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IN PERSON VOTING HAS STARTED THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 16, Issue 19, October 7, 2020



Early voting started yesterday at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. The line moved quickly, and everyone was masked, distanced and enjoying the time.

Early Voting Has Started

by Daniel Shields

LAKEWOOD VOTERS

**Your vote is your voice.
Use it!**

VOTE! There are THREE ways:

Early In Person: Registered voters can vote RIGHT NOW through November 2nd at the Cuyahoga County Board

of Elections downtown at 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

There are 3 free parking lots and police everywhere directing traffic. You are asked 2 medical questions, your temperature is taken, then you're allowed in at 6 foot distances, with plastic barriers and a

well-ventilated room. The BOE asks that you wear a mask.

By Mail: Request an absentee ballot here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballot/> or call 216-443-VOTE (8683). Fill it out, print it and mail it back to receive your absentee ballot or call the Board of Elections and request one. You may request one up to three days before the election (by October 31st this year). Once received, VOTE and mail your ballot in. It must be post-marked by November 2nd (the day before the election) or can be dropped off at the Board of Elections where you can hand deliver it from your car to a dropbox.

**In Person: NOV 3RD AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION
2020 EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE:**

October 6 - 16

(Weekdays Only - Mon thru Fri)

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

October 19 – 23

(Weekdays Only - Mon thru Fri)

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 24

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

October 26 -30

(Weekdays Only - Mon thru Fri)

8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 31

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 1

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 2

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

****DON'T WAIT! THE U.S. MAIL IS REPORTED



Junior Fire Chief Aeron Jones holds his trophy! From left to right: Fire Inspector Mike Madwijiw, Fire Marshall Ryan Fairbanks, Junior Fire Marshall Aeron Jones and Fire Inspector Scott Thomas.

Junior Fire Chief 2020 Aeron Jones

Winning Essay
by Aeron Jones

When you think about fire safety in your home the first thing that typically comes to mind is being safe in the kitchen, the reason why is because cooking involves oil and open flame. The NFPA reports that cooking related accidents are the number one cause for house fires. In this essay I will be explaining how to avoid a fire, what's recommended to do if there is a fire and how they spread.

Cooking specific meals may require some sort of oil like vegetable oil or peanut oil in a pan above a flame, and since accidents happen sometimes the oil may come into contact with the flame directly and cause it to become dangerous for anyone close to the stove. Any oil or grease SHOULD be kept away from coming into direct contact with fire. Another thing is to keep any fabric, wood or plastics a reasonable distance away from the stove top whether it's on or not because metals trap heat and could burn it.

There's also more to fire safety in the kitchen than just being wary of stoves. Make sure to have an escape plan and practice it twice a year. Always have a smoke detector near the entrance of the kitchen and not inside of it, the reason being is that cooking can release smoke even when it's not dangerous and set the alarm off. NEVER leave a pan unattended when cooking. Always make sure to replace your smoke detectors every ten years and test the smoke detectors often and replace their batteries often. Make sure to also keep any electronics away from the sink. Always have a multipurpose fire extinguisher nearby to put out any grease, combustible or electric fires.

(Combustible means objects like wood and paper.) NEVER put water on a grease or electrical fire.

If a fire is not able to be put out in time contact emergency services to report the emergency after getting out of the building. Make sure to lay

Dr. Barnes To Speak On Black History At LHS History Club Event

by Christine Gordillo

Superintendent Mike Barnes will be the Lakewood High History Club's first speaker in the group's series presentations for the 2020-2021 school year. The event is set for Sunday, October 18 at noon on the Lakewood High front lawn. If there is inclement weather, the event will take place in the Civic Auditorium, with masks required and social

distancing enforced.

Dr. Barnes will speak on "From DuBois to Steele--The Struggle for Liberty and Equality & the Diverse History of Black Political Thought." Dr. Barnes, a former Social Studies teacher, will discuss the wide range of Black political thought, from the classic Booker T. Washington W.E.B DuBois debate, to the conservative Shelby Steele and other voices.

City Of Lakewood To Follow Ohio Department Of Health Guidance For Halloween

from City Hall

Use caution and plan ahead for celebrating Halloween amid the COVID-19 pandemic

The City of Lakewood will adhere to the Ohio Department of Health's "Celebrating Halloween" guidance released on Friday, September 18th. Trick-or-treat activities will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Saturday, October 31st in Lakewood.

To protect the safety and health of all members of our community while celebrating Halloween, the City of Lakewood encourages caution

for Halloween and other fall festivities. While broad in nature to cover the situations experienced by most Ohioans, the Ohio Department of Health's "Celebrating Halloween" guidance provides the following good advice for Lakewoodites:

For Parents/Guardians of Trick-or-Treaters

If taking your children trick-or-treating, limit the number of houses you visit and ask your children to stay as far from treat-givers as possible. For small children, consider

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

The Mayor's Corner

by Meghan George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

The City of Lakewood has begun its annual budget process in preparation for 2021. There is a tremendous amount of work and contemplation that goes into our municipal budget. We are reviewing department budgets and preparing to roll them into one cohesive vision for the City's next year of operations and capital investment which we will present to City Council and the community in the

coming months. Although the pandemic has made 2020 challenging from a budgetary perspective, many projects have moved forward. We are nearing completion of Wagar Park and have included parks improvements in the budget for next year. We have resumed plans for a community facility at the former Cove Church site. We have continued investments in public art, our tree canopy, and water/sewer infrastructure upgrades.

The western gateway to our community is slated for a major overhaul starting at the intersection of Detroit Avenue and Sloane Avenue. We are turning the corner on 2020 and looking forward to what 2021 will bring. It will be a tight budget year because I am committed to maintaining a disciplined, fiscally responsible approach. We have navigated this crisis well and we will not relax now with the pandemic still looming. In the meantime, please check in on your neighbors and stay healthy and safe.

