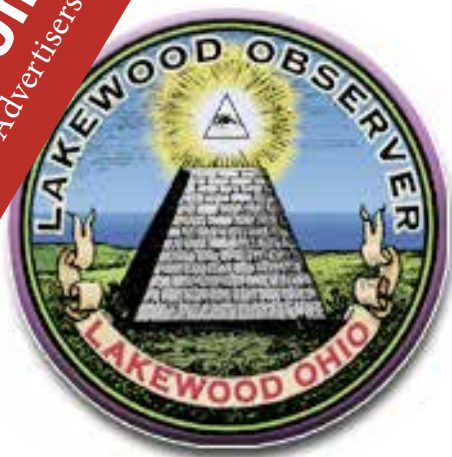


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LATE BREAKING NEWS!
Lakewood Board of Education changes end of Academic year from June 2, to May 20, 2020.

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Volume 16, Issue 09, MAY 6, 2020



What's next? City ponders next move at old hospital site.

One-Lakewood Developer Backs Out Of Deal

by Mayor Meghan George

Since taking office on January 1, 2020, my administration has been focused on redeveloping the former Lakewood Hospital site into an asset for our community. The prior administration entered into a Development and Use Agreement (“DUA”) with Carnegie Management and Development Corporation

(“Carnegie”) to develop this site. My administration has faithfully fulfilled its obligations under the DUA, including completing the demolition and site preparation work contemplated by the DUA.

The work was completed, and, on February 7th, the City delivered the final certification letter to Carnegie verifying completion of the City's work

at the Lakewood Hospital site. Additionally, the City obtained a No Further Action (NFA) letter from a certified environmental professional confirming abatement at the Lakewood Hospital site in accordance with standards under Ohio's Voluntary Action Program (VAP).

On March 10, 2020, my administration submitted detailed deal points to Carnegie to continue negotiations. Instead, Carnegie has taken the position, articulated in letters to the City on April 3rd and April 10th, that they are terminating the DUA.

This action has not changed my commitment to redeveloping the former Lakewood Hospital site into an asset for our community. We know that the site, centrally located in the heart of Lakewood and with demolition, abatement and site work completed, is one of the most attractive sites for development in all of Northeast Ohio. No community can rival our density and vibrancy.

We will move forward on this site in a safe and thoughtful manner. We have an opportunity to bring to Lakewood the right project from the right team and are eager to get this underway.

Thank You, Lakewood Voters

by Christine Gordillo

Once again the Lakewood community showed that it values its public school district and the education it provides for our city's children!

In the April 28 election, the Lakewood City Schools' 4.9 mill operating and permanent improvement levies passed 76.66% to 26.34%, according to unofficial results.

Said Superintendent Mike Barnes: “During this extremely trying time in our community, we are extremely grateful for their support and commitment to keeping our schools strong and stable.”

Plans for the new funds include:

Providing more mental health services and counseling for our students;

Retaining and recruiting high-quality teachers by paying them competitive salaries

Expanding STEM offerings;

Keeping educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date;

Expanding career tech educational opportunities for middle and high school students;

Expanding early childhood programs; and

Keeping all of our buildings, athletic fields, and other assets in good condition.

"This victory would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our campaign volunteers," Barnes said. "Parents, staff members, students, residents, community leaders, campaign donors and endorsers all played a big part in reaching out to voters to ensure they were informed about the importance of this issue, and were educated on how to cast their vote by mail. We are appreciative of their time and efforts throughout this extended campaign!"

A Message From Superintendent Barnes

by Superintendent Michael Barnes

Hello Lakewood. I want to say thank you for showing your faith and support at the ballot.

Issue 28 is very important for the future of the Lakewood City Schools and you showed up and demonstrated your commitment to the continuation of the excellence in education that we intend to provide for our children.

My mother used to say that faith is like a muscle: the

more you exercise the muscle, the stronger it gets. You exercised a tremendous amount of faith in the Lakewood City Schools. And I am personally thankful and grateful for that generosity.

With it comes an awesome responsibility to plan for the future of our students and we're committed to that expectation.

Thank you.

One heartbeat. One Lakewood.

COVID-19 Refuse Hours



Marilyn wants to remind everyone...

The Refuse and Recycling Drop Off Center at 12920 Berea Rd. hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for residents of Lakewood. Residents should bring their driver's license or other I.D. to verify their Lakewood residency.

A satellite station is at the skatepark at Lakewood Park (14532 Lake Ave.) this station will also maintain the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. This station is closed Saturdays.

**Drive-through Window
Main Library**

**Curbside Service
Madison Branch**

**Will Be Available
Beginning May 4, 2020**

**Patrons will be able to pick up holds,
call with reference questions and are
welcome to call ahead to have items
pulled for checkout Monday through
Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**



City of Lakewood Completes Small Business Grants Rent Relief Tops \$187,492

by Justin R. McCaulley

City of Lakewood Completed its Small Business Grants. Rent relief for 118 small businesses tops \$187,492

The City of Lakewood completed its Small Business Rent Relief grant program on Monday, May 4. With the announcement of awards to the final recipients, the City

has issued \$187,492.92 in rent relief grants to 118 small businesses in Lakewood.

“We understood at the very beginning of this pandemic that the public health crisis was only half of the equation—the economic fallout would be severe. Lakewood is so proud of its small businesses and Shop Local mentality. Unfor-

tunately, our small businesses are vulnerable to the kind of disruption or total shutdown that has resulted from the pandemic. I want to do everything within the power of the Mayor's Office to show our small businesses that we support them. I'm proud of my team and

continued on page 11

Council's Page

Since being elected as your Ward 2 City Councilmember, I have written a weekly newsletter to keep you informed. The View from Ward 2 is delivered to subscribers' inboxes every Monday and as of April 20th we have sent out 16 issues! For those of you who do not want to clutter your inbox, I am now providing a version for the Lakewood Observer. Below is a combination of Issue #15 and Issue #16.

If you are interested in subscribing to the newsletter please visit <https://mailchi.mp/shachnerforlakewood/newsletter>. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to e-mail me at Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net or call me at (216) 714-2150.

