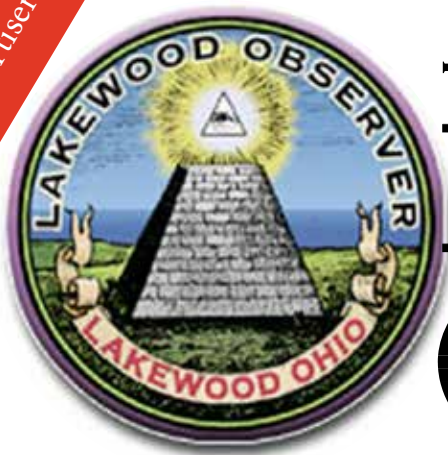


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Volume 17, Issue 1, January 6, 2021

Thank You Lakewood During These Tough Times

by Dr. Michael Barnes
Superintendent,
Lakewood Public Schools
Dear Residents of
Lakewood,

I want to express heartfelt appreciation on behalf of our staff, the Board of Education, and myself to the Lakewood community.

Although options exist for our students for remote and eLearning instruction models, many families want their students to experience in-person instruction once again. As of Thursday, January 7th, the Lakewood City School District will provide in-person instruction for the students that need this model.

The ability to bring some of our students back for in-person instruction is a direct reflection of the Lakewood



community's commitment to safe practices during the pandemic. We thank you for being careful and cautious regarding social gatherings over the holidays and for adhering to other safety protocols that minimize the spread of COVID-19. Only together,

as a true partnership, can we keep providing the in-person instruction that so many of our students need.

Inevitably, there will be challenges ahead. Let us remain vigilant and committed to the safety protocols and practices that have allowed us to open for in-person instruction on January 7th. Finally, we thank the Lakewood community for your patience, support and constructive two-way dialogue over these past months. Although it has been a challenge, the positive character of our community has consistently shone through and for that, we are truly grateful.

Sincerely,
Michael Barnes,
Ed.D. Superintendent

LCAC Gift Of Love And Food For 600 Families

by Charles Ballou

On behalf of Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation, I would like to thank all the people who rallied to help LCAC fulfill our annual Holiday Food Distribution in 2020, despite the pandemic! While we were unable to hold our traditional food drives

and gather in person at the Masonic Temple to pack turkeys and all the trimmings, we were still able to provide assistance to 600 Lakewood households in November and December. With your help, each household received a \$50 Giant Eagle gift card. Without the donations we received

from individuals, businesses, and organizations, LCAC would have struggled to meet this year's outreach goal. Thank you, Lakewood, for continuing to be a community that cares!

Charles Ballou,
LCAC President

Downtown Lakewood Officially Listed In National Register Of Historic Places

by Jacqueline Bon

LakewoodAlive and the City of Lakewood are proud to announce that downtown Lakewood has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The 105 buildings in the Lakewood Downtown Historic District trace Lakewood's development from a thriving agricultural community through its development as a streetcar era suburb, as well as the reinvestment projects in downtown during the 1960s and early 1970s.



The district includes an area from just west of Bunts Road to midway between Hall and Ethel Avenues, Warren Road from Detroit Avenue to almost Franklin Boulevard, and a number of apartment buildings located adjacent to Detroit Avenue on side streets.

continued on page 11

"There comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness...that time is now." - Wangari Maathai



1st place this year! Mel Jedyak and Tom Berry!

LO Lighting Contest We Are All Winners!

by Jim O'Bryan

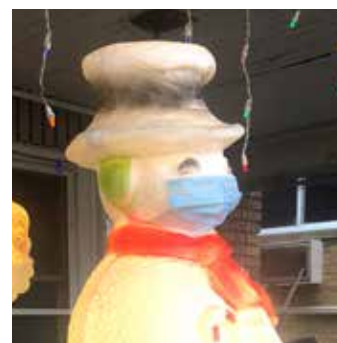
When people decorate their homes, we all win. Something to look at, investigate, admire or even pan. It is all part of "expressing yourself."

The nominating process was very simple, one nomination is all it takes. We received over 275 entries, and all of them were good.

We moved into the public judging part of the contest. This is where it gets crazy and we openly encourage people to vote once a day. Once again some took that as a challenge not a rule. But through it all thousands of votes poured in setting the final test of 20 homes in a blind judging with celebrity judges.

Out of that the judges narrowed it down to the top 14 all getting prizes ranging from over \$100 to the winner, to \$20 gift certificates for those farther down the list.

I would like to explain one complaint, why do we not publish addresses? We do not have this contest to send people to one or two homes. We have this to get people off their couches and



This sums up 2020 pretty well.

out walking or driving around checking out this magical community called Lakewood.

You can see the top 14 on pages 6-7.



The Hammads with 7th Place Prize from Melt! Their house on Lincoln is always amazing!

Lakewood Reaches 3,000 COVID-19 Cases

by Jim O'Bryan

With the New Year, many of us were hoping for the almost magical news of major changes in our lives. Or more specifically our lives after COVID-19.

It was back in early February that we first brought the subject up on the Deck and in print. Merely wonder-

ing aloud what Lakewood would or could do if it came to Lakewood.

Well, the answer has been nothing short of shocking and strange.

