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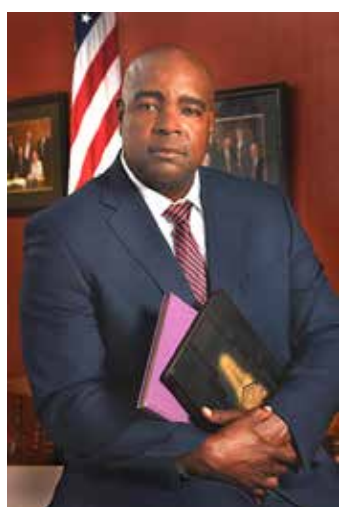
Volume 16, Issue 23, December 2, 2020

Mike Barnes To Return To Mayfield Schools

by Christine Gordillio

The evening of December 1, the Mayfield City Schools Board of Education voted to hire Dr. Michael J. Barnes as their new superintendent effective August 1, 2021. Dr. Barnes will replace current Mayfield Superintendent Keith Kelly, who recently announced his retirement effective August 1.

“While we as a Board are disappointed that Dr. Barnes will be leaving us after the end of the school year, we appreciate everything he has brought to Lakewood,” Board President Emma Petrie Barcelona said. “We know he will be fully committed to the Lakewood City Schools for the remainder of his superintendency and through this unique school year.”



Dr. Michael Barnes.

The Lakewood Board of Education will meet soon to determine the path moving forward for the District. The Board will keep the community informed as a plan is

developed.

“The decision was not an easy one for my family and me. My wife and I have enjoyed every minute being a part of the Lakewood community,” said Dr. Barnes. “Lakewood Schools are a special place where community, children, and staff come together for the betterment of all. I treasure the experience and lessons from my tenure as Superintendent, and firmly believe that I am a better instructional leader, and person, as a result of my time here,” he continued.

Dr. Barnes came to Lakewood in August 2018 from the Mayfield City Schools where he served in several administrative positions for more than 20 years.

Lakewood Schools Stay Remote Until New Year

by Superintendent Mike Barnes

Lakewood Family:
Our focus has been, and continues to be, to provide the best instruction possible for the students of our district in as safe a manner as possible. To accomplish this, we are adhering to two core principles: Safety and Choice.

Regarding Safety

We are following the latest guidance from healthcare professionals and are committed to implementing best-practice safety protocols.

Regarding Choice

Our families have made it clear through extensive two-way communication with the school district that they desire options for instruction. We have heard you and three instructional options will be available.

In-Person instruction

We are committed to returning to in-person instruction as soon as possible for those that choose this option.

Remote instruction

We are committed to supporting our remote learners with high quality instruction.

eLearning instruction
We are committed to providing this eLearning platform that allows students and families to engage quality instruction at their convenience.

To provide the best instruction possible for the students of our district in as safe a manner as possible, we continually monitor relevant data and information from healthcare experts and agencies daily. The recent health data related to COVID-19 is concerning.

The rate of positive COVID-19 cases in Cuyahoga County has spiked. We have gone from 72.3 cases a day per 100,000 on October 15 to 645.06 as of November 19. Cases in our zip code have also increased. On October 16, there were 667 reported cases in the 44107 zip code area. As of November 25 as reported by the Cuyahoga County Board of

Health, there were 1,320 cases in 44107. In addition, as you are aware, Cuyahoga County issued a stay-at-home advisory.

Given the current high rates of positive COVID-19 cases, there is a concern that the rate will accelerate even further after Thanksgiving Break. Health officials have witnessed a spike after holidays when people are more prone to gather in larger groups - the most recent example being Halloween. It is probable that this trend will occur again following the Thanksgiving holiday - the week of November 30 and beyond.

Based on all of these factors, Lakewood City Schools will remain in remote learning through the end of the first semester, which ends December 17. This means that the earliest students could return to in-person instruction with a partial or all-in model would be January 4. West Shore programs will follow our remote model. For our students on

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Healthy Lakewood Foundation Supports Lakewood Families With Remote Learning Needs

by Kate Ingersoll

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) took several actions in November 2020 aimed at assisting Lakewood families with meeting their school-age children's learning needs during the pandemic. In specific, the board approved:

A \$25,000 grant to the YMCA of Greater Cleveland to support its expansion of capacity to provide school-day care to school-age children while learning is remote;

The allocation of funds previously awarded by the foundation to the City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services, to provide scholarship assistance for care during the school day for children from Lakewood families with incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level; and

The use of funds previously awarded to the Lakewood City Schools for document cameras to support teaching staff in their efforts to share documents, handouts and worksheets digitally and make connectivity easier for instructional purposes for families with school-age children.

“These efforts, we hope, demonstrate our commitment to supporting Lakewood students’ academic growth and safety during these challenging times,” says HLF President Jeanine Gergel. “We recognize that some families are struggling to ensure their children are supported in the way they need to be while school is offered online. We recognize these needs will continue and evolve with the escalating public health crisis, and we will continue to monitor students’ and families’ needs to identify other ways we can be supportive in the future.”

Families interested in accessing scholarship funding for school-day care while learning is remote should call the Division of Early Child-

hood at 216-529-5018 or email the program manager at jessica.parker@lakewoodoh.net. Families will be asked to provide a 2019 tax return and proof of current income and work/school schedule, along with a completed application. The requirement of the previous year's tax return may be waived for families whose finances have been negatively implicated by the pandemic. There is no requirement that families must be a resident of Lakewood for the previous 12 months to be eligible for the scholarship assistance provided by HLF.

Families interested in enrolling their children in the YMCA's care program for school-age children, called “YCARES,” can contact the YMCA Payment Registrar Office at (216) 263-6860 or children@clevelandymca.org for more information. Children ages 5-12 are eligible. The program is currently being offered at Grant Elementary School.

“We are grateful for the ways the City of Lakewood’s Department of Human Services, the YMCA and the Lakewood City Schools have stepped up to respond to the needs of the community,” says Gergel. “We are a community that takes care of each other, and these three organizations have epitomized that spirit in the way they have nimbly adapted to support Lakewood’s families and children.”