Early Voting Has Started

continued from page 1

TO BE RUNNING BEHIND THIS YEAR** YOU WANT TO BE SURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED!!!!

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose is offering some clarity to voters who requested mail-in ballots but now want to vote in person instead.

The full directive is available on the secretary of state's website, but here are the basics:

If you've decided to vote in person rather than by mail, but you've already requested an absentee ballot, you can vote early in person with no trouble — emphasis on the early.

If you've received an absentee ballot in the mail, your local board of elections will ask for it back and give you a new, regular ballot at the early in-

person voting site. You're not required to return the other ballot as a condition for getting a new one, however. Ohio counts early ballots as they come in, so your vote will be processed ahead of Election Day.

It's a different story if you've requested an absentee but show up to vote on Election Day. You'll have to vote provisionally, meaning the ballot won't be added to the count until after Nov. 3.

"If the voter marks and returns more than one ballot, the board must count only the first ballot received. It is a felony to vote more than once in the same election."

Boards begin mailing absentee ballots to those who have requested them on Oct. 6.

Junior Fire Chief 2020 Aeron Jones

continued from page 1

low and avoid breathing in the smoke, leave all belongings behind. If you have to get past a door during a fire use the back of your hand and press it against the doorknob. If it is warm, don't open it, if it is normal you can proceed. You may have to go out of a window in a fire, make sure there is a safe way to get to the ground if it is too high.

Fire safety is important to practice because you are important. Many people perish due to fire related accidents. Make sure to create an escape plan and practice it twice a year and replace your smoke detectors' batteries often.

City Of Lakewood To Follow Ohio Department Of Health Guidance For Halloween

continued from page 1

holding the bag for them.

Wipe off candy wrappers with sanitizing wipes when you arrive home. (NOTE: Never wipe unpackaged food with wipes.)

Allow children to eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid home-made treats made by strangers.

If your child is at greater risk of complications from COVID-19, contact your doctor before allowing participation in Halloween activities.

For Community Members

For trick-or-treating, reach out to neighbors to discuss ways to ensure

6-foot social distancing, how candy can most safely be distributed, and the need for face coverings.

Refrain from having children select their own treats from a bowl/ common container or set up a hand-sanitizing station. Consider placing treats on porch steps or a table in the driveway with a sign asking children to take only one. Or use other creative ways to distribute treats, such as using a candy "slide" made of PVC pipe, or hanging treats from a wall or fence.

For more information, visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/celebrating-halloween.pdf>

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LAKESWOOD OHIO

THE LAKESWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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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

October 16, 2020

October 30, 2020

Publish Date

October 21, 2020

November 4, 2020

www.lakewoodobserver.com

216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531

PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

Lakewood Observer

PUBLISHER

EDITOR IN CHIEF

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ADVERTISING

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PHOTOGRAPHY - Jim O'Bryan, Ruth Pangrace, Cheryl Shaver, and Bob Soltys

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Suspect hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism? When to see your provider.



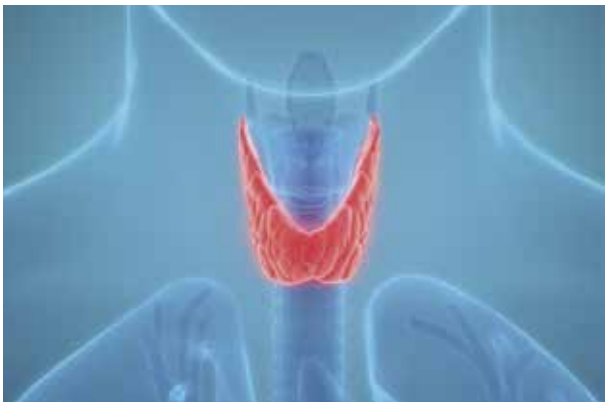
Dorota Whitmer, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family Health Center

Your thyroid gland plays a key role in helping your body operate at peak performance. The hormones it secretes regulate your metabolism and your ability to tolerate heat or cold. They can change your energy levels and mood, and – if you’re a woman – your periods.

“It’s fairly common for people to develop an under-or-over-active thyroid gland,”

explains Dorota Whitmer, MD, at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center. “If you’re feeling out of sorts, it may be hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism.”

- **Hypothyroidism is underactivity.** You don’t produce enough thyroid hormone. This slows everything down. You can feel fatigued, depressed and hypersensitive to cold. You can gain weight and develop constipation. You can’t get your muscles to move. You can no longer focus or comprehend things as quickly as you used to. Symptoms tend to come on slowly, over time.



- **Hyperthyroidism is overactivity.** You have too much thyroid hormone. This revs everything up. You can feel anxious, experience insomnia and get hot, sweaty and flushed. You can lose weight without meaning to and develop heart palpitations. You speak fast, move fast and go to the bathroom frequently. Symptoms tend to come on suddenly.

See your provider if these symptoms are disrupting your everyday activities. In most instances, blood work can detect hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism or another thyroid condition.

“Thyroid conditions generally are not preventable, and are often hereditary, so knowing your family history can help you stay one step ahead of complications from a thyroid disorder,” says Dr. Whitmer.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with endocrinology, please call 216.444.6568.

Joint replacement surgery at Lutheran Hospital.

If you are having intolerable hip or knee pain, a hip or knee replacement may be an option for you.

Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital is the primary location for joint replacement surgery on the West Side.

Using innovative methods and state-of-the-art technology, the team of orthopaedic specialists at Lutheran Hospital performs joint replacement surgery and treats a variety of hip and knee problems, including joints that have been damaged by arthritis and injuries.

Lutheran Hospital offers:

- The latest surgical innovations, including robotic-assisted surgery for eligible candidates.
- Expert orthopaedic surgeons and a dedicated orthopaedic surgical team in the OR (operating room).
- Rigorous patient safety protocols.

Call 800.223.2273 to schedule an appointment.

Don’t put off your mammogram.

