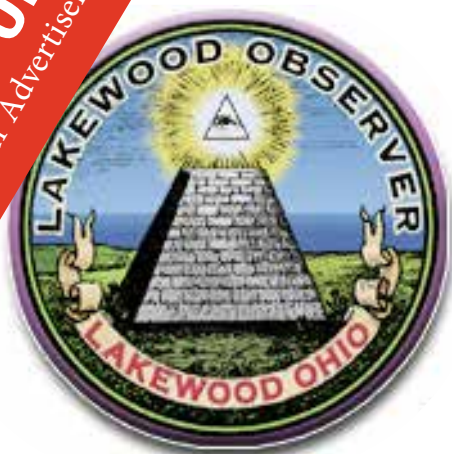


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



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Volume 11, Issue 25, December 8, 2015

Council Poised To Act On Final Hospital Plan

News Released from
Lakewood City Council:

Key Points of the Agreement

The future is now in Lakewood. We've done our homework. We've gathered all the facts. We've heard from the residents we represent. We are ready to make our recommendation on how to improve the health of our community. It is our hope to have an agreement in place by the end of 2015

so that 2016 will launch the innovative programs that deliver the kind of health care our citizens need most.

Responsive to residents. We know what our constituents are most concerned about—they've told us they want more personalized care; they want more opportunity to work with doctors and nurses to get healthier; they want to make sure there's help if they get into trouble; and they want to be

involved in how health care is improved in our city.

This agreement delivers on all fronts:

- o Wellness and outreach programs, even reaching into the home.

- o Access to an emergency department 24/7/365

- o Emergency and health services tailored for mental health and chemical dependency

- o Residents involved in designing and monitoring

the progress of health and wellness programs

A platform for Lakewood to become a true pioneer in how communities care for their residents. We've spent months hearing from experts in health care. We've learned a lot about the difference between caring for sick people and keeping people well. This agreement means a unique partnership between a community, its doctors and other health care providers that will put Lakewood on the national map as a place where people can live better and live longer.

Accountability is key to delivering on the promise. We've baked into the agreement accountability for improving the health of our residents. With the use of new technology, we can measure if people are getting healthier—is their asthma managed? Are they

losing weight? Are there fewer complications from diabetes? We will know what works and what doesn't, and we will share outcomes openly with our community and others.

When there is an emergency, you can still get treated in Lakewood. The emergency department at Lakewood Hospital will remain fully operational until a new emergency department is built at the new family health center across the street. Every day, every hour, doctors and nurses will be ready to treat emergencies like heart attacks and strokes. There is also a new mobile stroke unit that could respond to potential stroke emergencies at someone's home (with diagnostic and treatment capabilities). If inpatient care is needed, patients will

continued from page 2

St. Ed's Football Wins Division I State Championship (Again)!



by DRS Photography

On Saturday, December 5th, 2015, the St Ed's football team became only the 28th OHSA team to win consecutive state championships two years in a row. Congrats to the Eagles on another amazing season!

Toiletry Drive For North Coast Health Patients With FFL

by Elizabeth O'Brien

For the fourth consecutive year, North Coast Health is partnering with First Federal Lakewood to collect toiletries for our patients. Basic necessities, like toilet paper, tooth brushes, and personal care items, can be expensive. North Coast Health is committed to provide not only top quality care to the medically underserved, but to be able to support basic care needs.

Needed items include the following: new toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant,

feminine hygiene products, shampoo, lotion, pocket size facial tissues, etc. We welcome travel-size products as well as full-size items.

Donations may be dropped off through December 31st during regular banking hours at the following First Federal Lakewood branches: Lakewood (14806 Detroit Avenue), Fairview Park (22380 Lorain Road), Garfield Heights (12648 Rockside Road), Gordon Square (6610 Detroit Avenue), North Ridgeville (34385 Center Ridge Road), Olm-



sted Township (26908 Cook Road), Parma (1640 Snow Road), Rocky River (20425 Center Ridge Road), Westlake-Crocker (2035 Crocker Road) and Westlake-Detroit (24441 Detroit Road).

Donations can also be delivered to North Coast Health (16110 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood) weekdays between

continued on page 3

Shop Local--It's Fun!

by Paula Reed

One of the benefits of shopping local is getting to know the shop owners and their unique background stories. A great example is the trio of shops on Detroit just east of Marlowe, between Namaste India Garden and Cotton. All three of the owners are pursuing life-long passions in the shops they operate.

The newest retailer to locate in Downtown Lakewood is Dave MacKay, who opened the doors to **Action Toys** at 14408 Detroit on November 17th. After 13 years in the printing industry, Dave decided to combine his desire to own his own business with his passion for movies, comics and action figures. His inventory includes GI Joe, Star Wars, Transformers, Walking Dead, Marvel and DC. The merchandise Dave stocks isn't toys in the traditional sense of the word—his figures are of most interest as keepsakes and collections. Along with many of his customers, he views the

figures as artwork—3D pieces that come off the pages of comics or movie screens. Sculptors who create the action figures have a fan following that collects the work of their favorite artists.

In the short time that he's been open, Dave is finding great satisfaction in meeting other people who share his interests and in helping them locate just the right pieces for their collections. And if a 31" Darth Vader figure is on your gift list, now you can buy it in Lakewood!

Adjacent to Action Toys at 14406 Detroit a photographic artist began offering his works in July 2014. **Images Photographic Gallery's** proprietor Dr. Marcello Mellino has been taking photographs all his life. The subject matter in his gallery differs from the pictures he took as a cardiologist, since those were taken inside his patients' hearts! A visit to his gallery is like taking a vacation. Through his

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Observations

Council Moves Forward With New Agreement For Lakewood Hospital

The Lakewood City Council met on December 7, 2015 for their regularly scheduled meeting. The City Hall auditorium was packed with people in anticipation of news regarding Lakewood Hospital.

In January it was announced that the Cleveland Clinic intended to downsize Lakewood Hospital into a community, outpatient, health center and emergency room. Since then the topic of the Hospital has become the dividing point between people in the community, making even daily conversation between neighbors contentious.

It was announced at a press conference earlier in the day that the City negotiated a new agreement with the Clinic that was considered consider-

ably more favorable than the initial proposal from January. In form, there are many similarities to the original agreement, however, some of the details differ greatly.

The biggest and probably most important change to the agreement is the placement of the new health center. Initially planned to be on the current spot of the oldest part of the Hospital, the new agreement has the health center moved across Belle Avenue, where a medical office building that is only at 25% capacity stands. The Clinic will receive the property for the building and the garage south of it for development. The garage was originally going

to cost the City an estimated five million dollars for repairs, however with Clinic taking ownership of it they will be responsible for any future plans having to do with the property.

The move of the medical center will also give the City the most contiguous land it can get for redevelopment. With redevelopment in mind, the City was able to include \$7 million to the City that can be used for demolition of all or part of the Hospital if needed. This allows the City to try and repurpose some of Lakewood's oldest and iconic buildings, while still maintaining the ability to prepare the land for development as needed.

The new agreement also secures the Lakewood Hospital Association's balance, regardless of changes due to revenue losses. At the start of this process in January, the LHA had about \$40 million that was going to be used to create a new community health foundation. However, since then the hospital has been running in increasing deficits causing it to lose \$8 million. Considering this trend is likely to continue, by the time the foundation were to be created, the remaining money that would be left could be considerably less. Therefore, as part of the new agreement the Clinic agreed to guar-

antee the original figure of \$40 million for the foundation, by paying \$500,000 annually to the foundation for 16 years.

One of the main points of contention for many people has to do with the clinic breaking their lease. Although the new agreement does not require them to finish out their lease, it does double their lease payments for what they project to be the remaining time they will lease the Hospital. Initially projected at \$1.4 million, the Clinic will now pay the City up to 2.8 million in rent for the remainder of its Hospital utilization.

This agreement was introduced as an ordinance by Council with a fairly aggressive schedule for passage. By Charter all ordinances need to be read three times by Council before they can be passed. Exceptions can be made in the case of emergency legislation, but should be used sparingly. Wanting to pass the ordinance by the end of the year, but only having two regularly scheduled Council meetings left in the year at which to read the ordinance, a special Council meeting was added on December 14, to place the ordinance on its second reading. The final Council meeting of the year, on December 21, would then put the ordinance in line for its third and final reading, allowing Council to vote on it.

City Council Announces Hospital Deal That Is Not Yet Written

by Brian Essi

On September 7, 2015, after nearly one year of fact gathering, feedback from the public, and a general election, City Hall announced a "new master agreement" between the City, Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) and the Cleveland Clinic (CCF) that completely ignored any input from the public. The announcement occurred in a small room at City Hall where only members of the press were invited—in other words, the public was excluded from the public announcement and our leaders' comments concerning it. Lakewood Police were called when two citizens complained that they were not allowed to attend the announcement.

When Council President Mary Madigan emerged from the small room of reporters and cameramen, she said the "proposed legislation" and a related "term sheet" would be posted on the City website. When asked for a copy the agreement, she said the "new master agreement" was not finished and would not be available until later. So City Hall announced an unfinished agreement and then gave details and started its first formal reading of it ---before the public had any chance to digest or even see it.

Among the "Key Highlights" of the yet to be completed "new master agreement" are the following:

A "Community Health Foundation" to be funded by \$24.4 million, but this amount could be reduced due to losses that LHA might incur in delaying the closing of inpatient care "due to action taken by a judicial or quasi-judicial body or governmental body or agency." LHA, the same group that was charged with maintaining our current hospital, will be involved in the formation of the foundation and choosing the initial board.

CCF will receive all equipment from the current city-owned hospital without any compensation paid to LHA or the City.

The City's property cannot be sold or used by any Cleveland Clinic competitor as a hospital or health care facility of any kind.

In a document that is entitled "Future of Healthcare in Lakewood," the City is agreeing to allow CCF to gut the single purpose hospital building owned by the City, and the City is not allowed to have an actual hospital operate there. Also, if there is any litigation designed to delay or avoid this agreement the costs of such delay will be borne by the City, not CCF. This agreement and apparently soon to be a unanimous City Council complete the CCF plan to divide our City---half of the public is now divided from all of the City leaders.



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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
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January 10, 2016	January 19, 2015

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City News

West Shore Council Of Governments (WCOG) Meeting November 18, 2015

by LWVGC observer Kathryn Kosiorek (Lakewood Chapter)
This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters; Mayor Sutherland’s office prepares official minutes, which are posted on Bay Village’s website.

Present: Mayors Sutherland (Bay Village), Patton (Fairview Park), Kennedy (North Olmsted), and Bobst (Rocky River). Mayors Clough (Westlake) and Summers (Lakewood) were absent. Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney and Fairview Park Fire Chief Raffin

also attended.
Minutes of the October meeting were approved. The mayors provided the following reports:
RTA (Sutherland): There will be an election for representation of mayors on the RTA board.

NOACA (Sutherland): There will be no meeting until mid December.
Land Bank (Kennedy): There are a few projects in the pipeline. More properties are needed for the demonstration fund.

Cuyahoga County Planning Commission: There was no meeting to report on. There will be an appointment of a mayoral representative soon.

Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association (Kennedy): The association will be appealing for an increase in the Local Government Fund. The next meeting is December 2 for the new mayors’ orientation. Mayor Kennedy also reported on a program on human trafficking which illustrated extent of trafficking throughout all communities.

Municipal League is looking at statewide advocacy for strengthening leadership.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team): Fire Chief Raffin reviewed CERT needs and support from the Chiefs of Police. Needs for volunteers continue. The county would like to coordinate CERTs.

WEB (Westshore Enforcement Bureau) (Mahoney): October financials were passed. Adjustments in the budget for the rest of 2015 were approved. The proposed 2016 budget was passed. Ms. Mahoney reported on the allocation of monies from a prior drug bust which will be distributed to community law enforcement trust funds.

There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be held at Rocky River City Hall on Wednesday January 13. WCOG meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. In 2016 WCOG meetings will be hosted by Major Pam Bobst at Rocky River City Hall.

City of Lakewood Announces Holiday Cardboard Amnesty

by Colin McEwen
In the spirit of the holidays — and in accordance with the overarching goal to recover more resources — the city of Lakewood proclaimed the four-week period running from December 14 through January 8 as Holiday Cardboard Amnesty.
During the holidays, the city sees a substantial increase in cardboard volume set out curbside during the months of December and January.

