ages, and is especially easy for young kids to learn with a little instruction and a lot of hands-on

by Eric Knapp

time. You'll be making your first video game in no time! Computers are provided by us, but please bring a flash drive to save your game so you can continue creating at home or just show off to your friends.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Wednesday, Dec. 2
Intro to Arduino

For students in fourth through eighth grade

If you have ever wanted to create a device to control the world around you, now you can – for free – at the

Library! Learn how to program an Arduino® microcontroller, create circuits and use a breadboard in this introductory class. Arduino® hardware can be easily programmed to make robots, motion detectors, light displays, programmable clothes, bubble machines, and remote controlled vehicle (just to name a few)! All materials will be provided for this workshop.

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Both programs are brought to you by the Lakewood Public Library with funding by the Cox Community Grant. Registration is required.

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Lakewood Schools

LHS Is Grammy Signature School Semifinalist

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School is among 119 schools nationwide that The GRAMMY Foundation has selected as GRAMMY Signature Schools semifinalists for 2016. Created in 1998, the GRAMMY Signature Schools program recognizes top U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year. Only two other Ohio schools were named a

semifinalist.

Lakewood High's George P. Read Music Department includes more than 20 curricular and extra-curricular performance ensembles directed by award-winning certified music educators. Besides ensemble offerings, the criteria for the award included the extent of the elementary and middle school programs and district and community support.

"We are very proud of the talent and dedication of our music teachers and students. LHS is grateful for an administration and Lakewood community that values music education," said Principal Keith Ahearn.

If chosen as a finalist for the Signature Schools award, LHS will receive a custom award and monetary grant to benefit its music program. The top programs are designated Gold recipients, and the best program of the Gold recipients is designated as the National

GRAMMY Signature School. The remaining schools are designated as GRAMMY Signature Schools.

"From our perspective, many public high schools across the country provide top notch music education programs for their students—often working with very limited financial means," said Neil Portnow, President/CEO of The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation. "Our GRAMMY Signature Schools program steps in to augment those resources with cash grants, and to celebrate the excellence of these programs and the beneficial and lasting effects of a music curriculum in the lives of young people."

In mid-March 2016, the GRAMMY Foundation will announce the finalists for the Signature Schools program. These schools will receive a custom award and a grant ranging from \$1,000 up to \$6,000 to benefit their music program.

K-Kids Club Gets Students Hooked On Service

by Christine Gordillo

At Horace Mann Elementary School, about 75 students are learning early on about the rewards and benefits of community service. As part of the K-Kids club, sponsored by the Lakewood Kiwanis, these students have been busy making a difference for those in our community who are less fortunate.

Already this school year, the club – which is supervised by Parent Resource Coordinator Chris Bringman and a number of parent volunteers and Kiwanis representatives – has collected underwear and put together care packages of toiletries for the homeless. At a recent monthly meeting, students were making cards with a holiday message to include in the 65 care packages assembled for the homeless served by the Metanoia Project. When asked why they liked to be in the K-Kids club, several members enthusiastically responded, "It's fun!" Another chimed in, "I like helping others."



K-Kids members assemble care packages for the Metanoia Project for homeless people.

That's exactly the message the Kiwanis wishes to convey to our youngest students and hopefully they will want to continue giving back as they move on to middle school and high school. At the middle school, there is a Kiwanis Builders club and Key Club is the Kiwanis service arm at the high school. Harrison Elementary also has a K-Kids club.



Students wrote holiday cards to the homeless people who would be receiving their care packages. The K-Kids motto next to this student says it all.

Bringman credits the success of the Horace Mann K-Kids to the great support from the school's parents and the club's community partner, the Lakewood Kiwanis.

'Tis The Season To Help Make Music Happen

by Beth Bender Thomas

Since 1971 Lakewood Music Boosters has been on a mission to, "promote the welfare of all musical organizations and their auxiliaries in The Lakewood City School District." This winter Lakewood Music Boosters has made it easy for anyone to help support the 50+ music programs the schools have to offer. We have fundraisers fit for everyone!

Find detailed information on each of the following fundraising efforts online at lakewoodmusicboosters.com or by calling Beth Bender Thomas at 216-374-7615. Membership is Lakewood Music Boosters largest fundraiser. It's also the easiest way to support music in Lakewood. Whether you are a student, family, community member, or a business owner Lakewood Music Boosters has a membership level for you. Memberships range from \$10-\$100 and make wonderful gifts. Sign-up online or call

Tracey Logan at 216-973-3004.

Take a load off and let us feed you!

Our annual Angelo's Pizza Fundraiser is Wednesday, November 25th from 11 a.m. to close. Dine in, delivery, or takeout - just mention 'boosters' when placing your order and Angelo's will donate 20% of your total bill to Lakewood Music Boosters. Angelo's Pizza is located at 13715 Madison Ave or call 216-221-0440 for delivery or carry-out.

Every Thursday & Friday throughout December Bob Evans will donate 15% of your bill to Lakewood Music Boosters. Bob Evans is located at 14115 Detroit Ave or you can call 216-767-5516 for carry-out. Please mention 'boosters' when paying for your order.

Have a bit of sunshine delivered directly to your doorstep with our Fruit Sale Fundraiser. Fresh fruit makes a wonderful gift for your family and business associates. Especially in the middle of winter. Order Florida navel oranges grapefruit & tangerines, Washington apples, or D'Anjou pears online at DoorstepDirect.org. Enter our group id 'RANGERS' (all caps) while checking out and they will donate 25% of each order to Lakewood Music Boosters. Order by December 9th for delivery before December 24th and by January 6th for delivery at the end of January.

We all know how important quality music programs are to the entire community. The children that participate in these programs get so much

more out of it than we could ever put in. These are just a few simple ways to help support Lakewood Music Boosters mission.

Support is also needed in the form of participation. The boosters are seeking members for the ways & means committee. If you have experience or interest in grant writing, event planning, social media, web design...you name it, we can find a place for you. Email lkwdmusicboosters@gmail.com to let us know how you'd like to help.

Superintendent Chat Set For December 1

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Jeff Patterson will hold the second in his series of Superintendent Chats on Tuesday, December 1 at 6 p.m. in the Ranger Cafe at

Lakewood High School.

Join the Superintendent for some informal conversation about the district. Bring your questions and comments. Light refreshments will be served.

Lakewood Schools

District Embarks On New Reading, Writing Curriculum From Columbia University

by Christine Gordillo

Elementary and middle school teachers and students across the district are working with a new reading and writing curriculum that comes with a powerful endorsement by Lakewood City Schools Assistant Superintendent Roxann Ramsey-Caserio.

“We were initially drawn to the work of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) because of its core belief that raising children’s level of literacy is an act of social justice,” Ramsey-Caserio said. “We have remained committed to the their work because we share a common aim to develop teachers who prepare students for any reading and writing task, and turn them into lifelong, confident independent readers and writers. This aim reaches beyond state testing and fulfillment of school tasks, to strengthening a generation of teachers, readers and writers.”

The Lakewood City Schools are launching Writing Workshop in grades K-8 and Reading Workshop in grades K-2. (Reading Workshop will launch in grades 3-5 in Fall 2016.) Launching this work involves providing teachers with extensive training, which taps into decades of research and curriculum development by TCRWP and the shared experiences of thousands of teachers and school leaders across the country and around the globe who support this work.

The power of the workshop approach is two-fold. First, it is designed to offer access to all students, from students with disabilities to gifted students. This means at any given moment instruction is tailored to the student or group sitting in front of the teacher, rather than being a “one size fits all approach.” Second, it provides a predictable structure that is especially supportive for English Language Learners (ELLs).

Reading Workshop and Writing Workshop promote the belief that the best action a teacher can do for any student is to study that student’s data and plan instruction which is responsive to that student’s strengths and needs. At the center of this work are tools to help teachers constantly monitor student progress, set student goals, and lift the level of feedback provided to our developing readers and writers.