We know that there are a lot of questions when it comes to having a mammogram, but even in these uncertain times, your health should be a priority. And, rest assured that Cleveland Clinic – Ohio’s leader in breast health – is one of the safest places in healthcare today.

For your convenience, Cleveland Clinic offers screening mammograms at 30 convenient locations, including:

- Avon Hospital at Richard E. Jacobs Campus (includes walk-in mammogram)
- Fairview Hospital
- Lakewood Family Health Center (includes walk-in mammogram)
- Lutheran Hospital



Our walk-in screening mammography locations provide annual screening mammograms for women ages 40 and older who have no breast symptoms (such as pain, nipple discharge, or have felt a lump). A prior doctor’s order is not required, except for at Lakewood Family Health Center.

Learn more about the steps we’re taking to keep you safe at [ClevelandClinic.org/Coronavirus](https://clevelandclinic.org/coronavirus).

Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/WalkinMammo](https://clevelandclinic.org/WalkinMammo) for all locations and hours.



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.

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Politics Local And State

Senator Antonio's S.B. 59 Amended Into H.B. 341

by Nickie Antonio

Ohioans have made substantial contributions to mitigating the effects of the Opioid crisis throughout the state. From state initiatives to community support, we have been able to save many lives. In fact, since its inception, 15,000 people have sought help from the RecoveryOhio Crisis Text Line. Despite these significant efforts, there was a disconnect in the education surrounding the life-saving antidote, naloxone.

In Ohio, a 2015 law allowed pharmacists to dispense this medication to customers without a prescription, the only problem was, many pharmacists were unaware of this change. According to a survey completed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of 275 Northeast Ohio pharmacies, a large number of pharmacies did not know that naloxone can be dispensed without a prescription.

Lakewood City Councils Pass Resolutions Supporting Essential Workers Bill Of Rights

by Lynn Tramonte

On September 21, Lakewood became the first city in Ohio to pass a resolution supporting an Essential Workers Bill of Rights, as part of a new national campaign to deliver better treatment and pay to all “essential workers.” Today, Toledo did the same—both with unanimous votes. See page 21 for the Lakewood resolution text and read the Toledo ordinance here.

Lakewood City Council President Dan O'Malley said: “This pandemic has been hard for all of us, but in particular for those workers who can never ‘work from home.’ They’re on the frontlines of keeping us healthy, and safe, and fed, and their well-being must be protected. It’s the least we owe them, and I’m proud to support the Essential Workers Bill of Rights.”

According to Toledo City Council Member Theresa Gadus: “The pandemic has pulled back the curtain and reminded many people of the importance of essential workers to a strong, robust economy. These courageous workers have stood on the frontlines, risking their health, their families, and their lives. Many essential work-



Senator Antonio provides Sponsor Testimony on S.B. 59 in the Ohio House Health Committee.

[1] In fact, 20 percent of the pharmacies surveyed incorrectly stated that customers would need a prescription for naloxone. Consequently, many pharmacies did not even have nalox-

one in stock.

That is why I introduced Senate Bill 59, the Naloxone without Prescription Training Bill, to require all pharmacists, technicians and pharmacy interns be trained to become knowledgeable that naloxone can be dispensed without a prescription and would also require those professionals that dispense the drug to maintain an adequate supply of it. This legislation

passed unanimously out of the Senate earlier this year. It then moved over to the House where it passed out of the House Health Committee unanimously.

I am proud to announce that in September, during National Recovery Month, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 341 into law, which contained S.B. 59 as an amendment. With this law in effect, we will be able to save more lives and work towards overcoming the opioid epidemic in Ohio. The passage of this legislation is even more significant given the increased loss of life due to opioid usage this year. In August alone, Cuyahoga County witnessed at least 47 fatal cases due to heroin/fentanyl/analogs, and at least 293 victims over the course of this year. We must continue to raise awareness and pass meaningful legislation to better help our families, friends, and neighbors who are silently battling addiction.

[1] https://www.cleveland.com/healthfit/index.ssf/2018/04/life-saving_overdose_antidote.html

The View From City Council

by Jason Shachner

Outdoor Dining Extension

At last week’s City Council meeting, Council unanimously passed Mayor George’s proposed resolution to extend conditional use permits until the end of the state of emergency. Typically, outdoor dining permits expire on October 31.

Restaurants can continue serving patrons outdoors and restaurants that have yet to apply for an outdoor dining conditional use permit may do so at any time throughout this state of emergency. I anticipate that we will see the use of outdoor heaters and potentially the proliferation of outdoor dining igloos.

I am looking forward to seeing and supporting our restaurants that take advantage of this opportunity as the weather becomes cooler.

One Lakewood Place Development Update

Since the beginning of the year, Mayor George’s administration has twice requested that City Council enter executive session to provide briefings on the status of the One Lakewood Place development. This means that my colleagues and I cannot divulge any matters that were discussed during these sessions. Since then, a member of Mayor George’s staff provided statements regarding a settlement agreement that were later published.

I cannot confirm any of the statements because City Council has not been briefed on or presented with a settlement agreement. Any settlement agreement must be approved by City Council at a public meeting. It is my understanding that if there is a settlement agreement, City Council will be voting on its approval at a City Council meeting in October.

I look forward to providing you a more substantive update soon.

Vote!

The November election is quickly approaching. Please keep these important dates in mind:

October 5th: deadline to regis-

Read the rest of this article online at: lakewoodobserver.com



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Education

LHS Boasts 64 AP Scholars

by Christine Gordillo

Offerings of 18 Advanced Placement courses at Lakewood High School has led to 64 current students and recent graduates being honored as AP Scholars by College Board. The Scholars included two National AP Scholars, who scored an average of at least a 4 on all AP exams taken in addition to scores of 4 or more on eight or more exams.