“It is our desire to have residents enjoy the holiday season more, and break down cardboard less,” said Chris Perry, the unit manager of the city’s division of refuse and recycling.
“Therefore, we will relax the cardboard set out regulations during this four-week period by not requiring you to break down or cut down to size larger boxes.”
Residents are encouraged to

places boxes at the curb on the regular collection day and city crews will pick up and recycle the boxes; residents are asked to place smaller cardboard pieces inside larger ones to help secure the cardboard in the event of high winds.
In addition, residents are reminded that old, burnt-out or non-working Christmas/Holiday lights can be recycled at the city’s Recycling Center at 12920 Berea Road.

Council Poised To Act On Final Hospital Plan

continued from page 1
be transported to the closest, most appropriate fullservice hospital. Most emergencies do not require hospital inpatient admission.
Making good use of community assets. As difficult as it is to watch what was a community asset (Lakewood Hospital) become a liability, it is a reality we must face. It became too expensive to keep an aging hospital up to date and safely delivering care. We were understandably worried that the operators

of the hospital (LHA) would run out of money, and the City would be left with an empty building and no health care. That would truly saddle taxpayers with an enormous liability and future expenses. Now, we can use the land where the hospital was built for development that will bring new businesses and jobs to our community.
Funding our future and a vibrant new downtown district. The new agreement means the Cleveland Clinic will pay \$34 million for a modern family health center

(replacing an office building that is only 25% occupied) and a new emergency department. Demolishing the old parking garage is part of the agreement, which spares Lakewood taxpayers a \$5 million expense in repairs that were pending. The Clinic will also provide \$7 million to be used as the City sees fit to redevelop the land where the hospital currently sits. Our residents have already shared their ideas to develop that land into new retail, office and housing opportunities.



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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City News



Technically a police officer, Dano, will assist the department in a number of ways as a “dual purpose” K-9.

Police Department’s New K-9, Dano, Begins Service In Lakewood

by Colin McEwen

The Lakewood Police Department recently signed on its newest member. He specializes in sniffing out drugs, tracking dangerous criminals, recovering evidence and saving lost children.

Dano, an 18-month-old Belgian Malinois, moved to Ohio a few months ago from Holland to begin his duties as a member of the department’s K-9 unit.

Technically a police officer, Dano, will assist the department in a number of ways as a “dual purpose” K-9. His partner and handler, Patrick Mullen, trained for several weeks with Dano before they started on patrol together Nov. 16.

The pair is inseparable.

“A lot of this is learning to trust each other,” said Mullen. “We are a team — actually a team. Because of our very specialized training, no one else is able to work with him. He lives with me; we are together all the time. It’s a unique bond.”

Dano has some big paws to fill. Mullen’s last K-9, Robby — a six-year veteran of the department’s K-9 unit, who died last February following a battle with a blood disease — had found untold amounts of drugs, apprehended some dangerous criminals, and tracked down a couple missing children.

“Dano is a great asset and a welcome addition to the Lakewood Police Department,” said Chief Timothy Malley. “He will take over a lot of the good work that Robby did. And he’ll make an excellent addition to the community as well. You can’t ask for more.”

The city was able to buy the newest addition to the K-9 unit thanks to donations from a group of second-graders at Hayes Elementary School and an anonymous donor, who initially agreed to pay for half, and later decided to cover the entire \$15,000 cost.

“This is the sort of thing that brings the community together,” said Malley.

Tennessee Company Wants To Run Lakewood Hospital

by Betsy Voinovich

A company called Surgical Development Partners (SDP) which is headquartered in Franklin, Tennessee, has expressed interest in buying the Westlake campus and taking over the management of Lakewood Hospital in downtown Lakewood.

In a letter to Lakewood City Council and Lakewood Hospital Association’s Tom Gable, SDP’s president G. Edward Alexander states: “Our intention is to develop a long-term financially viable and sustainable healthcare campus that includes services to support the medical and emergency care needs of the City as well as the economic development needs of the City.” He goes on to say that they are eager and ready to discuss their plans, describing his company as one that “has a long resume of hospital, emergency room and out-patient surgery center development which

showcase (their) abilities.”

Apparently this letter was not SDP’s first attempt at communicating with the City. Mr. Alexander’s letter mentions previous attempts which “have not received the interest we expected from the City” and asks again that they might have a chance to present their plan before City Council at the regular meeting on December 7th.

A look at SDP’s website describes a nationwide business that sounds like it was tailor-made for the situation that exists in Lakewood: “SDP has the industry-specific experience to tackle the complexities of opening and managing physician-owned acute care hospitals in difficult political environments.”

While SDP was not given the greenlight to make their pitch at the December 7th Council meeting, they appear to be persistent.

State Treasurer Josh Mandel Stops In Lakewood To Talk About OhioCheckbook

by Colin McEwen

State Treasurer Josh Mandel was joined by Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers to talk about OhioCheckbook — a state initiative to place all city spending online — on Wednesday.

Lakewood is the second city in the county to participate in the new program.

“We’re proud of the fact that Lakewood is a leader in implementing this important initiative,” said Summers. “OhioCheckbook provides an accessible and an easy-to-use tool to find all the expenditures of our local government. We welcome the accountability this provides.”

Mandel said the goal of the initiative is to set a new standard for government transparency; OhioCheckbook.com recently earned Ohio the No. 1 ranking in the country for government transparency.

“I believe the people of Lakewood have a right to know how their tax money is being spent and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with the Treasurer’s office to post their finances on OhioCheckbook.com,” said Treasurer Mandel. “By partnering and posting local government checkbooks, taxpayers across Ohio are empowered with a powerful tool

to hold public officials accountable within their communities.”

Treasurer Mandel and Mayor Summers were also joined at the announcement by the city’s Finance Director Jennifer Pae and Assistant Finance Director Keith Schuster. With the launch of OhioCheckbook, taxpayers in Lakewood are now able to view more than 115,000 individual checks representing more than \$451.4 million of total spending over the past five fiscal years.

“We embrace any program that furthers our long-standing mission of having the most transparent financial practices in the State,” said City of Lakewood Finance Director Jennifer Pae.

Earlier this year, Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

For more information, check out Lakewood.OhioCheckbook.com.



Mayor Summers discusses the OhioCheckbook program with State Treasurer Josh Mandel at Lakewood City Hall.

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Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, December 10

Origins Science Scholars West

“A Backache of Longstanding” presented by Bruce Latimer, PhD

From sore feet to backaches, blame it on human evolution. Adapting to a very new mode of locomotion, upright walking, has created physical challenges from flat feet and bunions to slipped discs, hernias and fallen pelvic floors. And as bizarre as it sounds, rising from four to two feet resulted in reshaping the face and head, producing dental problems such as wisdom teeth with no room to grow!

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, December 12

“Young Ones” (2014)

Directed by Jake Paltrow

“I love history. Some folks worry so much about it repeating itself that they don’t consider the alternative.” Sometime in the near future, but not so far that the older generation can’t remember when the parched landscape was still green, a new generation is rising. Fired in the crucible of an inexplicable worldwide drought, they believe they have new ideas for a tired world. One ambitious young man abandons all morality in his drive to build a better life for the woman he loves. Another, torn between devotion to his cloistered sister, an ailing mother dependent on technology and a drunkard father, chooses the tried-and-true path of revenge. The world will be set right, one way or another. Pray for rain.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, December 17

Origins Science Scholars West

“Darwin: The Man, the Theory, and the Nature of Science” presented by Patricia Princehouse, PhD

Who was Charles Darwin, how did he come to develop the theory of evolution, and how does that theory work? The basic concept of natural selection is actually pretty simple but it has proven to be a wellspring for understanding biology. Darwin also proposed other mechanisms to help to explain the core evolutionary principle of descent with modification from common ancestors. These other mechanisms have helped and hindered evolutionary theory in various important ways as more and more is learned about biological systems and the organisms that make up the diversity of life on earth from not-so-simple bacteria to the most complex mammals.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, December 19

“Blues Brothers 2000” (1998)

Directed by John Landis

“You know you miss it. No pharmaceutical product can ever equal the rush you get when the band hits that groove. The people are dancing and shouting and swaying. And the house is rocking.” Upon hearing these words, spoken by one Elwood Blues, a tough young orphan named Buster is instantly transformed. Another brother will appear in a time of need. And yet one more will respond to the Calling of the Blood at an old fashioned revival meeting on the road down to Louisiana. There can never be a true sequel to 1980’s once in lifetime “The Blues Brothers.” Its legend looms too large. Instead, consider this a loving tribute to the magic of the first film and the genius of the late Belushi. The plot is admittedly slight, led, as it is, by the understated Elwood. And the all-star cast of famous musicians—well, let’s just say that they’re great musicians, not actors. We suggest that you come to listen to non-stop music—one joyous number after another—and enjoy the jokes incidentally. While some have criticized the soundtrack for including pop, rock, gospel, country, bluegrass and Caribbean in what is supposed to be a movie about the blues, we think they’ve missed the point of the whole endeavor. Beware of purists. As Joliet Jake put it back in 1980, “I hate Illinois Nazis.”

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, December 20

Ernie Krivda

Perhaps Mike Shanley said it best when he wrote, “Ernie possesses an endless flow of melodic ideas that makes everything he plays sound fresh and alive.” Now in his fifth decade as a jazz performer, Krivda is hailed by critics and peers alike as one of the world’s great tenor saxophone players. But as Harvey Pekar wryly pointed out, “no one may know this because he lives in Cleveland.” In demand all over the world, he can only say, “It might be better for my career to live somewhere else but it’s better for my art to live in Cleveland.” An impressive body of work backs up that statement—check out our extensive collection of Krivda CDs—but this concert is a chance for audiences to experience him in person in a cozy little room with no clinking glasses and no amplification—just the sound and the man.

2:00 p.m. in the First Floor Multipurpose Room

Saturday, January 2

“Mo’ Better Blues” (1990)

Directed by Spike Lee

Denzel Washington is a talented artist with an impeccable work ethic and a will to succeed that some can misconstrue as ice in his heart. Are we describing the actor or the role he plays? Denzel commands the screen as Bleek Gilliam, a jazz trumpeter leading a hot New York quintet. Life is good. Sure, Wesley Snipes takes a few too many solos and he really needs to decide between the two women he’s been stringing along, but he’s at the top of his game. Spike Lee looks past the confident exterior to show us the driven artist who can’t find peace. What will he do when he’s pushed offstage? Lee’s father Bill provides a soul searching score with contributions from Branford Marsalis, Terence Blanchard and others.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, January 3

Grimm’s Fairy Tales

Charles Kiernan is a master storyteller who often appears in the guise of Mark Twain, but for this performance he will simply be himself and allow these classic folktales, collected by the Brothers Grimm from Germany’s darkest and most mysterious forests, to weave their own magic. “I take great pleasure in telling these tales. I actually own a copy of Kinder und Hausmärchen from 1843, purchased in a dusty used bookstore that no longer exists. It’s in two small volumes, no illustrations, and entirely in German of which I cannot read a word.

It is, nonetheless, a tactile joy to hold one of the brothers’ works in my hand. Be warned, however, I do tell them in their original spirit, under the belief that the grimness of Grimm serves a purpose, and should not be removed!”

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, January 7

Meet the Author: “The Green Berets and Their Victories”

by Joseph Meissner

Honored as Cleveland’s Outstanding Veteran of the Year in 2013, Joseph Meissner is a Cleveland attorney with over fifty years of experience serving the underprivileged in our region. His latest book celebrates the accomplishments of US Special Forces soldiers popularly known as the Green Berets in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969, the most crucial years of the conflict. According to Meissner, “The Berets learned many historically interesting lessons in Vietnam that could be the keys to success in a Global War on Terror. The first lesson emphasizes the proper advisory relationships that must exist when our American military train and work with other coalition nations. The second lesson stresses the need for the integration of the military and civilian sides of any war. (Little is accomplished if bloody battles only result in producing more enemies.) The third lesson demands mutual and unwavering loyalty between America’s forces and those they train and advise. The fourth lesson calls for our American military to know how to work with others, not merely in spite of differences, but actually appreciating and building upon this diversity of races, religions, cultures, political views and tribal backgrounds.” Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, January 9

“The Wild Bunch” (1969) directed by Sam Peckinpah

As the sixties began to ride off into the sunset, two films made during the last year of the decade explore the theme of the closing of the Wild West era. The other film is “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.” Each film directly competed for Oscars in two categories (screenplay and score) and each film earned adjacent spots on the American Film Institute’s list of the Ten Greatest Westerns. Yet no two films could be further apart in style and tone. “The Wild Bunch” takes place in 1913 and features a gang of aging outlaws led by Pike Bishop (William Holden) who cross the Rio Grande in order to make one final score and retire. (When did that ever work out for a movie character?) The graphic violence, often shown in slow motion, was controversial at the time and can still have an impact on today’s audiences. Terry Meehan continues his series, “Westerns of the Sixties,” introducing each film with rare clips and original documentaries, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, December 12

Sensory Story Time

For you and your 3-7 year old child

This story time program can be enjoyed by all children, but it is specifically designed for young children with special needs, autism or those with sensory processing challenges. Registration required.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Time Room.

