

Free – Take One!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



Don't Forget To Turn In Your Census!

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Proud Member Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Written And Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 16, Issue 18, September 16, 2020

Hot Dog! LakewoodAlive's 13th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade Going Virtual



Our Virtual Spooky Pooch Parade (September 8 to October 6) has arrived, and registrations are now open!

by Jacqueline Bon

It's been said that when times get ruff, dogs serve as the ultimate source of comfort. In that case, we want to make a safe celebration of costumed canines paw-sible for all.

In an effort to ensure health and safety during the

COVID-19 pandemic, LakewoodAlive announces the 13th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade sponsored by Ganley Subaru will be held virtually, with 12 lucky winners having their dogs highlighted in LakewoodAlive's 2021 calendar and one grand prize "Best In Show"

winner being determined by public voting.

"We are pleased to be able to adapt our Spooky Pooch Parade into a virtual format
continued on page 11

Congratulations To LHS's National Merit Semifinalists



Gina Marjanovic



Nina Seckers

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School seniors Gina Marjanovic and Nina Seckers have been named National Merit Semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition. This designation recognizes Gina and Nina as among the top students in the nation.

Based on their PSAT score from the 2019-2020 school year, Gina and Nina join the group of 16,000 Semifinalists who represent less than 1% of the

U.S. high school seniors and the highest-scoring entrants in each state. They will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million, offered next spring.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. also recognizes Commended Scholars, who are among the top 5% of PSAT scorers. Commended Scholars will be announced later this month.

Congratulations to Gina and Nina!



From upper left, clockwise: Sophie Lipka, Quinn Costanza, Jasmine Magda, Aubree Nagel, Willow Rosser and Paw Thaylay Say.

A Special Senior Night For LHS Girls' Soccer

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Senior nights are a rite of passage, an occasion to honor all those that have typically spent 4 years playing for their high school team.

For every hour players spend in the spotlight of games, so many more are spent in practice, conditioning through hot summer months and honing their craft. As such, the game isn't so much about the score, although it's nice to win, as did the Lakewood Rangers Girls Soccer Team today in a
Continued on page 5



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Flash floods on I-90 and at Highland Avenue.

Lakewood Fire Department: So Much More Than Fire



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Emma Kochler LFD Soap Box Derby car! See page 9.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Providing respect and honor to fallen heroes. Here, the funeral of Cleveland Police Det. James Skernivitz.

The Lakewood Historical Society Designates 954 Houses As 2020 Historic Lakewood: Century Homes

by John Prim

Homeowners all around Lakewood recently discovered large envelopes in their mailboxes with an illustration of a house and the words "Century Home Recognition Project" on them. Homeowners who received this mailing are living in a house built one hundred or more years ago.

Each year, beginning in 2017, the Preservation Committee of the Lakewood Historical Society has reviewed the records of the Cuyahoga County Auditor to identify houses that were built one-hundred years ago. Because



A 1900 Victorian with a front porch and turret.

there was no formal recognition program before 2017, the committee searches not only for houses built one-hundred years ago, but also older houses built in previous years ending in the same digit as the current
Continued on page 7

The Mayor's Corner

Please Fill Out The Census

by Meghan George
Mayor of Lakewood

The United States Constitution mandates that our federal government count every person living in the United States every tenth year. The original purpose was to apportion members of the U.S. House of Representatives according to the population of each state, but now the stakes are even greater as the federal government uses the Census to apportion funding to cities like Lakewood. The more people we count in Lakewood, the more funding we will receive and influence we will have in Columbus and Washington, DC.

In an ordinary Census, August, September, and October are the times when the door-knockers we associate with the Census begin to hit the streets. Their purpose is to ensure that all people, especially those in traditionally hard-to-count areas are, in fact, counted. The federal government

announced an acceleration of the deadline for the final Census count from October 31st to September 30th. This was an unexpected and unwelcome change and is problematic for Lakewood and other communities like ours.

A complete count of everyone in Lakewood is especially important this year. Cities with a population over 50,000 receive direct federal dollars and Lakewood is slightly over 50,000 residents. Without an accurate census count, Lakewood would potentially lose access to these funds which would have long-lasting effects on our community. Federal funding that we rely on for schools, clinics, roads, and more would be reduced. The stakes are great and we need everyone to be counted.

We have aggressively worked to reach all corners of Lakewood to inform our community of the importance of the Census. We have established a Complete Count Committee that

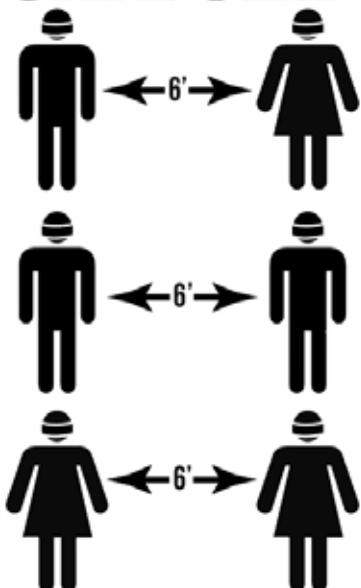
includes over 80 Lakewood Leaders in the schools, businesses, churches, non-profits, daycare centers, senior centers, residents, and more. Before COVID-19 impacted our outreach efforts, we were able to meet in person twice and have since shifted to reach people through regular email updates and through social media. Additionally, we have regularly communicated through the water bills, through Lakewood Life newsletter and block club newsletters, a presentation at our landlord training seminar, and have put up banners at the City Center and outside Madison Park. We have included Census flyers in all of our home-delivered meals to seniors and in our produce distributions. Lakewood's Help to Others (H2O) virtual camp took a special interest in the Census this year. The virtual campers sent over 300 personalized postcards to homes in our lower-response census tracts. I am proud of the work we have done as a community but we aren't done yet.

We continue to monitor our self-response rate and have seen some great improvements. In the midst of a pandemic, we have surpassed our 2010 count, but by no means have we achieved a complete count. These last few days will be crucial.

What can you do? Please, fill out your Census and remind your neighbors! Call 844-330-2020 to fill out the Census by phone or visit www.OneLakewood.com/census-2020.

Let's be part of the solution, Lakewood.

ARE YOU
PRACTICING
SAFE SIX?



MASKING
For A Friend



LO 2020 EZ Voting Guide

by Daniel Shields

REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCTOBER 5, 2020
OK here's the deal:

1. **Do you want to vote?** Well then, these are the requirements in Ohio...

- You must be a United States Citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old on the day of the General Election.
- You must be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days.
- You must register to vote at least 30 days before an election to be eligible to vote.
- 17-year-old residents can register and vote in a Primary Election if they will be 18 on or before the General Election. 17-year-olds can vote for candidates only.

Got It? OK you 18-year-old, let's do this! You want a voice? Then vote!

2. **OK, so you CAN vote. Wonderful. Now what...?**

Are you REGISTERED to vote? Let's check:

You can start by going online to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at: <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/>

Right at the first line you will see 'My Voting Info'. Check your name and take it from there...

Told you it was EZ!

3. **What if you are not registered?**

Register to vote or update your Ohio voting address electronically on the Secretary of State Website:

- OhioSOS.gov.

OK, WHAT ELSE?

- **IF YOU ARE NOT ONLINE, YOU CAN CALL:**
- Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at **216-443-VOTE(8683)** for a Voter Registration Card to be mailed to you.
- Once you have obtained the voter registration form, complete the form then mail it back to the Board of Elections.

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections
PO Box 89448, Cleveland, OH 44101-6448

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

Published twice a month with a current circulation of 10,000+ copies. The paper is made available free of charge and can be found at over 130 business locations within the City of Lakewood and on our website. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff. Copyright 2020 • AGS/The Lakewood Observer, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

Become an Observer!

