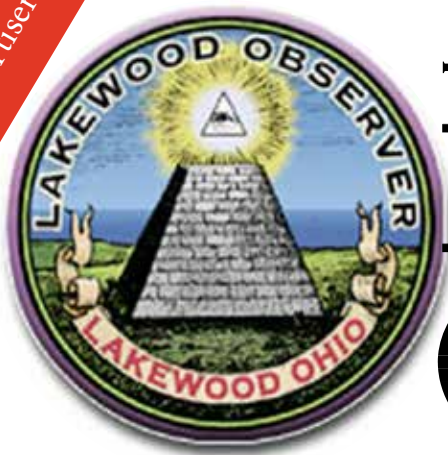


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Volume 17, Issue 2, January 20, 2021

Kindergarten Registration Now Open

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open. Students must be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2021 to be eligible to enter kindergarten. Registration information and materials can be found on the Lakewood City Schools website (www.lakewoodcityschools.org) under the Student Registration Quick Link. Registration is by

appointment only.

The online forms are accessible anywhere there is a computer with an internet connection, including home or the public library. Kiosks are also available in all elementary school buildings and the Lakewood Board of Education during the school day. The school building and Board kiosks are by appointment only. The District's goal is to have all incoming students registered for

next school year by March 31.

After collecting all required documents and completing all pre-registration forms online, you will be prompted to schedule an appointment to register your child. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact the registration secretary by email at susan.robida@lakewoodcityschools.org or call 216-529-4279.

Children attending the Lakewood City Schools' pre-kindergarten program are enrolled in the District and do not need to re-register. Kindergarten information will be given to these families.

For a more thorough review of the registration process and what you can expect from the Lakewood City Schools kindergarten program, visit the District website for its kindergarten information video in the News & Announcements area of the website.

Registration for the District's preschool program will open on Monday, January 25. Give your child the right start by choosing Lakewood School's Early Childhood Program. The program is designed to meet each student's academic, social emotional, creative, and developmental needs. All classes include Beck Center Music Therapy at no additional cost.

Ranger Alumni Speaker Series Launches Jan. 26

by Christine Gordillo

Join the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation for a virtual speaker series dubbed "Ranger Resource." The sessions will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and will feature Ranger alumni sharing their expertise in their chosen fields.

First up on January 26 is Michael Bentley ('01), Vice President of Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James. Bentley will share his advice regarding retirement planning and smart money



Michael Bentley

strategies. The 30-minute talk will be via Facebook Live on the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation Facebook page.

LCRAC Wants To Hear From YOU!

by Jon Gromek

Lakewood Residents!

You are invited to complete our first Lakewood Community Survey, which will help us, members of the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC) to better understand what our residents appreciate about our city, as well as some of the challenges that we may face.

The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission is a group of volunteer residents serving in an advisory capacity for the purpose of educating, informing, and making recommendations to City officials on matters

related to community relations in an effort to advance respect for diversity, equality, and bonds of mutuality.

On January 18th, we will be launching a community-wide survey to better understand people's experiences living and working in Lakewood. We are working with community partners and

institutions to help us get the word out, share the survey, and to encourage our community to fill it so we can better serve our city.

You can fill out the survey by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/lkwdsurvey>

Thanks! Jon Gromek
Lakewood Resident and Member, LCRAC



Tickets Are On Sale Now For Loving Lakewood: Life's A Beach

by Jacqueline Bon

Calling all Beach Bums- it's time to join LakewoodAlive for a radical, virtual event filled with sand, waves and good clean fun! LakewoodAlive will host Loving Lakewood: Life's a Beach on Saturday, February 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Guests are invited to break out beach apparel and plan for a whale of a time as we do all we can to connect with one another in a safe way. Dress up in your favorite beach attire and

drift away to a warm and beachy place during the Loving Lakewood: Life's A Beach event.

Tickets for Life's a Beach can be secured at LakewoodAlive.org/LovingLakewood.

A \$50 ticket will provide you with an exclusive link to the virtual event and your choice of a delicious meal prepared by Karen King Catering. Meal options range from grilled Cajun shrimp

continued on page 5

GV Arts Rocking The Cotton



As with most play-offs, the line at GV Arts is around the corner!

by Jim O'Bryan

GV Art & Design now the leader in fan wear (especially since Cleveland Kennel Club is not actively selling shirts) came under attack this week. (photo by Evie Starr)

The shirt shown on the right was the hottest selling shirt in Browns' fan world. So of course people ripped them off, and media and Browns outlets highlighted the bootleggers.

No matter, fans heard the outcry and the long lines around GV Arts all day prove Browns' fans know who to support and buy from.



Photo by Eva Starr

George and Gregg both LHS graduates own GV Arts.