Saturday, December 12

Tail Waggin’ Tutors

For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Friday, December 18

Winter Fun – Lego® Style

For students in kindergarten through fourth grade

Learn basic Lego® building and engineering techniques using gears and motors. Registration required.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Tuesday, December 29

Art Connection

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

Create a unique piece of art step-by-step to show off to friends and family. Registration required.

11:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Tuesday, December 29

Upcycling – From Rags to Riches

For students in third through eighth grade

Turn old T-shirts into necklaces, scarves, or tote bags. Bring your own old T-shirt; all other materials provided. Registration required.

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Sunday, January 3

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.

Lakewood Public Library

Best Of The Grimm Brothers At Lakewood Library

by Hiam Jawhari

My aunt’s visits to our home always warmed my heart when I was a child. She came prepared with many stories that took me to a different world. Whether “it was a quiet morning” or “a dark and spooky night,” she never hesitated to describe the climate of the tale. Many of the stories she’d memorized and recited to me were from the Grimm Brothers’ fairy tales. These stories were amazing, but what truly brought them to life was her narration.

On January 3, 2016 at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, Lakewood Public Library welcomes Charles Kiernan. A wonderful story teller who is well known for his outstanding performance as Mark Twain, Kiernan has performed at theaters, libraries, art festivals and more.

In 1812 Germany, the brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm wrote a col-



lection of folkloric fairytales, *Kinder und Hausmärchen*. They inspired writers all over the world as their work

was translated to over 70 languages. In an effort to better suit their young audiences, and to quell critics of the

early editions who accused the tales of mature content, the Grimm brothers would produce multiple editions, adding and subtracting in each. One such change was replacing the evil mother in *Snow White* and *Hansel and Gretel* with a stepmother. Some sexual references were removed from *Rapunzel*. In the original tale, her stepmother noticed her tight dress after the prince’s visit, indicating pregnancy of course.

Certainly, children learned many life lessons from the Grimm’s tales. The primary lesson in *Little Red Riding Hood*, for example, is never to trust strangers. Believing in good deeds was another lesson we learned from these tales. In *The Princess and the Frog*, the kind kiss of the princess to the frog broke his spell. She was rewarded with a handsome prince who fell in love with her.

Kiernan is going to narrate the original version of the Grimm Brothers’ work, and he cautions: “Be warned, however, I do tell them in their original spirit, under the belief that the grimness of the Grimm serves a purpose, and should not be removed!”

Let’s escape our busy world of technology, turn off our phones, sit quietly and go back to the old days when the storyteller was the shining star of the night. Let’s live moments of inspiration and let our mind take us to new, different journeys all around the world. Yes, let us celebrate the oral tradition of storytelling at Lakewood Public Library to kick off the New Year.

Ernie Krivda Performs December 20 At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Hailed as one of the world’s best tenor saxophonists, the celebrated musician Ernie Krivda is returning to Lakewood Public Library for a solo performance on Sunday, December 20. The concert starts at 2 p.m. in the First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Krivda’s long career is studded with stars and accomplishments. While leading the band at the legendary Smiling Dog Saloon, he moved in the same circles as Miles Davis and Quincy Jones, joining Quincy Jones’s last touring band in 1976. In the house band at Leo’s Casino he supported The Temptations, The Supremes, Smokey Robinson and the Four Tops, to name a few. He has also recorded sessions with Inner City, North Coast Jazz, Cadence and Koch.

Having recorded over 20 albums, this award winning, Carnegie Hall performing musician has played his saxophone from sea to

shining sea, but the Cleveland jazz scene on our dear Lake Erie’s shore has always claimed him as its own, and according to Krivda, that’s just the way he likes it. He said, “It might be better for my career to live somewhere else, but it’s better for my art

to live in Cleveland.”

Please join us at the Lakewood Public Library for an afternoon of world class jazz with Ernie Krivda and his tenor sax on Sunday, December 20 at 2 p.m. This free concert is brought to you by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

“Young Ones”: A New Form Of Cinema That Seems As Old As The Hills

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

It is not a stretch to say that Jake Paltrow’s 2014 film “Young Ones” is not the film you are expecting—no matter what you expect. The premise sounds surprisingly simple: set in a future where a near worldwide drought has made water the most valued commodity on the planet, a father attempts to hang onto his old way of life while protecting his admiring son and dreamer daughter. Simple enough? Not even close.

“Young Ones” is plotted and styled like an old revenge Western, but set in a future where man must rely on animal-like machines to maintain his land and medical treatment can lead to a post-human fate. Dishes are washed in dust, and desperation hangs like clouds. Going near another man’s water means certain death. Can a good father really continue to deny the world is drying up around them? When a young drifter arrives with the promise of a beautiful life for the young woman and her brother in

this sun-scorched landscape, she can’t help but say yes to marriage. But what we know where good intentions can lead us.

Don’t miss a chance to see some breathtaking performances from Nicholas Hoult, Michael Shannon, Elle Fanning and the young and amazingly talented Kodi Smit-McPhee at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 12 in the Main Library Auditorium. For a complete list of all the films screening at your Lakewood Public Library please visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org.



Ernie Krivda

Winter Break Youth Programs

by Eric Knapp

Winter break is just about here, and The Library has plenty to keep your kids busy while they’re out of school! Check out the calendar of events here, in our program guide, or on our website (lakewoodpubliclibrary.org) to see specific dates and times. Registration required for all programs below except the movie, which is drop-in and open to the public. Register in person, online, or by calling (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.

Everyone loves Lego®, and we combine education with entertainment as kids learn basic building techniques like making a snowman then move on

to more advanced techniques to engineer a snowmobile to knock it down. Winter Fun – Lego Style is for students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Continue fostering your child’s creativity next in the realms of art and fashion! Art Connection helps students in kindergarten through fifth grade make a beautiful piece of art from start to finish using easy steps with instruction from our librarians. Fashion comes into play with Upcycling – From Rags to Riches; a chance for students in third through eighth grade to take one of your favorite old T-shirts and breathe new life into it to make something beautiful and

useful like a strand necklace, infinity scarf, or perhaps a tote bag.

After all that work building, painting, and sewing, you’ll want to relax a little. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade can come play a bunch of games with us and challenge your family, friends, or someone you meet there! We go out with a bang by showing *Big Hero 6* on the movie screen in our basement Tuesday, December 29 at 1 p.m. Come cheer on Baymax and Hiro Hamada as they team up with a cool bunch of high-tech heroes! Hope to see you at The Library this holiday season!

Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Teacher Honored By
The United Labor Agency

by Lisa Shaffer-Gill

On November 20th Lincoln Elementary School Teacher, Amy Miller, was recognized as an Unsung Hero of the Labor Movement at a United Labor Agency dinner at Landerhaven. She attended the celebration with her husband Mike and fellow LTA members. At the award ceremony, Amy spoke briefly about the value of union membership.

Below is an excerpt from the essay that nominated her for the award. It appeared, in part, in the program for the evening.

Amy is a special education teacher and technology specialist in Lakewood City Schools. She has been an active member of the Lakewood Teachers Association for the life of her 31 year career. She is also a resident of Lakewood. Amy is a strong advocate for the role of teachers and what they bring to the communities in which they live and work. She is a backbone of strength to her local association. She has served her organization in several capacities over the years, and is an invaluable resource of institutional memory and context for policies that affect teaching and learning in our schools. Amy is the definition of an Unsung Hero. She is



Amy and Michael Miller

not interested in the limelight. She is interested in giving the best she has to offer to those around her and the people and organizations that

she cares about. Fortunately for the Lakewood Teachers Association, we can count our union as an organization she cares about! She knows the value that a strong association brings to teachers, students, the schools and the community. Amy does more than her part to ensure the strength of our association and the engagement of our members. For these reasons, Amy Miller is the Lakewood Teachers Association's Unsung Hero.

The United Labor Agency is a non-profit union-affiliated organization that seeks to address social issues outside of collective bargaining agreements.

Lisa Shaffer-Gill is the President of Lakewood Teachers Association.

What's In Your Tool Belt?

by Noreen Kyle

The 2015/16 Westshore Young Leaders Network continues to flourish as they spice up their Leadership Training by welcoming their new partner **Flo Brett, Founder and Executive Director of ELA** (Effective Leadership Academy) www.effectiveela.org. Flo, a graduate of Derby

University in England, specializes in helping teams and individuals achieve improved personal and organizational results through action-based team-building strategies, goal achievement, and positive attitude development. Clients include nonprofit organizations, health care companies, schools and school agencies.

Westlake Recreation Center was the site for the Annual Leadership Training where 100 middle/high school students from the 6 western suburbs and their school representatives put on their "Leadership Tool Belts" to become better equipped as leaders. Some of the tools in their belts included: putting on a leadership mindset, knowing yourself and your team, tuning up your personality, tackling team challenges and creating a web of influence.

On the 3rd Thursday of every

month you will find many of these same devoted students at the WYLN Monthly Teen Meeting which is held in the Bay Village Police Department Community

Room from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Each meeting has a focus on alcohol/drug prevention strategies while reinforcing and building teen's self-esteem through leadership development.

Students have the opportunity to network with friends from other schools. This unique assembly gives teens the affirmation of peers and allows them to develop plans, share dreams and goals to create new ventures in their schools and communities.

The Westshore Young Leaders gives youth a voice, opportunities to lead and recognition for their positive choices.

*About us: effectiveela.org.

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Lakewood Schools

LHS Group Bridging Culture Gaps

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High’s “Facing History” Girls Group is making a difference in the Lakewood community while at the same time bridging cultural gaps among its own members.

Each week about 20 girls get together to share cultural experiences and plan service activities for the school and greater community. About one-quarter of the girls are Americans and the rest are refugees or immigrants from countries such as Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Nepal.

At a recent meeting, the girls were listening to Afghani music while sorting household items donated to help outfit apartments for newly relocated refugees to the city. The items were donated by fellow Lakewood High students and staff.

LHS social studies teacher



Members of the Facing History Girls Club at Lakewood High sort goods donated for refugee families’ new homes.

Megan Eadah began the club, which is named after the nonprofit organi-

zation that promotes diversity and tolerance awareness, because she said she saw a need to better blend girl students new to the country into the LHS culture and environment. She selected the American girls to help lead the group based on their leadership qualities and active engagement in the school.

The club has planned several field trips – to movies, ethnic restaurants and museums. On December 11, the group will attend a showing at Cedar Lee of “Salam Neighbor,” a documentary about Syrian refugee camps and what people can do to make a difference.

At their meetings they learn about each other by hearing each other’s music, sharing their country’s favorite foods and sharing their experiences growing up and as teenagers.

“Sometimes it’s just typical teenage girl talk and then they start getting comfortable and someone will tell their story and suddenly they are all crying,” Eadah said.

The girls will be creating a “Gallery Walk” to share with the school in the second half of the year that will include colorful banners on the walls of the school sharing stories through comments, pictures and other artwork.

“The goals are for students to understand the benefits of contributing to community and valuing all of the people in your neighborhood,” Eadah said. “The students’ stories inspire me and they learn so much from each other.”

Garfield Postive Behavior Team Selected As Statewide Presenter

by Christine Gordillo

Garfield Middle School’s Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) team was one of 16 teams from across the state selected to present at the Ohio Department of Education’s 2015 PBIS Showcase in Columbus recently. Team members, psychologist Renee Hart, teachers Leslie Eiben and Alina Sandoval, counselor Mary Kay Marcuse, and Principal Mark Walter had the opportunity to tell Garfield’s PBIS story that started even before the building was completed with a large group of dedicated teachers discussing the type of school desired.

In its presentation, “PBIS for New and Experienced Teams,” Garfield’s team shared the school’s vision of creating a safe and welcoming environment with high academic and behavioral standards to school teams from around the state. The team shared its interven-

tion strategies to positively reinforce the expected behaviors and characteristics of Garfield students.

Other school personnel in attendance at the presentation took back to their districts sample lessons, positive reinforcement tools, data collections strategies, common area expectations for students and staff, and student acknowledgement programs that have helped Garfield become a best-practice school for positive behavior intervention strategies.

“The PBIS Showcase was a great opportunity for the Garfield team to share the great work the PBIS team has done over the years,” Principal Walter said. “We are proud that creating a safe, respectful, and welcoming learning environment has always been and continues to be a major emphasis of Garfield Middle School.”

