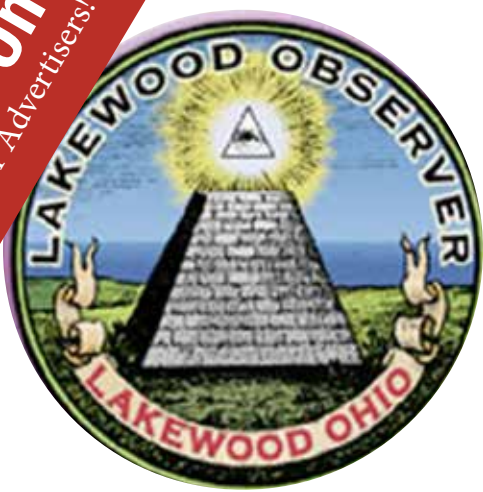


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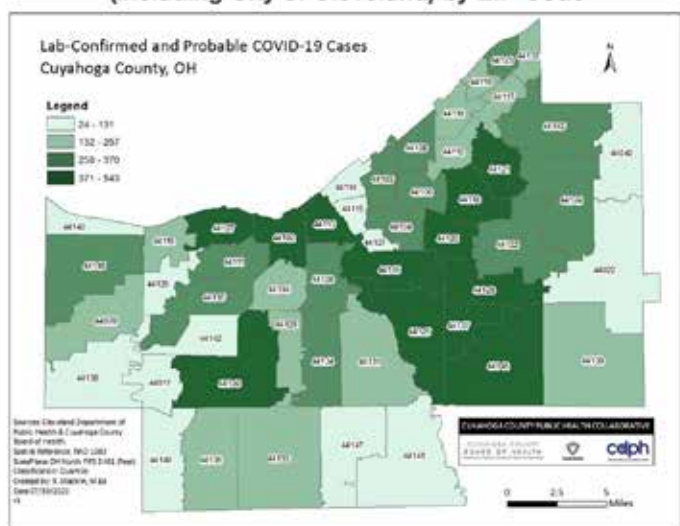
THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

“A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire
for the mind as well as the body.” - Ben Franklin

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Volume 16, Issue 15, August 5, 2020

Map of COVID-19 cases in Cuyahoga County
(including City of Cleveland) by ZIP Code



Lakewood hits the dark zone, at the highest infection rate in the county.

“COVID-19: A Community Update” Virtual Conversation Planned For August 6

by Matt Bixenstine

LakewoodAlive will host a free webinar presentation – entitled COVID-19: A Lakewood Community Update – on Thursday, August 6, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to provide a local update on the pandemic and discuss what Lakewoodites can do to protect themselves during this period of uncertainty.

Orchestrated in conjunction with the City of Lakewood, Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center and

Cuyahoga County Board of Health, this community conversation will explore where Lakewood and Cuyahoga County stand with regards to COVID-19 and the steps being taken to address the pandemic. Topics will range from best practices for keeping our families healthy to enforcement of state safety mandates to balancing health and economic needs for our community.

Ian Andrews, Executive

continued on page 10

Help Keep Polling Locations Open

by Matt Kuhns

Please sign up along with me to be a poll worker in November.

Polling places will close without more people signing up. It's that simple.

I know that Lakewood loves being able to vote near home.

Voting early is great, it's what I'm doing and I recommend it, but not nearly everyone is going to vote early.

Lots of Lakewoodites really value casting a vote at that neighborhood school or church.

We can do that this year, and experience has now shown that it can be a fairly safe option, but more of us need to sign up to be poll workers.

So please sign up at tinyurl.com/helpvoteCUY



along with me.

Attorneys can get continuing education credits this year. For the rest of us, well, we will get paid and we will get PPE provided.

More important, we will help protect people's right to vote.

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

Re-Imagining School: Lakewood City Schools Present A New Re-Opening Plan

by Betsy Voinovich

Last night at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium, the Lakewood Board of Education presented their updated re-opening plan. It was adjusted after last week's recommendation from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health that at-home remote learning be offered for all districts. The CCBH's recommendation came days before the most recent breakdown of COVID 19 numbers in Ohio zipcodes which revealed that



the city of Lakewood is now in the darkest, most infected zone.

Parents were present in the audience, as well as at home through a livestream, and in the form of questions submitted online beforehand which were read aloud by Board members.

Families have two options:

Every student can learn at home with their regular classroom teachers, course modules and classmates via Zoom, or they can sign up for a pre-packaged eLearning system which while it has Ohio

Department of Education mandated core courses and some AP offerings, lacks LCS electives and overall does not have a curriculum that matches Lakewood City Schools'. This system allows independent learning at a student's own pace.

continued on page 5

Lakewood Residents Facing Financial Challenges From COVID-19 Eligible For Interest-Free Loans

by Kate Ingersoll

Lakewood residents experiencing financial hardships stemming from COVID-19 may be eligible for interest-free loans of up to \$1,500 from HFLA of Northeast Ohio.

The loans can be used for a variety of needs such as to replace wages lost due to the pandemic, pay for unexpected childcare or medical costs, or keep households afloat during these difficult financial times. HFLA's team is able to process complete applications in 2-3 business days. Individuals interested in learning more about HFLA of Northeast Ohio's COVID-19 emergency loan program and finding out if they qualify can visit the organization's website at www.interestfree.org or can contact HFLA lending staff directly at team@interestfree.org or at (216)-378-9042.

The pool of loan funds designated specifically for use by Lakewood residents was established through a grant from the Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF).

“Our board recognized early on in the pandemic that there would be many local families and individuals impacted by the economic downturn,” says HLF Board President Jeanine Gergel. “While we have provided other grants to nonprofit organiza-

tions to help residents meet basic needs such as food and transportation, we decided to support the HFLA COVID-19 emergency loan program because it provides access to the most flexible form of assistance of all -- cash -- on an interest-free basis.”

Gergel says the HLF board was especially compelled by HFLA COVID-19 emergency loan program's terms, which allow individuals whose financial situations have been harmed by the pandemic to qualify without a guarantor and repayment over a generous period of time without accrual of interest.

“We wanted to ensure that financial assistance would be available to people hurt by COVID who might not otherwise be eligible for loans through traditional lending institutions,” says Gergel, “either because they do not have a guarantor or because they are limited in the size of the repayments they are able to make. We believe the HFLA COVID-19 emergency loan program is structured to meet these very precise needs for our neighbors and friends who are facing financial struggles in these challenging times.”