GV Arts & Apparel
17128 Detroit Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107
216.273.7188

The Mayor's Corner

Building Momentum

by Meghan George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

We are settling into the new year but January is moving fast and so are many of the initiatives that Lakewood has been working on this month.

The Cuyahoga County Planning Commission is working on the Lakefront Public Access Plan that hopes to create more public access to the shoreline in communities like Lakewood that border Lake Erie. If you would like to be a part of the planning or see how the program could affect you and your fam-

ily, a virtual public informational meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 28th. You can visit countypanning.us for more information on the project and on joining the meeting.

We kicked off discussions about our downtown development site with CASTO, an Ohio-based developer of complex, successful urban projects, and we look forward to creating a project that fits the current and long-term needs of our community. Stay tuned for public meetings to be announced as part of this process.

Fee Reductions Available For Driver's License Reinstatements

by Danilo Powell-Lima

A new year is a good time to make a fresh start – and right now, there's good news for Ohioans who want to reinstate their driver's license and get back on the road. As of December 13, 2020, a new program from The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) can help people who have had their license suspended obtain a reinstatement. The program, called the Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program, allows eligible individuals to pay reduced reinstatement fees or receive a complete fee waiver, depending on their income.

The BMV automatically screens everyone with a suspended license for the program and sends an email or letter to those who meet eligibility criteria. Thus, there is no need to apply – but you must have a working email address or current mailing address on file with the BMV in order to be notified. To activate the program and reinstatement fee payment plan, you also must provide proof of insurance.

Program requirements are as follows:

A driver's license or permit has been suspended for one or more eligible offenses

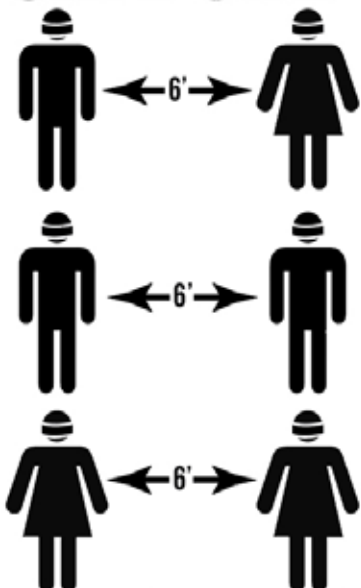
Earlier this month the Westshore Council of Governments had our first meeting of the year. This group meets monthly and consists of the mayors of Lakewood, Rocky River, Fairview Park, Westlake, Bay, and North Olmsted. This year celebrates the 50th anniversary of this collaboration between westside municipalities.

We honored the great Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his historic work concerning civil rights and social justice. Here in Lakewood, we are working every day to create a more diverse, inclusive, educational, and accepting culture for everyone. The important work of the City's Anti-racism Task Force is underway to ensure the value of anti-racism is expressed in all City objectives and initiatives.

Finally, if you are a landlord looking to improve your rental properties, check out our Rental Restoration Program that can help significantly with financing renovation projects on your properties. You can visit onelakewood.com to access the application and learn more about the program.

I am encouraged by this momentum as we move into February and the rest of 2021. Please stay safe, healthy, and positive.

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FRIDAY: NOON - 10PM

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
January 29, 2021	February 3, 2021
February 12, 2021	February 17, 2021

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Lakewood

The View From City Council

by Ward 2 Councilmember
Jason Shachner

Housing, Planning, and
Development Committee

On Monday, January 4th, the Housing, Planning, and Development Committee discussed two ordinances that would authorize the City to enter into a development agreement with the developer of the former Barry Buick and Spitzer properties JDSI as part of a 15-year tax increment financing program.

A tax increment financing program (TIF) is a financing tool available to cities that can be used to support public or private infrastructure improvements. The TIF works by allowing the increase in the assessed value of the property after the improvements are made to be exempt from real property taxes. For example, if a property is assessed at \$100,000 prior to any improvements and is then assessed at \$300,000 after the improvements, then the property owner only pays property taxes on the original \$100,000 assessment. The TIF that we are considering is a non-school TIF. This means that Lakewood’s schools would receive the full amount of property taxes that would have been payable as if no TIF existed. The TIFs would be in addition to the 15-year Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) exemptions that work like TIFs, but require the developer to make 20% of its units to be affordable.

The authorization to enter into a development agreement is the first step in implementing the TIF. City Council will have to pass the Development Agreement Ordinance, the City then must enter and exit the chain of title for the properties, and then City Council must pass the TIF Incentive Ordinances.