Middle Schoolers Honored In Patriot’s Essay Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Garfield sixth-grader Lindsay Gregg won the local VFW’s Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest, which had the theme this year of “What Freedom Means to Me,” and Harding eighth-grader Emma Carson was a runner-up. Lindsay’s essay spoke to the messages found in the Pledge of Allegiance, God Bless the USA, and the American flag. She was awarded \$100 and the opportunity to attend the VFW awards banquet. Emma earned \$75 for her essay.

Each year more than 125,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW’s Patriot’s Pen youth essay contest. The first-place winner from each state

competes for national awards totaling \$50,000, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in March.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America’s history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

Spots Still Available In District’s Top-Rated Preschool Program

by Christine Gordillo

Did you know Lakewood City Schools has an early childhood program? It’s the best-kept secret in Lakewood! And, it’s not too late to enroll your child in the program! The Lakewood City Schools early childhood program has earned the highest rating from the state of five stars and its curriculum is aligned with the Ohio Department

of Education’s Early Learning and Development Standards.

The approximately 2,000 days a child lives from birth to kindergarten are a critical time in a child’s brain development. Make the pledge to have your child in a high quality early learning environment today and sign up for a spot in the Lakewood City Schools’ early childhood program.

Classes are held Monday through Friday from 8:30-11 a.m., or choose an afternoon session from 12:30-3 p.m. Classes are held at Horace Mann, Emerson, Hayes and Harrison elementary schools. Your child must be a Lakewood resident and be 4 years old by September 30. Call 216-529-4214 to register.

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Sports

LHS Soccer--A Community Team

by Chuck Greanoff

When the Lakewood Rangers Boys Soccer team defeated St Edward, 1-0, in the second round of the state tournament, the fan reaction was just as satisfying as the game winning goal (by Emrakh Kamalov with an assist from Chris Kafley) scored roughly nine minutes into the second half. Suddenly, the "hill" at Garfield was no longer filled, as overjoyed Lakewood students rushed the field to mob their classmates. It doesn't get much better than beating a rival in a tournament game. But the story doesn't end here.

A few days later, the Rangers pulled an upset, defeating favored North Royalton 1-0 in double overtime on their home field. This time, it was Jafar Fadhel that blasted in the game winner. Now, it was on to St Ignatius, the state's top ranked team and arguably the best team in the country, for the District Championship. The Rangers had earned this opportunity, they practiced hard, they played hard, and their fans showed up in droves primed for an historic upset. The Rangers lost 7-0. Season over. But the story doesn't end here.

It doesn't end because the story is not exclusively about soccer, even with the splendid goaltending of Robbie Fehrenbach, or the inspired play of, in addition to those already mentioned, Kyle Dombroski, Bisal Ghilmire, Jared Macaulsco, Nunion Mocka, Attila Nagy, Alex Rosel, Jack Hueter, Johnny Virag or Malvin Gblah. Led by Coach Andrew Toth, a Lakewood graduate, and Assistant Coach Attila Nagy, the Rangers boys were a rallying force for the LHS community. The boys were frequent fans at the girls' soccer games, and the girls came out in force to support the boys. The football team had not, as of that time, won a game, but, in a sublime moment, they lined up and applauded the team as they boarded the bus for North Royalton. The story is mostly about community. Our community.

Every player on the Lakewood team lives in Lakewood. Each has committed to early morning practices and long hours of grinding work to earn a spot on the team, play the sport they

love (and play rather well, I might add) and have the opportunity to represent Lakewood High School. Every player has at least one adult who has dedicated time and money to helping them, and each one lives in a community that values and supports public education both in theory and in practice. No team or club at LHS is a perfect microcosm of our community, but the boys soccer team comes close, having players who went to kindergarten here and others who have been in the country for less than a year. They are quintessentially Lakewood.

We all love the Browns, but let's face it, they are "owned" by a Tennessean and "staffed" by paid performers

that have little real connection to our town or region. Their famous “Dog Pound”, which started organically, is now a fully marketed corporate commodity. Players are traded, leave as free agents and bought on an open market. No one is marketing “the hill” at Garfield, and the Rangers haven’t traded a player or signed a free agent in forever.

So, when the students poured onto the Garfield field after the victory over St. Edward, they were greeting people they knew as friends and classmates. It was a magical moment on a rainy night. Parents, players and classmates were celebrating a victory not just for a soccer

team, but also representing the concept of a community based team. The Lakewood Rangers are not an assembled club or professional team, but a genuine reflection of the community.

When our amazing student section gave the team a well-deserved standing ovation in the waning seconds of the St Ignatius game, they were responding to an opposite result (from the St Ed's game) with an identical display of respect and appreciation. The season was indeed over, but now the work begins for the 2015-2016 campaign. The Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town, that played its heart out all year. The story continues.

LHS Hoops Season Underway

by Mike Deneen

Temperatures are dropping and daylight grows short, which means that the high school basketball season is underway. Like last season, both the Lakewood High School boys and girls teams are playing their home games at Harding Middle School. Unlike last season, both teams are now competing in the Southwest Conference, not the West Shore Conference.

CAMMOCK ERA BEGINS

Legendary head coach Phil Argento retired from the boys team this offseason, turning the program over to assistant coach Alex Cammock. The Rangers got off to a good start, winning their first two games of the season. They defeated John Marshall in the season opener by a score of 92 to 75. They trailed at half-time, but managed to pull away in the second half.

The Rangers then went on the road to beat Berea-Midpark 69 to 65. This was the Rangers' first game in the Southwest Conference. Cammock was very pleased with this win. "We shared the ball extremely well," he said when asked about the win.

Cammock is not making any grandiose predictions about the season. When asked his goal for the season, he responded, "Just to

play basketball the right way.” The Rangers are faced with an 18 game conference schedule in their new league, the Southwest Conference. “An 18 game conference schedule is one heck of a grind,” Cammock said, “but I like it.”

GIRLS TEAM OFF TO SOLID START

The girls season started about a week before the boys, the first game was on November 24 at Berea-Midpark. They got off to a strong start, taking a lead at halftime. However, they eventually fell to the Titans by a 50-44 score.

The Rangers followed the opening night loss with back-to-back wins. First they beat Olmsted Falls on the road by a 46-34 score. Then they came home to face Avon Lake in their home opener. The game was even throughout the first half, but Lakewood opened an eight point lead by the end of the 3rd quarter. They went on to win the game 48-34, pushing both their conference and overall record to 2-1. Leading scorers in the game included Ranger Junior Christina Kamkutis (11 points) and Mallory Shaw (8 points).



Ranger Guard Cristin Donahoe drives against an Avon Lake defender.

MORE HOOPS COVERAGE AT
OBSERVER WEBSITE

The Observer will have photo galleries and scores throughout the season at www.lakewoodobserver.com.

We plan to cover most home games for LHS boys and girls hoops, as well as most St. Edward basketball home games.



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Ranger Senior Logan Swift shoots over three John Marshall defenders.

Shop Local

Trendi Paws Shoppe Opens In Lakewood

by Laurie Aldrich

Are you looking for some “Grog” for the dog or some shrimp for the cat? Look no further than Trendi Paws Shoppe! Recently we relocated to Lakewood after 5 years in Westlake - now we are expanding and taking Lakewood by storm, spoiling your pets with the tastiest, healthiest, all-natural, handmade, human-grade treats around. We carry a variety of flavors sure to please the most finicky canine or feline! We also have many grain-free treats.

We chose to come to Lakewood because of the warm community feeling we experienced participating in the Summer Farmers Market. The people and dogs we met were so welcoming and fell madly in love with our treats and merchandise. I loved taking my poodles on a walk down Detroit before and after the market each week. We instantly felt at home here in Lakewood.

Just last week we were approached to make some healthy natural treats for goats! So coming in February - goat treats!

We strive not to be your typical pet store, and do extensive research on any item before allowing it in the store. We look for fun new products and carry novelty items such as grog and wine for the dogs. We carry many cool different items for the pet lovers in your life also. We make gift-giving easy--we have greeting cards and even gift wrap that is safe for animal presents

We carry quality apparel for your pets currently including snuggly coats, sweaters and boots. We have adorable outfits for the short-haired

breeds that get cold even indoors. If you're looking for something for a wedding or other celebration we have it or can get it for you. In addition, we are adding small doggy daycare at our facility and cat-sitting services. After the new year we will be carrying cakes for your dog or cat including cakes that you can personalize with your pet's photo.

We have lots of fun, neat activities planned to entertain and delight you and your pets. Please stop by and visit us at 18115 Detroit Ave or call us at 440-799-4554.

Celebrating One Year In Lakewood! Add Some Local Design Flair To Your Wardrobe

by Emily Marvin

Cleveland is a big city made of many diverse neighborhoods, each with their own unique and rich history. Only in Clev Apparel, owned by Cleveland born & Lakewood raised Brian Lynch, captures the best of the past and excitement of the future in custom shirt designs and wall decals. Only in Clev located at 15226 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, also has a diverse selection of Cleveland sports teams, ethnic culture and many Lakewood specific designs to name a few offerings. New professional designs are regularly introduced and a new batch of Lakewood and holiday designs are being released for the Christmas Season.



Cleveland area designs

Only in Clev shirts are available in an array of colors and styles (hoodies, sweatshirts, light-weight hoodies, short sleeve, ¾ length and long sleeve shirts, tank tops, and onesies), in any size from newborn to 3XL. These shirts are made from quality material and soft to the touch, yet durable to last many years. Unlike traditional screen printed shirts, the graphics are full and vivid color, high detail and very reasonably priced.

If you have a family reunion, golf outing, club team or fundraiser - Only in Clev can help make any gathering extra

special with custom designed shirts.

Only in Clev has quality shirts and so much more to offer, including life-size wall decals of your favorite athlete, professional or your child/family, custom lettering, banners, posters and signage.

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Shirt and wall art designs are created by the owner's son, Tim Lynch. Tim graduated from John Carroll University in 2011 where he studied language, design and played on the football team. Tim decided to study abroad for a semester in Spain while at John Carroll and returned there to teach after graduating. While still residing in Spain with his wife and new son, Tim continues to have a devout passion for the Cleveland area and all

continued on page 14

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Shop Local

Taster Twins Cozy At Cozumel

by Irene Joyce and Ingrid Dickson

Most of the time, we write our reviews about restaurants which we are visiting for the first time, trying out establishments that are new to us. Like many of our readers, we have places that we frequent whenever we are looking for something comfortable and are not in the mood for surprises in service, food quality, or atmosphere. Since they opened in the abandoned IHOP location on

Detroit Road, we have been to Cozumel again and again. Every time we drop in there, we are warmly greeted with a cheerful “Hola, Amigas!” We are always made to feel welcome and the staff seems genuinely happy to see us.

At our latest visit, the host seated us quickly in one of the dining areas, surrounded by the warmly toned decor, pretty far removed from its pancake house origins. This

visit was early on a week night, so we had no wait at all, but oftentimes, Cozumel fills up fast and there can be quite a crowd. No wonder, since it is always fast, consistent, and a good value with reasonably priced food served speedily and piping hot! As with many Mexican restaurants, the menu is extensive, with an abundance of choices. Steak, ground beef, pork, egg, chicken, seafood dishes, and vegetarian options populate its pages. Selections can range from eye-poppingly, sweat-inducingly, tongue-scorchingly spicy to pleasantly mild. Our go-to dish is the succulent Carnitas dinner, tasty pork served with sautéed onions and warm torillas; another favorite meal is the Mahi mahi tacos. For those with a hearty appetite, El Combo

has enough food to fill up the hungriest of the bunch. Most dishes are served with refried beans and flavorful rice. It’s surprising we have room for these filling entrees after inhaling the warm chips and zesty salsa that is immediately served upon our being seated.

Yes, Cozumel can be viewed as just a standard Mexican restaurant—a chain, no less, but what makes it so good is its consistency, its friendly staff, and its lightning fast service. Cozumel is a great place to satisfy your hunger pangs quickly without resorting to fast food.

As 2015 draws to a close, we Taster Twins wish you a Merry Christmas and we look forward to a delicious New Year, with a little sauce on the side!

Shop Local--It’s Fun

continued from page 1

images, you can see a sunrise over the tranquil waters of Lake Erie, bask in the Florida sun, or stroll through a narrow street in Italy, Dr. Mellino’s birthplace. He has a gift for capturing emotion in his subjects, and an eye for composition that makes his photographs come to life. If you’ve been looking for something to ornament your wall, chances are you’ll find just the right thing at Images Gallery.