About the Healthy Lakewood Foundation: The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community foundation. HLF

was created to ensure remaining assets from the conversion of the Lakewood Hospital will continue to benefit the health and wellness of residents in the City of Lakewood. HLF was established in September 2018 as part of the master agreement following the closing of Lakewood Hospital. HLF was formed from the Foundation Planning Task Force and through their recommendation to the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association.

To learn more about HLF, visit www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org, or email the foundation at healthylakewoodfoundation@gmail.com.

About HFLA of Northeast Ohio: The mission of HFLA of Northeast Ohio (HFLA) is to provide interest-free loans to address the financial challenges of residents of Northeast Ohio who lack access to traditional lending sources. Founded in 1904, the organization is set up through donations as a revolving loan fund; money that is paid back monthly is then lent out to other people in the community – recycling dollars in the community, multiplying the impact of each donation tenfold in less than a generation.

Kate Ingersoll is Secretary of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation.

Mayor's Corner

Lakewood Fighting Back

by Meghan George
Mayor City of Lakewood

Lakewood is fighting back against the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. We witnessed our police officers lead teachers and 2020 graduates in car parades. We watched our business community rally around the #TogetherForBetter campaign. We provided thousands of pounds of free food distributed across Lakewood to our home-bound seniors or to those in need. It is all-hands-on-deck at City Hall. My administration is marshalling every available resource and doing all it can to support you. All of this is happening to protect and preserve the fabric of our community.

City Council and I are fighting for you too. As Governor DeWine and his team make decisions that will affect all of us in this pandemic, they are trying to strike a balance between the health of Ohio's economy and public health. I appreciate the complexity of this situation and know that striking that balance is fraught with problems, exceptions, and exclusions that many will be eager to point out. However, the economy and public health are linked—one cannot thrive without the other. That is why I pushed for

Lakewood's own independent face mask and social distance resolution. The social distance language in our new resolution requires that businesses, specifically bars and restaurants, have their customers seated, with tables limited to no more than 10 persons. Individuals must maintain six-foot social distancing at all times—even when customers are waiting in line. This will help prevent another quarantine or lockdown.

The mask language in our new resolution requires people to wear masks in Lakewood during any of the following circumstances:

- a. In any indoor location that is not a residence, including common areas of apartment buildings and condominiums;
- b. When outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household; or
- c. Waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, a taxi, a private car service, or a ride sharing vehicle. This does not apply to private or rental vehicles where members of a family are sharing a vehicle.

The resolution requires people in Lakewood to wear masks as long as Governor DeWine's mandate to wear face coverings remains in effect. "Face covering" includes any material covering an individual's nose, mouth, and chin. This City of Lakewood resolution also has several exceptions. **People in Lakewood are not required to wear a mask under the following circumstances:**

- a) the individual is under the age of 10;
- b) a medical condition, including those with respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disability contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering;
- c) the individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- d) the individual is alone or in an enclosed space, such as an office, and which space is not intended for use or access to the public;
- e) the individual is actively engaged in exercise in a gym or indoor facility so long as six or more feet of separation between individuals exists;
- f) the individual is actively participating in athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under an Ohio Department of Health Order;
- g) the individual is actively engaged in a public safety activity, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters or emergency medical personnel;



Mask wearing Mayor of Lakewood, Meghan George

- h) the individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverages in a restaurant or bar;
- i) facial coverings are prohibited by law or regulation;
- j) facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- k) facial coverings are in violation of a businesses documented safety policies;
- l) the individual is actively participating in broadcast communications; or
- m) the individual is an officiant of a religious service.

These requirements and exceptions mirror Governor DeWine's order. The key difference is that

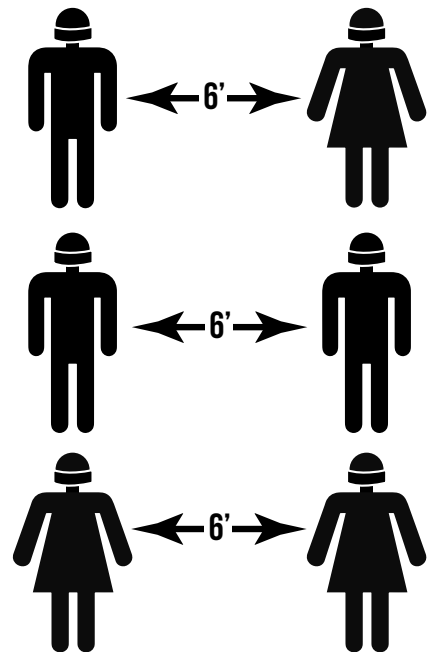
Lakewood's resolution enables Lakewood to better enforce these rules. Without this legislation, the enforcement mechanisms remain with outside governmental entities that are overwhelmed, such as the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office. With the passage of this legislation, our safety forces now have the ability to nuisance a business owner who is not abiding by the Governor's Order.

For weeks, our Police Department have been proactively checking bars and restaurants during busy hours to ensure compliance with our sole focus being to prevent Lakewood from becoming a COVID-19 hot spot. I want to say clearly to any business ignoring these rules that their behavior hurts all businesses. There are not enough enforcement officers in Cuyahoga County or in Ohio to ensure everyone is following the rules and protecting their neighbors from the spread of this virus. We have to do more to ensure the people of Lakewood are healthy and safe.

Let's be part of the solution, Lakewood. Wear your mask. Remind your neighbors. Maintain a six-foot social distance. Wash your hands frequently. We will get through this together.

Be well and stay safe.

ARE YOU
PRACTICING
SAFE SIX?



MASKING
For A Friend



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Primary care for athletes now at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood.



Marie Schaefer, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family Health Center

now offers that expertise at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center.

“My team manages any ailment that affects an athlete’s ability to perform,” says Dr. Schaefer.

Everyone needs care when they get sick or injured. But athletes and active people of all ages may need special care to get back in the game sooner.

Primary care sports medicine physician Marie Schaefer, MD,

That’s not just athletic injuries, she notes. It’s all conditions affecting physical and mental health. Dr. Schaefer treats a wide range of conditions --- from arthritis and concussions to sports-induced asthma and skin rashes, and even anxiety.

Patients who need surgery can be seen by an orthopaedic surgeon at Lakewood Family Health Center.

Dr. Schaefer grew up in Northeast Ohio and now lives in Lakewood. She ran track and cross country at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School and track at Ohio Wesleyan University. In addition to caring for Cleveland Clinic patients, she also is a team physician

for Lakewood High School, Cleveland State University and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

“At Lakewood Family Health Center, we prioritize student athletes,” says Dr. Schaefer. “We understand the urgency of treating them during their sports season. We have braces, casts and other equipment ready to go. We work well with athletic trainers at local high schools and understand all return-to-play protocols.”

