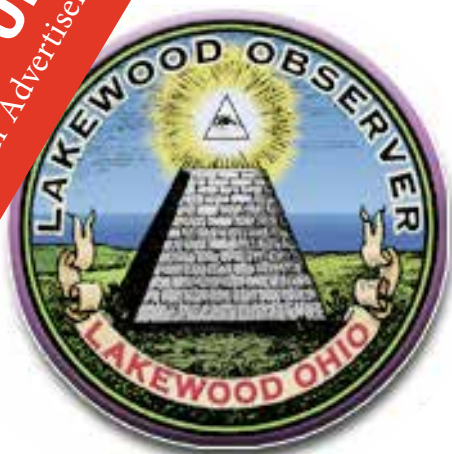


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"Slums may well be breeding grounds of crime, but middle class suburbs are incubators of apathy and delirium." - Cyril Connolly

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



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Volume 12, Issue 3, February 2, 2016

Schools Working Towards Proposed Plan With State To Cover Construction Budget Gap

by Christine Gordillo

Superintendent Jeff Patterson informed the Board of Education at its January 19 meeting that estimated costs for the construction of Grant, Lincoln and Roosevelt elementary schools and the new wings at Lakewood High School are 6% over budget, or a nearly \$6 million variance. The District plans to cover the \$6 million through a proposed agreement with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC).

"We have a very robust team working on this," said President Tom Einhouse, "and we will continue to work hard in getting this (agreement) done."

A combination of factors are behind the overrun and are beyond the control of the District. The factors include construction costs that have spiked beyond projected inflation rates - particularly in Cuyahoga County, higher than anticipated transition site costs, costs associated with

historical preservation, unexpected issues with unsuitable soil at all sites and a higher cost of environmental remediation at two of the sites.

The District and its project partners in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, plan to approach the OFCC to petition for additional funding to help offset the overage. The Board of Education will be asked to pass a resolution in

March in order for the OFCC to consider the request for additional funding at its April meeting.

The District is required to fund 69% of the overrun through money that exists outside of its general fund so that the current operating needs of the District and its five-year forecast will not be impacted. The funding will include money from permanent

improvement funds, McKinley property agreement funds, prior and current construction funds, food service funds, donations and interest earnings. The state will provide its 31% of the funding if needed at the end of the project.

There is a possibility the District will not need to dip into these funds to close the cost gap. If at the end of the project money remains in the

contingency fund required by the state, then that money will go toward making up the cost difference.

Despite the budget challenge, the good news is that the buildings are still scheduled to be completed according to the original timetable with the elementary schools opening in August 2016 and the high school wings ready for use in August 2017.

PTA Reflections Program Awards Celebration



On January 22, 2016 Lakewood PTA held their Reflections program, awarding standout Lakewood art students in fine art, photography, music and writing. Once again the LO was pleased to be included in the program! Additional details on this year's winners are inside on page 7.



54 student volunteers donated 150 hours of service in one morning. Many thanks to our adult volunteers, H2O Advisory Council, and sponsors for making it possible.

H2O's MLK, Jr. Day Of Service

by Hanna Chodzin

For Martin Luther King Jr Day this year, 53 students from various schools and I spent our day serving the community and learning about Dr. King's work. For five years the Lakewood H2O program has planned an event to make

MLK Day a DAY ON instead of a day off, offering opportunities for service to high school age Lakewood residents like myself; allowing us to venture out into plenty of service sites on this day as they do all year long. But this specific day offered a variety of ways to

serve such as making brunch for families staying at Ronald McDonald House, building birdhouses with the residents of Bloom Lakewood, games and socializing with new friends at Crestmont Nursing Home, crafts and games with **continued on page 15**

Petitions Released To The Cuyahoga County Board Of Elections

by Bonnie Sikes

On Thursday, January 21, 2016 Citizens for a Strong Lakewood turned in petitions for a referendum that would allow the citizens of Lakewood to decide if they want to vote for or against closing Lakewood Hospital. If they agree with City Council they would vote for Issue 24. If they disagree with City Council and want to save Lakewood Hospital they would vote against Issue 24.

A press conference was held in front of City Hall and about 20 members of Citizens for a Strong Lakewood presented 3468 signatures to Mary Hagan, the Clerk of Council. She counted 212 petitions and then gave them to Kevin Butler, the Lakewood Law Director. Mr. Butler held the petitions for 7 days and then sent them to the Board of Elec-

tions on Friday, January 29 for verification of the signatures.

If an ordinance is passed by City Council and citizens disagree with the action taken by council, they have forty days to submit petitions that would place the ordinance on the ballot to allow the citizens to vote on the issue. These petitions are required to have signatures from registered voters in Lakewood that number at least 15% of the citizens who voted for a mayoral candidate during the last election.

According to the vote count from the November, 2015 election, 2101 signatures were required. Citizens for a Strong Lakewood gathered 3468 signatures in three weeks. Many more signatures over the required number are neces-

continued on page 12

LO Calendar

Sunday, February 7
Stuff the Subaru on Super Bowl Sunday for My Best Friend's Bowl.
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Once again we are gathering to collect food on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th 10:00am to 2:00pm at Lakewood High School. This year we will be at the main entrance and not the underpass as that is gone! 14100 Franklin Blvd. corner of Bunts and Franklin in Lakewood, enter from Franklin. You won't miss our volunteers eager to unload your cars and get your information for a donation letter.
Help us celebrate our 5th year by stopping by and dropping off dry dog and cat food. You'll be home before the Superbowl starts! This is our major food drive of the year and we have had a great time doing it.
We'll be there rain, shine or blizzard so we'll be watching for you!

Location: Lakewood High School,14100 Franklin Blvd. Lakewood Ohio

Saturday, February 13
WinterFest
11:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Come and get cozy. Grab some soup, mingle with your friends, and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at WinterFest, a fund raising event for Providence House. With games, deserts, live music, and raffle baskets, spend an afternoon having fun while helping the children who need it most.
Location: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Ave., Lakewood

Voices in the Dark Animal Rescue Pittie Party!
4:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Tickets include all you can eat buffet and all you can drink from a limited drink menu. Learn about why the pitbull may be one of the most loving and misunderstood dogs, why breed specific legislation doesn't work, and what you can do to help while partying the day away with food, drinks, laughter, and lots of raffle baskets and 50/50 boards! 100% of the proceeds goes to help the animals at Voices in the Dark and Ruff House Animal Rescue. Get your tickets here: <http://voicesinthedarkanimalrescue.weebly.com/pittie-party.html>
Location: Around the Corner, 18616 Detroit Ave., Lakewood

Sunday, Feburary 14
College Goal Sunday
2:00 PM
If you know a high school senior graduating in 2016 or someone already in college, you should complete an application for financial aid. Ohio College Goal Sunday is an opportunity for students and families to receive FREE assistance in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is a required form to apply for all Federal aid programs, many state programs, and even institutional aid programs, which can help pay for higher education opportunities.
Ohio College Goal Sunday is your chance to complete the FAFSA with experts and get answers to the financial aid questions you may have. It doesn't matter what college you attend or are planning to attend – you are welcome at any site location.
Location: Tri-C Corporate College West, 25425 Center Ridge Road, Westlake

Valentine's Day Benefit Concert
4:00 PM
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church & The Rocky River Chamber Music Society presents Members of The Cleveland Orchestra in a Valentine's Day Benefit Concert. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit <http://www.wsuuc.org/pages/valentines-day-benefit-concert>
Location: West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Tuesday, February 16
Hepatitis C Support Group
6:00 PM
Free discussion. Hepatitis C Support Group. February 16 Tuesday 6:00 p.m. For information call 216-221-2724.
Location: Lakewood Public Library, first floor multi-purpose room, 15425 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood

The Lakewood Observer Digital Subscription Pilot

The Lakewood Observer is committed to the continuation of the print edition available around town, the PDF edition online and respecting your inbox. But now in our 11th year, with digital lives taking over, it is time to revisit electronic distribution with our readers. Throughout 2016 we will be conducting a digital subscription pilot. If you would like to receive a message and link to the online edition via email on publication dates throughout the year, please send a request to thelakewoodobserver.digital@gmail.com so as not to miss the hyper local news, events and opinions that impact you most. Otherwise you can continue to pick up the print edition around town or visit <http://lakewoodobserver.com/download-issues/> of your own initiative to access issues in PDF. Regardless of your preference, there is no cost to our readers. We simply ask that you consider our advertisers for your needs.

