

# THE LAKEWOOD SERVER

Volume 12, Issue 4, Feburay 16, 2016

*by Matt Kuhns*

These were the only firm conclusions reached at a special meeting of City Council on Thursday, February 11, which stretched more than three hours. Council President Sam O'Leary, Ward 2, called the meeting eight days after the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections reported adequate valid signatures on a petition

O’Leary introduced the meeting as petitioners’ opportunity to argue for the repeal of ordinance 49-15, by which the city entered an agreement to close its hospital and transfer assets to the Cleveland Clinic. Petitioners, however, noted that Citizens for a Strong Lakewood turned in petitions to City Hall fully three weeks earlier,

“Either repeal the ordinance to close the hospital or determine exactly when in 2016 the citizens of Lakewood will have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote on the future of their community hospital,” said Kevin Young, a spokesman for Save Lakewood Hospital. Brian Essi, who made introductory remarks on petitioners’ behalf, added, “This



photo by Alex Belisle

Elected leaders may in fact fight citizen input on Lakewood Hospital even after a referendum takes place, offi-

cials revealed. Responding to a question from Councilman Dan O'Malley, Ward 4, Lakewood Law Director Kevin Butler suggested that the city might simply ignore a

**continued on page 17**



*Grant kindergarteners and some of the more than 200 items collected for the Lakewood Animal Shelter.*

*by Christine Gordillo*

Students at the school were asked to bring in food, toys, paper towels and kitty lit-

The teachers turned the community service project into a math lesson as well as the students categorized, sorted and counted the items. A visit from Officer Bialosky and his Animal Control truck to pick up the items was the icing on the cake for a project well done!

*by Allison Urbanek*

We will start the season off right with our friend Aaron Westerburg of Inspection Tech on Thursday, February 25 at Buckeye Beer

Aaron will also spend some time discussing how to plan your repairs for either selling your home or deciding what to take on when buying a home. The work-

shop is designed to be an over-all approach to deciding what repairs to do, and what to expect when tackling those repairs, ultimately providing you with the proper tools to feel empowered and prepared when dealing with your home maintenance and repair projects.

## Knowing Your Home: Prioritizing & Planning Your Home Repairs

Thursday, February 25th  
7-9 p.m., Buckeye Beer Engine  
Presented by Aaron West-  
erburg, Inspection Tech

The Knowing Your Home  
**continued on page 7**

**BRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!**



*Rocky River freezes over this past week.*

# LO Calendar

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016**  
Lakewood Senior Collaborative presents Aging in Place: Understanding MyCare Ohio & PASSPORT Waiver Program -8:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
Join the Lakewood Senior Collab meeting as we focus this month on understanding the MyCare Ohio Health Plans with local Ohio Health Plan experts as well as Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging who will discuss the PASSPORT Waiver Program as it relates to the concept of “aging in place” among the growing senior population.  
**Location: Lakewood Park Women’s Pavilion 14532 Lake Ave,**

**Thursday, February 18, 2016**  
Lakewood House Hunters -10:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
My name is Joe Vaccaro and I sell real estate with Howard Hanna. Just wanted to let you know I filmed for HGTV’s House Hunters over the summer and just found out our air date will be February 18th at 10PM. My clients were a younger couple with two girls; we shot the episode in Lakewood over a few days. I feel like we did a pretty awesome job showing off the character of Lakewood homes and how awesome/affordable Lakewood is. It’s looking like almost half of this year’s buyers will be Millennials finally getting off the fence, so thought it would be a cool story to get out there to the public.  
Here’s a link to the episode! <http://www.hgtv.com/shows/house-hunters/episodes/making-room-for-more-babies-in-cleveland>

**Saturday, February 27, 2016**  
8th Annual Big Chili Cookoff - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
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.  
**Location: Around the Corner, 18616 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH**

**Monday, February 29**  
Teatime for Peace - 7:00-8:30 PM  
Distraught and saddened by the hate talk and ugly speech against the Muslim faith? Counter the fear and hate with honest connection and conversation. Come to Teatime for Peace, where the wider community will meet with our Muslim brothers and sisters to share tea, treats, and hear each other’s stories. We can build the beloved community! Brought to you by: West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, Council on American-Islamic Relations Cleveland Chapter, The Niagara Foundation, and The Coalition For A Better Life/Peace in the Hood. Limited childcare available with reservation. For more information and to RSVP, contact: [hmueller@wsuuc.org](mailto:hmueller@wsuuc.org) or (440) 333-2255  
**Location: West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd. Rocky River, OH**

# Hot Off The Deck

WHERE LAKEWOOD TALKS - <a href="http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum">http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum</a>				
Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
Lakewood Presidential Survey	Michael Deneen	40	1559	Mon Feb 15, 2016
IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD	Jim O'Bryan	280	36989	Mon Feb 15, 2016
Party At “It’s A Party” This Morning	Jim O'Bryan	0	933	Mon Feb 15, 2016
Should We Trust O'Donnell to be the Judge for the Hospital Debacle?	Lori Allen	12	955	Mon Feb 15, 2016
City Hall Defends Sanctity of Contract to Close Hospital, But Not The Contract That Kept it Open	Brian Essi	8	254	Mon Feb 15, 2016
When Is An Emergency Room NOT an Emergency Room?	Bill Call	36	1256	Mon Feb 15, 2016
The Lakewood Family Health Center Will Be Just Like What They Have In Twinsburg	Bill Call	4	413	Mon Feb 15, 2016
Local Residents are “Ready for Hillary”	Michael Deneen	7	315	Mon Feb 15, 2016
PRESIDENT	jackie f taylor	4	277	Mon Feb 15, 2016
Cox Cable Woes....	Tim Liston	41	2618	Sun Feb 14, 2016
Increasing number of trains going through Lakewood	james fitzgibbons	0	100	Sun Feb 14, 2016
Terrible Service at Quaker Steak?	Ryan Salo	3	385	Sun Feb 14, 2016 1:31 pm
Observer Hoops Road Trip: Lakewood 78, Glenville 70	Michael Deneen	0	99	Sun Feb 14, 2016
Unexpected Visitors!	Michael Deneen	1	280	Sat Feb 13, 2016
Girls Hoops Update: Big Game Coming!	Michael Deneen	0	56	Sat Feb 13, 2016
Brrrrrrrrrrrrrr	Jim O'Bryan	0	111	Sat Feb 13, 2016
CC- Express Care Online	tkmbuckley	2	285	Sat Feb 13, 2016
Judge O'Donnell postponing lawsuit	james fitzgibbons	1	285	Fri Feb 12, 2016

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Upcoming Submission Deadline

February 21, 2016  
March 6, 2016

Publish Date

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March 15, 2016

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Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

City News

# Active Living Task Force Presents Their Report To Council

Council President and Ward II Councilman, Sam O’Leary called the February 1, 2016 Council meeting to order at 7:41 P.M. The meeting then moved along to the largest item of the night, a presentation from the Active Living Task Force.

The Chair of the Active Living Task Force, Jay Foran, began the presentation and started by stating their mission, which is “to ensure that all individuals who live, work, and play in Lakewood can take part in an active lifestyle with appropriate access to high quality recreational services and experiences.” He then went on to highlight the strengths the city has, including density and walkability, its many active living and recreational opportunities, and its strong sense of community. Additionally he pointed out some areas the Task Force identified as opportunities for improvement. These included improved communication and education, increased collaboration and coordination, and increased safety.

Next a member of the Task Force gave some background on how they began their process and the research they did. They started by looking over all of the pertinent City documents and plans, including the Lakewood Community Vision, the Parks Strategic Plan, Lakewood Bicycling Priorities, the Bike Master Plan, the Detroit Avenue Street Scape Plan, and the Birdtown Action Plan. They also had the results of the Triad Research Group Community Survey conducted in 2014 to help guide

by Christopher Bindel

them. To get a complete picture of the current standing of active living in Lakewood, the Task Force interviewed 26 providers of active living activities. Many of these were one-person operations who expressed that they were in great need of help. Some of their preliminary findings from the interviews were that coverage across the city was inconsistent, with some areas having fewer active living opportunities than others. There was also an express lack of funding, particularly in the ability to market and advertise the services provided.

Next they studied cities with comparable size, climate, and density of Lakewood, which they found quite difficult because there really aren’t any places quite like Lakewood, that fit all of those qualifications. The cities they looked at were Burlington, Vt.; Ann Arbor, Mi.; Medford, Or.; Bolder, Co.; Nashville, Tn.; San Antonio, Tx.; Madison, Wi.; and Royal Oak, Mi. The overarching theme from these communities’ active living programs was their continued attempt to increase access, connectivity and mutually shared agreements.

Upon collecting all their data, the Task Force compiled their data into an implementation table. This table is broken down into five main goals, communication & education; collaboration; investment, both purchases and operations; infrastructure, facilities & programs; and capacity and access. Next members of

the Task Force highlighted each one of these goals and some of the recommendations they made.

Task Force member Mike Callahan began by diving deeper into the first two goals. For communication and education he discussed how they thought active living providers should be encouraged to seek, use, and incorporate user feedback on a regular basis. In addition they also want to encourage the City to purchase software that will track participation in active living programs with the ability to analyze the data. They also suggest increasing transparency, access to information, and visibility of program offerings by all active living providers. To help facilitate this, they recommended creating a universal active living providers website that would be a one-stop shop for users. All providers in Lakewood and surrounding areas would be able to post information about their programs in one central location. They also recommended improving wayfinding around the city to help locate things of active living importance, such as safe walking and biking routes.

In terms of the second goal, collaboration, the main point mentioned was the consideration of creating a Chamber of Active Living. This chamber would help bring all providers together and help facilitate collaboration, effective communication, and generally help with working together better. Another recommen-

dation for collaboration is for active living providers to coordinate with local businesses on ways they can work together. One such idea is by having the business offer a discount or some other incentive for an active living activity, such as riding a bike or walking to their establishment.

Next was Ben VanLear who said that he felt the points he would cover were some of the most important if they wanted to make sure that their efforts continue beyond the Task Force’s report. He began discussing goal three, investment, by stating the idea that it was important for the City to consider creating a position within the City for an Active Living Coordinator. It would be this person’s job to monitor the parks, playgrounds, pools, etc. to ensure they are being properly maintained as well as coordinate their use and the City’s involvement with active living programs and providers. They also recommended that the City create an Active Living Advisory Council that would help the City consider health impacts and make recommendation when discussing land use, transportation, and infrastructure changes and improvements. On the provider side of things, they recommended the City offering to assist active living providers with organizational knowledge and tech support. In particular offering guidance on establishing a board, creating by-laws, and how to pool resources. The final recommendation made under the investment

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### Dates & Times:

- North Ridgeville, 38600 Center Ridge Road - Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. in Assisted Living Dining Room
- North Olmsted, 4800 Clague Road - Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in 3rd Floor Community Room
- Fairview, 20770 Lorain Road - Mar. 1 at 7 p.m. in South Dining Room
- Bay Village, 605 Bradley Road - Mar. 3 at 7 p.m. in Main Lobby
- Lakewood, 13900 Detroit Avenue - Mar. 8 at 7 p.m. in Assisted Living Building, 4th Floor Community Room

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City News

# West Shore Council Of Governments (WCOG) Meeting: February 10, 2016

by LWVGC observer Sally Ebling  
(Rocky River Chapter)  
*This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Bobst's office prepares official minutes.*

**Present:** Mayors Bobst (Rocky River), Clough (Westlake), Summers (Lakewood), and Sutherland (Bay Village). Mayors Patton (Fairview Park)

and Kennedy (North Olmsted) were absent. Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney, County Council Representative David Greenspan, and a fire department representative also attended.  
Topics discussed were proposed RTA service cuts and fare increases although ridership is up. A meeting is planned for February 23 to discuss consolidating fire services

in WCOG. It was mentioned that ambulances now in use provide many more services and have more capabilities than in the past.  
Mayor Summers provided updates on the situation with Lakewood Hospital. Patient services are limited to outpatient. Inpatient services ended February 5. Jobs in other Cleveland Clinic facilities were offered to 845

employees.  
Energy efficiencies are being explored with homeowner associations, including wastewater management.  
November and December financials were presented, moved, and accepted.  
It was mentioned that Whole Foods is making food available to communities to provide to needy residents.