Each day workshop begins with brief explicit instruction, demonstrating the practices and habits of reading and writing as a model. Then students engage in independent work time that emphasizes high volume reading and writing, and creates a natural opportunity for students to put into practice a growing repertoire of skills, tools, strategies and habits. Thanks to the predictable structures of workshop, such independent work time creates an opportunity for teachers to engage in one-to-one conferring and small group

work, which is the heart of workshop.

Outside of Reading Workshop and Writing Workshop in grades K-2, but within each day, additional supports have been put in place to build foundational skills. These supports include shared reading, interactive writing and shared writing.

Beyond the classroom, students in grades K-2 will now have the opportunity to bring home “just-right books” of their choosing from classroom libraries to further their learning and enjoyment.

The effort and engagement of our teachers and students in Reading Workshop and Writing Workshop is gratifying and exciting.

Here is what some of our teach-

ers and families have to say about this work:

“Reading Workshop has been very beneficial to our first-grade daughter, Evan. When she started the school year, she liked reading but was very tentative and lacked confidence. After only one quarter with Reading Workshop and her nightly homework, she has increased her reading ability and recently advanced five levels. Evan has grown more confident, even volunteering this week to read a book to her whole class. We are so happy to see her love of reading grow as she continues to progress” - Emily & Scott Hargrove

“I feel that the structure of Reading Workshop has had a great impact on my students. It has allowed me to focus

on each student’s needs thus raising the level of literacy in my class. My students are learning to read (and write) for real reasons. I see them becoming more confident and independent with their reading. It has built up their fluency, quicker than in past years. It has been a joy seeing them achieve great gains and it is only November.” - Kindergarten teacher Nina Duncan.

Lakewood City Schools has made a significant investment in this new curriculum and the District is grateful for the continued support of the community, which allows us, on behalf of our students, to take advantage of rich resources and professional development like those from Teachers College Reading and Writing Project.

Everyone Benefited At Lincoln MINES

by Amy Smith

On Saturday November 14, 2015 over 650 parents, students, volunteers, vendors and presenters filled Harding Middle School in Lakewood to experience Lincoln MINES, the first ever Minecraft-themed event for families. Attendees received 5 hours of Hands on Gaming, Minecraft Kids Talks, Crafts, Science. Lincoln Elementary’s PTA benefited from event proceeds to support its 2015-2016 programming.

The Cox Connect 2Compete Main Stage drew big crowds for the Games Done Legit led Mario Super Smash Brothers Tournament. Parents and kids delighted in Mad Science’s magical potions and science experiments. Hands On Gaming was the hottest ticket. Minecraft Play sessions were filled to capacity as students learned gaming skills such as how to make trap doors using Redstone or surviving the first night. The Games Done Legit Gaming Room was equally popular as gaming consoles provided current and old school video games to try.

Forty-eight presenters and panelists shared expertise in Kids Talks and Listen Forums. Kids Talks provided spirited debates on Minecraft topics such as Combat, Transportation and Mods. Parent sessions provided adult oriented education on Toys to Life Games, An Introduction to Minecraft, and Internet Safety. Arts & Craft opportunities



Games Done Legit Gaming room draws a crowd.

created outlets for participants to create Minecraft Key Chains, Masks, and Cable Guys. Lakewood Library’s craftorium shared books on Minecraft and made mosaics using paper crafts. Snapology’s LEGO Building drew much interest as the crowd learned how LEGOs can be used to create mob figures. An epic Minecraft Dance Party capped off the day as DJ Toms played Minecraft Parody songs to energize the crowd.

Prior to Lincoln MINES, the PTA traditionally held a Fall Carnival as its primary fundraiser but student interest in the event had declined. Members noticed their children’s love of Minecraft

and Gaming and created Lincoln MINES. Results from this event more than doubled funds previously raised from the Fall Carnival. Lincoln Elementary PTA uses proceeds to directly support PTA programs like teacher grants, extracurricular clubs, technology upgrades, field trips, assemblies and so much more.

The success of Lincoln MINES would not have been possible without the sponsorship of Cox Connect 2Compete, Hyland Software, Cleveland Clinic EAS Team/Nappi Family and the Smith Family. Donations for raffle prizes were generously supplied by Goldfish Swim School, Lake County Captains, Music Box Supper Club, Improv, African Safari Wildlife Park, Dewey’s Pizza, Swings N Things and Cleveland Cavaliers. Lakewood City School staff and Lincoln Elementary PTA members provided tireless support to organizing the event.

Plans for next year’s Lincoln MINES have started. Go to www.lincolnmynes.com to learn more and be part of this event.

Minecraft, Lego and Pokemon are copyright trademarks. Lincoln MINES is not endorsed, associated or affiliated with them in any way.



Judge Sheehan teaches parents about cyber security.

Light Up Lakewood 2015

LHS Sounds Of Season Concert
December 3 & 4

by Christine Gordillo

The popular Lakewood High School Sounds of the Season concert returns for its third year with more top-notch, bargain-priced entertainment for the whole family. This recent holiday concert tradition features Lakewood High's top ensembles in choir, band and orchestra. It's a great evening of entertainment and you have two nights to choose from: Thursday, December 3 or Friday, December 4. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$8 at the door or \$5 in advance. Presale tickets can be purchased at the LHS Bookroom by calling 216-529-4047 or stopping by the Bookroom in person during school hours.

As part of the evening, the Lakewood Teachers Association will be sponsoring raffle baskets to benefit the Lakewood Community Service Center, The Lakewood Family Room and North Coast Health. If you would



like to donate an item for the baskets, please contact Verna Ann Kotansky at vernaann.kotansky@lakewoodci-tyschools.org.

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Traditions

Light Up Lakewood 2015 Saturday, December 5

PARADE BEGINS AT 5PM
LIGHTING CEREMONY AT 6:30PM
FIREWORKS SHOW TO FOLLOW

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Beck the Halls!

Mary Poppins
December 4, 2015 - January 3, 2016
The magic returns with the smash-hit that broke all Beck Center box office records. BUY EARLY & SAVE! Use promo code: POPPINS to save \$5 off adult/senior tickets by Dec. 3, 2015.

Super Saturday
Saturday, December 5, 2015 | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
FREE arts experiences for children ages 1 to 7, with siblings and friends up to age 10 taking part. Adult participation and registration required. Sponsored by Lakewood Arts Festival.

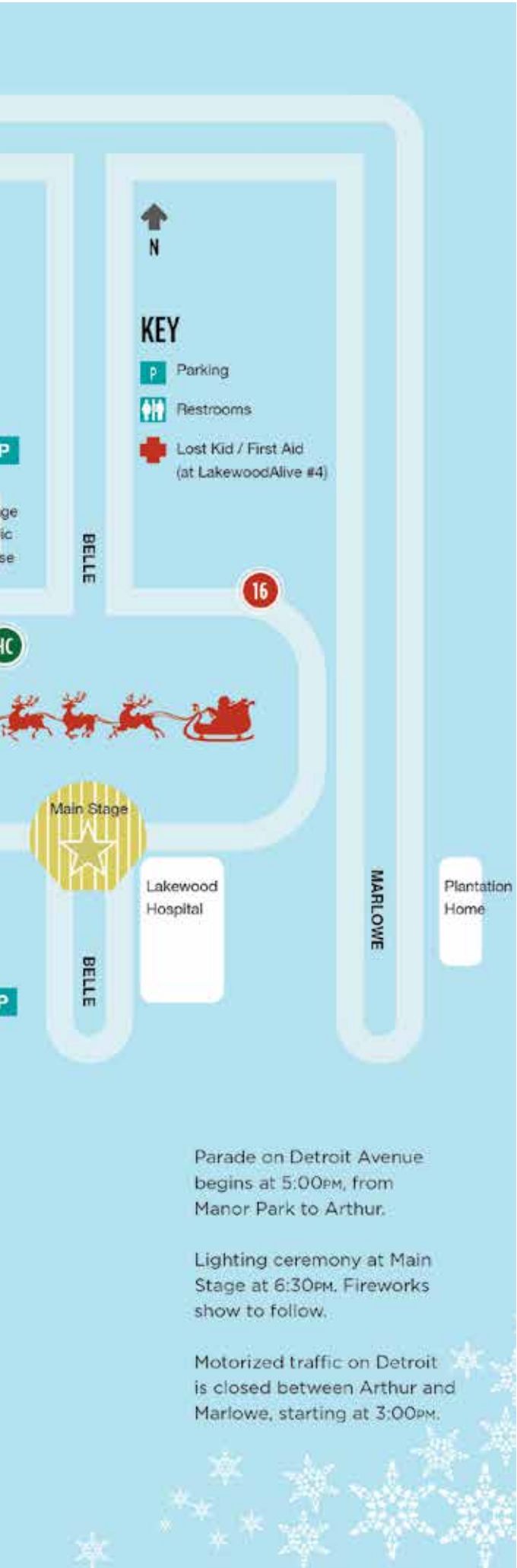
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Saturday, December 5th