Hot Off The Deck

WHERE LAKEWOOD TALKS - http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum				
Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
Bloody Wake Up Call - On Arthur Ave., Not In England	Jim O'Bryan	2	1594	Mon Feb 01
Butler Fitzgerald Claussen	Bridget Conant	22	1063	Mon Feb 01
Fire On Arden Sunday - All OK	Jim O'Bryan	0	171	Mon Feb 01
Is it Time to Overturn Pit Bull Ban?	Michael Deneen	14	735	Mon Feb 01
What Do They Mean By That?	stephen davis	7	766	Sun Jan 31

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
January 24, 2016	February 2, 2016
February 7, 2016	February 16, 2016

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City News

Council Considers Changing Schedule For Meetings

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016, Council President O’Leary called the Lakewood City Council to order at 7:48 P.M.

by Christopher Bindel

The first order of new business consisted of a communication from Council President O’Leary assigning committee responsibilities to the Council members. Committee chairs were assigned as follows, Councilman David Anderson (Ward I) for the Housing Committee, Councilman Dan O’Malley (Ward IV) for the Public Safety Committee, Councilman Tom Bullock (At-Large) for the Finance Committee, Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At Large) for the Public Works Committee, Councilman John Litten (Ward III) for the Rules and Ordinances Committee, and Councilwoman Cindy Marx (At-Large) for the Health and Human Services Committee.

Next, Councilman Anderson asked Council to consider changing the scheduled dates of Council meetings from the first and third Mondays of each month, which is the current schedule, to the second and fourth. The reason he asks Council to consider this change is due to the fact that Council currently meets the same nights that the Board of Education does. Many residents over the years have complained about not being able to be as engaged in the city as they would like to be because they are stuck with having to choose which meeting to attend. Although Councilman Anderson says that he understands that it may sound easy to change the dates of the meetings, he appreciates that there could be unintended consequences and scheduling issues with the change.

Councilman Bullock asked if Councilman Anderson knew whether the dates of the meeting were set by City Charter, ordinance, or tradition. Councilman Anderson said he understood it

from his reading of the Charter that it was up to Council to decide when they want to meet annually.

Councilman O’Leary asked the Law Director, Kevin Butler, if he could confirm the avenue in which the Council meeting schedule is made. Director Butler said that the schedule is codified in the ordinances but can be amended by Council.

Council received and filed the communication, but did not refer it to any specific committee.

Councilwoman Marx then brought it to Council’s attention that the backyard hen keeping pilot has completed 12 of its 18 months. She stated that now is the time that Council and the Administration should begin having conversation on the merits and/or pitfalls of backyard hen keeping in Lakewood. She said that Council, all members of the Administration that are impacted by the program, and families participating in it should be a part of the discussion.

Council received and filed the communication.

Next Councilman O’Malley reintroduced an ordinance from last year that never made it past its second reading. Due to current rules any ordinance referred to a committee for more than six months terminates at the end of the term of Council. The ordinance was aimed to protect the right and opportunity of all persons to be free from all forms of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, and education. The ordinance makes mention of the following areas of discrimination: age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, veteran status, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or physical characteristics.

Councilman O’Malley thanked Councilwoman Marx and Councilman

O’Leary for all the initial work they did putting the ordinance together.

Councilman O’Leary thanked Councilman O’Malley and said that one of his regrets from last year was not being able to address the ordinance comprehensively, so he is happy to see it back on the docket.

Council referred the matter to the Committee of the Whole.

Mayor Summers then asked Council to consider a resolution that recognizes two Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board (LHAB) members on the completion of their terms. Marcia Moll was a member of LHAB for 20 years while Heather Rudge was for 18 years. Considering the fact that the LHAB came into existence 20 years ago, much of what LHAB has accomplished andb is thanks to the hard work of these two women. LHAB has been a part of declaring historic districts and properties in Lakewood, they worked hard in helping create the first and current manifestation of Lakewood’s landmark legislation, and they hold an annual public ceremony to award property and home owners with Preservation Awards.

Council passed the resolution.

Next Planning and Development Director, Dru Siley, introduced a new version of the City’s sign ordinance. Last year the Planning Department began a comprehensive review of the sign ordinance with the goal of making sure it complied with the values in the City’s Community Vision. During this process a Supreme Court ruling was made that impacts the way sign codes are structured. Therefore the Planning Department had to revisit the code with these new restrictions in mind. With the code finally completed it is being submitted for Council’s consideration.

Council simultaneously referred the ordinance to both the Committee of the Whole and the Planning Commission.

Director Siley then asked Council to consider changes to an ordinance regulating the outdoor use of electric and fuel burning cooking devices. A plan for several new townhomes with decks on top of the garages are being considered and the City wants to make sure they have a clear and safe code that is enforceable.

Council referred the ordinance to the Housing Committee.

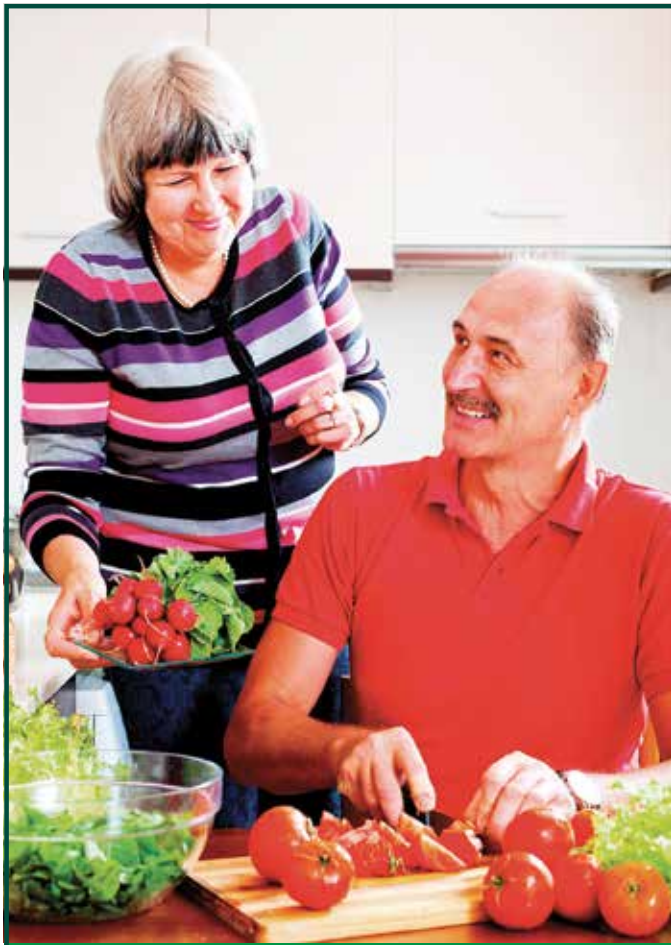
Coming to the end of the agenda, Council President O’Leary began calling up members of the public who had signed up to address Council. Three members of Save Lakewood Hospital who have become regulars to the meetings spoke to Council in addition to several people in regards to a suspected pit bull. The City recently informed a family that their dog is suspected of being a pit bull and that a hearing was scheduled for February 23 to determine that fact and whether it can say in Lakewood.

The dog, Scrappy, belongs to Aleeah Williams, a 4 year old girl with cystic fibrosis, and her father. Elizabeth Spais, Aleeah’s grandmother, was one of the people who attended the meeting to relay their story and begged the City to allow Scrappy to stay.

The family acquired the dog a year ago when they were living in Cleveland and had no indication what the breed might be. To treat Aleeah’s condition she must do daily breathing treatments in addition to having to wear a vest that shakes her violently for 15 minutes, twice a day. The dog has become a constant companion and after struggling with Aleeah over her treatments she now sits calmly and plays with Scrappy who stays by her side and comforts her through them.

On July 4, after the fireworks in Lakewood Park, Aleeah was struck by a firecracker on their walk home. She received third degree burns on her arm

continued on page 10



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City News

Rep. Antonio Calls For Open Committee Meetings After Women’s Healthcare Organization Denied Access

Says engagement in democratic process should not be restricted by politicians

by Nickie Antonio

State Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) sent a letter to the chair of the House Health and Aging Committee, Charles Gonzalws, in response to a women’s healthcare access organization being prohibited from video recording during today’s committee hearing. Although the organization had properly followed the established procedure and filled out the necessary paperwork in time in order to record the hearing, the committee chair denied their credentials.

“As an integral part of the democratic process, I believe that legislative committee hearings should be open to all Ohio citizens and the organizations they support,” said Rep. Antonio. “Changing the rules in the middle of the game in order to shut out certain groups with which one may disagree restricts every citizen’s right to know how their government is working. Perhaps if the Ohio legislature opened up our committee hearings and live streamed them as we do our legislative sessions, rules to prohibit or limit video recordings would be irrelevant.”

Full text of the letter in box.