As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
October 2, 2020	October 7, 2020
October 16, 2020	October 21, 2020

www.lakewoodobserver.com
216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531
PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

Lakewood Observer

PUBLISHER Debra O'Bryan	EDITOR IN CHIEF Margaret Brinich	ASSOCIATE EDITOR Betsy Voinovich	ADVERTISING Sales Manager 216.407.6818
-----------------------------------	--	--	--

ADVISORY BOARD - Steve Davis, Heidi Hilty, Jeff Endress, Jim Crawford, Steve Ott, Margaret Brinich, Betsy Voinovich

OBSERVATION DECK BOARD - Jim O'Bryan, Dan Alaino, Betsy Voinovich, Steve Davis, Raul Montejero

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Jim O'Bryan

PHOTOGRAPHY - Jacqueline Bon, Ronald Ciancutti, Stephan Davis, Larry Faulhaber, Jim O'Bryan, John Prim, and Eva Starr

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - John Behm, Jacqueline Bon, Amy Chodzin, Ronald Ciancutti, Larry Faulhaber, Andrea Fisher, Mayor Meghan George, Joseph Gombarcik, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Scott MacGregor, Jim O'Bryan, John Prim, Jason Shachner, Dan Shields, and Eva Starr

AROUND THE

Lakewood's Best Patio To Party On!

Book your
fundraisers and
special events
With Us!

Tuesday and Sunday are \$2 Taco Nights
Best Brunch In Town! Saturdays at 11am & Sunday 9:30am
Mondays - Buy One, Get One - Black Angus Burgers
Wednesdays - Try our \$5 Menu!

18616 Detroit Avenue
216.521.4413 • www.atccafe.com

CORNER

EATERY
DRINKERY
FUNNERY

ADVERTISEMENT

3 tips to cope with hay fever.



DeVon Preston, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family Health Center

Nice weather and sunshine sounds like a recipe for – disaster? That can be the case if you have seasonal allergies. During the warm months in Northeast Ohio, trees, grasses and weeds bloom and flourish.

When plant pollen is inhaled, histamine is released in the body triggering allergic rhinitis – or hay fever. Itchy eyes, a scratchy throat or a runny nose are all signs of hay fever season.

“The body mistakes pollen as something dangerous. The immune system releases antibodies and histamines as a way to protect itself,” explains DeVon Preston, MD, an allergy and immunology specialist at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center.

Dr. Preston offers these top three tips to curb allergy symptoms:

- 1. **Keep your windows closed.** Don't use fans; they stir up dust. When you're driving alone, set the air



- conditioning to recirculate air.
- 2. **Rinse and repeat.** “Use saline solution to irrigate your nasal passages. This helps to rinse out allergens and relieve congestion,” says Dr. Preston.
- 3. **Take a shower.** Shower after outdoor activities to wash off pollen that may have accumulated.

If these simple tips don't seem to control hay fever symptoms, an allergy test may be beneficial. An allergist can guide you to the proper over-the-counter medication or prescribe something to clear up symptoms.

Additionally, some allergy sufferers may develop asthma.

“The good news is, whether it's natural methods or medical ones, an allergist can work with you to craft a plan that lets you enjoy the outdoors without suffering,” says Dr. Preston.

To make an appointment with Dr. Preston or another Cleveland Clinic allergy and immunology specialist, call 216.444.6503.

Cleveland Clinic Children's: Nationally ranked in 10 of 10 pediatric specialties



Cleveland Clinic Children's earned national recognition from *U.S. News & World Report* in 10 out of 10 specialties in the 2020-21 edition of “Best Children's

Hospitals” making us the only hospital in northeast Ohio nationally ranked in all 10 children's specialties:

- Cancer (17)
- Cardiology & heart surgery (15)
- Diabetes & endocrinology (44)
- Gastroenterology & GI surgery (12)
- Neonatology (14)
- Nephrology (35)
- Neurology & neurosurgery (25)
- Orthopedics (26)
- Pulmonology (32)
- Urology (23)

“We are incredibly honored to be recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*,” says Karen Murray, MD, Chair of Cleveland Clinic Children's. “This is a reflection of the dedication, compassion and hard work of our caregivers to provide the best high-quality care to our patients and their families. While COVID-19 has transformed our world and the healthcare industry, it has not and will not impact our mission to continue to provide world-class care.”

Quality and safety have always been a priority at Cleveland Clinic Children's. We now have even more safety precautions at every location, so all you need to worry about is the health and wellness of your child. Learn more about the steps we're taking to keep you safe at ClevelandClinic.org/Coronavirus.

For an appointment with a Cleveland Clinic Children's pediatrician or pediatric specialist, call 216.444.KIDS. Cleveland Clinic Children's offers in-person and virtual appointments.

CLEVELAND CLINIC ARTHRITIS WEBINAR Myth busters: The truth about arthritis causes and treatments.

Thursday, September 23, 2020 | 6 to 7:30 p.m.

During this free virtual event and live Q & A, a board-certified specialist will answer your questions about:

- Managing symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Effective arthritis treatment strategies
- Diet, exercise and lifestyle choices to support your health

Preregistration is required. Register today: ClevelandClinic.org/ArthritisExpo

Sponsored by Cleveland Clinic and the Arthritis Foundation Inc. For more information, call the Arthritis Foundation at 216.359.7152.

For the latest bone and joint health news, visit ClevelandClinic.org/InMotion to sign up for the InMotion e-newsletter.



Our goal remains the same – we care for everyone. And safety is our top priority.

From extra safety measures at all locations, to virtual visits with our specialists. We're here for you.

Visit ClevelandClinic.org/Access



Politics Local And State

The View From City Council

by Jason Shachner
Ward 2 Councilman

Cove Church Intergenerational Community Center Conversion Project

At the Housing, Planning, & Development Committee meeting held Tuesday, September 8th, we discussed the project that will convert Cove Church into an Intergenerational Community Center for Lakewood residents. The resolution that was brought before the committee would grant the Director of Public Works the authority to enter into a design-build agreements for the design, hazardous substance abatement, and construction of the new Intergenerational Community Center for an amount not to exceed \$4,150,000 with Infinity Construction Co.

We were planning on granting this authority earlier this year, but the administration requested that we defer to a later date until we had a clearer picture of the impact the pandemic had on our finances. Mayor George shared that our finances are in a good enough place where we can move forward with this project.

Over the years, the Department of Human Services has been housed in multiple buildings, with the home of Senior Services in unsatisfactory condition. This project will put all of Lakewood’s Human Services under one roof thereby increasing collaboration among departments and fostering relationships between the generations. Infinity Construction shared that they are working with Human Services employees and other stakeholders to ensure that the building itself supports the health and wellness of all our residents.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, construction should begin in Spring with a possible completion date of Fall 2021. I am glad to see that this project is getting started and that our City is showing a commitment to serving our residents at all stages of life.

Council Budget Priorities

September’s Finance Committee meetings are dedicated to discussing City Council members’ budget priorities. The goal is to adopt a resolution

in October that formally states City Council’s budget priorities so that the Mayor and her staff can incorporate them into their 2021 Comprehensive Budget Document.

I am involved in the submission of two priorities. The first is for a HAWK crosswalk on Madison between Westwood/Morrison and Warren. This is a stretch of approximately 2,440 ft. (.46 miles) without an intervening crosswalk. A HAWK beacon is a traffic control device that only activates when a pedestrian presses a button to cross. We currently have two HAWK crosswalks in Lakewood. In the past, Lakewood paid for the HAWK study and design and ODOT paid for the construction.

The second is for funding to explore the development of a ShopLakewood Online Marketplace. Councilmember At-Large Sarah Kipple has taken the lead on the drafting of this budget priority because of her technical expertise. We believe that the Covid-19 pandemic has increasingly changed consumer behavior from in-store shopping to delivery and curbside pick-up options. Many of our small businesses do not have the capacity to develop an online marketplace or have relied on other applications that take a significant portion of their sales. Our proposal involves using Economic Development Funds to fund a study that will engage local stakeholders and experts to determine the feasibility of such a program. We believe that this process will tell us if we should move forward or how to move forward with additional investment.

Extension of Temporary Outdoor Dining

At the City Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 8th, Mayor George proposed a resolution that would permit the Temporary Outdoor Dining Resolution to remain in effect until the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The resolution currently reads that it is effective for the duration of the Covid-19 state of emergency or until October 31, 2020, whichever comes first. The date of October 31st is significant because that is when all permits for outdoor dining

in the City of Lakewood, whether granted through the Temporary Outdoor Dining Resolution or through the regular process, expire.

Mayor George shared that her intent is to have all outdoor dining options continue through the state of emergency to “give [our restaurants] the tools that will allow them to generate business and to support our community during this challenging time.” Through my conversations with restaurant owners I learned that most customers are not comfortable eating inside and that the expanded outdoor dining options have proved valuable. This proposal will be discussed at a future Housing, Planning, and Development Committee meeting and I look forward to supporting it.