## Active Living Task Force Presents Their Report To Council

**continued from previous page**  
goal was to explore ways to utilize the City's communication network and purchasing power to encourage residents to lead more active lives. One such way to do this would be for the City to use its ability to get bulk discounts to buy wellness devices allowing residents to benefit from the savings.  
Three main points were recommended under goal four, infrastructure. The first was for the City to consider improvements to the pools that would make them accessible for a wide range of ages and activities, making them available for everything from competitions to children's activities. Next they recommended improvements to expand pedestrian and cycling accessibility, making it as safe as possible. The last point regarded the use of public venues and how they can serve as community gathering places to grow engagement in active living.  
For the final goal, capacity and access, Stephanie Tool, a Lakewood High School teacher and coach talked about how the City should strive to ensure that people of all ages, abilities, and incomes have access to the appropriate amount and range of active living opportunities. They also

need to understand where the gaps in services are and where barriers in participation exist across all sectors of the population. One particular, and currently relevant recommendation they made was in terms of encouraging greater levels of active living in the winter. They recommended finding ways to offer indoor areas for people to be active throughout the winter.  
The Task Force laid out all of their recommendation, including many more not mentioned here, in an implementation table for easy browsing and consideration. This table offers proposed timelines for each recommendation as well as principal organizations likely to be involved, potential collaborators, an estimated cost, potential sources for funding, priority, feasibility, and the target population. The Task Force intends to share their report with the Planning Commission, Recreational Department, School Board, YMCA, and all of the other service providers in the city to educate and continue the conversation.  
At the conclusion of the report several of the Council members congratulated the Task Force members on such a robust and thorough report and thanked them for their hard work.

Council referred the report to the Committee of the Whole for consideration and discussion on how to move forward.  
At the last meeting Councilwoman Cindy Marx read a communication addressing the backyard hen keeping pilot program. Twelve of the programs 18 months have passed and she recommended that conversations between Council, the Administration, and stakeholders begin so they can decide the next step before the 18 months expire. That communication however was not referred to a committee to begin that process, so at this Council meeting, Councilwoman Marx resubmitted her communication and recommended it be referred to the Housing Committee. Council referred as requested.  
Next Mayor Summers asked Council to consider a change to the Parade & Special Events ordinance. Currently when applying for a special event permit with the City the cost is \$300, however the ordinance implies that some of that fee might be refundable. In recent years the administrative costs for processing the special event permits and providing adequate city personnel,

services, and equipment for these events has increased. The Mayor requested, that due to these changes, a change be made to the ordinance making no part of the \$300 refundable, making it an outright application fee.  
Council referred the matter to the Rules and Ordinances Committee.  
Director of Planning and Development, Dru Siley then asked Council to consider a lease with the Geriatric Center. Currently tenants in the recently downgraded Lakewood Hospital, the Geriatric Center has been on a month to month lease with the Lakewood Hospital Association. As the only tenants left on a month to month lease the City is seeking a longer lease for stability reasons. A two year term was agreed upon between the tenant and the Administration pending Council's approval.  
Council referred the item to the Committee of the Whole.  
After the agenda items were finished, several members of the public addressed Council regarding the Lakewood Hospital issue. Then, with no further business before Council, Council President O'Leary adjourned the meeting at 9:19 P.M.



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Poll Workers Wanted

by Mike West

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is seeking civic-minded people to serve as Poll Workers in Lakewood, Rock River, and Westlake during the March 15th Presidential Primary Election.

Poll Workers earn \$172.10 for their service, which includes; successfully completing a Poll Worker training class, attending a 6:00 p.m. meeting the night before the election, and working Election Day from 5:30 a.m. until about 8:00 p.m.

Additional support is needed throughout Cuyahoga County to fill special election-support roles. These duties include drop-off captains and assistants, ride-alongs and rovers. These workers will earn \$11.00 per hour and will work the day before and on Election Day.

Applicants may apply online at [www.443VOTE.com](http://www.443VOTE.com) or call the Board of Elections Poll Worker Department at 216-443-3277.

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City News

# Rep. Antonio Calls For State Blueprint To Meet EPA’s Clean Power Plan

by *Nickie Antonio*

Prominent civic, labor and community women leaders recently spoke out in favor of Gov. Kasich taking action to implement a state blueprint to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan that will create and sustain quality jobs, improve the air quality in the state to protect public health, and create economic opportunity for all Ohioans. The EPA’s Clean Power Plan (CPP) puts the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from existing sources, like power plants. The CPP gives states flexibility and the opportunity to draw up their own blueprints—called State Implementation Plans—to meet the carbon pollution reduction target.

“It is time to reinstate Ohio’s strong renewable energy and energy efficiency standards and reduce harmful power plant emissions through implementation of the Clean Power Plan,” said State Representative Nickie Antonio. “We simply cannot afford any more delays in protecting our economy, our environment, and our health—especially the health of our children.”

Meeting the CPP will also benefit public health. The EPA estimates climate and health benefits worth an estimated \$55 billion to \$93 billion

in 2030, including avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children.

Those benefits are why Columbus-area mother Michelle Timmons, whose son has asthma, strongly supports acting now to create a state plan.

“As parents, we always want what is best for the future of our children,” said Michele Timmons, a Reynoldsburg mother with an asthmatic son. “By implementing the Clean Power Plan and restoring Ohio’s clean energy standards, our state’s leaders have the opportunity to stand up for the health of our kids. It is the right thing to do, and it will make this mother proud to be an Ohioan.”

The event, which took place at the Ohio Statehouse in the Ladies’ Gallery, also focused on the need for lawmakers and Gov. Kasich to “unfreeze” the state’s clean energy and energy efficiency laws. The laws were put on hold by the legislature and Kasich in 2014.

“Cleaner energy and energy efficiency can be opportunities to grow quality jobs,” said Teresa Hartley, United Steelworkers District 1 Women of Steel Coordinator. “From the manufacturing of renewable energy component parts and power plants themselves, to construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of these cleaner energy systems, our state stands to gain from smart policies and strategic investments that build a clean energy economy right here in Ohio.”

## State Releases Funds For Local Company’s Work On Mine Safety Training Site

*New facility to help reduce workplace accidents, fatalities*

by *Nickie Antonio*

State Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) announced the release of \$160,269 in state funds for pre-construction design work by Lakewood’s Regency Construction Services Inc. at a new mine safety training facility in Harrison County.

“I am pleased the state is working with local businesses like Regency Construction, a company that puts people to work from our communities,” said Antonio. “This investment will help ensure the safety and well-being of working people in Ohio’s coal mining industry.”

The contract with Regency Construction Servicer, Inc. will begin pre-construction phase services, such as conceptual site planning and design work for the Limited Indoor Mine Simulator in Cadiz, Ohio.

The new simulator is part of a broader state effort that sees the Ohio

Division of Natural Resources train over 3,000 miners, annually. The need for extensive statewide training and simulating real mining experiences comes as an effort to reduce accidents, deaths and injuries related to mining. Roof collapses and even fires may occur during mining. The inaccessibility of underground mines can make rescue efforts difficult, making accident pre-

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Lakewood Public Library

Local Jazz Singer Nancy Redd At LPL

by Hiam Jawhari

Jazz has its roots in the United States, in New Orleans. Its origins include folk, marches, ragtime, classical and blues. The modern drum set was actually invented by jazz musicians, and the two colloquial words “cool” and “hip” were originally jazz terms.

On Sunday February 28, Lakewood Public Library welcomes Nancy Redd at 2:00 p.m. in our Main Auditorium. Redd is a famous jazz singer and musician. Her voice is strong and passionate, sweet and ele-

gant. Music runs in the family for Redd, who began singing at the age of four, and playing flute at the age of nine. She was selected for the Cleveland All City Orchestra and Cleveland Music Solo and Ensemble Competition as a youngster, which encouraged her to pursue formal training. Her passion for music led her to study music at Baldwin Wallace College. She continued to take private lessons in music while working with her father, a tenor saxophone master. Redd is also a songwriter and local actress, appearing in

local television commercials. Between the mixture of flute and vocals, she presents the best of jazz. The genre is important to both father and daughter - they like to protect and maintain the moral and ethical principles of jazz for new generations.

Nancy Redd has performed at local venues, such as Wade Oval and the Cleveland Public Library Women in Jazz Series. Don't miss a night of entertainment with her enchanted voice at the Lakewood Public Library this February



Nancy Redd

Great Lakes Theater Presents

Agatha Christie's "The Secret Adversary"

by Elaine Rosenberger

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7 p.m. Great Lakes Theater is coming to Lakewood Public Library to perform a world premiere adaptation of Agatha Christie's "The Secret Adversary." The adaptation is by David Hansen, and Lisa Ortenzi directs the Free Outreach Touring Production.

In this original adaptation, young Thomas Beresford and Prudence "Tuppence" Cowley decide to become

adventurers for hire and swiftly find themselves in an international plot to bring down the British government. Time is not on their side as they plot to uncover the mysterious Mister Brown. Five actors bring this suspenseful tale for all ages to life.

Please join us on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7 p.m. The play is being performed in the Main Library Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Road. Admission is free and open to all.



Mystery awaits at LPL thanks to Great Lakes Theater's FREE outreach touring productions.

Acting Out Puppets

by Marge Foley

Acting Out Puppets will be performing a 30 minute puppet show for children of all ages on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Two stories of fractured fairy tales will have the audience laughing at the crazy antics of colorful clown and animal puppets. The playful fun-filled tales will delight both young-

sters and adults. Generously funded by the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library, this program will take place in the Main Library Multipurpose Room, which is located in Children's and Youth Services. No registration is required. The performance will begin at 7 p.m. Bring your family and enjoy the fun!



Little Red Riding Hood meets the Wolf during her adventures as part of Acting Out Puppets on Saturday, February 20 at 7 p.m. at LPL.

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A photograph of a woman lying down, surrounded by red roses.

Lakewood Area Collaborative Job Club Meeting At New Location

by Kathy Augustine

The Lakewood Area Collaborative is hosting a monthly Job Club at the Lakewood United Methodist Church (LUMC) at 15700 Detroit Ave (new location). The next Job Club meeting will be held on Tuesday February 23rd, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood United Methodist Church. We will have a guest

speaker, Kris McGuigan from Professional Courage. The topic will be Job Search Strategies. Also, we will provide information and resources to assist people with finding a job in today's market. The Job Club is free and open to the public.

For information contact Becky Carlton at Rebeccacarlton12@gmail.com or 216-221-1723.