The City estimates that during the proposed 30-year period the City will collect \$116,779,445 in income taxes. Enacting the TIF will convert two former commercial sites into two newly constructed mixed-use properties that will collectively add 280 residential units, 3,000 square feet of commercial space, and 56 affordable

State of Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Locations				
		County	Zipcode	Last Updated:
		Cuyahoga	44107	1/17/2021
Name	Address	County	Phone	Web Site
DISCOUNT DRUG MART INC	13123 DETROIT AVE LAKEWOOD, OH 44107	Cuyahoga	(216) 529-9100	http://discount-drugmart.com
DISCOUNT DRUG MART INC	15412 DETROIT AVE LAKEWOOD, OH 44107	Cuyahoga	(216) 226-0600	http://discount-drugmart.com
Giant Eagle Pharmacy #5831	14100 Detroit Avenue Lakewood, OH 44107	Cuyahoga	(216) 226-1600	http://www.gianteagle.com/covidvaccine

housing units. The developer told the Committee that the affordable housing units will be indistinguishable from the market-rate units. In an effort to support diversity and inclusion, the developer has also agreed to use its best efforts to require 10% participation of minority business enterprises, woman business enterprises, disadvantaged business enterprises, and small business enterprises in the commercial space. The developer will also execute a Project Labor Agreement with the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council and its affiliates, which means that union labor will be used in this project, Lakewood residents will be employed during construction, and prevailing wages will be required.

The construction of these two complexes, which will be known as The View West and The View East, will be the first newly constructed apartments in decades. This will hopefully relieve some of the pressure in the rental market and make more affordable units available for rent. The Committee referred the ordinances out of committee and unanimously recommended adoption by City Council.

Beekeeping Ordinance
Passage

Earlier this year, a resident approached me about becoming a beekeeper. I learned that, although there were many beehives in Lakewood, our zoning code did not include language permitting urban beekeeping. Since that initial conversation, I have worked to develop a beekeeping ordinance to officially allow beekeeping in Lakewood and to ensure that it is practiced in a safe manner. We have received input from local beekeepers, the County apiary inspector and the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, and at our City Council meeting on December 7th, we passed the ordinance.

New Tenant for Campbell’s
Popcorn Shop Site

Lou and Al’s Pies, Slices, and Ices recently signed a 10-year lease with two 5-year options at the former Ward 2 site of Campbell’s Popcorn Shop. This new restaurant will be a “60’s inspired, counter-service New York pizzeria” that will offer a menu of pizza, slices, salads, sides, sandwiches, and Italian ices with vegan and gluten-free options. The owners, Lout Tomczak and Alison Cargilio, plan to keep it local not only for their ingredients, but also by using local talent for their branding, uniforms, and menus. Please join me in welcoming Lou and Alison to our community!

COVID-19 VACCINE
DISTRIBUTION

Who is eligible?

Phase 1B of Ohio’s distribution program begins this week. This phase specifically includes the following groups:

Week of Jan. 19: Ohioans 80 years of age and older.

Week of Jan. 25: Ohioans 75 years of age and older; those with severe congenital or developmental disorders.

Week of Feb. 1: Ohioans 70 years of age and older; employees of K-12 schools that wish to remain or return to in-person or hybrid models.

Week of Feb. 8: Ohioans 65 years of age and older.

When a new age group begins, vaccinations may not be complete for the previous age group. For example, someone in the first age group will still be able to be vaccinated once the next group begins.

How will I know when I can get
vaccinated?

If you are part of Phase 1A or 1B (or are a member of another eligible group, like law enforcement, utility worker, etc.), the Cuyahoga Board of Health will notify you when a vaccine

continued on page 7

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Foodwood

Pepper's Is Back



Joey Pinzone, new owner of Pepper's Italian Restaurant goes outside after the long awaited renovations are complete and yells, "We are open!"

by Brian Foox

Peppers is back!!! Lakewood's tiny little old world family style Italian restaurant is back and larger!

Due to the global pandemic and lock down the struggle for the new owner of Pepper's, Lakewood High Alum and U.S Marine vet Joey Pinzone has been extra tough.

Joe, husband and father of five children, will continue the long run-

ning family tradition of Pepper's delicious Italian food.

Most of the menu remains the same with daily soup and food specials. Call and make your reservation or to place a carry out or delivery order 216 226 6191. Same location, 12401 Detroit Rd in the great city of Lakewood, Ohio.

Open Tues -Sun 4-9 with a fresh new look and brand new wine bar.



One of Lakewood's romantic hot spots reopens.



Same great food, but more room for all!

Fee Reductions Available For Driver's License Reinstatements

continued from page 2

At least 18 months have passed since the end of the suspension period for at least one of the person's eligible offenses

The driver owes reinstatement fees

The driver was not enrolled previously in the program

To qualify for a complete waiver, a driver must participate in one of the following programs and submit proper documentation:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Ohio Works First
- Supplemental Security Income
- The Us Department of Affairs pension Benefit Program

Drivers are eligible for a reduction in reinstatement fees even if they are not participants in the above programs.

Those receiving a reduction must

pay 50% of the reinstatement fee owed. If reinstatement fees are owed for multiple offenses, the driver must pay either the lowest reinstatement fee owed or 10% of the total amount – whichever is greater. Any payment must be at least \$25 per month.