City Council Meeting

At the beginning of the City Council meeting held on April 20th, Peter Rancatore and Claudia Dillinger were officially sworn into office as the Director of Finance and the Director of Human Resources, respectively. At a previous Committee of the Whole meeting we had an opportunity to have thorough conversations with them both. Ms. Dillinger shared her past experiences, including her part in creating the Human Resource Department for the City of Elyria. Ms. Dillinger also told us of her support for paid parental leave policies and explained her strategies for recruiting a diverse workforce. Mr. Rancatore told us that he was raised in Fairview Park and attended St. Eds. He shared with us his extensive experience and said that he was impressed with our award-winning Finance Department's history of excellence. They both bring a wealth of experience to their positions and I look forward to working with them.

Mayor George notified Council that Carnegie Management and Development Corporation, the developer that was developing the former Lakewood Hospital site, has taken the position that it has terminated the Development and Use Agreement. Since receiving this report from Mayor George, I have diligently sought related materials to garner a better understanding of how we arrived at this point. We discussed the One Lakewood Place development in greater detail at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Monday, April 27th. It appears that Carnegie will not be developing the site. Although we are disappointed,



by Jason Shachner
Councilman Ward 2

we are optimistic that future developers will be attracted to the shovel-ready work site and eager to be a part of a project that will shape the future of Lakewood.

Finally, City Council approved an agreement between the City and Cuyahoga County, whereby the County will provide \$240,000 in funding for the striping of bike lanes on Lake Avenue between Cove and Webb. This project is expected to be completed by November.

You can watch the entire meeting by visiting <http://www.onelakewood.com/councilvideos/>.

Coronavirus Updates

According to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, we are still experiencing community spread of the virus. Please continue to be conscientious about washing your hands and keeping your distance from others.

The Phoenix Vape Lounge, located at Lauderdale and Detroit, was cited for violating the stay-at-home order. This remains the only business cited in Lakewood so far.

For our local businesses, the City created a webpage devoted to providing you resources during the pandemic: <http://www.onelakewood.com/covid-19businessresources/?fbclid=IwAR3a7bXsVEObH41kyO3MZ6USduLfxwB-51v6Y6Yz0-GE43vEhVJV24COHwL8>. Small businesses can apply for a one-time supplemental cash grant through the Save Small Business Fund. For more information, please visit the link above or <https://savesmallbusiness.com/>.

Lakewood High School students

made face shields in the 3D printing lab and donated them to our Fire Department. Thank you, students, for contributing to the effort to keep our first responders safe during the pandemic!

Housing, Planning, & Development Committee Meeting

On Tuesday, April 21st, I chaired a Housing, Planning, & Development Committee meeting on the topic of rent assistance. I called this meeting because I am concerned that residents may be struggling to pay rent due to the unprecedented job losses due to the pandemic.

During the meeting, I learned that a significant number of residents are being either denied unemployment or unemployment insurance payments are not being promptly dispersed, which adds to the potential danger that residents will not be able to afford their rent.

Mary Leigh from the Department of Planning briefed the Committee on current avenues of funding. She relayed that there are two main sources of funding available for rent assistance. One is the Emergency Shelter Grant Program that is managed by the Lakewood Community Center and is available for renters whose income is 30% or less of the area median income (AMI). The second is from the HOME funds, which can provide rent and utility payment assistance for those whose income is 60% or less than AMI. These programs calculate a person's income

based on when they apply, meaning that those whose jobs were affected by the pandemic may qualify. Unfortunately, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has not provided guidelines on how the available funds can be disbursed to those in need. Unfortunately, this means that these funds remain unable to be distributed until HUD releases their guidelines.

In the next Housing, Development, and Planning Committee, the Committee will explore where other funds may be available for more immediate residential rental assistance that is not reliant on action by the Federal Government. The Committee will also discuss ways that we can expand our restaurants' ability to offer outdoor dining to accommodate potential social distancing requirements. For instance, various other cities have relaxed permitting requirements and allowed outdoor dining to expand onto sidewalks, parking lots, and into streets.

You can watch the entire meeting by visiting <http://www.onelakewood.com/councilvideos/>.

Jason Shachner is the Ward 2 Lakewood City Councilmember. He is currently serving as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Lake County Prosecutor's Offices' Criminal Division. He lives on Cook Ave. with his wife, Michelle, and their 13-year-old shepherd mix, Tessie.



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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ClevelandClinic.org/COVIDResponse

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Lakewood Schools

Goo Work Lakewood High Academic Challenge Team

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the LHS Academic Challenge team of seniors Evan Bell, Aidan Bohac, and Tristan Rumsey for finishing as runners up in the Nordson Academic Challenge competition!

The Rangers finished second to Brunswick High School. Lake-

wood's team earlier in the season had won its episode versus Valley Forge and Garfield Heights high schools, earning the season's top score at the time. Way to go, Rangers!

The team is advised by LHS teachers Peter Petto and Bob Sedlak.



Five graduating seniors have been awarded college scholarships by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River. They are (from left) Kim Banak, Johana Guci, Nayfeh Mahmoud, and Nathaniel White from Lakewood High School, and Youssef Salama from Rocky River High School.

Rotary Awards Scholarships To Five High School Seniors

by Lynn Donaldson

Five students have been awarded college scholarships by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River.

They are graduating seniors Kim Banak, Johana Guci, Nayfeh Mahmoud, and Nathaniel White from Lakewood High School, and Youssef Salama from Rocky River High School. Each will receive a \$3,000 award from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation. The \$15,000 scholarship program is part of over \$60,000 that the Rotary club donates to the community each year.

In addition to demonstrating academic achievement and potential, these five Rotary scholarship winners were chosen for their character, as well as extracurricular and community involvement.

Kim Banak was a four-year member of the Ranger Marching Band. She was recognized as the Outstanding Student in Health Careers at Lakewood High School's West Shore Career Technical Center. She was a leader in the school's Home Alone program in which high school students help younger students learn how to be safe at home while parents are still at work. Kim will pursue premedical and biology studies at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA.

Johana Guci has expressed her appreciation for opportunities as a recent immigrant by being deeply involved in her high school's "Help to Others" (H2O) service club. Her scholastic achievement at Lakewood and at Tri-C has earned her membership in the National Honor Society. Johana will study biochemistry at Case West-

ern Reserve University.