Cleaning/Janitorial Opening  
At Lakewood Public Library

by Jody Wilkerson

Lakewood Public Library is seeking an energetic, organized individual to perform maintenance routines including dusting; floor care; collecting trash; cleaning restrooms; shoveling snow; basic electrical and plumbing; must be able to lift 75 lbs. Valid Ohio driver's license required. Day, evening and weekend work. 40 hours per week. Salary is \$12.00 per hour. Application deadline is Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Qualified and interested applicants may call Jody Wilkerson at (216)226-8275 ext. 104 to arrange for an application.

# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

### 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

### Thursday, February 18 The First Amendment: Freedom of Assembly with Barbara Greenberg, JD

This third session in our four-week series will focus on the First Amendment guarantee of Freedom of 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.

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

### Friday, February 19 Booked For Murder: Murder in Motion

Lovers of mystery take to the skies, seas and rails this season. This Thursday's book is *"Decked"* by Carol Higgins Clark.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

### Saturday, February 20 "Open Your Eyes" (1997) Directed by Alejandro Amenábar

Cameron Crowe and Tom Cruise teamed up to remake this surreal Spanish thriller as *"Vanilla Sky,"* and their film made us see the original. A handsome playboy figures that he can have any woman he wants. One night, a spurned ex-lover takes him for a ride and crashes her car right into a concrete wall, intending to kill them both. Surviving proves to be a fate worse than death as his handsome face is reduced to a hideous mass of scar tissue. The lines between a man's dream life and his nightmares become hopelessly blurred when he can no longer see true beauty.

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

### Sunday, February 21 Sunday Cinema: "Body and Soul" (1947)

Although Anne Revere wants her son John Garfield to pursue an education, he sticks to an unshakable belief that the boxing ring is his ticket out of poverty. As he moves further up the fight card and the money comes rolling in, he learns to enjoy living in luxury. A promoter approaches Garfield and offers a deal for one last bout that guarantees the biggest purse of all, but it comes with a catch. Barbara Steffek-Hill returns to the Lakewood Public Library to present a series of classic films chosen from her personal favorites.

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

### Tuesday, February 23 Introduction to Ancestry: Library Editio

How far back would you like to trace your family tree? Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop. Space is limited, however, you are welcome to register with a partner and share a computer. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

### Thursday, February 25 The First Amendment: Freedom of Religion with Barbara Greenberg, JD

This fourth session in our four-week series will focus on the First Amendment guarantee of Freedom of Religion. 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 a religion? Who gets to decide?

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

### Saturday, February 27 LPC: "Starman" (1984) Directed by John Carpenter

Jeff Bridges was nominated for an Oscar for this—not an easy trick for popular science fiction. An alien from an advanced civilization crash lands on Earth and takes the form of Karen Allen's dead husband to fit in better. The Starman has come on a mission of peace, but he is not above taking her hostage on a cross country trip to the rendezvous point where he will be rescued. Along the way, Bridges manages to convey a commendably alien perspective as he picks up on the little things that make us human.

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

### Sunday, February 28 Nancy Redd Jazz

Sexy. Soulful. Sultry. She is the quiet storm, alternating between flute and her own unmistakable voice. Despite growing up with a passion for jazz, Nancy Redd studied classical flute. She also played in local bands with her father, Reggie Redd, a master of the tenor sax and a Cleveland legend. Father and daughter founded The Sounds of Jazz to introduce a whole new generation to jazz at its very best. Now that she has come into her own, you have an opportunity to witness the next legend in the making.

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

### Tuesday, March 1 Great Lakes Theater Agatha Christie's "The Secret Adversary"

Agatha Christie introduces her young adventurers Tommy and Tuppence in this free, seventy minute touring play! In this world-premiere adaptation, young Thomas Beresford and Prudence "Tuppence" Cowley decide to become adventurers for hire and swiftly find themselves in an international plot to bring down the British government. Time is not on their side as they plot to uncover the mysterious Mister Brown. Five actors bring this suspenseful tale for all ages to life.

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

## Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

### Friday, February 19 DIY Mini Book Necklaces For students in sixth through twelfth grade

We will teach you to sew, bind, and cover a mini book into a necklace with your favorite cover. All materials provided. Registration required.

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

### Saturday, February 20 Acting Out Puppets For the whole family

Various puppets, including a dragon, act out fun and playful stories. Free and open to the public. No registration required.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

### Saturdays & Sundays Family Weekend Wonders

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

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

## LakewoodAlive Announces 2016 Knowing Your Home Series

continued from page 1

series will continue throughout the repair season and will offer approximately fifteen workshops that will cover all aspects of home maintenance and repairs.

The series will continue in March with two workshops:

### Knowing Your Home: Pruning Trees & Shrubs in Your Landscape

Saturday, March 12th 10 a.m.-12 noon, Lakewood Women's Pavilion  
Presented by Bob Rensel and the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Tree Committee

### Knowing Your Home: Kitchen Remodeling

Saturday, March 19th 10 a.m.-12 noon, Cleveland Lumber  
Presented by Cleveland Lumber & Lou Wenner

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Citizens Bank, City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company, First Federal Lakewood, Remax Beyond 2000, Third Federal Savings & Loan.

In lieu of charging for these events, we are asking for participants to either consider making a donation to LakewoodAlive or bringing cans of food or non-perishable items for the Lakewood Community Services Center. We appreciate your support.

Please visit [LakewoodAlive.com](http://LakewoodAlive.com) or give us a call 216-521-0655 for a full schedule and more information regarding our Knowing Your Home series or the Housing Outreach Program.

*Allison Urbanek is the Housing Outreach Director for LakewoodAlive. Allison is a housing advocate and enjoys working with homeowners to help make homeownership easier. She and her husband Dave live in Lakewood and love being a part of the Lakewood community.*



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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Resident Wins Prestigious National Scholarship Award

by Roger Mazzarella

Bowling Green State University freshman prop/lock Sam Ciancutti has just been named a 2015 Kevin Higgins scholarship award winner by the United States Rugby Foundation. The award is for \$1000. Sam is the 3rd BGSU freshman rugger to earn this award following Bryan Kean in 2008 and Frank Viancourt in 2010.

Sam reinvented himself when he was introduced to rugby. At nearly 300 pounds and on the receiving end of much bullying and teasing, Sam dedicated himself to fitness, training and learning the game. As a result, he shed 100 pounds and has carved out a starting position with the Bowling Green State University Rugby Team.

Sam's motivation for self-enhancement did not go unseen. He was awarded Most Improved Player by his coaches at Lakewood High School. For three consecutive years, he was named captain, prompting a positive cultural change within the team. Helping others experience healthy lives is at the core of Sam's vision of success. He currently studies exercise physiology and plans to dedicate his life to developing a method of physical conditioning that would drive quality and longevity in both athletes and senior citizens alike.

"Aside from his obvious qualities: respect, conscientiousness and integrity, he displays certain qualities that one does not often see in a student: wisdom, self-reflection, and great social and political awareness," commented one of Sam's high school teachers. Coupled with a 3.22 GPA in high school, Sam demonstrated maturity beyond his chronological years. He continues that legacy in college along with his faith and commitment to God.

"Some kids you try to coach and you can just see their mind wandering--like 'what does this old guy know?'-- Not Sam," stated BGSU head coach Tony Mazzarella. "He is like a sponge. His eyes are riveted on every word you speak. The past summer,

before entering college, he spent a lot of time with the Cleveland Westside Rovers RFC - practicing, playing sevens and working on conditioning. Because I told him to do so? No - he completely came up with the plan by himself. I received several calls from Bowling Green grads on the Rovers with nothing but constant words of praise for Sam's commitment and work ethic."

In his first season at BGSU, Sam was instrumental in helping BGSU win its 35th straight Mid American Conference Championship.

Roger Mazzarella is the director of Rugby at Bowling Green State University.

He used to live on Alameda Ave before leaving to attend BGSU and has fond memories of playing at the Detroit end of Alameda before there was a City Hall and in the Gold Coast wilderness along the lake before there was a Gold Coast. He loves stopping at The Shore restaurant before heading down to Indians games.

Lakewood City Schools

Open Enrollment Dates Set

by Christine Gordillo

Open enrollment for the Lakewood City Schools for the 2016-2017 school year will take place online from February 29-March 31. A link will be placed

on the District website ([www.lakewood-cityschools.org](http://www.lakewood-cityschools.org)) on February 29 for parents to submit their requests. Decisions will be made by May 15. Families not having computer access can pick up

forms at school offices or receive assistance at a school building to complete the form online. Parents may also come for assistance at the Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road.

LHS Debuts National Art Honor Society

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education on Feb. 1 recognized the inaugural class of the LHS National Art Honor Society, led by adviser Dayna Hansen. The NAHS mission is to promote dedi-

cation to art and community service and recognizes the creative leaders at LHS. The group has contributed its talents to a variety of events throughout the year such as Homecoming, Carnival and the Pink Out Game.

Congratulations to the inaugural class of inductees: Hannah Allenson, Zoe Budzar, Halle Krebs, Anastasiya Kurylyuk, Sara McMillen, Isabel Romeo, Maggie Soneson and Emily Suleiman.

Lakewood High Class Of 1971 Sets 45th Reunion For June 10th & 11th

by Bob Hulligan

Lakewood High Class of 1971 is having their 45th Reunion the weekend of June 10th and 11th. Friday, June 10th there will be a gathering at VOSH in Lakewood at 1414 Riverside Drive. Vosh is located across from the Bee Clean Car Wash. The event starts at 6 p.m. and runs until ????. There is a cash bar, food is available and the event is FREE.

Saturday night, June 11th there is a picnic starting at 4 p.m. and running until ????. All food is provided, plenty of parking, and the cost is only \$15. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken, Cole Slaw, Baked beans, Loaded Potato Salad, Buns, and condiments, etc.

Contact Sandra (McClintok) Reagon, [Sandew1111@cox.net](mailto:Sandew1111@cox.net) for details on the pincic. RSVP by May 15th and let her know which event you will be attending. Make it both!

Send RSVP (with check) to LHS Class of 1971, 1311 Marlowe Ave., Lakewood, Ohio, 44107.

Looking forward to seeing everyone then!

State Releases Funds For Local Company's Work On Mine Safety Training Site

continued from page 5

vention critical to the future of mining. Regency Construction Services, Inc. is a small to medium-sized firm based in Lakewood, Ohio, specializing in estimation, scheduling and constructing of building designs and

projects. Founded two decades ago, Regency provides a client-centered approach to projects all over the state, working with community-based clients such as public and private pk-12 schools, colleges, and faith based churches and centers. Regency also has a branch in Columbus.

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Lakewood Schools

Grants Bring Music/Art Therapy To Horace Mann

by Christine Gordillo

Thanks to grants from the Horace Mann PTA and the Beck Center for the Arts, students in Horace Mann Elementary’s CHAMPS program for special needs students have been enjoying weekly music therapy sessions and will soon enjoy similar benefits with art therapy.

The PTA provided a teacher grant to help bring in Lauren Travillian, a therapist from Beck Center, which applied for its own grant to help cover the remainder of the cost for the program. The sessions foster artistic skills and aim to increase self-expression, positive behavior, impulse control and sensory experiences.



Jineen Suleiman gives it a go on the guitar.



Honnora Kovach plays the xylophone for her mother, Shannon.

“It’s nice to see them so engaged,” said Caitlin Dukes of her students.