Chair Gonzales,

During today’s House Health and Aging Committee meeting, you denied a request from the organization NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to film the committee proceedings and publicly stated the reason for this denial was that they were not “credentialed media.”

In the committee rules (attached) that were approved at the first Health and Aging Committee meeting of this General Assembly, there is no mention of a requirement of credentialed media. In fact, the only requirement to record a committee meeting is that the individual or organization submit a formal request to film at least 24 hours in advance. NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio submitted their formal request to film more than three days in advance.

Because of the events that transpired during today’s committee meeting, I am requesting to see the credentials of all individuals or organizations that have been approved to film or take photos/audio of the committee this General Assembly. It should further be noted that it is my understanding that this hearing was the first time that NARAL was denied the ability to film in a Health and Aging Committee.

I’d appreciate your prompt response to this matter.

Sincerely,
Nickie Antonio
Ranking minority member of the House Health and Aging Committee

Lakewood Soccer Association: Saturday Soccer Spring Registration

by John Hueter

The registration deadline is coming up soon for the spring season of Lakewood Soccer Association’s Saturday Soccer program.

The deadline is Sunday, February 28. Registration cost is \$55 for the spring season. LSA still will take registrations after the Feb. 28 deadline, but they are subject to a \$20 late fee.

There are a few ways to sign up. Visit the “Saturday” page of LSA’s website, www.lakewood-soccer.com, and you can sign up with a credit card online. You also can print a registration form from the website and mail it to us, or you can stop at the Madison branch of the Lakewood Public Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13 and 27 to register in person. (Payments at the in-person registration must be made by check or cash.)

LSA’s eight-week season of games starts Saturday, April 9. Games are played at Memorial Field in the Metroparks on Saturday mornings at four time slots: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. Schedules are posted on the website about a week before the season begins.

Registration is open to players age 4-14. Nearly 600 kids of all ability levels played on 45 co-ed teams, coached by parent volunteers, during the fall season. LSA has run a recreational soccer program for more than 30 years.

For those who register for the spring season, team assignments will be emailed to them during the week of March 21. Team practices and league-wide footskills - U5 and U6 FUNdamentals with Coach Joe Julian, and U7-U14 footskills with Coach Attila Nagy - will begin the week of April 4th.

If you have questions, please visit www.lakewood-soccer.com.

Westshore Democrats Host February 9 Candidates Night Before Primary Election

by Jane Reilly

Meet local and state primary candidates. Also invited are representatives for the Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton campaigns.

Westshore Democrats Candidates Night will be held Tuesday, February 9 at 7 p.m.

Location: Western Cuyahoga Lodge, #25 FOP Hall, 26145 Center Ridge Rd, Westlake, 44145

Sponsored by West Shore Democratic Clubs: Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River, Stonewall, Westlake, and West Side Democrats

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Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, February 4

The First Amendment: Freedom of Speech with Barbara Greenberg, JD
This four-week series will focus on the First Amendment, which outlines our most important freedoms: speech, religion, press and assembly. Participants will consider a range of ethical and legal questions related to the First Amendment and review what the U.S. Supreme Court has said about them. Freedom of Speech. Is it all about the words? Who has this right? When/where/at what cost? Does being famous matter? What about kids?
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, February 6

“Crooklyn” (1994) Directed by Spike Lee
After achieving success with the world-shaking Malcom X (1992), Spike Lee crafted a smaller, more personal film. He succeeded beautifully with this vibrant semi-autobiographical portrait of a school-teacher, her stubborn jazz-musician husband and their five kids living in seventies Brooklyn. Co-written with his sisters, the film tempts the viewer to wonder how much of it really happened and which one is little Spike. But this family drama is told through the eyes of the youngest girl. With Alfre Woodard and Delroy Lindo as mom and dad, classic soul music on the soundtrack, and the true grit of old school New York City in the background, this underappreciated gem is a sweet little slice of the American dream.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, February 7

The Lisa Miralia/Paul Stranahan Duo
Paul Stranahan is an old friend of the Library, having played a number of innovative and inspiring concerts over the years as a traditional jazz drummer, a solo marimbist and the master of gongs and singing bowls. We believe that his best instrument is our auditorium, which he fills with sumptuous soundscapes that resonate through the audience itself and make everyone a part of the show. Moving onward and upward, Paul will use this performance to debut his collaboration with Lisa Miralia, a musician, DJ and curator of indie sound art events who plays synths, vox, flutes and bells, for a dynamic marriage of the ancient and the avant garde. They draw influences from free improvisation, experimental noise, metal, musique concrete and ambient music, but the results are wholly original and will never be reproduced exactly the same again.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, February 11

The First Amendment: Freedom of the Press with Barbara Greenberg, JD
This second session in our four-week series will focus on the First Amendment guarantee of Freedom of the Press. Participants will consider a range of ethical and legal questions related to the First Amendment and review what the U.S. Supreme Court has said about them. What is the press? Is social media the same as a newspaper? How accurate does a breaking story need to be?
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, February 13

“Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” (1969) Directed by Roy Hill
While The Wild Bunch (also 1969) shocked moviegoers with its violent gunfights, audiences were equally taken aback when Paul Newman and Katharine Ross took a bicycle ride to the tune of “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head,” a sixties Billboard chart topper. The song won an Oscar, as did the score, screenplay and cinematography. Critics panned the film for its anachronistic “unwestern-ness,” but audiences flocked to it to enjoy the clever, amiable banter between Newman and Robert Redford. They seemed more like sixties antiheroes defying the law than turn-of-the-century gunfighters running from the law. By the way, an early working title for this film was “The Wild Bunch.” Terry Meehan concludes 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

Sunday, February 14

Vicki Chew’s Valentine’s Day Concert
Folky and funky with a smart sense of humor and a heart full of tender emotion, Vicki Chew welcomes lovers and lonelyhearts alike to a special Valentine’s Day concert. She’ll be bringing two dates—bassist Dave Huddleston and drummer Gary Naherny—so there will be no judgment. As a teenager, Vicki was the kind of girl who sat alone in her room and played harmonica while listening to Ziggy Stardust and spent long hours listening to Jackson Browne’s pain and angst, certain that she could help him. But the harmonica went by the wayside when she realized that it took off her lipgloss and prevented her from singing. And once she finally picked up the guitar, she learned that she could write her own songs of pain and angst.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, February 16

Knit and Lit Book Club
Come Share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery, and quilting works-in-progress. This Tuesday’s book is The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

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LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, February 6

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, February 13

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.

Monday, February 15

Afternoon at the Movies: Home - For the whole family
An alien on the run from his own people lands on Earth and makes friends with an adventurous human girl. 94 minutes. Free and open to the public. No registration required.
1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Saturdays & Sundays

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



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Lakewood Public Library

Barbara Greenberg, J.D. Showcases Free Speech, Press, Assembly, And Religion

by Elaine Rosenberger

When America’s founders crafted the Bill of Rights, they appended to the Constitution a set of ten amendments which were revolutionary in their guarantees of individual freedom. No amendment to the Constitution is more important -- or has created more controversy -- than the First Amendment, which includes protections for free speech, the free exercise of religion, the right to peaceably assemble and freedom of the press. What is speech? Who has the right to speak? What types of speech are prohibited? Is the law different if you’re famous? How does the freedom of the press apply in the age of social media? What types of assemblies are allowed? Should any assemblies be curtailed? Does separation of church

and state still exist? What is religion? And who gets to decide?

On Thursday, February 4, Barbara Greenberg, J.D. begins a four part series at Lakewood Public Library exploring the First Amendment. In the first class, which takes place on Thursday, February 4 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, Greenberg will discuss freedom of speech. Later classes in the series will consider freedom of the press (February 11), freedom of assembly (February 18), and freedom of religion (February 25).

Barbara Greenberg earned her

juris doctorate from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. She has worked as a magistrate at Bedford Municipal Court as well as the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. Her four part series on the First Amendment takes place as part of the Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program in affiliation with Case Western Reserve University. The goal of the Lifelong Learning Program is to provide opportunities for the public to interact with scholars and to participate in an ongoing discussion. Greenberg’s program takes place at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Admission is free and open to all.



Barbara Greenberg, J.D.

Sunday With The Friends:
Vicki Chew’s Valentine’s Day Concert

by Lisa Calfee

Love. It’s the word of the day on Valentines and the word Vicki Chew uses to describe how she feels about writing and performing a song. The talented singer, songwriter and guitarist will be sharing the love at a special Sunday With The Friends Valentine’s Day concert on none other than February 14, 2016 at 2 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library.

Vicki will be joined by bassist Dave Huddleston and drummer Gary Naherny. The trio started performing together seven years ago and most recently recorded a new CD, “People in the Sun.” CDs will be available for purchase after the show.