An age old way to stop a pandemic is social distancing, masks and cleanliness. This

continued on page 8

The Mayor's Corner



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Happy New Year, Lakewood!

by Meghan George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

2020 was a challenging year by any measure. In spite of all those challenges, we have accomplished so much over the past twelve months that we should be proud of. We were awarded a 2020 Vibrant NEO Champion Award for our affordable housing strategy. We made progress on our stormwater management program with our state and federal regulators. We provided grants for small businesses and residents who were struggling due to COVID-19. The City of Lakewood was recognized by the Auditor of State as having attained the highest level of public transparency (4 stars) in the new STaRS rating program. The list goes on and on.

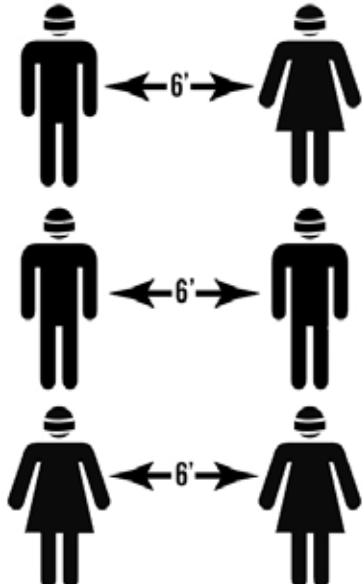
Now 2021 has arrived and we have so much to look forward to.

Major developments in Lakewood are underway. The Cove United Methodist Church renovation into our City of Lakewood Human Services Center has received a \$250,000 grant from the State of Ohio. Kauffman Park will get a major overhaul this year. Clifton Prado Park will also be improved. We have turned the page on our downtown development project and are working with a new developer team to create the right project for Lakewood. We will have a major investment at the intersection of Detroit and Sloane and the surrounding area to improve the western gateway into Lakewood. Be on the lookout--there are many other exciting projects under discussion or underway.

As we work our way through all of these exciting and important projects, my team is maintaining a sharp focus

on city finances and public health. I hope that 2021 will bring a return to our normal way of life and I assure you that City Hall is doing everything we can to bring that to reality as soon as possible. In the meantime, please check on your neighbors and stay healthy and safe. Let's be part of the solution, Lakewood.

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Education In Lakewood

The HOME ALONE Effect - Help H2O Keep it Growing!

by Celia Dorsch

When the pandemic hit last March, sixty-two H2O high school leaders had just finished presenting their last HOME ALONE event to a total of 221 children and their parents/guardians.

The high school leaders spent nine months and over 1,800 hours meeting with safety experts and researching online to create interactive presentations for their 9-12-year-old peers. They covered topics including household emergencies, first aid, cooking safety, resolving sibling conflicts, internet safety, street smarts, and more.

While the high school students instructed the young participants, their parents/guardians received valuable safety information presented by experts from Lakewood's Fire, Police and EMS departments.

HOME ALONE helps children gain confidence by acquiring life skills and knowledge from teen mentors.

HOME ALONE fosters critical conversations between parents and children surrounding safety issues that may arise as their child matures and assumes more personal responsibility.

HOME ALONE builds leadership in our high school youth.

In their own words:
"The best part of Home Alone was giving our presentations. We were able to directly help children by providing them with the tools that need to be safe and feel safe."

"HOME ALONE challenged me in ways that were not artificial measures of leadership, but actual tests of my capability to coordinate and manage a group of peers towards a common goal."

"Thanks to this wonderful program, I have leadership skills that will stay with me and I will utilize for the rest of my life."

"I feel proud knowing I am apart



H2O's 2020 HOME ALONE High School Leaders

H2O's 2020 HOME ALONE High School Leaders. Read the whole story on page 3, and follow QR Code To Donate and help.

of such an influential program that is making such a significant difference in our community"

To keep HOME ALONE growing for Lakewood youth and their families, H2O needs help from the community. Funds are needed to cover future program expenses like audio/visual equipment, program materials, as well as video and webinar consultant fees. The Thomas J. and Marjorie S. Gray Foundation has generously committed to matching whatever funds H2O members can raise up to \$20,000.

H2O has already raised over half of its goal! Help H2O members reach their goal by the end of this month. Donations to H2O's HOME ALONE program can be made in one of the following ways:

Go to H2O's FB fundraising page - <https://www.facebook.com/donate/154945756425882/>

Go to The Lakewood Foundation website donation page - <http://thelakewoodfoundation.org/donate-2/>
Or mail a check payable to "The Lakewood Foundation/H2O" - 16024 Madison Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107"
HOME ALONE is such an important program for our community. Please help make sure it continues!

Whatever amount you donate now will be doubled, thanks to the TJMS Gray Foundation. Donations to H2O through The Lakewood Foundation are 100% tax deductible.

H2O's student leaders are looking for opportunities to spread the word about HOME ALONE. If you are a member of an organization or business that would be interested in hearing more about the program and how it has helped Lakewood families, please contact H2O Coordinator, Emmie Hutchison at emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.net to schedule a Zoom presentation with H2O student leaders.

H2O "Help to Others" is sponsored by a program of the City of Lakewood, Division of Youth - 12900 Madison Ave. 216-529-6045.

Thank you for your support!



QR Code to donate to HOME ALONE.



