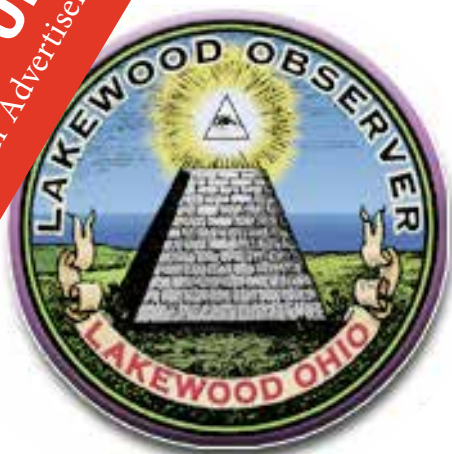


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 12, Issue 18, August 30, 2016

Goodyear Blimp Over Lakewood Spotlights Last-Minute St. Edward Win On ESPN

by Mike Deneen

Lakewood social media was abuzz Saturday when the Goodyear blimp was flying over Lakewood. Residents pointed their phones to the sky to snap photos of the airborne visitor, quickly posting their shots online. It became apparent that this wouldn't be a typical summer Saturday in The 'Wood. The blimp was overhead as part of ESPN's coverage of St. Edward's noon

football game at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. The Eagles hosted Pine-Richland High School, a Pennsylvania football power located in suburban Pittsburgh. The Rams feature quarterback Phil Jurkovec, one of the elite high school players in the nation.

There was a festive atmosphere around the stadium all morning, as fans strolled down Madison Avenue to the game. Local businesses welcomed

the foot traffic, and there was even a visit from "The Sweet Spot" food truck. Eagle fans came from across the Cleveland area, and Pine-Richland brought a sizable contingent of followers from PA. Pine-Richland's large marching band came to perform, something not often done by out-of-state schools visiting FFL Stadium. The spectacle of the ESPN event also brought out lots of **continued on page 15**



Goodyear's "Wingfoot One" makes a pass over LHS' First Federal Lakewood Stadium.

On September 10

Taps Flow At 4th Annual Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival

by Matt Bixenstine

It's been said that variety is the spice of life. In this case, it's also the catalyst of a tremendous community festival.

More than 180 craft beers representing nearly 50 breweries and 60 wines from 50 wineries will be on hand when the 4th Annual Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 10, from 5-10 p.m. in the heart of Downtown Lakewood. Sponsored by Sibling Revelry Brewing and presented by LakewoodAlive, the festival has emerged as a much-anticipated tradition to close the summer season, typi-



The Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival typically draws 2,000 attendees to the heart of Downtown Lakewood.

cally drawing a sellout crowd of 2,000 attendees.

The burgeoning wine and craft beer industries, both locally and across the nation, will be on full display within

a two-story, open-air parking deck in the heart of Lakewood's downtown district. The festival is held behind the INA Building at 14701 Detroit Ave- **continued on page 17**

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Hosts 60th Annual New Teacher Luncheon

by Valerie Mechenbier

Each August the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce continues the long-standing tradition that began in 1957: the Annual New Teacher Luncheon. The business community recognizes the importance of educating students for the workforce demands of the 21st century, and it demonstrates that awareness by inviting all teachers, support staff and administrators who are new to Lakewood's public and parochial schools **continued on page 12**



Newly-hired teachers and administrators of Lakewood City Schools with Asst. Supt. Roxann Ramsey-Caserio (top row left) and Supt. Jeff Patterson (top row right).

September Is Bike Month At Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

Long known as a walkable city, Lakewood is increasingly becoming a bicycling city as well. With bike racks sprouting up around town and new bike lanes on Madison Avenue, cyclists are finding getting around on two wheels easier than ever. Lakewood Public Library is celebrating this biking renaissance with special programming in September, including bicycle-themed movies, book discussions, bike rides and special Children's and Youth Services programming.

The first two Wednesdays of the month will be movie nights with the documentary "Bikes vs Cars" and a classic film, "The Bicycle Thieves." Kids can get in the biking spirit with Weekend Wonders

stories, music and crafts September 16-18 at both the Main Library and Madison Branch. The weekend will also feature a Bike Rodeo, a training and safety course designed to teach children essential bike skills. LEAF will be offering a community garden bicycle tour beginning at the Main Library Front Porch, and there will be a ride from the Madison Branch to the Main Library.

One of the highlights of the month will be a visit from author Murray Fishel, who has ridden more miles since the age of 51 than most people ride in a lifetime. He has a couple of favorite sayings: "Ride to Eat" and "Biking is the answer to all my problems today." These seemingly simple philosophies have guided the life of this extraordinary **continued on page 7**

Off The Deck

New Record For Us - Thank You Everyone

Most users ever online was 425 on Mon Aug 29, 2016 11:27 am
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Topic	Author	Posts	LO Reads	Date Posted
New Rules For The Deck Needed?	Jim O'Bryan	33	3623	Mon Aug 15
Heroin Off The Street - Great Work LPD!	Jim O'Bryan	12	28012	Mon Aug 29
Council Members Speak At Save Lakewood Hospital Meeting	Bill Call	9	361	Mon Aug 29,
Lakewoodites Don't Be Fooled	Jim O'Bryan	11	466	Mon Aug 29
New Store on Detroit : Nature's Oasis	Matthew Lee	1	80	Mon Aug 29
O'Leary Embraces Rigged Process and Crooked Outcome, But True Democrats See the Truth	Brian Essi	7	460	Mon Aug 29
Something We Can All Agree With	Jim O'Bryan	2	162	Mon Aug 29
The Deck Is Dying - WAIT NEW RECORD FOR VIEWERS!	4	232		Mon Aug 29
Dem Club Breaks Down In Chaos	Jim O'Bryan	66	2705	Mon Aug 29
Police Called				
North Coast Health Back Hospitals Destruction	Bill Call	9	794	Sun Aug 28
Baby You Can Drive My Car...		58	11359	Sun Aug 28
Lakewood Lost Another Good One - Jerry Koenigsmark	Jim O'Bryan	3	944	Sun Aug 28
Dr. Kilroy's Consciousness-Raising Cure for Lakewood's Health	Brian Essi	7	624	Sat Aug 27
Goodyear Blimp Over Lakewood!	Jim O'Bryan	3	853	Sat Aug 27
Lakewood Voters for Progress? Save Lakewood Hospital? Neither?Woodsatock	Jim O'Bryan	7	393	Sat Aug 27



Woodstock , featuring great BBQ hosted a recent gathering of VW owners, they came for the good food, the drinks, and the great service. More on page 14.

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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State

Antonio Calls On Kasich To Reverse Cuts To Early Childhood Education

by Luke Dangle

State Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) today called on Gov. Kasich to put a stop to an administrative rule change that would leave child care centers across the state with fewer resources to provide critical enrichment opportunities to vulnerable, low-income Ohio children and their families.

The state estimates the rule change will cut \$12 million in state funding to pre-school providers throughout Ohio, not counting hundreds of millions of lost dollars in federal grants for early childhood programs.

“After over a decade of an all hands on deck approach to ensuring our children have the resources necessary to get a head start on a lifetime of success and learning, the administration is pulling the rug out from under child care providers across the state,”

said Antonio. “Our children, childcare experts and families deserve to know why Governor Kasich’s administration pushed through a new restriction that prohibits preschool providers from serving more children and families by layering state and federal funds to enhance and expand services.”

Data compiled by childcare advocates shows that the funding cuts will disproportionately impact minority students in the state’s urban centers.* Cuyahoga County programming will lose an estimated \$2 million as a result of the new funding restriction.

The Cleveland lawmaker also noted that the rule change to defund preschool providers was proposed without consulting or even briefing the Early Childhood Advisory Council or childcare experts throughout the state.



Senator Skindell Receives The Nature Conservancy’s Conservation Leader Award

by Tony DiMenna

Senator Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) recently accepted The Nature Conservancy’s Conservation Leader Award.

“It is an exceptional honor to be selected for this award. The Nature Conservancy has been a notable leader in the conservation movement,” said Senator Skindell. “I have made it a top priority in my time in the legislature to make sure our diverse natural resources are protected and restored, and I will continue to do so.”

The Nature Conservancy is an organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the lands and water in order to sustain the diversity of life. The Conservation Leader Award is presented in recognition of exceptional leadership in advancing state conservation and environmental policy issues that improve the quality of life for all Ohioans.

Senator Skindell was chosen for this

award because of his work in protecting Lake Erie, including a bill to prohibit offshore drilling, improve the lake’s shoreline, and promote safety and minimize risk when drilling for oil and gas.

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City

Change Is Coming To Your City Council Coverage

Dear Lakewood Observer reader,

by Christopher Bindel

After more than seven years of covering the Lakewood City Council for the Lakewood Observer, I have decided to retire. A lot has changed in my life over that time and I have found that I lack the same enthusiasm and time I had upon commencing this journey to continue to do you justice by covering Council comprehensively and fairly.

I started covering Council in April of 2009. I had been attending Council meetings on and off since 2006, as able, as I was away at college. I tried to stay up on what was going on in the interim by reading the articles that were in the Observer at the time. Although the articles covered the main points, they tended to be very brief and biased. Regardless, when they stopped appearing in the Observer I was disappointed at being cut off from what was going on.

Upon graduating from the University of Toledo in December of 2008 I returned home and began attending all the meetings I could. Still with no Council coverage in the Observer, I reached out and asked about why what I considered to be an important part of Lakewood news, was not being covered. I was informed that the Observer is a wholly volunteer paper and that if I wished it to be in the paper I was welcome to write it.

Never considering myself much of a writer, and with no journalism experience, I agreed to write up a trial article for some feedback. I submitted the article and waited for feedback. It never came. So, I was quite surprised when I picked up the next issue of the Observer to see, what I perceived as a demo, amongst its pages. From that point on I was officially the Lakewood Observer's Council Reporter.

Writing has never been easy for me. I have struggled my whole life with a learning disability in language, so writing each article has required an immense amount of effort. I have continued to do it for so long because I believe it is important that information on the actions of a government should be easily accessible to the people. Many people go about their daily lives rarely or never paying attention to the goings on of their local govern-

ment, and even if they do they may not fully understand it. I have seen citizens on several occasions disconcerted by things happening in the city because they do not know or understand the history, context, or process that has led to that decision. In many of these cases the issue is still in process and a decision has yet to be rendered.

It has always been my goal to not only report what happens during a Council meeting, but to do so in a manner that makes it easy to understand. This largely involves explaining the process and why that process is the way it is. I will willingly admit that when I started I knew very little about how Council worked. I would sit through some meetings not really understanding what was happening and why. However, I spent a lot of time after meetings talking to Council and Administration members who were kind enough to explain it to me. When I realized how little I understood the process, I realized that many others probably didn't as well. Therefore, I tried to surpass simply reporting on the meetings and actually explain what was going on. A practice I fear I have failed to do at my fullest ability for some time, which has played a part in my decision to retire.