Catch Vicki Chew, Dave Huddleston, and Gary Naherny this Valentine’s Day.

casts a spell on me. Each song has dreamlike flashes of sweet or bitter-sweet visions and emotions, entwined in her beautifully unusual chord voicings. Every time I hear them I take fresh inspiration from the moment, from her voice, and from Gary’s subtle rhythmic accompaniment.”

This special Sunday With The Friends concert will be held in the Main Library Auditorium. As always, the show is free and open to the public thanks to the ongoing support of the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

Dave Huddleston tells of his experience playing with the group on vickichewmusic.com, “Vicki’s music

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Sharing The Dream

by Marge Foley

These beautiful handmade cards were crafted by students attending a program at the Lakewood Public Library on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. After stories and a song celebrating King’s life and legacy, the participants

had fun making a greeting card to warm the hearts of nursing home residents. The cards are being distributed to folks living at O’Neill Healthcare Lakewood. Each child took home a booklet about the life of Dr. King to cut and color, a song sheet, and a bookmark.

Lakewood Schools

Reflections Ceremony Showcases District’s Art Talent

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood students’ creativity and imagination were celebrated at the annual Lakewood PTA Council Reflections Ceremony, held January 27 at Garfield Middle School. One hundred twenty-one works from 114 artists from preschool through high school were honored. Of those 121 pieces of art, 28 student were chosen to move on to the state PTA judging.

The ceremony offered the young artists a chance to be recognized and congratulated by the superintendent, Board of Education members and other city leaders. Guest speaker Tim Hayes, an LHS graduate and founder and CEO of the Lakewood design firm Cardboard Helicopter, shared with the audience how his time in the Lakewood City Schools shaped his interest in art and design.

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTAs the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works in seven arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, visual arts and special artist. All entries must follow a chosen theme, which this year was “Let Your Imagination Fly.”

Each school with a PTA can send up to 24 entries to the district level judging. Among works chosen for district-level recognition, the highest scoring 28 works as deemed by a panel of nine judges evaluating on artistic merit, creativity and interpretation of the theme, move on to Columbus to compete with students’ work from around the state.

Reflections Artists, 2016

* Indicates State Finalist

- Grant
- Visual Arts
- Evan Miller
- Sean Miller
- *Cecilia Whiteamire

- Horace Mann
- Visual Arts
- *Elliot Bratko
- Grace Bratko



- Reagan Bratko
- Jonas Evans
- Miles Evans
- Noah Gibbons
- *Alexandra Horton
- Bridget Katzenberger
- Madison Rich
- Molly Steinmuller
- Jane Wagle
- Joanna Wright

- Literature
- Madison Civile
- Madilyn O’Boyle
- Hutch Reed
- Madison Rich
- Mia Szymczyk
- Anthony Severino

- Harrison
- Visual Arts
- Amajiah Gorman
- Caralynn Wheeler
- Ethan Wheeler

- Lincoln
- Visual Arts
- *Clio Burgoyne
- Paisley Calaway
- Kasen Calloway
- Dominique Christian
- Eliza Dreger
- *Helen Fraunfelder
- *Helen Roche
- *Delaney Rodgers
- Caden Sandoval
- John “JJ” Stiles, Jr.
- Arianna Vaughn
- Eva Wischhusen
- Harper Williams
- Storey Williams

- Literature
- Violet Donalds

- Photography
- Edie Barcelona
- Ronan Barley
- Anna Daso
- Nate Donaldson
- Jonathan Reighard
- *Samuel Smoot (2)
- *Eva Wischhusen

- Roosevelt
- Visual Arts
- Rachel Aoun
- Fatima Arfeen
- Rida Arfeen
- David Burns
- Lily Burns
- Dylan Card
- Mia Carroll
- Benjamin Charkosky
- Ayla Delima
- Brilee Delima
- Joey Famularour
- Madison Hobson
- Corey Johnson
- Rowan Johnson
- Josie Kavc
- Madilyn Lee
- Danika Patera
- Dominic Patera
- Andrew Potoczak
- Emily Potoczak
- Meghan Walcheck
- Tim Walcheck
- Taylor Williams

- Literature
- Gabriela Carroll

- Garfield
- Visual Arts
- Lexa Bunevich
- Sofie Dent
- Farah El-Ashram
- *Sereanah Harris
- *Emma Murray
- Owen Murray
- *Alex Russell

- *Hayley Welsh
- Julia Westlake
- Literature
- Erin Ptacek
- Photography
- Emma Murray
- Owen Murray
- Christina Westlake
- Dance Choreography
- Sofie Dent
- Harding
- Visual Arts
- Julia Kavc
- *Braeden Kozel
- Lucy McIntire
- *Audrey Warren
- *Inga Wilhelmy

- Literature
- Kitty Crino
- *Maya George
- *Mira Getrost
- Grace Gill
- Nicole Hudak
- *Aubree Nagel
- Zoltan Nagy
- Sean O’Donnell
- *Anastasia Seckers
- *Eden Sutliff
- Albert Wilhelmy
- *Nola Williams-Riseng

- Photography
- Sireena Benally
- Evan Brown
- Jacob Kavc
- Una LoPiccolo
- Gillian Macaluso
- Wesam Suleiman
- *Matteo Tessier-Crews

- Lakewood High School
- Visual Arts
- *Garrett Bodnar
- *Emily Suleiman

- Literature
- Maryam Muhammad

- Photography
- *Steph Harkenrider
- Adam Hascher
- Lauren Klann (2)

- Music Composition
- Nick Bilski
- *Timmy Daso
- Eric Schraibman
- *Jimmy Toner



Artwork by Helen Roche of Lincoln.

Harding 8th Grader

Earns Top Art Award

by Christine Gordillo

Harding Middle School eighth-grader Kitty Crino (pictured at right) was honored at a ceremony on January 16 with the Regional Prize for Best Poetry in the Scholastic Art & Writing Contest. Her work was chosen from among hundreds of middle and high school writers who entered the contest. She was also one of only five students chosen to receive the Visionary Voice Award, which honors the best pieces in the regional judging.



continued on page 14

Lakewood Schools

LHS Barnstormers Embrace Change, Find New [Temporary] Home For Their Art

by Antonio DeJesus

There is magic happening on Franklin Boulevard and that magic is occurring within Lakewood High School's Barnstormer Drama Club, headed by Domenic Farinelli and Autumn Sabin, both who belong to the school's faculty. As of late, the club has been without an actual space to perform their Fall and Winter productions, but that did not stop their venturing out in the Fall of 2014 just after their last production in the beloved try-out theatre. As many of us who are Lakewood alumni have lost iconic Lakewood High spots such as the lovely L-Room Cafeteria, the Barnstormers have lost the ever so gracious theatre. Their new production location has revolutionized the way many of us might view traditional play production.

Beginning in the Winter of 2015, the Barnstormers migrated from their old home to a new one with all the intentions to mellifluously produce purposeful productions. This space offered a non-traditional way of high school theatre production, as students moved from acting in regular proscenium style staging, to theatre in the round in the second floor art atrium of the school. This newer style is different in the way that the audience surrounds the stage floor, offering actors the chance to project their talent and emotion to three different sides of the stage. This is the major difference from their prior location, and though many other organizations would possibly struggle with the move, the Barnstormers accomplish miles of tasks effortlessly. They have already run two shows since last winter, transforming their terrazzo flooring into the streets of Paris and the



The Barnstormers on their final night of their last production, "Elephant's Graveyard" in October.

entire space into an enlivened circus. With students making up 95% of the entire club, there is a beautiful balance of staff and student collaboration as these theatrical scholars come together to create gorgeous shows. What goes into these efforts are years of experience from the ones who teach them what can be seen on the stage floor. Rehearsals are essentially dramaturgical classrooms as students delve into play-acting, producing, woodwork, stage managing, and lighting as well as sound design. Not to mention, the very same students are publicizing and raising money in the absence of a non-existent boosters program, and they make just as much progress as hard-working adults.

The main theme that can be taken

away from these young professionals is their sense of determination. They work with the materials they have and they comfortably create productions that both revolutionize high school theatre and drama organizations. Theatre can occur anywhere and at any time, and the Lakewood High School Barnstormers

Drama Club are epitomizing an everlasting dedication to this subject. Their message to you is to ask you to help support not just the art they are creating, but art everywhere. The world is constantly stabilized by artists who push boundaries and reinvent their craft. By attending their productions, their galleries, and their performances, you are taking your painted hand and coloring the world with your iridescent shades. Coming very soon to the high school is the One-Act Comedies, running from February 3rd to the 6th each night at 7:30pm. Tickets are five dollars with wheelchair accessible space, and any further questions can be directed to Domenic.Farinelli@LakewoodCitySchools.org. Be sure to view the enchantment the Barnstormers are creating for these four nights. All the shows are student written, student directed, and student run. Also coming soon is "Into the Woods," a classic musical produced in the Lakewood Civic Auditorium. Stay up-to-date with all the fine art happenings at Lakewood High School, a place of artistic genius. Antonio DeJesus is a Lakewood High School Senior and prospective Musical Theatre student.