Detroit Sloane Streetscape Improvements

The Director of Planning & Development, Shawn Leininger, has informed Council that the streetscape designs for the Detroit Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements are ready to be reviewed by the Architectural Board of Review. This project will “transform the pivotal stretch of Detroit Avenue between Sloane Avenue and Graber Drive from a busy vehicular passthrough to a visually appealing, pedestrian-and cyclist friend focal point of Western Lakewood.” We are excited to start work on creating a gateway into Lakewood from the Rocky River Reservation.

Dir. Leininger shared that the City staff has worked with residents and the Tree Task Force to ensure that the landscape materials are appropriate for the location, and that they are also low-maintenance and climate appropriate. Regarding public art, Dir. Leininger stated that, “[C]ertain elements shown in the renderings are placeholders for public art. As an example, the streetcar elements shown on the northwest and northeast corners of Detroit Sloane and in front of Harry Buffalo are such placeholders and do not depict what will ultimately be constructed. By the end of the year, the City will work with the resident-led Public Art Advisory Group to establish a call a call for artists to establish the theme for public art throughout the corridor.”

CDC Order to Temporarily Halt Residential Evictions

The Lakewood Municipal Court has been working to comply with the CDC’s order to temporarily halt residential evictions. Residents may receive protection from eviction by completing the form found at <http://www.lakewoodcourtoh.com/pdfs/forms/COVIDevictionForm9.4.20.pdf> and submitting it to the Court.

City Council is Now on Zoom & Streaming Live on YouTube

All City Council General Meetings and Committee Meetings are now being held on Zoom. All meetings will be livestreamed on the City of Lake-

wood’s YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofLakewoodOhio>.

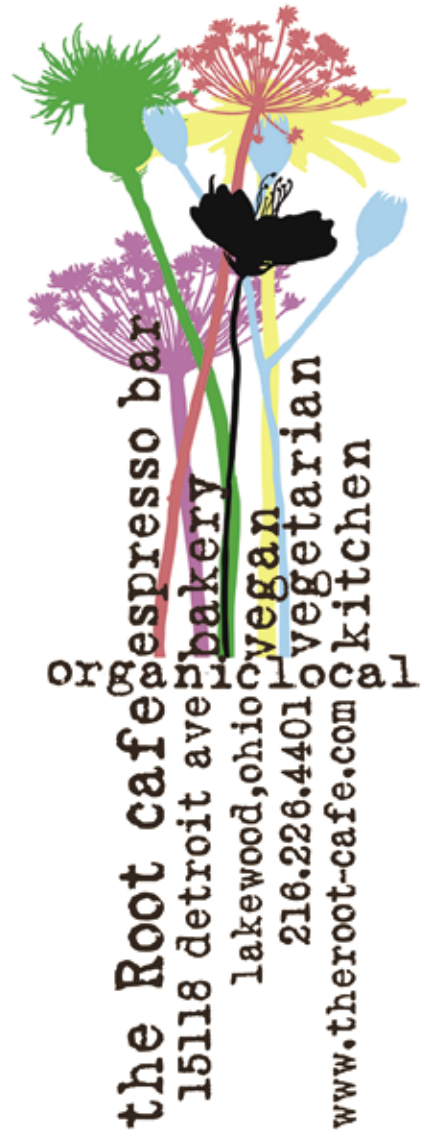
There is also a new public comment protocol. If you would like to submit a written comment you must do so through the eComment portal by visiting <https://onelakewood.granicusideas.com/meetings>. Here you can comment on any agenda item or provide a comment that is not related to an agenda item under the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

You can also request to speak on an agenda item through the same eComment portal. Requests must be made prior to 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting. After you make your request, you will be provided credentials to join the meeting.

I believe that this method provides unprecedented access to our meetings and I hope that we see higher community participation as a result.



Monday afternoon there was a little impromptu Trump Rally in DowntownN Lakewood featuring “Cats for Trump” cats, errrrr people, errrrr cat people?



BROKEN WINDOW PRINTING

SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY



School & Team Uniforms
School Spirit Wear
Corporate ID Wear,
Restaurant Wear
T-Shirts, Sweats,
Pants, Hoodies, Hats,
and much, much, more!
Call today and find out how
we can solve your promotional woes!

For a quote call: 216.849.2868
Email: brokenwindowprinting@gmail.com
www.brokenwindowprinting.com
FB brokenwindowprinting © IG Broken Window Printing

Education

Lakewood Lutheran School Adapts, Opens Doors For 2020-21 Year

by Jon Behm

It's business as usual for Lakewood Lutheran School.

Yes, LLS has implemented measures to protect its students and faculty from COVID-19. Rather, what's business as usual at the corner of Madison and St. Charles is the school's family-centric approach to education.

"It's certainly a strange year," principal Carolyn Potantus said. "It was a strange summer as we prepped the school for the year and figured out how to make everything work."

LLS, which has been a staple of the Lakewood community for nearly 125

A Special Senior Night For LHS Girls' Soccer

continued from page 1

running clock victory over Normandy.

It's quite fitting that senior Captain Aubrey Nagel would tally the first goal on one of her signature strikes from 30 yards out. Senior Co-Captain Quinn Costanzo also scored in the first half, while Senior Co-Captain Jasmine Magda played her typically strong all around game. Every Senior started, including Willow Rosser, Paw Thaylay Say and Sophie Lipka.

Senior Night is special. Our PA guy, Mr McCollum, sings the National Anthem, every senior starts the game, parents bake and pass out cookies. There are indeed many magical senior night moments, but for me, seeing the students walk on the field with their parents tops them all. More than anything, they have provided the foundation for these young women, the work ethic and persistence it takes to play this sport. They drove them to practice, signed them up for youth leagues, endured tears, celebrated victories and comforted their kids after losses. They earned this moment

This years Rangers (4-1, 2-1 in the GLC) are quite a strong team. Coach Ted Nagel has a talented and hard working crew, and he is guiding them well. But every year, win or lose, we have a community based team of Lakewoodites that we can all be proud of.

Long Live Lakewood.

years serving students K through 8th grade, is open five days a week.

Standard COVID precautions are in place — social distancing of at least 6 feet between desks, plexiglass barriers on the desks to further protect students, mandatory masks and a teacher to greet each student at the door for a temperature check.

Additionally, LLS is offering distance learning for those not comfortable with an in-school setting. The teachers have been trained in Google Classroom, and the school is loaning Chromebooks and laptops to the students. However, Potantus said that teachers aren't simply broadcasting their in-room lessons for the students to watch. Rather, lessons are recorded so the kids can have an on-demand learning experience.

"We wanted to make it so the students can learn on their time," Potantus said. "If a parent can't be there to help them log on or keep them focused or whatever reason, the lesson can be stopped and started when it works for them. We've had to be a bit more flexible on due dates and things like that, but it's our hope that this will work out best for everyone."

In a way, the adapted schooling situation is just another way that the school is offering its individualized education.

"We like to call it customized classrooms," Potantus said. "Each student learns at his or her own level for each subject."

Students take placement tests to learn where they are in their education for various subjects. As a result, a fifth grader could be taking sixth grade math, fifth grade science and fourth grade social studies.

Potantus said that LLS has open enrollment throughout the year and that any interested families can learn more at www.lakewoodlutherschool.com. She did note, however, that in-building spots are limited due to social distancing.

"We know that we can't make it perfect for everyone, but we want to make it the best we can for everyone, whether they are in the building or at home."

Jon Behm is a former professional journalist who gave up a career in sports journalism for an even better job--being a dad.

Lakewood School District Hires Assistant Treasurer

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education approved the appointment of Olmsted Falls City Schools Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Emily Weisbarth as the District's assistant treasurer. The new position is part of a restructuring of the Treasurer's Office on the heels of the retirement of Accounting Manager Maria Gregg.

Weisbarth, who begins her new post on October 12, has held positions at all levels within a treasurers' office and enjoys collaborating within a team to improve the operational and reporting processes relating to district finances. Her career spans 12 years and multiple districts.

Weisbarth, who started her career as an accountant after graduating from Walsh University, values creating financial transparency and clear communication across all levels of stakeholders. Her accomplishments include developing and leading a District Finance Committee, being a member of the Olmsted Township Economic Development team, fiscal agent for the Great Lakes Regional Health Consortium and assisting in running multiple successful levy campaigns.