The program calls for 11 weeks of music therapy and 11 weeks of art therapy. At a recent music session, the students sang songs, danced and moved to the music with colorful scarves and got the chance to make their own music with a guitar and xylophone.

CHAMPS teacher Cristina Smith said she and her CHAMPS colleague Maureen Crane “are so grateful to the Horace Mann PTA and the Beck Center for the Arts for funding this amazing opportunity.” The two have seen that over the nearly 11 weeks of the music program, students have improved their motor, communication, cognitive and social skills.

“Their smiles tell us that this experience has brought them joy and fostered their love for music,” Smith said.

Barnstormers Coffee House



This year, the Lakewood Highschool Barnstormers have started a new tradition of hosting coffee house style events a couple times a year. It’s a great time for the community to support the group by buying concessions, and seeing the abundance of talent Lakewood students have to offer. Pictured above: Senior Antonio DeJesus.

Zumba For Heart Health



The Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital paid a visit to Garfield Middle School recently to run a Zumba session for the school’s sixth-graders to help raise awareness of exercise in the role of heart health. February is national American Heart Month.

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Sports

# Ranger Sports News

by Mike Deneen

## LHS Hockey Family Honors Tom Stark

January 23rd was a special night at Serpentine Arena (Winterhurst), as the Lakewood Ranger hockey program paid tribute to Thomas “Boodah” Stark, who passed away ten days earlier. A large crowd of Ranger alums came to pay their respects to “Boodah,” who spent a lifetime helping the program. The evening began with a reception where friends and family shared memories of Stark, who was then honored in a pregame ceremony.

Stark (LHS Class of ’81) began playing hockey in Lakewood as a small child along with his brothers. When he arrived at Lakewood High School, he joined the Ranger program and played all four years. He formed a close bond with his teammates, and the group has stayed in touch. Among those friends is Mike Kohutich (Class of ’82), who played goalie for the Rangers. “I grew up

with Tom since junior high hockey,” said Kohutich, who attended the event. “We all played hockey our entire lives,” says Tom’s brother Pat Stark (LHS Class of ’84), “We’re as good friends today as we were when we were seven.”

“Boodah” lived and breathed Ranger hockey. As an adult, he stayed involved with the program. He served as Rangers public address announcer for over 25 years of home games. He also enjoyed working with the kids. He helped coach and motivate the players, and acted as a consultant for the program. His public service extended beyond LHS, as he also coached hockey for the Special Olympics for over 20 years.

The Stark family was impressed with the pre-game ceremony. Brothers Pat and Tim (LHS Class of ’82) were presented with Boodah’s #19 Ranger jersey. His jersey will now hang in the PA booth during all Ranger home games. “It was awesome,” said Tim Stark after walking

off the ice. Pat summed up the evening best when he said, “Hockey is a family.”

## Boys Hoops Tournament Schedule Set

The OHSAA conducted the boys’ basketball tournament draw on February 7. The Ranger boys will play Cleveland Rhodes High School on February 24 at Rhodes. The game will tip off at 7 p.m. If the Rangers win, they move on to play Brecksville-Broadview Heights on February 27 at 7 p.m. in Brecksville.

St. Edward is the top seed in the Strongsville district, and chose to take a bye for the first round of the tournament. The Eagles will host the winner of a John Marshall/Valley Forge game on February 27 at 7 p.m. The Marshall/VF game will take place on February 24 at John Marshall.



Stark’s jersey in the Rangers announcing booth. It will hang there for future home games in his honor.

# Girls’ Hoops Dominates Tournament Opener; Rocky River Next

by Mike Deneen

The LHS girls basketball team defeated Normandy 58-37 on Saturday to advance to the second round of the OHSAA State Championship tournament. Christin Donahoe led the Rangers with 16 points, including 11 in the third quarter.

Lakewood took control of the game early in the first quarter, jumping to a 7-0 lead in the first minute and a half. Sophomore Olivia Nagy established the inside game with a pair of buckets early. The Rangers carried a 22-16 lead into the second quarter, thanks to three point baskets from seniors Christin Donahoe and Mallory Shaw. Lakewood continued to build in the lead, as a three pointer by Junior Ryann Greenfield late in the second quarter helped build a 37-24 halftime lead. Lakewood had

pesky defense throughout the game, as the Ranger guards were able to get many backcourt steals against the Invaders.

The Rangers snuffed out any hopes of a Normandy comeback early in the third quarter, as Donahoe scored the first nine points of the second half to open a 46-24 lead. She singlehandedly outscored the Invaders 11 to 4 in the third period, effectively putting the game away. A pair of 4th quarter buckets by junior Christina Kamkutis contributed to the final 58-37 margin.

The Rangers move on to play Rocky River on Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. That game will take place at Rocky River, where the two teams battled in a double overtime tilt on February 10. The Rangers prevailed in that game, 45-41, in a chippy contest, and the rematch promises to be great battle.

# LHS Grad Honored For Athletic Accomplishments At College Level

by Jim Stahlheber

Martha Nagbe, a standout Lakewood high school athlete who graduated in 2009, was honored this past Saturday, February 13, 2016 for her accomplishments in basketball at Notre Dame College.

Despite suffering numerous knee injuries, Martha will end her college career as the college’s leader in a number of categories including total points, steals and rebounds.

She has a grade point average of 3.9 as well.

She was honored at Saturday afternoon’s game against Fairmont State, where she led her team to a 85 to 72 victory.

In attendance at the game were family and friends as well as her coaching staff from Lakewood, former head coach Nicole Anderson, assistant head coach, Al DiGregorio Sr. and JV coach Jim Stahlheber.



Martha Nagbe with high school coaches Nicole Anderson and Al DiGregorio Sr.

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Beck Center Teen Theater Presents

Eric Coble’s “Bright Ideas”

by Pat Miller

Beck Center Teen Theater presents “Bright Ideas” by Cleveland’s most prolific playwright Eric Coble, February 26–28 and March 4–6, 2016 in the Studio Theater. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. A student matinee performance is 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 3. Tickets are on sale now. This production is rated PG-13 due to strong language.

“Bright Ideas” follows Joshua and Geneva, who will do anything to get their son Mac into Bright Ideas Early Childhood Development Academy. When the opportunity arises, they find themselves one fatal dinner party away from the ultimate success as parents: The Right Preschool. This dark comedy mirrors Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” as Josh and Gen follow a path toward destruction in pursuit of their somewhat irrational desires, or at least irrational expectations. You may never look at preschool—or pesto—the same way again!

Under the direction of Jonathan Kronenberger, the cast of 16 Beck Center students ages 13–19 are thrilled to take on Eric Coble’s play. Having attended Ohio University together, Kronenberger believes Coble’s work “innately inspires actors to bring out their best. When it comes to the teen production, it is important we take full advantage of the opportunity to explore a quality script by a skilled playwright.” Kronenberger believes “Bright Ideas” is the perfect fit, allowing the cast to delve into the work of a living playwright while exploring themes of ambition and corruption in a funny and insightful way.

Tickets are \$12 for Adults/Seniors and \$10 for Students/Children (18 and under), and may be purchased online at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) or by calling 216.521.2540 x10. Schedule a Student



Matinee (grades 9-12) by calling Customer Service Manager Rennie Tisdale at 216.521.2540 x28. The 2015–2016 Youth Theater Season concludes with “big THE MUSICAL,” May 13–22, 2016, on the Mackey Main Stage. Discounted group rates are available for all productions.

Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free onsite parking is available. This production of “Bright Ideas” is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play 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.

Hey Hey, I’m The Monkees:

Reviews Of Recent Releases

By Local Artists, Pt. 19

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.*

**Counter Intuits - Monosyllabily - Pyramid Scheme Records - 13 songs - LP**

Counter Intuits have made another great album. This is, I think, their first release with the new “Junior Division Personnel” (there was a cassette that I don’t have between this and the last LP, so I can’t say for sure), and it rules. Counter Intuits, if you are unaware, is a group formed by Ron House (Great Plains, Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments, Psandwich, etc.) on vocals and Jared Phillips (Times New Viking) on everything else. They play a catchy type of minimal-sounding punk. Maybe it’s not exactly punk, but it’s got that punk thing going on, ya know? Anyway. My particular favorites on the LP were “Password (Is Password),” a fan favorite that has finally made it onto record, “Deep Storage Space,” the first on the album to introduce all the new members, those being Joey P Nixx (Joey Nix of Shitbox Jimmy), Drew Ritchie (Drew Ritchey of Cheap Clone and Shitbox Jimmy), and Roseanna Safos (whose name is spelled normally, and is from Cheap Clone and Goldmines and probably at least 20 or 30 more), which has a melody that reminds me very much of Great Plains (which makes total sense, considering who the singer is in both of these bands), and “Sunglasses After Death,” which, aside from what I assume is a reference to The Cramps’ “Sunglasses After Dark,” also is just a great song, in which House proclaims “all you have left is sunglasses after death.” The record closes with the ultra-catchy twosome of “Actors Running Sound” and “Rocket Surgery,” which are both great, but especially “Rocket Surgery,” which I assume is the step above rocket science, and has a great one-note guitar solo. This is one of those albums that grows on you more and more each time you listen to it. And of course, all the songs feature their catchy melodies, idiosyncratic style, and Ron House’s incomparable vocals, which, if you’ve never heard them, are worth getting the record just for the experience. 5/5

**Lowly, The Tree Ghost - From The Ground - self-released - 12 songs - CD, download**

Note: this isn’t actually out yet, I don’t think. Let me consult my notes real quick. Ok, it will be released on March 4th. I think they have a release show at the Happy Dog on that day. Anyway. This is a very poppy album. I suppose the proper genre classification would be “indie rock,” but as I’ve gotten some flak recently for “agonizing over what style of music it is,” I’ll leave it at that. I think a lot of these songs could be radio hits. Lowly, as I’ll abbreviate their name, have hooky melodies and lively harmonies, so there. Especially the opening track, “Whale Calls” with its simulated whale-noise opening, retro keyboards and alternating lead vocals. They also have a violin player (or maybe viola? I’ve never been great with the classical strings), which adds strong elements of Americana to certain songs, especially “Jeremy Fisher Pt. 2.” My favorites on the record were “Twin Peaks, WA,” “Shake, Rattle, And Roll These Bones,” (I approve of the use of the Oxford comma), and the hypnotic “Long May You Love.” Probably a good one for you indie rock fans. 3.5/5

**Ma Holos - The Down Five - Quality Time Records - 11 songs - Cassette, download**

I think it’s probably a testament to how good Ma Holos are that the song “Space Junkie Babe” (or, as it appears here, “Space Junky Babe” --not quite sure of the reasons behind the spelling change, but I have to assume it’s ‘cause of Burroughs-- has now appeared on three separate Quality Time Records cassette releases and I’m still not tired of it (those cassettes, for reference purposes, are the “Quality Time Records Volume #1” comp, Ma Holos split tape with The Nico Missile, and now this one). So what do Ma Holos sounds like? Well, given that the title of this cassette is a reference to the Velvet Underground, that should probably be a clue. They’ve got a groovy punk type of feel,

continued on page 15

Beck Center Teen Theater  
presents  
**BRIGHT IDEAS**  
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Directed by Jonathan Kronenberger  
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Lakewood Cares

Think Spring At LEAF Community Open House

by Margaret Brinich

**LEAF Community Open House**

Many people say that LEAF is one of the top reasons they love Lakewood, so isn't it time that you find out about all that LEAF Community has planned for 2016? Learn more about volunteering, the community gardens, community supported agriculture programs, and our educational program series. We are hosting some guest vendors this year too, who

will be selling locally grown and produced foods. Confirmed vendors thus far include City Fresh, Geauga Family Farms, and "Dave the Grain Man" - with more to come soon!