I have learned so much about the process of government over the more

than ten years I have been attending meetings. Observing it in action and discussing it with those involved is the best way to truly understand how things work. There are lots of people I have to thank for that education, but principal among them are current Law Director Kevin Butler, both from his days as a councilman and as Law Director, and former Planning and Development Director Dru Siley. I also need to thank former Mayor Ed FitzGerald, Mayor Mike Summers, and all the Council members I have spoken with over the years for their time and thoughts. Lastly I would be remiss if I did not thank Council Clerk Mary Hagan, a woman who scarcely gets the recognition she deserves for everything she does, Legislative Liaison Maureen Bach, and Colin McEwen in Public Relations for all their help and time over the years.

I have been covering Council for longer than all but one current Council member has served. In that time I have written over 160 articles and can count on one hand how many meetings I have missed, most of which I still covered thanks to recordings I received from the amazing women in the Clerk's office. However in that time I have changed jobs, married, started a family, and become more involved in other aspects of the City; serving two

terms on the Citizens Advisory Committee, and currently serving my third year on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

With life becoming busier I have struggled with the balance of work, family, and volunteer efforts. The immense effort it takes me to write each article has become a drain on me, and I have not been able to give them the full attention they deserve to live up to the standards I have set for myself. It also takes me away from spending time with my family, with whom I already feel I get too few hours.

Although I will not be continuing my regular reporting for the Observer, I believe it is possible that I may occasionally weigh in as time, topics, and my interest allow. I am currently unaware of who, if anybody, the Observer has lined up to replace me. Whoever it is, I hope they will continue to serve you by supplying a comprehensive, fact-based, unbiased account of the Council meetings, which I have continually worked hard to maintain.

Stay amazing Lakewood,
Christopher R. Bindel

Chris Bindel has been a Lakewood resident his entire life and has covered the Council meetings for the LO from April of 2009 until July of 2016. He is a former Mayoral appointee to the Citizens Advisory Committee, a Council appointee to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and President of Eaters of Lakewood.

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Are you a civic minded Lakewoodite who is passionate about our city? Are you looking to get more involved? Always wanted to try your hand at writing? How about covering Lakewood City Council meetings for the Lakewood Observer?

Contact Margaret Brinich, Editor-In-Chief, at
margaret@lakewoodobserver.com for more information!

Does Your Vote Really Count?

by Conda Boyd

In Ohio, we have three safeguards to ensure accurate vote

counts: VVPAT, EAP, and a "Noah's Ark" system.

VVPAT. Every Ohio ballot must have a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). Ohioans vote on either a paper ballot or an electronic screen that produces a paper record. Either way, you can check your vote on paper, and officials can hand-count votes in audits and recounts.

EAP. Before every general election, each county Board of Elections must prepare an Election Administration Plan (EAP) detailing everything from personnel to facilities, supplies, and security. EAPs are available for public review.

Noah's Ark. Ohio requires that all election aspects be administered by teams of two whose members come from different parties, making ours one of the most secure systems in the nation. Bipartisan poll workers count votes for their poll-

ing place, sign the results, and post them for the public. A bipartisan team then delivers all the ballots and records to the Board of Elections, where they are double-locked in a room that can only be opened by both the Director and Deputy Director, who must be from different parties. Finally, a bipartisan procedure is followed when mailed-in and provisional ballots are counted ten days after Election Day, for recounts, and for audits.

Of course, your vote only counts if you actually vote! Registration forms are available at your library, city hall, and senior center. If you're already registered, verify your status, update your address, find your polling place, and track your ballot at <http://www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us/>. The registration deadline for the November 8, 2016 general election is October 11, 2016.



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LPL

Nine Library Systems Team Up For A Card For Every Kid Initiative

Nine library systems in Cuyahoga County are teaming up on an initiative to help ensure every child under 18 in Cuyahoga County owns a library card.

The initiative, called A Card for Every Kid will take place September 1-30 to coincide with National Library Card Sign Up Month. It is a cooperative effort among the library systems to raise awareness of the importance of library card ownership for children and teens. The initiative also seeks to gain a better understanding of the roadblocks that keep some children and teens from owning a library card.

“Libraries are great equalizers. They offer any child access to books and other learning resources no matter what city they live in, no matter their socio-economic status,” says Euclid Public Library Director Kacie Armstrong, who co-chairs the nine-library committee leading the A Card for Every Kid initiative. “Every public library in our county shares the goal of ensuring that every child can check out materials at their neighborhood library.”

During September, every library in the county will actively encourage children and teens to sign up for a free library card, and offer one-time fine forgiveness to children and teens who have been blocked or barred from using their library cards because they owe fines.

Additionally, each library system will invite parents to take a brief survey to gain a better understanding of parental attitudes toward library card ownership for their children.

“A surprising number of kids in our communities don’t have their own library cards, and we want to better understand why,” says Armstrong. “For instance, out of the approximately 11,000 residents under the age of 18 in the city of Euclid in 2014, roughly half had a library card. Is it because the parent didn’t know their child could have their own card? Is it because the child doesn’t want one? Are there other factors? Knowing this information will help us be more effective in our outreach to our families.”

The A Card for Every Kid initiative was developed in response to the Obama administration’s national Connected Library Challenge. Launched in spring 2015, Connected calls upon library directors to work with their mayors, school leaders, and school librarians, to ensure every student has access to the learning resources and books of America’s libraries.

The library systems participating in the A Card for Every Kid initiative include Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, Cleveland Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library, East Cleveland Public Library, Euclid Public Library, Lakewood Public Library, Rocky River Public Library, Shaker Heights Public Library, and Westlake Public Library.

For more information about the A Card for Every Kid initiative, contact Kacie Armstrong at 216.261.5300 ext 101, Andrew Mangels at 440.250.5450 or visit http://heightslibrary.org/signup_month/.

Great Lakes Light Opera Brings Dueling Sopranos To LPL



The dueling divas will take on Mozart, and each other, at Lakewood Public Library.
by Elaine Rosenberger

Get ready for dueling divas when Great Lakes Light Opera presents “Mostly Mozart: Diva Edition.” In this epic sing-off, talented singers will duke it out vocally. Great Lakes Light Opera’s concert takes place on Sunday, September 11 at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Admission is free and open to all.



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

Lakewood Public Library

1980s Totally Rad Flashback

by Eric Knapp

Ever wish you could get behind the wheel of Doc Brown’s DeLorean and travel back in time like Marty McFly to 1985? Now you can revisit the excellent eighties in a six-week program... at the Library! How cool were the 1980’s? Like totally cool! They had neon clothes, baggy pants, big hair, and slap bracelets. Not to mention some of the coolest movies, TV shows, video games, and music videos!

In our program you’ll get to try your hand at face painting designs that made Jem & The Holograms, The Ultimate Warrior, Care Bears,

My Little Pony, and G.I. Joe cool. We’ll have a great gooey time too in the laboratory creating our very own Ghostbusters ectoplasm (that’s slime for the uninitiated). And we certainly can’t have the 80’s without Pac-Man mazes or Duck Hunt competitions, either!

Each session will be packed with

music videos, trivia, physical challenges, games, and tons of fun. Our last session will feature the oh-so-excellent costume contest so don’t miss out (it might even give you an idea for Halloween)! Come to the Library’s 1980s Totally Rad Flashback and don’t be bogus, dude!

If you’re ready to cruise 88 miles

per hour back in time with us, please stop in to register, or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

This program is for students in 5th – 8th grade and takes place Wednesdays, September 14 through October 19, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Roald Dahl Celebration

by Jeffrey Siebert

Sadly, Roald Dahl passed away in 1990, but would have turned one hundred years old this year on Sep-

tember 13, 2016. We’re celebrating Mr. Dahl’s birthday at the Lakewood Public Library with phizz-whizzing crafts based on his scrumdiddlyumptious stories including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, the BFG, the Witches, James and the Giant Peach, The Twits, and the Fantastic Mr. Fox. Choose a craft based on your favorite Roald Dahl story and take it home to show off to your gloriumptious grandparents and frothbuggling friends. It will be more fun than a plate of snozzcumbers.

This program is for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Registration is required, so call Children’s and Youth Services at (216) 226-8275x140 to register or register online at www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org. This program will be held on Tuesday,



The famous author portrayed in the style that illustrated many iconic children’s books

September 13, 2016 from 4-5 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Read And Grow: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Three of the most recent graduates of the Read and Grow: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Currently 424 children are registered for this program.

SEPTEMBER is National LIBRARY CARD Sign-Up Month

Libraries in Cuyahoga County are celebrating National Library Card Sign-Up Month (September 1-30) with A Card for Every Kid campaign!

A Card for Every Kid aims to put a library card into the hands of every child under 18 in Cuyahoga County. You can celebrate with libraries in Cuyahoga County in two ways:

1. Get your child a new library card. It’s easy: just stop in at your local library!
 2. If your child already has a card but has fines, bring your child to your library to have those fines forgiven. (Fine forgiveness is a one-time benefit.)
- Visit your local library starting September 1, and help us make sure every kid in the county has a library card.
- Parents, help us learn about kids and library cards by taking our brief survey, and get \$5 off your fines! Visit heightslibrary.org/signup_month for a link to the survey.**



Children enjoy reading books to their teddy bears on a summer day. Teddy bears love books too!

It’s Time For A Teddy Bear Picnic!

by Fran Storch

National Teddy Bear Day is September 9. To celebrate this special day, Lakewood Public Library invites children ages three to eight years and their parents to a Teddy Bear Picnic on Friday, September 9, 2016 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Main Library. This is a free program, but space is limited and registration is required.

Children bring their favorite teddy bear and join a Library staff member for a special story time including listening to teddy bear stories, singing teddy bear songs and making a teddy bear craft. After the craft, kids will

enjoy a teddy graham snack to conclude this bear-ific program.

Weather permitting, the Teddy Bear Picnic will be held on the front lawn of the Main Library. In the event of rain, the program will be moved to the Main Library First Floor Activity Room. Please check in at the Children’s and Youth Services desk for the exact location the day of the event.

To register for the Teddy Bear Picnic, stop by the CYS desk at the Main Library, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth and click on the yellow Register for Programs box.



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A Card for Every Kid is part of The ConnectED Library Challenge, a way for communities throughout the country to create or strengthen partnerships so that every child enrolled in school can receive a library card. The initiative calls upon library directors to work with their mayors, school leaders, and school librarians, to provide wider access to the learning resources and books of America’s libraries.

Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, September 1

Author Event - 60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Cleveland

by Diane Stresing

With new hikes and updated text and maps, 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Cleveland points hikers to the best outdoor trails and rambles within easy reach of the city. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Friday, September 2

Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors. Tonight we welcome Ernie Krivda.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, September 3

Film: “The Illusionist” (2006)

In turn of the century Austria-Hungary, famed illusionist Edward Norton reconnects with long lost love Jessica Biel, who is betrothed to abusive crown prince Rufus Sewell. Chief inspector Paul Giamatti follows Norton and Biel, and tragedy ensues. Ever the master of illusion, Norton focuses on the perfect revenge.

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

Sunday, September 4 & Monday, September 5

Library closed in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 6

The Turbulent Decade of the 60s

The City of Lakewood is pleased to offer a multimedia examination on the music and art of the 1960’s led by Dr. Joel Keller. Please call Lakewood Division of Aging Activities office at (216) 529-5005 to sign-up.

1:00 p.m. at The Kathleen and Robert Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave.

Wednesday, September 7

Film - “Bikes vs Cars” (2015)

Bikes vs Cars looks at both the struggle for bicyclists in a society dominated by cars, and the revolutionary changes that could take place if more cities moved away from car-centric models. The film will be followed by a discussion.

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

Thursday, September 8

Author Event - “Pedaling on the North Coast: Biking the Streets of Cleveland” by Murray Fishel and Stan Purdum

Pedaling on the North Coast is the perfect companion for everyone from the casual cyclist to the seasoned vet. The eighteen rides offer diverse selections to discover Cleveland and its surroundings. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Friday, September 9

Front Porch Concert Series

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy fantastic music with friends and neighbors. Tonight we welcome Fireside.

7:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch

Saturday, September 10

Film: “The Best Man” (1964)

Terry Meehan’s new series, “Politics and the Movies” features five films that explore the political landscape. Henry Fonda and Cliff Robertson as two presidential candidates who are fighting for their party’s nomination. Neither thinks the other is qualified to be president (sound familiar?), and both will do almost anything to secure their party’s nod.

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

Sunday, September 11

Concert - Great Lakes Light Opera

We’ve all heard of dueling pianos—but what about dueling sopranos? Great Lakes Light Opera presents “Mostly Mozart: Diva Edition,” the most epic sing-off since Mozart was in his prime. Join us to witness some of the most talented singers in Cleveland duke it out (vocally) and reach new heights. Who will ultimately drop the mic? Only one way to find out.

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

Tuesday, September 13

Talk - The Turbulent Decade of the 60s

This multimedia examination of the music and art of the 1960’s is led by Dr. Joel Keller. Please call Lakewood Division of Aging Activities office at (216) 529-5005 to sign-up.

1:00 p.m. at The Kathleen and Robert Lawther Center (Senior Center West), 16024 Madison Ave.

Talk - No, You Can’t Touch That Nest! Or Can You? 100 Years since the Migratory Bird Treaty

Jim Tomko, president of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, will discuss The Migratory Bird Treaty and how it affects you and your backyard wildlife. Hear what inspired the formation of the National Audubon Society and what our local chapter is doing to help protect birds and other wildlife.

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

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Friday, September 9

National Teddy Bear Day

For you and your 3-8 year old child

Bring your favorite teddy bear, listen to stories, sing songs, and make a teddy bear craft. Registration required.

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

Saturday, September 10

Tail Waggin’ Tutors

For school-age children

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

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

Sunday, September 11

Lakewood Lego® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

Use LPL’s collection of Lego® Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Tuesday, September 13

Roald Dahl Celebration

For students in first through fifth grade

Try some phiz-whizzing arts and crafts based on Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG, James and the Giant Peach, and more! Registration required.

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

Wednesdays, September 14 – October 19

1980s Totally Rad Flashback

For students in fifth through eighth grade

A totally rad six-week program that takes you back to the most excellent 80’s. Face paint, make Ghostbusters slime, survive the Cold War, and try your hand at trivia and more! Join us for games, challenges, trivia, and a costume contest. Registration required.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

September Is Bike Month At Lakewood Public Library

continued from page 1

dinary man since 1991, when he retired from Kent State University and bought a bicycle, thinking he could always sell it if the sport didn’t agree with him. Not only did it agree with him, he’s now bicycled in all fifty states and several countries and has coauthored a book, “Pedaling on the North Coast: Biking the Streets of Greater Cleveland.”

You can meet Dr. Fishel on Thurs-

day, September 8 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium to learn about his enthusiasm for bicycling and ask questions about his around-the-world cycling trips. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Whether you’re a veteran cyclist or a newcomer, September is the month to inflate the tires, hop in the saddle and ride to the Library for a celebration of bicycling in Lakewood.

The Lakewood Observer is written and edited by volunteers, and exists to help build the community and support an environment friendly to the independent businesses that make this area unique. When you advertise with us you not only help your business, you also do a good deed for the community.

Annual Board Of Education Ice Cream Social September 6

by Christine Gordillo

Join the Lakewood Council of PTAs and the Lakewood Board of Education members at the annual back-to-school Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, September 6 from 6:15-7 p.m. in the Garfield Middle School gym.

The Board members will be dishing out the scoops with plenty of sundae fixins’ as well. Eighth-grade members of the Harding and Garfield bands will provide entertainment. It’s a great way to kick off the new school year and meet your elected officials!

Lakewood Schools

Foundation Provides Nearly \$10K In Grants To Enrich Student Experience

by Christine Gordillo

For the last eight years, money from the Margaret Warner Educational Grants Fund of the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation has provided Lakewood City Schools teachers the ability to offer enrichment opportunities to its students. This year is no different as the Foundation awarded more than \$9,000 in grants. The awards, along with a grant from the Meinke Creative Teaching Grant Fund, were announced at the District’s annual Convocation on Monday, August 22.

The Rangers Education Foundation has a long history of helping enrich Lakewood students’ educational experiences. That is why the estate of Margaret Warner, who had a long and distinguished career as a social studies teacher at Lakewood High, decided to donate to the foundation in 1998. The grants fund was established in 2007 from that initial money.

The fund was set with the specific purpose of supporting the district’s teaching staff. Over the years, nearly \$65,000 has gone to teachers in their efforts to broaden their students’ horizons and enrich their learning. The grant winners are selected by a three-person committee that includes a Foundation trustee, a retired adminis-

trator and a retired LHS teacher.

The grants help fund projects that help our students academically, culturally, socially and physically. Some examples of projects funded for the 2016-2017 school year include:

- Family book club at Lincoln Elementary
- After-school yoga club at Harrison Elementary
- Great Lakes Theater residency program at Lakewood High
- A girls’ leadership group that brings refugee and American girls together at Lakewood High
- A middle school soccer club
- An Underground Railroad experience at Garfield Middle School

These are just some of the creative programs Lakewood Schools teachers have developed to make sure that the District’s students are well-educated and well-rounded!



Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation Executive Director Terri Richards (at right) and Board of Trustees President Vicki Smigelski presented the teacher grants at the District’s annual Convocation August 22.

LHS Cheerleaders To Perform At Browns Game

by Mike Deneen

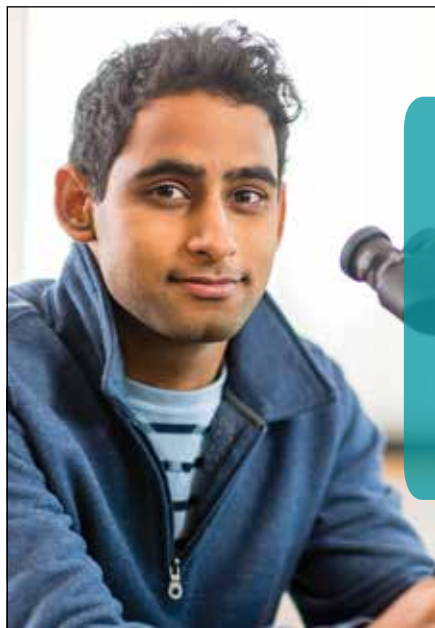
Last season the Lakewood High Cheerleading squad introduced

disabled students to the team via a program called “The Sparkle Effect.” The “Sparkles” were a huge hit with teammates and fans, and will return to the sidelines this football season. In fact, the LHS cheer team will perform at the September 1st Cleveland Browns home game against Chicago.

“It’s always nice to be included in their events,” says head coach Amy Staib about the Browns. The Cleveland Browns Foundation is a sponsor of the Sparkle program, which provides a loud and public symbol of acceptance to the community. Junior

Captain Kiana Tyus is looking forward to the chance to perform in front of an NFL crowd. She describes the trip as “a little nerve racking, but it’s still very exciting.”

Tyus enjoys working with the Sparkles. “It helps us realize that even though they have disabilities, they can do the cheers too.” The Sparkles will perform at each of the Rangers home football games, as well as some other events. The cheerleaders are excited about it. “It makes you feel good to know that you are making a difference,” says Tyus.



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Cheerleading coach Amy Staib leads a summer practice at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. “It’s always nice to be included in their events,” says Head Coach Amy Staib about the Cleveland Browns.

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Lakewood Schools

District Partners With City To Offer Tree Fund For Schools

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools has teamed up with the City of Lakewood and Keep Lakewood Beautiful to launch Lakewood City Schools Gift-a-Tree Fund, which will allow donors to purchase trees for school grounds. Money raised through the fund will be dedicated solely to urban forestry programs (tree purchase, planting, pruning, care, and maintenance) on school district properties. The tax-deductible donations to the Lakewood City School Gift-a-Tree Fund will support tree plantings on Lakewood City Schools properties and help properly care for the trees so students and the community can reap the benefits of trees for years to come.

Besides the aesthetic beauty trees

offer in all seasons, there are many valuable reasons to maintain and increase our urban canopy on school properties. A number of studies have shown that shade trees provide cooling benefits to people, but also reduce cooling costs of buildings and extend pavement life. Trees reduce: crime rates, cruising speeds, noise pollution, and storm-water runoff. Trees increase property values. Trees generate oxygen and remove air pollution.

“We are proud to be able to offer this option for parents and the community to help provide a more healthy and more beautiful learning environment for our students,” said Superintendent Jeff Patterson.

Research has identified even more specific benefits trees give to schools

and students: Students who have views and daily exposure to natural settings have increased ability to focus and better perform; children who regularly play around big trees and grass have milder ADHD symptoms; students’ performance can be enhanced by just viewing trees through a window (studies show these students have higher standardized test scores, higher graduation rates and are more likely to attend college); greener environments promote healthier social behavior and less aggression in students. Also, green school grounds and mini-forests provide new learning opportunities for students and students are more enthusiastic about going to school and are more motivated to learn there when the grounds are green.

With all these studies showing that trees benefit students, it follows that trees benefit human health as they lower the incidence of asthma, depression and anxiety disorders, and violent behaviors. Trees help people stay healthier. With children, the more trees that are in a child’s environment the lower the body mass index. Other studies show green school grounds with trees and gardens improve the quantity and quality of children’s physical activity. One of eight children are affected by anxiety disorders and increased risk of poor school performance and substance abuse, but studies show that nature calms and soothes children.