Weisbarth is looking is eager to be



part of the Lakewood team.

"I am excited to be part of the Ranger family! Lakewood has an experienced leadership and a dedicated staff that will make coming to work every day a rewarding experience. I am excited to apply the knowledge and skills I have gained in my career so far to Lakewood City Schools to continue making the district fiscally stable and transparent for the taxpayers," Weisbarth said.

Ready For All Your Family's Dental Needs

LAKESWOOD DENTAL GROUP
216.221.0300
17117

5 Great Reasons To Call Us

- 1) Convenience... We'll see you immediately and fix your problem now!
- 2) Money... We are affordable and will help you with your insurance.
- 3) Fear... Do not worry, our work will be done comfortably
- 4) Time... We realize your time is valuable. We will not keep you waiting.
- 5) Our Promise... We stand behind all the work we do.

WE ACCEPT MOST FORMS OF INSURANCE INCLUDING MEDICAID.

Lakewood Dental Group
216.221.0300
17117 Detroit Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

BREZINA GROUP
REALTORS®

Gary & Garrett Brezina - Newlyweds and also a Realtor team!
Focusing our efforts on helping Lakewoodites buy or sell
as we believe strongly in the Lakewood community!

Cutler REAL ESTATE

Call us today at 440-915-6816
For a free market analysis!

Lakewood Cares

Growing Up Lakewood, H2O Interviews

by Amy Chodzin

One bathing suit per summer, ice skating at Lakewood Park and never having to remember to take your house key were a few memories shared by long time residents of Lakewood that made some Lakewood youth say “really?” This summer H2O Summer Service Experience “campers” chatted with adult residents over Zoom and collected their memories for an informal oral history of life in our community. H2O Summer Service Camp staff took our activities virtual this year, but made certain that campers had the opportunity to connect with many

different people in our community by leading video conference storytimes with children in daycare centers, playing Zoom Bingo with senior citizens in partnership with the Lakewood Division of Aging, interviewing Lakewood residents, and hosting guest speakers ranging from Mayor Meghan George to H2O Alumni working in local service organizations. Interviewing Lakewood residents enriched their perspective and lens through which they understand their community.

The middle school aged campers learned that prepaid passes for admission to our local pools used to come in

the form of metal tags that were sewn to the swimmer’s bathing suit. On a hot summer day if you wanted to cool off in one of the Lakewood pools, you had to wear the suit with the attached pass. The message was clear from parents: “Do not lose this tag. No tag, no pool.” Along with spending summers at the pool with friends, residents remember skating at Lakewood Park in the winter. Part of the lawn near the Oldest Stone House was flooded when temperatures dipped low to create an ice rink and everyone could skate free, so long as they brought their own skates. One camper recalled hearing his dad call a building at the park “the skate house” but assumed that was in reference to the nearby skate park for skateboarders rather than a place where ice skaters could seek shelter from the weather. Very few adults we spoke with remember having to carry a house key when they were out and about as kids and never encountered a locked door when they got home, even when no one was home. No one had memories of much, if any, crime in Lakewood but one resident did recall hearing about a kidnapping in a nearby suburb that caused a ripple of fear in the community.

Campers learned that Lakewood families used to include more children than today’s average families. This meant more children to play with on your block and an enrollment of nearly 4000 students at Lakewood High School, much higher than today’s total around 1300 students. Even though families were bigger then and gas prices were generally well below \$1 per gallon, most households had just one car. Babysitting for younger siblings and neighbor children was almost everyone’s first paying job. They used the money they made to see movies at one of Lakewood’s several movie theaters: Hilliard Square Theater, The Detroit Theater, Westwood Theater and The Homestead Theater just to name a few. Skate night at Winterhurst (Serpentini Arena) was also a popular social hotspot on weekend evenings. Some folks we spoke with had fond memories of a putt-putt golf course at Kauffman Park. Another source of fun was the many youth groups and youth activi-

ties at local churches. It was common for young people to volunteer at their church from a young age.

The residents we spoke with attended various local public and private schools, but their experiences were similar. Older residents recalled few children with disabilities in their classes and the school buildings they attended would have proved a challenge for students with physical disabilities. Other residents recall more children with disabilities entering school with them over the years and amendments were made to the school facilities to accommodate their needs. We’re all very proud of our city’s current diverse population but it is not a new trend for us. We heard from one person whose grandmother taught at Harrison Elementary early in the 20th century when most students were children of immigrants from Eastern Europe. They came to school speaking Slovak, Polish and Carpatho-Russian languages and learned English at school. Students over the years had opportunities to take classes in foreign languages, music and art along with the core academics and to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities much like today.

Some people we spoke with have only lived in Lakewood during their adult life and talked about choosing to make Lakewood their home because they appreciate the walkability and the proximity to downtown Cleveland and Lake Erie. Some also based their choice on the top notch public and private schools in our town. Other residents we spoke with left Lakewood as young adults to attend college or serve in the military and pursue careers elsewhere but returned to raise their own family. One resident said she wanted to return and raise her children here because Lakewood feels like home and home is the best place to grow up. We couldn’t agree more!

Amy Chodzin is the Assistant Coordinator of the H2O "Help to Others." H2O is a program of the City of Lakewood's Human Services, Division of Youth and operates with tremendous support from the Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Community.

Marty Harris Named Unsung Hero Of Sunrise Rotary Club

by Larry Faulhaber

The Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary club was pleased to honor Marty Harris with the 2020 Unsung Hero Award. Marty is a Charter member of the club which was chartered in 2007. She is a Club Past President, and Chair of the Club’s International Service Committee. She has been the coordinator of the Rotary International Rotary Student Exchange Program for the Sunrise Club since it started. Prior to the founding of the Sunrise Club, Marty spearheaded that program for her husband Jim’s Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club.

Marty has a passion for supporting youth. This passion drives Marty to go above and beyond expectations. During her career as a Lakewood High School Counselor, she continuously encouraged students to expand their connection to the world by signing up the Rotary Student Exchange program. Students spend nearly one year in a foreign country living with host families, going to school, and learning the culture of the country.

The Sunrise Rotary has hosted students from Brazil, Germany, Poland, Japan, and Norway. Marty ensures that our club is compliant with strict Rotary and US Government requirements. She finds good homes for incoming the Sunrise Club exchange students, and often helps find host families for the Other Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club. Marty connects the students to the community, sports, and Club members. Over the years, Marty has formed a special bond with exchange students. Most keep in contact with the local club through Marty, and often return for a visit to the sponsoring club. Marty also gets invited to significant events, like graduations and weddings.



Rotary District 6630 Governor, John Reyes, and Sunrise Rotary Club President, Lynda Carter present Unsung Hero Award Trophy to Marty Harris.

In addition to the Rotary Exchange, Marty steps up, whenever the club needs volunteers, from leading portions of the sunrise Club’s annual fundraiser, to sorting toiletries for local charities, like Trails for Hope. Recently, she arranged for the installation of a Rotary sponsored Mini Food Pantry at her church, the Lakewood United Methodist Church. It provides emergency food of church members and neighbors in need. She works with church youth to keep the pantry filled.

Past President, Lynda Carter says, “The Sunrise Club is fortunate to have Marty’s passion and positive can-do attitude in the club. She defines the standard for a Rotary’s Unsung Hero through service to the community and club that is outstanding but often goes unnoticed.”

Larry Faulhaber is PR Committee Chair for Sunrise Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Club.

aMaezing

Men & Women’s Cuts, Color, Styling

15314 Detroit Ave.
The Phenix Salon Suites #105

aMaezing.net “You deserve the best.”

Book online or call
330-221-1883

Roman Fountain

Pizza & Subs

ORDER ONLINE @ ROMANFOUNTAIN.COM

Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzeria 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.

Whether carryout or delivery, we provide your family with the freshest of toppings (over 25 to choose from) on our pizza. With dough and sauce made daily from our own recipe and freshly grated blend of mozzarella & provolone cheese, we provide a great pizza for you and your family

At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites:

- Pizza
- Calzones
- Stromboli
- Salads
- Pasta

- Subs
- Wings
- Appetizers
- Desserts
- Dinners

To see our menu or coupons please go to
www.romanfountain.com
Or stop by at
15603 Detroit Ave
Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633

Celebrating Over 16 Years of Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Lakewood, Ohio: www.lakewoodobserver.com

History Observed

The Lakewood Historical Society Designates 954 Houses As 2020 Historic Lakewood: Century Homes

continued from page 1

year. Thus these houses also receive recognition. This multiple year recognition will continue through 2026.