Congratulations to our 2020 AP Scholars:

National AP Scholar

Class of 2020: Evan Bell, Aidan Bohac

AP Scholars with Distinction earn their award by averaging at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams:

Class of 2020: Evan Bell, Aidan Bohac, Halina Dreger, Maxwell Gilleland, Emily Gowan, Alice King, Cameron Levis, Sean Mahoney, Emily

McIntire, Colin Meehan, Tristan Rumsey, Colin Sabo, Audrey Stahl, Alexander Weber, Sydney Wilhelmy, Tully Worron, Jack Wynn, Sammi Zhang

Class of 2021: Gina Marjanovic, Sean McHugh, Anastasia Seckers, Simon Thompson

AP Scholars with Honor earn their recognition by averaging at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams:

Class of 2020: Lillian Bacon, Emma Hirsch, Jane Kalinowski, Sophia Miranda, Sean O'Donnell, Kathryn Oleksa, Claire Schuppel, Matthew Shinn, Julia Szentkiralyi

Class of 2021: David Gramo, Jack Holian, Jayden Jackson, Arturo Orso-Giacone, Aidan Peck, Kathryn Spilsbury

AP Scholars is an award earned by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are:

Class of 2020: Christina Auck, Halle Breudigam, Ava Clause, Autumn Cruz, Charles Cuffaro, Miabella Doerr, Taylor Heckelnh, Harlan Hoegner, Nicole Hudak, Grace Kraidich, Dalton

Lammers, Mohamed Manaa, Savannah Monroy, Nikena Norris, Emma Pagsuyoin, Anna Rigdon, Malik Shahin, Aurora Thurman, Albert Wilhelmy

Class of 2021: Sydney Heckeler, Emily Kompier, Sophie Lipka, Emma Owens, Willow Rosser, Madelyn Tumbleson, Hayley Welsh, Aidyn Zingale

Lakewood Public Library Homework Help Program

by Julie Strunk

Main Library Homework Room and Madison Branch

Monday-Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade who need a little extra help with homework or just want a safe place to work can come to the Library for Homework Help. Get assistance and use the Library's resources in a clean and quiet place free of distractions.

Students can use their library card to check out a Chrome Book to use in the Library or bring their own device and headphones. In addition, students with Eureka

Math™ homework will find grade level Homework Helpers workbooks, companion guides to Eureka Math™.

A library staff member is on hand and available to assist with everything from reading skills, spelling words, and help for solving math problems.

Hand sanitizer is available and face coverings are required. Homework Help will be closed for school holidays and vacations. No registration is required.

Julie Strunk is Manager of Children's and Youth Services at the Lakewood Public Library.

District Wins Grant to Address Families' Internet Needs

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools have received a grant for \$32,000 from the Healthy Lakewood Foundation that will be used to provide Internet connectivity for families in need. The grant was announced during the foundation's September 17 annual meeting via Zoom and was one of three community grants awarded.

"The Healthy Lakewood Foundation board believes that it is vital for all students to have the resources they need to be able to effectively learn in a remote environment, and we wanted to increase connectivity access for families with school-age children. Internet access is cost prohibitive for many families, and we felt called by our commitment to equity to provide this support," said Healthy Foundation President Jeanine Gergel.

District students have been learning from home since the start of the school year on August 31.

While the District plans to return to in-person learning on October 19, families have the option for their students to continue to learn remotely.

"We know that many of our families do not have a reliable Internet connection, which is a requirement during this pandemic and will be a critical need to maximize learning moving forward after the pandemic as well," said Superintendent Mike Barnes. "We are grateful to the Healthy Lakewood Foundation for its support of the well-being of our students."

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation is a nonprofit community foundation 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.



American Red Cross

Community of Giving



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Lakewood Cares

Healthy Lakewood Foundation Announces Third Cycle Of Grants At Annual Community Meeting To Address COVID-19 Community Needs

by Kate Ingersoll

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) held its second annual community meeting virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, September 17, 2020, at which time it announced its third cycle of grants aimed at addressing community needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic:

Lakewood Community Services Center: \$35,000 for food distribution to Lakewood residents

Lakewood City Schools: \$32,000 to Lakewood City Schools for digital connectivity for families with school-age children

LakewoodAlive: \$10,000 for housing outreach for seniors and low-moderate income residents

“We are grateful to everyone who was able to join us for our annual meeting,” says HLF Board President Jeanine Gergel. “We were of course glad to be able to announce our new grants, but, more importantly, the meeting provided a forum for residents to share their thoughts about what is needed to build a healthy Lakewood. The HLF board of directors is committed to continuously learning from our neighbors about the community’s needs and how we can help meet them.”

HLF will continue to assess community needs related to the pandemic through proactive outreach and dialogue with leaders and service providers to identify future grantmaking opportunities. A fourth round of grants will be awarded later in 2020.

To contact HLF, please visit www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org or email healthylakewoodfoundation@gmail.com.

Kate Ingersoll is the secretary of HLF Board.

Lakewood High Girls Soccer:

You Are Known By The Company You Keep

by Ted Nagel

If you look up those words, there will be a version in almost every culture: English Proverb. Japanese Proverb. Presidents. Statesmen. Clergy. The Lakewood Girls High School Soccer Team is pretty darn good company. With a 3.85 TEAM GPA, the Lakewood Girls' Soccer Team led all Fall sports in 2019 for Team GPA. The three Senior Captains for 2019 were all in the National Honor Society, including the Lakewood NHS President, Emma Hirsch. The three Senior Captains from this 2020 team are also members and Aubree Nagel is the current Lakewood NHS President. She is also the current Lakewood Class President for 2020. But the statistic I am most proud of (as coach) is that team GPA. I don't take any credit for it, but this is an amazing group of young women.