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Progress In Lakewood

New Year, New Opportunities For Progress In Anti-Racism For Lakewood

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbhone

Late last year, I was appointed by Mayor George to sit on Lakewood's newly formed Anti-Racism Task Force. As a Latina, it is not an appointment I take lightly. The work being done by the Anti-Racism Task force is a first for this community, and is critical to ensure that Lakewood continues to grow and progress towards a future where inclusion and equity is a cultural and societal norm: Where acceptance of all races and ethnicities is intrinsic rather than a by-product of tolerance, which by itself, lacks true equity.

I thank the George Administration for committing to doing this

work, which may, at times, make folks feel uneasy. The work being done now will bring to the forefront community conversations which are long overdue. It is important to remember that looking at some hard truths regarding the past, whatever they may be, need not define who we are: it is only what we do with that information that is definitive - especially for our future.

Like many, I was spurred by the death of George Floyd and other unarmed black men while in custody of law enforcement to put forth my skills and interest in serving on the Task Force. My father and brother, who are dark skinned, have repeatedly been

victims of racial profiling and police brutality through unwarranted traffic stops. Neither fought back against these injustices because they knew their voices wouldn't matter. And to me, the mere fact that a human being's voice, or life, may not matter as strongly or as equitably as the voices and lives of others is not only antithetical to the ideals of equality this country was founded upon, but is unconscionable.

I sought out public service, both as a career and as a calling, because I value helping others, and believe everyone is responsible for doing their part in taking care of the community, and people, around them. I also know that I want to be at the table where decisions are made that affect my community because voices like mine are usually absent from those conversations. It is incumbent upon us, when presented with an avenue, or opportunity, for

authentic communication about the decisions that will shape the future of black and brown communities to get involved, and stay involved.

The opportunities for change and growth in how race, equity, income and health disparities are filtered through our laws, our local government and our sociocultural systems also sits with the community at large, and our ability to come together to support these areas as they shift in a more socially conscious direction.

I am looking forward to helping to shape these conversations in the years to come, and know the Task Force will be working hard as a collective to ensure the future of Lakewood is a future everyone can believe, and participate in.

We will only see progress if we join together and do the work as one community and one Lakewood.

O'Neill Healthcare Of Lakewood Among First With Vaccine

by Tammy Sibert

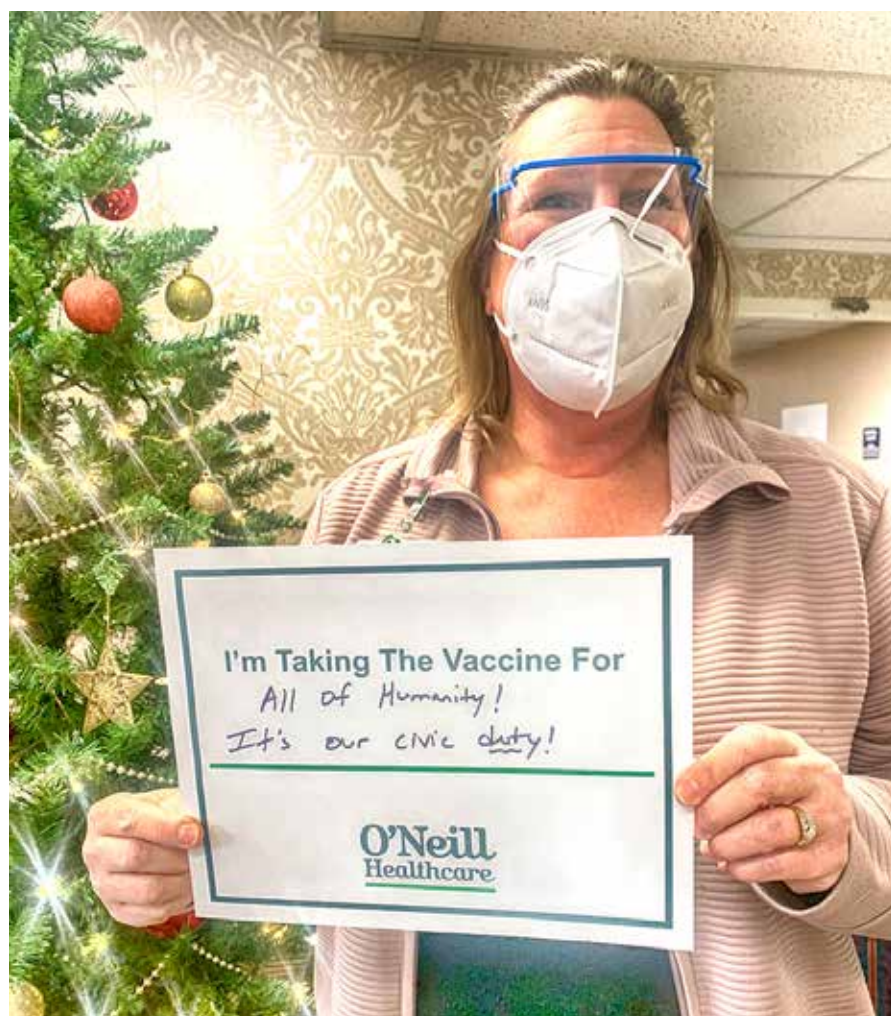
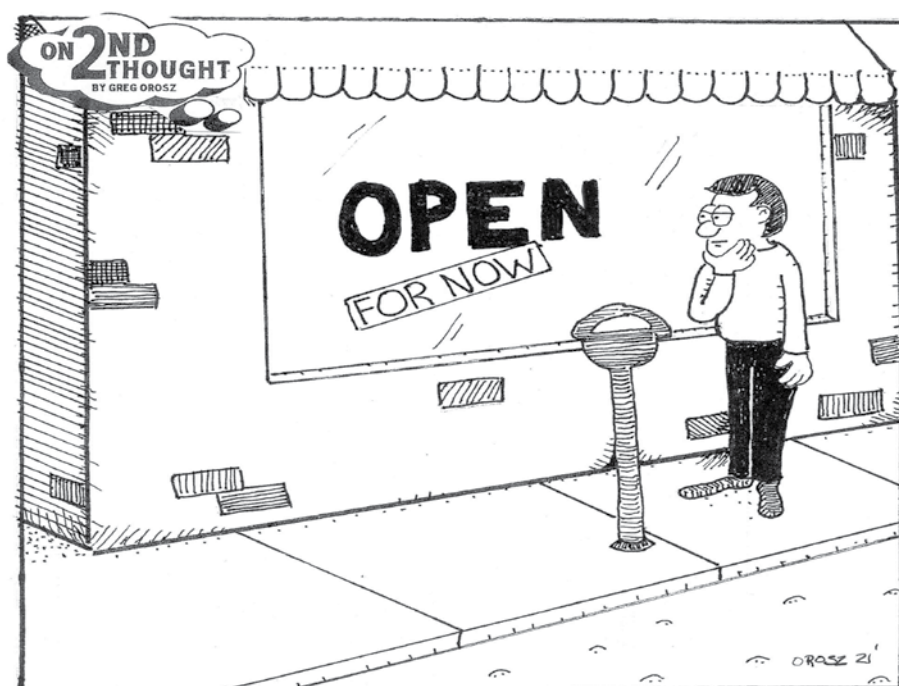
O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood is honored to be among the first in Ohio to offer the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine to the staff and residents. On December 23rd, on-site vaccination started at O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood, with everyone receiving the first of two shots. All five of O'Neill Healthcare facilities will have the first shot before the end of the year.