The Lakewood City Schools Gift-a-Tree Fund is modeled on a similar program that the City of Lakewood has instituted. The school district’s fund will be managed by the City of Lakewood Finance Department. A donation form can be found on the District’s web site under Quick Links at www.lakewoodcityschools.org.

Lakewood XC Teams Looking Forward

by Mike Deneen

Unlike most sports, with cross country, the LHS boys and girls teams compete against an identical schedule, traveling to the same meets throughout the season. Their regular season began last weekend at the Southwestern Conference Preview, and will end with the conference championships on October 15th. A new meet was added to the schedule this year. The Rangers will compete at the Galion Festival on September 17th. “Galion is traditionally called the fastest course in the state,” says boys head coach Stephanie Toole, “we are excited to see what we can do there.” Runners from both teams will compete at the district championships at Lorain Community College on October 22nd, with qualifiers moving on the regional and possibly the state championships.

GIRLS TEAM STRESSES TEAM-WORK AS KEY

Cross country is usually not considered a “team” sport in the classic sense, since each runner must compete on his or her own. However, girls head



Coach Toole offers some instructions to her team before they take their run.

coach Danielle Hammond emphasizes “team first, self second” among her runners. “No one runner achieves success alone” she says, “This sport has such a strong family component.” Her team has shown that during the offseason by picking one another up, cheering for each other and every teammate as they finish with their best time. The veterans have reached out to

the young runners, showing them what is needed to succeed.

The team faces a rigorous schedule, including competition in the tough Southwestern Conference. They will rely on junior captains Jing Feng and Abby LaForm, who started the season in the number 1 and 2 spots. Senior captains Lauren Lowell and Olivia Rodriguez are both expected to run in the top seven spots, which are the spots upon which team scoring is based. Both have been strong team contributors since they were freshmen. Hammond believes that Kate Dyke and Isabella Dombrowski are freshmen to watch. Both girls are experienced runners that were previously campers in the Lakewood Running Rangers program. “They come in with better running IQ’s than most freshmen, which will make them good leaders among their peers,” says Hammond, “both runners have the potential to be top team performers this season.” Coach Hammond’s goal is to qualify individual runners into the regional

meet in Tiffin on October 29.

BOYS AIMING FOR CONFERENCE CROWN

Boys head coach Stephanie Toole has a large group of seniors on this year’s team, and they hope to achieve a goal that was set as freshmen: win the Southwestern Conference and qualify for the state championships in November. Toole believes the key will be “pack running”: having her top 5 finish with in 45-60 seconds of each other and runners 6-7 be within 2 min of their top runner. Thereby runners #6-7 serve to displace the other team, so the more #4&5 runners they beat the more Lakewood displaces the other teams’ top 5.

Winning the SWC would be no easy task. “The SWC is a very strong running conference,” says Toole. “Westlake is a very improved team, and then there is always Avon and Berea-Midpark. While some significant seniors graduated from the conference, the new seniors will fill their shoes and then some this fall in our conference.”

Rangers Fall 55-0 to Medina

by Mike Deneen

The Rangers 2016 began on a warm, sunny evening at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. A festive crowd gathered in the home stands, with the student section dressed in a “beach party” mode. The beach party carried on through the night, but the game on the field quickly turned into a shipwreck. The visiting Medina Bees quickly jumped to a 28-0 lead, and sailed off with a 55-0 win over the Lakewood.

Medina received the opening kickoff, promptly returning it all the way to the Rangers 15 yard line. The Ranger defense stiffened inside the ten, but Medina running back Jimmy Daws pounded a 4th down carry into the endzone. The Bees had a 7-0 lead within the first two and half minutes of the game. An interception on the first Ranger possession gave Medina the ball at the Lakewood 18 yard line. Daws scored again on the second play of the drive, making it 14-0 Medina



with 8:12 left in the first quarter. The next Ranger possession resulted in another interception...this time the Bees returned the ball all the way to the Lakewood five yard line. Daws scored another touchdown, stretching the lead to 21-0 less than six minutes into the game. The Rangers went “three and out” on their next drive, punting Medina back to the Lakewood 47 yard line. The Bees engineered a sustained drive to score with 1:08 left in the first quarter. Once again it was Daws, this time with a 9 yard touchdown run.

Lakewood never recovered from the early knockout, and Medina

rolled out to a 49-0 halftime lead. The OHSA “running clock” took effect in the second half, with teams largely exchanging punts on the way to the 55-0 final score. Despite the lopsided game, the student section kept its enthusiasm, reacting wildly to positive Ranger plays. Among those plays was a blocked extra point in the second half, and nice kick runback by Kevin Musai, a linebacker that was playing as an “up man”.

Lakewood returns to action next Friday at Finnie Stadium in Berea. The Rangers face Berea-Midpark High School at 7pm in the conference opening game for both teams.

Lakewood Cares

North Coast Health - 30 Years Of Caring Continues

by Ellen Ospelt

‘Imagine struggling to get by, taking home enough in a paycheck to pay just the essentials such as food and clothes. What happens if a member of the family comes down with an illness and needs to see a doctor? How can you begin to pay the bill even for a minor illness?’

‘This is what a group of church members in Bay Village asked themselves. They also asked how that could be allowed to happen. How could they allow their neighbors to fall through the cracks of the vaunted safety net? Everyone deserves to be able to visit a physician when it’s necessary for attention to anything from a cold to a catastrophic illness. Unfortunately, there are many people who have a job that doesn’t pay any medical insurance benefits. And they make too much to qualify for coverage by government aid.’

‘Because a group of parishioners...were concerned for people in just such a situation, North Coast Health Ministry was formed.’

-The Journal, Lorain Ohio, February 22, 1986

This quote was taken from one of the first articles written on behalf of North Coast Health (Ministry). As we reflect on who we are 30 years later – in many ways we remain the same. NCH’s belief remains steadfast – that health care is a basic human need and that inability to pay should never be a barrier to care for anyone. Primary medical care, health care education and prevention, behavioral health counseling, prescription assistance, specialty referral, application assistance-linking individuals to resources for which they qualify- and more are available to any one struggling with the costs of medical care services. North Coast Health remains a safety-net provider to individuals in need in our community. Including

those with and without insurance, and those living in and outside of Lakewood; as we have no geographic boundaries

‘Our goal is not only to provide free medical care to our West Shore neighbors who need it, but to do it with dignity... one young lady said that she was treated as though she had paid for the service... This made us feel very good, because we are trying to treat people with dignity and with a lot of care.’

- West Life, March 23, 1988

Dignity, respect, quality – all cornerstones of care provided at North Coast Health. In 2013, North Coast Health went through a vigorous application process to become a Patient Centered Medical Home, Level 3 as recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance – the highest level possible. This recognition ensures that not only are we providing quality care, we are committed to patient-centered, patient directed quality care. As shared on our most recent patient survey, this commitment is being recognized by the patients we serve:

- 97% of NCH patients self-report being treated with dignity and respect.

- 93% of NCH patients self-report

‘the medical care I receive is excellent.’
- 98% of NCH patients self-report ‘I would recommend NCH to friends and family.’

‘Above all, this is a Christian organization living out the Christ’s commandment to ‘love our neighbors as ourselves.’ If you have a heart for the urban poor, struggling for a dignified existence, please consider your call to help. May God bless you by your decision.’

Russel Elmer, MD, North Coast Health’s founding physician (1988)

Today, our ministry remains the same. We continue to provide care to those with and without insurance who cannot afford the health care they desperately need—serving those who would otherwise go without care. We welcome all people- men, women and adolescents over the age of 14. The past 30 years have been filled with many lives touched- and many dedicated individuals, corporations, foundations and volunteers supporting the operations of North Coast Health. The care we have provided to so many lives in Greater Cleveland--tens of thousands of lives-- makes a difference!

On behalf of our patients, staff and all touched by North Coast Health - we thank you – for giving us the gift of 30 years of caring for our community!

To help celebrate-- please join us for our annual Celebration of Caring Gala on September 15th at the Global Center for Health Innovation from 6-9:30pm. Tickets can be purchased for \$150 a ticket by calling 216.228.7878 ext. 122 or at <http://northcoasthealth.org/event/celebration2016>. Sponsorships are available.

About North Coast Health

North Coast Health is a faith-based charitable clinic that provides health care for the medically under-served. Every day, people come to North Coast Health because they have no other option for affordable care. As a Patient Centered Medical Home, Level 3, as designated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, we provide individualized, comprehensive and coordinated medical care. Accepting new patients – Call for appointment 216.228.7878 www.northcoasthealth.org.

Let’s Be Friends! Like us on Facebook /ncoasthealth and Follow us on Twitter @Ncoasthealth.

Foster Pool Going To The Dogs

by Karen Karp

Got dogs? Got water? Mix the two together and you have the recipe for a tail wagging good time. Join Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP) for the 2016 Dog Swim at Foster Pool in Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Ave., on Tuesday, September 6 from 5-8 PM.

Grab your towels, round up the four-legged family members, and you’ll be ready for the most anticipated event on the K-9 calendar. Dogs must be up-to-date on their vaccinations and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs, as well as for their safety.

Cost for admission to the annual fundraiser, now in its twelfth year, is \$8 for 1 dog and \$7 for each additional dog. Proceeds will benefit FLDP, the all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that works with the City of Lakewood to care for the Lakewood Dog Park and raises funds for dog park improvements.

A waiver is required for all human guests. To save precious splash time, please print and complete the form in advance. On the day of the Swim, turn in the waiver

at the desk when you arrive. http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com/user/files/2015_DOG_SWIM_WAIVER.PDF

To learn more about FLDP, visit our website, LakewoodDogPark.com or find us on Facebook, [facebook.com/LakewoodDogPark](https://www.facebook.com/LakewoodDogPark). We have 3 events scheduled before the end of 2016. First, please join us for a World Animal Day celebration and pet

blessing, on October 1. Second, on October 15, FLDP will have a booth at Spooky Pooch. Be sure to stop by to say Hi and show off your dog’s costume. And finally, it wouldn’t be Christmas without “Pictures with Santa Paws.” Pet’s General will host and “Portraits by Martha” will be behind the camera on December 4.

Karen Karp is President of Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, Inc.

One Million Acts Of Kindness



Bob Votruba (@thekindnessbustour) has dedicated eight years to riding his bicycle (and driving his bus) to end bullying and adolescent suicide. Please visit Bob Votruba’s website at www.onemillionactsofkindness.org, as well as his Facebook page One Million Acts of Kindness, and begin your race to a million acts of kindness today. I’m also sure that donations are always appreciated by Bob. Thank you.