Nov. 28 – Dec. 31

Candy Cane Lane
VISIT UPTOWN LAKEWOOD
on Madison Avenue
UptownLakewood.com

Sunday, Dec. 6

Holiday CircleFest
WADE OVAL, UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
12:00PM-7:00PM
UniversityCircle.org

Saturday, December 5

Vendor Village
MASONIC TEMPLE
4:00PM – 8:00PM
Indoor Holiday Shopping
No strollers please.

Lunch with Santa
DEWEY'S PIZZA
11:00AM – 1:00PM
Open Seating. 20% of all receipts will be donated to LakewoodAlive

Holiday Parade
ALONG DETROIT AVENUE
Parade on Detroit Avenue begins at 5:00PM, from Manor Park to Arthur.

Food Court
WARREN AND DETROIT
4:00PM – 8:00PM
Hungry? Great food choices from kettle corn and pizza to tacos and BBQ.

Lighting & Fireworks
MAIN STAGE
Lighting ceremony at Main Stage at 6:30PM. Fireworks show to follow.

Street Attractions
ARTHUR TO MARLOWE
4:00PM – 8:00PM
Sights, Sounds & Activities
See map on pages 4-5 for details.

AM	LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
9:00	Friends Holiday Public Book Sale, until 5:00PM (Book Sale Room)
PM	
5:30	Beck Center for the Arts Music Makers, also at 6:35PM, 7:15PM (Children's Section-South)
5:30	Santa Visits/Photos, until 8:30PM (Bring Your Camera)
6:00	Holiday Crafts & Activities, until 8:30PM (Multipurpose Room)
6:00	Stringin' Along Middle School Strings, until 6:30PM (Children's Section-South)
6:00	Four Seasons, until 6:30PM (Upper Level Quiet Room/Upper Room)
6:30	H2O's "Twigbee-Style" Shop, until 8:00PM (Homework Room)
6:30	LCA Band, until 7:00PM (New Books Room)
6:30	Story Time - every half hour, until 8:30PM (Toddler Room)
7:15	LHS Chamber Choir, until 7:45PM (New Books Room)

PM	LAKEWOOD HOSPITAL 3RD FLOOR ATRIUM
12:00	E Harding Treble Too, until 12:20PM
12:25	Hark! It's the GMS Jam Band, until 12:45PM
12:50	Horace Mann Elementary Singers, until 1:10PM
1:15	Harding Singers, until 1:35PM
1:40	Roosevelt Elementary Singers, until 2:00PM
2:05	Garfield Music Crew, until 2:25PM
2:30	LHS Chamber Choir/Chamber Orchestra, until 2:50PM
3:00	Harding Middle School Jazz Band, until 3:20PM
3:30	Dance Lakewood, until 3:50PM
PM	MAIN STAGE
4:00	Rockport, until 5:00PM
5:00	Parade-Emcee Denise Dufala & Ian Andrews, until 6:00PM
6:00	Revolution Pie, until 6:30PM
6:30	Lighting Ceremony, until 6:50PM
6:50	Fireworks, until 7:00PM
7:00	Revolution Pie, until 8:00PM

Schedule of performances are subject to change. For more information, go to LightUpLakewood.com

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Shop Local

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Hosts 7th Annual Holiday Online Auction

by Valerie Mechenbier

Would you like to win Cavaliers, Indians, or Beck Center tickets? Would you like to give the

gift of Angelo's, Around The Corner, Georgetown, Cleveland Vegan, or Jammy Buggars to people on your holiday shopping list? Would you like to be the lucky winning bidder of a 'Geek Basket' filled with games, comics, and sci-fi items? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual Holiday Bid & Buy online auction is one place where you should "shop local" this holiday season.

Avoid the slush and the rush! Shop from the comfort of your own home through December 9th for locally donated items, services, and unique experiences via the Holiday Bid & Buy online auction. Not only is it an easy way to shop, it's also a great way for the Chamber to highlight the generosity of our donors and sponsors, promote local businesses with weeks of inexpensive online advertising, and raise funds for the Chamber's economic devel-

opment programs.

Last year's auction attracted bidders from throughout Northeast Ohio and from coast to coast, from Seattle WA to Baltimore MD, so don't be left out in the cold! Check out the variety of locally donated items – Sweet Designs chocolates, homemade holiday cookies, clothing from Paisley Monkey and GV Art + Design – even a Lakewood Rangers stadium seat – all in one place: the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Bid & Buy online auction! To donate an item, bid on items, and to become an auction 'Star,' 'Mistletoe' or 'Jingle Bell' sponsor visit www.biddingforgood.com/lakewoodchamber.

Special thanks to these auction Star Sponsors: Cleveland Home Title, Fizz Creative and COSE/Council of Smaller Enterprises.

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Lakewood Cares

'Tis The Season To Be Thankful

by Allison Urbanek

Well it is that time of year again. We are buttoning up our homes for the blustery and cold fall and winter seasons. People are getting ready to hibernate and beginning to scribble down the to-do list for spring and summer. I have to say that I am humbled and thankful that I work with an organization that has so many supporters and volunteers.

This is my favorite time of year. I get to sit down and take a moment and really think about all of the great things that have been accomplished this year. The Housing Outreach Program sees its highest participation between April and October. During that time we are all working our tails off tackling much needed exterior home improvements either through our volunteers or our partnership with the City of Lakewood Department of Community Development, Court referrals or Building Department referrals.

This repair season has been the busiest season for the program since its inception in 2009. We were able to assist 22 low-moderate income households with 39 work visits to those homes. We worked with 380 volunteers who donated over 1,671 hours of



St. Luke Church members working hard on Robin Avenue.

their time. The 39 work visits generated over \$43,000 worth of improvements throughout the community. The work visits focused on essential health and safety repairs as well as code compliance issues. Some of the projects took a dedicated weekend day for six weeks, while others were projects that were done in a day. Our volunteer projects are always the highlight of our season. They bring people together to have fun and make a difference, which is a win-win for all involved.

The Paint Lakewood Program also hit a very high achievement this sea-

son. We completed 18 exterior paint projects, last year 13 projects. This was mostly due to the fact that we were given approval from the City of Lakewood, Citizens Advisory Committee to offer increased grants that included paying for labor. In the past, the program was only able to pay for materials, but as most of us know, painting a Lakewood home is a very labor intensive and costly task. The program is designed to make the project more affordable so that low-moderate income folks are able to maintain the exterior of their home. This year was a fantastic and

successful unveiling of the improved program.

As I mentioned, the Housing Outreach Program would not be a success if were not for our volunteers. We have a small yet mighty staff, but it is because of volunteers that we are able to fulfill our mission of fostering and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods. We are making a difference one home at a time.