In 2020, houses built in 1860, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910 and 1920 have been designated. Each of the 954 houses received a mailing announcing that it is a Historic Lakewood: Century Home.

One goal of this project is to help build appreciation for why and how Lakewood developed as it did. Lakewood is a city that appreciates and celebrates its past. Today's Lakewood reflects that history.

Many of the early settlers were farmers and fruit growers who came to the area because Lake Erie kept the climate more temperate than areas farther from the lake. The conditions were ideal for fruit orchards and vegetable fields. Detroit Avenue had been developed into a plank road by the Rockport Plank Company, providing more dependable transportation than the dirt roads that easily became impassable mud, giving ready access to markets for the crops. And land was available.

A second wave of settlers were successful Clevelanders who were looking for a place to build a summer home. The city was hot during the summer and families were searching for an escape from the heat, noise, dirt, and crowded conditions of city life. Lakewood's country atmosphere and



An 1880 house built in the farmhouse style.

closeness to the city were appealing. Summer estates were built along Lake Erie. Land that once was fields and fruit orchards was being sold. Landowners sensed that a transition was coming.

The transition was the shift from agriculture to industrialization. As more families sought to move out of the city to find better living conditions, land speculators who bought land from farmers ready to quit farming or move to another area, were ready to meet their need for a home away from urban Cleveland but still convenient to it. The landowners began to divide their land and sell to developers who would then section the land into buildable lots. The concept of Lakewood as a city of homes was born.

Another goal of the Century Home Project is to encourage homeowners to set aside some time to give serious consideration to the history of the homes in which they live.

Each year the project reveals the rich variety of Lakewood houses. The six remaining Lakewood houses built in 1880, generally tend to be practical structures

reminiscent of country farmhouses and appear to have been built to meet

the housing needs of a working middle class family. They appear to have been built for functionality rather than stylistic character. Decorative elements are minimal.

Many of the houses built later in the nineteenth century reflect the Victorian Style. Turrets, gracious front porches, leaded glass in front windows, and ornate decorative trim were often used. Several of the houses recognized from 1890 and 1900 feature these Victorian elements. Often these houses were built on larger, deeper lots.

The bungalow is another architectural style that is found among the houses named century homes in 2020.

These one and a half story houses stand out on streets dominated by two-story homes. Because they are shorter than most of the houses around them, they look smaller. But the bungalow is usually longer than it is wide, giving it more square feet than it appears from the street view. The bungalow also features the traditional Lakewood porch across the front of the house. The roof appears large and often continues from the peak over the front porch.

Another type of Lakewood home that was popular and has many examples from 1910 and 1920 is the two-family house. Some Lakewood streets have more two-family homes than any other type of house. The majority of these are houses with first and second floor units, each unit having its own address. The double was a solution to the need for more housing units: two families could live in one house on one lot. When built, the two families living in the double were often related or one unit was rented for income by the owner who lived in the other unit.

The Century Home Project encourages a close examination of a specific year of home building. Lakewood's neighborhoods emphasize the rich variety of Lakewood's houses and reveal trends and popular styles of a particular year. It is common to find a particular house design repeated throughout the city. The houses are not duplicates. The same basic building design was used, with the decorative exterior elements changed to create a unique expression for each house.

Lakewood's History is visible in its houses. This city of homes tells a rich story of building and becoming. Its housing has stories to tell and secrets to reveal. A century is a long period of time. Houses have seen much. Exploring a house's history can reveal who built it, who has lived in it, how it has changed, how the property was used before the house was built. There is a world of information waiting to be discovered.

John Prim is Chair of the Century Home Project, a sub-committee of the Lakewood Historical Society, Preservation Committee.



A 1920 Lakewood two family double with first and second floor units.

HEATING • COOLING

Air Conditioners
Furnaces, Boilers

SERVING LAKEWOOD
FOR OVER 27 YEARS

Slife Heating & Cooling

216 221-0310

www.slife-hvac.com

HOME ALONE
PET SITTING, INC.

In Home Pet Care
While You Are Away

Experienced
Veterinarian Technician

Bonded & Insured
216-548-1543
djmhokin@gmail.com
homealonepetsittinginc.com

Lakewood's #1 choice
for interior and exterior
painting

Serving Northeast
Ohio Homeowners
since 1975

Quality Painting.
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at
216-529-0360
for a Free Consultation!
neubertpainting.com

18514 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
phone: 216.521.7684
fax: 216-521-9518
CURRENT HOURS OF OPERATION
MONDAY - THURSDAY: 4PM – 10PM
FRIDAY: NOON - 10PM

WEEKEND BRUNCH RETURNS
SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
ALA CARTE BREAKFAST/LUNCH FEATURING:
SUNDAY 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
GOURMET ALA CARTE BRUNCH
BRUNCH A 30-YEAR LAKEWOOD TRADITION

Foodwood

Warmth Is Found 365 Days A Year At The Summer House

by Eva Starr

What was once an iconic restaurant on Lake Rd. back in the day, has gotten a face lift. The old Swingos, and before that the Silver Quill on the ground floor of the Carlyle building is now the Summer House. Swingos closed its doors in February of 2009, staying empty until Tony George, Cleveland restaurateur decided to put his signature on it. George spent three years renovating the place, opening in March of 2020, only to be closed due to Covid-19 a week later.

Summer House Executive Chef Vinnie Cimino and sous chef Ryan Boone took a grave situation and turned it into a positive, the starting of Cleveland Family Meal. Cimino and Boone turned Summer House's emergent kitchen into a bustling food bank for those in need, particularly restaurant workers, who often work paycheck to paycheck.

The Summer House has since reopened, after Gov. DeWine permitted restaurants to reopen in late spring. However, the giving didn't stop there. Tony George has dedicated Summer House to the memory of his late son, Michael T. George, known as Mikey



The Summer House's view of the Cleveland Skyline.

to the community. Mikey, a student at St. Ed's, lost his battle with cancer in June of 2019. Profits from the Summer House go to a non-profit organization based in Lakewood, called Awakening Angels. Awakening Angels shares the profits with the Red Cross, the Michael T. George Center, Down Syndrome Research and others.

Adorning the walls of Summer House are canvas photos of Mikey, with his siblings, outdoors in the "summertime." Mikey's favorite family vacations were their times at Kelly's Island, it's apparent by the huge smiles in the paintings. The paintings depict the 'vibe' at the Summer House, even on a cold, chilly day, as it was when

I decided to visit, the atmosphere is one of warmth, good feelings, family and community.

The bar seats 50, the entire restaurant is enclosed by glass, there's not a bad seat in the house. The view is spectacular, (even the cloudy fall day I was there). I sat at the bar, was greeted by Deja, ordered a Cabernet, and was checked on by other staff periodically in a warmhearted way.

The scratch-made kitchen finds its place somewhere in between American, Italian and Mediterranean cuisine, while utilizing local



Mikey and mates.



Clothesline Bacon

vendors, and seasonal dishes with an eclectic twist. I ordered the hummus, with home-made warmed pita bread, topped with crispy chickpeas. Being a chef in San Diego for ten years, I'm particular about certain culinary delights. I also make my own hummus, and I have to admit, I want that recipe!

One of the more popular items is the Clothesline Bacon appetizer, the bacon is hung by clothespins, torched, including the rosemary at the top, and sent out drizzling on Kool-Aid pickles and pickled cauliflower placed strategically underneath. Flatbreads, kabobs, burgers, pasta and walleye also hold a place on the menu, while being easy on the wallet.

Summer House has an exten-

sive wine list, craft beers, and crafted cocktails, including a customer favorite named after Mikey, the "Balouie", (a nickname Tony George & his son Mikey shared), made with apricot liqueur, bulleit bourbon, lemon, egg whites, & simple syrup.

Sanitation seemed to be a high priority everywhere, as I cast my eyes on the amazing view of Lake Erie and the Cleveland Skyline. If what you're looking for is to be treated in the warm and gracious manner you'd treat a guest in your own home, this is the spot. Be captivated by Lake Erie views, come for the food and stay for the vibe!

Summer House
12900 Lake Ave.
216-270-2300
Open daily, lunch/dinner 7 days,
check website for hours.