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Lakewood Cares

Come To Lakewood Park For The 2016 Superhero Dash!

by Kathy Rigdon

Hundreds of runners, walkers and rollers (participants in wheelchairs) will be dressing as their favorite Superheroes and helping raise money for children with physical disabilities at the Youth Challenge Superhero Dash. The 31st Annual Race Day, in memory of former Trustee Dave Hardman, will take place Saturday, September 17 at Lakewood Park.

The Superhero Dash will raise funds for Youth Challenge (YC), a nonprofit that provides adapted sports and recreational opportunities to children with physical disabilities. Trained teen volunteers are paired one-on-one with participants to play adapted sports, socialize and have fun. YC serves children throughout Northeast



The 31st Annual Youth Challenge Superhero Dash takes place on Saturday, September 17 at Lakewood Park.

Ohio and has offices in Westlake and Shaker Heights.

The 5K run kicks off at 9:15 a.m.

and the 1 Mile Walk/Roll starts at 10 a.m. Awards will go to the top three men and women overall and in each

age group, as well as the challenged division. Achievement ribbons will go to all 1 Mile finishers. There will be prizes for best costumes, so be sure to dress up as your favorite superhero!

Event participation is \$20 per person for early registration, \$25 on Race Day, \$10 for children 18 and under (pre-registered and same day). First 300 registrants will receive T-shirts. Register online at hermes.cleveland.com.

Sponsors for the Superhero Dash are Linda & Doug Hardman, American Tank & Fabricating, First Federal Lakewood, National Associates, Inc., Oatey Foundation, and The Krueger Group, Inc.

Visit youthchallengesports.com or call 440-892-1001 for more details.

Children Needing Grief Support Can Find Help At Overnight Camp

by Laurie Henrichsen

Support is available for children ages 8-14 who are coping with the death of a loved one. "Together We Can Overnight," a children's grief support camp hosted by Hospice of the Western Reserve, is planned from Saturday, Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m., to Sunday, Oct. 16, 10:15 a.m., at Red Oak Camp, 9057 Kirtland-Chardon Rd., Kirtland. The registration fee is \$25 per camper; scholarships are available. Space is limited and completed registrations are due by Monday, Sept. 26. For more information and to receive a registration packet, call 216.486.6838. For the convenience of families from Lakewood and the

surrounding west side communities, camp transportation will be provided from the Holiday Inn, 4181 W. 150th St. Drop-off times and additional camp details will be included in camp registration packets.

Planned activities such as commemorative crafts, drum circles and storytelling encourage memories, coping skills and the expression of feelings in a safe and supportive environment. Plenty of time is also set aside for fun recreational activities and creative play, allowing children to enjoy the beautiful natural setting.

"We have hosted bereavement day camps for many years," said Karen Hatfield, Team Leader for Counsel-

ing Services, Hospice of the Western Reserve. "Our campers have frequently asked us to consider an overnight event. We're excited to offer one for the first time this year. Staying overnight enables children to participate in traditional camp experiences like spending time together around the campfire and sleeping in the cabins available at Red Oak. The outdoor setting allows them to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and asking questions in a safe, supportive environment among other children who are coping with similar feelings."

Generous gifts from the community make it possible for Hospice of the Western Reserve, a nonprofit agency



Children and counselors gather to get acquainted and sing camp songs.

serving the Northern Ohio region, to offer a variety of grief support camps for children. For more information or to make a donation supporting the camps, visit hospicewr.org/donate.

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Lakewood Is Art

The Stage Mother Of All Musicals Opens 2016-2017 Beck Center Season

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts proudly opens its 2016-2017 theater season with the campy cult musical “*Ruthless!*” **September 16 through October 16, 2016** in the Mackey Theater. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are now on sale. Buy early and save with promo code: **PIPPY** to receive \$5 off each adult/senior ticket purchased by September 15. **This production contains strong language and content.**

“*Ruthless!*” is an Off-Broadway sensation featuring book and lyrics by **Joel Paley** and music by **Marvin Laird**. The winner of “Best Off-Broadway Musical” from the Outer Critics Circle, this story stars Tina Denmark—the greatest song-and-dance sensation to ever hit the third grade. When her school holds auditions for “*Pippi in Tahiti*,” Tina proves she will do anything to play the lead...anything! This outrageous production spoofs musicals such as “*Gypsy*” and “*Mame*,” as well as classic films including “*The Bad Seed*” and “*All About Eve*.” Even *The New York Times* agrees, “the fun comes from the sheer brazenness.”

Beck Center’s former artistic director, **William Roudebush**, returns to direct this hilarious musical for

the new theater season. “*Ruthless!*” is ‘*Gypsy*’ on steroids. It is an unforgiving satirical romp through every show business cliché including backstage back stabbing and self-involved shameless self-promotion,” remarked Roudebush. “How could I not want to direct this musical?”

With musical direction by **Larry Goodpaster** and choreography by **Martín Céspedes**, “*Ruthless!*” features Calista Zajac as Tina Denmark, and Lindsey Mitchell as ultimate stage mother Judy Denmark. They are joined by Matthew Wright as Sylvia St. Croix, Kate Michalski as Miss Thorn, Carla Petroski as Lita Encore, and Brittnei Shambaugh Addison as Louise Lerman/Eve Allabout. Equity actors Mitchell and Wright appear courtesy of the Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.

Tickets are \$31 for adults, \$27 for seniors (65 and older), and \$12 for students with a valid I.D. A \$3 service fee per ticket will be applied at time of purchase. Preview Night on Thursday, September 15 is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of four or more. Purchase tickets online at beck-center.org or call Customer Service at

216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of “*Ruthless!*” is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. It is generously sponsored by the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

“*Ruthless!*” opens Beck Center’s 2016-2017 theater season, which also includes the family favorite holiday production of Disney’s “*The Little Mermaid*.” It also includes the regional premieres of “*Body Awareness*” by Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Baker, “*Bring It On the Musical*” by “*Hamilton*” mastermind Lin-Manuel Miranda, and “*Really Really*” by Helen Hayes New Playwright winner Paul Downs Colaizzo. This



spectacular lineup is complimented by classics such as “*The Dresser*” and the Tony Award winning musical “*City of Angels*.” “I’m very excited by the balance in this season between regional premieres, as well as works that have been seen locally, though rarely,” commented Artistic Director **Scott Spence**. “This is a terrific season to explore new titles and to have some very special guest artists return to our stages.”

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Hosts 60th Annual New Teacher Luncheon

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to a banquet in their honor. This year the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce invited 35 new educators, administrators, and staff members to the 60th Annual New Teacher Luncheon.

This year’s luncheon, sponsored by Ohio Educational Credit Union, was held at Garfield Middle School on Friday, August 19th and was catered by Italian Creations. Each new teacher and administrator received a complimentary meal courtesy of Chamber members who “took a Teacher to lunch.” They also received a bag full of gifts plus door prizes – all donated by local businesses.

“The New Teacher Luncheon is always one of our most popular events” said Patty Ryan, CEO & President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. “I’m always impressed with how generous our local businesses are when it comes to our teachers, and the teachers very much appreciate the warm welcome from the Chamber and the business community.”

In addition to hearing remarks from Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Jeff Patterson and Jocie Miller from Ohio Educational Credit Union, the new educators and staff also had the opportunity to visit with representatives from AXA Advisors, Beck Center for the Arts, The Lakewood Historical Society, Intuitive Risk Management, Steve Barry Buick, North Coast Health, Shinn Lanter LLP and Lakewood Teen Health Center to learn more about the products and services that these organizations have to offer.

The Annual New Teacher Luncheon provides an exceptional opportunity for the Lakewood business community to show their great corporate spirit in welcoming new teachers and administrators to Lakewood. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is proud to host this event – one of the longest-running teacher welcome events in the State of Ohio. For a list of supporting businesses and event photos, visit lakewoodchamber.org.

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Entertainment

Woodstock Brings Smoking Good BBQ To Lakewood

by Jim O'Bryan

BBQ, Bar-B-Que, Barbecue no matter how you spell it, has been sadly missing on the westside of Cleveland, and in Lakewood. Attempts are spotty at best, with mixed results on different days. Over a decade ago, I was working with the Williams family to bring Hot Sauce Williams to Lakewood. That never materialized and a restaurant you could count on for ribs, brisket and BBQ just didn't exist.

Five years ago, BBQ took off again, quickly overtaking tacos as the cool food to search out and try. But like the craft beer mentality, it was more about tasting various attempts at BBQ, and posting about it, instead of finding a rock-solid Barbecue you could count on for a good BBQ day after day, time and time again.

The question on everyone's mind was when would good BBQ arrive here on the North Shore? Well, it just did. Robert Tagliotti, a Lakewood wash



Best of all worlds, well almost. Because its a bar/BBQ Joint, no children seated after 9pm, and no high chairs. But it is beautiful!

ashore from 20 years ago, and entrepreneur, has stepped up and put money where his mouth and belly are, on Madison. Directly across from his other business, Red-Eye Photo Booths, Bob bought Trios, and has been turning it into a proper Bar-B-Que. It took nearly a year to get the smokers installed and working perfectly.

Eight years ago I ran into Bob and he wanted to open "Bob's House of Beef."

Glad he came up with a better name for this fine establishment. It was amazing seeing him sitting there at the beautifully renovated "Woodstock," with the same concept, good beef for the city. Well, more than beef. With the help of pit-master Toomy Chambers, Bob is delivering great brisket, ribs, rib tips, chicken and sausage. It's BBQ Pit style, served in a pie tin with paper napkins and plastic utensils, which makes it more of a Southern BBQ experience. Add in the good side dishes and Brunswick Stew, amazing selection of bourbons, ciders, beers and ales, along with some mighty fine mes-cal, and a great time will be had by all. For all Lakewoodites, Bob kept on some of the amazing staff from Trios, like bar-maid Penny Seko, who has been there 30 years. On a hot night, on the patio, it might be the best spot on Madison.

Although Bob has never been in the restaurant and bar business, Bob knows great food, business, and travels all over in search of good food. He knows nice, he knows comfortable and he knows what he wants. I think he got it right. One of the interesting features in this restaurant-- no highchairs, and no kids after 9pm. "People have to understand, it's a bar/restaurant, that is no place for kids after 9."

Who cares what I think? Go check it out yourself. You will love it.

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You Know What's Funnier Than 24? Neither Do I: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 31

by Buzz Kompier

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

Archie & The Bunkers/Powersolo - split 7" - Dirty Water Records - 2 songs - 7", download

For this one, mistakes were made and the labels on the record were flipped. So, if you put on the side purported to be Archie & The Bunkers, you may have received an unpleasant surprise in the form of a different sibling duo. However, they're not in any way local, so I shall say no more. As for A&TB's song, "The Roaring 20s," it is everything that is great about Archie & The Bunkers. It's a catchy song, it's well played, it's energetic. I like the drum sound as well, it's nice and boomy. Any-

way, pick this one up for the Archie side. Remember not to get confused!