About the Healthy Lakewood Foundation: The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community foundation. HLF was created to ensure remaining assets from the conversion of the Lakewood Hospital will continue to benefit the health and wellness of residents in the City of Lakewood. HLF was established in September 2018

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The Mayor's Corner

by Meghan George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

November, like every other month this year, was a busy month for the City of Lakewood. We continue to make progress on several key initiatives and are preparing for a prosperous 2021.

The Department of Public Works has begun 2020 Leaf Pick Up, which continues through December 11th. Our Wagar Park Revitalization Project is officially complete and the park is open to the public. The renovation included the installation of new playground equipment, a picnic shelter, a half-court basketball court, walking trails, and open green space with help from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Land and Water Conservation Fund. Keep Lakewood Beautiful selected the 2020 Beautiful



Home Award winners. We completed incredible local art installations for the Spectacular Vernacular initiative throughout the community. The City's

Affordable Housing Program was recognized for the Vibrant NEO award.

Last month, our Department of Human Services continued to provide creative and safe services to the seniors, children, and families of this community in the face of a pandemic. We continued to save money on overtime and operational expenses. We awarded more grants to residents and small businesses in our Rent Relief grant programs, which have provided over \$700,000 of assistance thus far with more to come.

We look forward to continuing our accomplishments together as a community as we go into December. As always, please look out for your neighbors and stay healthy and safe. Let's be part of the solution, Lakewood.

Progress Amidst The Pandemic

by Meghan George

As we begin the 2021 budget presentations, I wanted to share a letter within our budget document that reflects our progress through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dear Citizens of Lakewood, and Members of Lakewood City Council:

I am pleased to present you with a balanced budget for calendar year 2021 that reflects our perseverance, progress, vision, and strategic initiatives amidst the challenges of operating in a global pandemic. After being elected last November, I came with core ideals that valued teamwork, public safety, public finance, and innovative ways to implement public policy while also promoting public health throughout our environment, especially for our at-risk population. The COVID-19 pandemic created an environment in which our entire staff along with the community has come together as a team to embrace this vision and key initiatives for the City of Lakewood:

Public Safety and Human Services

Established a Coronavirus Task Force that regularly meets, and a COVID-19 Playbook outlining our administrative initiatives and policies that will continue to safely guide us through the pandemic.

Keeping seniors safely at home by delivering meals.

Responsibly monitoring public spaces to encourage compliance with orders and best practices initiated by the Governor.

First responders (Police and Fire) remain substantially dedicated to keeping Lakewood safe during the pandemic.

Commerce, Public Health and Welfare, and our Environment

Rental Relief Program – Pioneered a rental relief program that aids businesses and individuals as we navigated through the Governor's Stay at Home order and the remainder of the pandemic.

Established a Small Business Task Force meeting regularly to discuss needs of the business community.

"Green" Initiatives – Newly ordered Hybrid vehicles are not only eco-friendly, but also projected to save fuel costs. We have also installed public charging stations throughout the City and solar panels on various municipal buildings.

Successful completion of Wagar Park enhancement. Continued investments in our parks included in the 2021 budget and 5-year capital plan.

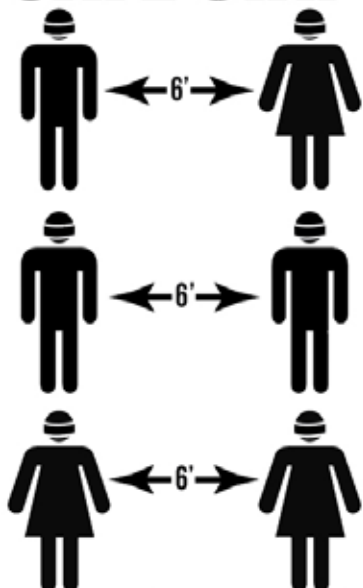
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18514 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
phone: 216.521.7684
fax: 216-521-9518
CURRENT HOURS OF OPERATION
MONDAY - THURSDAY: 4PM – 10PM
FRIDAY: NOON - 10PM

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
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Upcoming Submission Deadline

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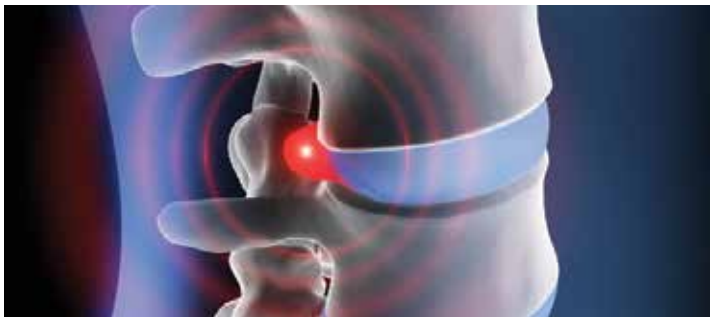
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Oh my aching back: A guide to herniated discs.



Rachel Adolph, PA-C
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family
Health Center

One minute you’re completely fine, bending down to pick something up. The next minute, a shooting pain is plaguing your neck or back. Is it a herniated disc? We’ve all heard the term, but what exactly does that mean?

Rachel Adolph, PA-C, a physician assistant who specializes in spine care at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, explains herniated discs and what’s happening to your spine.

There are 24 discs in the spine – spaced from the very top down to the lower spine. The discs act as shock absorbers, help hold the spine up, and allow it to bend and move.

Each disc has a soft, gel-like center called nucleus pulposus. A herniated disc occurs when pressure forces some or all of the nucleus pulposus through a weakened or torn part of the outside of the disc.

Causes of a herniated disc include:

- Movement
- Injury
- Pressure
- Age
- Disc degeneration
- Genetics

People experience symptoms of a disc herniation when it presses on a nerve or the spinal cord. This causes shooting pain, numbness or weakness down your buttocks, over the hip, down the leg, in the arm, or down the upper shoulder or back.

Treatment options may include:

- Ice and rest
- Physical therapy and stretches
- Medication (anti-inflammatory medicine/muscle relaxers)
- Steroids
- Surgery

There isn’t a quick fix for treating a herniated disc. Treatment may take four to six weeks depending on the severity. You physician will offer you the best options to control the pain as your injury heals.

Visit ClevelandClinic.org/Spine for more information. To schedule an appointment with Rachel Adolph, PA-C, or another a Cleveland Clinic spine specialist, call 216.636.5860.

Fairview Hospital’s Family Birth Place offers a safe, welcoming environment.