This year's Open House will be held on Sunday, March 12th from noon-2 p.m. in the Main Library's Multi-Purpose Room.

**Community Garden Applications**

Returning gardeners in good standing are currently able to re-reg-

ister for their garden plots. If you are a returning gardener and have not received a renewal application, please email [leafcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:leafcommunity@gmail.com).

New gardeners will be given the opportunity to register online, starting at 6 am, February 25, 2016.

**About LEAF Community**

Lakewood Earth and Food (LEAF) Community is dedicated to the development of a more sustainable, healthful and economically viable community through environmentally responsible actions producing broad access to fresh, local foods, knowledge and culture.

Connect with our community, stay up to date and show your support



by joining the LEAF Facebook Group. Receive updates, invites to our events, and have the ability to post messages and have discussions with other members and partners: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/leafc/>. Visit [www.leafcommunity.org](http://www.leafcommunity.org) for more information.

AARP Free Tax Aide Help

by Joan Miller

AARP Tax-Aide brings you free electronic filing of your tax returns.

The IRS-certified volunteers are ready to help income taxpayers of all ages. You do not need to be an AARP member to receive this service.

A photo ID & Social Security # are required at time of visit. Please bring last year's tax return if possible.

AARP tax-aide help is available Monday & Tuesday noon to 3:30 p.m. starting February 1st, 2016 at the Lakewood Senior Center West located at 16024 Madison Ave., Lakewood. An entrance with handicap ramp and stairs is located on Northland side of building.

No appointment necessary. Walk-ins welcome.

“Movers & Shakers Of Lakewood”

by Tammy Sibert

On January 27th, O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood hosted a new senior dance and social club called the "Movers & Shakers of Lakewood." This event will be held on the last Wednesday of every month and is free and open to the public.

There will be a rotation of live entertainment, refreshments, socializing and of course DANCING! The dances are held in the Assisted Living building at 1381 Bunts Road, 4th Floor. You can find the 2016 schedule below. See you at the next Movers & Shakers dance on February 24!



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2016		
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Far West Center's Mental Health Services For HIV/AIDS Patients

by Alicia Goodelle

Far West Center has received a Ryan White grant to provide outpatient mental health services for eligible persons with HIV/AIDS living in Lorain or Cuyahoga Counties. The psychological and emotional impact of HIV/AIDS can be overwhelming. Often, the diagnosis itself triggers a host of mental health problems that worsen symptoms of the illness itself.

Far West Center is an experienced provider of specialized mental health services, including the care of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Outpatient services include evaluation, counseling, psychiatric care, medication, case management, and recovery support sessions. Through both locations in Amherst and Westlake, Far West Center is able to provide these services conveniently "under one roof."

Individuals with HIV/AIDS in need of the Center's services may self-refer, or be referred by health care

providers from local hospitals, clinics, or the community. According to Kelly Dylag, President/CEO of Far West Center, "Our community is fortunate to have such capable health care partners as the Infectious Disease Clinic at Mercy Regional Medical Center and the Elyria City Health District, partnering with us to serve our Lorain County HIV/AIDS patients." These providers have been instrumental in linking patients to mental health care at Far West Center.

All three organizations receive grant funding for caring for HIV/AIDS patients through the Ryan White grant administered by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Far West Center is an award-winning community mental health center, which serves residents of Lorain County and western Cuyahoga County.

For more information, call 440.835.6212, ext. 230 or [intake@far-westcenter.com](mailto:intake@far-westcenter.com).

Pet Food Collection Drive



"My Best Friends Bowl," the Lakewood volunteer group that provides pet food for local families in need, held its "Stuff the Subaru" collection drive on Puppy Bowl Day. Four-legged pal Gunnar helped the volunteers.



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Forum

# Challenging White Supremacy Is Freedom Of Speech

by Tim Collingwood

I recently moved to Cranford Avenue, which is a few streets past downtown Lakewood and a few streets toward the Rocky River Loop. I moved there before November, and there were political signs a-plenty regarding the upcoming local election. A friend who has lived in Lakewood for a while said that come election season, Lakewood is known for having yard signs in the same way Parma, Ohio is known for pink flamingos. Lakewood is a political town with a politically-conscious community, which isn't bad and very reassuring. One of the first signs I noticed was a sign not too far from my apartment reading "Black Lives Matter" and a reference to a website for Showing Up For Racial Justice.

After the attacks in Paris, I was walking to the bus stop for work and noticed the sign vandalized with a taped up sign reading, "What about Paris?! ALL LIVES MATTER." I immediately shared what I saw on Facebook with a status that, being a Black Lives Matter activist myself, was this: "#blacklivesmatter is to stress the racist hierarchy, not enforce it." I later found out from a friend who attends Showing Up For Racial Justice meetings that the taped sign was taken down, and the sign is still there.

Well, having since joined up with Showing Up For Racial Justice, which is an advocacy group for anti-racist white allies who want to

contribute to Black Lives Matter and who do not want to dominate discussion and give activists of color their respective space and respect their right to cue allies on how best to help support their voices being heard, I see on social media that the sign in my neighbor's lawn was vandalized again, this time with a red-spray painted "ALL" to cover the "BLACK."

Cranford Avenue is like any other street in Lakewood. People have political opinions and they don't mind expressing them let alone letting people consider them as they drive up towards Clifton Avenue or down towards Detroit Avenue, and every other street in between. Where I live closer to Clifton, we have two yards with signs still in support for Save Lakewood Hospital. There is a house with a P.O.W./M.I.A flag. There is a duplex with the Irish flag displayed proudly, and very close to Clifton, there is a sign with a swastika, which though not considered much with the Buddhist sign for peace and tranquility, but the corrupted version meaning white supremacy, which probably reflects on my neighbors' political opinions on race. A political opinion on race that is protected under the First Amendment of free speech.

Now, there doesn't seem to be vandalism done to any one of my neighbors' lawns and what they choose to display on them. It must take a very controversial opinion to

be expressed for someone to constantly cover the Black in Black Lives Matter as they have done. My neighbor has a right to express her political opinion on race as much as my neighbor with the swastika, but apparently, my neighbor with the swastika is more acceptable than the opinion on race that challenges white supremacy, and to me, that is just sad. My neighbor also has First Amendment rights to display for people to consider traveling up or traveling down my street. It takes a concentrated effort and audacity to violate my neighbor's right to her own privacy and freedom of expression to walk on her lawn at some unconscionable hour just to stress a dependency on white supremacy and a trust that a hierarchy is working for them to constantly devalue black lives by devaluing a supporter's yard sign. Lakewood has a diverse population at that, and my street is diverse, but white supremacy is no excuse for vandalism. My neighbor has every right to put to task whoever is doing this to her lawn, as I have a right to post my own Black Lives Matter yard sign in my lawn as well.

All my neighbor is doing is practicing her right to free speech. I guess where the disregard of that right comes into play being a white ally to Black Lives Matter, is when there are insecure white people on our street who may tell people they aren't racist, but have no problem literally erasing black people from a phrase stating that they matter, because they do. Challenging white supremacy is freedom of speech, and I would rather have a block



What racism looks like.

discussion night about race touching on this matter than continue to see my neighbor's lawn vandalized because of an opinion that isn't commonly valued but needs to be more. Anti-racist speech deserves equal protection.

Tim Collingwood is a Lakewood resident of the past year, who writes blogs for Tumblr, and has written blogs for TCM, and is/was the Akron Classic Movie Examiner. He would like to write about issues pertaining to social justice and how they are affecting the Lakewood community. He believes in the power of citizen journalism, and as a reader of Lakewood Observer, likes that he gets it.

## Local Couple Wins H&R Block \$1,000 Prize



Jason and Jessica Pember were among the many lucky winners of \$1000 from H&R Block's sweepstakes that gave \$1000 a day to 1000 people everyday from January 15 to February 15. They received their check on Valentine's Day which made their day a little sweeter! They are clients of the H&R Block office located at 18428 Detroit Ave and are pictured with Office Manager Julie Derrick.

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## Forum

# Reviewing The Best Picture Nominees: What's Your Favorite?

by Mark Moran

The 88th Academy Awards are approaching, and for those of us who love movies it is an opportunity to think about what makes a film compelling and sometimes unforgettable. Here are brief reviews of the eight nominees for Best Picture, ranked in order of this reviewer's favorites.

**"Spotlight"** tells the story of the Boston Globe's explosive expose of child abuse in the Boston diocese which later detonated throughout the Catholic world. The trailer, widely viewed in theater previews and on YouTube, depicts reporter Michael Rezendez (played by Mark Ruffalo) demanding to know when the newspaper will go public with what it has learned. It's an authentic emotional flashpoint—but it's also unrepresentative of what makes this movie so powerful; for this is a film that studiously avoids emotional grandstanding.

The background of the story, the Church's systematic protection of repeat sexual predators, is so emotionally charged that the film doesn't need to grandstand. It is fundamentally a movie about journalism—work-a-day, investigative journalism of the kind that is threatened by the demand for digital speed and brevity. The victims, now in their adulthood, are heartbreaking, but quietly so. The one accused priest who makes a brief appearance is depicted not as a monster, but as pathetic and emotionally stunted. The journalists are personally invested, but they are not firebrands, just very competent professionals (and there are none of the shopworn motifs about reporters; they even dress reasonably well, or at least not like total slobs). All of the actors are exceptional—Ruffalo as Rezendez (a likeable regular guy and old school reporter), Michael Keaton as Spotlight team leader Robby Robinson (careful, smart, treading the waters with Church higher-ups who would like the story to go away), and Liev Schreiber as editor Marty Baron (a deeply self-contained character whose recessive nature draws you to him and drives the reporters). This is a brilliant movie.

**"The Big Short"** (based on the non-fiction book by Michael Lewis) depicts the true story of some sharp Wall Street types who foresaw the colossal fraudulence of the mortgage industry and its sensational collapse in 2008. It's an entertaining education if not exactly a comfortable movie-going experience. The humor—it does actually manage to be funny—is very bitter, and the joke, I'm afraid, is on the American public whose distracted cultural self-absorption and consumerism is depicted as fodder for a vast corruption founded, from top to bottom, on make-believe. There is a wicked cleverness in the movie's use of popular celebrities to explain the esoteric "instruments" designed by hedge fund managers at the top. (Selena Gomez, at a roulette wheel in Vegas, explains "synthetic collateralized debt obligations.") At the bottom end, a pair of Florida real estate gutter-snipes make a specialty practice of selling

over-leveraged mansions with adjustable rate mortgages to poll-dancing strippers who have a lot of ready cash, bed credit, and a tendency to be acquisitive.

It all really happened. The protagonists are not villains, just guys who saw what was coming and—with varying degrees of cynicism or anguish—cashed in. Steve Carell plays the anguished one, who prophetically announces as the house of cards is collapsing that no one will be held accountable and the resulting catastrophe will be blamed on immigrants and poor people.

Everyone will like **"Bridge of Spies,"** Steven Spielberg's latest that brings to life the story of James Donovan, an attorney who took on the job of defending captured Soviet spy Rudolph Abel at the height of the Cold War. Donovan then served as a negotiator with the Soviets trading Abel for Francis Gary Powers, the American shot down over Soviet airspace in a U2 spy plane.