(dirtywaterrecords.co.uk - you kind of have to hunt around on the site to find it, but it's there)

Dennis Baker - Collisions Under Realm - Jib Machine Records/13 Recordings - 10 songs - CD, download

I know nothing about Dennis Baker, but a search on why the label sounded familiar revealed that it's the home of such notables as Guitarman and Hostile Omish. That's all I have to say about that. Most of the songs here are of a variety of acoustic pop rock that really isn't my cup of tea. Especially when it starts sounding Mellencampian ("Lizard Face" especially). However, the best moments are when the songs are pushed over the edge into weirdness, especially on "Coldy

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Forum

Vote FOR Ordinance This November To Move Lakewood Forward, Save Health Care, And Protect Taxpayers

by Tom Bullock

Lakewood is a great community and it's only getting better. It's one of the strongest and best-run cities in Northeast Ohio. Our schools are strong and we're transforming our parks. Our housing market is among the most attractive in the region. Our City government has met big challenges head-on and protected taxpayers, going 35 years without an income tax increase. Dozens of new businesses have opened. We've attracted young families and retained retiring residents. Things are moving in the right direction.

A big part of continuing the progress we see around town is facing challenges directly—not procrastinating or pretending they're not there.

That's exactly what City leaders did in negotiating an agreement from the Cleveland Clinic to build and operate a brand new, state-of-the-art medical center in Lakewood. This agreement ensures that Lakewood will have high-quality health care for many years to come.

The fact is that the future looked pretty bleak for our beloved and rapidly aging hospital. The cards were stacked against us, with trends in health care raising the cost of and reducing the need for inpatient care.

The Cleveland Clinic was cutting back on services, and there was a real risk of Lakewood taxpayers being left with an empty old building and a multi-million dollar bill to pay.

Lakewood Hospital began losing revenue in 2008. Those losses accelerated during the Great Recession (\$24.7 million in two years). Good financial stewardship stabilized the Hospital to near-breakeven levels in 2013 and 2014 with drastic expense cuts and smart investments, but long term viability was still in jeopardy. Forecasts worsened when the Cleveland Clinic announced its own growth plans in the far western suburbs. In 2015, Lakewood Hospital experienced losses averaging \$1 million per month, or \$35,000 every day. The trend line was clear and acute: without action, Lakewood Hospital would run out of money and close on its own in a few short years.

City leaders recognized these trends and took action before all Hospital cash reserves were depleted, instead acting while

the Hospital still had the resources to transform itself and preserve emergency and outpatient medical services for Lakewood patients decades into the future.

The plan Council chose was the best way—in fact, the only way—to save most health care services (including emergency services) and protect against tax increases.

While exploring options, hospital leaders and City Council searched for a different partner to continue running Lakewood Hospital, but found none. University Hospitals and Sisters of Charity declined. MetroHealth came the closest, but its 2014 proposal to hospital leaders was not viable: it lacked funding to back it, except expectations for support from Lakewood taxpayer subsidies, County taxpayer subsidies, and payments from both the Lakewood Hospital Foundation and the Cleveland Clinic (that neither were obligated to make). In 2015, Council invited MetroHealth to renew its offer, but MetroHealth declined repeated invitations to speak to Council and removed all doubt in a June 18 public letter by stating clearly that “there is no role... for an inpatient facility in Lakewood” in its plans.

Rumors of interest from unnamed health systems were mentioned by a handful of Lakewood citizens but remained just that—rumors. Rumors are not an option: Council cannot act on hearsay, and employee payrolls can't be paid by wishful thinking.

The facts are crystal clear: The Cleveland Clinic made the only thorough, realistic proposal for the transformation of Lakewood Hospital.

Council studied the issue at length: more than 52 hearings over 12 months, 58 experts, multiple reports, and dozens

of citizen speakers, totaling hundreds of hours of deliberation. And although City Council began its deliberation with serious concerns and sharply different views, we ended with a unanimous vote in support of the hospital transformation plan.

Business realities put Lakewood Hospital between a rock and a hard place. Nobody likes to be there. Our job was to cut our losses and plot an exit strategy that promised a viable future.

Lakewood residents might understandably feel frustrated (all of us do). To feel better, some are playing the blame game. There's plenty of blame to go around over plenty of years. Does anyone remember that University Hospitals pulled out of Lakewood?

Some voices in the community want to complain about the rock and sue the hard place. That might slake their thirst for revenge—for a short while—but it would not serve Lakewood.

Elected officials don't (and shouldn't) run hospitals (in a fast-paced changing world of advanced medical technology, market share, physician networks, insurance contracts, complex information technology and more). But elected officials do (and should) protect taxpayers. And that's exactly what we did when we found ourselves between that rock and a hard place.

We negotiated an agreement that cut our losses and identified a future with a whole lot of gains. What we ended up with is a world better than what the community would have gotten if we did nothing (a closed hospital, no health care services, no money, and taxpayers on the hook to pay for a huge white elephant in our downtown). The

transformation plan gives us millions to invest in a new kind of future for our city—while saving the kinds of medical services most needed by our citizens.

To protect our community's progress and the health of our citizens, we must vote “FOR the Ordinance” this November. It's the only way to guarantee a new, modern health care center with round-the-clock emergency care.

Voting FOR the ordinance will protect all of the benefits that Lakewood receives:

The agreement guarantees that the Cleveland Clinic will pay for and build a new, modern medical center with uninterrupted emergency care available 24/7/365.

Your health care experience likely won't change. We'll still have primary care and specialty outpatient programs, like geriatrics, cardiac care, and diabetes care.

The new medical center will offer the same health care services that 94 percent of patients sought at the old hospital, at the same convenient downtown location.

It protects health care for seniors with extensive specialty programs and doctors' offices, along with the Health Foundation that could help provide transportation to see friends and relatives at nearby hospitals.

The Clinic will pay Lakewood almost \$20 million for transition costs and to help Lakewood redevelop the old site, and \$32 million is being put into a Lakewood foundation to improve our community's health.

Lakewood voters should choose the best option on the November ballot—vote FOR a promising future, vote FOR continued progress, vote “FOR The Ordinance.”

You Know What's Funnier Than 24? Neither Do I: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 31

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Crawls” and “Magic Table Mind.” Those ones are definitely the most enjoyable, though even then I can't tell whether there's any humor to them. It's sort of like comparing Factorymen to Robert Ben-sick—is this a joke, or is this all some sort of weird metaphor? I also can't place exactly who this style is intended to appeal to. Again, not my bag, but there's some interesting enough stuff on here and I know there's some people who would really like this. Just not me. 3/5

(jibmachinerecords.com)

The Crunky Kids - Don't Give The Kids Not What They Don't Want - Hibachi/Distort Everything - 9 songs - 3” CD

This is The Crunky Kids' second release this year, following up on the 7” “In The Face Of The Death Of Death.” In fact, a couple of the songs here (“The Extinct” and “Not Dead Yet”) are repeats from that very 7”. If you're unfamiliar with The Crunky Kids, they play hardcore punk and feature members of Hangnail, Gag Reflex, and many many more (they're an Ohio band, after all). In addition to those two from the 7”, other highlights include “No More Room In Hell,” a slower one with quiet, spoken

vocals that forms a nice bridge between those aforementioned two, and some other standout hardcore numbers like “Complete Vice” and “Follow No Leaders.” Just to sweeten the deal even more, the album closes with two Sockeye covers, “Silverware Sucks” and “Scouting.” I actually like this one more than the 7”, to be honest. It's more raw and energetic and all that fun stuff. If this sounds good to you and you own a CD player that can handle a 3” CD, maybe it's something you should check out. Or maybe it isn't. Who can say? 4/5

(write to Hibachi Records, 497 Owego Street, Painesville, Ohio, 44077-4122 USA or try your local record store)

Part-Time Lover - Brains Out On The Table - self-released - 4 songs - Cassette, download

Here's the debut release from Part-Time Lover, a new band helmed by former Prisoner (ex-con?) Jason Look, as joined by Mandy Look (Goldmines), Pat O'Connor (Coffinberry), and Roseanna Safos (Sister Smirk) (and another Prisoners member, Sam Goldberg, but I think he's a guest star as opposed to a full member). I guess that makes it a supergroup, but by that logic, every single

band in Cleveland is a supergroup. As for the music here, it's I suppose what you'd expect from a mash-up of all those bands I just said. “Out Of My Control” is good indie folk rock but with a psychedelic feeling, provided by the lead guitar and synthesizer. “Living In The Past” has got a sunshine pop thing going on, as well as something resembling “Magical Mystery Tour”—era Beatles. The instrumental bits are kinda New Planet Trampoline-esque to me, but maybe I'm wrong. “Motorist” is more of a rocker, with lots of lead guitar. “Feel The Beat” is another solid one, more folky (the acoustic is higher in the mix). It's a perfectly fine release all the way through. I don't love it, but it's a pretty good start, and I'm interested in hearing how they progress. If you're a big fan of the type of music described here, though, you should get on it. 3.5/5

(part-timelover.bandcamp.com)

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

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Forum

Is There A Middle Regarding The Hospital Issue?

by Tim Collingwood

The last time I wrote an article about the Hospital issue, I was involved with Save Lakewood Hospital. Needless to say, it was a brief involvement, and I am not writing now to choose sides nor badmouth anyone on either side of this local issue. Last night, I attended my first Lakewood Democratic Club meeting, and observed what ensued.

I have been living in Lakewood for soon-to-be two years this October, and since then I have been learning about local issues affecting this city and its citizens. Again, I was briefly involved with Save Lakewood Hospital which is now renamed Keep Lakewood Strong. I voted for the last referendum about the issue because I care about healthcare rights and remain active in improving healthcare in this country. However, in watching what ensued at the Lakewood Democratic Club meeting, and that meeting being my first, and seeing friends and neighbors there, I saw with my fresh eyes, how divisive this Hospital issue has become and what it is doing to my city.

My question is- what is the middle of this argument? Can a middle compromise be achieved between City Council and Keep Lakewood Strong advocates?

Everyone at that meeting last night and everyone who wasn't at that meeting last night is my neighbor. The upside is that amid all differing opinions and beliefs, it was nice to see a group of citizens so fired up about issues that affect their daily living in a city they call their home. Lakewood still amazes me with how politically coherent and passionate its constituency is.

But, I see a need for a middle. I see a need for compromises to be made on

both sides to move on and make it so everyone can try to be happy and be proud to live in Lakewood, and that more people come into this city and have everything they need to live here as long as countless members of the Lakewood Democratic Club who want their voices heard in the decision-making of that organization without neglect or gerrymandering among themselves because of the fire that is burning on both ends of this Hospital issue.