Nayfeh Mahmoud has taken advantage of Ohio's College Credit Plus program to satisfy her high school requirements and earn nearly two years of college course credit. At the same time, she volunteers at numerous charity and cultural events. Nayfeh will study nursing at Cleveland State University.

Youssef Salama sought to become a well-rounded student at Rocky River High School with extracurricular involvement in band and varsity tennis. He also held down part-time jobs while volunteering at his church and Fairview Hospital. "Life is too short for negativity," he states as his motto for living. Youssef will study business at Loyola University in Chicago.

Nathaniel White balanced academics, part-time employment, and extracurricular activities in his successful high school career. That included serving as captain of Lakewood's varsity bowling team for which he set new school records. Nathaniel will study cybersecurity at Baldwin Wallace University.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs (known as Rotarians) provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary's main objective is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. To learn more, visit www.rotary.org.



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Lakewood Schools

District Earns 2020 Best Communities For Music Education Award

by Christine Gordillo

For the fourth consecutive year, Lakewood City Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Lakewood is one of 754 schools from across the country and only 47 in Ohio to earn the prestigious award.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, the District answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs.

This award recognizes that Lakewood City Schools is leading the way with music learning opportunities as outlined in the federal education legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation designates music and the arts as important elements of well-rounded education for all children. Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill



benefits for children who make music. The Lakewood City School District offers music education from kindergarten through 12th grade. Instrumental instruction begins in 5th grade. Middle school offerings include classroom band, orchestra, and choir with extracurricular opportunities in all three such as Strolling Strings and Jazz Band.

The high school boasts of five orchestras, four choirs, three bands, and classes in music theory, music history, pop music and keyboard. In addition, our high school extracurricular ensembles provide numerous opportunities for our students to enhance their musical experience through groups such as the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band, The Lakewood Project, Chamber Choir, and Jazz Band, just to name a few.



LHS Pair's Artwork Chosen For Governor's Exhibit

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Lakewood High senior Natalie Costello and junior Nola Williams-Riseng, who each had their artwork selected to be part of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. The works are two of 275 from students across the state chosen for the exhibit, which due to the coronavirus pandemic will be a virtual exhibit this year.

Regional judges received more than 1,000 entries from high school students across Northeast Ohio and from those, 126 (including 21 from LHS) were selected to join winners from the other Ohio regions to be judged at the state level to determine which pieces of art would be part of the exhibit.

The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition, now in its 50th year, is open to all of Ohio's high schools, both public and private. Its purpose is to provide all budding young artists of the state with opportunities to advance their talent, whether that be through scholarships or simply experiencing the process of entering their work in a competition.

- participate in one of these government subsidies programs: The National School Lunch Program, SNAP, TANF or Public Housing
- are not a current Cox Internet customer

There are no deposits or annual contracts with Connect2Compete, and self-installation with in-home Wi-Fi equipment is included at no additional charge.

Congratulations again to Natalie and Nola as well as their teachers, Dayna Hansen and Arline Olear.

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Cox Comm. Extends Coronavirus Response Offer Connect2Compete With Free Service For Students Until July 15

by Jeff Lavery

Recognizing that students will remain home to finish out the school year, Cox has extended free Connect2Compete service, the company's low-cost internet offer for families with a K-12 student at home until July 15. Remote service support is also extended to ensure ease of implementation while students continue to learn at home during the Coronavirus pandemic. Customers that sign up between March 13 and May 15 are eligible for this offer and will receive free service until July 15.

"Distance learning is critical during this time and Cox wants to ensure digital equity so that all kids have the ability to learn and advance from home," said Pat Esser, president and chief executive officer of Cox Communications. "By extending Connect2Compete to July 15, we keep kids connected to their studies through the end of the school year, and account for additional virtual learning that may be required into the summer."

Cox temporarily doubled download speeds for its Connect2Compete customers from 25 to 50 Mbps in mid-March. This increase will also continue through July 15.

A summary of the latest enhancements to Cox's Connect2Compete program include:

Limited time, free Connect-

2Compete service until July 15th for customers who apply by May 15th, \$9.95 thereafter

- Until July 15, 2020, Cox is providing phone and remote desktop support through Cox Complete Care at no charge to provide peace of mind and ease for technology needs
- Easy referral for discounted, refurbished equipment through PCs for People
- Increased internet download speeds from 25 to 50 Mbps through July 15
- A Learn from Home toolkit for schools, including instructions on how to fast-track eligible students without internet access, can be found at cox.com/connect2compete

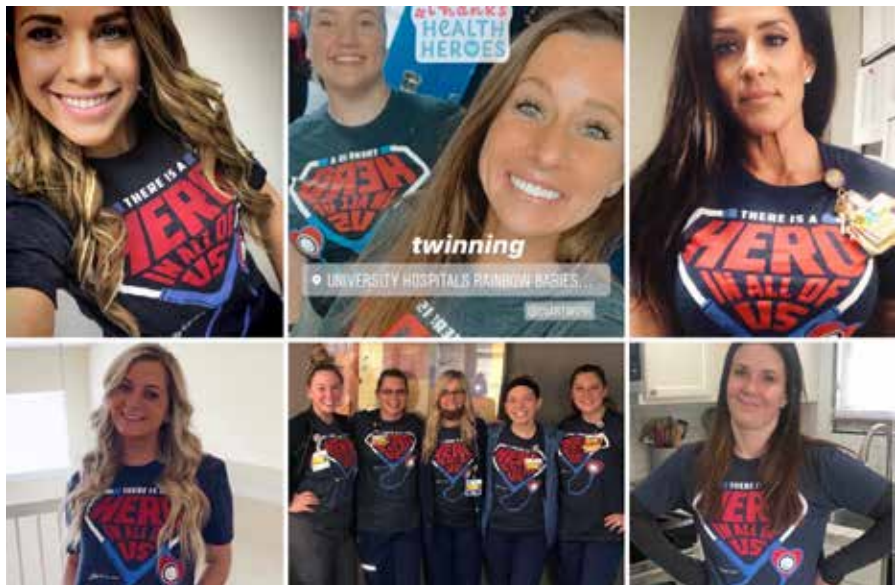
Cox continues to explore partnerships with top educational development organizations to provide content for Connect2Compete families this summer to keep them engaged and ready for the next school year. New programs and content will be found soon on The Cox Digital Academy, an extension of the Connect2Compete program that better equips children and parents to maximize the power of those connections with online tools.