Amy L. Stephens, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Fairview Hospital

Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital Family Birth Place is a low-intervention unit for the low-risk expectant mother who is looking for a natural labor experience, plus the added security of having a Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) onsite if needed.

“Our caregivers are uniquely trained to safely care for patients who desire a natural childbirth experience,” says Amy L. Stephens, MD; Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital; Assistant Professor, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, CWRU. “Should things not go according to plan, Fairview has the West Side’s only Level III NICU providing the highest degree of care for at-risk newborns.”

The large, private rooms allow for labor,

delivery and post-partum care all in the same place and an environment where newborns room with mothers to immediately begin the bonding process.

One of only two birth centers in the state of Ohio, Fairview’s Family Birth Place also features a labor lounge, where expectant parents who live a distance away can work through the early stages of labor, then be admitted once active labor begins.

Several of the spacious labor suites feature freestanding labor tubs for hydrotherapy. Patients can also utilize nitrous oxide or a variety of other nonpharmacologic methods to work through and reduce pain.

To schedule an appointment with an Ob/Gyn near you, call 216.444.6601. For more information about the Fairview Hospital Family Birth Place, natural childbirth or childbirth education and parenting classes, please go to ClevelandClinic.org/Fairviewfbp.

Emergency? Don’t delay. Cleveland Clinic Emergency Departments are open and safe.

Emergencies don’t stop even when everything else seems to. If you’re experiencing chest pain, shortness of breath or abdominal pain – don’t delay care.

Our Emergency Departments are open and are using every safety precaution – from sanitizing surfaces to temperature screenings – to keep our patients safe and healthy.

Cleveland Clinic emergency care locations on the West Side include:

- Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital Emergency Department
- Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital Emergency Department
- Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center Emergency Department
- Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital Emergency Department

We are open, safe and ready to care for you.

If you experience a medical emergency, please call 911.



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



West Shore Billboard Design Contest Win Streak Continues

by Christine Gordillo

For the fourth straight year, a West Shore Career-Tech Media, Art & Design student has won the Teen Driver Safety Billboard Design Challenge. Congratulations to senior Gaby Bush of Bay Village High School for her winning design! The contest requires students to create a billboard design that tackles the issue of distracted teen driving.

Gaby's winning design, "One Like Shouldn't Cost a Life" will be displayed on five digital billboards for two-three weeks at various high-visibility locations throughout Cleveland, including I-90 and I-480. It is estimated that approximately half a million people will see Gaby's billboard design during their placement.

In addition to the billboard exposure, Gaby will receive a \$500 cash prize for winning the contest, which is sponsored by University Hospitals, Safe Communities Coalition and State Farm Insurance.

The View From City Council

by Jason Shachner

November 16th City Council Meeting Rundown

Beautiful Home Awards

The Keep Lakewood Beautiful Board presented the winners of the Beautiful Home Awards for 2020. Every year the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Board receives upwards of 100 nominations for this award and then performs the arduous task of whittling down the nominations to two per Elementary School Boundary. Please join me in congratulating Marsha & Dennis Paul, Heidi & Dana Paul, The Derethiks, Rick & Kim Friedrich, The Toth Family, Mark & Emmy Eichelberger, and Linda Powers & Daniel Weiland for receiving the Beautiful Home Award! You can view the homes by visiting <http://www.onelakewood.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/KLBBeautifulHomeAwards2020.pdf>.

County Health Department Contract Renewal

City Council approved the renewal of the contract with Cuyahoga County's General Health District for the provision of public health services. The contract amount is \$284,114 for the year 2021. Councilman John Litten, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee, noted that state laws favor contracting with a County Health Dis-

trict as opposed to a city running their own health department. Mr. Litten stated that the City would have to forfeit several revenue streams if we established our own Health Department.

Lakewood's Tree Policy

Councilmember Sarah Kepple introduced an ordinance, co-sponsored by Council President Daniel O'Malley and I, that would provide more community input on the City's removal of trees. The Ordinance would mandate that, when a material change to Lakewood's tree canopy is planned to occur, the Director of Public Works must provide the Tree Education and Advisory Board a written explanation of why the change is necessary and what, if any, remedy is also planned in accordance with Lakewood's Tree Policy. The change would then be discussed at a public meeting of the Tree Education and Advisory Board. The legislation does include exceptions to this process if a tree must be removed immediately because it is a threat to public safety. The ordinance will be discussed at a future Public Works & Sustainability Committee meeting.

Development of Former Hospital Site

Mayor George and Director Leininger asked City Council for the authority to negotiate a non-binding term sheet with CASTO and North

Pointe Realty for the development of the former hospital site. As you may remember, this team was one of the two teams that were found to be the most qualified to develop the site. The City has told Council that this team is still interested in the project and the City would like to begin preliminary negotiations. You can view the original proposal by visiting http://www.onelakewood.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/CASTO_NPR_RFP-2017-Final_public.pdf, however, the final product will likely change as CASTO and North Pointe Realty go through the multi-step process of final approval, which will involve numerous public meetings. I look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that the redevelopment of the hospital site benefits all Lakewood residents.

Housing, Planning, and Development Committee

Beekeeping Ordinance

The Beekeeping Ordinance that would permit the keeping of bees in Lakewood was referred out of committee with a recommendation for approval at the next City Council Meeting. The ordinance will permit one colony per 2,500 sq. ft. tract. This means that most residents will have the ability to keep at least two colonies. There are several residents that currently have more than the allotted number of colonies on their property, however, the ordinance permits the Director of Public Safety to grandfather those in at their discretion.

ABR Review of Brick Painting

An ordinance that would provide the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) the authority to review plans to paint unaltered brick was referred out of committee with a recommendation for approval at the next City Council Meeting. Previously, building owners could paint natural brick without seeking approval from ABR. Council President Dan O'Malley proposed this

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Please bring bags to carry the items you choose. Face mask and gloves required. No children are permitted in the Center at this time.



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Lakewood's Financial News

sponsored by First Federal Lakewood

COVID-19 Scams

by James Hill,
Lakewood Branch Manager

First Federal Lakewood is issuing this notice to alert customers to potential indicators of imposter scams and money mule schemes, which are two forms of consumer fraud observed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many illicit actors are engaged in fraudulent schemes that exploit vulnerabilities created by the pandemic. This notice contains descriptions of imposter scams, money mule schemes, and financial red flag indicators to help keep you and your money safe.