Kindergarten Registration Starts February 12, Parent Meeting February 11

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools kindergarten registration will take place at the Lakewood Board of Education 1470 Warren Road beginning Friday, February 12, 2016. Students must be five (5) years old on or before September 30, 2016 in order to be age eligible to enter kindergarten. There will be a Parent Information Night on Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Emerson Elementary School for interested parents to find out more about the program.

Registration packets are available at the Board of Education or online. Registration will be by appointment only.

After collecting all required documents and completing all registration forms, you may schedule an appointment to register your child. To schedule an appointment, please contact the registration secretary by phone at 216-529-4279 or by e-mail at kyna.eldred@lakewoodcityschools.org.

Please Note: The Residency and Custody Affidavit included in the packet must be signed in the presence of a Notary Public.

The following documents must be presented at registration:

1. Child's birth certificate, original or certified copy; Passport or Visa
2. Child's immunization record, doctor's name and phone number

3. Driver's license or State ID of the residential parent/legal guardian registering the student
4. Proofs of Residency - provide 2 in the form of:
 - Utility Bills (gas, electric, water)
 - Pay stub
 - Valid signed lease
 - Business mail
 - Section 8 documentation
 - Voter registration card
 - Municipal Income Tax Return (RITA)
 - Valid driver's license with current address

OR: The Owner Affidavit form, which must be completed by the landlord, owner, or manager and signed in the presence of a NOTARY PUBLIC when no other proofs of residency can be provided.

Custody documents (If applicable) only legal residents who are the parent or legal guardian of the child may complete the registration process. Applicable court documents must be a certified copy and contain any and all exhibits or attachments referenced to show custody.

Copy of a signed Current IEP and ETR (if applicable)

Children attending the Lakewood City School's pre-kindergarten program are enrolled in the District and do not need to re-register. Kindergarten information will be given to these families.

Superintendent Chat To Address Future Of Taft, Franklin

by Christine Gordillo

On Wednesday, February 17, Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Jeff Patterson will hold his third Superintendent Chat of the school year. The chat will take place at 6 p.m. in the Garfield Middle School cafetorium.

At this chat, Superintendent Patterson would like to begin the discussion of what the future use of Taft, Franklin and the Board of Education building should be. No reservations are needed, just show up with your questions and comments!



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Lakewood Cares

Get Out And About To Support Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation

by Margaret Brinich

8th Annual Big Chili Cookoff
Saturday, February 27 from 5-7 p.m. at Around the Corner located at 18616 Detroit Ave.

Come enjoy delicious chili at the 8th Annual Big Chili Cookoff. All proceeds from this fun event benefit the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation and the Lakewood City Schools.

Contestants will vie for two prizes: Judges' Choice and People's Choice. Admission is just \$10 and includes unlimited 2-oz. samples of chili, a Coors Light, and a vote for the People's Choice Award. Tickets are available at Around the Corner or at the door that evening.

Ready to put your chili recipe to the test? Enter the contest and show the people what you can do. Individuals, organizations, and businesses are welcome to compete. Each must agree to provide 10-12 quarts of chili for the event and sell 15 tickets. (More supporters = More votes!) Entry forms are due February 17 and can be found at: <http://www.lakewoodrangers.com/s/Chili-CookOff-Entry-Form-2016-ni5s.pdf>.

TGIF with the Lakewood City Schools
Friday, March 4 from 4-10 p.m. at O'Tooles Pub located at 13601 Detroit Ave.

Join Lakewood principals and alumni for this FREE event! They'll be working behind the bar to raise money for the schools. Your TIP\$ to our celebrity bartenders will benefit the Margaret Warner classroom grant program.

Confirmed principals are: Keith Ahearn, Lakewood High; Sabrina Crawford, Harrison Elementary; Sandy Kozelka, Lincoln Elementary; Sandra Powers, Hayes Elementary; Mark Walter '82, Garfield Middle School; and Merritt Waters, Horace Mann Elementary.

About Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation

Since 1984, the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation has distributed more than \$3 million in funding for classroom grants, student scholarships, and school initiatives. The Foundation is guided by its mission to provide resources to enrich the educational experiences of the Lakewood City Schools' 5,400 students. To learn more about the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, visit www.lakewoodrangers.org or email foundation@lakewoodcityschools.org.

Eat Some Soup, Help Some Babies!

by Joe Sgambellone

Come and get cozy. Grab some soup, mingle with your friends, and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at Winterfest, a fund raising event for Providence House, Ohio's first crises nursery.

Local favorites, including Namaste India Garden, The Shore, and Pepper's Italian Restaurant will have plenty of food available, including a free soup tasting. Enjoy a glass of wine with your food, try your luck at raffle baskets or other items, and eat delicious homemade desserts (with coffee provided by The Root Cafe). We'll have games for the kids and a variety of live musical acts, including the Forest Hill String Quartet, classical and contempo-

rary organ compositions with Buck McDaniel, show tunes performed by Lauren Dockery and Aaron Rutz, and more. No need to buy tickets. Just show up and have some fun.

Hosted by Church of the Ascension on Detroit Road, Winterfest will take place on Saturday, February 13th from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Providence House mission is to Protect At-risk Children, Empower Families in Crisis, and Build Safer Communities.

Far West Center Receives Grant To Help People Recover From Mental Health Trauma

by Alicia Goodelle

Far West Center announces a recent grant award from Community West Foundation to expand trauma-focused mental health services for persons most in need in our community.

All Far West Center services include a screening for trauma, whether recent or past, and clinical care that includes learning skills and creating a personal "toolkit" for recovery from the effects of trauma. The Community West Foundation grant expands these trauma-focused services and enables Far West Center to launch an ongoing trauma recovery support group to help with patients with long-term success.

The Community West Foundation is committed to advancing the health and well-being of our community. Support for trauma care provided by Far West Center is an example of the Foundation's leadership and generosity in caring for those less fortunate.

Far West Center is an award-winning community mental health center serving residents of western Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties at offices in Westlake and Amherst, Ohio.

For more information, call 440-835-6212 ext. 230 or email fwc@farwestcenter.com.



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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Presents Solo Exhibition And Student Talk With Martinez E-B

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to present Martinez E-B's solo exhibition "So, Let Them Have Color" on display in the Jean Bulicek Galleria February 5 – March 6, 2016. An Artist's Reception will take place Friday, February 12 from 6 – 8 p.m. This exhibition will coincide with Beck Center's production of Lin-Manuel Miranda's "In the Heights," the Tony Award® winning musical. For gallery hours, call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public.

A native of inner-city Cleveland, Martinez E-B produces work inspired by his upbringing. After receiving his BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art and his MA from Columbia College Chicago, Martinez E-B founded **Red Light Go Studios** with the mission to create entertaining critical thinking material for the benefit of the youth mindset. Current works include the comic book "Rid-All's Brink City" about urban environmental sustainability, and the graphic narrative tale, "Back Pack" Jack about a young man's search for self-discovery.



By His Stripes (Martinez E-B)

His solo exhibition in the Jean Bulicek Galleria at Beck Center for the Arts is a series of paintings and collages entitled "So, Let Them Have

Color." This collection of work re-contextualizes signs, flags, mementos, color, and the notion of social belonging. "We often pull objects from the

world around us and place them into our own settings and meanings," remarked Martinez E-B. "With this in mind, my series of work explores our relationship with the visual language that identifies us, tells our stories, and at times holds us hostage."

These ideas will be further explored through his Cleveland Institute of Art student project "Speak with me Show with me." Students from local high schools will meet with E-B at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 11 in Beck Center's galleries as he shares his inspirational journey. This opportunity will allow the students to not only meet the artist, but to also discuss his views and artwork in a unique way.

Free onsite parking is available. For more information about upcoming art exhibits at the Beck Center for the Arts, visit our website at beckcenter.org.

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

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Bloody Valentine, Part 2

by Ken Tomaro

The Twisted Vendor Network is at it again. Valentine's Day is right around the corner so come join us for our second twisted event. If you're tired of the same old candy and flowers then you'll want to see what we have available for you. 15 artists under one roof with some very untraditional work. Satur-

day February, 6th from 3-9 p.m. you'll want to stop by the 5 o'clock Lounge located at 11904 Detroit Avenue. Last year we had a marriage proposal and there's no telling what will happen this time. Shop for your non traditional Valentine's gifts, grab a drink and see what kind of shenanigans you can take part in. We'll be waiting for you!