Some who read the LO regularly may remember that I wrote a similar article recently and wonder why I am coming back to re-iterate these points. My main concern as the high school coach as I look at the community is that we have very few girls in our Lakewood Girls Soccer feeder programs right now. Lakewood has two long-time, quality soccer programs in the Lakewood Soccer Association (LSA) and the Lakewood United Football Club (LUFC). Each organization fills a role for soccer development in an adolescent's life. When I moved to Lakewood about 10 years ago, we had over 20 travel/ club teams in girls soccer. We are down to 4 teams this fall, with entire year groups unrepresented. As a high school coach, I look to have anywhere from 6-14 freshmen girls come into the program each season.

That usually means the U14/15 cohort has about one-half to two-thirds of the travel team try out for the High School team. An example is that the travel team that moved up this season had about 20 eighth-graders on it. I had about 14 sign up to tryout. About 8 showed up and about 6 stuck with it. All of this happened in the COVID-19 atmosphere, so those numbers are off and I'm hoping some of the girls who considered it, but did not stay with it will come back.

Back to the usual route into community soccer. Most kids start playing recreational soccer at anywhere from 6-9 years old for their first time. To do this in Lakewood, one would sign up with the Lakewood Soccer Association (<https://lakewood-soccer.com/?cat=7>) and play what is known as "Saturday Soccer." As the name implies, the games are Saturday mornings down in the MetroParks. The games are coed, geared for fun and introduce players to the game. Kids can play at this level from 6 -14 or 8th grade. The next step for kids who love the game and want a bigger challenge is to play for your Community Travel Team. This option is supplied through the Lakewood Recreation Department via LUFC (<https://www.lakewoodunitedfc.org>). Players at this level generally start between 7 and 8 and play again until 8th grade. These teams represent Lakewood in the Ohio Travel Soccer League. Within this league, there are usually at least four different levels that teams play on. At younger ages, there are often two teams in each age group as the teams play 7v7 and there are more kids than a single roster can handle. These teams usually combine at an older age in order to play 9v9 and 11v11. For players who really excel in travel, the next level is Club Soccer and that is a whole different article. (Feel free to contact me to discuss.) So that is community soccer in a nutshell. This fall, Saturday Soccer was cancelled do to COVID. Travel soccer had a late start and is currently playing.

There are rival schools who cannot currently field a JV team and that does not bode well for the future of those

continued on page 7

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History

Grace Presbyterian Church Celebrates 100th Anniversary... Kinda

by Nancy Sander

Grace Presbyterian Church was ready to spend a year-long celebration of their one hundred year anniversary. Committees were formed; the historians were researching their history; photographs were being enhanced; the down payment for the banquet hall was paid.

The first of the ten decades was celebrated in January. The hymns were chosen from those written in the 1920's. Pulpit speakers, dressed in high Victorian costumes, played the parts of early parishioners. A museum was assembled in the church parlor.

February brought the museum into the 30's. Kate Smith, singing "God Bless America," echoed throughout the sanctuary. Speakers, dressed as "Oakies," thanked the congregation for their help in "these terrible times."

March would have been the decade of World War II, honoring those in the congregation who lost their lives in the conflict. And then... COVID-19.

Like all churches in Ohio, Grace closed its doors. All the ten months of activities planned for the grand finale, scheduled for October 4th, were cancelled.

The question was now much more critical than "Will we get our deposit back?" Like the other thirty small churches in Lakewood, the questions were: can a small church survive in times of pandemic? How will the congregation hold together when there is no worship? How can the church minis-

ter to those who are quarantined? How does the church prepare for a reopening? Can the church meet its bills?

In the Presbyterian Church the elders, the chosen leaders of the church body, already had been assigned parishioners who were under their wings. Phone calls, cards, e-mails, encouraging notes: all were sent to the members of the Grace community. But more than that, the members returned the support. They, too, called, texted, e-mailed, sent food, did shopping for the quarantined. If anything good can be said of the pandemic, it is that, instead of the congregation growing away from the church, they grew closer. People who knew some by names only, now became close friends. There was a re-awareness awareness that the Church is the people.

Now, at last, Grace has re-opened for worship, just in time to celebrate the Centennial. Even though the banquet has been postponed, the museum closed and strict rules of sanitation are in place, there will be a celebration. The Grace Family Players will be presenting "The Decades Speak," an original play on October 4th, during the church service.

All are invited to attend. Masks are required and social distancing is in place. The October 4th service begins at 10:00 AM. Grace Church is located at 1659 Rosewood Avenue, on the corner of Hilliard and Madison.

Nancy Sander is a nationally known puppeteer and Emmy Award recipient for "Hickory Hideout."

Lakewood High Girls Soccer:

continued from page 6

programs. I'm hoping that we never get to that point. The way that we don't get to that point is for kids to get out and learn to love the game! The current senior class at Lakewood was my first travel team here as coach. That team fielded all three senior captains at Lakewood as well as two of the senior captains at St. Joseph's Academy. These girls are learning teamwork, leadership and friendship as well as the highs of victory and the lows of a tough loss. In other words, they are learning life skills to take with them and they are mak-

ing life-long friends to cherish. I really hope that young families consider joining the Lakewood Soccer community. It is a great way to make new friends both for kids and parents. It's a great way to get involved for both kids and parents. And it is a great way to surround your children with some of the best and brightest at the high school. Our team is currently 6-2 and 4-2 in Conference. We are hoping to make a better showing in the playoffs this year and do Lakewood proud. So why don't you join up and ...Go Rangers!



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Foodwood

John's Diner - Thanks For The Memories

by Bob Soltys

For almost fifty years, John's Diner has served breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week, 365 days a year. It's been a go-to spot



Owner John Pasalis.

for many regulars like Phil, who stopped by for a cup of coffee every day. A couple of years ago, noted peace activist Bhaktimarga Swami paid the diner a visit during his walk across America.

But even better than the food were the people who served it and cooked for so many over the years. Rosemary, Anna, and Marsha promptly brought your orders even when the place was packed, as was often the case on Saturdays and Sundays. Bridget, whose soups were the real McCoy, kept the food coming even on the busiest days. Bill, the handyman, ensured the diner was in tip-top shape and that all the ingredients were on hand.