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Schaefer or another Cleveland Clinic sports medicine specialist, call 877.440.TEAM (8326).

Expecting a baby? 4 questions to ask your physician.



Jonathan Seibert, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Fairview Hospital and Lakewood Medical Building

help put your mind at ease.

Who will take care of me during my pregnancy?

In the office setting, I will be your primary provider and we will work together through your pregnancy. One of the most rewarding parts of my job is building relationships with my patients and their families. I look forward to meeting you!

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wishes and medical circumstance. I enjoy collaborating with my patients to develop a plan of care that suits their needs while keeping our number one goal in mind: a healthy mom and healthy baby.

How will I know when I’m in labor?

A basic rule of thumb I tell my patients is strong contractions every five minutes for an hour or a large gush of fluid. If you have any questions, an experienced physician is always available to answer them.

Dr. Seibert sees patients at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital and the Lakewood Medical Building. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 216.237.6300.

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The View From City Council

by Jason Shachner
Ward 2 Councilman
Parklets

At last week’s Housing, Planning, and Development Committee meeting, the Director of Planning and Development, Shawn Leininger, presented a draft of the Temporary Parklet Guidelines. Parklets take many forms, but for our purposes, parklets are conversions of on-street curbside parking into areas of outdoor dining. As you may remember, Mayor George requested that Council provide direction in the form of a proposed set of guidelines along with how we envision parklets to be implemented because, at that point, the City did not feel it was prepared to accept applications for parklets. With input from my colleagues, I drafted guidelines and presented them to the Mayor and her staff.

The Temporary Parklet Guide-

lines that Dir. Leininger presented were the result of research by the Planning Department, input from members of the Planning Commission, and input from Lakewood’s safety forces. The Committee approved the guidelines and businesses now can submit their parklet plans for approval! LBM has already submitted a plan and it should be reviewed at an upcoming Planning Commission meeting. You can view the guidelines at <https://www.shachnerforlakewood.com/temporar-parklet-guidelines>.

Budget Priority Process

Councilmember Tom Bullock, Chair of the Finance Committee, has announced the start of the City Council Budget Priority Process. This process allows Councilmembers to submit items that we believe should be made a priority in next year’s budget to afford the Administration the ability

to incorporate our priorities into their budget document.

Please contact me to share your thoughts and ideas of what the City should focus its resources on next year.

Lake Avenue Bike Lanes

The bike lanes on Lake Avenue are nearing completion! It was great to see so many people using them this weekend. If you were wondering what those green “bike boxes” are at the stop lights, Bike Lakewood kindly provided an explanation on their Facebook page:

“The Bike Boxes are available to use and provide a safe alternative when traffic is heavy or if there is a group of cyclists, like a family. Cyclists still have the legal right to use the regular left turn lane as a legal road vehicle.

Once you are in the bike box to make a left turn you are just like any other road vehicle making a left turn. If there is a

turn arrow on the traffic light, you follow it. If not, you wait for the green light and yield to oncoming traffic and crossing pedestrians. Bike Lakewood and The City of Lakewood welcome suggestions on improving this corridor.”

I have received several questions about the process or reasoning behind the parking decisions related to the restriping. The Planning Department held three community meetings from 2018-2019 to present residents with options for the Lake Avenue project. Lake Ave is approximately 40 feet wide, which makes bike lanes and parking on both sides infeasible. The Department used the input from the community meetings along with a full independent parking study and decided to retain street parking on the North side for most of the Cove to Webb corridor.

You can find the parking data and information from the planning process on the Lake Avenue Construction page of the City’s website: <http://www.onelakewood.com/lakeaveconstruction/>

New Surveillance Cameras

The Board of Control approved a \$65,000 contract for new police surveillance cameras. This is the fifth year that Lakewood has been able to install surveillance cameras at new locations. The cameras will be installed in the following 14 locations by the end of the year:

- Cove and Lake NE
- Cove Ave and Clifton Ave NW
- Cove Methodist Church, 12501 Lake Ave
- 13216 Detroit Ave
- 18206 Detroit Ave
- Lakewood Heights and Bunts NE
- Lakewood Heights and Warren NE
- 14018 Lakewood Heights Blvd
- 13402 Lakewood Heights Blvd
- 1314 Highland Ave. (Sapell’s)
- Highland Ave. and Clifton NW
- 1584 Highland Ave.
- Highland Ave. (Norton Industries)
- Highland Ave. S. of Edgewater

If you are interested in subscribing to the View from Ward 2 newsletter please visit <https://mailchi.mp/shachnerforlakewood/newsletter>.

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 can be reached at Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net or at (216) 714-2150.

View From Columbus

Senator Antonio Celebrates ADA’s Anniversary

by Nickie Antonio

July 26th marked the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a federal law prohibiting discrimination based on disability, both mental and physical. It also requires reasonable accommodations be provided to employees with disabilities and creates accessibility requirements for public places. This legislation continues to be an important step in creating a more equitable society and guaranteeing that every American can reach their fullest potential.

Since Covid-19, this goal has become more difficult to achieve, especially for our students with disabilities. I recently attended a Children’s Caucus webinar to



Senator Nickie Antonio with Cathy Zakowski and friends, Nina and Ashley.

learn more about Ohio’s plans to reopen schools, post-pandemic, and was particularly stunned to hear about the impacts Covid-19 has had on the academic success of students with behavioral and developmental disabilities. Due to the pandemic, behavioral support decreased exponentially and many of these students were unable to do the work alone. Families faced a difficult decision, determining whether to focus on their child’s academic or behavioral needs. As a former special education teacher and advocate for the disability community, we must identify ways to ensure our students with disabilities are not limited, pandemic or not.

Last year, I had the pleasure of launching Ohio’s first Developmental Disabilities Caucus to explore new and innovative ways to provide support and improve the quality of life for Ohioans living with disabilities. Through this bipartisan, bicameral initiative, we have been able to connect the Developmental Disabilities community with state legislators in the hopes of replicating programs across Ohio. One example being Ohio State University’s Nisonger

Center which provides child, adolescent, and adult services to promote educational opportunities for all ages of the community.

People who make up the disability community are an important part of the fabric of our society and we as legislators should do everything we can to work together for shared goals.



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Lakewood Public Schools

H2O Summer Service Experience

by Grace LaDue

To say the least, these past few months have not been what any of us were used to. As members of the Lakewood community we felt the

loss of the many things that we hold dear-- seeing the seniors dressed up for prom take pictures at Lakewood Park, a graduation ceremony, LakewoodAlive concerts in front of the

library, tents lined up along Detroit for the Lakewood Arts Festival, and of course The Lakewood Project playing on the Fourth of July followed by the fireworks.