As we move into the new year, we look forward to a brighter future where we can all be together again. Thank you to the Walgreens team for administering the shot and helping us create a safe environment for our staff and residents so we can continue to care for our residents safely.



Kim Chuma, LNHA, shares why she's getting the vaccine.

For more information about
O'Neill Healthcare and the vaccine,
visit ONEILLHC.com.



Tammy Sibert, Assisted Living Director, is getting the vaccine for all of humanity.



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Education

Creative Destruction Or Destructive Creation?

by Chuck Greanoff

One theme for my APUSH History Class this year is the impact of new inventions/technology on society. In this case, students analyzed the impact of technologies through Joseph Schumpeter's notion of creative destruction. Their task was to argue over whether the new invention/technology is a net positive or negative for society. --Dr. Chuck Greanoff, LHS Social Studies Teacher

By Leah Campbell,
LHS Class of '24

Butter churners, canals, telegraphs, typewriters, polaroid cameras, and horse-drawn carriages are antiquated and obsolete today. But all so quant! They have been replaced by factories, cargo trains, semi-trucks, smartphones, and cars. This is because

a factory can produce butter much faster and with less waste than a household butter churner ever could. This concept is defined by economist Joseph Schumpeter as creative destruction; the cycle of old inventions or concepts being replaced by newer and more effective inventions.

Social media's recent dominance over news is a current example of creative destruction. Many people would rather hear about current events through "trusted" friends on social media than mysterious reporters. This has reduced reliance on newspapers and longstanding news sources for information on current events. Social media has made the spread of news faster than it has ever been before. Unfortunately, many people are wrong to trust their friends' posts on current

events which leads to misinformation. According to NPR, "More than 40 percent of visits to 65 fake news sites come from social media, compared to around 10 percent of visits to 690 top US news sites" (<https://www.npr.org/2018/04/11/601323233/6-facts-we-know-about-fake-news-in-the-2016-election>) This abundance of misinformation leads to distrust of the media and the government agencies that collaborate with the media. While news on social media is incredibly convenient, it is a net negative for society because it's largely responsible for the publicity of false information, biased news sources and distrust of the government. Trustworthy news sources and a trusted government are more valuable to society than convenient news will ever be.

Overall, social media's dominance of the news is a destructive creation. While it has proven to spread news quickly, it has made traditional news sources, like newspapers, significantly less popular. In addition to this, televised news is also much less prevalent than it was before social media had such large influence over news. In 2018,

newspapers were at their lowest rate of circulation since 1940, and the percentage of Americans who frequently watched televised news fell 7% between 2016 and 2018. Social media's new prevalence as a news outlet has also destroyed trust in longstanding news organizations and government agencies. (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/02/14/fast-facts-about-the-newspaper-industrys-financial-struggles/> <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/01/05/fewer-americans-rely-on-tv-news-what-type-they-watch-varies-by-who-they-are>) All in all, social media's recent control of news is on track to destroy two industries and break trust which makes it a destructive creation.