Council Considers Changing Schedule For Meetings

continued from page 3

and chest. In addition to her other daily treatments, burn treatments were added and it became apparent to Aleeah's father that he could not do it alone, so he moved in with his parents who lived in Lakewood. Ms. Spais said that during Aleeah's excruciating burn treatments Scrappy stayed by her side through the screams and tears. "She would scream for 15 minutes, and I can't believe the police were not called because the screams were hideous," she said.

She continued saying, "At this point, with everything she has gone through, I can't fathom the idea of having to sit this child down and say, they're coming to take your dog away."

She closed by asking Council reconsider the pit bull ban in general, but "at the very least allow us to have Aleeah continue to have a dog."

Law Director Kevin Butler then summarized the process the city takes

when it identifies a dog suspect of being a pit bull, for the sake of the members of Council. He did state that there are certain exemptions in the code that allow pit bulls in the city, such as for service animals. He then went on to clarify for the members of the public that the process of identifying and removing pit bulls from the city is codified and therefore neither Council nor the Administration are able to make exemptions. It would take a change of the legislation to allow for that.

In addition, Director Butler mentioned that comfort care and assistance animals, as defined under certain federal laws, don't automatically qualify as service animals. This class of animal, he stated, is not explicitly identified in the ordinance and offered that it is a policy Council could consider addressing.

With no further business before Council, President O'Leary adjourned the meeting at 8:43 P.M.

Lakewood Is Art

Huntington Playhouse Stories:

In The Darkness

by Patrick M Meehan

Mary Kahelin dims the lights after Act 1, then slowly fades the sound of the siren as the darkness falls. Unseen in the tech booth at the Clague Playhouse, she listens for the cue that the actors performing the play “Proof” are ready to proceed. The stage manager in a distant part of the theater, lets her know through a headset that the actors are ready. The theater brightens, this time looking like morning sunlight rather than the late evening illumination from the first act. Mary now follows along in the script because her cues will come from the actors dialogue rather than the stage manager. Her clothing is dark and the color melts into the walls of the room behind the window where she sits. The only illumination is from the computer screens and a pair of tiny flexible desk lights that shine on the pages she watches. The dialogue from the actors on stage comes through a



Mary Kahelin in the tech booth at Clague Playhouse.

tiny speaker mounted over the window that allows a view of the stage. Mary will sit through several performances a week during the run of this show, just like she has on over 300

Theater, volunteering her time and expertise on the play selection committee, and is scheduled to work on our summer production, which we are planning to produce at the Bay High School auditorium. Mary worked on 109 productions at the now closed Huntington Playhouse. Hopefully the theater will reopen and she can use her skills there once more. Till then, she’ll be behind the scenes at the Clague Playhouse until “Proof,” directed by Anne McEvoy ends it’s run in February with it’s outstanding cast of Robert Hawkes, Rachel Lee Kolis, Nicholas Chokan, and Renee Schilling. Then it’s off to the Beck Center to work with director Victoria Bussert on “In The Heights” with the Baldwin Wallace ensemble.

Citizens For Bay Village Community Theater is working to form relationships with civic groups, not-for-profit organizations, government and businesses in Bay Village to provide a true community effort to keep community theater an active and vital part of our city. Visit us at our new website www.baytheater.org. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 17 @ 7 p.m., in the Bay Village Library 502 Cahoon Road • Bay Village, Ohio 44140.

WordStage Literary Concerts

Open 2016 Season With A Shakespearean Valentine

by Tim Tavcar

WordStage Literary Concerts opens its 2016 Season with “On Love and Music” A Shakespearean Valentine, The Wright Chapel Series - Friday, February 12th at 7:30 p.m.

Shakespeare, Love and Music - could there be a more felicitous melding of subjects and author? From his most sparkling comedies to his darkest tragedies and in his 154 Sonnets, the Bard contemplated love in all its forms. From the witty banter of Beatrice and Benedick in “Much Ado About Nothing” to the biting repartee of Kate and Petrucio in “The Taming of the Shrew.” From the flights of romance in his Sonnets to the yearnings of unrequited love in “Twelfth Night” and “Measure for Measure,” Shakespeare’s treatment of this universal subject is both wide in its sweep and has remained remarkably relevant for nearly 400 years.

Featuring selections from his plays and poetry, and accompanying them with music of the composers that were inspired by Shakespeare’s works, WordStage actors Marci Paolucci & Tim Tavcar, violinist



Celebrate Valentine’s Day with the Bard and WordStage Literary Concerts at Lakewood Presbyterian Church.

Mary Beth Ions and pianist Patrick Wickliffe are pleased to present this work as a celebration of Valentine’s Day 2016. This collection of the “Immortal Bard’s” poetry and plays and the music they inspired create an evening of love, laughter and enchantment, as Britain’s greatest author’s reflects on humankind’s most absorbing topic. The Wright Chapel is located in the Lakewood Presbyterian Church – 14502 Detroit Avenue at Marlowe in Downtown Lakewood, OH. The Chapel is ADA Accessible. Admission is by Free Will Donation. For more information call us at -216-712-6926 or visit our web site at www.wordstageoh.com.

productions in other theaters like The Huntington Playhouse and The Beck Center, where she has been named volunteer of the year. Props would be considered her specialty, she has been on the prop crew for 199 shows at last count. She has also worked as sound, lights, spotlight operator, stage manager, deck crew, dresser and video operator. Although she could probably keep busy enough working any theater she desires, she finds time for the Citizens for Bay Village Community



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Pulse Of The City

A Voicemail Adventure...
"Hi Gary, This Is Your Dad..."

As anyone who has ever dealt with sickness in the home can tell you, some things have to be necessarily back-burnered so that even more necessary things can get done. In the year before my dear late father, Robert Rice, passed away, and during the year following his passing, there have been any number of projects that have forced me to put many other day-to-day activities on hold.

Life is like that. Sometimes, the choices are ours to make, and sometimes, circumstances force the creation of a different set of priorities in our lives.

Anyway, way down there at the bottom of my list, was attending to my cell phone. Somehow, (being retired) I just got away from it, except for keeping it around in case I needed to make a call. I didn't keep it on all the time, of course, people had tried to call, and eventually (and unknown to me) my mail box was full. Well, not long ago, a friend alerted me to the situation with my cell phone when he tried to call me, and was unable to leave a message. The thing was, I'd even forgotten how to retrieve my messages. After a call to the phone company, and resetting a new password, I was finally ready to hear the messages that had been stored.

Some of those had gone back quite

by Gary Rice

awhile! There were a couple from a dear friend who has since passed away from cancer. There were a few of the usual nuisance calls, of course. There were a number of calls from other friends that had all gone unanswered, and then, there were a couple of calls that began with "Hi Gary, this is your dad."

I guess that many others had used my cell phone line trying to call me, perhaps even more than I did calling out. I just had not used my cell phone that much, and thought that, in any case, I had not given out my number all

that often. Apparently, I was wrong.

I was able to return some of those calls to people who had left messages and express my profound apologies to them. For others, including Dad, it was too late to return their calls. Fortunately, in Dad's case, his messages simply were to tell me about other people calling me, or for other everyday reasons, and of course, he always told me that he loved me. I was seldom away from him for very long in those days, but I guess that even a ten minute trip to the store was a hard separation for

him to endure. Most of the time, when I was away from him, I did remember to turn the phone on, but even so, there were those couple of messages from him that I missed, and those messages were precious memories indeed.

Life gives us new lessons every day, does it not? Sometimes, there are more than a few regrets, as well. It's tough to cover all the bases in life. All we can do, if we truly seek wisdom at all, is to learn from those lessons... and just somehow keep moving forward; with the increased awareness that there are always people reaching out to us, as we should be doing for them.

Record-Breaking String Of Hot Years Is
Almost Certainly A Result Of Climate Change

Dear Editor,

In an expert study released this week, scientists found that the last two decades of record-breaking hot temperatures are almost certainly the result of man-made climate change.

Earlier this month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA announced that 2015 was the hottest year on record,

underscoring the need for urgent climate action. Ohio has good reason to be concerned about this alarming trend: driven by carbon and methane pollution, climate change is fueling costly and deadly extreme weather events, including droughts, heat waves, hurricanes, and record winter storms. Luckily, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized the Clean Power Plan, which sets the first ever

federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

The heat is on and there's no time to wait. I urge Govener Kasich to serve Ohio's best interest by implementing the Clean Power Plan and reducing the pollution that drives climate change while creating new clean energy jobs. The future of our children and the planet depends on it.