We have grieved these losses, but we have also adapted. For the City of Lakewood's H2O "Help to Others" youth program, this meant not letting our Summer Service Camp traditions fade. We worked hard at figuring out how to convert our unique camp to an online experience while keeping as much of the camp magic as possible. We have kept our days of reading and playing games with preschoolers at a local daycare and playing Bingo with the seniors of Lakewood, now all just over Zoom! While keeping as many traditions as possible, we have also added a few new service projects related to the census and getting out the vote, two topics that most middle school students are not very familiar with. And don't you worry, you still have the opportunity to get your counselor PIED!

Though it is not the camp we know and love, in some ways it is even more special this summer as we find a way to stay connected through these challenging times. This is what led us to our theme: Pieces of the Puzzle, Parts of the Whole. To us this was the perfect

way to summarize that though we are much more separated than we'd like, we are still crucial parts to our community. Without our campers there would be no H2O and without H2O Lakewood would not be the same. To represent this, we have placed our banner presenting our theme at the entrance to Lakewood Park. We hope that this will give passers-by a reason to smile and let them know that H2O will always find a way to remain connected with our community. We would love it if our campers or any of our supporters visited our banner and sent us a picture of you there or gave us a shout-out on social media, extra points if you're wearing an H2O t-shirt!

H2O has done our best to create a fun experience for campers during this unprecedented time, but what is most important to us is staying connected, still getting to send off our ninth graders to high school, still coming up with inside jokes among groups, still seeing our campers smile even if it is through a screen. Though there is much uncertainty, we are comforted by the fact that one way or another all of us, each piece of the puzzle, can come together to create the whole.

Grace LaDue is a Lakewood High School graduate. She will be a junior at Ohio University in the fall. This is Grace's third year on staff with H2O Summer Service Camp and she is currently the Head Counselor.

District Presents Updated Schools' Re-Opening Plan

continued from page 1

Parents also have the option of trying the Lakewood teacher-centric model for the first 9 weeks and switching to the eLearning model if they feel it will better suit their family's needs.

A question asked by many parents last night was, “What will happen when and if the county becomes less dangerous?” and goes back to the orange or yellow zone as defined by Governor DeWine.

Right now the plan outlines students going back into buildings following safety guidelines: class-sizes cut in half, in school every other day, masks for all, 6 foot distancing and temperatures taken by parents at home before school.

A big issue voiced by parents at the meeting concerned families, who because of health risk issues within their households, can't send their children back into buildings until there is very little or no danger, and/or a vaccine. These families still want access to a Lakewood City Schools' remote education.

Superintendent Barnes addressed this question directly: “‘What happens when we get better’—Because we will—’when we improve as a county and I (as a parent) still am not comfortable, and I’m not interested in eLearning. What are my options? Can I still stay remote and work with a Lakewood teacher?’ I just want the community to know that we’re working on that, we hear that concern, we hear that desire and expectation, if you will. It takes a lot of planning—details to work out, but we’re working on that. We don’t have the solution, but we are working. I wanted to make sure that came through clear enough and that the Board was aware of that.”

Many other issues were raised by concerned parents in a session that was at times emotional. All were listened to and were assured that their issues would



QR Code for full school plan. Aim camera on phone or smart pad and it will take you to the pdf.

be addressed in an online FAQ page that is continually updated by the district, which can be found at lakewoodcityschools.org, under “Re-Opening Plan.”

To truly appreciate the challenge that the Board, the District Administration and the community are facing, watch the meeting on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzNsbnWuvzE>.

After the meeting, Dr. Barnes clarified his earlier point. What if parents want their children to stay remote at home with Lakewood teachers when other students go back into the buildings? “We are committed to finding a way to make that happen,” he said.

He also had a message for the entire community. “We have to focus forward,” he said, “We have literally reimagined school. This is not a plan we had to rush to put together in 3 days, like we did in the Spring. Eighty teachers and staff members worked on this, with feedback from the community. It is not an alternative plan. It is school right now. We have to embrace that. If we celebrate the beginning of school this year as we usually do, the kids will follow our lead. There is power in that. My hope rests in the strength and resolve of this community.”

Roman Fountain

Pizza & Subs



Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzerias in Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzone, stromboli, subs, pasta, wings, and salads.

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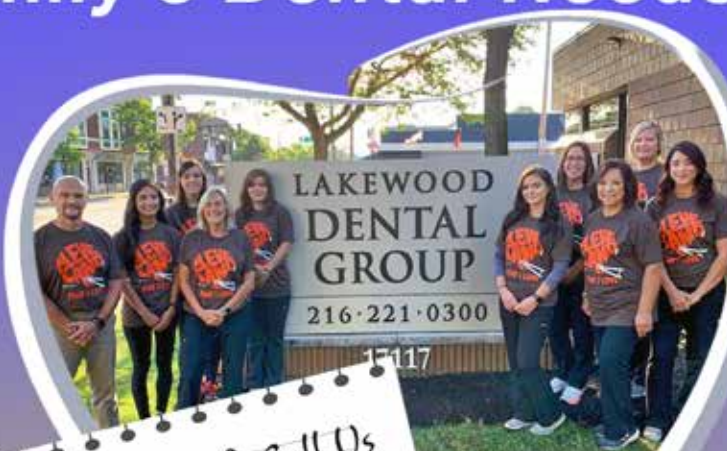
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Progress In Lakewood

One Lakewood Progress: Will The Street Accept Inaction On Chokehold Policy?

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

It has been two months since George Floyd was killed after a Minneapolis police officer kneeled on his neck for 8 ½ minutes using a chokehold-like restraint. The public uproar surrounding his death has led to widespread, continuing protests amid cries for changes to use of force and biased policing policies across the U.S. This was no different in Lakewood. The July 13th Public Safety Committee Meeting continued the discussion on possible amendments to Lakewood’s policing policy, specifically calls from the community to ban the chokehold as a form of restraint on a suspect.

Major police departments have already banned the chokehold. Austin, Chicago, Denver and Minneapolis are some of the newest cities to either pass legislation, or rewrite policing policy, to ban the restraint.

The Public Safety Committee meeting featured strong objections from Lakewood Police to any ban whatsoever of the use of the chokehold in addition to any ban on shooting at moving vehicles.