Just as factories replaced butter churners, social media is solidly on track to replace newspapers and televised news. Both are examples of creative destruction, the process of inventions being replaced by newer and more effective ones. Creative destruction is a key factor for human advancement. It will be present as long as the human race continues to be prosperous.

Students Return To School Buildings

by Betsy Voinovich

January 7, 2021 is a big day for Lakewood City Schools. For the first time since March, the school buildings will officially open in the "hybrid model" which means the population of each building will be cut in half, to allow more space between students, and students and staff.

For parents and students who feel that returning to the buildings is unsafe, two other learning models are in operation, as they have been from the beginning of the pandemic.

The remote learning model allows students to stay home and take the same classes their in-building counterparts will have, via zoom. Remote middle and high school students will have the same teachers and classmates they have had all year, while elementary students will have the same classes, but different teachers will be assigned to the home-learners. There is also an e-learning model which does not offer Lakewood courses or teachers but allows students to learn at their own pace, with an official State of Ohio curriculum and local supervision.

"Eighty percent of Lakewood parents want their kids back in school," said longtime Board of Education member Ed Favre. The district sent out surveys to determine which learning model families preferred. The default model was in-school. In other words, if you didn't fill out the form, or didn't see the form, that was counted as choosing to have your child go back into the buildings.

The question is, of course, is it safe for Lakewood's children and teachers and staff to be back in the buildings?

Mr. Favre pointed out that other westside suburbs have had their buildings open for months, with different sorts of hybrid learning models. An ohio.gov dashboard now makes it possible to see Covid cases broken down by zip codes. Some of Lakewood's western

neighbors have slightly higher percentage rates than Lakewood's, which as of today was 5.8 percent.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/key-metrics/cases-by-zipcode>.

What sets Lakewood apart is its number of cases, which as of tomorrow will top 3,000. This gives our city the distinction of being among the most infected cities in Cuyahoga County. On the state of Ohio dashboard, Lakewood comes in as the 34th sickest zipcode, by number of cases, in a state of over 1,200 zip codes.

More statistics: Our neighboring suburbs have lower populations and more square feet. Westlake has 2,054 residents per square mile, Fairview Park: 3,435 residents, Rocky River: 4,264. Cleveland, on average, has 5,107 residents per square mile.

And Lakewood? 9,426 residents per square mile. Lakewood is 5.55 square miles (<http://www.city-data.com/city/Lakewood-Ohio.html>) That means that there are a lot of us in a small amount of space. Larger families in smaller houses. More people in the grocery store.

What will happen when their children, who have been protected since March, bring Covid19 home from school?

Some final statistics: on January 5, the LCS District's dashboard listed 9 Covid cases in the schools, with 30 quarantining; these numbers include students and staff. (Some students have already been in the buildings participating in the Access Point program. <http://lakewoodobserver.com/read/2020/12/16/lakewood-city-schools-access-point-program-puts-students-and-school>)

This dashboard will tell the story in the coming weeks, along with the daily cases in our zip code, the site is updated every day at 2pm.

District Students Earn Top Regional Art Awards

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to our students from Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Tech Media Art & Design program who won highest honors among the 25 awards earned in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition held in December. LHS and West Shore students won six Gold Keys, the highest honor given, including four by senior Nola Williams-Riseng.

Lakewood students were also well-represented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels. Lakewood students won eight Silver Keys, including two by junior Inga Wilhelmy. Ten students earned Honorable Mention designations for their art.

Among Nola's four Gold Keys, one was awarded in the Art Portfolio category, which entails a series of six distinct works that communicate a single cohesive idea. Other Gold Key winners are sophomores Bee Rohrs and Lila Wright. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 96-year-old competition.

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes creative achievement in 7-12 grade students in Northeast Ohio. The young artists compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries.

This year's regional winners will be honored at a virtual awards ceremony on January 30, 2021. The regional win-

ners will be displayed in an online exhibit. Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers Dayna Hansen, Annie McQuay, Arline Olear, and Kari Sanford.

Gold Key Winners:

Bee Rohrs, Painting.

Lila Wright, Drawing & Illustration

Nola Williams-Riseng (4), Drawing & Illustration, Painting (2), Art Portfolio

Silver Key Winners:

Cameron Krizman, Design

Nicholas Mariani, Painting

Willow Rosser, Digital Art

Gabby Toms, Design

Inga Wilhelmy (2), Drawing & Illustration, Mixed Media

Lila Wright, Drawing & Illustration

Honorable Mention:

Gaby Bush, Design

Aine Fagan, Drawing & Illustration

Amalija Marich, Drawing & Illustration

Helen Roche, Drawing & Illustration

Gabby Toms, Comic Art

Audrey Warren, Drawing & Illustration

Hayley Welsh, Drawing & Illustration

Inga Wilhelmy, Drawing & Illustration

Nola Williams-Riseng, Editorial Cartoon

Holiday Decoration Winners



1st Place, 16310 Hilliard



2nd Place, Clifton Blvd.