Brittany Chanley

What Is Old And New For Romantic Feburary

by Bonnie Fencel

The pink building on Madison Ave used the XOXO theme for this month. We have been asked, "What does that mean?"

We liked the popular song that is out now as the inspiration - our meaning of hugs and kisses. So further research was done to add to our knowledge. The "x's" are ancient. When people were not able to read and write they used the "x" to sign impotant documents. To show more sincerity at that time they would kiss the "x." Now the "o's" are American. They were used by Jewish imigrants going through Ellis Island instead of the x. Somehow when placed with the x, they became a symbol of a hug.

We hope you enjoy our XOXO decorations at Carabel Beauty Salon.

We supply the following gifts: heart pins and hair barrets. Also two new rose-scented produt-lines have been launched

recently for hair. The Matrix line is for fine hair that needs volume. The Sexy product line is for color-treated hair.

Remember moms, sisters, daughters, wives, and partners on February 14.

Citizens For A Strong Lakewood
Submit Petitions For Referendum

continued from page 1

sary because only registered voters in Lakewood are eligible to sign and not all people who signed the petition live and vote in Lakewood.

At the City Council meeting on February 1, Kevin Young representing Citizens for a Strong Lakewood,

requested that City Council schedule a Special Meeting to move Issue 24 along so as to meet the Board of Elections February 9th deadline for inclusion on the March 15th ballot.

Council will consider the request once the BOE has certified signatures on the petitions.

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4 Items	\$8.50	\$11.00	\$14.50	\$17.50
Deluxe	\$9.00	\$11.75	\$15.50	\$19.00
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Election 2016

Local Volunteers Bring “The Bern” To Lakewood

by Mike Deneen

The presidential election cycle is in full swing, as the national media has been focusing on Iowa and New Hampshire in recent weeks. Ohio will not host its primary election until March 15, but one group of local volunteers has been campaigning for Bernie Sanders since last summer. They even managed to open a volunteer-staffed and funded campaign office here in Lakewood....it was the first of its kind in Ohio for any candidate.

The local Sanders effort began last summer, when Lakewood residents Tristan Rader and Michael Berler decided to organize the local campaign. Sanders was a longshot candidate at the time, but Rader and Berler were drawn to his message. “Sanders’ vision for this nation lines up almost exactly with my own,” says Rader, who works for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. “I work with the low-income communities here in Northeast Ohio and I see the toll that decades of bad policies have taken on our most vulnerable neighbors.” Berler was drawn by the fact that Sanders does not take money from Super PACs. “Bernie is a genuinely good human being who is not bought and paid for by corporations,” says Berler.

It has been a completely grass-roots effort. They found other Sanders supporters via the Sanders website, social media and area democratic clubs. They began holding small volunteer events in their homes. They organized letter writing campaigns to Lakewood Democrats last fall, further spreading their word.



Former State Senator Nina Turner fires up the crowd at the January 9th office opening.

Within a matter of weeks they had dozens of volunteers. They started campaigning on the streets, going door to door and to popular spots like in front of Lakewood Library. Their ranks continued to grow as interest in the 2016 election increased.

When Bernie Sanders held a rally at Cleveland State University on November 16, the event generated a great deal of media attention. Over 7,000 people attended the speech at the Wolstein Center. Berler and Rader were among the volunteers that helped facilitate the event. They, along with dozens of other volunteers collected signatures to put Sanders on the Ohio primary ballot in March.

Among those at the rally was Lakewood resident Hana Baran, a student at Lake Ridge Academy. She went to the event along with three of her school-mates. They arrived at 2pm for the 7pm

speech, standing outside with thousands of others waiting for the doors to open. “I believe he is someone who can lead us,” said Baran. She noted that her parents are more conservative than Sanders. “But I don’t believe in following my parent’s politics,” she said with a smile.

The CSU rally brought many new volunteers to the campaign, making plans to continue meeting in living rooms. The campaign moved its events to The Bevy at Birdtown on Madison Avenue. The Bevy has been the site of numerous organizational meeting and debate watch parties. However, the group needed a place to do day-to-day operations...so they began looking for a site to rent an office. They raised money to pay the rent, and they lined up volunteers to staff the office six days per week.

They found a location at 11910

Detroit Avenue. Volunteers cleaned up the empty storefront and got it ready for its grand opening. The ribbon cutting happened on January 9th, with guests including former State Senator Nina Turner. The office has been buzzing with activity ever since, running phone banks to early primary/caucus states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. The volunteers have been very enthusiastic, and largely under the age of 30. Many are active in their very first political campaign. However, more than a few veteran politicals have joined the movement as well. State Senator Mike Skindell, who also spoke at the office grand opening, is an active Sanders supporter. So is Lakewood resident Donna Kolis, a longtime Democratic activist. “I am voting for Bernie Sanders because something has gone terribly wrong with this country,” says Kolis, whose first political activity was with Dennis Kucinich in the 1970s. “Bernie has a real eye towards restoring the middle class and eradicating hopelessness.”

The group’s efforts have begun to pay off, as Sanders’ poll numbers have improved in the early states. However, national pundits continue to view Hillary Clinton as the Democratic front-runner. Rader, like the other Sanders volunteers has been undeterred. “Hillary is at the head of a political campaign, with money and endorsements. Bernie is at the head of a movement, with people, lots of people. What he lacks in money he makes up for in passion and numbers.”



Bernie Sanders supporters at the “Bowling for Bernie” fundraiser at Mahall’s.

Lakewood To Celebrate Opening Of Cuyahoga For Hillary Campaign Office

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Cuyahoga for Hillary campaign is excited to announce the official opening of the Lakewood office to support electing the first woman to the presidency, Hillary Clinton. Come celebrate and show your love for Hillary on Sunday, February 14th from 1:30pm-4:30pm at 15729 Madison Ave (Goddess Blessed). Join Hillary supporters and learn more about the campaign and how to get involved. State Representative Nickie Antonio and Special Guests will offi-

cially kick-off the opening with remarks at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

For more information email Cuyahoga4Hillary@gmail.com.



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Lakewood Living

Local Photographer Lends His Voice To His Dog

by Bob Soltys

After Lucky, photographer Bob Soltys' Jack Russell Terrier and man about town over the last ten years, suffered a near-death experience in the Rocky Mountains last summer, he decided to tell his life story and self-publish it with some help from his Dad.

Illustrated with rich black and white photos, "A Lucky Life" narrates a dog's twelve-year journey across America with a photographer, making

friends and opening doors for his Dad along the way, beginning with Lucky's long night and uncertain future:

"I don't know why they did it. It's not like I crapped on the floor or watered the carpet.

But on the night of September 29, 2003, my human drove me to the South County Shelter in San Diego, removed my tag, tied me to a light pole in the parking lot, and left me there in the middle of the night.

When the shelter staff came to work the next morning, they untied me and took me in, but my troubles weren't over yet. Because money for pet shelters is limited, California shelters keep pets without tags for only three days.

The morning of October 3, my time was up. A little before 11 o'clock, one of the staff opened the door to my cage and reached in, a sad look on her face. My short life passed in front of my eyes ..."

You can learn more about Lucky's forthcoming book at the Kickstarter page Lucky and Bob set up to fund their book at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/blkwhitefilm/a-lucky-life>.

The Kickstarter funding deadline is February 20.



The book cover, featuring Lucky.

Coffee With The Subconscious... Encouraging Spirits...

by Betty Rozakis

Tears filled my eyes as I listened to Patty describe her restored vision from Wet Macular Degeneration. The reason for my crying became evident when I returned home from the local television station and saw the picture of my father with his close friend.

My father died 20 years ago, but his Greek accent still ruminates between my ears..."What's the matter with you? Don't you see that he's a good boy trying to do something?"

Memories filled my head of a tired young mother with four kids exasperated with her husband's long hours. He had this thirst for scientific understanding that was never-ending. My Graphology mentor helped me appreciate his relentless pursuit when I showed her his handwriting. My husband's handwriting depicted Nuancee: His is a pure character... a vibrant sensitive mind... full of penetrating clarity that is concerned about the world, not about himself. She also told me that he was lucky to have me as a wife as she examined my handwriting. I'm forever grateful for this objective perspective. It helped me navigate the external wrenches that penetrated our pioneering life.

My father and Judge Manos were patriots from the most rugged southern part of Greece... Mani. It's

the area that the Turks were unable to penetrate during their 400 year Occupation. My husband's family was from this area too. Greeks emigrating to the United States tend to connect with those from the same region of their homeland... a subconscious affinity.