John Pasalis, the owner, sat at the end of the long granite counter or at the table next to the counter, greeting us by name and thanking us as we left. If you were lucky enough to stop by on Bridget's, Rosemary's, or John's birthday,



Ever the gentleman, Phil stopped by every day for a cup of coffee, and managed to do just fine without a cell phone.

they treated you to a piece of birthday cake.

In addition to the traditional diner fare of eggs, pancakes, hot turkey sandwiches, gyros, burgers, and comfort foods like lasagna, the diner served a fine turkey dinner on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many of us came to rely on the warm atmosphere, piping hot turkey, and pie to tide us over on a holiday.

Sadly, John's Diner closed in March and will not re-open. Thankfully there are other diners

in Lakewood: The Coffee Pot on Madison Avenue in Birdtown, the Gray Dog on Detroit Road across from St. Edwards, and the Shore on Detroit Road.

While I'm grateful for so many memories, and that John and the staff welcomed my cameras and me, Thanksgiving and Christmas just won't be the same without dinner at John's Diner.

A photographer and former Navy officer, Bob Soltys divides his time between Lakewood and Paris.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful - The Great American Cleanup

by Tish Marshall

In conjunction with the Great American Cleanup, Keep Lakewood Beautiful (KLB) is sponsoring #DoBeautifulThings in Lakewood. The Great American Cleanup, spearheaded by Keep America Beautiful, is the nation's largest community improvement program. Last year, more than 550,000 volunteers participated in events to heighten awareness of the importance of caring for our environment. KLB is encouraging all Lakewood residents to get outside the weekend of October 16 through 18 and do beautiful things for your yard, street, block and community.

Any beautification project is fine; pick up litter, pull weeds, set up a compost pile, plant a tree; the list goes on. Starting this week, we will be sending out ideas each day

through social media.

We encourage all to snap a picture of your efforts and post it at the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Facebook page or on our keeplakewoodbeautiful Instagram or tag us at #DoBeautifulThings. For more information or if you need supplies, call the mayor's office at 529-6600 or email mayorsoffice@lakewoodoh.net. Thank you and hope to see you outside that weekend.

KLB is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to working with our fellow citizens on recycling, litter prevention and beautification. We are always looking for new board members, volunteers and ideas. Contact information can be found through the Keep Lakewood Beautiful page on the city website (onelakewood.com).

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Lakewood Observer

Showtime At The Barton Senior Center

by Adelaide Crnko

Move over Studio 54! The New York theater, and once infamous, star-studded nightclub, may want to step aside and make way for Studio B! Newly renamed from what was referred to as Channel 167 on the Barton Senior Center's (BSC) in house cable system, Studio B is becoming another place to be and be seen.

The brainchild of Cheryl Shaver, BSC's Manager of Marketing and Development, Studio B personifies the old saying "necessity is the mother of invention." With the BSC on temporary lockdown and group activities halted due to COVID-19, Studio B offers Westerly Senior Apartment residents and BSC members another way to remain productive and involved. It also represents original viewing options for those exhausted by news/politics, game shows and decades old reruns. In addition, this private channel is an effective way to impart information to a large group of citizens within the complex.

One can watch Studio B on tv AND be part of the lineup. Once the channel is activated within an apartment, viewers are treated to programming that runs on a 24-hour loop. Those appearing on air include residents, former BSC associates and people from



Ruth Pangrace as Eleanor Roosevelt.

outside the facility. And, unlike Studio 54, there is no need to be scrutinized to determine if one is "cool enough" to join in.

Late mornings and early afternoons are devoted to physical activity with visiting instructors leading chair yoga, tai chi and Silver Sneakers workouts. Health related infomercials are integrated between entertainment segments and have included representatives from O'Neill Healthcare, Cleveland Hearing and Speech, and OSHIIP (Medicare topics). A new addition has been Cleveland Clinic physician Dr. Ardeshir Hashmi.

Moving beyond bodily wellness, Studio B provides a place where the mind can flourish through creative disciplines such as acting, writing and technical wizardry. In turn, residents who miss attending performances at BSC gathering spots can still enjoy them from their living rooms. Pianist Janis Zemzars was the Sunday evening fixture in the Rotunda and now appears on Studio B with masterfully played selections dominated by show tunes. Compositions from Rogers & Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber are routinely featured. Ron Walden, the MC for the very popular Karaoke nights, now personally sings songs from the genres of gospel, country and rock.

Outside performers have included violinist Mary Beth Ions, Opus 216 (a local violin and cello duo) and reenactments from members of the Lakewood Library's Women in History Program.

round table discussions. Topics have included "a lifetime of hair dramas," "The Town Kid and The Country Kid," as well as former BSC associate Annette Busse's true life "kitchen misadventures." Her portrayal of a mouse rising up from within an old coffee can full of discarded cooking grease is hilarious!

Much of what is seen on Studio B is endearing because of its casual, homespun charm. However, it does not diminish the fact that this population truly has an exceptional depth of talent. While enjoying their "15 minutes of fame," some have nevertheless expressed dismay when viewing themselves and may be critical of their on screen personas!

Visual arts are also showcased on Studio B. Patrice Varzelle, a prolific resident artist, featured a "Dog Drawing Demo" using circles and triangles as starting points. Photography is also represented. One resident shared her pictures of the Zoo's Asian Lantern Festival while another captured the spectacular rainbow seen over Lakewood a few months ago. As images flashed across the screen, they were accompanied by the photographer singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" behind the scenes.

Speaking of beyond the rainbow, on a more somber note, a representative from the Hospice of the Western Reserve visited Studio B to conduct a memorial service honoring those who have recently left us. As COVID-19 lingers on, Cheryl Shaver's vision has given BSC members a way to collaborate and stay connected. It also demonstrates that it does not matter what year your birth certificate was issued. At any age, creativity still exists and Studio B has become a venue where what was once confined to a meeting room has now expanded to a larger platform.