5th Place, 17717 Hilliard



6th Place, 1516 Alameda



9th Place, 1532/1534 Alameda



10th Place, 1473 Olivewood



13th Place, 17820 Shaw



14th Place, 2057 Belle

Holiday Decoration Winners



3rd Place, 2093 Robin



4th Place, 15303 Lake Road



7th Place, 1544 Lincoln



8th Place, 12817 Franklin



11th Place, 16509 Clifton



12th Place



15th Place, 1587/1589 Cohasset

We have a Winner! But then again, aren't we all winners when so many of our friends and neighbors decorate their homes for the holidays? Of course we are. Not for individual recognition, but for us to celebrate the beauty, the work, the talents of others. A selfless act of love and sharing. Joining us each year, are **Woodstock BBQ, Melt, India Garden, West End Tavern, Root Cafe** and this year **Gordon Tower Insurance**. We really try to keep it simple and enjoyable, and use it as a way to motivate the city to get out, walk and drive around and see the amazing work of your friends and neighbors.

Each year, it is our hope--and the way we designed the contest-- to show you just enough of what is out there to get you to want to explore and share. We know the photos do not do justice to the displays,

but it does take a major step toward putting everyone at the same table. These homes are then posted for the public to vote on.

We use the public voting to narrow it down to a final 20 displays for the independent judges to come in without knowledge of how the homes placed and make the final choices. I personally did not vote this year. Tie breakers in judged voting was the number of legitimate votes in the open voting.

(Winners have until January 30th to claim prizes. Send a text to: production@lakewoodobserver.com, or call 216.407.6818 Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm. Prizes not claimed will be rolled over into the next contest)

Congratulations to all who were nominated, you put a smile on your neighbors face.

Lakewood Observer



Barry Buick Development Moves Ahead

by Jim O'Bryan

Housing, Planning & Development Committee will hold a hearing considering approval of a non-school tax increment financing proposal for apartment projects in Lakewood, at the former Spitzer and Barry Buick sites, respectively.

Council President Dan O'Malley said, "I strongly support this proposal. In addition to the first new-construction apartments in Lakewood in 40 years, we will also be requiring that 20% of these units be rented to low/middle-income families for 15 years, and requiring a Project Labor Agreement which guarantees the projects will be built by local residents and highly-skilled workers. The new resi-

dents and property values will also add tremendously to our tax base. A real win-win for Lakewood!"

O'Malley said, "This project will help satisfy our affordable housing goals in two ways: by providing dozens of new affordable units in these buildings, and by satisfying demand for high-quality apartments without displacing residents in other parts of the city."

Cynthia J Remer-Souris asked, "Is this project going out for bid? Or was a GC already awarded?"

Dan answered, "The developer JSDI, based in Columbus will be responsible for the construction specifics and selecting their own GC. This will however be a prevailing-wage project."

Lakewood Reaches 3,000 COVID-19 Cases

continued from page 1

"cure" dates back to medieval days. We have all heard the name Nostradamus, but usually when speaking of the future. What many do not realize he was also one of the great experts during the Plague. His secret for stopping it? Washing hands, clothing, surfaces and masks.

With little more than that the Bubonic Plague was slowed and killed off.

But here in the USA, it became not just a test of manhood, but a political issue in an era where political issues have become sporting events, with people yelling, "The other side sucks."

I have read a couple sobering articles this past week, one underlying the fact that the virus is mutating faster than we can vaccinate our way out of



it. And a study of Ohio State athletes that showed that 30% of them that tested positive for COVID have damage to their hearts. Even in students that showed no signs of having the virus.

We can all do better, we have to do better.

Rep. Skindell Announces State Capital Budget Funding For Area Projects

by Barbara Brisbane

State Representative Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) is pleased to announce the inclusion of funding for several local projects in the two-year state capital budget. The \$2.1 billion capital budget is designed to meet the capital needs of state property from parks to state universities and also includes \$186.6 million for local projects across the state which have strong community support. Cuyahoga County has been allotted nearly \$24 million in the budget.

Included in the capital budget was funding for three local projects in State House District 13 and several regional projects advocated by Representative Skindell. The local projects include:

- \$250,000 for the adaption reuse of the former Cove United Methodist Church Building. The city of Lakewood acquired the property and is planning to transform this beautiful structure into a multipurpose community center;
- \$300,000 for the Beck Center for the Arts for renovations and additions of its current facility; and
- \$150,000 for the Edna House for Women, which is recovery housing in Cleveland's near west side.

Several regional projects advocated by Rep. Skindell include:

- \$250,000 in funds for Cleveland Rape Crisis Centers



- \$800,000 in funds for Cleveland MetroPark Zoo
- \$250,000 in funds for Greater Cleveland Food Banks
- \$2,250,000 in funds for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- \$1,000,000 in funds for Cuyahoga County Mental Health Diversion Center

"I am thrilled to see important projects included in the Capital Budget for greater Cleveland. These projects contribute to important assets in our community, whether they are cultural, recreational, social service or economic. I will continue the hard work of securing resources that add to the economic health and well-being of our community," said Representative Skindell.

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Lakewood Cares

Rotary Foundation Awards \$68,427 In Local Grants

by Lynn Donaldson

Grants totaling \$68,427 from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation will be used to provide scholarships, encourage student achievement, fight hunger, and foster programs for community health and wellness.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River will award \$15,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and will present \$7,000 to student winners in the club's annual speech, music, and art competition.

A \$5,000 award goes to Elle's Enchanted Forest for an Inclusive Avalanche Slide and a \$5,000 grant to

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation for Giant Eagle gift cards for needy families. Lakewood/Rocky River Meals on Wheels will receive \$4,000 for meal preparation food and supplies.