The third shop in the group at 14404 Detroit is **House of Chinor**, Lakewood’s entry into the world of haute couture (high fashion). Vincente Chinor’s artistry is the magic he works with fabric and design. Vincente pursued his career in art and fashion in Spain as a student of a designer from

Christian Dior’s studio. Additional education added tailoring to his skills, and he combined both talents in his work in a fashion house in Miami. He returned to Cleveland ready to launch his own shop. Chinor offers ready-made garments that can be individually tailored, and will also design, sketch and sew an original creation. He buys fabric worldwide, and delights in making his customers look their best. The mannequin in his window is the best-dressed woman in town!

Get to know the merchants who are eager to serve you--the investment, both financial and personal, they make in their businesses benefits our community in so many ways. Shop local and learn their stories!

Celebrating One Year In Lakewood!

Add Some Local Design Flair To Your Wardrobe

continued from page 11

it has to offer. He is glad he can help his father even from thousands of miles away with his unique designs.

Only in Clev is proud to offer paintings by Shaun Kinley. Shaun has professionally produced art for twenty years as well as teaching visual arts at St.Edward High School. Shaun is a graduate from the Ohio StateUniversity and paints many local designs drawing from the Cleveland area and his experience at the Shoe.

On December 4, Only in Clev Apparel celebrated its one year anniversary!

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O’Neill facilities rebrand as O’Neill Healthcare



John T., John, and David O’Neill

The O’Neill family has owned and operated premier senior living communities on Cleveland’s west side since 1962. Today, over 800 employees provide outstanding care in comfortable surroundings to seniors in Skilled Nursing, Assisted living, Independent Living, and Hospice Care, as well as deliver a myriad of ancillary services ranging from Rehabilitative Therapies to daily social activities. Sharing a common name solidifies our efforts and strengthens our ability to be a cohesive provider of senior care services. Putting the needs of our residents first is our unilateral mission, and we now have a unified name to reflect our commitment and dedication to our case.

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New Name:	Formerly known as:
O’Neill Healthcare Bay Village	Bradley Bay Health Center
O’Neill Healthcare Fairview Park	Now Open
O’Neill Healthcare Hospice	Bayview Hospice
O’Neill Healthcare Lakewood	Lakewood Senior Health Campus
O’Neill Healthcare North Olmsted	Wellington Place
O’Neill Healthcare North Ridgeville	Center Ridge Health Campus

Holiday Worship

Support LEAF's Mission To Increase Access To Local Food

by Margaret Brinich

With your support, LEAF (Lakewood Earth And Food) Community can continue to:

Provide food relief for people who need it. LEAF has donated hundreds of pounds of fresh, local produce to area hunger relief organizations through our community gardens and CSA programs. In addition, LEAF offers options for people on a limited income to afford a CSA share or farm market foods.

Provide access to fresh, local food in Lakewood. LEAF maintains over 150 plots in our community gardens for people to grow their own produce. At our seasonal, weekly farm market, you can pick up a CSA share or buy from our local vendors.


Educate people of all ages. Everyone can learn how to live a more healthy, environmentally responsible life through LEAF's free education sessions.

LEAF Indoor Holiday Market
Our final market of the year is on Tuesday, December 15 from 5:30-8 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 hand

made 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!

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today to LEAF Community. LEAF is a 501(c)(3) and is 100% volunteer-run. A gift of any size can mean a world of difference in the health and well-being of our hometown.

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Little One's Ministry	2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Providing Free diapers, wipes, and baby toiletries To obtain a required voucher, and for a schedule, call Lakewood Community Services Center at 216-226-6466



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LCAC Does It AGAIN!

Holiday Help – Food Items And Volunteers Are Needed For December

by Celia Dorsch

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation's Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution was a resounding success! LCAC received a record-breaking amount of support from the community. Support poured in via donations of non-perishable food items - collected at area schools, along with monetary contributions - from individual donors, businesses, school groups and organizations. The most essential support came in the form of volunteers, hundreds of them. Without their help LCAC would be unable to fulfill its mission of providing food to 600 Lakewood families and seniors in need throughout the holiday months of November and December.

Right now, LCAC is gearing up to deliver its second round of food baskets to another 300 residents. Between now and December 18th, LCAC encourages Lakewood residents to drop off gifts of non-perishable food items at Lakewood Hardware, or any one of the following schools: Emerson, Garfield, Harding, Harrison, Lakewood City Academy, Lincoln or Roosevelt.

Beginning Friday, December 18th, LCAC calls on the community to volunteer. Many hands are needed to sort the canned food donations prior to



It takes a village to pack and deliver 300 bags full of holiday food to Lakewood households.

home deliveries on Saturday, December 19th. Bring your family and friends. This service opportunity is open to all ages. Specific times, dates and volunteer needs are listed below:

Where?
Lakewood Masonic Temple - 15300 Detroit Ave.
Enter through NE door near rear parking lot.

When?
Friday, December 18th
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – food donations are sorted and prepped for bagging
6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. – non-perishable food bags are filled
Saturday, December 19th
9 - 10:30 a.m. – perishable food is bagged and all items are prepped to deliver
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. – drivers deliver food baskets to 300 Lakewood households
Saturday activities are held outdoors, regardless of weather! Please dress accordingly.
Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, dedicated to improving the quality of life of Lakewood's families in need. For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit us at www.LCAC.info or check out our Facebook page at Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.



Volunteers prepare 300 bags full of holiday food to be delivered to Lakewood households.

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Be An Angel To Lakewood's Homeless Animals

by Mike Deneen

CCLAS (Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter) is again doing its annual "Angel Tree" tradition! A \$5 donation to CCLAS does double duty by helping local animals in need and getting your personalized ornament in honor/in memory of your pet on one of our Angel Trees. One tree is located at

the Main Lakewood Library (15425 Detroit Avenue) and the other is at Pet's General Store (16821 Madison Avenue).
Your donation will be used by CCLAS to help with vet bills, adoption efforts, spaying and neutering costs and foster care supplies.
To get an ornament on one of

the trees, visit either tree location and make a \$5 donation. If you can't make it to either location, you can download and print the Angel Tree form at <http://cclas.org/events.html> and then mail it to:
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CCLAS Adopt-A-Pet: Fiona

by Mike Deneen

Fiona (Collar #223) is a lovely tabby girl who's about 3-years-old and loves snuggling. She can't get enough scratches and can't wait to give tons of kisses! She's waiting at the Lakewood Animal Shelter to meet you and become best friends. She's been at the shelter since September 17 and would love to have a fur-ever home for the holidays!

For more information on Fiona or any of the other adoptable animals at the Lakewood Animal Shelter, call 216-529-5020 or visit the CCLAS website www.cclas.info.



Pictured here is Fiona (Collar #223). Stop by the Lakewood Animal Shelter to give Fiona a warm, loving home today!

Wellness Watch

A Pause For The Holidays

by Cynthia Kessler
You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is only when you give of yourself that you truly give.
- Kahlil Gibran

Remember when you were a kid and the ecstatic relief you felt when there was a snow day? You couldn't go to school that day. It was out of your control, right? Mother Nature forced

you to stay home and stop and pause for a break from the demands of your daily routine.
Preparing for the holidays can be fun for some people, or equally demanding and stressful for others. Standing in line or ordering gifts online in order to purchase that latest perfect, special 'thing' for a loved one can be tiring in and of itself.

Stores' ever increasingly earlier and earlier advertising for pre-Thanksgiving and Black Friday sales can add to the frenetic pace. Many people begin to report feeling frazzled, irritable and overwhelmed by the pressure of holiday preparations. It's also important to remember that many individuals or families can hardly afford to do this. Many oth-

ers may be feeling more alone due to the loss of a loved one.

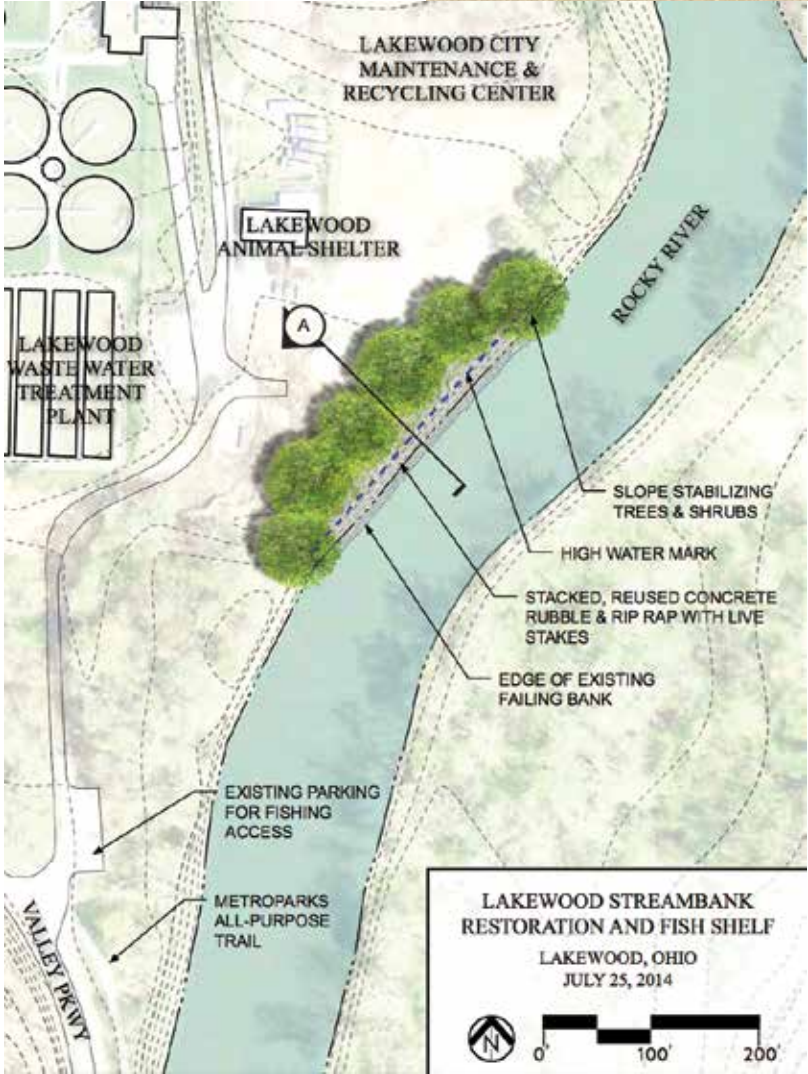
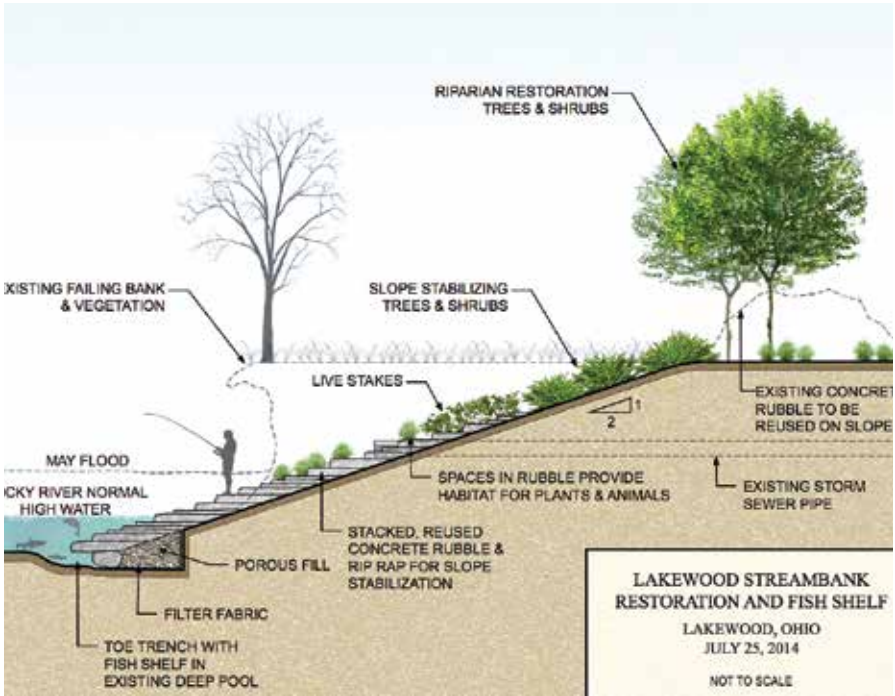
Psychologists in my field who have been conducting research studies about memory have found that an 'experience' is more likely to be stored in our long-term memory than a 'thing' itself. Moments are remembered longer than objects. Learning and remembering to press our inner 'pause button' by centering our attention on a single moment can help us develop an ability to enjoy the here-and-now. This may seem counter-intuitive, as we adults often have seemingly endless responsibilities. Practicing and developing the capacity to slow ourselves down and mindfully pause - even if we only have 15 minutes to spare - enables us to notice more in ourselves, in others, and in our environment.