The Cox Connect2Compete program is available to families who:

- have at least one child that is a K-12 student at home

continued on page 7

Lakewoodites Dealing With COVID-19



GV Art + Design In The Effort To Support Local Front-Line Professionals

by George Vlosich

GV Art + Design is utilizing its unique creative and artistic abilities in the effort to support local front-line professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently we teamed up with both University Hospitals and Cleveland Clinic with the launch of our “Heroes” t-shirt with 50% of the proceeds benefiting each health system’s Caregiver Funds which support their healthcare professionals currently working on the front-lines.



<https://gvartwork.com/products/there-is-a-hero-in-all-of-us-t-shirt>

Last month GV Art + Design released our “Overcome Together” t-shirt which also includes a portion of proceeds being donated to The Greater Cleveland Rapid Relief Fund which was set up to deploy resources to nonprofit organizations serving on the front-lines of the pandemic in our region.

<https://gvartwork.com/products/overcome-together-t-shirt>

We feel very blessed to be in a position to give back to a community that has done so much to support our business over the last several years,” explained the Vlosich family. “These are tough times for everyone and we just want to do our part in showing appreciation for those who are



on the front-lines fighting this pandemic.” Both t-shirts are currently available for purchase on GV Art + Design’s website at <https://gvartwork.com/>.

While you are shopping to support these local organizations make sure you don’t miss the chance to see GV Art + Design’s “One-of-a-Kind” Etch A Sketch artwork which has been featured on numerous national TV programs such as Oprah, David Letterman, The Jimmy Kimmel Show, Fox Sports, PTI and more plus world wide newspapers and magazines.

George's Etch a Sketch art has been signed by dozens of Hall of Fame Athletes, including Ali, Jordan, Ripken, Jim Brown and star celebrities such as Seinfeld, Will Smith and more. As a family we were invited to the White House, met President Clinton and Vice President Gore. George even spoke at the Kennedy Center talking about his art and Etch a Sketch artwork.

Check out the video of George’s newest Etch a Sketch on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVLBHvwxWTY> A 20 hour Etch a Sketch made into a 2 minute time lapse featuring Michael Jordan showcasing “The Last Dance” currently airing on ESPN for the next five weeks, Sundays at 9 pm. Also check out the two latest Cleveland shirts to go with the Bulls special.

<https://gvartwork.com/products/cleveland-space-land-t-shirt>

<https://gvartwork.com/products/copy-of-cleveland-script-icons-charcoal-t-shirt>

Something exciting for our Lakewood supporters, GV Art will also be relaunching this limited edition LKWD t-shirt, in partnership with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and First Federal Of Lakewood. A portion of the proceeds will go to support Lakewood’s small business community. <https://gvartwork.com/collections/mens-apparel/products/lakewood-ohio-t-shirt-1>

Thank you Cleveland, for all your loyalty to our brand and the entire West side.

Stay safe!

The GV Art family.

George Vlosich is the co-owner of GV Art+Design a Lakewood-based creative boutique specializing in one-of-a-kind artwork and apparel.

COVID-19 And The Law

by Dan Shields

COVID AND THE COURTS

We all know that so much has changed over the last month. The impact of the Covid-19 has affected every part of our lives. This change has also affected the way our area courts are operating. As with every other business, most of the courts are closed; however there are some limited exceptions, as the courts are mandated to maintain a docket for certain cases. In Cuyahoga County and Lakewood, updated information can be found on their websites. Each court has issued its own directives, and each continues to maintain a strong online presence. An outline of some of the important directives are as follows:

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court:

<https://cp.cuyahogacounty.us/court-information/covid-19/>

By Order dated March 16, 2020, the Common Pleas Court, through its Presiding Judge Brendan Sheehan, adopted the March 9, 2020 Executive Order from Governor DeWine “Declaring a State of Emergency”. Based on the governor’s order, the Court created a set of rules by which the court would be operating. Judge Sheehan outlined that the court would be “Open with Restrictions,” meaning that the Court would implement a reduced docket and only operate with essential personnel. For the time being, the focus would be on cases involving incarcerated individuals and emergency matters before the Court.

continued on page 11



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Lakewood Victory Gardens

Lakewood Victory Garden #2 So You Have The Perfect Spot Picked Out

by Paul Bilyk

So, you have found a spot for the installation of your victory garden and now it's time to decide what it will look like. There are countless options when choosing your garden style, three of the most common in Lakewood are in-ground gardens, raised garden beds, and container gardens. Whichever style you choose, pick a spot with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily. The important part is choosing a style that fits your life, gardening expertise, and your expectations.

An **in-ground garden** is probably the easiest and most cost-effective way to get started. To begin, mark the perimeter of the space you plan to cultivate. Remove any unwanted grass, plants, or weeds and turn the soil once. After you have turned the soil, gauge the health of the actual soil. Is your soil heavy in clay? Is it saturated with water? Is it rich in organic material and loaded with worms? If you think you have an issue with your soil, consult a knowledgeable gardener or professional to remedy the issue. The next step is to amend the soil. A few bags of manure or peat should be spread throughout the bed and then turn the soil one more time, mixing the amendment in as you go. After grading the soil, the last step before planting would be forming raised rows of soil to plant in. Be sure when creating the rows to space them appropriately for the mature size of the

crops you want to grow. Some of the negative aspects of in-ground beds are that they are labor intensive to install, and they do not always drain well.

Raised bed gardening is often used in urban areas to maximize space and harvest. Raised garden beds generally consist of a stone or wood frame that sits above grade 6-12". A layer of cardboard or several layers of newspaper at the bottom will stop weeds from growing up through the soil. After completing the frame, the bed is then filled with soil that is rich in organic matter or a soilless mix such as Mel's mix. Mel's mix is equal parts peat moss, vermiculite, and compost. Benefits of raised beds include improved drainage as well as a defined border making crops easier to manage. The height of the bed itself reduces bending and kneeling making it easier to plant and harvest. Potential negatives associated with raised beds include the cost to build and that they may need to be watered a bit more.