Choosing Ophthalmology was a spirited decision for my husband. He and my father settled on it together. After my father's untimely death from trying to ease his affliction from Parkinson's, his close friend entered our lives. It was fortuitous that he lived down the street from me in Lakewood. It was during our weekly breakfast get togethers that he would express his frustration about my husband's seemingly shift of focus from Ophthalmology..."George needs to find a cure for Macular Degeneration... what's he doing with this Epigenetic medicine?"

Thirteen years ago my husband noticed a sign along the road. I understood his need to explore during our return to Hawaii for our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. His trailblazing mind sought answers to treat debilitating disease. I lament that he was unable to treat my father's Parkinson's & The Judge's Macular Degeneration before they died... But I know that they're satisfied seeing others benefit!

Harding 8th Grader Earns Top Art Award

continued from page 7

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

exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries. Besides the Visionary Voice award winners, students who receive Portfolio Awards and Gold Key Awards continue to the national competition held in the spring in New York City.

To read Kitty's winning poem, go to www.lakewoodcityschools.org.



The encouraging spirits of my father, Theophanes B. Gaitanaros, MD & his friend, The Honorable John M. Manos...

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Lakewood Living

Making Color Work In Your Home

by Chris Bergin

Don't be offended if an agent suggests that you paint before placing your home on the market. They understand "color psychology." Since people's reaction to color is immediate, it can have a tremendous influence on their daily choices.

You can make your home stand out from the competition, sell more quickly and at a higher price if you use color effectively. Blues will feel cool, reds and oranges feel warm. Deeper shades of color imply intimacy and serenity.

Lighter exterior colors are favored because they can make the property seem larger. For older homes, you may want to consider historical accuracy, as this could be a big selling point as well.

For the interior, consider the purpose of each room. Kitchen and dining areas painted in "food colors" such as coffee browns, celery greens and scrambled-egg yellows will make the rooms feel more natural. Hallways are a great place to bring in the exterior colors for overall harmony. Master bedrooms in medium shades of green or blue for warm selling seasons, and rouge red for cooler weather. Other bedrooms can be painted in creamy tones of green, blue, or a pale shell pink. Shades of blue, green or lavender can form a relaxing atmosphere in the bathroom.

When thinking about color, common sense helps. You should match other things in your home and keep a comfortable environment as well. If you are preparing your home for the market look at photos of other homes (www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info). If you are struggling with colors ask your realtor for advice. They are in and out of homes on a daily basis and can suggest the best options for your rooms, space, and décor.

Neubert Painting Promotes Two Employees

by Jeanne Bluffstone

Nick Oberg has been promoted to Operations Manager and Natale Neubert has been promoted to marketing/analyst by Neubert Painting. They are both Lakewood residents.

Oberg joined Neubert Painting six years ago as a painter while he was in college, and after becoming a certified painter was appointed a Service Truck Crew Leader doing smaller jobs, then a Crew Leader for whole exterior jobs, before becoming Operations Manager.

Oberg graduated from The University of Mount Union in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Sociology.

As Operations Manager he is responsible for overseeing exterior and interior house painting, aluminum and vinyl refinishing, and the company's Maintenance and Warranty Programs.

Natale Neubert has been promoted to Marketing/Analyst for Neubert Painting. She worked for Neubert Painting from 2006 to 2010 while she was in high school and college and handled a variety of duties as the company grew.

After graduating from Cleveland State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Operations and Supply Chain Management in 2011, she spent a year as an intern for the Cleveland Indians.

She joined Minute Men HR in 2012 in the Human Resources and Workers Compensation department. In 2015 she returned to Neubert Painting to work on Marketing and as an Analyst. Her responsibilities of Marketing/Analyst include managing the company's social media activities and analysis of sales and customer flow.

Later this year she will also become co-manager of the office operations.

Both Oberg and Neubert live in Lakewood.

Neubert Painting is the largest interior and exterior residential painting and aluminum and vinyl siding refinishing company in the Greater Cleveland area. The company was started by John Neubert in Lakewood in 1975 and remained there until October 2015 when they moved from Lakewood to Brook Park.

H2O's MLK, Jr. Day Of Service

continued from page 1

kids from Family Life Child Care Center, prepping bikes for a learn-to-ride program for Cleveland 2nd graders at Ohio City Bike Co-op, preparing a presentation to raise awareness of the problem of human trafficking, picking up donations to GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center, repackaging bulk pet food for My Best Friend's Bowl with seniors from the Westerly and sorting clothing for a clothes closet and painting an apartment in anticipation of a newly arrived refugee family at Joseph's House.

I had the opportunity to serve at Harrison Elementary School with a group of classmates, leading MLK crafts and activities with kids aged 5-11 years old from Family Life Child Care Center. At the very beginning of the day, I asked if every child knew who Dr. King was. Given their age I assumed I would have to give a short lesson on our beloved role model, but to my surprise, all the kids knew exactly who he was, even the students in kindergarten. They told us they had been talking about Dr. King with their teachers all week and shared what they learned with us. We learned much from the kids!

Although my service site wasn't as far flung as Ronald McDonald House or Joseph's House, it was still an incredible eye-opening adventure. I cannot thank H2O enough for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Hanna Chodzin is a Junior at Lakewood High School and part of the H2O Program's Leadership Team.



Ohio City Bike Co-op- prepping bikes for repair and eventual donation to earn-a-bike program.



Joseph's House- volunteers painted an apartment for an arriving refugee family and sorted clothes donations.

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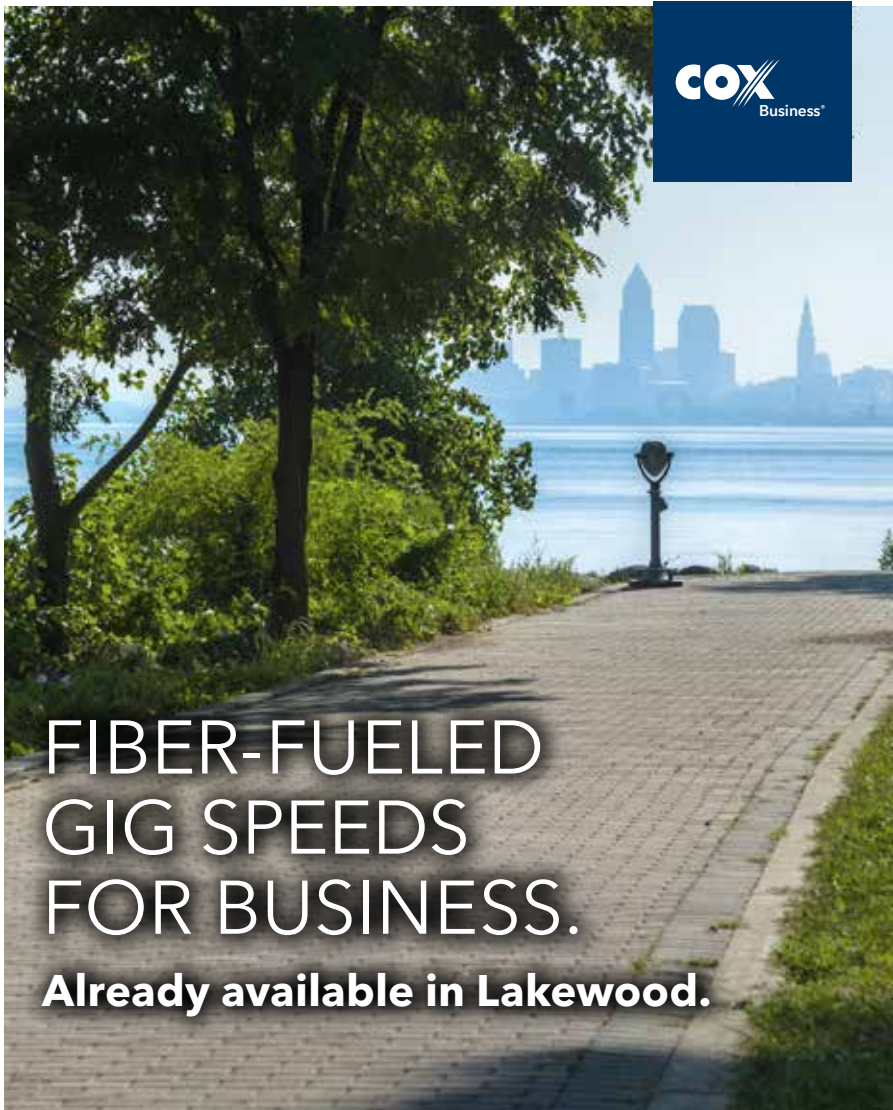

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