Imposter Scams

In imposter scams, criminals impersonate organizations such as government agencies, non-profit groups, universities or charities to offer fraudulent services or otherwise defraud victims. While imposter scams can take multiple forms, the basic methodology involves an actor (1) contacting a target under the false pretense of representing an official organization, and (2) coercing or convincing the target to provide funds or valuable information (social security number, bank account numbers, etc.), engage in behavior that causes the target's computer to be infected with malware, or spread disinformation. In schemes connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, imposters may pose as officials from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), other healthcare or non-profit groups and academic institutions.

Illicit actors can use imposter scams to defraud and deceive the vulnerable, including the elderly and unemployed, through the solicitation of payments (such as digital payments and virtual currency), donations, or personal information via email, robocalls, text messages, or other communication methods. For example, an imposter may contact potential victims by phone, email, or text to imply that the victim must verify personal information or send payments to scammers in return for COVID-19-related stimulus payments or benefits, including Economic Impact Payments (EIP) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Another instance includes imposters contacting victims and posing as government or health care representatives engaged in COVID-19 contact tracing activities, implying that a victim must share personal or financial information as part of contact tracing efforts.

The following are red flags to be aware of to avoid falling victim to imposter scams related to COVID-19:

- A person claiming to represent a government agency contacts you by

phone, email, text message, or social media asking for personal or bank account information to verify, process, or expedite EIPs, unemployment insurance, or other benefits. In particular, be alert to communications emphasizing "stimulus check" or "stimulus payment" in solicitations, sometimes claiming that the fraudulent entity can expedite the "stimulus check" or other government payment on behalf of the beneficiary for a fee paid by gift card or prepaid card.

- Receipt of a document that appears to be a check or a prepaid debit card from the U.S. Treasury, often in an amount less than the expected EIP, with instructions to contact the fraudulent government agency, via a phone number or online, to verify personal information in order to receive the entire benefit.

- Unsolicited communications from purported trusted sources or government programs related to COVID-19, instructing readers to open embedded links or files or to provide personal or financial information, including account credentials (e.g., usernames and passwords).

- Email addresses in COVID-19 correspondence that do not match the name of the sender, contain misspellings, or do not end in the corresponding domain of the organization from which the message allegedly was sent. For example, government agencies will use ".gov" or ".mil." Many legitimate charities will use ".org." WHO emails will contain "@who.int." Fraudsters, however, may use ".com" or ".biz" in place of the expected domain.

- Solicitations where the person, email, or social media advertisement seeks donations on behalf of a reputable organization, but is not affiliated with the reputable organization (e.g., the solicitor is not recognized or endorsed as an employee or volunteer by the organization, the email address is misspelled or not connected to the organization, or the social media advertisement directs individuals to an unaffiliated website).

- A charitable organization soliciting donations that (1) does not have an in-depth history, financial reports, IRS annual returns, documentation of their tax-exempt status, or (2) cannot be verified by using various internet-based resources that may assist in confirming the group's existence and its nonprofit status.

Money Mule Scams

A money mule is "a person who transfers illegally acquired money on behalf of or at the direction of another." Money mule schemes, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, span the spectrum of using unwitting, witting, or complicit money mules. An unwitting or unknowing money mule is

an individual who is "unaware that he or she is part of a larger criminal scheme." The individual is motivated by his/her trust in someone they think has a romantic interest in them, a promising job position, or proposition. A witting money mule is an individual who "chooses to ignore obvious red flags or acts willfully blind to his/her money movement activity." The individual is motivated by financial gain or an unwillingness to acknowledge his/her role. A complicit money mule is an individual who is "aware of his/her role as a money mule and is complicit in the larger criminal scheme." The individual is motivated by financial gain or loyalty to a criminal group. During the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. authorities have detected recruiters using money mule schemes, such as good-Samaritan, romance, and work-from-home schemes. U.S. authorities also have identified criminals using money mules to exploit unemployment insurance programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Financial red flag indicators of COVID-19 money mule schemes may include:

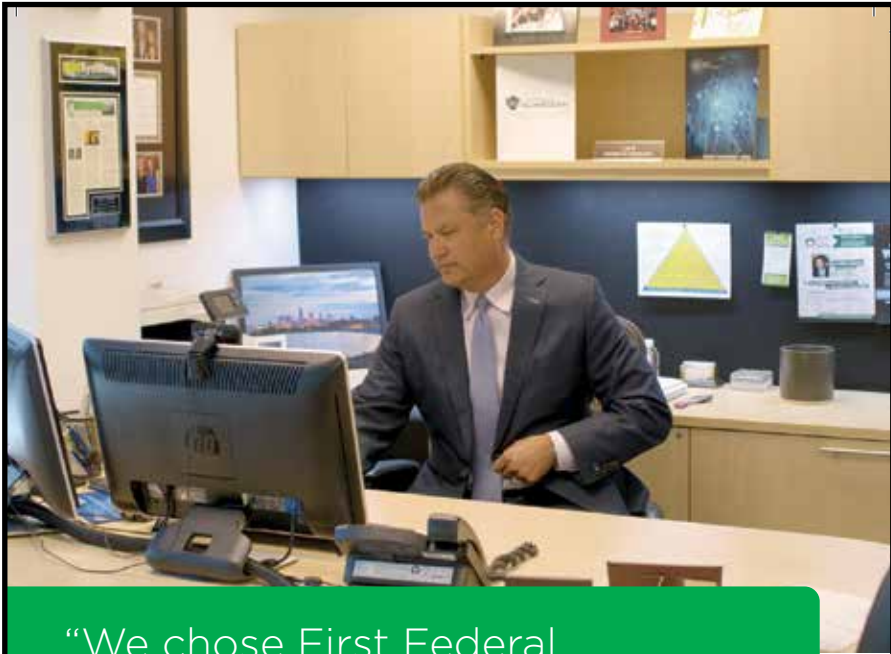
- Someone contacts you to open a new bank account in the name of a business and, shortly thereafter, someone transfers the funds out of

the account. The scammer could instruct you to transfer the money out yourself. The fraudster that contacts you may instruct you to not provide information to the bank or to lie to the bank indicating that it is a "work from home" opportunity or "related to COVID-19."