During the meeting, Lakewood Police representatives talked about the continued use of force-training employed by the Department. It was stated that Lakewood’s officers are highly trained and are discouraged from using the chokehold when apprehending an individual. It was also expressed that training available to Lakewood police would more than adequately address any issues that could be brought forth by the public regarding excessive use of force or de-escalation. Police representatives say that banning the chokehold would limit the ability of officers to protect themselves if in danger.

Lakewood Police Department is not without its own history of racially-charged, biased policing. In 2016, two black children were sitting inside Lakewood Public Library’s Madison branch watching a movie, when a Lakewood Police officer unreasonably seized and used excessive force against a 17-year-old girl without provocation. The girl was told to get her feet off a couch, an

order which video of the incident clearly shows she complied with. The officer “grabb[ed] her, pushing her neck, shoving her into a book cart, put... her in a full nelson, and slamm[ed] her to the floor under... substantial body weight. [The 17 year old girl] suffered a dislocated jaw along with head and knee injuries,” and did not receive first aid from backup officers arriving at the scene. Then, too, did Lakewood Police cite in a statement they released after the incident, the abundance of de-escalation training provided to officers.

The issue here is not the absence or abundance of police training. Obviously, incidents like those leading to the deaths of George Floyd and Eric Garner, as well as the racial profiling of thousands of black and brown citizens every year, happen despite some of the best training available to law enforcement.

No one would deny, or argue against, the self-preservation tactics of police officers whose lives are legitimately in danger. Police officers are essential to the public safety and welfare of any city and we need to do everything possible to protect their physical and mental health.

The public isn’t asking police not to protect themselves, but rather to put safeguards in place to protect the public when an officer oversteps their bounds, and to combat a racial divide that persists in spite of the best efforts of good officers.

Lakewood is not immune to racism. No city is. And, framing the narrative surrounding use of force accountability as an us vs. them argument grossly simplifies the seriousness and common ground needed to positively address this issue.

Banning the chokehold in favor of an alternative restraint, or perhaps restricting its use to narrowly defined life or death circumstances and then writing this into policy would signal to the community that Lakewood is sensitive to the fact that this restraint can be deadly, and that officials are actively looking for solutions and alternatives that prevent unnecessary and unjust loss of life.

It would also signal sensitivity to

the experiences of black and brown communities all over the country where officers have wrongly overestimated the threat present because of the color of a person’s skin.

Lakewood City Council can choose to establish a ban on the use of the chokehold, overriding current police policy. If this issue is important to you, please contact your local Councilperson and think seriously about attending an upcoming Public Safety Committee meeting. You can find council contact and meet-

ing info at www.onelakewood.com, or call Lakewood City Hall at (216) 521-7580.

Laura Rodriguez-Carbone was a candidate for Lakewood City Council, Ward One. She is a community leader and advocate with nearly 20 years of experience in the federal and non-profit sectors in, community engagement and advocacy, and cultivating and expanding multi-sectoral partnerships. She has been a Lakewood resident for 5 years and owns her home on McKinley Avenue.

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Lakewood Is Art



A Little Key West In Lakewood

by Dan Morgan

Lakewood’s own Solstice Steps Sunset Celebration is rivaled only by the world-famous Mallory Square nightly ritual. Sword Swallowers, Fire Jugglers, Rings, Hoops and various other acrobatics highlight the Key West celebrations. The Cleveland Flow Collective is a growing group of entertainers who have descended upon Lakewood Park, every Monday night, for a few years. Each week the timid organization inches closer and closer to the Solstice Steps.

Most people who know me, know that I have been a huge advocate of the Solstice Steps from the beginning. I met Jeff Kerr, the Landscape Architect of the steps, about six months before the steps officially opened to the public. As a Lakewood native, I am well aware of the sordid history of Lakewood Park. I spent endless afternoons chasing rats along the shoreline of Lakewood’s garbage dump, sneaking swims in the filthy lake, dodging dead fish (in the 60s). Jeff’s vision of the project- "I feel that I--we all--need to do a better job at slowing down, disconnecting, reflecting, and just enjoying a moment, a day,

a season, and our lives. The Solstice Steps can help provide this moment."

Matt Koballa, the leader of Cleveland Flow, likes managing the group because he wants to have a central place for all entertainers, like these, to be able to get together and share ideas, tools, tricks and coming events. The Facebook Group Page (Cleveland Flow Collective) has over seventeen hundred members. Anyone interested is encouraged to join in, anytime! All ages welcome and there are no skill levels required. Everything is free.

The group gathers at many locations, year round, indoors and out, East side and West. Matt likes Lakewood, "Lakewood is the place to be, and being on the lake is a big turn-on for us. Lakewood residents have been very welcoming of diversity." A large variety of Jugglers, Hoopers, Acrobats and Performance Artists hone their skills with Hula Hoops, Rings, Levitation Wands, Batons, Dragon Staffs, Rope Darts, Silk Flags and Fans. Many in the group participate in area festivals like Ingenuity and local raves as roving entertainers.

Some regulars bring food, pot-luck style. Others bring a music player, because "music is huge" according to Matt. Next time you are at Lakewood Park, on a Monday night, feel free to stop and stare, they are entertainers, and they like drawing attention!

Photography by Jacob Chabowski

Dan Morgan is a Photography and Marketing Specialist as well as a life-long Lakewood resident and advocate.

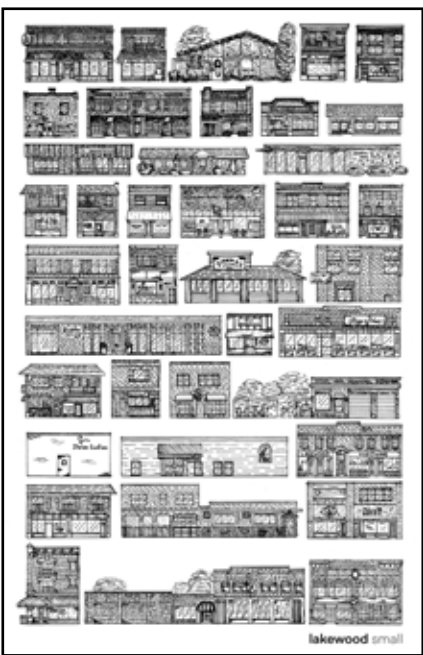


"Lakewood Small": A Project To Celebrate And Support Small Businesses

by Anne-Marie Crawmer

Don't let their appearances fool you: even though the morning crowd is a lot smaller at the Place to Be, and Madison Square Lanes is a lot quieter on Saturday nights, Lakewood's small businesses are fighting to remain a part of the vibrant city we know and love -- they can use all the help they can get to win that fight.