Container gardening is an overlooked way to bring produce into the yard. Anything that can hold soil has the potential to grow food. Coming in many forms from gorgeous glazed ceramic pots to repurposed carryout food containers, if you have adequate sunlight you can grow food in it. One of the trends pushing container gardening right now are Smart Pots. Smart Pots are made from a semi permeable fabric that

allows water to pass and the dirt to stay. These containers come in many sizes and shapes and are reusable. At the end of the growing season, simply remove the soil and fold up for easy storage. If you choose to grow food in containers choosing the right size pot is important as is choosing complementary plants. Some plants do not play well together and some help each other thrive. Also important is consistent watering and fertilization as you are drawing from a finite amount of resources. Lastly when growing in a container make sure you have drainage. Too much water sitting at the bottom of a pot will eventually drown your plants.

Considering little things when deciding what to plant where can make a big difference in the overall success of your season. Think about the mature height of what you want to grow, plant the tallest items furthest from the sun. Look up complementary plantings so you know which plants are friendly and

do not kill each other off. Learn a little on each plant, picking the first 10 jalapeno peppers a little immature could mean harvesting an additional 100 later in the summer. Learn what nutrients each plant needs, soil deficient in calcium could mean no tomatoes period. When researching look for information from universities and botanical gardens. The Ohio State University extension service has an incredible amount of information available online.

Whichever style you choose, remember the basics are the same, ample sunlight, consistent water, and fertilizer, along with good drainage is a great start to a successful garden. Also remember that gardeners love to share and talk. Don't be intimidated by the neighbor with the beautiful yard and the best-looking tomatoes. Go talk to them, 6 feet apart and masked of course.

Paul and his wife Jenna own Lakewood Garden Center at 13230 Detroit Avenue. In the coming months we will be working with Lakewood Garden Center and Lakewood Hardware in helping us all build COVID-19 Victory Gardens at 16608 Madison Avenue.

Cox Communications Extends Coronavirus Response Offer For Connect2Compete With Free Service For Students Until July 15 Nationwide

continued from page 5

Families can qualify for Connect2Compete by visiting www.cox.com/c2c. For more information on Cox's coronavirus relief efforts, visit cox.com.

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Jeff Lavery is the public relations manager for Cox Communications in the northeast region.

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Foodwood©

Lakewood's New Pizza And 'Rogies Spot: Oscar's

by Melissa Kaleal

Welcome to Oscar's, where we're having a deep fried good time! Oscar's is Lakewood's brand new Pizza and Pierogi joint. The owner, Bryan O'Reilly, has been dreaming of opening up his own pizza shop ever since his GMing days at Tommy's Pizza and Chicken right around ten years ago! He fell in love with the pizza game and finally had an opportunity to open his own spot inside The Avenue Taphouse. Bryan is a life-long Lakewoodite and would never dream of opening Oscar's anywhere else.

Before going any further, you might be wondering, if the owner is named Bryan, where the heck did the name Oscar come from!? Well, Bryan used to have a dog, a little pup that was so special to him. A pup whom he had a very strong bond with. Bryan adopted him from the Cleveland APL and named him Oscar. Oscar passed away 6 years ago, so he decided to honor his old friend by naming his pizza shop after him!

Now for the food! Oscar's offers some of everybody's favorites - your classic bone-in chicken wings tossed in a homemade sauce of your choice, five different types of sandwiches, fresh cut fries, and mozzarella sticks - but the real kickers are the pizzas

and the pierogies. All of the pizza and pierogi dough are homemade in house by Bryan. He makes the pizza sauce and pierogi fillings from scratch. These pierogies are not your average 'rogies. These suckers are filled with buffalo chicken, meatballs, or philly steaks and are deep fried! They are rolled out, filled and cut by his second in command, Melissa (that's me)! There's also going to be a pierogi of the month, every month!

It took us nine excruciating months of hard work, and we finally got the green light to open Oscar's and the grand opening was on March 12th - three days before the COVID-19 restaurant and bar shutdown. It was devastating, but Bryan and I have remained optimistic and we are still offering takeout and delivery. We understand how scary this time is and we are keeping our facilities in tip top shape. We are dedicated to sharing our delicious food with the community! We want to thank everyone for their support in these difficult times, we are so appreciative of it! We are located at 18206 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood! Stop in or call us at 216-712-4511. We hope you have a pierogi dokey day!!

Melissa Kaleal is a co-owner at Oscar's Pizza and Pierogies in Lakewood.



Kitchen staff for Go Buddha Meals (photo courtesy of Emily Christescu)

“Go Buddha Meals” Come Home To Lakewood

by Matt Kuhns

If you had to launch a new business from Lakewood just ahead of a pandemic and general shutdown, you could do much worse than plant-based meal delivery.

Go Buddha Meals has fed people—and employed people—even as unemployment has soared. Husband and wife team Joshua Ingraham and Emily Christescu say they're encouraged by their experience so far, but it's certainly not what they anticipated or planned for. Ingraham says that supply chains have been disrupted, and Christescu adds that promoting a new food business without meeting people in person or offering samples poses obvious challenges. “It's still nerve-racking,” she says.

People finding Go Buddha, and placing orders anyway, may have to do with the importance of accessibility to the original concept.

Ingraham says his work as a chef and dietary manager often revealed gaps, particularly while working with the Cleveland Clinic. Patients asking for healthy diet suggestions, after a health crisis, demonstrated one gap; the limited options in a “food desert” near the Clinic main campus was another.

Concern to bridge gaps and make healthy meals more accessible defined Go Buddha's model in multiple ways. The startup prepares meals, and delivers them; the minimum order is a single bowl, at \$10, no membership or subscription required.

The menu seems accessible, also,

even for a picky eater. Tofu and salads align readily with the “grains, greens and beans” which Ingraham describes, but Southwestern BBQ, dessert options, and a “nacho kit” also turn up.