The opening scene shows Donovan as an insurance attorney sparring with another lawyer over an insurance claim, and throughout the film he is depicted as a man with a preternatural awareness that every party in a negotiation has a self-interest and something to lose, and therefore needs...insurance. It makes him a capable negotiator. He's hired on by the CIA to negotiate for Powers' release (our side has a lot to lose if Powers divulges what he knows about the U2 mission). But Donovan can't be seen to be representing the U.S. government so (as the movie tells it) he's operating as a private citizen, which gives him free agency to call the shots. Donovan insists (against the wishes of his CIA masters) on playing for the release of another American, a young economics student detained by East German police.

Integrity and the American Way win out in this rattling good story. What's not to like? Never mind the real story was a little more complicated (of course it was), it's a nice piece of history (I knew nothing about Donovan before) well told and acted. My favorite part was the very convincing depiction of the tense border in Berlin, where two thermonuclear superpowers once stood toe-to-toe.

**"Brooklyn,"** based on the novel by Colm Toibin, is proof in this wisened-up age that a compelling movie can still be made from a simple love story, some fine acting, and some pretty camera work. Set in 1952, a young Irish girl named Eilis (pronounced AY-lish), leaves her mother and sister behind when she emigrates to America, landing in Brooklyn where she falls in love with a local. Complications arise when she is called back to the old country upon the death of her sister, and Eilis must make a choice between her birth home and her life in the New World.

The primary romantic love story and triangle is a sentimental one, perhaps a bit too impossibly sweet for

wisened-up types. And the movie trades unashamedly on a couple of charms that for American audiences will never, ever die: period images of the immigrant experience, and the special magic that adheres to anything involving an accent or a brogue from the British Isles.

So much for wisened-up cynicism. The really compelling love story here is the love of a place called home and the heartache and contradictions that always attend having to leave. Saoirse Ronan is a contender for best actress in a leading role. Certainly, if there were a category for "Most Expressive Face" she would walk away with it.

"Out in the world, things happen and happen and happen, and it never stops." That's just one of the Zen-like observations of a five-year old boy named Jack who emerges from a room in which he has spent all his young life with his mother, in **"Room,"** the most decidedly un-Hollywood movie of the seven nominees for Best Picture.

For the first 20 minutes viewers are immersed in the room—or "Room," Jack's word for the only world he knows—with no explicitly clear idea why he and his mother are there. Just as well, because the backstory to why they are there is not what the film is about. (Cleveland audiences may be unavoidably reminded of a certain sensational local episode; my advice, if you want to experience what this film has to offer, is to forget about it.) What the film is about is Jack's awakening, after leaving the room, to an unconfined universe he didn't know existed, a meditation on the vastness of human freedom in a universe without walls, without boundaries. His esoteric but believably childlike observations are grounded in the unglamorous reality of his surroundings and the complications associated with the aftermath of his and his mother's ordeal. (Some of that aftermath seems wayward and disjointed or just nonsensical—a distraction from the movie's purpose.) The film didn't quite come together (for this viewer) until the last powerful scene when Jack and his mother return to look at the room, now gutted and empty. Anyone who has ever revisited a landmark of one's most trying experience will recognize the emotions—a sympathy for the person you were who survived, and a peculiar longing (or anyway, some little affection) for the comfortable familiarity of our sundry confinements, whether they take the form of a locked room, an impossible predicament, or an addiction. There is just the merest, but unmistakable, wistfulness in Jack's voice when he tells his mother, "Room isn't Room when there isn't a door," before the two of them leave it behind forever.

I didn't get to see all the nominated films, so I asked Cliff Seeger Destino, age 17, film student and aspiring filmmaker, to review the three movies—"Mad Max," "The Revenant" and "The Martian"—I didn't see. Here's Cliff's take:

**"Mad Max: Fury Road"** is the

fourth installment of the Mad Max series by director George Miller and an anomaly in the sense that the reboot is actually as good as the original films. The film follows drifter Max Rockatansky (Tom Hardy) who follows the heroine Furiosa (Charlize Theron) as she rescues a group of sex slaves (AKA wives) of the tyrannical leader Immortal Joe (Hugh Keays-Byrne) in a post-apocalyptic Australian Wasteland.

You can call this movie a lot of things; visceral, gripping, interesting, fast-paced. But none of those would be as perfect as simply calling it fun. It's just a fun movie. There are explosions, but they're not cheesy, there are no over-the-top villainous/heroic speeches, and most importantly there are no romances that you are forced to care about for no reason.

There wasn't a bad performance in the bunch (although despite how good she was, Charlize Theron was the only character in the movie who spoke in an American accent for no particular reason). Especially Nicholas Hoult who played evil minion turned good guy, Nux. The music was great, the editing superb, and the artistic direction was unbelievable. It's been nominated for 10 Oscars and it sure deserves them.

**"The Revenant,"** a film by Alejandro G. Iñárritu, is yet another example of Hollywood telling us, "Hey, look how good we are at making movies!" The movie follows the (mostly true) story of Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio), a frontiersman who is betrayed by a member of his group, John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy), and left for dead after a bear attack. Glass, still alive, crawls from his shallow grave to track down Fitzgerald for revenge (I say mostly true because in reality, Glass crawled out of the grave, tracked down Fitzgerald, and said "It's cool, man," or something of that nature).

This movie is like looking at a painting in the lobby of your standard hotel. Sure, it's a pretty picture, but you're not really going to be getting any meaning with it. It's a film that has some of the best, most carefully planned out and executed cinematography in the past decade, but it all feels wasted on the lackluster plot that has been done several times over. What saves it, other than the pretty landscapes, are the performances. Everyone is talking about how fantastic Leo was, but frankly Tom Hardy stole the show for me. DiCaprio is getting praised for actually eating a bison liver and going into the carcass of a dead animal, but if we were giving out Oscars for actors actually performing the disgusting acts they do on camera instead of pretending to do them, Johnny Knoxville and Steve-O would be up to their knees in awards by now. All in all, if you want to see a movie that has phenomenal cinematography, great performances, and uses all natural lighting, go see Stanley Kubrick's "Barry Lyndon."

**continued on next page**

Forum

# Field Of Dreams

by Mark Kindt

So what comes next? A few years from now, the former site of the Lakewood Hospital will be ready for redevelopment. Now is the perfect time for bold visionary leadership from our elected officials. We are presented with a unique once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the City of Lakewood to plan, develop and implement a major and enduring civic achievement on the more than five acres that will be shovel-ready for redevelopment in a few short years.

As thoughtful citizens, voters, and taxpayers how should we guide our elected officials toward a redevelopment that makes sense for our City -- that still reflects our highest values and the best use of the available site? Can we challenge our leaders to do something innovative and significant?

Here is a short list of guidelines that might help our community think about the redevelopment of the Hospital site in a way that will prevent us from settling for the first average plan that comes along. I believe these guidelines are reasonable and make sense from any number of public policy perspectives. Even from the common sense perspective, we all want something better for the former Hospital site than just more fast-food restaurants or condos. Don't we?

Let's start with a little thought exercise. Let's say that in the future our former Hospital site could host either a college campus or a casino. You say to yourself, "Casino! He must be nuts!" So right out the gate, we have a basic gut feel for what a poor redevelopment plan would look like. Most of us would be pretty disappointed if this was the actual plan for the site.

While I have no idea of whether a college campus would be the answer, it certainly seems more appealing at a basic civic level. Hopefully, by the time you finish this article, you'll understand why the college campus idea feels better than the casino.

**Public and Civic Benefit.** The first guideline that I suggest is that any redevelopment concept for the former Hospital site embrace a public purpose and provide long-term civic benefit to the City and its residents. This suggestion is based on the fact that historically most of this property has served just such a public purpose, originally as a cemetery and then from 1912 to the present as our Hospital. This guideline reminds us that public use and civic purpose can have a value beyond merely the commercial. Here are just a few examples of redevelopment ideas that would meet this guideline. We could build a fine public auditorium or a museum. We could build a new city hall on this five-acre parcel (opening other city property for additional redevelopment in the eastern half of the City). We could invite one of our public universities to build a branch campus here. Any one of these ideas would provide an enduring and valuable public and civic use of the former Hospital site.

terms of how the former Hospital functioned. Millions of dollars of public funds flowed through Lakewood Hospital decade-after-decade and sustained almost 1,000 employees, year-after-year. These public expenditures were from Medicaid, Medicare and the secondary coverages that Medicare encourages. These public expenditures did not come out of our local tax base, but indirectly contributed to it in a significant way. Like the rest of us, Hospital employees paid their Lakewood income tax annually. As we think about the redevelopment of the former Hospital site, our leaders need to give serious thought as to how to leverage non-local public funds either for redevelopment or operationally. An example for redevelopment that would meet this guideline would be the construction and operation of a Veteran Administration facility or other State or Federal facility. This is the boring, but valuable guideline.

**A National Design Competition.** We have the luxury of time since it will be several years before the former Hospital site is shovel-ready. Given this time, why not launch a national design competition to propose redevelopment projects along these criteria or similar criteria established by our fellow-citizens. Wouldn't that put Lakewood on the map as an innovative City?

## Reviewing The Best Picture Nominees: What's Your Favorite?

continued from previous page

"The Martian," a film by Ridley Scott, based on the novel by Andy Weir, is a reminder that classics still exist. The movie follows Mark Watney (Matt Damon) who, on a mission on Mars, is caught in a storm and is now abandoned on the red planet. He must find a way to signal earth so that NASA (and to a greater extent, the planet) can bring him back home.

By "classic" I don't mean it will be remembered for years to come, but that it's classically made. And that's a good

thing. There's so much focus on trying to be innovative that you often forget why movies are made in such a way in the first place. The film near-perfectly balances humor with drama, realism with fantasy, and the uplifting with the heart-wrenching. It's an incredibly well-built movie in every aspect and is, in the purest sense of the word, a blockbuster. The Martian may or may not win awards this year, but it will certainly (and unfortunately) be forgotten in 10-15 years and be remarked upon ("Oh yeah, remember that? That was pretty good") like many films before it.

**Innovation.** The second guideline would be that any redevelopment concept should embrace the innovative. Beyond public and civic benefit, we have the opportunity to create a major "center of excellence" that would showcase the City of Lakewood in a truly national leadership role. Imagine a campus of specialized science and technology centers pursuing high-end research in Lakewood. Columbus has one with Battelle. Why not Lakewood? An easy reach would be to establish a public-private partnership to build a facility for technology and business incubation. Here's where all the proposed private foundation money can help. On the easiest-side of innovation, we might want to ensure that any buildings on the former Hospital site serve as model examples of green infrastructure and energy efficiency.

**Leverage Other Public Funds.** This final guideline suggests that the redevelopment concept should be very taxpayer friendly by generating tax revenue for the City and also minimizing redevelopment subsidies to private parties. The easiest way to think about this idea is in

I'm sure there are other ideas for these kinds of guidelines. I hope you will contribute your own ideas in the coming dialogue with our elected representatives. Now is the time to think big!