- If you receive multiple state unemployment insurance payments to your account followed by instructions to transfer the money out via cash or gift cards to someone else. Check your account history to make sure you are receiving the correct number of disbursements from the correct states.

- A new employer or friend asks you to provide your bank account information to receive a benefit payment and then requests that you purchase a money order or withdraw cash while keeping a small percentage of the funds for yourself.

Please keep an eye out for these imposter and money mule scam red flags to ensure you aren't a victim of a scam during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you believe you may be a victim of these scams, please contact First Federal Lakewood via our customer service team at (216)-529-2700 or (800)-966-7300, or at a branch location near you.



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We're here to help you meet today's goals and invest in tomorrow.

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Lakewood Observer

Holiday Recycling Tips

by Denis Devito

With the huge popularity of on-line shopping because of the Covid Pandemic and the holiday shopping season in full swing, the amount of cardboard to be recycled in Lakewood has increased immensely. Here are a few suggestions to aid the city workers in recycling your cardboard.

1.) **Breakdown your cardboard boxes whenever possible.** So many residents place one or two large boxes in the toter and then throw the rest on the tree lawn. This defeats the purpose of the automated process. A city worker must pick-up the cardboard manually which is labor intensive and not economical. In addition, when you do not break down the cardboard boxes the automated truck fills-up faster. The recycling truck must drive all the way to the recycling center in Twinsburg daily. Those fuel costs add up.

2.) **Many Lakewood residents run their businesses from home and recycle much cardboard weekly.** Try to get your cardboard in the toter, but if you have an abundance, please break it down and bundle it with rope or strong string. Remember, you can always drop it off at the recycling center yourself. The hours are M-F 8to2 and Sat. 8-12.

3.) **Styrofoam is not recyclable and should be placed in the garbage toter whenever possible.** If you place a cardboard box on the tree lawn and there is Styrofoam in it, the cardboard will NOT BE RECYCLED.

4.) **If your recycling toter is not near full, you do not need to put it out weekly.** This cuts down on the immense amount of labor that the city workers expel retrieving trash and recycling.

5.) **If you place ANY type of food or food remnant in the recycling toter, you will contaminate the entire load. NO FOOD and EVERY CONTAINER MUST BE RINSED OUT.**

6.) **Wrapping paper should be placed in the recycling toter** whenever possible. If there is no room, place in box or bag and label for the city workers. Otherwise, they will think it is garbage.

For more refuse and recycling information go to onelakewood.com or call 216-252-4322

Progress Amidst The Pandemic

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Integrity, Strength, Austerity, Capital Planning, and Transparency in Public Finance

Despite the pandemic, we will finish 2020 in a better financial position than where we started, while continuing to look for ways to enhance our financial position.

Dramatically reduced overtime by over \$500,000 and employed voluntary furloughs to control costs.

Received the GFOA Award for our CAFR presentation while also earning the Auditor of State's Award with Distinction and will continue to look for

other transparency initiatives.

Along with the work and dedication of our finance team, this budget is a collaborative byproduct of many hours of discussion with all city divisions, the Court, and City Council. Thank you for your efforts and input. Finally, the Executive Summary and the divisional reports will more clearly outline what's in store in the 2021 Budget. We will team build with strategies and philosophies developed thus far as we continue our progress amidst the pandemic.

Meghan F. George
Mayor & Safety Director



Community Fridge At The Root

by Julie Hutchison

Today is the first official day of hosting the 'Community Fridge Cleveland Project' at the Root Café. Thank you to everyone who donated already, we are fully stocked

Please tell your friends and anyone in your networks about this resource-- Anyone can come by and get Free Food during our business hours.

They worked with @reparations.now.cle to raise funds for a mural on the fridge by local artist September Shy (IG: @tember611)

They do ALL the legwork to make this happen--including providing daily maintenance and cleaning by their volunteer staff.

They accept:
Pantry staples, Fresh produce, Frozen foods, Sealed beverages (no alcohol), Meals prepared in professional food safe environments with ingredients clearly labeled, Dented but sealed cans, packages with damaged labels, Masks and Hand sanitizer.

According to the Community-FridgeCle Instagram page, this food is for everyone, it is not a charity project. The food is to be shared by the whole community; anyone who wants it. The project works by citizens both giving and taking and no-one should feel embarrassed about taking food, that's what it's there for. If you know a business or institution that would like to host this project, email communityfridgecle@gmail.com. Follow this project on Instagram @communityfridgecle to support and learn more.

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Lakewood Has History

Sharkey's Hill

"You Really Should Have Been Here Yesterday"

by Jim O'Bryan
A reprint from our second year, Volume 2 Issue 1

Last week a Lakewood Observer reporter asked why Lakewood didn't have a good sledding hill.

"Sledding Hill!" I turned and said, "Sledding Hill! We had one of the best."

"That little hill at Kauffman?" the reporter queried.

I looked and stared deep into her eyes and said, "No, Sharkey's Hill."

The room fell silent. A couple of the long time residents turned pale with a look similar to that of a child who just saw a ghost.

"That name sounds a little scary," she said.

"That's nothing compared to the Real Thing," I remarked.

Sharkey's Hill, for those who do not know, ran down the side of the cliff on Riverside Drive. That's right, straight down the cliff on a slight angle with only a small curve at the end. But again it was down the cliff from Riverside Drive right down to the river, and hopefully not in it!

As a person that grew up near "The Hill," I soon became a little jaded about riding it down, after breaking my cherry at a very young age.

Growing up on Riverside meant that you could climb the cliff like the monkeys of Malta.

We often joked, "You know what they call a kid stuck on the cliff?"

"Tourist" we would all chime in.

Each year the city would pull off kids from Rocky River, Bay, Cleveland, but almost never one from Lakewood.

A Lakewood kid would rather fall



From the top of the hill looking down.

down and break a leg or collar bone, than get dragged off the cliff by the police.

After sliding down the cliffs in summer, I found Sharkey's was easier on the pants, bones and hands. But to the wash-a-shores and "tourists," Sharkey's was unbelievable.

Imagine the look tourists give the surfers at Waimea Bay in Hawaii during Big Surf. Sure we all want to ride one, but at what cost?