"Lakewood Small" is an art project that serves as a charity effort and love letter for the heart and soul of Lakewood, Ohio — our small businesses. Featuring forty-eight of Lakewood’s oldest and most cherished shops and storefronts, this hand-drawn piece aims to celebrate each and every small business that makes our city special. 100% of the proceeds from this project will be either donated back to the small businesses featured on the print, or donated to the Lakewood Foundation per these business' request. If you're interested in picking up a \$23 print, visit etsy.me/3gZFcEK or search



for "manytinyines" on social media.

A resident of Lakewood for almost a decade, Anne-Marie Crawmer is a college student at The Ohio State University and a freelance illustrator interested in architecture and the small business community of Lakewood.



AUGUST

Aries: The world is your canvas Ram, go ahead & paint your reality till the sheep come home, Mars is still in your sign, & you’re the one holding the Magic Wand, manifest.

Taurus: The Bull has a thought & it holds onto it like a Pitbull that’s in a tug-a-war, Bull let go of the negative thoughts, you don’t need to hold onto them, think only positive thoughts.

Gemini: Twins, you should be having double-the-fun, but it seems like you’re taking Life a little too seriously...throw yourself an invent your own cocktail zoom party, & let the games begin.

Cancer: Get out of that Crab shell of yours, Venus is at your door, the world not only needs your existence right now but will benefit from it...shine your Moonlight & they will come...

Leo: You are the King/Queen of the Jungle for a reason, so get as tapped in tuned on, as you can possibly be, that Jungle of yours is ready to show the world what you’re made of, turn it up.

Virgo: The world is not your competitor, leave the critiquing for somebody else, there is no right or wrong, just different points of view, don’t you have a garden to tend to, better use of your gifts.

Libra: You attract what you are, vibration is energy & will attract unto

itself what is, go about your business & be that thing, that peace mediator, that dancer, painter, poet, just do it.

Scorpio: With Uranus opposing the Scorpion for some time now it’s time to decide what you want, you’re more intense & stronger than to let something like that bring you down, be you.

Sagittarius: The Centaur is all about expansion, you’re the one who gets to decide what it is you want to expand, a thought is just a thought, make sure you’re only thinking of things you want.

Capricorn: Every request is answered, ask & you shall receive Goat, there is more than enough prosperity in the Universe to go around, you won’t be taking anyone’s piece of the pie.

Aquarian: As you trek back up the emotional scale, know that every step, no matter how far, is bringing you closer to claiming your power, up, up & away Aquarian, you own the sky.

Pisces: The world is your oyster Fish, it’s your choice, do you want to swim in the ocean with the whales or in a small pond with the minnows, take some lessons from the Goat this month.

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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Story Time

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 30:

“The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues:

fiction by Scott MacGregor

It looked like curtains for Little Dan. His floating bomb had effectively diverted Storm 5.6 away from Rockport after cleaving the tempest in two. The eastern half of the storm catapulted toward downtown Cleveland forcing the Coast Guard cutter, Darryl A. Levy, to find safe harbor. It was a correct decision that sadly ended Little Dan’s best chance of rescue and survival.

Fortunately, that eastbound storm weakened as it approached Cleveland and no one was seriously injured. Unfortunately, the explosion sent a tsunami wave of water toward the city so great that it entered the mouth of the Cuyahoga River and drove tons of man-made chemicals, human waste, industrial waste, old tires, and dead gangsters a half mile upriver where it clumped into what a Cleveland Press reporter described as, “The King Kong of all toilet backups.”

The volume of water was so great that it overflowed the river’s banks in the Cleveland Flats and found a homeless person’s campfire under the High Level Bridge. The campfire ignited the highly flammable chemical slicks on the water, resulting in flames that raced upriver and set the massive sewage backup ablaze. Prevailing winds carried the fire’s acrid smell along the eastern Erie shoreline where it disgusted and inflamed olfactory nerves from Ashtabula to Buffalo.

As reported earlier, the westbound storm had been cast directly onto the shores of River City with historic consequences. Though, it’d been nothing short of a miracle that no one was killed, Bart Ridgewood, the odious mayor of River City, had lost most of his rather large nose after the explosion had conjured up a 1lb large mouth bass that’d spanked the mayor across his face and lopped off his proboscis with its dorsal fin. That was just the beginning of the mayor’s problems.

He and hundreds of his constituents had taken refuge inside his brand new housing development known as, “The Erie Water Wave Estates.” The lousy building standards and poor workmanship of the development quickly became self-evident when



100mph derecho winds and 12 inches of rain blitzkrieged the new homes and wrested dozens of them from their foundations.

Though the houses were all shaped like Great Lakes boats, they were, in fact, not boats. The terror-stricken citizens trapped inside the model homes waved and shrieked at each other through grand picture windows as the violent floodwaters carried them down Bilge Boulevard. Many feared they would float right off the nearby cliffs. Instead the houses piled harmlessly against each other and clustered into one big housejam at the intersection of Ahoy Avenue and Crappie Lane.

Back in Rockport, a group of plucky residents who’d chosen years earlier to stick it out in their beloved town, had formed a unique citizens group that called themselves, “The Rocks of Rockport.” Not a loose or ragtag organization, they had among their ranks skilled tradesmen, medical professionals of all types, and retired police and firemen.

After each disaster, they were able to do what the city struggled to do 5 years into the Storm Era. They’d helped rescue people, gave them shelter and medical aid, repaired their homes, and organized hot food kitchens. They did it, not for money or fame. Their mission was to preserve the continuity of Rockport’s legendary sense of community and in the process they became legends themselves.

After the thunderclaps of Storm

mission. When he failed to do so, he had no other choice but to direct his ship out of harm’s way. By then, his gut had told him that Little Dan was a goner.

There’d been another great mystery that, to this day still haunts the minds of all who’d witnessed it. Who or what had pulled Little Dan’s rescue raft away from his boat just before it exploded? Everyone had seen the pathetic sight of Little Dan flailing helplessly in the storm-tossed lake when “something” under the water grabbed hold of the bow rope of his raft and began pulling the vessel away from the danger zone. The raft and its 260 lb. occupant, shot through the water like a hot knife through butter with Little Dan holding on for dear life and screaming at the top of his lungs. Whatever it was, it had successfully transported him 100 yards away from where he’d started before the cabin cruiser known as, “The Friggin’ A,” finally blew up.

As two rescue boats rushed to his aid and hundreds of smarmy River Citians wondered what the hell had hit them, the ultimate fate of Little Dan Newman hung in the balance. When the tattered and torn pieces of his rescue raft were discovered floating on the lake, everyone’s worst fears came clearly into view and the biggest question of all remained unanswered: What on earth had become of Little Dan?