Let us all try to remember to occasionally press our 'pause button.' Let us try to give the gift of time, patience and undivided attention to both others and ourselves, without distraction, simply by being present.

Cynthia Kessler, Ph.D., has been a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist for the past 25 years, with a private practice in San Francisco and now Lakewood. Her office is located in the INA Building at 14701 Detroit Ave. Medicare and some other insurances are accepted. She can be reached at (216)543-1695.

Lakewood Streambank Restoration And Fish Shelf Project To Begin In 2016

by Colin McEwen
A portion of the Lakewood bank of the Rocky River is soft, unstable, and eroding quickly. However, the city has plans to stabilize and restore about 300 feet of the riverfront as part of its Lakewood Streambank Restoration and Fish Shelf project.
"The way the river directly flows into that embankment is causing significant and rapid erosion at that site," said Joe Beno, the city's public works director. "The soft soil at that location don't help either."
The city of Lakewood received a nearly \$123,000 grant from the Ohio EPA to help pay for streambank stabilization and a fish shelf — made of repurposed concrete construction



materials — earmarked to stabilize and restore that area of riverfront.
The new fish shelf, near the city's stockpile yard near the Animal Shelter off Metro Parks Drive, will also provide a place for sport fishing.
The total project cost is estimated to be \$204,736 of which the Ohio EPA would fund \$122,842. Design work is underway, and city officials expect plans to be ready by February 2016. The city will host a public meeting when the plans are nearly complete for public comment.
The project would be bid in spring of 2016 with construction starting afterward; city officials estimated the project could be completed by October 2016.

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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Youth Theater Lives “Happily Forever After”

by Pat Miller

Beck Center Youth Theater continues their 2015–2016 season with “Happily Forever After,” December 11–13 and 18–20, 2015, in the Studio Theater. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays, and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets go on sale at 9 a.m. on November 28, and can be ordered by calling 216.521.2540 x10 or visiting beckcenter.org. Seating in the Studio Theater is limited and tickets for Youth Theater holiday shows sell quickly.

Once upon a time, this original comedy was written by Charlie Lovett. When Snow White, Cinderella, and Goldilocks achieve their happy endings, they soon realize that happily-ever-after isn't quite how they imagined. Still, Princess Wallflower is hoping for one of her very own. Kidnapped by the wickedest person in

the kingdom, the princess pleads for a handsome prince to come to her rescue. Will Princess Wallflower's dreams come true? Will her rescuer be a typical hero? Stay tuned to see who saves the day!

With a cast of 22 Beck Center students ages 7 to 12, this hilarious twist on fairy tale endings is directed by Associate Director of Outreach Education and Theater Education faculty member Rachel Spence. “‘Happily Forever After’ is a comedy about the perils of getting exactly what you want,” remarked Spence. “It is a joy to work with these young actors who are not just talented but very funny too.”

The 2015–2016 season also includes “Bright Ideas,” presented by BeckTeenTheater, February 26–March 6, 2016, and “big THE MUSICAL,” May 13–22, 2016. Tickets are \$12 for Adults/Seniors and \$10 for Students/

Children (18 and under), and may be purchased online at beckcenter.org or by calling 216.521.2540 x10. Discounted group rates are available for all productions. Schedule a student matinee for “Bright Ideas” and “big THE MUSICAL” by calling Customer Service Manager Rennie Tisdale at 216.521.2450 x28.

Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free onsite parking is available. This production of “Happily Forever After” is produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. The 2015–2016 Youth Theater season is made possible by the support of Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater produc-



Illustration by Pat Miller

tions on two stages, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for individuals with special needs, outreach education programming, and gallery exhibits featuring local, regional, and international artists.

Testing The Boundaries Of Sanity And Good Taste:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 16

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.

Archie & The Bunkers - Archie & The Bunkers - Dirty Water Records - 12 songs - CD, LP, download

Before I begin this review, let me say that I like this band, and I like this record. That said, I think it's overhyped. I think Archie and The Bunkers have very strong potential, but treating them like everything is as good as it could possibly be at the point they're at right now seems to me to be supremely counterintuitive. I do think this is a good album. It's challenging to create unique songs when you've only got an organ and drums, but they manage. With some of the previously released

songs, particularly “You're The Victim,” “Miss Taylor,” and “I Wish I Could,” I preferred the demo versions. Something about those demos just had an energy that these didn't. No matter what, with just drums and organ, things get somewhat repetitive. The addition of a bassist (there was bass on the demos!) would really improve it. People argue all the time about whether these guys would be better or worse with a guitarist, but I'm staying out of that one. Really, a bass would tie a lot of these songs together, particularly the aforementioned “Miss Taylor” and “I Wish I Could.” Not to say they haven't improved from the demos. The backing vocals on “Different Track” were definitely better and “The Last Stoooge” was also really good (though it's worthy of note that the album's producer, the famed Jim Diamond, played bass on that one). The new stuff (meaning not previously released) was pretty good. The opener, “Sally Lou,” especially was a favorite, with a swirling organ riff and Doors-esque vocals and music. The manic “Trade Winds” was pretty cool. The closer on the album, a jazzy instrumental titled “Joanie” came as a surprise, because it was very different from the other songs on the album. Again, I know this review sounds somewhat negative. I don't mean it that way. It's a good album, but it's not the best album ever made, like some (especially in town, jeez) are saying, and it's not the best album these guys will make. Still, and let me make this very clear, it's a pretty good album. 4/5

In fact, when he says “23 records in 5 years” (from the hostile kiss-off track “Dark Man Ex (There Is No One Else)”), I have no trouble believing that. I'm not going to go through and count, but if anyone actually can give me the conclusive list of those 23 records in 5 years, let me know. On the continuum, I'd say this is a better record than “Know America,” but not as good as “Boogalou Reed.” That's still quite impressive, given that “Boogalou Reed” would be very hard to beat and that “Know America” was pretty darn good anyway. Tracks include the heavy psychedelic opener “Look To The Sun,” the trashy indeed punk of “Infinite Trash,” and the quick, pounding “Symbol Crash,” which clocks in at just 50 seconds. My favorites were the bitter, catchy rocker “If You Wanna Know The Truth” and “See Me,” which melodically reminded me of classic power pop, but given the distorted Obnox twist. Really, I think this is probably their (his? it's kind of a band, but also kind of only one person) most accessible record, and up there with their best. Here's the thing, right? I hate giving albums 5 stars. Even if I think a record deserves it, I'll usually give it 4.5. I'm not sure why either. Probably because I am the worst journalist in the world. That doesn't, however, mean that all albums I give 4.5 are 5 star albums. Anyway, I'm gonna give this 4.5 out of 5 and let you, the reader, decide what I mean. 4.5/5

put out two singles). I've seen some reviews that say it's great and some that say it's completely pretentious. I think it's both. It's enjoyable for what it is. If you came here because you saw John Morton and Craig Bell and expected something that sounded like the electric eels or Rocket From The Tombs, you were probably disappointed. Personally, I liked it. The ones that everyone wants to talk about are the free jazz ones, Sun Ra's “I Am An Instrument” and, of course, Albert Ayler's “Ghosts.” When I heard about them doing these, I wasn't sure what I was gonna think. Actually, they turned out pretty good, especially “Ghosts.” “My Terranean Home,” a twisted, minimalist take on Bob Dylan's classic “Subterranean Homesick Blues” was interesting. My favorites were the nearly-funky version of “The Social Whirlpool,” previously released by The Styrenes, and especially the final track, Andrew “Whammy Boy” Klimeyk's chaotic rocker, “Felt Hammer,” with its slurred, multi-layered vocals interrupting themselves, taking us “from Mahall's down to the Yellow Ghetto” and giving a nod to WCSB. Also, I think the production on this record was really good, especially with the bass and drums. It's very clear-sounding. And hey, if you are intrigued by this one or the previous review, X__X and Obnox are going on the “Blowtorch Tour” of the southern US starting in January. It'll probably be cool. 4/5

X__X - Albert Ayler's 'Ghosts' Live At The Yellow Ghetto - Smog Veil Records - 8 songs - CD, LP, download

Obnox - Wiglet - Ever/Never Records - 12 songs - LP, download

The third full-length LP this year from the notoriously prolific Obnox.

Ah yes, the hotly-contested new X The Jazz Destroyers X album (which I suppose is technically their debut album, given that they only ever really

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.

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Lakewood Is Art

Upcycling: From Rags To Riches Repurpose Something Old To Use in the New Year!

by Fran Storch

Christmas is coming and the kids will soon be off for the holidays. After the excitement of the big day, you may need an activity to keep them busy during winter break. Bring them to the library for some upcycling fun! Students in third through eighth grade will enjoy turning an old t-shirt into a strand necklace, infinity scarf or tote bag. Get them ready for the cold weather as they transform an old sweater into a slouch beanie with matching mittens. Children will discover how to do this and more at the Upcycling: From Rags to Riches program on Tuesday, December 29 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. in the Main Library Multi-

purpose Room. Upcycling is taking an item that is no longer wanted or needed and giving it new life as something useful or creative. Children will use their imaginations to repurpose an old t-shirt or sweater into something incredibly cool to wear. So have your kids clean out their closet to make room for the new clothes they received as holiday gifts and then learn to make over those old duds into new treasures. No experience is necessary. Some materials are provided but students are required to bring an old t-shirt and/or sweater that may be used for their upcycling project. Space is limited for this creative pro-

gram and registration is required so sign up your child today. To register, stop by the Children's & Youth Services desk at the Main Library,

call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth and click on the yellow Register for Programs box.



A student from the fall Upcycling program displays the new scarf and tote she made from an old t-shirt.



A proud participant from the fall Upcycling program models her cool creations at Lakewood Public Library.



Holly Fulger as The Hollywood Beauty Detective.

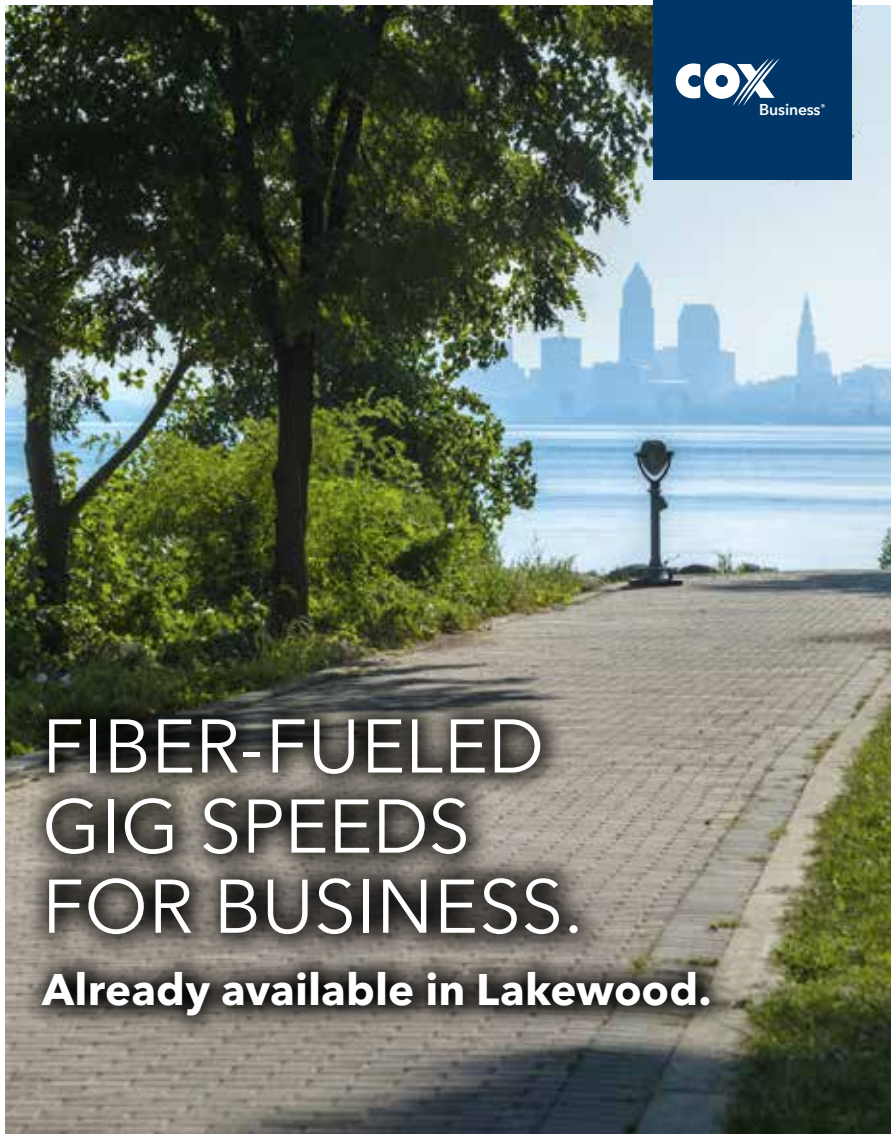

How A Lakewood Girl Became The Hollywood Beauty Detective

by Holly Fulger

I am an Ohio girl, born and raised; specifically Cleveland, more specifically Lakewood. While some may think of Cleveland as the place where the river caught fire and call it names like "The Mistake on the Lake," to me it has always been "home." I went to Emerson Junior High School, graduated from LHS, was a Rangerette, dated a football player (he will remain nameless), knew Mike Summers (he was in my sister's class, 2 years ahead of me, and yes, I'm name dropping), hung out at Malley's with my best friend Barb, then later (and older) at Around the Corner with my other best friend, Liz. I interned at the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival with Tom Hanks (name dropping again), and used to love going to Hixsons at Christmastime (I still do and will be making a stop there). I loved Lakewood. It's what I knew. And being from a small town is what fueled me to go out into the world and make something of myself. To prove that a girl from Lakewood,