The end result is an in-house variety series for everyone to enjoy, enriching the lives of participants as well as viewers. Despite the challenges currently facing us all, those engaged in Studio B have persevered. One could say they are a reflection of the classic entertainment industry motto, "The show must go on!"



Anne McEvoy portraying Mother Jones.

Photo by Cheryl Shaver of Barton Center



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Lakewood Observer

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 34:

“The Ballad Of Derecho Dan” Continues:

fiction by Scott MacGregor

Once the warring suburbs of Rockport and River City had agreed to a cease-fire, the polluted waters of the Rocky River again flowed unvexed to the lake. "Shale Wars I" had been a particularly nasty clash of highly agitated suburbanites whose bad blood had been running deep since the first days of the Storm Era.

Both of these cities on Cleveland's west shore had legitimate reasons to be upset. More recently, the storm diverting explosion just 100 yards off the River City coast had caused millions of dollars in property damage and dropped a thick coating of fish entrails over 10 square miles of prime real estate. Even worse, 47 beloved backyard gazebos had been cruelly burnt to the ground during the ensuing civil unrest.

River City's corrupt Mayor Bart Ridgewood, an awful man whose nose had been sheared off by the dorsal fin of a popular sporting as well as eating fish, spoke to reporters from the steps of the River City City Hall. His head had been bandaged "Invisible Man" style following the first of what would be several incremental nose replacement surgeries.

Speaking in obvious discomfort and using a cardboard toilet paper tube to amplify his words, the Mayor vowed Old Testament style vengeance in a voice replete with frothy, albeit muffled emotion. "No one can burn down that many of our goddam gazebos and get away with it," he bleated, "Not on my watch!"

Squarely at the top of the Mayor's most wanted list was "Derecho" Dan Newman. He was furious that the new folk hero of Rockport had been whisked from his jurisdiction. During a contentious phone call with Armin Arden, Rockport's Law Director, Ridgewood demanded the immediate extradition of Derecho Dan to the River City City Jail.

"Mr. Newman's crimes were com-



mitted in River City," yelped the Mayor in a pinched nose sounding voice, "they fall squarely within the purview of the laws and courts of River City." Indicative of the general attitude most Rockporters shared at the time, Armin Arden blew the wad of tobacco he was chewing out an open window and barked, "HELLS BELLS, BART...YOU CAN GO @%& YOURSELF AND THE WILDEBEAST YOU RODE IN ON!"

Meanwhile, Mickey Mars was on a mission. His bait store, "Mickey's Juicy Bait & Beer," was an A-Frame shack that sat upstream from the River City Yacht club. In an act of reprisal, an unscrupulous gaggle of Riverites targeted Mickey because of his role in saving Derecho Dan from mob justice. They broke into his bait shop, vandalized it, and absconded with all of the beer, tobacco and Hostess products. Then, they set the shack ablaze.

Now, Mickey Mars is a smart guy. He had insurance and knew that someday he'd rebuild a bigger and even better bait shack. He was, however, very distraught about something that was lost. A precious family heirloom went missing in the wreckage and was

feared destroyed in the arson fire.

As the story goes, Mickey's father, Mortimer, was an able-bodied seaman who'd lost his life when the freighter barge Morania exploded and sank in 1953. One of the ship's ring life preservers that survived the explosion had been recovered and was presented to Mickey's mother Mabel at Mortimer's memorial. Mabel chose to display the life preserver on a wall at the bait shack where for 22 years it had occupied a place of honor, nestled between the fat-head minnow freezer and a Pez display.

Determined to recover the only known vestige of his father's time on earth, Mickey boarded a skiff and floated downriver in search of it. When he reached the lake he was struck by how calm the waters were. The lake resembled a sheet of glass when only the day before it had been a psychotic, homicidal monster. Happily, Mickey's efforts paid off. Upon reaching the mouth of the river, he discovered the errant life preserver entangled in a blob of lake muck.

He brought the skiff up closer and was reaching for the life preserver when something jostled his boat and nearly

capsized it. "Whoaa! What was that?!" Mickey exclaimed. Then the boat began to move as if bewitched with mysterious power. It was the same mysterious power that hundreds of people witnessed pulling Derecho Dan to safety in the moments before the explosion. Mickey's boat picked up speed and was heading toward Canada before stopping so abruptly, the boat flipped over. Mickey soon found himself treading the greenish-gray waters of Lake Erie.

As he clung to his upturned boat, Mickey sensed that he wasn't alone. Something ominous was definitely under the water and moving around him in a tight circle. And, it was BIG. Mickey's first observation was that it was 30 to 40 feet in length.

He suddenly felt something substantial bang against his lower legs. "WHAT ARE YOU, DEVIL CREATURE?!" he shrieked in fear, "SHOW YOURSELF!!!"

Then, as if in a Japanese monster movie, the waters all around him began to bubble and roil. Something below the surface of the water was on its way up. Mickey spotted the life preserver resting on the water a few yards away and he swam over to get it. If these were to be his last moments on earth, he reasoned, then he would go with his father's memory wrapped around his neck.

Then, the thing finally showed itself. It's becoming hard to imagine what life was like before it showed itself. Mickey's first reaction was one for the books and became part of all the folklore that followed. He took one look at it and let out a scream so shrill that birds actually fell from the sky.

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



OCTOBER

Aries: Mars is still in the Ram's sign & retrograde, be careful with sharp objects, I wouldn't advise dressing up as Edward Scissorhands this year for Halloween, also don't play with fire.

Taurus: Forgiveness is still hanging around the Bull Pen, we know the Bull can be stubborn, let go, maybe dressing up as Ghandi or Mother

Teresa this year might help get the ball rolling.

Gemini: It's time for the Twins to do some deep breathing, give those lungs a workout, get outside & away from your computer, definitely don't dress as a Mummy this year, breathe.