Every day another group of kids would show up, walk to the edge and just turn white. You would see them mumble. Catch that nervous laugh. Then half the time the group would leave. I mean, who wants to die sledding?

And death was everywhere on "The Hill."

There was always the talk: "You really should have been here yesterday." "I heard a kid died yesterday." "They took a guy out of here on a stretcher, wasn't moving much."

This talk always uncorked around the fire located at the top of the "short" hill. I say short because it only really chopped 30 feet off the top, but what a

30 foot stretch that was.

What added to the total mystique of the place was the fact that the hill was a real sled-breaker. As riders broke their sleds they would throw them up into the trees where they would hang looking like skeletons of the dead. At dusk these sled skeletons would come to life in a macabre dance of death moving back and forth through the trees as the fire flickered.

Before any ride you would first climb down to a lower level. From there you could see the condition of the hill: icy, powdery, rutted or just plain nasty.

As you slid down the side and approached the fire, someone would yell "off." Then another coated person was off down the hill.

Along the left would be those who had made it, trudging up the hill. What always made this interesting was the possibility that at any minute a sled and rider could separate. Worse yet, the rider could lose control, smashing into anyone or anything.

Hazards included other sleds, rocks and trees. Or the rider might simply go over the cliff!

At one point the city put a barricade up to stop sledders. Seeing this as a kind of ski jump, inventive kids would make the barricade into a small hill.

But the pros, real pros, mind you, would start at the top, push off and even take a running start. Then they would throw their sleds down with a thud and jump on.

In a matter of seconds you had to make a life-and-death choice. Jump the barricade and with luck miss the large posts. Or turn hard right and go up the cliff around the post and down the cliff again.

To jump the barricade and head up the hill added speed to the ride. To move up the cliff and back down was tougher, however, always leading to incredible speeds.



The two routes from the top: a 24" jump in yellow, or around it and much more speed in purple.

There was always talk of speeds in excess of 50 mph. Nobody, at least to my knowledge, ever put a radar detector to the sleds on Sharkey's Hill.

Just as you would get control of your body and sled back, there was a dip that threw you to the right and back to the center. You would hold your breath as you entered another depression which sent you up and over a small jump that would turn into a full JUMP as the snow and sledding continued.

The landing was actually smoother than the ski-style jump over the barricade, and it is easy to understand why. By this point you are traveling three times faster, and the sled would stay airborne for 10-30 feet! And then the sled might possibly settle down. For the forces were so incredible on the sled and rider that this point was where they usually separated, or simply fell apart, wishing they had never started.

Once you made it into the bottom depression and the ride was over, you had to apply full brakes, drag your body, and stop the sled before it ran into the icy river. Each time a rider made it to the bottom without carrying into the river, even the most experienced ones would let loose a huge sigh of relief. You would catch your breath, look around, smell the air, wildly thankful you were still alive. Getting up, you would brush off the snow, grab your sled (or what was left of it) and head up the hill ready to dive out of the way if someone lost control. Just to tame "The Hill" one more time.

Sharkey's was legendary, our Waimea Bay. Sharkey's was where men went to feel alive.

I looked over to the reporter and smiled, saying, "Yeah we had a hill. You really should have been here yesterday."



From the top, the jump and the bump.



X marks the landing from the first jump, the second, down the hill, from the bump.

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NEW

Lakewood Cares

Legal Aid Helps Those Struggling With Food Insecurity During COVID

by Danilo Powell-Lima

Prior to COVID-19, more than 37 million people in America struggled with hunger each year, including more than 11 million children. The economic impact of the pandemic left even more families without the means for meals.

There are a number of resources available to those who are struggling with food insecurity issues. Legal Aid regularly helps clients put food on the table by connecting them with critical benefits, such as the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps.

One person Legal Aid helped recently is Frankie Subhani (name changed to protect privacy). Frankie, who is an insulin-dependent diabetic, applied for the SNAP program in April. It is important for Frankie to eat regular meals so he can maintain a healthy blood sugar level and avoid life-threatening illness. Unfortunately, weeks passed and he never received the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card he needed to purchase groceries.

Thankfully, a food bank connected Frankie with Legal Aid. A Legal Aid attorney advocated on Frankie's behalf, and negotiated with Job and Family Services so an expedited EBT card could be sent to Frankie's home. When postal issues delayed the delivery of Frankie's card for another month, the attorney connected him with urgent food delivery from the Food Bank. When Frankie's EBT card finally arrived, he had more than \$800 in benefits.

If you are facing food insecurity and need legal help, call Legal Aid at

888-817-3777. You can also apply for help online any time at www.lasclev.org. All Legal Aid services are free of charge.

Legal representation is not the only way Legal Aid can help you. Legal Aid's website, www.lasclev.org, has up-to-date information and resources available 24/7. The "Get Help" section features information on accessing public benefits, including SNAP. It also contains brochures, answers to frequently asked questions, and self-help materials.

Maintaining food security is tightly linked with job and housing security. These necessities often conflict with the need for food. Legal Aid has two phone lines available 24/7 for people with questions about housing law and work-related issues: the Tenant Information Line and the Worker Information Line. You can leave a message at both lines at any time, and a specialist from Legal Aid will return your call within 1-2 business days, between 9:00am and 5:00pm.

Tenant Information Line:

Cuyahoga County: 216-861-5955
Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga and Lorain County: 440-210-4533

Worker Information Line:

Cuyahoga County: 216-861-5899
Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga and Lorain County: 440-210-4532

Rotary Encourages Community Support

by Lynn Donaldson

Giving back to the community is a hallmark of Rotary, and the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River has traditionally used its annual Wassail Bowl Christmas parties as a time for members to provide toys and clothing items for children in Lakewood and Rocky River.

Gift items were donated by club members and distributed by the Lakewood Foundation and the Rocky River Women's Club (RRWC) and its Rocky River Assistance Program (RRAP).

As COVID 19 restrictions make

it necessary for the club to cancel its in-person gathering, the holiday event will be held virtually this year, and the club will continue to support these community partners.

The club strongly encourages residents in Lakewood and Rocky River to join in donating to one or both of these 501(c)(3) organizations – Lakewood Foundation, an organization that works in conjunction with the city's Department of Human Services, and the RRAP. Both have altered their in-person programs this year to help families in need.