Lakewood has been supportive of Go Buddha, says Christescu, even though so far that has meant paying for delivery from a commercial kitchen in Brook Park. But a partnership with Nature's Oasis will soon make Buddha Bowls more accessible. Later this month, Nature's Oasis locations in Lakewood and Shaker Heights will carry Go Buddha meals, and allow free pick-up of orders placed online.

A pandemic stay-at-home reality has still been a challenging fit with accessibility. Both owners emphasize safety as a high priority, above and beyond the requirements of permitting and licenses. Ingraham says that “We've made a decision during the pandemic to keep our circuit closed,” and Go Buddha's cooks are also the delivery drivers, for example.

Starting out concerned with health and challenges of access has, again, probably helped in unplanned ways. Still, Ingraham confides that “It was very odd for us to start a company and then basically be locked down in our house.”

Christescu hopes that some day Go Buddha will have a dine-in location of its own. For now, menus and more are all at gobuddhameals.com.

Lakewood resident Matt Kuhns is a freelance graphic designer, and occasional author.

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LakewoodAlive

Lakewood Pride Fund Helps Families Complete Essential Home Repairs

by Matt Bixenstine

We take tremendous pride in the uniqueness of our neighborhoods and the onus is on us, as a community, to preserve our historic housing stock to improve quality of life for current and future Lakewood families.

The Lakewood Pride Fund is an innovative program of LakewoodAlive that leverages a collection of funds to secure home repair loans for Lakewood families who otherwise might not have access to conventional bank financing, helping families complete health and code compliance repairs. It is designed to often be a last-resort option for folks who have nowhere else to turn.

The Lakewood Pride Fund will improve access to bank financing for those who are unable to qualify for conventional bank loans through financial and home repair education. LakewoodAlive launched this program with support from First Federal Lakewood and the City of Lakewood.

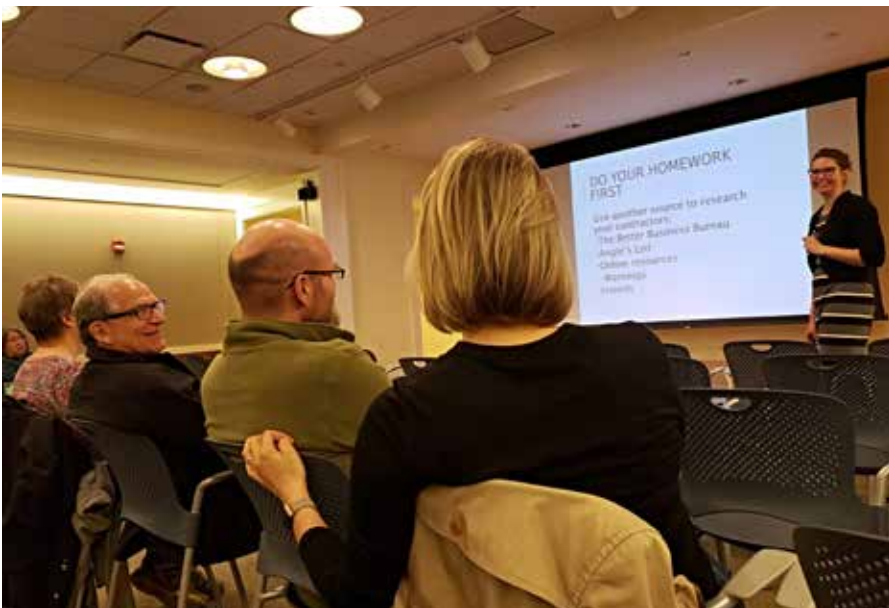
LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program works tirelessly to connect residents to available resources to keep their homes in good repair, and this program is now another tool in our organization's tool box. This program will not only help to maintain

our homes, but it will also improve the client's credit score with each on-time payment.

The ideal candidate is someone who perhaps had a temporary job loss or a life change that made staying on top of their household bills difficult, but are now working to get back on track. The Lakewood Pride Fund will help these clients make essential health, safety and code compliance improvements ultimately enhancing their quality of life, one repair at a time.

The Pride Fund serves a tool to help families repair their homes, as well as their credit, by educating them about simple behavior changes like setting up a budget or creating a home maintenance schedule. The program is only available to Lakewood residents who own and occupy their home, and it is currently able to serve households that are considered up to 120% of area median income, with loans capped at \$8,500.

For more information regarding the Lakewood Pride Fund, including access to the Lakewood Pride Fund Application, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/PrideFund or contact Allison Urbanek at 216-521-0655.



LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair" free virtual workshop takes place on May 14.

LakewoodAlive to Host “Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair” Virtual Workshop on May 14

by Matt Bixenstine

We're known as the "City of Beautiful Homes," yet as many residents have discovered, maintaining our renowned-yet-aging housing stock requires more than some basic elbow grease on the part of homeowners.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair on Thursday, May 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. as a virtual workshop. The fifth workshop of 2020 for this popular home maintenance educational series

will focus on the process of working with a home repair/improvement contractor.

Led by Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director, this free workshop will cover the basics of understanding your repair, including navigating the process of obtaining estimates, scheduling the job and ensuring the project is completed properly in a timely manner.

The goal of this presentation is to help remove the guesswork from the daunting task of home repair and improvement projects. When your project is done correctly the first time, you save precious time, money and sanity.

To reserve your free spot for our "Knowing Your Home: How to Contract a Repair" virtual workshop, visit tiny.cc/ContractARepair or call 216-521-0655.

Now in its seventh year, LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home" series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome to learn more. Our workshop series is generously supported by: City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

Community West Foundation Grants \$100,000 to Cleveland Clinic COVID-19 Response Fund to Support Fairview Hospital Caregivers

by Maria Estes

Community West Foundation is issuing a \$100,000 grant to the Cleveland Clinic COVID-19 Response Fund to help Fairview Hospital employees who are on the front lines of the pandemic. The grant will cover expenses like temporary housing for caregivers, many of whom are staying away from home to reduce exposure to their families, gift cards for meals, and comfort stations. Access to these self-care resources will support them as they care for current COVID-19 patients and prepare for any potential surge to come.