Dear Valued Customers

Thank you Lakewood for your support and patronage in making India Garden your favorite Indian Cuisine Restaurant in Northern Ohio.

INDIA GARDEN

18405 DETROIT AVE. ■ 216-221-0676

Open Daily Lunch 11am - 2:30pm

Sat. & Sun. 11:30am - 3:00pm

Dinner 5pm - 10pm

Ask About Gift Certificates And Catering

NUNZIO'S
Pizzeria

Visit Sicily Without Leaving Home

SINCE 1990 • 26 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

Fresh Authentic Italian Cuisine
Pizza • Pasta • Sandwiches • Salads • Wings

U.S. COMMERCE ASSOCIATION
BEST OF CLEVELAND FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
2009 & 2010

NOW SERVING 3 LOCATIONS!
Lakewood • Fairview Park
Rocky River

OPEN:
Monday - Saturday
4pm - 3:30am
Deliveries until 3:15am

Sunday
2pm - 1:30am
Deliveries until 1:15am

PIZZA	Small 6 cut - 9"	Medium 8 cut - 12"	Large 12 cut - 16"	Party Tray Half Sheet
Plain	\$7.00	\$8.50	\$11.00	\$12.00
1 Item	\$7.50	\$9.25	\$12.00	\$13.50
2 Items	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$15.00
3 Items	\$8.50	\$10.75	\$14.00	\$16.50
4 Items	\$9.00	\$11.50	\$15.00	\$18.00
Deluxe	\$9.50	\$12.25	\$16.00	\$19.50
Extra Items	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.50
Ext. Cheese/Spec. Topp	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50

Available Items: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green & Red Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black, Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Meat, Pineapple, Jalapeño Peppers
SPECIAL TOPPINGS: Artichoke Hearts, Tomato, Broccoli, Chicken

17615 Detroit Ave. • 216-228-2900
www.nunziospizza.net

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Fire Department Surprises Me Again Emma And The Soap Box Derby

by Jim O'Bryan

Last week when Fire Chief Tim Dunphy and I were talking at the funeral for Cleveland Police Det. James Skernivitz, he mentioned to me that that he would be busy this weekend tending to the Lakewood Fire Department's Soap Box Derby car. I exclaimed, "What!" He went on to describe how the Lakewood Fire Department had gotten involved with Soap Box Derby cars about 5 years ago, and they love it.

I can see why Fire Chief Dunphy and crew would love it, from the Soap Box Derby website. "The Soap Box Derby is an international non-profit organization whose mission is to build knowledge, character, and create meaningful experiences through collaboration and fair and honest competition." It is everything being a Lakewood Fire Department member is all about.

I mentioned to Chief Dunphy that I loved motorsports having been involved for years around the world



Emma Kochler gets into the LFD car.

photos of Indy Cars at Mid-Ohio, but with COVID-19, no one outside of Indy Car was allowed in. So this will have to suffice. Again, I was not prepared for the eye opener I was about to see.



Emma Kochler gets ready to give the Lakewood Fire Department car a run down the track against Victor VanRoy in the car run by The Trademan Tavern in Parma.

three divisions, The Stock division is for kids ages 7 through 13. The Super Stock division is for kids ages 9 through 18. The Masters division is for kids ages 10 through 20. So there is really a chance for all to get involved. The family friendly atmosphere also reminded me of an SCCA paddock where people shared everything from tools to tires, from how to drive the track to where to stay in town. I was really starting to feel at home and enjoy this.

While I was there to see Emma Kochler, and the Lakewood Fire Department car, I walked around the paddock talking with parents and drivers. Finn David From Rocky River said, "I got into racing because of my sister who was already racing." The I asked what was next, the 7-year-old smiled and said, "I am not really sure, I want to see how this year goes first!" Emma Kochler started because her father was a Lakewood Fireman and they were looking for a driver. "I thought it might be fun to drive the car." When I asked if it was, she smiled from ear to ear and said "YES!"

Now, all of you are thinking cute kiddie sport, not serious here. You would be as wrong as I was. Most of the races had finishes of less than 1/2 a second. Actually closer to hundredths than tenths. Also the track is used equally with drivers making runs on each side of the track to be fair.

Now let's talk about these so called kiddie runs! Imagine, if you will, a hill steep enough to get your old red wagon going 30 miles per hour. A red wagon has basically the same set-up. Only these cars are wood and fiberglass, and driven with pull cables. All of which while the driver, sometimes 11 years

from driving a road car, is keeping low in the car, looking out of a 1/4" space for their eyes, going down a track that moved up and down and has crowns, cracks and bumps. All of this within steel armco barriers, and competing against a person your age. It has to be terrifying at first.

Drivers love it. They really develop great pride and a friendly competitive attitude that is missing in the world these days. I can see why and how families get hooked. Relatively inexpensive, channels all sorts of energy and thought process. Takes place outside, and everyone there is a pleasure

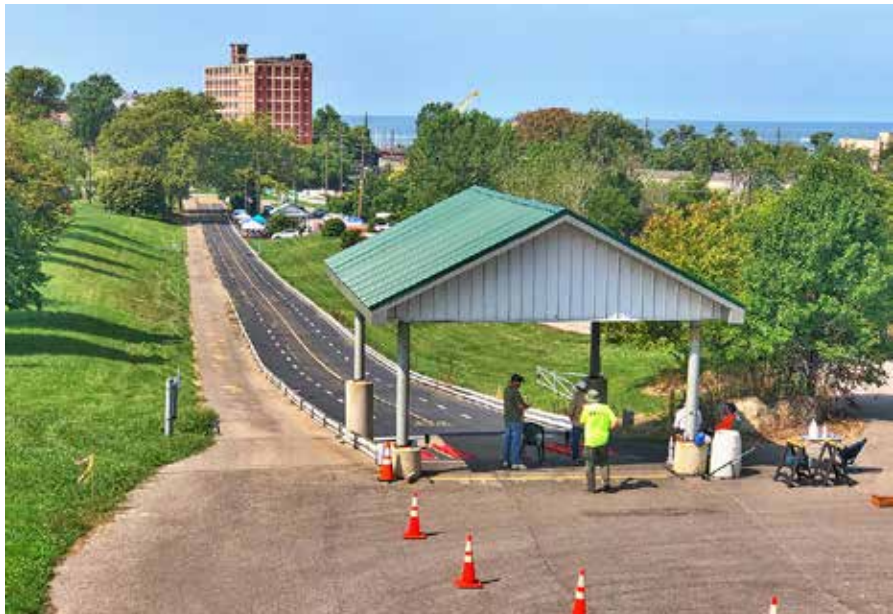


Emma tending to her car between runs. She is always looking to make it faster!

to be around. I am surprised there are not more boys doing it. That's right, the second eye-opener, a majority of this weekend's racers were girls. Wait, not just girls, Championship driving girls in a class that contains both men and women. Straight up fair competition no matter the sex, the age, the background. This is getting to be more fun than I have had at a track for decades.

Well as the races wore on and the sun started to set, I went and said goodbye to Lakewood Fire Chief Dunphy and Emma Kochler. The car was beautifully turned out, and while Emma finished seventh in her class, she got a couple heat wins during the afternoon. And this underlines yet again the secret of the Soap Box Derby, everyone can join, everyone can compete and everyone can win. What a great family event.

Over 166 more photos online at: lakewoodobserver.com



The track, by the end the kids are doing 30 mph!

with racing. He mentioned their driver was a young girl named Emma Kochler and I chuckled and mentioned back in the 80s I had a young woman named Mary Kaczor from Chicago driving for us in Formula Opel and Formal 3 over in Europe. It was nice to see people giving women a break into motor racing and the entry levels. I had no idea what was in store for me.

So I arrived at the beautiful Cleveland Soap Box Derby track that runs alongside the Westbound lane of the Shoreway on Whiskey Island. The track built during the Mayor Mike White years gets a lot of use. For a long period of time it was sponsored by Jon Baruth, a name many Lakewoodites would know. Jon ran a Circus promotion office in Lakewood that employed hundreds of teenagers from 1970-1980. He was also the original manager for the "Dead Boys" that at one time all worked for him in Lakewood. Jon passed away last year.