Volunteers:
Alex Johnson, Dana Paul, Dan Folino, Carl Orban, Cox Communications, Lakewood Congregational Church, Lakewood New Life Church, Chris Parkman, Cub Scout Troop 68, Faith Lakewood, Lakewood United Methodist Church, Citizens Bank, Dan Bosworth, Great Lakes Brewing Company, James Gibson, LakewoodAlive Board of Directors, Matt Bixenstine, Mike Pandoli, St. Edward High School, Alumni & Family, Cindy Marx, St. Luke Church, Textbook Painting, Roger Urbanek, Tom Ostromek, The Dependable Painting Company and Judge Patrick Carroll.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped LakewoodAlive make a difference in our community. I would also like to thank Mark McNamara and Lisa LaRochelle, LakewoodAlive staff members who really went above and beyond to make the program a success.

I wish the happiest of holidays to you and yours and look forward to working with everyone again in the spring.

Lakewood Child Care Center Sponsors USDA-Funded Child And Adult Care Food Program

by Patrick Mayock

The Lakewood Child Care Center, located at 1450 Belle Ave. in Lakewood, Ohio, announces sponsorship of the USDA-funded Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Meals are available to all enrolled participants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and will be served at no separate charge §226.23(d). The U.S Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal,

and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call

(866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The following Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals are effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
FREE - 130%									
ANNUAL	\$15,301	\$20,709	\$26,117	\$31,525	\$36,933	\$42,341	\$47,749	\$53,157	
MONTHLY	\$1,276	\$1,726	\$2,177	\$2,628	\$3,078	\$3,529	\$3,980	\$4,430	
TWICE/MONTH	\$638	\$863	\$1,089	\$1,314	\$1,539	\$1,765	\$1,990	\$2,215	
2 WEEKS	\$589	\$797	\$1,005	\$1,213	\$1,421	\$1,629	\$1,837	\$2,045	
WEEKLY	\$295	\$399	\$503	\$607	\$711	\$815	\$919	\$1,023	
REDUCED - 185%									
ANNUAL	\$21,775	\$29,471	\$37,167	\$44,863	\$52,559	\$60,255	\$67,951	\$75,647	
MONTHLY	\$1,815	\$2,456	\$3,098	\$3,739	\$4,380	\$5,022	\$5,663	\$6,304	
TWICE/MONTH	\$908	\$1,228	\$1,549	\$1,870	\$2,190	\$2,511	\$2,832	\$3,152	
2 WEEKS	\$838	\$1,134	\$1,430	\$1,726	\$2,022	\$2,318	\$2,614	\$2,910	
WEEKLY	\$419	\$567	\$715	\$863	\$1,011	\$1,159	\$1,307	\$1,455	
For each additional family member, add									
ANNUAL	MONTHLY		TWICE/MONTH		2 WEEKS		WEEKLY		
\$5,408	\$451		\$226		\$208		\$104		
\$7,696	\$642		\$321		\$296		\$148		

Contact: Judith Salmon at jsalmon@lkwdchildcare.org



Dan Folino, Carl Orban and Dana Paul working hard to replace a porch for a senior citizen homeowner on Halstead.



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Lakewood Cares

Friends Of The Lakewood Dog Park

Set To Welcome Santa Paws

by Karen Karp

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Paws and he is definitely coming to town. He will arrive to take pictures with all his animal friends and their humans on Sunday, December 6, 2015. Santa Paws and his entourage will be at Pet's General Store, 16821 Madison Ave., Lakewood, OH from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. for the annual holiday meet and greet. The fundraising event benefits Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, Inc. and is hosted by our friends at Pet's General Store.

This year, photography will be provided by Portraits by Martha. Martha Widdowson is an experienced

pet photographer and Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, Inc. is excited to be working with her. Photos, photo packages and an array of photo accessories will be available from Pictures by Martha. A portion of all sales will be donated to Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP).

Rudy R., North Pole Director of Logistics, has confirmed that it is no longer necessary to make an appointment to see Santa Paws. Rudy - who, it must be noted, has a very shiny nose - explained that pets and humans can drop in anytime between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. for pic-

tures with the jolly old fellow. FLDP is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization that partners with the City of Lakewood to care for the park. The group holds fundraisers throughout the year to pay for park amenities and to fund dog park improvements.

Rotary Recognizes Edward Gallagher For Speech, Music, Arts Program Leadership

by Lynn Donaldson

Edward P. Gallagher, director of education for the Beck Center, received a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River on November 15 in recognition of his 11 years running the club's speech, music and art awards program.

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

Each year, students from all Lakewood and Rocky River high schools are eligible to compete for scholarships that recognize their talents in speech, music and art.

"This annual event is a time to showcase our local schools, the students, and the power of speech and the


arts. I am proud to work closely with Rotarians each year to make this event a way to bring students together as they strive to further develop skills that will serve them for a lifetime," Gallagher remarked.

"Personally, I enjoy being part of the process which turns the local spotlight on young talented musicians, outstanding artists and individu-

als who deliver speeches with passion under the framework of the Four-Way Test of Rotary."

Gallagher received the award at Rotary District 6630's Foundation Awards and Art Auction in Akron. Proceeds from the event support The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund to help with local club grants and Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

St. James Anglican Catholic Church



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Consult our website for additional
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Little One's Ministry

Serving the City of Lakewood


At the Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood
In the school building

Recipients must bring a voucher from the
Lakewood Community Services Center
14230 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio
216-226-6466
Monday-Friday 10am-2pm and Wed 5:30pm-7:30pm

Diaper Donations Needed

Monetary donations also appreciated. Please make check payable to:
Lakewood SDA Church. Please note donation is for 'Little One's Ministry'
Please mail to 1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107, Attention Treasurer

Providing diapers,
wipes, and baby
toiletries



Current schedule
Tuesdays 10:30am to 12:30pm
November 10 and 24
December 15 and 29

Donations can also be made during
the above listed dates and times

Lakewood Resident Becomes A Centenarian!

Tammy Sibert

On October 10th, Irene Jasensky turned 100 years old! Irene (pictured at end of table) lives at O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood Assisted Living and celebrated with friends. When asked for advice on living a long, active life: "Just take one day at a time!"



“... a light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:2

Advent and Christmas at
Lakewood Anglican

Every Sunday in December: 4 pm
Christmas Eve: 4 pm
Lessons & Carols: Dec. 27, 4 pm

Services at
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
14560 Madison Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107



Cove United Methodist Church

open hearts, open minds
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Worship with Us!
Sundays at 9 AM

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
11:00 AM

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WITH LCC

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 • 7:30 PM

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ministry anchored in the love of God for all people.

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Is Art

Lakewood Photographer Opens New Gallery

by Jim O'Bryan

Inaugural Exhibit Featuring the Work of 10 Local Photographers in Ohio City opens on November 27th

Photographers Billy Delfs and Angelo Merendino are proud to announce The Cleveland Collection—an Ohio City-based gallery space set to exhibit some of Cleveland's most beloved and accomplished creatives, many of whom are internationally recognized by some of the most esteemed in the industry.

The very first exhibit will open to the public on November 27th from 6—9 p.m. The exhibit, *Ink on Paper: Use of Light and Shadow* will feature the work of 10 Cleveland based photographers sharing select images in both color and black and white. They will present portraiture, landscape, and the art of storytelling captured across the globe while either working commercially or



From the show "Ink on Paper" at the Cleveland Collection, W. 26th and Detroit, by Lakewood photographer Billy Delfs.

as fine artists. The exhibit will be presented salon style, including six images from each artist displayed in a nonlinear fashion, allowing viewers to browse and be engaged at their leisure. A light snack and

refreshments will be provided. The Cleveland Collection gallery space is located at 2529 Detroit Avenue.

Exhibiting Photographers
Keith Berr

Preston Buchtel
Billy Delfs
Matthew Ferhmann
Peter Larson
Angelo Merendino
Robert Pabst P
aul Sobota
Garie Waltzer
Clarissa Westmeyer

For more information about upcoming exhibits, lectures & events, visit: <http://theclevelandcollection.tumblr.com>

About Billy Delfs

Billy Delfs is ever evolving. Delfs started his career at community college and then moved to NYC to be classically trained at International Center of Photography. He is drawn to the magic of the outdoors, notably credited with capturing a series of prints documenting Cleveland's honorable and inspiring surf community. Billy Delfs, Gallery Director, billydelfs@gmail.com, 216.401.3014.