Checks should be sent to:

Lakewood Foundation – Christmas, Attn: Toni Gelsomino, 16024 Madison Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107, and/or Rocky River Assistance Program, Attn: Carolyn Billick, PO Box 16724, Rocky River, OH 44116.

An international service organization of over 35,000 clubs, Rotary's stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. If you are interested in learning more about the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River, contact Gina Gavlak, president, at 440-653-3446 or gavlak@nfpmedcenter.org.

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Lakewood Observer

Beers, Bars, & Brewpubs

by Joseph Germaine

For anyone that loves good beer, there is nothing more satisfying than brewing your own batch of perfectly crafted ale at home. It's a great feeling to be able to come home to a cold bottle of your own brew or to be able to entertain and impress guests with your latest batch that you created from nothing more than a few simple ingredients and some patience and hard work. For most of us the thought of working a full day then brewing beer for three hours is a lot. The explosion of breweries and the selection of different styles of beer is overwhelming but glorious all at the same time. My goal with this article is to talk about different styles of beer.

The first style I want to dive into is a Scottish Light Ale. This is a great beer for anyone that is just getting into craft beer or wants a light beer with flavor. Scottish Light, or Scottish 60 Shilling as it was originally known, originated in a land where brewing has existed for a really long time.

Scotland's desire to brew low

hopped and malt forward beers has always been a bit of a mystery. The water quality in Edinburgh matches that of Burton upon Trent and is well suited for hoppy ales. At one point in time, Scotland produced stouts, porters, and pales. The cool temperature in Scotland caused many of the brewers to import their hops since the climate was not right for growing their own. This could be one reason for the Scot's desire to focus more on malty beers.

The other reason for the malt forward beers is the climate being perfect for cooler fermentation. The Scottish ales are yeast neutral, which is imparted by cooler, longer temperatures. Also, cooler weather calls for malt forward beers. Scotland also yields a good amount of barley, oats, and wheat. They may as well focus on what they have easy access to.

Appearance - Pale amber to dark copper. The head on this beer should be creamy and off white with a superb clarity.

Aroma - Malt character is low to medium with notes of caramel and

butterscotch. Low English hop character, fruitiness and diacetyl.

Mouthfeel - The mouthfeel is usually medium-low to medium.

Taste - The flavor of this beer is all malt. Sweetness varies and when it comes to a hop flavor it has low to moderate hop bitterness. Little to no hop flavor. Rich grainy finish to this beer with a drying character.

Food Pairing - The characteristics of a Scottish Light fare well with gamey meats like pheasant and quail, as well as more traditional roast pork, smoked salmon, or lamb. Spicy Mexican dishes can work as well. For cheese pairings, you're probably best off with something smoked.

Overall though, the Scottish Light is probably BEST to save for a rich dessert, given the heavy toffee, caramel-like nature of the beer... anything with dark chocolate, toffee, or caramel will work really well.

Scottish Light Recipe

Color Range: 17 – 22 SRM
Original Gravity: 1.030 – 1.035 OG
Final Gravity: 1.010 – 1.013 FG
IBU Range: 10 – 20
ABV Range: 2.5 – 3.2%

Grain

84% 6 lbs Maris Otter Malt
8% 8 oz Crystal 8010%
6% 6 oz Pale Chocolate Malt
2% 2 oz Roasted Barley

Hops

1 oz Fuggle – Boil 60 min

Yeast

1.0 pkg Wyeast Scottish Ale 1728
Mash at 152°F for 60 mins
Boil for 60 mins

Healthy Lakewood Foundation Supports Lakewood Families With Remote Learning Needs

continued from page 1

as part of the master agreement following the closing of Lakewood Hospital. HLF was formed from the Foundation Planning Task Force and through their recommendation to the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association.

To contact HLF or to review a

listing of all of the foundation's grant-making to date, please visit www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org or email info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org.

Submitted on behalf of the board of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation by Kate Ingersoll, Secretary.

Need Help Paying Bills? Financial Assistance Is Available For Limited Time

by Kevin Harrison

This year has been especially challenging for our customers. Throughout the year, The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has been advocating to federal, state, and local officials to seek financial relief to customers who are struggling with their sewer and stormwater bills.

Money provided by Cuyahoga County is available to residents affected by COVID-19 who need assistance with utility bills. Eligibility criteria include being at or below 120 percent of Median Household Income and have been affected by COVID-19 through income loss, childcare needs, or illness. Funds are only available until December 31, 2020 so apply early at chnhousingpartners.org/utilityassistance/ or call 216-350-8008. Rental assistance is also available at neorenthelp.org or 833-377-7386 (RENT).


Additional funds are available to Cuyahoga County residents who are

at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. If you are struggling with sewer, stormwater, or other bills then you are encouraged to apply with the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC). Applications must be approved by the end of the year, so we urge anyone looking for assistance to apply as soon as possible. To apply or learn more, please visit ceogc.org/covid-19-emergency-assistance/ or call 216-370-3480.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District also offers various discount programs for sewer and stormwater bills. Apply or learn more at neorsd.org/save or call us at 216-881-8247. The Sewer District is committed to assisting customers with support during these trying times.

Kevin Harrison is an Administration and External Affairs Paraprofessional Intern at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

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Lakewood's Stars

Lakewood Schools Stay Remote Until New Year

continued from page 1

IEPs who were receiving in-person instruction prior to Thanksgiving break, your instruction will remain unchanged at this time.

Further information will be forthcoming on December 4 that will provide details related to our revised instructional plan that includes all three instructional options for the second semester. Also, families will have the opportunity to provide feed-



back by using our Google Form. This Google Form will allow caregivers to select in-person, remote, or eLearning instruction for their children.

This registration process will provide us with the sentiment of our families regarding their comfort level as it relates to in-person instruction, remote instruction and eLearning. It will also provide the information we require to make critical staffing and support decisions.

We are so thankful for the members of our community who have never faltered in their support for the students of Lakewood. We sincerely appreciate all of those who have advocated for the benefit of the learners in their lives. The Lakewood City School District will continue to partner with our families to place the students first. As such, we have worked hard to provide safe options that meet the diverse instructional, social and emotional needs of our students and the families that support them.

Thank you,
Michael Barnes
Superintendent



DECEMBER

Aries: The Ram is always first for everything, in your rush to get there, take time to enjoy the journey, go ahead & Deck the Halls & let the festivities begin, you're good at starting things.