So as I arrive at the track, I stop and look over the railing. It is laid out very nicely. I drive in past the gates and head into the Paddock area. This weekend I was supposed to be down taking

The paddock look like most racing paddocks, trailers, motorhomes, and cars. Some of the cars and drivers from as far away as California. The Soap Box Derby has 13 zones. To become a National Rally Champion you must travel to at least three zones scoring points. If you reach a certain amount, you are awarded Rally Champion. This accounts for so many cars and drivers from around the country.

All-American Soap Box Derby has



7-year-old Finn David of Rocky River is in his first year of racing.

Lakewood Library

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 33: “The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues:

fiction by Scott MacGregor

Little Dan had split a storm in two and taken the proverbial cake! As it was later explained by expert psychologists and members of the Grateful Dead, the LSD Little Dan had ingested encouraged his brain to reach a higher plane of whatever. His enhanced mental state enabled him to shape-shift the storm into a Japanese monster lizard which, in turn, imbued Little Dan with the sense of purpose and duty one needs when blowing up storms. Even his detractors had to admit that Little Dan performed an Old Testament-style miracle complete with Old Testament-style consequences.

Torn asunder by Maynard Gridley's exploding boat, the western lobe of the massive storm did an “exit stage right” directly onto the upscale neighborhoods along River City’s coastline. Hundreds of Riverites who’d gathered atop their shale cliffs to watch the derecho storm victimize Rockport had instead become the victims thanks to Little Dan’s electric kool-aid acid voyage into history.

Once, the most wanted criminal in Rockport for his derelictions that caused the Gas & Lube disaster, Little Dan had become an instant sensation once the accounts of his deeds had found their way into the lunch counters and dive bars of Rockport. Rockporters everywhere raised their glasses and toasted the local hero who’d forced the elite citizens of River City to drop their barbeque tongs and run for their very lives.

Even before the ambulance had



delivered Little Dan to Rockport Hospital, a local businessman known as “Cy the T-Shirt Guy” had sensed the largeness of the moment and cranked out a line of T-shirts and tank tops carrying Little Dan’s likeness with supportive quotations and a timely new nickname that stuck. One design said, “Derecho Dan Has the Guts!”, (a thinly veiled reference to the tons of blenderized fish the explosion had dumped on River City). Other shirts carried the ever popular battle cry, “I Break Wind with Derecho Dan!”

It wasn’t all guts and glory, however. The incident had left Little Dan seriously injured, intermittently unconscious, and subject to the homicidal whims harbored by the entire population of River City. When hordes of Rockporters swarmed into the Rocky River Valley to rescue Little Dan

from mob justice, the battle known as “Shale Wars I” erupted and raged into the evening. Before it was over, the cliff tops of both cities were ablaze.

The Rocks of Rockport and the local safety forces eventually dispersed the angry mobs and stopped the hateful violence. At 11pm, both cities had imposed martial law. By then, a total of 46 backyard gazebos and 12 pergolas had been burnt to the ground. The cluster of ship-shaped homes that had piled up at the corner of Ahoy Avenue and Crappie Lane, were set ablaze by raging Rockporters. The resulting conflagration was the largest bonfire remembered in these parts since the Christmas Tree Bonfire of 1970 when Storm 1.0 blew in and kicked off the Storm Era.

Inside the speeding hearse-like ambulance with sirens blaring, Little

Dan wove in and out of consciousness. Nonetheless, his Aunt Rowena Gridley wanted answers. She screamed into his ear, “Little Dan--What was it that pulled you out of the storm?” Rowena was referring to the invisible force that she and hundreds of onlookers had seen pulling Little Dan's raft away from danger.

“Tell me, Little Dan!” she pleaded, “What was it?” Little Dan opened his eyes and began moving his lips, though no audible words came forth. “What did you say?” asked Rowena as she moved her ear closer to Little Dan’s mouth. Little Dan took in a labored breath and wheezed out a word that sounded like, “Ba...hee...moth.”

“BEHEMOTH???” exclaimed Rowena. The driver of the ambulance who’d been eavesdropping yelled out, “Did he say, ‘BEHEMOTH’?” A puzzled Rowena replied, “Yes..he said, ‘behemoth.’” The driver scratched his head and said, “Hmm...well,” that’s kinda like in the movie, ‘The Giant Behemoth.’ While driving at speeds approaching 100 mph, he further explained, “Y’see, the movie opens up on a beach in merry old England where an old fisherman gets fried like a piece of chicken by the heat rays from an off-camera radioactive sea serpent!”

As he nimbly steered his ambulance into the entrance of Rockport Hospital, the driver went on to say, “So, after the guy’s daughter and her boyfriend discover him on the beach, they start screaming, ‘What was it daddy? What was it that baked ya like a potato?’ Then... right before the old codger croaks, he opens his mouth and says, ‘BA-HEE-MOTH’...just like Little Dan did! BA...HEEEEEEE...MOTH! Ha! I’m tellin’ ya, it’s my most favorite movie!”

A couple days later when Little Dan was able to eat soft foods and talk more coherently, people all over the world would learn that it was Little Dan’s "most favorite movie," also.

© 2020 Scott MacGregor-EOI Media Press Inc.

Catch up on previous episodes at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/read/special-section/the-rockport-miracles>

Lakewood Public Library Update

by Andrea Fisher

It’s hard to believe that it’s been more than two months since Lakewood Public Library opened its doors again for in-person services. The Library is committed to offering patrons with a variety of library services, while focusing on ensuring safety for our patrons and staff.

The Library continues to quarantine returned materials for a minimum of four days. During this time, items will still show as checked out to your library account. After the quarantine period, all items are checked in as of the day they were returned, so no overdue fees are accrued.

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting learning, students who are engaged in online or distance learning can take advantage of the Library’s proctoring service. Visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/proctoring for more information or to request an appointment, and a Library staff member will contact you to schedule your proctored exam.

While public computers remain unavailable for use at Main Library and Madison Branch, patrons who need to have documents printed can email their print request to the Library



at contact@lakewoodpubliclibrary.org. A staff member will print the requested documents, maintaining patron confidentiality, and will notify the patron when the documents are ready to be picked up. Patrons may request a total of 100 pages per day for printing. The first 25 pages are free. Additional pages are charged at ten cents per page, payable upon pickup. Printing is only available in black and white.

The Main Library’s Homework Help Room and Multipurpose Room are available during regular Library hours as a quiet place for students to

study and complete school work. Students must bring their own laptop and headphones. Both rooms provide free Wi-Fi and outlets for charging devices.

Lakewood Public Library, Main Library and Madison Branch are open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Beginning October 3, both locations will begin new Saturday hours from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we focus on keeping our patrons and staff safe.

Lakewood Is Alive

Hot Dog! LakewoodAlive’s 13th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade Going Virtual

continued from page 1

and continue this long-held fall tradition safely during this unprecedented time,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “This family-friendly community event will certainly look different this year, without having 350 canines and 3,000 people filling Kauffman Park, yet its ability to offer community members joy and comfort will endure. We hope you and your family enjoy participating, and we appreciate your support of LakewoodAlive. Now get those creative costume juices flowing!”

Registration is now open for the Virtual Spooky Pooch Parade, which features a photo contest taking place from September 8 to October 6. Each registered participant is guaranteed having their costumed canine photo submission considered by a panel of community judges for inclusion in LakewoodAlive’s 2021 wall calendar, and each entry includes a copy of this full-color calendar. A virtual unveiling of the 12 lucky winners will take place on October 17 – the original date of the Spooky Pooch Parade.

The general public will then be able to cast votes from October 13th through 16th (at noon) by “liking” photos in a Facebook album or commenting on our Instagram slideshow consisting of the 12 calendar finalists to determine the “Best In Show” winner of the Virtual Spooky Pooch Parade. That winner will be featured on the October page of the calendar and receive one year’s worth of free dog

food courtesy of Pet’s General Store. The cost of entry is \$25 per photo submission, with proceeds benefitting LakewoodAlive, a community-centered nonprofit organization striving to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. Not able to participate in the photo contest? No problem! Any social post published between September 8 and October 6 featuring a costumed canine and hashtag “#VirtualSpookyPooch” will have a chance to be spotlighted on LakewoodAlive’s social pages.

More information about the Virtual Spooky Pooch Parade will be unveiled in the coming weeks. To learn more and register your dog, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/SpookyPooch.