Lakewood Community Services Center will receive \$3,500 to provide for emergency food for families in Lakewood, Rocky River, and Westlake, following a new delivery model, a direct outcome of the pandemic. Trials for Hope will receive funding support for economically challenged families and unsheltered men and women.

A \$ 3,427 grant to Neighborhood Family Practice (North Coast Health) will support NFP's charitable care program to provide financial assistance for low and low-moderate income

NCH patients.

Grants of \$2,500 each were awarded to LakewoodAlive to support its newly created Small Business Support Program, Lakewood H2O youth development consultant fees and supplies, St. Edward High School's "Out of this World" interdisciplinary garden, and Trinity Lutheran Church's ongoing hunger relief program.

Grants of \$2,000 each were awarded to Help Foundation (Cornucopia/Nature's Bin) for its Summer Youth Work Experiences (SY) and Pre-Employment Transitions Services (PRE-ETS) programs, Rocky River United Methodist Church's Twice Blessed Free Store to purchase winter coats for distribution and development of its new check-in system, and Youth

Challenge to support the activities of its Volunteer Committee.

GiGi's Playhouse was awarded a \$1,700 grant for two months of deep-cleaning, and Burning River Peers/The Lakewood Foundation, \$1,300 to support first responders in Greater Cleveland, encouraging mental health and wellness by fostering healthy lifestyles.

The local club was chartered in 1926. Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in more than 160 countries worldwide. Rotary, along with its partners, has reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide since its first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

Highland Ave.



Pointing to the spot where W117th ends and historic Highland Avenue begins. Stay tuned.

Lakewood Business Owner Graduates From Tri-C's Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program

by John Horton

Rachel Waggoner of Ebb & Flow Counseling in Lakewood took a step toward greater business success by completing the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C).

Waggoner is one of 26 small-business operators in the program's latest graduating class. She spent three months at Tri-C studying a specialized business and management curriculum for entrepreneurs.

Previous graduates have seen their

business outperform the broader economy while exceeding national and local averages in revenue growth and job creation.


Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is a charitable initiative to unlock the growth and job creation potential of small businesses across the United States by providing them with greater access to business education, financial capital and support services.

10,000 Small Businesses (10KSB) launched at Tri-C in Cleveland in May 2012. The alumni list for the College's

program now exceeds 700, with graduating business leaders representing a variety of industries.


Waggoner founded Ebb & Flow in 2017 to provide counseling and wellness services to the community through a holistic, progressive and caring model. It offers a variety of programs at locations in Lakewood and Cleveland.

For information on 10,000 Small Businesses, visit tri-c.edu/10ksb or call 216-987-3162. Applications are being accepted for the session beginning in September 2021.



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Knows Nose Nos:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 111

by Buzz Kompier

Brain Cave - Stuck In The Mud - Tiny God Inc. - 10 songs - cassette, digital

I believe this is my second review of Brain Cave—I know I reviewed their first tape a couple years ago. They've released a few things since then, but we'll catch back up with them here. The familiar face here is singer/guitarist Mike Bellis, who was also the bassist and then the guitarist of The Roobydocks and was the guitarist in Bulsch at some point too. Brain Cave does not sound like either of those bands. Generally speaking, I'd call it alternative rock—some of it is post-hardcore, some of it has some definite emo characteristics, there are some grunge moments, and at times they even work in some gothy moves. This kind of thing isn't generally my kind of thing, but after a few listens, this started to grow on me. My favorites were

probably "Bar Seat No. 1," "Salt Lick," and "Moved Obstacle." People for whom this is more their cup of tea will probably find a lot to like here, but even I (an idiot) enjoyed it. 3/5

(braincave.bandcamp.com)

Rubella - Barn Burners - Landfill Records - 12 songs - cassette, digital

Here's the latest from prolific local group Rubella. The email I got regarding this tape described it as 'dystopian synth pop' or something to that effect and yeah, that works for me. I think the only instruments on here are drums and synths—or perhaps I've been fooled and the drums are actually synths too. It's pretty dark stuff, I wouldn't say moody or melancholic necessarily but more edgy, sometimes menacing ("Blood Bucket" is a good example), and...I don't know. Volatile, maybe. Parts of this really remind me of Lost

Sounds, other parts I don't find dissimilar to Brainiac. Someone more into the Dark Entries kind of stuff could probably make closer comparisons, but yeah, it's a lot of synths and it's pretty heavy stuff. The lyrics are generally unhappy (a reminder that Rubella's motto is 'life in general is suffering,' which tells you all you need to know about the tone here) and the vocals, even when there's some energy behind them, sound resigned. "Razor's Edge" namedrops the Hilliard Bridge which sounded so familiar that I went and checked the lyric sheet from the last Rubella release I reviewed to see if they were repeating a song and nope, they just have multiple songs where they talk about the Hilliard Bridge. Actually, come to think of it, I think I caught the phrase 'razor's edge' somewhere on that lyric sheet as well. I guess it's good to have some themes you go back to. On the

first half, my favorite was probably "Bad Energy" and on the second half, I really liked the closing three tracks: "Flash Flood," an eerie industrial instrumental with, indeed, a flash flood warning playing over it, which genuinely did work as a scary track; "Kill Grid" continues the spooky musical theme and I have to assume Gregory (Rubella's lead member) saw those 5G kill grid posters all over Lakewood a year or two ago; and closing along the same pretty chilling lines with "Devil's Tower." Rubella have their zone that they basically keep making consistent music in, and I've gotta respect them for that. 3/5

(rubella.bandcamp.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.