Dance Lakewood Teaches Grace And Self-Confidence To Its Students

by Jenna Salamon

Dance Lakewood (formerly Silhouette Studio of Dance) started its second season this fall. They offer a variety of dance classes for ages three to adult. They have six instructors who are well-educated in dance. I never thought young girls benefited from dance in other ways than becoming graceful. However, I was wrong.

My daughter, Madison, who is eight years old, has been dancing at Dance Lakewood for six years. During Madison's time with the studio, her development into becoming a young woman has been influenced in many different ways.

She has learned to be more graceful, how to take care of herself and listen to her body, how to work well with others and has made lasting friendships. My daughter has also learned about what commitment is and what being part of a team is all about.

There are days when she goes to practice, even though she may not be up to it because she knows it is important to her fellow classmates, instructor and herself. The most important thing Madison has learned while being enrolled at Dance Lakewood is self-confidence. She has been taught that all of her practice

will be turned into something beautiful and if she continues to work hard, she can achieve her goals.

The teachers at Dance Lakewood are just like a second family to my daughter and me. They invest in the children who dance at their studio, and help them reach their full potential. They show their students how to be good teammates, work hard, how to achieve their goals and how to deal with disappointment. I never knew dance could teach my daughter so much. What a wonderful dance studio Dance Lakewood is.

Jenna Salamon is a wife, mother, college student, writer and blogger.



Madison at her third dance recital.

WordStage Literary Concerts Presents

"Winter Words" At The Wright Chapel

by Tim Tavcar

"Thy breath be rude," William Shakespeare famously told winter in "As You Like It," invoking a common complaint about the season: winter is cold, windy, bleak, awful. Five centuries later, poets have much the same complaints.

Winter's metaphors often include its stillness, its sense of silence and darkness, a season of hibernation, a season where everything dies a little. The falling snow is a "poem of the air," wrote Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, where the "troubled sky reveals the grief it feels."

Although the long, freezing winter nights and the crisp winter days tend to inspire harsh feelings among the people who endure them, not all poets see winter as a bleak and lifeless season. In Robert Frost's "Dust of Snow," a crow's movements cause snow to dust the

speaker passing under a tree, and this dust, "Has given my heart / A change of mood / And saved some part / Of a day I had rued." For other poets, the severe winter weather is a chance to speak in defiance of nature.

Winter weather also provides many poets with an excuse to turn away from outdoor pastimes and instead to concentrate on renewing and affirming their human relationships. The poem "Now winter nights enlarge" by Thomas Campion, for example, celebrates human warmth amidst chilly weather.

Many poets see winter as a fact of the landscape they call home, infusing it with nostalgia. Still others celebrate winter and the joys of the holidays and good cheer it brings.

WordStage's "WinterWords" is a pastiche of all these and more by some of our greatest poets and sto-

rytellers: from Robert Frost, Thomas Hardy, Emily Dickinson, Mary Oliver, Robert Louis Stevenson, Walt Whitman and many more. Also included

are Folk Tales from the Inuit, Native American, Norwegian and Middle European traditions. The texts, read **continued on next page**



dance
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Lakewood Is Art

Good To Read While Getting Your Hair Cut

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 15

by Buzz Kompier

Obligatory Disclaimer: Record reviews are a tricky business. It's one thing to enjoy music, but to, like, pick out what you like about it? That being said, if I review your thing and I didn't like something, don't feel too bad. My opinion doesn't matter all that much.

The Chromes - Let It Roll - Abydos Records - 10 songs - CD, download

A pretty 'retro'-sounding record. Very classic rock based, with some of it hitting a glam feel. See, for example, "Little Evil," with an opening riff recalling T. Rex's "Bang A Gong," or the grooving "Talk That Walk." None of it would sound at all out of place if it came out in 1974. A good mix of rock and roll, glam, and pop. Some of it reminds me of Vanity Crash (see last issue's reviews), which makes sense, as singer/guitarist Brian Hager was formerly in that band. I enjoyed it, though I suppose

some will see it as too old-school. Oh well. My favorites were the opener "Miss Crazy," the title track, and "Sunday Drive." 4/5

Joyframe - Where's Kevin? - Quality Time Records - 8 songs - Cassette, download

I felt that this record drew heavily on '90s alternative rock. You decide what that means to you. Definitely elements of grunge, but with strong pop overtones. Some of the tracks have a post-punk feel to them as well. Overall, I felt like the tape reminded me of a specific band, but I cannot remember which one. The strongest songs of the album were the immediately grabbing opener "Blue Rave," the crunching "No Sleep," and the '90-iest of them all, "Yer Out." My main issue here was that the production kind of muddies it and, at points, makes the guitar and bass hard to tell from each other and the lyrics inaudible. I did,

however, feel that this was probably a stylistic choice and not an error. Hey, if you like heavy, melodic rock with boy and girl vocals, try this. 4/5

Know-So - Demo - Turbine Piss Records - 6 songs - Cassette

Simple, catchy punk. Pretty minimal and "lo-fi," but also pretty cool. Very catchy. I haven't been able to get "Chemical Drink" out of my head for days. Lyrics of sewer rats, bugs, and suburbia. "I keep seeing you around. Why? This is my town." I can relate to "No Patience" as well. The tape finishes with a hidden track, a cover of Devo's "Be Stiff." It worked well with the rest of the songs, I thought. I also appreciated the packaging, a reused library cassette case. If you like good punk (I suppose that's a good general genre description for it), you should check this out. I'm hoping to hear more from them soon. 4.5/5

Obnox - Know America - Ever/Never Records - 12 songs - LP, download

I guess this is a 'concept album,' with the theme of Obnox taking over a radio station (420 AM, WEDE) that won't play their records (which I suppose makes it something of a spiritual successor to the earlier Obnox song "All Hail The DeeJay"). People like to fight about concept albums, so I'll just say this: even if you don't think that it works as a concept album, it certainly works as a good album anyway. The first song after the spoken introduction is the slow groover "Grease," which I believe may be one of the first times anyone has said, "Gimme my Cleveland weather." I'm all for it. This

is followed by a noisy punk song, "Cracked Up," which is just classic Obnox, with pounding drums, loud guitar, and a catchy chorus. A classic for the ages. Cool Tommy Jay/Mike Rep cover, too, with "Village Idiot," which is of course given the expected Obnox-ification. Side B's centerpiece is another crushing groover, "Life Long Vine," featuring, among several other special guests, Archie & The Bunkers' Cullen O'Connor on organ. Actually, the whole album is full of special guests. Check it out yourself, I'm not gonna type out the full liner notes for you. The album ends with the two-parter "Safe Harbor," featuring Muamin Collective's "LSD" and closing on "Nox Take Over The Booth." One thing I'll say is that there were a lot of covers on the LP, but I suppose that fits with the radio theme. 4/5

Who Hit Me - Uncle Kenny - self-released - 7 songs - CD, download

I was pleasantly surprised here. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, given the band name and the album cover (depicting, as far as I can tell, a man pouring hot sauce into a bowl). What I got was catchy, uptempo punk rock. Strong basslines, cool guitar lines, and hard-hitting drums, with strong melodies and vocals. I'd say it sounded like it was inspired by early 2000s indie punk. My favorite tracks were the synco-pated opener "Carbocide" and the very catchy "Live It Down," which was prefaced by a more minimal number called "Live It Up." "Daughter Of A Son Of A Gun" was pretty good too, with lyrics such as "I got a partner, I got a crime, I got a title: I'm killing time." I liked it. 4/5

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to Observer headquarters: The Lakewood Observer, c/o Buzz Kompier, 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Advent Service At St. Luke Church

by Jennifer Mancino

On Sunday, December 6th at 7 p.m., St. Luke Church will celebrate an Advent Family Prayer Service to include a Procession of Creation, Scripture, prayer, and song featuring the St. Ignatius High School Music Chorus and the St. Luke Choir. All are very warmly welcomed! A Social will follow.