Ohio could have an acting career, be on TV, and overcome those days of being teased for being not cool (I was oh so not cool). So by way of Lakewood and The Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, to Chicago and the Chicago theatre scene, I finally landed in Los Angeles. And I worked in television. I worked a lot with some remarkable and talented people: Jamie Lee Curtis, Ellen DeGeneres, Valerie Bertinelli, John Larquette, Rene Russo, Ashley Simpson...to name (drop) a few. I was going to include Stanley Tucci, but it was one scene on thirtysomething and he would never remember me. As I built a career and a life in Los Angeles, the Ohio girl was always present. In small ways like being a diehard Browns fan (to this day), to big ways, like wanting my hometown to be the first place I really began to speak about my new show, The Hollywood Beauty Detective. Coming back to Cleveland to do PR for my new project, The Hollywood

continued on next page



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Forum

Mayor Summers And City Council Need To Act Like Responsible Landlords

by Brian Essi

Here is where we are on the hospital situation:

1. The Cleveland Clinic (CCF) is in breach of the Definitive Agreement (DA) and has committed tortious acts that have caused damage to Lakewood's assets

2. Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) is in breach of its Lease with City.

3. LHA trustees, including the 3 City's ex-officio trustees (Summers, Madigan and Bullock) have breached their fiduciary duties by failing to adhere to the charitable mission of LHA and failing to competently oversee CCF.

3. CCF and LHA want out of their obligations under the Lease and DA.

4. Under the circumstances, the City as the Landlord has both the right and the duty to seek alternative tenants to operate a hospital and/or buyers for its buildings and equipment.

5. Mayor Summers and City Council have failed to:

a.) Demand that LHA and CCF comply with the relevant agreements and restore services and patient volumes taken away by CCF.

b.) Seek alternative tenants in a professional manner and failed to conduct any professional or public bidding of its assets, i.e. they have made no effort whatsoever to maximize the value of the assets or advertise the hospital for lease or sale.

6. No rationale Landlord would let the "volunteer" trustees of the defaulting tenant and the defaulting CCF control the search for a new tenant and/or the liquidation and sale of the City's assets. To make matters worse, the defaulting volunteer trustees are led by Tom Gable who is also a CCF trustee—this just makes no sense.

7. Instead of fulfilling their legal duties, City leaders chose to negotiate exclusively with LHA and CCF—i.e. the parties who caused the problems in the first place.

8. Sources say that the City leaders are close to a deal that is roughly equivalent to the original LOI reached back in January, 2015---a "deal" worth far less than \$50 million when the public assets have been valued at \$120 million.

In exchange for this "deal" Lakewood will be asked to surrender:

1. Public money and property valued by LHA's expert at \$120 million.

2. The largest employer in Lakewood---about \$990,000 in income annual payroll taxes.

3. \$7 million per year in charity care for our underserved.

4. Over \$ 1 million per year in rent through 2026--\$11 million.

5. \$5 million in annual capital improvements to the Hospital--\$55 million through 2026.

6. Valuable legal rights against CCF that could be worth more than \$100 million at settlement.

7. Economic Activity that the hospital impacts estimated at over \$250 million annually.

Additional results of the hospital closure "deal" will be as follows:

1. Lakewood businesses will close,
2. jobs will be lost,
3. homes and business properties will be foreclosed,

4. property values will drop,
5. tax revenues will go down,
6. the elderly will suffer,
7. crime will rise,
8. the underserved will be even more underserved,
9. tax increases will be sought, and
10. schools will suffer.

To make matters worse:

1. CCF will be the sole provider of healthcare in Lakewood---they have already shown their lack of

respect for Lakewood and the health of its citizens.

2. The people who have caused this calamity and pressed for this "deal"—an insiders' club---will be in control of a majority the "benefits" flowing from the "deal." The City gets virtually nothing for its assets valued at \$120 million and the loss of its largest employer.

What Should City Leaders Do?

Set Clear Goals:

1. Maximize Value of Assets.
2. Maximize Prospective Jobs, Tax Base and Economic Impact in repurposing, re-leasing or selling the assets.

3. Provide best possible healthcare for citizens, including the underserved in relation to the repurposing, re-leasing or sale of assets.

The Simplest Solution is also the least Risky and provides the Highest Return:

1. Pursue and Explore Third

Party Options—Begin a City Council Led Request For Proposal bidding process for a hospital, surgical center and/or FHC/ER. Immediately entertain the Surgical Development Partners' offer for the Westlake Columbia Road medical facility and engage with them on their vision for acute care hospital and outpatient surgery center in downtown Lakewood.

2. Pursue Claims Against LHA, CCF and LHA Trustees for the breaches.

Acceptance of the "deal" amounts to a self-serving burial of the failures of all of those involved. Any Council member who votes for such a corrupt "deal" will be breaching their own fiduciary duties and exposing City to severe financial losses and legal liabilities that are easily avoidable. They will be joining and supporting CCF's agenda.

“The Hospital Deal Tastes Good Like A Cigarette Should”: The Clinic’s Big Lie

by Kevin Young

Here in Lakewood we have been presented with a false narrative. It is a narrative that is being told country-wide by what is called the Medical Industrial Complex. It is a narrative that is not motivated by what care is best for our population, but by greed. It is the same greed that has overnight increased the prices for life-saving drugs by 2000% and more.

To support the lie, it needs to be packaged and sold to the public. We see corporations sell their positions, true and false to the public every day. Radio stations always claim they play more music, less talk. It is rarely true. "Winston tastes good like a cigarette should." Remember that one? Who believes that today?

Like all corporations, The Clinic spends lavishly to support

their narrative. We saw this in the past election. If what they said in their teleconferences, push polls and printed propaganda was true, they would have won 90% of the vote. You have to spend a lot more money when your message is false.

The firm the Clinic hired to carry out this propaganda campaign has done it before. They look upon all of us on both sides of the hospital issue like pawns. Their desire is to use us in ways that spread the Clinic's false narrative so the Clinic can make more money.

The truth is simple. The Clinic has violated our lease agreement.

Their plan to close our hospital will torpedo our community's economy. This scheme to close our hospital will endanger lives. What they call an "emergency center" is a Doc in a Box. "We play more

music, less talk." "Winston tastes good like a cigarette should." We've heard it before. We know the truth. The Cleveland Clinic is all about the money, not about what's best for our community's health.

Everyone in Lakewood needs to stand together and tell the Clinic that we are no longer going to allow ourselves to be pawns. We know that cigarettes will kill you. Call your council members and city officials and tell them not to believe the lie. Call the members of the Lakewood Hospital Association and tell them that we are not pawns, that we know what the truth is and we expect our lease to be honored.

Let's stop the cold, dark corporate hand that intends to ruin our community.

Kevin Young has been a Lakewood resident since 1986.

How An Ohio Girl Became The Hollywood Beauty Detective

continued from previous page

Beauty Detective is such a great Christmas gift. Being able to share what I'm doing with the place where my ideas of beauty first began is quite something.

I truly believe it was the "Ohio girl" who pushed me to create The Hollywood Beauty Detective. It was that part of me that wanted to change something that I have always felt was limiting: the way we look at beauty.

That honest part of me...that incredibly idealistic part that still believes that the Browns will have a chance someday...that girl from Ohio...who really believes that it is our purity of self that makes us beautiful. And it is that essence and belief that I bring to The Hollywood Beauty Detective.

It is a show that I created, wrote, raised money for, produced, directed, hosted, and now, am showing to the

world. It is a show that I believe can make a difference. The episodes are available to view on our website, thehollywoodbeautydetective.com, along with blogs, products, and a very new way to approach self-expression through makeup.

It is my way to make a difference. I have big dreams with this. I want you to be part of them. Happy Holidays to each and every one of you.

Pulse Of The City

Lakewood Life A Half-Century Ago...

The Christmas Tree

Well, there it was...the Christmas tree...

Going through the attic is an interesting and sometimes bitter-sweet experience that always seems to come down to the eternal question these days...clean out or keep? In this case, the old Christmas tree was over there in the corner, laying sideways in its box, or rather, what was left of that old box after fifty or so years of coming down from the attic, and getting hiked back up there, all over again.

Sure, at first, our family had wonderful real trees, but all too often, by the time we took a tree out of the house after Christmas, most of that tree's needles were left in the living room! Adding to that were my allergies. If I was within a county mile of pine trees and particularly, wood burning fireplaces, I would end up wheezing for days.

For the above reasons, we bought a supposedly "easy-to-assemble" artificial tree, where the branches went into pre-drilled holes; so that it was impossible to make a mistake. Impossible, that is, except for me. That first year, I must have neglected to notice that each group of branches came in their own bag. See, I never was one for following directions. When I built my plastic model kits back then, the directions always made a great table covering, although I always wondered how I

ended up with so many extra parts. How could you read those directions anyway, much less turn the page, if they were under your partially assembled model car? Same thing with the tree, so I ignored the directions, tore open the bags, and dumped all the branches into a nice pile. After all, I thought, the big branches went on the bottom and the little ones went on top. This tree assembly thing had to be a no-brainer.

Well, it seemed that way until I finished the tree and it looked more like a profile of Marilyn Monroe than a Christmas tree. It just seemed that there were never enough of the right-sized holes in the right places, so out came the electric drill, and I made more holes! When I finished it the second time around, I had plenty of branches on the bottom and plenty on the top, but very few in the middle. What happened? Off they came again and of course, by now, I was getting tired and losing all my patience and my dog needed to go out. The third time had to be a charm, right? So with all due diligence, I put all the branches back on and this time, it seemed more or less right...except that I now had the "Leaning Tower of Pine Tree" in front of me, and of course, that was the exact moment that my dear late

by Gary Rice

mom and dad came in to inspect and critique my efforts. Thus began the annual ritual of branch-switching and fifty-year annual debates as to whether or not the tree looked good from all sides...or not. You can probably guess how all that went down, and then of course, the moment that you moved the tree over to the spot where it was going to go, there were always more adjustments, more drilling, more opinions, and so on...

And then, there were those lights... Back then, if one, JUST one light in a string went bad, the whole string was dead. You then had to inspect every little bulb, carefully twisting and turning them (and hoping they did not break in your fingers!), checking all the filaments, and all the while, making sure that your dog is not chewing on anything inappropriate. (like Great-Great-Grandmother's Christmas ornaments!)

It seemed like every year, that there was stress, disagreement, and discouraging conversations regarding that tree. I now know what I did not back then, in my know-it-all youth, that my parents were forcing me through the torture of setting up that tree every year for my own benefit, much more so than theirs. Sure, better, newer, simpler, trees became available, but the parents obviously were watching their limited funds, so as to provide a wonderful life for me in other ways. There were, after all, no other kids in the family, so everything revolved around me, for better or worse, and that included my taking care of the tree set-up. Tradition, they called it. Later on in life, much later, that old tree stayed in the attic, and a smaller one came along, as the material flotsam and jetsam accumulated over a lifetime piled into our living room; to the point that eventually-- there was little room there for people, much less a bedraggled old Tannenbaum.