## Hey Hey, I'm The Monkees: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Artists, Pt. 19

continued from page 11

with definite psychedelic glam vibes as well. The tone is set by the opener "Streethart," with its fuzzed out, echo-y guitars and the singer-guitarist's (who is not listed on the cassette, but whose name is Robert Joyce) signature vocal stylings. My highlights were the super catchy rocker "Caroline," ("It's just the way she walk, it's just the way she talk to me, it's just the way she move... she's so high all the time"--not positive about whether there are 's's on "walk," "talk," and "move," but I think not) which goes into this chaotic, noisy instrumental propelled by guitarist Marty Brass (whose name is also not listed, just in case you were curious) and then flings itself right back to the chorus; "Floored," which in some places almost sounds sunshine-poppy, has a darn good melody, and reminds me of a particular song or artist or something that I can't place for the life of me; "The End Of Jackie & Judy," which has got a cool riff and lyrics that I can't make out at all, but I feel like I'd like 'em; and "It's You," which takes you on a 6-minute psychedelic

trip, with spacey guitars (spacey, not space) and ultra-distorted bass. I liked it. 4.5/5

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

### Roman Fountain

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Forum

Second Chance Opportunity

by Bonnie Sikes

I spoke to hundreds of people in their homes, in parking lots and on the streets of Lakewood in 9 degree weather to gather signatures on the petition. Why? Because we promised we would have a referendum to repeal Ordinance 49-15 that council passed that gave all the assets of Lakewood Hospital to the Cleveland Clinic for pennies on the dollar. With our cur-

rent city council puppets, a referendum is the only way for the citizens to influence what will happen to their asset, Lakewood Hospital.

Council could have put their own referendum on the ballot because it was presumptuous for seven average people to decide to close the city's largest employer and that such a momentous issue needed to be voted on by the citizens of Lakewood.

Council could have supported Issue 64 which would have immediately placed the ordinance on the ballot for a vote of the people of Lakewood and avoided the mayhem at the Board of Elections.

Council could have responded to our petitions in a timely matter and put the referendum issue on the ballot in March.

Council did none of the above.

Obviously Council does not want to encourage a popular vote on the hospital.

Council has placed a high priority on preserving emergency care in Lakewood. They think that relying on the Cleveland Clinic is the best "low risk" option available. Council should take a look at Cleveland Clinic's Sagamore Hills emergency room that was shut down in December 2015. "It will be repurposed as an 'Express Care' facility where people will be treated for non-critical conditions," said Heather Philips, Senior director of corporate communications. This same scenario could happen in Lakewood.

Don't Give Up:  
This Hospital Should Be Ours

by Joe Gombarcik

Why do we need a new wellness center (euphemism for a Minute Clinic) when we now have a high-tech, clean facility as a fully-functioning hospital? Isn't that more appealing to any potential sponsor?

This is important for the residents of not only Lakewood but the surrounding communities as well! There are already several "mini-facilities" around the city already. One is near W.117 and Detroit, for example. We have those for headaches and prescriptions, but we don't have a fully functioning hospital in our future to take care of the "true" emergencies. And this is what has been one of the jewels in the crown of the city that has attracted businesses to relocate here. Are we giving up on the residents and businesses as well? Why? Once it's gone, it's never coming back!

What if you had a heart attack? Do you want a less-than-adequate facility where they would send you off after being stabilized (no overnight stays allowed)? Or do you want to go to a fully functioning hospital somewhere else where the additional time to be shuttled across town (several towns) may put you at death's door? Can the paramedics guarantee keeping you alive all those additional miles? Or after your time at a "wellness center," and you are stabilized, do you want another bone-jarring ride back across town (several towns)?

Shouldn't we be looking for supplemental ways to get money to reach our goals, rather than just giving up and tearing down another legacy asset? If the city can get grants to put in a new high-tech crosswalk, why not try to save our hospital? Why give up to the new hospitals being built? Would any restaurant, located here, give up on its

own dreams and relocate elsewhere if it couldn't get expansion money?

*Joe Gombarcik is an artist and amateur author who has been involved in local community events for many years. He is a member of Lakewood Neighborhood Block Watch.*

The "low risk" Cleveland Clinic option offers Lakewood only promises. Why partner with a corporation that breaks leases and offers no guarantees?

This referendum offers a rare second chance to City Council. Repeal Ordinance 49-15 and start over. We can do better.

Obstructionist Council  
Blows Opportunity To End  
Strife With March Vote

by Kevin Young

After a series of unaccounted for delays, Lakewood City Council decided to postpone a March vote to Save Lakewood Hospital.

The decision was made at a special council session that was called to discuss placing the issue on the March ballot.

The issue will either be placed in a special election in August at a cost to taxpayers of between 100,000 and 150,000 dollars or placed on the November ballot.

The popular conjecture is that council is playing the obstructionist card and purposely delayed the vote hoping that citizens would forget about it and move on. But the more citizens come to grips with the fact the hospital is closed, the more frustrated they become with their elected officials.

It was with council's 7 votes that the hospital was closed. Pit those 7 votes against the 2,686 certified signatures for the referendum to repeal the ordinance and it is easy to understand that a large and potent movement has begun.

As the lawsuit continues, The Save Lakewood Hospital Committee will be setting up forums to educate the public. These forums will carry on until the time that the issue is voted on, be it August or November.

In the meantime, the future of the hospital remains in limbo and our city remains divided as council missed a golden opportunity to end our city's strife sooner than later by placing the issue on the March ballot.

Save Lives, Save Jobs, Save Lakewood. Save Lakewood Hospital.

*Kevin Young is part of the Save Lakewood Hospital Committee.*

"In The Heights"  
At Beck Center

by Patrick M Meehan

It was 16 degrees outside and visibility was low but that didn't prevent people from getting to the Beck Center to see "In The Heights." Those that braved the cold were rewarded with another outstanding show by the Baldwin Wallace University Music Theater students under the direction of Victoria Bussert.

I overheard a patron from Texas comment that he couldn't believe this theater wasn't downtown. That made me smile.

This production of the 2008 Tony Award winner for Best Musical is a real treat with strong performances all around. If the weather gets warmer,

get to the Beck. If it stays cold, put on a parka and get to the Beck.

"In The Heights" runs from February 12-28 in the Mackey Theater at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107.





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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](mailto: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.

# Business News

## Last Chance To Register For: A Championship Run For Your Business

by Valerie Mechenbier

Invest in yourself - and in your retail business - attend “A Championship Run For Your Business” this Friday, February 19th at the University of Akron Lakewood.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce invites retailers from throughout the region to attend “A Championship Run For Your Business,” featuring two 90-minute virtual training sessions with Bob Negen, retail business expert, best-selling author of “Marketing Your Retail Store in the Internet Age,” and founder of “WhizBang! Training.” After owning his own award-winning retail store for over two decades, Bob Negen has spent the past 10 years teaching retailers, store owners, and managers the nuts-and-bolts skills they need to run successful stores. Mr. Negen is an engaging, high-energy speaker and is recognized as one of the most innovative marketers and retail experts in the U.S.

With a nod to the Cleveland Cavaliers as they make their Championship Run, the training event will begin with opening remarks

by regionally-known sports-themed retailers George and Greg Vlosich of GV Art + Design of Lakewood. GV Art + Design has worked with professional athletes and teams throughout the country and their apparel has garnered national attention from SportsCenter, TNT, MLB Network, and Jimmy Kimmel, and has been on the front pages of Yahoo, ESPN, NBA.com and Sports Illustrated.

Registration begins at 7:30am, opening remarks begin at 8:00am. The interactive training event consists of two 1.5-hour sessions beginning at 8:30am, with one 30-minute break. Breakfast is included, sponsored by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance.

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance members: \$50 for first attendee, \$30 each additional registration from the same business/organization. Non-Members: \$60, \$40 for each additional registration from the same business/organization.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Education Task Force is pleased to offer this event to local retailers. For more information and to register, visit [lakewoodchamber.org/a-championship-run-for-your-business/](http://lakewoodchamber.org/a-championship-run-for-your-business/).

I encourage you to take that road less travelled and be there at the beginning of the new Bay Village Community Theater. Remember, the first time only happens once.

If you are interested or have questions email [bay.village.community.theater@gmail.com](mailto:bay.village.community.theater@gmail.com) or attend one of our general meetings.

Our schedule for meetings:

Bay Library: 502 Cahoon Rd, Cleveland, OH 44140

Wednesday, March 16 @ 7 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of month)

Wednesday, April 20 @ 7 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of month)

Wednesday, May 18 @ 7 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of month)

Wednesday, June 29 @ 7 p.m. (last Wednesday of month)

will act as manager for all elements of the production for our upcoming production in July. Will oversee search for theatrical Director and be a point of contact for all department heads involved in production and may assign duties to department heads. May assist in locating shop facilities. Reports to President, John Hnat.

**Box Office Coordinator**

Position Availability: Immediate

Person interested in setting up and managing ticket sales for our upcoming production in July. We have other information to get you started on the right track.

We have already secured some key crew people, a venue and the rights to a play.

## Once In A Lifetime Opportunity

by Patrick M Meehan

The Citizens for Bay Village Community Theater invite you to participate in their first production scheduled for July this summer. If you have enjoyed seeing a play but can't picture yourself in the spotlight, here's your chance to become involved. Right now we are looking for some key players to work behind the scenes in an organizational capacity.

Required Skills: A sense of adventure. Some common sense. Positive attitude.

Optional Skills: Use of a telephone, calendar and Email.

**Production Coordinator**

Position Availability: Immediate

A detail oriented person who

calls to permit the referendum's inclusion on the March primary ballot.

Councilman Dan O'Malley, Ward 4, gestured in support of acting promptly. Acknowledging that he “had a number of concerns with the process” by which the city decided to close Lakewood Hospital, he expressed readiness to vote on repeal at once and, thereby, permit citizens their own decision.

O'Leary read out a letter from Pat McDonald, Director of the Board of Elections, indicating that a small window of opportunity did remain for a March referendum. After listing various challenges, which would follow from council's acting on the petition so late in the election cycle, McDonald declared nonetheless that, “I do believe that we would be able to successfully

conduct this election” with the addition, even now.

Council, nonetheless, took no action on the ordinance to repeal besides voting to accept a first reading. This left council's next scheduled opportunity to vote on repeal, itself, to a meeting on Tuesday, February 16, after the board's final deadline for the March primary. If council does not subsequently repeal ordinance 49-15, relevant law will require them to refer it to voters at some point in 2016. A special election, most likely in August, could cost the city close to \$100,000, or more. If officials decline to hold a special election, citizens' opportunity to vote on the hospital controversy will be delayed until November's general election.

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## City Officials Wary Of Engaging Voter Input On Lakewood Hospital Issue

continued from page 1

voice,” but none of council directly addressed whether or not the city would honor that voice's message if it rejected the hospital's closing.

Most of City Council seemed more interested in re-fighting older battles with petitioners. O'Leary and others repeatedly pressed council's guests to argue the merits of a repeal and their proposed alternative. In response, Young and others advocated a transparent, open bidding process as a superior alternative to the city's negotiations with Cleveland Clinic. Dean Dilzell, a member of the Citizens for a Strong Lakewood petition committee, asked, “Is it the position of the [Lakewood Hospital Association], the administration and this city council that it is necessary to put out a bid for a garbage truck, a snow plow and the maintenance thereof but not a \$150 million property?”

Some members of council then grew defensive at suggestions that council's own process was flawed. At-large representative Cindy Marx declared herself offended repeatedly, and David Anderson, Ward 1, complained of the large number of constituents contacting him to voice their objections.

Advocates of repealing ordinance 49-15, in turn, protested that arguments were beside the point if council had no intention to repeal on its own. A number of speakers invoked the phrase “dog-and-pony show,” and repeated

calls to permit the referendum's inclusion on the March primary ballot.