Cancer: The Crab is infamous for holding on with those pincer claws of yours, the past is over, time to let go of what was, to make room for what

can be, dress up like a rooster, it a new dawn.

Leo: The Lion's heart is as big as your roar these days, & the animals in your Jungle have come from far & wide to partake of the blessings, I'm thinking Snow White for your costume, hmmn?

Virgo: Lady Venus has shown up on your doorstep, lucky in love, you're about to harvest what you've sown, but not so fast, faith is required, dress as an Angel, it'll go with those white gloves.

Libra: The Sun is in Libra, you've taken on too many commitments, practice saying NO, you need more balance in your life, you might consider dressing up as the scales of Justice this year.

Scorpio: Scorpion, Mercury, Messenger of the Gods, is in your sign & about to go Retrograde mid-month, trust your intuition, dressing as a Gypsy, crystal ball & all is right up your alley.

Sagittarius: The Centaur knows the meaning of play & adventure like no other, Halloween is your chance to light up the neighborhood in a big way, dress up as a UFO, lights, action!

Capricorn: Saturn is still in the Goat's sign for a little longer, pay attention to the signals your body is sending you, better yet, dress up as Dr. Kildare for Halloween, physician heal thyself.

Aquarian: It is time to let go, whatever it is you're holding onto, doesn't matter, cut bait, it's time to release all that doesn't serve you, get in the mood & dress as a Freebird, then fly away.

Pisces: Accept compliments this month Fish, your confidence needs a boost, dress as Jaws this Halloween & then swim on over to that Mermaid you've had your eye on & strut your stuff.

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

Lakewood Is Alive

CDC Eviction Order Temporarily Halts Evictions: You May Be Protected

by Danilo Powell-Lima

On September 2nd, The Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued an order temporarily banning some evictions to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

This law is not applied automatically, and is not a rent forgiveness program – tenants will still have to pay rent once the Order expires on December 31, 2020. The law also only covers tenants who fit a certain set of requirements. Tenants must continue to comply with the terms of their lease as well as federal, state, and local laws.

Tenants who want the protection of this law must demonstrate that they qualify and ask for the protection. A tenant can do this by completing a Declaration Form and presenting this form to his or her landlord. Every adult listed on the lease must complete a Declaration Form and give a copy of the form to the landlord. Tenants should keep a photocopy of the completed Declaration Form for their own records.

To qualify for protection, a tenant must be able to say that all five of the following statements are true:

The tenant has made a sincere effort to get all available government assistance for rent or housing.

The tenant either:

Received a CARES Act stimulus check;

Was not required to report any income in 2019 to the IRS; or

Expects to earn no more than \$99,000 in the calendar year 2020 (or no more than \$198,000 if filing a joint tax return).

The tenant cannot pay the full rent because of a significant loss of

household income (fewer work hours, lower wages, a lay-off) or extraordinary out-of-pocket expenses.

The tenant is using his or her best efforts to make timely partial payments in the largest amount possible as their circumstances permit.

An eviction would likely make the tenant homeless or force a move into close quarters with other people (e.g. doubling up with friends or family, or living in a shelter).

Tenants may need to prove that they gave a copy of the Declaration Form to their landlord. Legal Aid suggests tenants ask their landlord to initial the tenant copy of the form, or give the form to their landlord with a witness present.

Visit laslev.org/cdc-eviction-moratorium for more important information on the Order and for a link to a fillable Declaration Form.

Tenants with housing questions can always call Legal Aid’s Tenant Information Line, which is available 24/7. Cuyahoga County residents can call 216-861-5955. Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, and Lorain County residents can call 440-210-4533. Callers should leave a detailed voicemail and a Legal Aid staff member will return the call in 1-2 days, between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M.

If you are facing eviction and need legal help, please call Legal Aid’s toll-free intake line at 888-817-3777. Legal Aid’s intake line is available in several other languages, including Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin and French. Visit laslev.org/ contact for those contact numbers or to apply for help online. The sooner you are in touch with Legal Aid, the more work an attorney may be able to do to protect your home.

Letter To Editor

by Mary L. Bodnar

I saw the most amazing yard sign today on the way to work – Drain the Swamp. Of course, the designer of such a foul thing has to use our country’s proud colors. Red, white and blue – did you know white signifies purity and innocence? Red is for hardiness and valor and our blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice. All the great symbolism our country stands for is vulgarized in this hideous sign. The verbiage is equally horrific. I’m not going to even address what I think they want the sign to mean.

Drain the Swamp. What a foolish thing to advocate! A swamp is a forested wetland. They are considered transition zones as land & water come together to create beautiful ecosystems in our environment. Swamps may be fresh water, brackish water or sea water. The wetlands are vitally important & swamps are a crucial type of habitat.

Swamps are predominately forested with trees & their majestic beautiful canopies rising upward to touch the sky. There are different kinds of swamps according to the types of trees they embrace. There are hardwood swamps, cedar swamps & cypress swamps. Swamps are found all over the world & on every continent except for Antarctica. All these types of wetlands improve water quality and water supply, provide important wildlife habitat

and increase the ecosystems bio diversity. Swamps also maintain the flow of rivers and streams and reduce erosion.

In the 1700’s in the USA we had over 221 million acres of wetlands, which includes swamps. By 1990 more than half of all wetlands had been utterly destroyed by humans. We wrecked wetlands through dumping, draining, filling & other nasty human activities. Millennials & Mosaics get it -they know global warming & climate change are serious issues that need to be on the top of the emergency issues list now.

With #45 there is no hope for that. Did you know the refusal to name a person amounts to denial or dissociation from them? It’s also a sign of resistance—it’s an indication that the speaker rejects #45’s legitimacy. What we are not saying counts, absences can be significant. We are not speaking to the immorality, unethical brand and the value system that goes along with the political ideology. #45 is a powerful individual who speaks freely and openly about sexual predator behavior and we now know that these weren’t isolated incidents. There are endless examples of how he has treated women his whole life. (Whoops! I diverted.

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