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Lakewood's Small Businesses

Belle Barber Shop Gives More Than Cuts

by Brigit Willis

This is a feel good story I just had to share. My dad Joe Palange was diagnosed with Dementia a few years ago and unfortunately it has gotten worse. Every Tuesday, I take him for either a shave or haircut at the Belle Barbershop in Lakewood. Steve Sink or Jose Rodriguez will take care of him. My dad will sit in the chair and look at all of the pictures on the wall, mostly fighters like Muhammad Ali or Rocky Marciano.

My dad's uncle was Sammy Derrico, Cleveland's AAU and Golden Gloves Flyweight Champion in 1936. He became Featherweight Champion in 1940 and went on to Golden Gloves

Champion in 1942. Unfortunately his promising career ended when he was injured in WWII. He stayed in the sport as a trainer for Michael Spinx and many others. He was entered into the Cleveland Boxing Hall Of Fame in 1986. My dad Joe always hung around his uncle and got to know Sugar Ray Leonard and Muhammad Ali, but always called him Cassius Clay.

At the barber shop, my dad would repeat himself several times that a picture on the wall was Sammy. God love Steve and Jose for their patience with him. A few weeks back they actually found an old photo of Sammy and put it up on the wall for my dad. It brings



Joe's Uncle, Sammy Derrico, Cleveland's AAU and Golden Gloves Flyweight Champion in 1936. On the wall of Belle Barber Shop.



Joe Palange gets his customary hair cut from Jose Rodriguez at Belle Barbershop.



Belle Barbershop inside

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Lakewood Cares

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Here We Come--2020 Version

by Betty Catana

St Mary Romanian Orthodox Cathedral announces its Romanian Food Festival--drive-thru style--for August 21 and 22. Your favorite Romanian foods will be on the menu as you order from your car and enjoy your meal at home or perhaps a picnic at the lake. Stuffed cabbage, chicken paprikash, sausage/sauerkraut, mamaliga (our version of polenta baked with cheese and sour cream) and mititei, Romanian mighty burgers hot off the grill. Also enjoy freshly-made elephant ears and assorted pastries. All appropriate safety measures are in place for safe food preparation plus service.

"For 15 years our annual festival has steadily gained in popularity, so not being able to provide this opportunity this year for our neighbors and friends is particularly painful," says Father Remus Grama, parish priest. "The deci-

sion to offer this modified version of our festival in some small part hopefully will be seen as a valuable substitute for our successful yearly summer festival."

This year experience a smaller "Taste of Romania" through the good foods being cooked and offered with love by St Mary's Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, located just up the street at 3256 Warren Rd, in the Kamms Corners neighborhood. Friday, August 21: 4pm to 8pm and Saturday, August 22: 12pm to 8pm.

Call 216-941-5550 for further information or visit the website www.smroc.org

Betty Catana is the media representative for St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, 3256 Warren Road, Cleveland, and publicity chairman for the upcoming Romanian Festival.

Board Resolution Asks State To Review Curriculum For Inclusivity

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education at its July 20 meeting passed a resolution challenging the Ohio Department of Education to revise current core content standards to be more culturally inclusive.

The resolution allows District administrators to initiate discussion with representatives of the Ohio Department of Education for the purpose of developing revisions to Ohio's Core Content Standards so that all Ohio public schools stu-

dents may fully explore and gain understanding of the important contributions that all groups and cultures have made to our society.

The resolution also asks that the District administrators and faculty initiate a revision of the local courses offered to better reflect the diversity of cultures that have contributed to our country's history.

To that end, Lakewood High School social studies teachers Chuck Greanoff and Joe Loboizzo presented a request to the Board to add elective courses on African American and Native American history to the department's course selection. The pair stated that adding these courses will allow teachers to present our history through multiple lenses and allow for adequate exploration of the contributions of Americans of all cultures and races that is not possible under the current curriculum requirements.

In supporting the resolution Board member Linda Beebe said, "We as a Board believe that all of our students should have a sense that their people had an important contribution to where we are today."

Gavlak Is New Rotary President

by Lynn Donaldson

Gina Gavlak has been installed as president of the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River for the Rotary year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, succeeding Marjorie Corrigan.

Ms. Gavlak is vice president of business development and president of North Coast Health Foundation. She joined Rotary in March 2016. She is the club's ninety-fifth president.

Steve Clark is the club's president-elect. Mark Bacon and Tom English will continue as executive secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Eric Jolly:

Fourteenth President Of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club

by Larry Faulhaber

Adam Sonnhalter, Assistant District Governor of the Rotary Cuyahoga County Northwest – Lorain County recently presided over the installation of Eric Jolly as President of the Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club.

Eric takes over the Sunrise Rotary club that was founded in May 2007 by former members of the 96-year-old Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club. Eric is a former casualty insurance adjuster and supervisor. Eric and wife, Anne, have lived and raised their family in Lakewood since 1993. He had been a Rotary Exchange Student

Sworn in as directors (2020-2023) were Chris Arnold, George Frank, and George Hwang. They join directors Mark Bacon, Steve Clark, and Doug Cooper (2018-2021), and Jonathan Clark, Pam Gallagher-Vine, and Jim Lechko (2019-2022).

Rotary's theme for 2020-2021 is "Rotary Opens Opportunities." The club meets online Mondays at noon via Zoom. The link to Zoom and additional information can be found on the club website, www.lakewoodrockyriv-errotary.org.

in Australia in 1972 – 1973. That gave him the idea of joining and getting involved in Rotary. He joined the Sunrise Rotary in 2019 and was elected to the Club Board. The members recognized his interest and enthusiasm and nominated him for Club President in the spring of 2020. Eric was active on several Club service committees and participated in the community during his short time as a member. He was particularly helpful to the Club's Rotary Exchange Student from Finland during the 2019-2020 Rotary year.

Read this story online at: lakewoodobserver.com

“COVID-19: A Community Update”

Virtual Conversation Planned For August 6

continued from page 1

Director of LakewoodAlive, will serve as moderator. Panelists for this webinar consist of:

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Terry Allan – Health Commissioner

City of Lakewood
Meghan F. George – Mayor
Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center

Dr. James Hekman – Medical Director

Members of the Lakewood community are invited to register to participate

by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/CommunityUpdate. Space for attending this webinar is limited to 100 people, and those interested in participating are urged to register ahead of time. Questions will be taken from audience members. A recording of this presentation will be shared at a later date.