STUDENT
HOLIDAY SALE

Fri Dec 4

Sat Dec 5

Sun Dec 6

6:30–9:00pm

9:00am–8:00pm

12:30–6:00pm

Cleveland Institute of Art

11610 Euclid Avenue

cia.edu/holidaysale

CIA

WordStage Literary
Concerts Presents
“Winter Words”
At The Wright
Chapel

continued from previous page

by WordStage Company members Marci Paolucci and Tim Tavcar will be augmented with glittering musical selections the season inspires played by violinist Mary Beth Ions and pianist Patrick Wickcliffe.

The performance of "Winter Words" takes place on Friday evening, December 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the Wright Chapel in the Lakewood Presbyterian Church – 14502 Detroit Avenue at Marlowe in Downtown Lakewood. An informal reception will follow the performance. The Wright Chapel is ADA accessible.

For more information about this and future WordStage performances, please visit our web site at www.wordstageoh.com or call us at 216-712-6926.



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Forum

A Dose Of Adventure And Vitamin N For Lakewood Park’s Kids Cove

by Angela Yeager

With the recent discussion of a revitalization of the Kids Cove play-scape at Lakewood park, I can only hope that it will include a sense of adventure and a dose of what is referred to by some experts as “Vitamin N”, or nature. I care so deeply about this not only because I want my two young children to want to play there, but also because I have spent years studying the impact of nature and outdoor play on the long term outcomes of children. What I have learned from the research is that:

- The average child spends less than 10 minutes of unstructured play outdoors per day.
- We are raising an entire generation of children who suffer from “nature deficit disorder” which has contributed to the rise of obesity, attention disorders and emotional difficulties.
- Unstructured play outdoors had a positive impact on a child’s health,

wellbeing and academic performance.

- Most prefabricated plastic and metal models of playground do not engage children in long periods of unstructured play.

Lakewood should be inspired by the “Adventures for Nature” playgrounds popping up in California, New York and many other communities.

Adventure and nature themed parks:

- Use natural materials to help foster a connection to nature.
- Provide opportunities for children to build, dig, climb, pretend, be challenged, negotiate risks, swing and slide.
- Engage children in more imaginative play when compared to traditional play structures.

With this park remodel we have a unique opportunity:

- To incorporate influence from the lake (the beach kids wish they

could visit, water elements).

- To think forward and be influenced by the adventure and nature-themed parks found internationally and here at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and Cleveland Metropark Zoo.
- To honor the gardening and urban farming movement happening in Lakewood by including a space for children to dig and even tend to plants.
- To expand on the history of exciting climbing structures in Lakewood by including a challenging rope-climbing area.
- Continue the legacy of using natural materials at Lakewood Park.

So why not just get a really great pre-fab metal and plastic playground?

- Our other major park (Madison) is of that variety.
- They determine how the child plays on them when it should be the reverse.
- There are very few moving parts and manipulatives that foster imaginative play.
- They provide little or no produc-

tive struggle, cooperation and mastery.

- Studies show children are more likely to be injured because they are looking for ways to make them more interesting.

A simple Google search of the terms “nature playground” makes the large scope of the nature play movement obvious. I hope that the citizens of Lakewood and those making the final decisions will consider this plea to join this movement and make Lakewood Kids Cove a little more imaginative, a little more adventurous and a little more wild.

For further reading see:

“The Decline of Play and the Rise of Psychopathology in Adolescents” by Peter Gray

“The Science of Play” by Susan G Solomon

“Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv

Lakewood resident Angela Yeager is a mother of 2, an environmental educator and naturalist, and founder of a family nature club called “Cleveland Family Outdoor Adventures.”

Everyone Must Pay Their Fair Share

by Tom Feser

The Clifton Club is a For-Profit corporation located at 17884 Lake Road, on 1.42 acres, and includes a 10,992 square foot building. When I found out how little the Clifton Club was valued at, according to Cuyahoga County records (\$775,000), I asked the county to do an on-site appraisal of the Clifton Club. The appraisal took 4 months to finish, as the Clifton Club insisted on having their attorneys and manager there when the appraisal was conducted.

When the appraisal was finished, the value of the land and building increased 54% to \$1,152,500. This change will bring an additional \$10,735 to Lakewood Schools annually. But I believe this appraisal does not reflect the true value of the Clifton Club when considering its business value. It should be much higher.

The Clifton Club is the only

owner out of 204 in Clifton Park that has the right to sell hundreds of memberships to Clifton Beach, a private beach owned by residents (lot owners) of Clifton Park. The other 203 lot owners pay to maintain, beautify, insure and pay for life guards and security guards; but only the immediate family, living in the home, can have access to the beach without special arrangements.

The question I have had from the beginning is: how valuable is the Clifton Club lot?

The Clifton Club has sold millions of dollars in memberships, touting this private beach access for their members. What a deal! At the very least, this For-Profit Corporation should be appraised for its true value as a thriving business in a desirable location. I am asking the County to do what is right and best for this community and its schools – assess the Clifton Club’s TRUE value.

The Bitter Fruit

by Daniel Sobotka

For those of you who so gladly embraced the Republican notion of “regime change” in the Middle East, specifically Iraq...you got your wish...though perhaps not nearly the kind of change you and they so foolishly expected. The sad events in Paris are a direct result of that totally misguided thinking. The funny part is...now the Republicans will say they have even more reason for their clannish distrust and hatred of Muslims. And I am sure


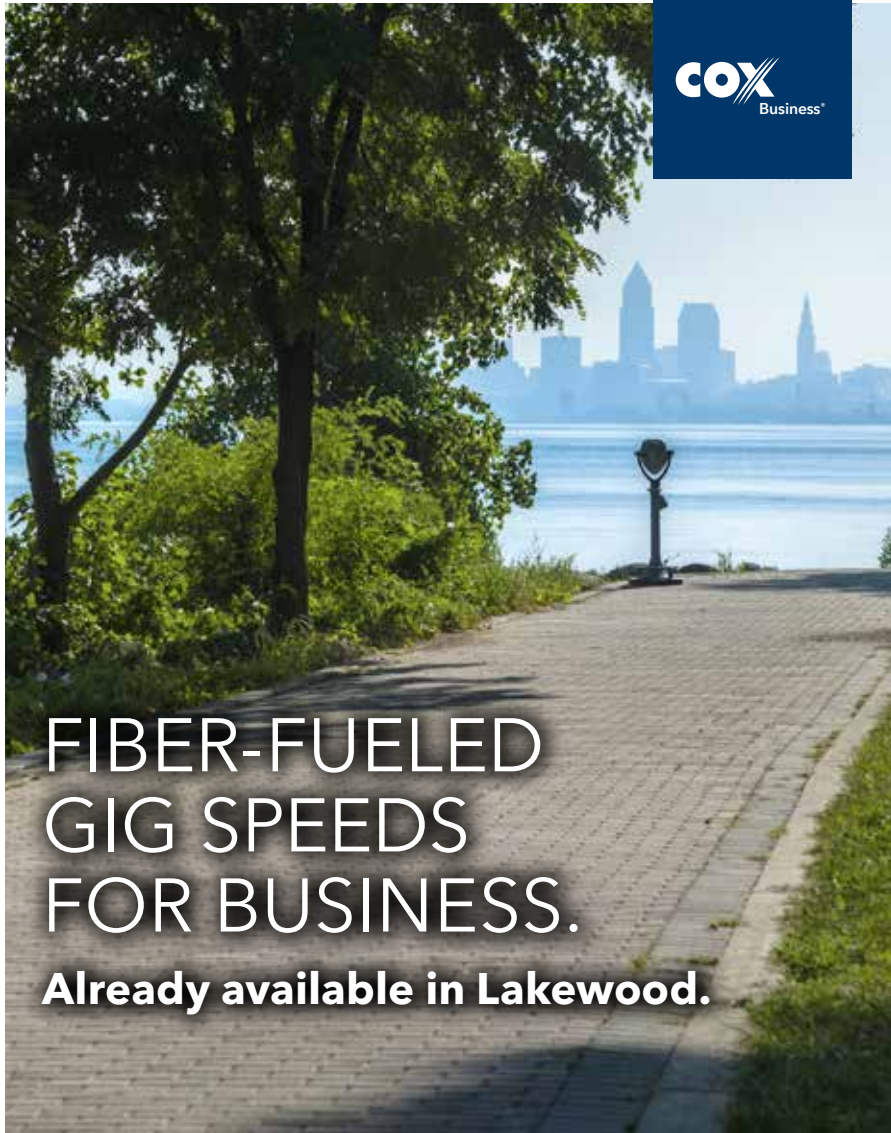
their solutions to this tragedy will be equally as hateful and destructive...one or another form of bloody “an eye for an eye” multiplied a hundredfold. This kind of thinking is being caught up and carried away in a vicious cycle of violence. And what it has proven is nothing more than a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Is this really the way you want to live??