Now, in my brief involvement with Keep Lakewood Strong, it is not that I didn't understand the anger many citizens of Lakewood feel regarding the loss of their Hospital and the neglect of a usually transparent city government to not let citizens be a part of the decision-making, fact-sharing, and political tete-a-tetes that was common before the city government's decision regarding keeping Lakewood Hospital open. I see the passionate effort of citizens to preserve or at least maintain some semblance of the healthcare they are used to, that they had with one of the last remaining city hospitals to remain available to them.

At the same time, I see the other side of the argument. In the last paper-pressed edition of the Observer, a local nurse wrote coming from the health care field about how outpatient is in and inpatient is out. I know that the Clinic is the biggest non-profit in the Greater Cleveland area and usually, there is no winning against the behemoth. I also know that citizens who pay attention to election cycles know that a political movement gains further traction when it has the clout of an election win. The last referendum on the city ballot did not pass.

People pay attention to wins and losses whether political or recreational, and to be fair to the other side of the argument, no one likes to be told it is their fault by the other side and that those who recognize these facts are complicit in enabling the corruption of the one episode of non-transparency in recent city government history. Also, since the argument has been the same since last year, there is no point in continuing to raise your voice in anger as if people aren't hearing the side that wants to keep Lakewood strong in the healthcare department. People are hearing. People are reading. The choice does rest with the individual as to whom and how they choose to voice their anger constructively.

So, back to my question, which I hope is read by both sides, what is the middle of this Hospital argument? Can a middle compromise be reached? Just from what I have been reading for the past year and three-fourths of the year the argument is very black and white with its absolutism.

My idea, which comes from listening to all sides and anyone willing to engage with me on the streets and in my patronage of Lakewood's cultural landmarks and public services, is that Keep Lakewood Strong should replace the pitchforks with a pitch to City Council to form a Citizens Advisory Committee on the issue of healthcare in the city of Lakewood. In return, the City Coun-

cil will represent their citizenry through this Committee, provided the Committee is the connection between citizen and council, and will open the idea of the Committee being allowed to consider other options for other healthcare systems in the area. Also, considering it is possible that the current referendum may still not pass, I do think it would be great for City Council to offer a compromise to the Clinic for the presence of this committee and the right for soliciting other healthcare system options for the city of Lakewood. In return, the Keep Lakewood Strong advocates could agree to a settlement to drop the lawsuits, because to the average Lakewood citizen, it is costing the taxpayer's money and we wonder why rent has gone up in the city to balance out the costs of the lawsuit.

Again, this is just a proposal for a middle compromise between City Council and Keep Lakewood Strong advocates. Everyone in this city is my neighbor and there is validity to both sides of the argument, but it is time we all move on and be fair to ourselves. I hope there can be a middle compromise achieved, because it is both taxing and aggravating to this Lakewood citizen to see such vitriol. I'd rather watch the news regarding the presidential and state election cycle. I respect any politically conscious person in my city of Lakewood. It's why I am still here. Let's work on a middle solution please.

Last-Minute St. Edward Win On ESPN

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people not affiliated with either school. For example, members of both the Lakewood High and St. Ignatius football teams were in the stands.

When the game kicked off, Jurkovec lived up to his billing. He threw for three touchdowns and 292 yards against the tough Eagle defense. He also had 91 rushing yards, and ran in another Pine-Richland touchdown. He had both a strong arm and excellent accuracy, leading the Rams to a 27-21 lead early in the second half. Pine-Richland held that lead until the final two minutes of the game, when a 26 yard touchdown run by Eagle running back Curtis Szelesta (and the ensuing extra point by Blaine Stencil) put St. Edward up 28-27. A last-minute interception by DeShane Bloodworth sealed the win, making St. Edward 1-0 on the new season.

It was an impressive win for the back-to-back state champions. Not only did they face Jurkovec and a very talented team, but also the heat and humidity of an August noontime game. Eagle Head Coach Tom Lom-

bardo believes the heat was a factor in the win, as his team's offseason conditioning sustained them in the fourth quarter comeback.

Despite replacing 17 starters, St. Edward looks capable of defending its championship again. Szelesta, who had 207 yards and three touchdowns in the game, stepped into the workhorse running back role filled last year by Cole Gest, now at Indiana University. Senior quarterback Kevin Kramer overcame a couple of turnovers to lead the final touchdown drive. The defense, which was gashed by the talented Jurkovec in the first half, settled in to contain him in the second half. The Rams were able to move the ball downfield multiple times in the second half, but the Eagle defense stiffened whenever they crossed into St. Edward territory.

St. Edward returns to play Friday night at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron. Their next home game will be Saturday, September 10th at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. The Eagles will face local power Glenville in a 7 p.m. kickoff.

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Forum

Parents’ Take On Wagar Park Redesign

by Emily Lindberg

As a resident who lives near Wagar Park and goes there regularly with my young children, I was thrilled to learn that the city was planning on redesigning this space. I attended the second “re-envisioning” meeting for Wagar Park, where the three new park design concepts were unveiled to the public for the first time, and was disappointed that the two groups which seem to use the park the most (families of small children and middle school children) where not in attendance, most likely due to the time of day that the meeting was held (dinner/ bed time). In response to this deficit of input, I hosted my own informal meeting on August 23rd to ask other parents what they would like to see in the new Wagar Park and their opinions of the three concepts put forth by the city. These were my findings.

- Bathrooms and Water Fountains**

This was the number one amenity that came up from everyone I talked with.
- Trees**

Plant more trees, yes, but please don’t cut down the existing trees.
- Chemicals**

There were concerns that the poured in place rubber, which is currently the main ground cover on the playground, may be toxic (from off-gassing as well as if ingested when



Part of the existing playstructure at Wagar Park, which is due for major rennovations in the coming year.

small particles breakdown). The other concern was if the city sprays the grass to help control weeds. Parents want to limit exposure to chemicals whenever possible. Most said that they preferred woodchips, which is the groundcover

that the city just put in place at all three of the new elementary school playgrounds.

- Basketball**

Yes, parents want it! However, there seemed to be a split between those who thought the half court proposals were fine and those who wanted at least one full court.
- Ice Skating**

Parents loved this idea! What a great way to utilize this space in the winter.

It was amazing how many great ideas came out of this informal meeting of parents. I hope that in the future the city will seek out parents’ input as well as that of the middle school kids that currently use the park on a daily basis after school. Together, we can come up with a park design that is beautiful, functional, and utilizes the existing resources of the space.

Build Lakewood Is Still Alive And Kicking

To the Editor:

Bill Mager, in his article “Lakewood Insiders Rebrand...” in the August 16th edition, was wrong.

Build Lakewood is alive and well, still working to educate Lakewood residents on health care and development opportunities, all important for the future of our city.

Last year, we saw in our personal lives and in regional statistics that health care delivery was changing.

Chronic diseases and community health issues would be better served by a new family medical center and a 24/7 state-of-the-art Emergency Room than unused beds at Lakewood Hospital.

Placing this new family medical center across the street from the former hospital would free up six acres of land for tax paying business development.

We led the citizen effort for this to happen. And it is.

No, Build Lakewood is not going away.

Yes, there is a citizen referendum on the November ballot which would put a roadblock in front of Lakewood’s

future, stalling progress that has already been agreed upon by Lakewood voters, and voted on unanimously by Lakewood City Council.

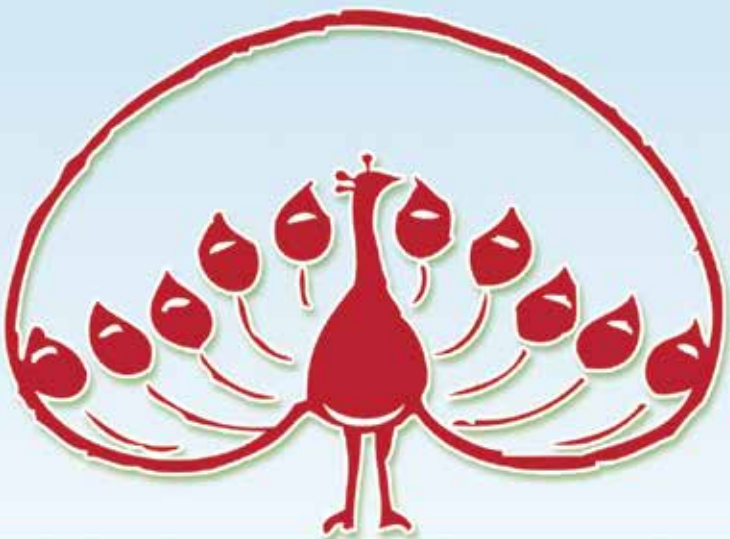
Yes, a new citizen group “Lakewood Voters for Progress” has been formed to educate the voters that we all need to vote FOR the ordinance that Lakewood City Council passed unanimously in December. And, Build Lakewood unequivocally supports this effort.

Lakewood’s future is bright. Our residents and our children depend upon it. Build Lakewood intends to play a part in making it even brighter.

Sincerely,
Pam Smith
Build Lakewood Chair

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Lakewood Living

Chronic Pain Self Management:

Take Charge Of Your Health

by Barry Wemyss

Are you an adult, age 55 or older, dealing with a health condition causing chronic pain? If you or someone you know is dealing with chronic pain, consider joining us for a free Chronic Pain Self Management series. This exciting, evidence-based program is being offered by Fairhill Partners and the City of Lakewood, Division of Aging. Participants will get the support they need, as well as find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue, discover better nutrition and exercise choices and learn better ways of talking with family and medical professionals about their health.

Chronic Pain Self Management (CPSM) can help participants to live healthier lives, as well as reduce cost to healthcare systems. For people with

chronic illness, CPSM has been shown to improve health, function and communication with their doctors, while reducing distress and helping manage symptoms like fatigue, pain and depression. Participants will learn from trained leaders who understand firsthand what they are experiencing.

This class will consist of six two hour sessions. The first session will begin on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 12:30 p.m., in the dining room at Senior Center East, 12400 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio. Transportation is available for Lakewood seniors, aged 60+. This program is free, but please call the City of Lakewood, Division of Aging Activities Office at 216-529-5005 for more information or to reserve a spot.

Beat The Pack: Living Happy And Healthy

by Barry Wemyss

Have you been giving some serious thought to leaving cigarettes behind, once and for all? North Coast Health and the City of Lakewood, Division of Aging are combining forces to offer an exciting new option for smokers: "Beat The Pack." This free smoking cessation program promotes numerous obvious benefits: Better tasting food, a greatly improved sense of smell, increased energy levels, better smelling hair, clothes, breath and living space, as well as the obvious benefit of having more money in the pocket.