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Remarks during the evening left this issue unclear. O'Leary declared near the end of council's deliberations that, “This is an important issue on which our citizens need to have a

voice,” but none of council directly addressed whether or not the city would honor that voice's message if it rejected the hospital's closing.

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Lakewood Living

Lakewood Is “Ready For Hillary”  
With Official Office Opening

by Debra Sweeney

Lakewood for Hillary and Cuyahoga for Hillary are getting ready for the March primary in Ohio. With Early Voting beginning this week, the timing is ideal. Local campaign volunteers were thrilled to open the West Side Volunteer HQ on Sunday, February 14 with more than fifty Hillary Clinton supporters packing the office space and spilling over into Goddess Blessed.

On a crisp but beautiful Valentine’s Day and the eve of President’s Day, Democrats packing the room were rallied with chants of “Hillary, Hillary, Hillary” and heard from Lakewood Councilmembers Cindy Marx and Tom Bullock and State Representatives Nickie Antonio and Kent Smith. Other elected officials in attendance included County Councilman Dale Miller, Lakewood Councilman Dan O’Malley and Cleveland Councilman Matt Zone.

Clinton supporters traveled from Orange and Shaker Heights on the east side, North Royalton, Parma and Strongsville on the south side, from all over Cleveland, Lakewood, the west side including Olmsted Falls, Westlake and Rocky River and



A nice sized crowd of elected officials and supporters from all walks of life turned out for the Valentine’s Day opening of the local Hillary office, despite cold temperatures.

west to North Ridgeville and the Catawba Islands! They were not disappointed.

In her remarks, S.R. Nickie Antonio said, “I’m very excited to be here today at the Lakewood office opening for Hillary Clinton. A vote for Hillary is a vote to move this country forward. With hope and determination that we can do better--we must elect the most qualified

person for the next president of the United States. That person is Hillary Clinton. Let’s get to work!”

Local efforts started last June with a large countywide meeting downtown. Dedicated volunteers for the campaign did extensive voter registration and volunteer recruitment at nearly every festival and community picnic over the summer and fall. For campaign veterans, fall and winter mean house meetings and coffee... lots of coffee. Hillary Clinton visited Cleveland in August and held a massive rally at Case Western Reserve University. President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton have also visited Cleveland to fund-raise and meet with volunteers and activists. On Monday, February 15, Chelsea Clinton visited the Murtis H. Taylor Center in Cleveland.

The kick-off of the primary season saw volunteers phone-banking everyday into the early states including Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. Michael, a 17-year old Fairview Park High School student who came to the event on Sunday had made 90 calls

into Iowa on one day in support of Hillary Clinton! Ninety calls!! “I looked at all of the candidates and she has the most experience to lead,” Michael said.

The West Side Volunteer HQ is coordinated by volunteer staff and will be the hub for the West Side as other city organizers secure space for GOTV efforts. Other Cuyahoga offices are slated to open including offices in Shaker Square, Cleveland and then across the county. While Lakewood was the first Hillary office in Ohio, volunteers are opening offices across the state over the next two weeks.

The office is located at 15729 Madison Avenue in the second store-front adjacent to Goddess Blessed. In addition to general office hours, volunteers will host Voter to Voter Postcards – Wednesday nights at The Root – 6:30-8:30 p.m.; and



This young man drove from New Hampshire (10 hours) to be there!

Phone-banking – Thursday nights 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays 1-4 p.m. at the Madison office.

To volunteer, email the local volunteers at [Cuyahoga4Hillary@gmail.com](mailto:Cuyahoga4Hillary@gmail.com), like their pages on Facebook for updates on events and efforts: [www.Facebook.com/CuyahogaforHillary](http://www.Facebook.com/CuyahogaforHillary) and [www.Facebook.com/LakewoodforHillary](http://www.Facebook.com/LakewoodforHillary). You can also sign-up online at [www.hillaryclinton.com](http://www.hillaryclinton.com) for campaign emails.

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photo by Alex Belisle

Deb Sweeney gets caught on camera with her camera - and Hillary of course!



Deb Sweeney gets caught on camera with her camera - and Hillary of course!

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State Representative Nickie Antonio (center) was one of many elected officials at the Lakewood office opening. She is shown here with Gabriele Jackson (left) and Pat Brown (right). Brown is a delegate for Clinton.

Lakewood Living

# Lakewood Sophomore Swings Saber At Junior Olympics

by Sara Kass

Downtown Cleveland was swarming with modern day musketeers, February 12-15 at the U.S. Fencing Association's Junior Olympics, held at the Cleveland Convention Center. Fencers from across the country came to compete for the title of Junior National Champion.

Lakewood was represented by Sophomore Isabel 'Izzy' Ostrowski who had qualified to compete in both Cadet, ages 13-17 and Junior, ages 13-20 Women's Saber events. She was joined by six other teammates competing in a total of eleven events representing Cyrano's Place, a fencing club located at 15639 Madison Avenue. Ostrowski started fencing at age ten with Coach Sara Kass. As a kid, she enjoyed the sport until life distracted her.

Last winter after a few years away, she bumped into Head Coach Kass and then decided to literally get back into the swing of things this past summer. Saber, unlike the other weapons, epee and foil, is scored by swinging the blade around like a swashbuckler. Saber is a descendant of cavalry sword play.

Dangerous you might think? Ostrowski says, "Nah, I've had a lot worse from a playground fall."

And, since Ostrowski's return, according to Coach Kass, "Izzy's focus has been amazing. She comes into practice and asks what else she can do to up her game. She's intense, which works well for

her. Her passion for the sport is awesome."

Ostrowski says she has done other sports over the years, but none have 'fit' like fencing. What makes fencing so comfortable for her? "I love the challenge both mentally and physically. Fencing is an athletic chess. I'm in good shape but I'm also a very active thinker. I like trying to puzzle out getting through each and every opponent's defenses, which you don't have to do in the same way with other sports. I LOVE a challenge. I LOVE having to think on my feet."

"Izzy has exceptional natural speed which is important to be effective in saber. Sometimes her speed gets her into trouble. But she is getting better control and finding solutions to be more successful at scoring. She's got a lot of potential. A continued commitment could bode well for a future in NCAA Fencing at a college of her choice. Luckily she's only a sophomore and has time to train and work towards that goal. Junior Olympics will be a chance for her to grow as a competitor and get a better sense of what she'll need to do to have college coaches take notice. Due to the nature of fencing, Izzy, like anyone who puts real grit into what they do, could make an Olympic team should she continue to be this self-disciplined about improving," says Coach Kass.

It's not only training and competing. Ostrowski notes that the camaraderie with teammates who range in age from



Isabel Ostrowski is representing Lakewood in the U.S. Fencing Association's Junior Olympics.

seven through adult, encourages her to do better. And, most of them were at the Convention Center throughout the weekend, cheering Ostrowski on as she

reciprocated for her teammates.

Results were not available at the time of writing. For more information about fencing or learning to fence in Lakewood, contact Cyrano's Place at 216-227-DUEL (3835).

*Sara Kass is the Head Coach/Owner of Cyrano's Place, a fencing club that's been in Lakewood since 1995.*

## Cuyahoga County Board Of Elections Launches The "Join The Party" Voter Education Campaign

by Mike West

The Board of Elections and its community partners have launched the "Join the Party" voter education campaign. The goal of the campaign is to make sure voters do not miss this opportunity to join the political party of their choice or to be a nonpartisan voter. In Ohio, the only method voters may utilize to establish or change their party affiliation is by voting in a partisan primary election. People may also choose to vote an issues-only ballot if they prefer to be considered a nonpartisan voter.

Last year over 150,000 Democrats and nearly 27,000 Republicans lost their party affiliation because they did not vote in a primary election for more than two years. "This makes voting in the March 15th election extremely important for people who want to be affiliated with a political party," said Pat McDonald, the Director of the Board of Elections. "People who don't vote in March may not get another chance for two years to establish or to change their party affiliation. I encourage everyone to join the party and vote," said McDonald.

The ballot choices for voters are: Democrat, Republican, Green, Issues Only, and other.

The Board of Elections' community



# Join the Party!

## VOTE IN THE MARCH 15th PRIMARY ELECTION

partners will help spread the word that it is important for people to exercise their right to vote, and it is required to maintain or re-establish a voter's political party affiliation. The Board of Elections will provide pre-produced voter education materials for the partners to share on their communications platforms. This includes e-mail, social media, newsletters and distribution of printed materials in high-traffic public buildings and offices.

**VoterNotify is part of the Campaign**

The Board and the community partners will also encourage voters to Join the Party by visiting the Board's website: [www.443VOTE.com](http://www.443VOTE.com) to sign up to receive Board of Elections e-mails

and/or text messages through the VoterNotify program.

The VoterNotify messages will include: reminding voters of important deadlines, confirming the Board has mailed and then received their ballots, and reminding them to vote early or on Election Day.



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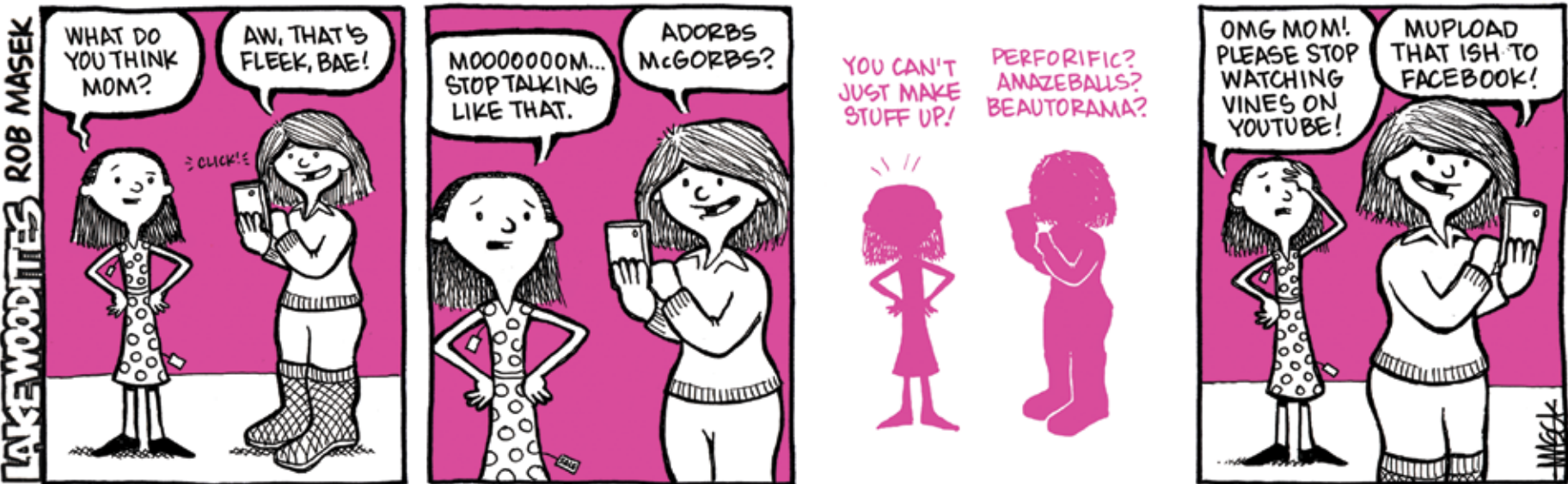


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