The Virtual Spooky Pooch Parade is generously supported by the following sponsors:

Title Sponsor
Ganley Subaru

Top Dog Sponsor
City of Lakewood

Dedicated Dog Sponsors
Discount Drug Mart
Embrace Pet Insurance
Inn the Doghouse
LSC Service Corporation
Pet’s General Store
The Salem Team



Never Quit. Never

by Ronald Ciancutti

Sam Ciancutti, Lakewood High School Class of 2015, left for Salt Lake City Utah in early September where he will play on the "Select Developmental Squad" of the Utah Warriors Professional Rugby team.

Sam was the team captain in his rugby years at LHS. He was granted the rugby-coveted Higgins College Scholarship that led him to Bowling Green State University, graduating in 2019. During his years at BGSU he collected numerous awards for team leadership and sports integrity and his teams won the Mid American Conference Title four times. In 2018 BGSU won the National Title as well. It was the first time in the club's 50 year history.

After going undrafted in the 2020 Pro Selection round up, Sam declared as a free-agent and was invited, as such, to multiple camps. Utah's offer was the one he selected and his performance with the developmental squad through the end of 2020 will determine whether a pro contract will be signed.

Good luck Sam. The City of Lakewood hopes your tough-minded determination will find you in the Pro League by 2021!

The Ciancutti Family has lived in Lakewood since 1994 where they raised five children and enjoyed and appreciated every great thing the city has to offer. Ron recently retired as Director of Procurement after 37 years with Cleveland Metroparks.

health
markets

The Smarter Way to Shop...

- Health
- Medicare
- Small Group
- Life Insurance
- Supplemental
- Long-Term Care
- Retirement

Call today for your FREE QUOTE!
216-228-0765
www.clevelandinsurance.info
16506 Detroit Rd. Lakewood, OH 44107

Carl Lishing Licensed Insurance Agent

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency is the d/b/a, or assumed name, of Insphere Insurance Solutions, Inc. which is licensed as an insurance agency in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state. HMIA000589

BENTLEY

WEALTH MANAGEMENT OF

RAYMOND JAMES®

MICHAEL A. BENTLEY

Vice President, Investments

Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James
159 Crocker Park Blvd, Suite 390 // Westlake, OH 44145
O 440.801.1629 // C 216.513.0933 // F 440.801.1636
www.bentleywealthmanagement.com // michael.bentley@raymondjames.com

© 2016 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange / SIPC. Raymond James® and LIFE WELL PLANNED® are registered trademarks of Raymond James Financial, Inc. 16-BR3AP-0073 TA 04/16

Fedor Manor
Apartments

Affordable Senior Housing Community

When you walk through the door,
you know you are home.

Seniors
Make us your NEW
home this Fall!

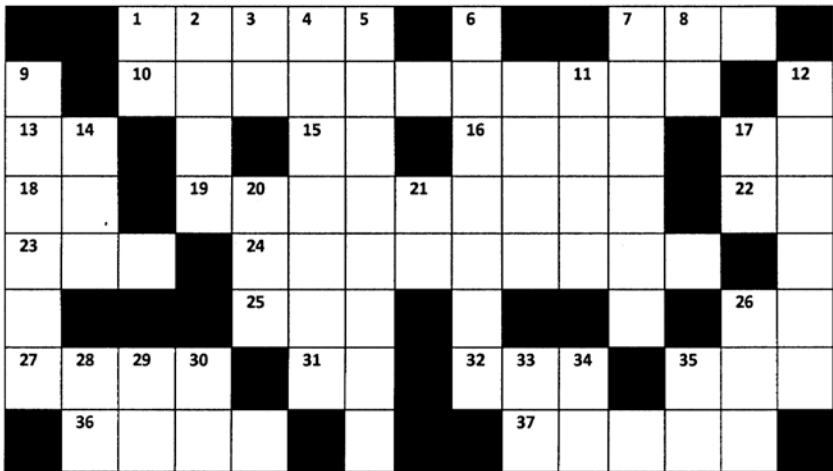
12400 Madison Ave. • Lakewood, Ohio
216-226-7575
TTY 1-800-750-0750

www.fedormanorapartments.com

giant eagle

Senior Shopping Hours
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 6am – 9am

The Back Page



PAUSE YOUR ZOOM FOR A CROSSWORD

answers online at lakewoodobserver.com

by j.gombarcik

ACROSS

1 MULTIPLE SNOW PLAYMATES IN *FROZEN*

7 FEMALE PARENT NICKNAME

10 OFFICE EXPECTS TO SEE THIS WHEN YOU RETURN FROM LEAVE

13 EARLY COMPUTER COMPANY, INITIALS

15 ABBR FOR NOT APPROVED ON A LOAN APPLICATION

16 OOLONG, DARJEELING, ETC.

17 JUST ___ IT

18 WORD EMITTED WHEN HAMMER CONNECTS WITH THUMB

19 CHILDRENS’ SONG MANY ADULTS HATE —EXCEPT WASHINGTON NATIONALS

22 GENDER SPECIFIC FORMAL TITLE, ABBR

23 CLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

24 DEFENSIVE METAL AROUND CASTLE DITCH?

25 MICHAEL JACKSON *THRILLER* ALBUM SHORT-NAMED SONG

26 NECESSARY PART OF APARTMENT WORDS ON MAIL BOX, ABBR

27 KELLY, TALK SHOW CO-HOST

31 IT IS YES, WHEN SOUTH OF THE BORDER

32 INSTINCTIVE DEEP FEELING, INFORMALLY

35 “MAMA ___”

36 TERMINAL LOCATION

37 SINGER ROBERT OR WHAT YOU WATER AT HOME

DOWN

1 OPERATING VARIABLE, ABBR

2 THAI CHICKEN DISH FAMOUS IN NORTH EASTERN HALF

3 AIR CONDITIONING, ABBR

4 LOYAL NASCAR WATCHERS

5 PANDEMIC ADVICE FOR HOME

6 FEELING OF DISGUST

7 INTERNET NAME FOR PIMPLES CAUSED BY FACE COVERINGS

8 “I’LL GET ___ IT, BOSS”

9 HOARDER

11 EDIBLE ARUM ROOT OF TROPICS

12 THIS BEER FERMENTS WITH YEAST, NOT A VIRUS

14 IMPERIAL WEIGHT, ABBR

17 DESIGNATED MANAGER, ABBR

20 INCREASE THE SOUND LEVEL, WITH “UP”

21 SHORT STREET

26 ONE OF THE SOUNDS MADE ON OLD TELEGRAPH

28 “COME ON ___!”

29 LOUISIANA SANDWICH “BOY”

30 WHAT’S FOR SALE, ABBR

33 OPPOSITE OF 26 ACROSS

34 A SMALLER TOTAL

Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Full Service Salon For Females

Look, Feel & Be Cool

Really nice hair cuts and colors

Check out products with peppermint and tea tree for summer, we have them!

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR BEST SERVICE. FREE PRIVATE PARKING. CHECK WITH ID OR CASH

f

Follow Us On Facebook To See Accessories and New Ideas!

15309 MADISON AVENUE • 216.226.8616

WALL TO WALL TRANSFORMATIONS

PLASTER REPAIR

specializing in plaster and lathe restoration

216-255-8529

fully insured, free estimates

We're here to help you keep going.

Adjusting to a new way of working isn't easy, but we're here to help you keep business moving. With tools for working together, even when you're apart, and dedicated 24/7 support, we'll help make this new way of working work better for you.

To learn more about our resources for making it work, visit coxbusiness.com/working or call (216) 535-3323.

COX

BUSINESS®

Not all services are available everywhere. Learn more at coxbusiness.com.

© 2020 Cox Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Skettle Automotive

15501 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH

NOW OPEN ON SATURDAY

Tim Skettle Owner, Technician

Formerly at Steve Barry Buick

For an appointment CALL

216.226.5993

TROY BRATZ

Real Estate Agent

Residential / Commercial
Lakewood Resident

216.702.2196

TroyBratz@KW.com

@TroyBratzKW

kw

ELEVATE

KELLERWILLIAMS.

SOLD

SELL now for top dollar

BUY for your future

INVEST in the community

This paper is written, produced, and delivered by residents of Lakewood. Isn't it time you joined with us?

Visit the “Member Center” today to sign up and submit an article to the LO!
www.lakewoodobserver.com/members/login

If you would like to help this history-making 17-year-old project continue getting out the words, stories and images of your fellow Lakewoodites and you have a business, contact production@lakewoodobserver.com and we will send out an advertising kit!