And now, the family has dwindled down to me; just me...and Christmas Past, that is, and this is my first Christmas that way. All the old struggles,

discussions, debates, and disruptions concerning that tree, or any other subject, for that matter, are now all gone like the melancholy fall winds that recently left town for our even more melancholy winter winds. Don't get me wrong, our family had many wonderful loving times together, but tree trimming was generally not one of them. With time and experience however, comes insight, perhaps some wisdom, and naturally, 20/20 hindsight. I was, for example, at a friend's home recently, and I observed a highly negative holiday family dynamic transpire between a parent and a child. The child said some really derogatory things that they would probably never say to one of their friends, if indeed, they have any friends at all who would put up with their saucy attitude.

Granted, we've all said judgmental things to our parents. That's just what kids do. The thing is, when our parents are dead and gone, unfortunately, that's the stuff we sometimes remember. Even if we kids were wonderful to our parents 99% of the time, it's that negative one percent of stuff that we will remember doing or saying that can keep coming into our minds, and for that, we will have no one left to blame or accuse, except ourselves.

The old tree remained in its box this year, and before long, it may join countless others like it on the tree lawn of life. There are some things that we should hold onto in life I suppose, and other things that we need to let go of. Besides, if some tree lawn picker comes along, who knows? I may have the opportunity to buy it back later at the flea market next summer, should I change my mind about all of this...or whether I decide to get rid of it at all.

In the meantime, if your own parents are still around...take a moment, or maybe more than a moment, to call, or visit them. Let them know, while you can, that you care, and tell them that you love them. Fortunately, those were among the last conversations that I was able to have with both of my parents. Make peace with your parents. It will mean the world to them now, and to you...later.

Toiletry Drive For North Coast Health Patients With FFL

continued from page 1

9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
No contribution is too small and every little bit helps!

About North Coast Health

North Coast Health is a faith-based charitable clinic that provides and optimizes access to health care for the medically underserved. North Coast Health is recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Home, Level 3, through National Committee for Quality Assurance and has attained the highest possible 4-star Charity Navigator rating for the third consecutive year for sound fiscal management. For more information visit: www.northcoasthealth.org.

About First Federal Lakewood

First Federal Lakewood is the largest independent depositor-owned bank headquartered in Ohio with assets of nearly \$1.6 billion. With 18 full-service branch locations and 12 mortgage lending offices throughout Ohio, First Federal Lakewood provides deposit,

lending, residential mortgage lending, cash management and investment services to individuals and businesses. Since 1935, First Federal Lakewood has been a stable community-owned bank committed to deploying funds that foster local economic growth. For more information visit: FFL.net.



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Light Up Lakewood Living



photo by Alex Belisle



photo by Jim O'Bryan



photo by Alex Belisle

Lakewood’s premier winter party, LakewoodAlive’s Light-Up Lakewood, kicked off the holiday season with over 35,000 people hitting the streets of Lakewood in a celebration of dancing, singing, talking and walking. And what a party it was! You can see over 200 photos of the event at <http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs> as well as tens of thousands of other photos in and around Lakewood.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood Democratic Club Holiday Party

by Debra Sweeney

Join Lakewood Democrats on December 16th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the new Sarita Restaurant, 14523 Madison Ave., for food, drinks, raffle prizes and presentation of the club Volunteer of the Year Award. This event is FREE for members and \$10 non-members.

A reservation is required by e-mail: info@lakewooddemocrats.com or the club facebook event page by December 11th to avoid a \$20 fee at the door. Enjoy a food buffet that will include traditional, vegan and veggie options, soft drinks and a special Happy hour drink special.



2014 Lakewood Democratic Club officers and Greg Mahoney (far right), Volunteer of the Year award recipient.

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A large crowd of people, mostly children, are gathered outdoors at night. They are wearing winter clothing and some are holding up phones to take pictures. The background shows city lights.

photo by Jim O'Bryan

Enroll in Lakewood Schools' 5-Star Preschool Program Today!

Lakewood City Schools' early childhood program is the best-kept secret in Lakewood! Our program has earned the highest rating from the state. The approximately 2,000 days in a child's life from birth to kindergarten are a critical time in a child's brain development. Make the pledge to have your child in a high-quality early learning environment today.

AM classes: Monday - Friday, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.
PM classes: Monday - Friday, 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.
Locations: Horace Mann, Emerson, Hayes, and Harrison Elementary Schools.
Must be Lakewood resident and 3 years old by Sept. 30.



Spaces available! Call 216-529-4214 to register

Lakewood Living

Curb Appeal: It's Important

by Chris Bergin

Home sellers spend so much time preparing their interior for the sale that they can easily overlook the outside. Great curb appeal invites

prospective buyers to view the rest of the property. In fact, it can increase the value of a property by as much as 15-20%.

Start with the basics: A well-man-

icured lawn is a magnet for buyers. Overgrown trees or large bushes hiding the house are a definite no-no. Don't forget to rake leaves, wash windows and skylights, clean gutters and

trim shrubs. For the winter season less is more. Stay away from the large inflatables in your front yard and opt for a strategically-placed wreath with accent lighting. Don't forget to keep the drive and walk way shoveled and clear of snow and ice. Winter buyers are serious buyers. Aim to make their experience as pleasant as possible.

Don't overlook the details:

Consider adding flowers or sprucing things up with decorative grasses or Japanese maples. Accent trees with rocks or boulders to make a bold statement. Or how about adding a modest fountain to the yard or garden? Add low voltage lighting to highlight the yard, trees and the home's exterior.

Sometimes it's the little, inexpensive things that can make a real difference. Do something as simple as adding a new mailbox, address numbers on your home, a new welcome mat and some potted plants by the front door.

Remember, first impressions are often the most important.

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

Terry's Landscaping Tips For Fall: December

by Terry Stiles

As the season ends a few suggestions come to mind.

A final leaf and turf clean-up in the beds should be helpful in keeping leaves from gathering by and coming in the door.

Perennials can be cut back now and depending on preference, orna-

mental grasses.

Lawns at their final mowing should be cut one setting lower than in the growing season, but not taking more than 25% of the leaf surface, so try an out of the way spot to make sure you don't scalp the grass. This will help to prevent snow mold which occurs when long blades are bent over--not

the worst thing that could happen to a lawn but it is largely preventable.

Any new trees or upright evergreens should be staked so the plant doesn't shift in the root area and cause an air pocket.

There is a type of evergreen that needs a little more care to ensure winter survival. It is broad-leafed and called ericaceous. Some examples are rhododendron, azalea, ilex, laurel, boxwood and holly. Because of the size of the leaves, they are more susceptible to wind burn. Burlap wrapping can be used to minimize burning. Plastic should never be used. During sunny days it can create an environment that may bring the leaf areas out of dormancy and as the sun goes down the temperature change will be like the effect of a frost. There are available products that can be sprayed on the plant to help seal it, they are called anti-desiccants and are available at the local garden center.

Roses should not be pruned until a few hard frosts have happened. January seems to be a safe time. Cutting down to six inches and removing one out of three canes is a good guideline.

In lieu of tilling the garden, I prefer to turn it over with a digging shovel and leave it in large clumps so moisture can penetrate the subsoil and wind will freeze the clumps.

If drifting is a problem, snow fences on the windward side will help.

Lawn care equipment that uses fuel can either be drained and run dry or filled up. There are different opinions on this.

Thank you for reading my articles and I will restart this series in February.

Coffee With The Subconscious... Peaceful Resolve

by Betty Rozakis

I met Esther by chance outside Blackbird Bakery a few years ago. It's almost haunting that this graceful lady from Texas returns to Lakewood and wants to spend time with me. Esther mentioned that it's the honesty that lures her. An indulgence, despite my efforts, I was unable to have with another...

The flowing grace of her hair camouflages an inner struggle. I asked to see the journal from her bag. Her handwriting revealed inconsistent behaviors, but less blockage than last year. More sponaneity is a good thing, but what was the source of Esther's differing mindset? It wasn't evident. My gaze sought an answer.

An awareness filled the air as Esther stroked Ella's neck beneath the picnic table. I felt my cue to share...

My mother passed away two years ago right before Christmas. I wasn't the chosen caretaker during my mother's last months. I'm grateful that the subconscious needs of others left the two of us alone the final six hours of her life. I paid attention to my inner feelings to overcome the flux of my heart. If I had conceded to an external voice to dictate my actions, my independent stoic mother would have died alone.

I wasn't always aware of this. I found this clarity analyzing the evolution of our handwriting. My mother's handwriting hardly changed over the years. It remained constant...emotionally dispassionate. Conversely, my handwriting transformed dramatically since my early twenties. Why such a difference?

Life's all about the subconscious connection we have with our selves and in our relationships. Graphology pro-



Life's about relationships... helping resolve the unresolved through handwriting.

vides the roadmap for subconscious resolve...peace.

During my early years my handwriting was off balanced and confused. It depicted a diligent conforming mindset... actively seeking an inexplicable something. I struggled to understand why I couldn't relate. My character was stuck in the wrong sanctuary. I needed to give this generous woman her space. Our internal motivations differed. Mine was a more passionate nature to her inexpressive dignity.

I spent the early morning hours at her side, gently caressing her face...she was unable to speak. The hospice nurse confirmed that she saw a change from the way she had gotten to know my mother over the last month of her life. My mother's face softened... a peaceful resolve filled my soul.

I look forward to my next encounter with Esther before the New Year.

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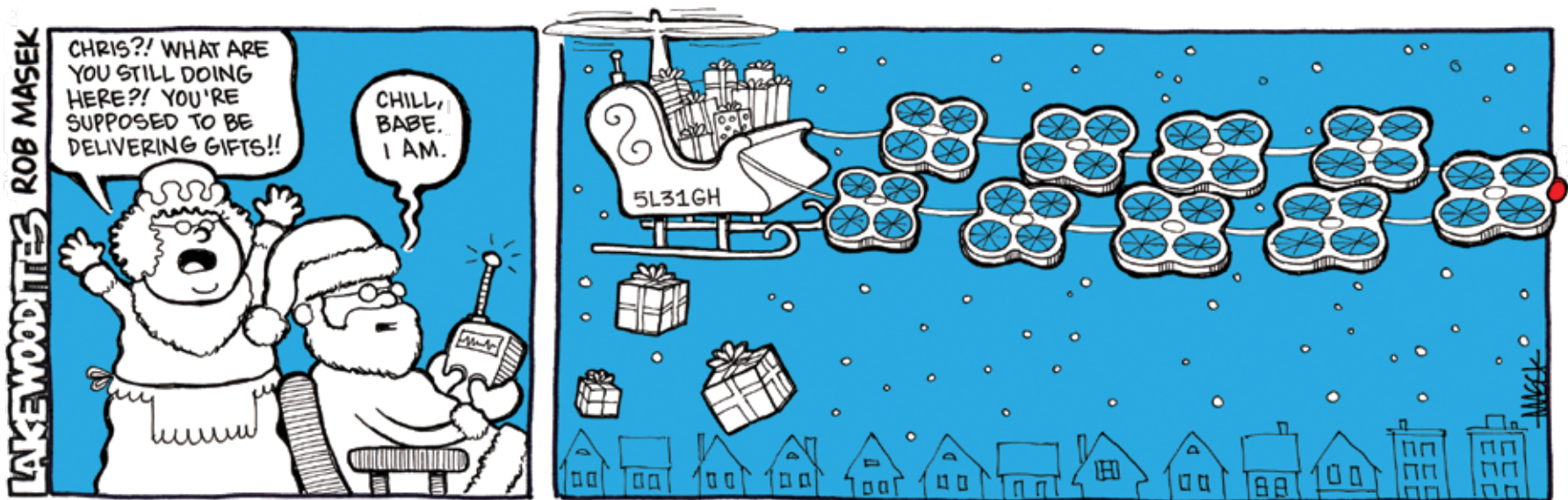
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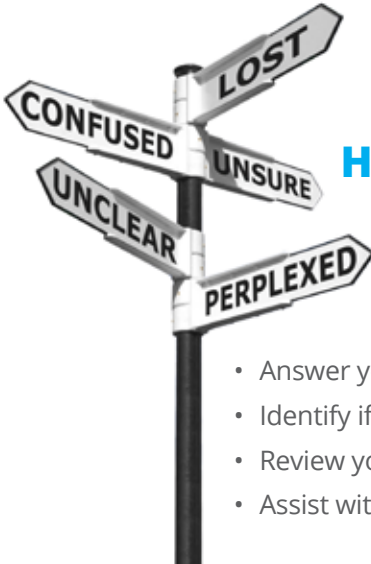
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