LakewoodAlive hosts community forums designed to provide access to experts and resources within a particular field, as well as to engage our neighbors in meaningful discussions regarding topics pertinent to our community. To learn more, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/CommunityForums.

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LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive Announces Board Of Directors For 2021 Fiscal Year

by Matt Bixenstine

LakewoodAlive announces its board of directors for its 2021 fiscal year (July 2020 – June 2021). This accomplished group, consisting of 26 community leaders who reside and/or work in Lakewood, brings demonstrated commitment, as well as a wide array of knowledge and skills to our organization.

LakewoodAlive proudly welcomes Chris Bergin, Dani Krasnicki, Amanda Santa and Eric Stephens as incoming board members for 2021. Each has already made significant contributions to our organization and the Lakewood community:

Chris Bergin – Chris, a real estate agent for Berkshire Hathaway Home-Services Lucien Realty, is a longtime member of LakewoodAlive’s Housing Committee who has participated in a variety of volunteer projects over the years, including completing yard clean-ups for families in-need and painting bike racks in Downtown Lakewood. A born-and-raised Lakewoodite, Chris has generously served as a sponsor for Light Up Lakewood, LakewoodAlive’s flagship holiday community event now in its 14th year.

Dani Krasnicki – Dani, general manager for Aladdin’s Eatery, is a member of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a merchant association of LakewoodAlive committed to ensuring Lakewood’s downtown district remains a top destination for dining, shopping and entertainment. In this role Dani attends regular merchant meetings, assists with planning events like the Lakewood Chocolate Walk and



New LakewoodAlive board members (clockwise from top-left): Amanda Santa, Chris Bergin, Dani Krasnicki and Eric Stephens.

serves as an ambassador for Lakewood’s vibrant small business community.

Amanda Santa – Amanda, a Senior Associate at The Siegfried Group, is a member of the Light Up Lakewood Committee who has helped to spearhead the Holiday Market at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. A native of north-east Ohio who resides in Lakewood, Amanda also serves on the Development Committee, playing a key role in helping LakewoodAlive to develop community solidarity initiatives as a

way to convey optimism and togetherness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eric Stephens – Eric, Director of Community Outreach for Lakewood New Life Church, has helped to coordinate numerous LNLC volunteer housing projects with LakewoodAlive, many of which require advanced skill sets. Eric, who serves as Senior Philanthropy Advisor for Baldwin Wallace University, was celebrated as an award honoree for his exemplary service to LakewoodAlive during “Loving Lakewood: All-Stars” last February.

Outgoing board members Dana Anderson, Cindy Einhouse, Bryan Evans and Brittany O’Connor each roll off the board after serving two three-year terms. Each leaves a remarkable legacy of service at LakewoodAlive that includes an original member of the Lakewood Summer Meltdown Committee (Anderson), a community leader with expertise in nonprofit management and fundraising (Einhouse), a driving force behind improvements to Kauffman Park (Evans) and LakewoodAlive’s Board President for the

past two years (O’Connor), among many notable accomplishments. O’Connor transitions to Immediate Past President, serving on the executive committee. LakewoodAlive also thanks Eric Lowrey, who served as immediate past president, for his devotion and commitment to the board for the past eight years.

“We are extremely fortunate to have a board of directors comprised of incredible folks who are generous with their time and talents, and who share our passion and commitment to our organization’s mission,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “On behalf of the entire LakewoodAlive family, we are thrilled to welcome Chris, Dani, Amanda and Eric to our board, and we are thankful to Dana, Cindy, Bryan, Brittany and Eric for your many lasting impacts on our organization.”

Elected officers for the 2021 board consist of Jarrell McAlister (President), Michael Bentley (Vice President), Julie Warren (Secretary), Will Costello (Treasurer) and Brittany O’Connor (Immediate Past President). Committee chairpersons for 2021 include Bentley (Development), Costello (Finance), Tim Dewald (Marketing), Rob Donaldson (Design), Jim “JP” Ptacek (Housing) and Patty Ryan (Governance).

Congratulations to all members of LakewoodAlive’s 2021 board and thank you for your service. To view the full board roster, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/Staff.

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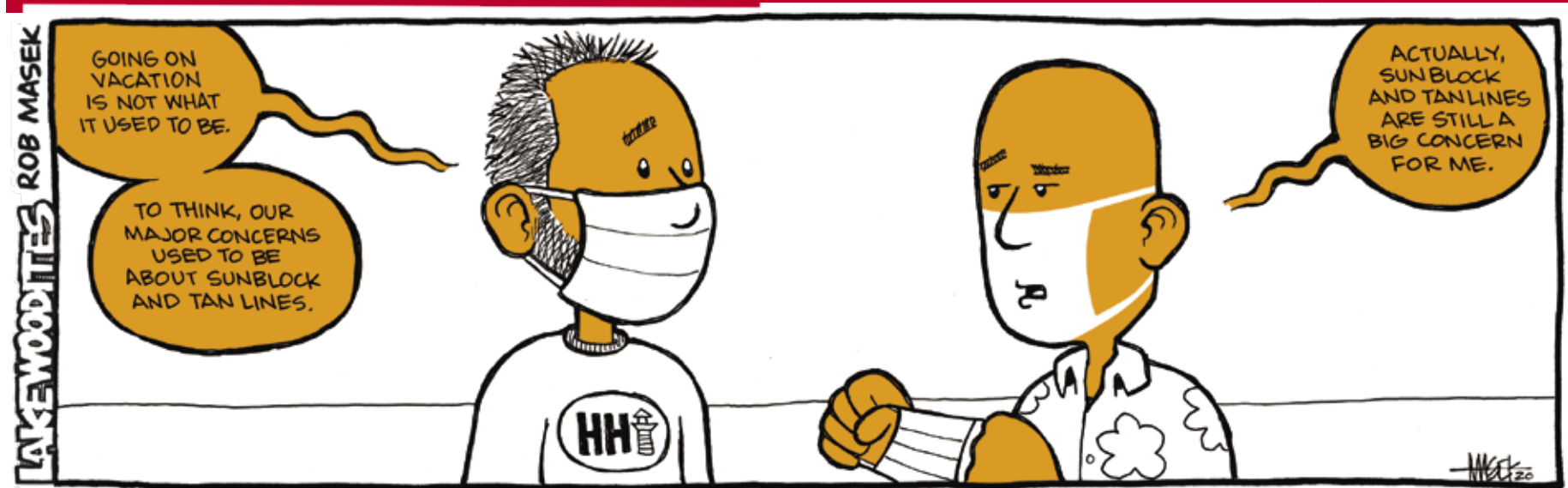
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