Formerly known as the Fairview/Lutheran Foundation, Community West has been supporting these Cleve-

land Clinic hospitals as well as many community non-profit agencies since 1997. "Many people don't know about our deep history with Fairview and Lutheran Hospitals," said Marty Uhle, President and CEO of Community West Foundation. "We are responding to COVID-19 emergency needs to support all of our partners during this crisis. Supporting Fairview Hospital is a no-brainer for us," he said.

"The gift from the Community West Foundation is significant and meaningful to us. We are grateful for the foundation's support of our Fairview Hospital caregivers at this time when our caregivers are giving so selflessly to our community,"

commented Lara Kalafatis, Chair, Cleveland Clinic Philanthropy Institute.

Since the pandemic struck, area non-profits are feeling the financial pressure that comes with increased demand, volunteer shortage and canceled fundraising events due to physical distancing requirements. In addition to establishing its own emergency response fund, Community West joined as a voting partner in the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund to make emergency grants available to area non-profits. They also joined a similar collabor-

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One United Lakewood Progress

Breaking Down The New “Stay Safe Ohio” Order From The Ohio Department Of Health

by: Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Most circumstances by which public policy is developed are not glamorous or ideal. And this is certainly a challenging time in America. Regardless of how we feel about the development of a given policy, they are essential: Much of public policy is written to solve problems and provide a guide to the steps and actions needed to secure a desired outcome.

In Ohio’s case, that outcome is to save the lives: Something that I am asking folks to remember as they slowly start to venture out to stores and work.

In fact, most public policy takes on a form not that much unlike Ohio’s new Stay Safe Ohio policy, which expires on May 29th and supersedes the order that expired on April 30th. The 14 page document lacks flash, but more than makes up for that in the delicate balance it endeavors to strike between protecting the lives of Ohioans, trying to stabilize a fragile economy, and incorporating the anguished cries of Ohioans who have been separated from loved ones and the clash of public opinion about personal freedom and what that means in light of, or in spite of, Coronavirus.

So what does the new Stay Safe Ohio order say? The new order amends the original policy to extend some stay-home protocols (namely social distancing and limiting gatherings to ten people or less) while lifting restric-

tions on consumer interactions with businesses.

What’s Open?

Effective May 1, healthcare facilities started conducting non-essential medical procedures. Dentists and Veterinarians reopened their practices. People started to seek out and get these procedures scheduled and performed. Retail businesses who can offer curbside pick up, appointment only interaction, and are able to limit customers to 10 people or less at a time were also allowed to reopen on this date.

On May 4th, people who work in general office environments returned to work. This policy does not mandate that employees need to work from home. Face masks are required to be worn at all times by employees going into offices. Employees are also required to conduct a daily health self-assessment to certify fitness to work. Manufacturing and construction businesses also reopened on this date.

Effective May 12, retail locations can re-open and must comply with the same policy for requiring face masks and daily health self-assessments for their employees. Though the State of Ohio does not require masks to be worn by customers, businesses can elect to require them. At this writing, Costco, Meijer, and Menards are requiring customers to wear face coverings or masks when patronizing their stores.

What’s Closed?

Schools, salons and barbershops, restaurants, adult and older adult day care, vocational rehabilitation services, senior centers, childcare services, entertainment, recreation and gyms still remain closed with no target for an opening date at this writing.

What does that mean for Lakewoodites?

The gradual lifting of these restrictions means that many Lakewoodites working from home will start to make their way into offices where they will need to wear a face mask and monitor their symptoms and temperature daily.

It also means that though folks can gather in groups of 10 people or less, or go shopping at boutiques or gift shops, it is still highly recommended that you maintain a 6 foot distance from others and take common-sense precautions, like wearing a mask or face covering when out in public areas, washing your hands and limiting close bodily contact with others.

A Word to the Wise from a Public Health Professional

Last week, face coverings were initially required by Governor DeWine for all consumers who go into retail establishments. However, public outcry eventually reversed that decision. Barring those who have a medical reason

for not wearing a mask when out shopping, all other folks need to consider some important points about why they were being required in the first place.

The extent of asymptomatic spread of Coronavirus is largely unknown. However, the picture that is emerging from what testing has been completed is that there is a large percentage of people who have or have had the virus without showing any significant symptoms. This is problematic because it then becomes difficult to manage or stop the spread.

Because so many people infected with Coronavirus have had no symptoms, the disease spreads largely undetected which also prevents it from being traced. Contact tracing is important for managing the spread and eventually eliminating the virus.

Masks are an inconvenience for many. And though masks won’t necessarily prevent you from getting Coronavirus, it will prevent you, a potential silent carrier, from passing it on to someone else. The use of these masks is made even more effective if everyone uses them. So, please consider the health of others and wear a mask when going to public places, if possible. Practice good hygiene, wash your hands frequently, and be mindful of how you feel. Stay home if you are sick and update others on how you feel before interacting with them.

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Spilled Ink

The Legal Aid Society Of Cleveland Calls For Pro Bono Help Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

by Danilo Powell-Lima

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is calling on attorneys, paralegals, law students, and law graduates to use their expertise to support the many people made vulnerable by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to COVID-19, due to limited resources, Legal Aid had to turn away nearly half of the people who sought help. As the need in the community skyrockets, additional resources are more critical than ever.

Legal Aid remains open and fully operational to represent clients, empower individuals with information and expert guidance, and advocate for justice at the policy level. While all four physical offices are closed, Legal Aid’s entire staff is working from home. Online intake is open 24/7 and phone intake is available during select business hours. Even so, Legal Aid will not be able to meet the needs of a growing client population without pro bono assistance from Northeast Ohio’s legal community.

Due to the pandemic, Legal Aid expects an increase in cases related to debt and bankruptcy, employment law and unemployment compensation, wage theft, housing stability, and domestic

violence. Legal professionals can help those struggling with these issues in a variety of ways, at various levels of time commitment. Opportunities include: taking on a case; providing brief advice over the phone, participating in a “virtual” advice clinic, and helping Legal Aid with a project.