JANUARY

Aries: The Ram is always the first one bolting out of the starting gate, for 2021 why don't you take up something that allows you to channel all that fire energy like kick boxing, or racing?

Taurus: 2021 says get the heck out of the Bull Pen, come out of your comfort zone, Uranus & Mars are in your sign, experiment, take a cooking class, try painting, do something different.

Gemini: The Twins are great at communication skills, use 2021 to learn a new language, go to an inter-

national party & charm everyone with your new language skills, you're always a hit.

Cancer: OK Crab, it's no secret you're super sensitive, you cry at everything, let 2021 be the year you put a lid on those emotions of yours, wean yourself from clinging to those you love.

Leo: The Jungle will survive if you take a few days off here & there for some "me time," you are after all King/Queen, 2021 is calling you to roar over to the beach for some much needed R & R.

Virgo: 2021 is screaming for the

Virgos to CHILL OUT, yeah, put your critical voice to rest, we all know you're perfect, no one will ever make the mark, so let up on your fellow human beings.

Libra: 2021 is giving you an opportunity to work on improving your organizational skills, you can do it, oh & this one may be a bit more challenging for you, 2021 says "make a decision."

Scorpio: You've heard it before, so 2021 shouldn't be a surprise for the Scorpion, put away that stinger, you've used it plenty in 2020, work on forgiveness, & set some personal goals.

Sagittarius: The Centaur is known to live big, you're a generous soul to a fault, 2021 says it's time to tighten the reins, put a little bit of all that glitters away, buckle the financial belt.

Capricorn: The Sun & Venus are lined up at the Goat's door, you're the illumined one, 2021 says take all your financial savvy & launch your own business, if you haven't already done so.

Aquarian: 2021 it's here, at last, Jupiter & Saturn are now in Aquarius, & this month Mercury has joined them there, you're the out-of-the-box creative one, try pottery or painting.

Pisces: The Fish, always swimming upstream/downstream, 2021 is the year you stand up for yourself, make this your new mantra, "What you think of me is none of my business." Do it!

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Lakewood Is Alive

Lakewood Attracting Good Neighbors In Tough Times

by Kelsey Davis

We live on a great street, with great neighbors. And it just keeps getting better. This summer we eagerly awaited the arrival of our new neighbors. Regi and Chris Strauss moved from downtown and joined the block in July. After a warm welcome of many socially distant introductions, it feels like home.

Months have passed and the seasons changed, bringing us to an undeniably different holiday season. In a true act of appreciation and gratitude for their warm welcome, Regi and Chris offered to take Christmas morning porch photos for the families on our street. Sharing her talents as a photographer, Regi used a lens that would allow her to safely photograph everyone from the sidewalk.

Chris played music, Regi shot the photos, the snow fell, and everyone smiled. It was perfect. A perfect gift to conclude 2020. A year like no



Left to right: Regina, Cooper and Chris

other, captured in time. A generous and thoughtful gesture that will carry us into a new year, feeling grateful and full of hope.

To contact Regina Strauss Photography go to:

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/reginastraussphotography>

Email: photos@reginastrauss.com



Downtown Lakewood Officially Listed In National Register Of Historic Places

continued from page 1

The district includes an area from just west of Bunts Road to midway between Hall and Ethel Avenues, Warren Road from Detroit Avenue to almost Franklin Boulevard, and a number of apartment buildings located adjacent to Detroit Avenue on side streets. Visit lakewoodalive.org/downtown-lakewood-historic-district/ to see a district map and additional information.

"We are thrilled to announce the completion of the Downtown Lakewood Historic District project which has been in the works since 2016 when the Ohio Historic Preservation Office Staff visited to determine if a district was viable," said LakewoodAlive Executive Director Ian Andrews. "This listing now unlocks state and federal historic tax credits for building owners in an effort to further support investment in our historic commercial building stock."

Owners of income producing buildings constructed in the early 1970s or earlier in the historic district are now eligible to use the federal historic tax credit program, which provides a credit equal to 20% of rehabilitation costs. In addition, the buildings are also eligible to compete for a 25% of rehabilitation tax credit through the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program.

"From my time on council to the mayor's office, I have been an ardent champion of historic preservation," said Lakewood Mayor Meghan George. "My administration is excited to see this nomination become official and we look forward to helping establish other historic districts in partnership with property owners, businesses and LakewoodAlive."

The National Register of Historic Places was created by Congress in 1966 by the National Historic Preservation Act (P.L. 89-665). It is America's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance.

The State of Ohio's Historic Preservation Office provided two grants that provided the majority of financial support to hire a consultant for this effort which is incredibly intensive. Placemark Collaborative, a Lakewood firm with extensive historic district nomination experience was hired to research and write the nomination in the summer of 2019. Following an intensive investigative and application process, they saw the nomination through to state and federal approval earlier this fall. Thanks to the City of Lakewood for its support, both from the George and Summers administrations.



Family photo of the Rostocil-Davis family by Regina Strauss

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