Is this the kind of world you want??

We truly reap what we have sown.

Let’s not be total hypocrites about it.



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Lakewood Living

Club Delivers Dictionaries To Over 800 Third Grade Students

by Lynn Donaldson

Once again this year, the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River purchased dictionaries for all third grade students in Lakewood and Rocky River.

Club members take the dictionaries into the classrooms and deliver them personally to each student. They then spend time talking to the students about how Rotary is active in their communities and internationally.

Members distributing the dictionaries to the students were: Mark Bacon, Curt Brosky, John Clapper, Lynn Donaldson, Jon Fancher, George Frank, Dick Garrett, Chuck Gustafson, Jim Harris, Harlan Radford, Jay Rounds, Jean Rounds, and

Michael Shoaf. Jay Rounds was the project chairperson.

Schools receiving dictionaries were: Rocky River – Kensington Intermediate, Ruffing Montessori, and St. Christopher; Lakewood – Emerson, Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.

The first page of each dictionary is stamped with the club’s name and a copy of the Four-Way Test of Rotary.

Students and teachers alike are very appreciative of the gift, and each year the club receives hundreds of letters and thank-you cards from the students. They mention the students’ favorite section of the dictionary and how they have begun to use the dictionary in their classrooms.

Since 2005, the club has presented dictionaries to over 9,000 students. The dictionaries are published by The Dictionary Project. A nonprofit organization, its goal is to assist all students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with a gift of their own personal dictionary.

The dictionary features over 32,000 words with simple, child-friendly definitions, plus pronunciation and parts of speech, and includes additional information

about punctuation, the nine parts of speech, weights and measures, Roman numerals, and a map of the United States.

Over 150 pages of supplemental information in the back features the Constitution of the U.S., the Declaration of Independence, brief biographies of all U.S. presidents, world maps, information about all 50 states, countries of the world, and the planets in our solar system. It ends with the longest word in the English language.

Gifts That Are About Looking Good

by Bonnie Fencil

This time of year major companies that market hair care products make stocking stuffer sizes. It is a time to try new things that are especially for hair texture, styling aids and improvements of hair condition. Travelers like these small sizes too. We suggest the mini tea tree soap as an aid to a better complexion. It is anti-bacterial and anti-itch. For people who like to work out it has a cooling effect.

Ear-piercing makes a lasting gift. The selection of earrings that can be used determine the price. Stainless steel, gold plated, and titanium are metals that are used and are offered in various colors, and novelty designs. Lady bugs and soccer balls are popular.

Gift certificates can be any dollar amount or comprised for a certain purpose. How about a nail-biters series of manicures with a nail growth stimulator used to show a way of breaking the habit?

Eyebrow-shaping with a lesson on application of a brow pomaid, or pencil

is another idea. Hair accesories can be useful, colorful, basic or holiday special.

Some gifts just make life easier - consider hair detanglers or strong combs for long hair.

Little girls might enjoy our princess package gift certificate of a mini manicure, hairstyle, and a hair accessory which can be a tiara, headband, flower or barrette.

We are here to help with the gift-giving season at Carabel Beauty Salon & Store.

Coffee With The Subconscious... Sipping Sunshine

by Betty Rozakis

Sunday was a glorious day in Lakewood -- a gift before the dreaded cold to come.

I hesitated to walk Ella to Blackbird Bakery because of the Dog Warden. Ella needs company when I enter the bakery, otherwise she barks! Something told me that I’d connect with someone. I felt it in my bones that it would somehow work out...

When we arrived to take our place at the picnic tables, a comforting face sensed our dilemma and volunteered to sit with Ella.

Chrissy had also ventured out to Blackbird that brilliant morning. It turned out that she knew my eldest son from grade school and also shared my BW alma mater. But there was something else. There was a sad-

ness that lingered. I sensed something unresolved that was stirring from her subconscious.

When Chrissy learned about my work in Graphology, she ran to her car to share her handwritten journal with me. She had blank sheets of paper, so I asked her to write a few additional notes along with her signature. I also asked her to draw a tree. She drew several...and stopped when she felt fulfilled.

I saw in her handwriting and tree drawings a clear independent mind that had trouble valuing herself. This darling young woman felt ‘square’ and unattractive. Chrissy feels comfortable on her own, but the thought of putting herself out there causes her to want to protect herself and run for cover.

Gifted and creative... Why did Chrissy feel like she needed an impenetrable shield when engaging with the outside world?

I saw that a shameful experience haunted her...

Kauffman Park Friends To Elect Officers

by Dan Alaimo

Kauffman Park Friends will meet in January to elect officer. The roles of president and vice president will be open. Other positions will be filled as necessary.

This is an opportunity to help a valuable community asset reach its full potential. There is a Kauffman Park

Master Plan to be implemented, and new (or old) ideas can be put on the table.

The date will be set to accommodate as many participants as possible to make it a representative election. We are asking residents to let us know of your interest and we will take a poll of best dates. Send your email address to Dan Alaimo through KauffmanPark@gmail.com, or by post or private message to Kauffman Park Friends on Facebook, by message on the Observation Deck, or on NextdoorKauffmanPark. We will also be communicating through email and various message boards in the coming weeks; you can simply reply to these. If you’d prefer a phone conversation, let us know.

Kauffman Park Friends is a citizens organization committed to working with the City of Lakewood to revitalize Kauffman Park, the most centrally located of the city’s major parks.

Dan Alaimo is president of Kauffman Park Friends.

Tears filled her eyes.

She felt self-conscious about her face because of a childhood ailment.

This inhibited her from pursuing her dream...

To be in front of the camera helping students.

Even when she graphically told me, I assured her that I saw no physical remnant of her inner torment.

Chrissy smiled...relieved.

She became animated as she shared her experiences with inner city students who videotaped her. ‘Yo Miss Rappa Lady’ was their response to her charismatic nurturing style.

A modern day female Mr. Rogers.

We parted with a hug as Chrissy set off to Lakewood Library to find my book, “Coffee with the Subconscious.”

This sip of sunshine brought inspiration to both our hearts.

Betty Rozakis is a graphologist / author and resident of Lakewood. She earned her Advanced Diploma from the British Academy of Graphology and her BA in History from Baldwin-Wallace College.

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Lakewood Living

'Tis The Season....To Sell Your Home

by Chris Bergin

That's right. Now is an ideal time to list your home for sale before winter is upon us. During Fall, many people take inventory of their lives and begin to make decisions on where they want to be in the new year. Of course many sellers will delay, and wait to list their homes during the "spring selling season," but if you are serious about making a move there are several rea-

sons to do it now.

Serious Buyers Are Looking Now. Buyers looking to call Lakewood home remain active. Buyer traffic at Open Houses remains strong, agents are reporting strong showing activity for their listings, and interest rates remain near historic lows (with indications rates will go up sooner than later). Sellers need to understand that buyers who are willing to look at this time of year

are serious buyers who want to make a purchase. Lakewood remains an active, hot market. As of November 19th, 423 single family homes have transferred ownership!