Attorneys can register to volunteer at: lasclev.org/volunteer/covid19/. Law students, paralegals, and law graduates can register at: lasclev.org/volunteer/register/. You will be contacted by someone at Legal Aid after your registration. Legal Aid attorneys provide full support for volunteers - including, but not limited to: malpractice insurance, litigation support, mentoring, and training.

If you are in need of civil legal assistance, you can always contact Legal Aid at lasclev.org/contact , or by calling Legal Aid’s toll free number: 888-817-3777.

Together, with your help, we can persevere through these times and extend justice throughout our community.

Danilo Powell-Lima is a Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

City of Lakewood Small Business Grants Rent Relief Tops \$187,492

continued from page 1

our partners, LakewoodAlive and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, for their roles in making this happen for the Lakewood small business community,” Mayor Meghan George said.

City Planner Katelyn Milius said, “Lakewood was fortunate to be able to mobilize quickly in implementing this program. The City has not offered a program like this before but the Mayor and our team saw the importance of supporting our small, local businesses that line Lakewood’s commercial corridors. Lakewood’s Community Vision document guides our decisions as a department and one of the goals in the Vision is to ‘strengthen economic development efforts to increase commercial occupancy.’ This was a critical time to support that goal.”

The City officially closed applications to the Small Business Rent Relief grant program on March 27th, 2020. The program reimbursed one month’s rent to mitigate the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic on Lakewood small businesses.

This program allowed for a maximum rent reimbursement award of \$3,000 for small businesses operating out of commercial or retail storefronts in Lakewood. The Small Business Rent Relief grant program was sourced from the City of Lakewood’s economic development budget and from Community Development Block Grant funds.

“It was also touching that some business owners voluntarily withdrew their applications during the process so that the money could be distributed to those who needed it most. We’re thankful for all of Lakewood’s business owners who contribute to the betterment of our community,” said Milius.

Several businesses receiving support from the program voiced their appreciation.

Allen Singleton of Apple Jax Toys also received Small Business Rent Relief Grant Program support. “The Small Business Rent Relief program was a welcomed resource for us. We didn’t need to borrow as much from lenders for a retail store that has zero income currently coming in to pay our mounting bills,”

COVID-19 And The Law

continued from page 5

The Order suspended all civil and criminal jury trials, and also suspended all in-person civil proceedings, continued all foreclosure proceedings, sheriff sales, and the Cleveland Municipal Housing Court has continued all eviction proceedings and execution of writs of possession (no move-outs will be enforced).

By Order dated March 31, 2020, the above orders and the suspension of most cases were continued until at least May 8, 2020.

In short, this means that the Common Pleas Court is not closed, but its docket is very limited. Attorneys and litigants are encouraged to conduct court business by telephone and/or audiovisual equipment. Of course, filings can still be made via fax or regular mail.

If you have any questions about your particular case, civil or criminal, you would be best advised to contact your attorney for guidance.

Lakewood Municipal Court:

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update: April 8, 2020

In Lakewood Judge Carroll has issued a directive modifying operations as well. The court will only be open

from 8 a.m. until 12 noon from 3/23 through 5/3.. Any civil, criminal , and/or traffic case can be continued with the filing of a Motion to Continue with the court. The Judge advised litigants to contact their attorney for any additional help or information. If you do not have an attorney, the Court will accept a written Motion for Continuance from you, and will work to accommodate any requests necessary on your matter.

The Court noted that all Civil cases, including eviction proceedings, will be continued until after June 1, 2020.

In addition to the updated court schedule, Judge Carroll outlined the precautions that all members of the public should take. As with the state and federal guidelines, residents need to exercise caution when entering the Lakewood court. This includes following all health guidelines, but informing court personnel if you have any Covid symptoms or have come in contact with someone who has virus related symptoms.

Hopefully this information will help as we continue in the foreseeable future with our shelter at home rules, and also deal with current legal issues or cases.

Community West Foundation Grants COVID-19 Response Fund

continued from page 9

orative being led by the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

“We need to be responding to community needs during this crisis. As a funder, that means providing as many grants as we can, as quickly as we can. Joining these larger community efforts allows us to leverage the giving power of many funders,” Marty commented.

Under the guidance of the Board of Directors, Community West has

grown its giving exponentially over the past 20 years. In 2019, the foundation distributed \$7M in grants. Community West Foundation staff and Board of Directors are guided by the words in Matthew 25:40: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

For more information, contact Community West Foundation at 440-360-7370 or visit community-westfoundation.org



MAY

Aries: Ram,you’ve had plenty of time to develop your creative gifts, it’s time to share them with the world, check out Lakewood Alive, they’re always looking for innovative souls.

Taurus: The Sun has moved into the Bull Pen’s home for the month of May, and love is your tool of choice, struggling with conflict, love always wins, give it a shot.

Gemini: Mercury & Venus are visiting the Twins this month, & it’s all about integrity...tell the truth, even to you, quit denying what you know in your heart, an old flame may show up.

Cancer: Listen with those elephant ears of your Crab, we all know you love to talk, but it’s time to shut the jaw & open the ears, you’d be surprised at what you may be missing.

Leo: The Lion is one of the most generous of the Zodiac, it’s time to offer your love, who in that Jungle of yours could use a little kindness, what about your Momma?

Virgo: You’re your own worst critic, take that lead foot of yours off the gas, & let up on yourself, it’s time to be gentle as a baby fawn.

Libra: The magic unicorn just knocked on your front door, it’s time to come out of hiding, go visit the shores of Lake Erie or the Metroparks, can’t decide, flip a coin.

Scorpio: OK, pull that stinger back in, it’s time to let go of the old story, nobody cares anymore, it’s time to forgive, & let bygones be bygones.

Sagittarius: The Centaur is known for taking risks, & the Universe is asking you to take a big risk right now, if you fail, you’re that much closer to success.

Capricorn: The Goat is usually the one who thinks things through & takes his time on making decisions... it’s time to play your hand, go for it.

Aquarian: Saturn is going Retrograde in Aquarius, it’s time for you to time travel backwards & see if there’s anyone you may have slighted, chances are you’ll know how to make it right.

Pisces: Mars is in the sign of the Fish, it’s time to not only act on those dreams of yours but to have the faith of a child, the ocean is yours.

Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at evastarr.com

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