Taurus: The Bull does a lot of thinking in that Bullpen of yours, since every request is granted, there's no need for you to feel any competition, go Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

Gemini: The Twins are always the life of every office party, even if you have to Zoom the party this year, you'll be able to come up with something lively, Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

Cancer: I'll Be Home for Christmas at the Crab's house, take time to rest & let someone else pitch in, you're the nurturer of all holiday gatherings, spread the baking & cooking chores.

Leo: You are the King/Queen of the Jungle & Christmas is no different, do it up in high Leo fashion, light up that Jungle, Roar like you've never roared, Jingle Bell Rock that Jungle.

Virgo: OK Virgo, the Holidays are meant to be joyous, & forgiving, put a lid on that pressure cooker of yours & let it go, change your tune to Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow.

Libra: You're all about balance, & the aesthetics, Christmas is no different for you, other than you can't decide which Pretty Paper to use, take a hint from Willie Nelson, they're all fine.

Scorpio: Venus is still in the sign of the Scorpion for the 1st half of the month, you may uncover some secrets this Holiday season, besides your own, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus.

Sagittarius: This is definitely the Centaur's Season with the Sun, Mercury, & Venus all falling in your sign, go ahead & grab some of the good juju, be an adventurer & go on a Sleigh Ride.

Capricorn: This is the Goat's Last Christmas with Saturn & Jupiter, they're moving on to Aquarian's neighborhood, make your Xmas list, check it twice & watch Santa deliver the goods.

Aquarian: Do You Hear What I Hear? Alleluia, what you've been waiting for is here...Yep, Saturn & Jupiter will be joining each other & moving into your neck of the snowy woods.

Pisces: Behind every desire is the desire to feel good, move around in that lake of yours Fish & start spreading some Holiday Cheer, there's no reason on Earth for you to have a Blue Christmas.

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Lakewood Is Alive

“Nothing but Mozart”: A Free Virtual Concert With Cleveland Orchestra Members

by Carol Jacobs

“Nothing but Mozart”
A virtual concert with Cleveland Orchestra members
Peter Otto and Yun-Ting Lee, violins; Lembi Veskimets, viola;
Dane Johansen, cello; and Daniel McKelway, clarinet.

A stellar group of Cleveland Orchestra musicians will be gathering together to perform a concert of chamber music by the ever-ingenious Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on December 7, at 7:30 p.m. Mozart’s works to be performed are his String Quartet No. 19 in C major, and his Clarinet Quintet in A major. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this will be a virtual concert performed by five artists in the outstanding acoustical environment of West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church. The



Orchestra in 1995 as Assistant Principal and E-flat clarinet. He began playing the clarinet at the age of eight and has been performing ever since as a soloist and chamber musician. His orchestral career began in 1994 when he spent one year with the Grand Rapids Symphony, and the following year joined The Cleveland Orchestra. Mr. McKelway has performed in over forty states and twelve foreign countries. Lembi Veskimets became a member of The Cleveland Orchestra’s viola section in 1997. As an enthusiastic chamber musician, she has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall to Cité de la Musique in Paris, and to the Expo in Osaka, Japan. She is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, and performs in the public schools as an artist-teacher in The Cleveland Orchestra’s Learning Through Music program.

Peter Otto joined The Cleveland Orchestra as first associate concertmaster in September 2007. Before coming to Cleveland, he played in the first violin section of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. He holds a bachelor of music degree from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Rostock, Germany, and a master of music degree from the Juilliard School in New York. Peter Otto enjoys a multi-faceted career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestra musician, and teacher. His



audience will be at home viewing and listening to the concert on either Facebook Live or YouTube. Access to the concert will be obtained by using one of the following links shortly before the beginning of the concert on December 7 at 7:30 p.m.:

http://bit.ly/RRCMS_Facebook
http://bit.ly/RRCMS_YouTube

Two of the musicians are residents of Rocky River and one of them is on the board of the Rocky River Chamber Music Society. Daniel McKelway and Lembi Veskimets have enriched the community of Rocky River in many ways. Daniel McKelway joined The Cleveland



Lakewood Neighbors Create “Friends Of Madison Park” Advocacy Group

by Matt Bixenstine

A group of neighbors has established “Friends of Madison Park” as a grassroots advocacy initiative to champion Madison Park, a 17-acre city park located on the edge of Lakewood’s Historic Birdtown Neighborhood.

Friends of Madison Park aims to complement the City of Lakewood’s park management by providing ongoing stewardship for Madison Park to ensure this public greenspace remains an exceptional asset for the community.

Lakewood residents Matt Bixenstine, Alyse Lamparyk, Lauren Mikolay, Sam Paynter, Meghan Tinker Paynter and Chris Varano – all next-

door neighbors on Clarence Avenue – created Friends of Madison Park as a way to celebrate and support the park located behind their backyards.

Areas of focus will include: Grassroots advocacy for Madison Park and surrounding neighborhoods, support of major park improvement projects, preservation and growth of park tree canopy, celebration and proliferation of park-goer diversity and continued emphasis on park safety, beautification and vitality.

To learn more and get involved, please visit FriendsOfMadisonPark.org.

Matt Bixenstine enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his basket hound through Madison Park.

intellectual curiosity and passion for the connection of music, philosophy, and mathematics have led to a profound appreciation of complex musical styles.

Before becoming a member of the second violin section of The Cleveland Orchestra in April 2013, Yun-Ting Lee was a member of Canton Symphony Orchestra and CityMusic Cleveland. He also performed as a substitute violinist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. A native of Taiwan, Mr. Lee grew up in Arizona, and holds bachelor and master degrees in music from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he received the Bennett Levine Memorial Award in Chamber Music.

In this its 62nd season, the Rocky River Chamber Music Society remains firmly committed to the presentation of concerts for Northeast Ohio audiences, whether virtual or in person. Donations are always welcome. For further information visit the RRCMS website at www.rrcms.org, or follow RRCMS on Facebook and Twitter.

Program December 7, 7:30 p.m.:
Mozart, String Quartet No. 19 in C major, K465

Mozart, Clarinet Quintet in A major, K581

Carol Jacobs is a retired architect, curator, and librarian who currently serves on the board of the Rocky River Chamber Music Society.

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