"Beat The Pack" will consist of four once-a-month sessions. Beginning Tuesday, September 13th, we will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, through December 13th. "Beat The Pack" class sessions will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and will be held at the

Lawther Center, 16024 Madison Ave. in Lakewood. This free program is available to people of all ages. Please call the Lakewood Division of Aging Activities Office at 216-529-5005 for more information, or to reserve your spot. If you are ready to quit smoking, come and find out how "Beat The Pack" can help you on your quest.

Hospital Vote Q&A At Lakewood Public Library September 13

by Matt Kuhns

Lakewood's main library is the place to get informed about the upcoming vote on Lakewood Hospital.

This November, local voters will make a choice for or against a city ordinance closing Lakewood's publicly owned hospital. With early voting coming up even sooner, voters are invited to learn the details of this choice at a public Q&A, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13.

Everyone attending the free event can take home a voter guide with information from the Board of Elections. Along with the issue number for this vote, which the board will announce in early September, the guide will include ballot language and important voting deadlines. Panelists at the event will talk about these basics as well, along with the facts and background of this big decision.

Following the brief presentation, panelists will take audience questions on any and all aspects of the pending vote. The evening's panel will feature experienced representatives from law and government, including leaders of Save Lakewood Hospital, a local organization that opposes the hospital closing.

Save Lakewood Hospital spokesman Kevin Young says that "This evening is local democracy at its simplest and best. Community leaders will sit down with neighbors, and discuss the issues and process of an important vote, face to face."

The September 13 event will take place at Lakewood's main library,

15425 Detroit Avenue, in the first-floor multipurpose room. (The entrance to the multipurpose room is reached through the children's department.) Advance registration is required as seating is limited, but all are encouraged to sign-up while spaces last by calling (216) 586-2401. There is no cost to register.

On September 10

Taps Flow At 4th Annual Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival

continued from page 1

nue. Tickets can be purchased online at WineandCraftBeerFestival.com or at Rozi's Wine House (14900 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood).

Guests at this year's Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival will receive a commemorative tasting glass, 15 sample tickets and access to The University of Akron Lakewood Wine & Beer School. Food will be available for purchase from 10 of Lakewood's best restaurants, and live music will be heard from the First Federal Lakewood Stage throughout the event.

Headlining the craft beer selection is title sponsor Sibling Revelry Brewing, which will have a half dozen of its signature brews available to attendees with General Admission tickets. Guests with VIP tickets will also have an opportunity to enjoy "Fat Sibling," a Dry-Hopped Saison resulting from a collaborative effort between Sibling Revelry and Fat Head's Brewery.

The festival represents a fundraiser for LakewoodAlive and the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a pro-

gram of LakewoodAlive, aiding in the continued revitalization of Downtown Lakewood. "We're extremely excited to host the 4th Annual Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director at LakewoodAlive. "This popular community event affords us yet another opportunity to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. We invite wine and beer enthusiasts from Lakewood and across the region to attend and enjoy our festival."

General Admission tickets are available for \$40 in advance and \$50 at the gate, though this festival is expected to sell out. Designated Driver tickets are available for \$10 (pre-sale only). This event is intended for guests aged 21+. Due to safety concerns, dogs will not be permitted. Visit WineandCraftBeerFestival.com for more information.


LakewoodAlive thanks the following generous sponsors of the Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival: Sibling Revelry Brewing (title sponsor), Rozi's Wine House, Around The Corner, First Federal Lakewood, Geiger's, Georgetown Restaurant Lakewood, Sprokets, The Beehive Studio, Vosh Lakewood, Alaskan Brewing Co., Breckenridge Brewery, Rhinegeist, The University of Akron Lakewood, Cox Communications, Discount Drug Mart, Great Lakes Brewing Company, Lakewood Citizens, Laskey Costello, LLC, Pat Catan's Craft Centers, Platform Beer Co., Scalish Construction and Shinn Lanter, LLP.

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Lakewood Living

Navigating On The Erie Canal

by Edward Favre
*I've got an old mule and her name is Sal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal,
She's a good old worker and a good old pal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.*

I still remember that song from elementary school. That's how I first learned of the Erie Canal and I thought maybe someday I'd go and see it

Years go by and I developed a love for history and boating. Visiting relatives gave me an affection for upstate New York. A trifecta that spells Erie Canal.

Fortunately, Gladys was also very interested and we starting seriously thinking about boating the Erie Canal. Over the last couple years, we did some research and drives through New York towns like Lockport and Medina. We contacted the New York Barge Commission, obtained maps and charts, got the 10-day permit, and decided summer 2016 was it.

*We've hauled some barges in our day,
Filled with lumber, coal and hay,
And every inch of the way we know,
From Albany to Buffalo.*

We towed our 24-foot Sea Ray to Amherst, NY, just northeast of Buffalo, on the Erie Canal. This is about 7 miles from the west end of the Canal at the Niagara River. We put in at Amherst Marine Center, owned by brothers Jack and Bill McDonald. Jack was great to line things up and Bill was on hand when we got there. What the heck, he lives sum-

mers there on a 40 some foot Carver.
Better people you could not want to meet and have help you going to a new destination. Bill, and another docker, Bart, who stays on his 40+ Silverton, gave us so much Erie Canal information that our heads were going to explode. We overnighted there, getting ready to start the trip the next morning.
*Low bridge, everybody down,
Low bridge, for we're coming to a town,
And you'll always know your neighbor,
And you'll always know your pal.
If you've every navigated on the Erie Canal.*

Going east from Amherst, we arrived in Lockport. Locks 35 and 34 dropped us 25 feet each. It's a great old historical town where we've spent time in the past. This time we just locked through. The lockmaster checked and dated our permit and told us he'd let the lift bridge operators ahead know we were coming.

New York really does it right. From then on, when we approached a lock or lift bridge, the lockmaster or operator would respond to our boat by name, tell us he or she saw us coming and would get us in the lock or lift the bridge.

The lift bridges on the Erie Canal are great old steel structures, nearly identical and over 100 years old. They've been rebuilt and are in very good shape. When down, they are about 6 feet +/- above the water. The operators are great.

Some tend two bridges and drive ahead to open the next. We were held up for about 5-10 minutes waiting for the operator to come from another bridge where he had just lifted for other boats. We got three apologies. These people are really good.

We also passed though guard gates all along the canal. These are large steel doors that open and close to control the water flow in the Canal.

We arrived at Albion to stop for the first night. Birthplace of George Pullman,

who supposedly got his idea for the railroad sleeping car from watching people on the Canal. It's a beautiful old town, first built when the Canal came through in the 1820s.

Downtown Albion is full of wonderful old buildings and magnificent churches built of the red Medina Sandstone quarried nearby. The 1874 Presbyterian church has a red sandstone steeple 175 feet tall! It is the Orleans County seat and has a great old courthouse to match.

Sadly, the historic downtown area is like a ghost town as the businesses have been lost to an area a half mile from the original downtown. It is a typical sprawl; lookalike, mass produced box stores, fast food chain restaurants, and hot paved parking areas that are inconvenient to canal travelers.

We stopped in the hardware store downtown for a water hose. A hardware store has been in this location since the 1840s and the current owner has been there 30+ years. Wal-Mart opened outside town a couple years ago. Since then, he's laid off his employees and doesn't know if he'll make it through the winter. Haven't we all heard similar stories before?

Next stop was Brockport. What a pleasure to see. A bustling old school downtown with restaurants, taverns, and stores adjacent to the canal. Even an operating movie theater, the Strand, with a marquis similar to our old Detroit Theater. No McDonald's here, thankfully. Brockport was a great refresher after poor Albion.

Next stop was Spencerport. A nice town with a welcome center and museum right on the canal with a mixture of buildings from the 1800s, 1900s and now. We hung out with boaters Mike and Sue from Geneva NY and Don and Cathy from Tonawanda NY. They are experienced canal travelers with very nice, larger boats. It was like us in a pop-up camper and them in RVs. We had a good time with them. Don, Cathy and Mike are all retired teachers.

The Erie Canal was built at a cost of just over \$7million and repaid its debt in 10 years. It was widened in the early 1860s and again in the late 1910s. Originally it had 83 locks, now 35, that take the canal through 570 feet of elevation. Railroads severely cut into traffic in the late 1800s, but the canal survived and actually had its peak tonnage in the 1950s.

Today's canal is far wider and does not necessarily follow the footprint of the original canal. There are places where the 1825 and 1860s canal beds are separate and visible from the current 1910s canal.

The opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway and completion of the New York Thruway took all the traffic except oil. A pipeline opened in the early 1970s finished the job. There is no commercial traffic now, other than tourism. As we went through vast corn fields and apple orchards, we saw that the canal is a large source of irrigation water.

Leaving Spencerport, we went through a 5 mile cut through hills with stone walls as high as 40 feet on each side of the canal. As we left the cut, we crossed the Genesee River, flowing north



to Rochester. A dam in Rochester holds back the river water to maintain the Erie Canal's depth. The river then flows to Lake Ontario but, due to the dam, you cannot boat from the Erie Canal to Lake Ontario via the Genesee River. The story we were told was that back when the canal was being built, the folks in Rochester did not want to be bothered with the fuss of locks in the center of town.

After going through Locks 33 and 32, the next stop was Pittsford. Nice, trendy, crafty, kinda plastic, and expensive. Nice transient docks. Had lunch and moved on.

Fairport was the next stop. A neat town with more history. In 1883, The R.T. French Company opened a spice mill. It was destroyed by fire in 1885 and the company moved to Rochester. In 1886, De Land & Company built a plant to make Baking Powder. Many of those building still stand and house other businesses.

Passing through Locks 30 and 29, we arrived at Palmyra, but not before the lockmaster at 29 gave the boaters from Ohio some business about Steph Curry and Michigan State.

Palmyra is another great old town with plenty of brick Victorian buildings. One house, built in 1827, was a station on the Underground Railroad. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1832, Village Hall in 1867, and the Baptist Church in 1870.

A 150-foot structural steel flagpole donated during the 1892 Cleveland-Harrison Presidential election still flies Old Glory. Henry Wells, the co-founder of Wells-Fargo, did foot-delivery here. Winston Churchill's grandparents lived in and were married in Palmyra.

A friendly Palmyra Police officer told us where to get the best pizza in town. We had breakfast with locals in a place called Muddy Water Cafe, a one-woman, smaller version of the Root. After a quick stop at Newark, we went through Locks 28B and then 28A at Lyons. Then through Lock 28, past the Village of Clyde and through Lock 26.

At green channel marker 547, we turned right (southerly), leaving the Erie Canal and entering the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. The Erie Canal continues eastward to Albany and the Hudson River.

On the C-S Canal, we went through Lock 1 and again turned right at red channel marker 54 and into the Seneca River.

Just outside downtown Seneca Falls, we locked up a total of 50 feet through Locks 2 & 3, which is also at the dam that created their reservoir. This is the same height we locked down at Lockport. All the other locks along the way were about 6-12 feet. We had travelled about 110

continued on next page





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