Inventory Is Low, There Is Less Competition. As of November 19th, there were only 71 single family homes for sale in Lakewood. Back in the day (read "The Crash") there were over 300 homes for sale! Simply stated, there

just are not enough homes for sale to meet the buyer demand, especially in Lakewood. As we head into the spring market, inventory will increase and buyers will have more options. Less competition means sellers are more likely to get their asking price with few strings attached. Lakewood barely has a 2 month supply of homes on the market.

It Is The Perfect Time to Move Up. If you have been thinking of moving up to a larger, more expensive home now is the ideal time to do so. As a seller you can take advantage of low inventory with strong buyer demand, and as a buyer you'll benefit from low interest rates. Your ideal "move-up home" will cost you more in price as the market continues to appreciate, as well as more in interest over the life of the loan with rates expected to rise by the end of 2016.

If you've been contemplating making a move, take a look at neighborhood values and activity at www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info. Take advantage of the demand for homes in Lakewood. Call a professional agent and ask for a Highest Price Analysis. If you can commit to keeping your home "show-able" during the holidays, now very well may be the best time to sell your home!

Chris Bergin is a licensed real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway Lucien Realty in Lakewood and can be reached at Chris@ChrisBergin.com.

Huntington Playhouse Stories:
On Angels Wings

by Patrick M Meehan

He was a beloved 5th grade teacher elected to the Lakewood Schools Faculty Hall of Fame, but this night he called our house as the Director.

Tom Castro called 3 hours before curtain. "Can Moira be an angel tonight?" he anxiously asked my wife Eileen.

Friday December 16, 2005 began the last weekend of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," the holiday show at the Huntington Playhouse. My son Jack, who was 11 at the time, had been cast as Ollie Herdman, one of a family of "rotten" children that bully their way into a church christmas pageant, but to the surprise of everyone, their disastrous interpretation of the Christmas story turned out to be quite touching.

This was Jack's 2nd show at Huntington after my wife had seen him through the children's theater program there. His sister Moira, 4 years younger, had actually been "acting" longer than Jack. She appeared as a mouse, 2 different lions or a frog in a show that ran 24/7 from the time she was 3 till my wife had the brilliant idea

to buy her a "school kid costume" so she wouldn't wear a tail to kindergarten.

It was my job to get Jack to rehearsals and Moira accompanied us, content to sit with her coloring book as I watched director Castro work with his cast. It was impressive to see him control and cajole the group, which was largely made up of children, without ever having to raise his voice.

"One of my angels is sick and since Moira has been to all the rehearsals..." the director continued. "Let me ask her," my wife said. Without looking up from her coloring book Moira said, "Which one?" then, "I guess it doesn't matter, I know them all." Apparently at 7 she had mastered the art of multitasking, coloring while learning multiple acting roles.

The "balloon angel" had fallen ill. A juicy role for a seven year old. In the context of the story, the mom that made one of the angel costumes used a sheet with a balloon print on it rather than white. This angel's entrance always guaranteed a laugh.

Castro had drafted us "stage dads"

to play firemen. That Friday I appeared with my son and daughter on stage and I couldn't have been more proud. As she had predicted, Mo hit her marks like a pro and got the big laugh. We were beaming with joy.

The next day our family arrived early to get ready, met by a somber faced Tom Castro. "The balloon angel" was feeling better and her grandparents were coming to the show. "I need to put her back in the show tonight," he said with remorse. Pausing, he turned to an assistant and said, "Do we have another angel costume?" "No," came the reply. "I can have one in 10 minutes," my wife interjected. In her closet with the mouse, two different lions, and a frog costume was an angel outfit. "Get it," Tom smiled, "We'll have 4 angels tonight."

Tom had her perform in the final matinee as well. Mo was pretty young and I'm not sure if it mattered to her if she stayed in the show or not, but it mattered to me. I'll always remember his kindness.

Sadly, Tom Castro passed away on October 30. He will be missed.

This past August, Cleveland Metroparks announced their decision not to renew the lease on the Huntington Playhouse. The final day of operation is December 31.

I encourage you to support all of the good people who worked hard to bring you this final season and go see a show.

Visit [Citizens For Bay Village Community Theater on Facebook](#) or contact us at bay.village.community.theater@gmail.com for updates and our meeting schedule.

LEAF Holiday Indoor Market

by Margaret Brinich

Our final market of the year will take place on Tuesday, December 15 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Garfield Middle School. We'll be distributing City Fresh produce shares, and we've invited some fabulous local farmers, producers, artisans and craftspeople to vend their wares. We'll have honey, eggs, baked goods, dry goods, gifts, soaps, jams, jellies and other handmade goodies! Returning gardeners will be able to renew their garden plot for 2016. We'll also have raffle baskets, LEAF merchandise for all of your gift giving needs, and a hot soup and drink bar. We hope to see you there!

Vendors booked so far (check our website or Facebook page for updates as more vendors are booked):

- Dave the Grain Man
- Breadheads Breadery
- Fallen Angel
- Little Lakewood Pasta Company
- Three Sister's Urban Garden
- Blaze Gourmet
- Tidal Cool
- Swa-Berry
- Harmonious Essentials
- Ice Cream Joy

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Additional vendors may register at www.leafcommunity.org.

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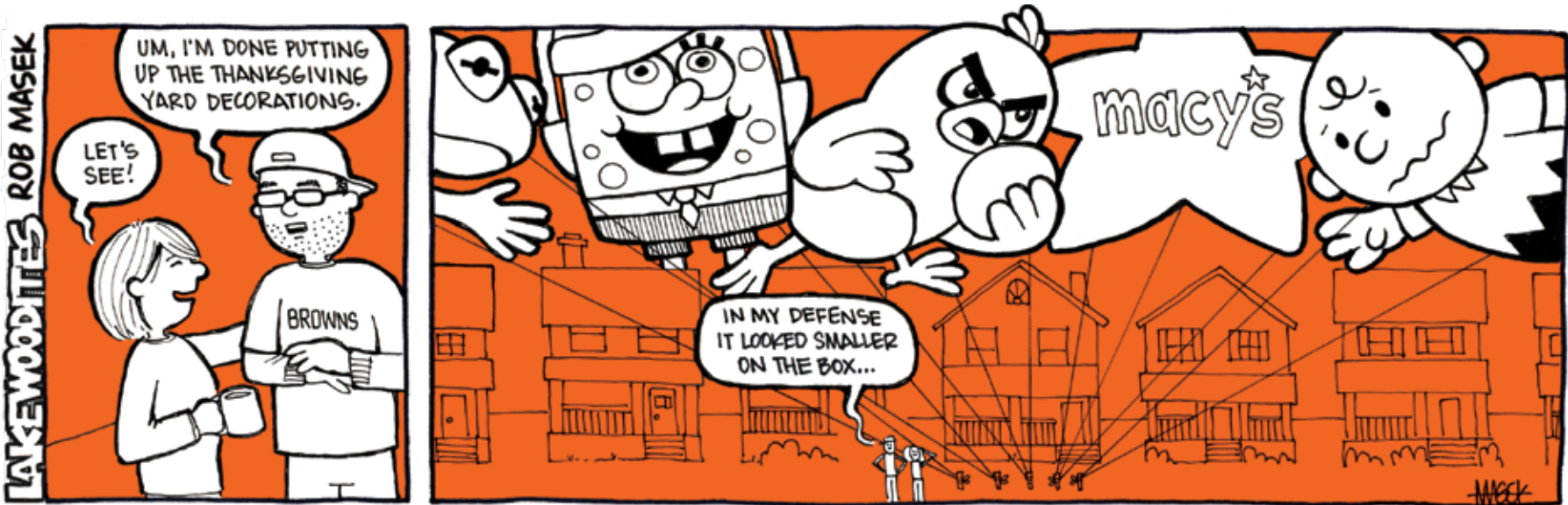
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