This BMV program is being implemented in two phases:1) license suspensions that occurred prior to 9/15/2020, and 2) those that occurred on or after 9/15/2020. The program only applies to a driver's license or permit suspension. It does not apply to a commercial driver's license or permit.

Need to find out more? Call 1-844-644-6268, or find additional information at bmv.ohio.gov

Do you need legal help related to your license suspension? Legal Aid may be able to assist you. Visit lasclev.org/contact to learn more.\



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Joey gutted the old place.

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Lakewood Cares

Supporting Bessie's Angels

by Emmie Hutchison

On Jan. 18th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Help to Others (the City of Lakewood's locally active youth service group) and LHS's Race and Diversity Club are partnering with renowned organization Bessie's Angels to host their annual day of service in honor of the date - with a COVID-19 conscious twist! High school students of all ages are encouraged to join a virtual meeting that morning, during



which club leaders, participants, and representatives from Bessie's Angels will be discussing their mission to aid in "NURTURING, educating, empowering, and providing low income housing to young women who have aged out of foster care." (1) All discourse will be followed with the beginning of the club's donation drive! With its rich history of community involvement.

H2O invites Lakewood to assist in this drive, accepting new or like-new items including:

- Cookware
- Cooking utensils
- Pot holders
- Dish towels
- Spices
- NO dishes
- Full size feminine bath/hygiene products
- New towels/washcloths
- Journals
- Pens
- New gloves, hats, and warm scarves

Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated! If you have items you would like to donate, please drop them off on Saturday, January 23rd between 10:00-noon at Lakewood High School (driveway along Franklin Blvd). After that, donations can be dropped off at the City of Lakewood's Division of Youth (12900 Madison Ave.) by appointment. Call (216)529-6045 for more information about donating.

Works Cited:
<https://www.bessiesangels.org/>



Win \$100,000 (Or 39 Other Fabulous Prizes) In The Straight From The Heart Raffle!

by Maria Estes

Community West Foundation and Cleveland Clinic Avon, Fairview, and Lutheran Hospitals are holding their annual Straight from the Heart Raffle where participants have the chance to win a Grand Prize of \$100,000! This year's raffle boasts 40 fabulous prizes including a Mercedes Benz, Sea-Doo and trip to The Greenbrier. All proceeds provide heart healthy initiatives in the community and support cardiology services within Avon, Fairview and Lutheran Hospitals.

In 2019, the Straight from the Heart raffle funded the Youth Movement Challenge which is a fun, motivational contest to help combat youth obesity by encouraging Northeast Ohio school-age children to be more active. This program awarded up to \$5,000 grants to schools for health education equipment, materials and more to help students stay active.

Youth Movement Challenge is just one of the outreach programs the Straight from the Heart raffle supports. Funds raised also support live & virtual community education classes throughout the year and has allowed the hospitals to purchase Automatic External Defibrillators for local recreation facilities, local fire departments, and the Metroparks. In addition, raffle proceeds have made local cardiac screening events as well as heart-healthy cooking classes for children possible at no cost to participants.

Don't miss out on your chance to win! For a full list of prizes and to purchase tickets, visit www.straightfromtheheartevent.org. Tickets are \$100 each or three for \$200. Winners will be announced February 26th.

Contact Community West Foundation a 440.360.7370 with questions.

Tickets Are On Sale Now For Loving Lakewood: Life's A Beach

continued from page 1

skewer, beef brisket, pulled pork to a vegan black bean burger meal. Add on a six-pack of Platform's Haze Jude or Palesner or select a refreshing bottle of wine and make it a complete night with the option of personal delivery service right to your front porch.

While enjoying your meal and beverage, tune in as we recognize some of our top volunteers, catch up with friends in private breakout rooms, join us for mobile bidding

during our live auction, take a chance with the 50/50 raffle and hear live music.

Proceeds will support LakewoodAlive's programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. While we won't be able to be together in person, we are still stoked to hang-ten with our friends and supporters. It will be a whale of a goodtime at this fin-tastic celebration of Community, Connectivity and Perseverance. After all, Life's a Beach!

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Lakewood Is Living

Independent Salon Owners Call Phenix Salon Suites Home

by Brian Miller

Phenix Salon Suites, a new and exciting concept in the beauty and salon industry, has been located in the heart of Lakewood at 15314 Detroit Avenue since late 2018. Phenix’s upscale salon and spa provides fully equipped, private suites for independent salon professionals to operate their own salon. Each salon owner runs their business independently, selects their hours, sets their pricing and sells beauty products of their choice.

The Lakewood Phenix includes over 40 independent local, salon owners who provide a variety of services including hair, nails, skin, lashes, barbering and teeth whitening. Each of the salons inside the Phenix location is a private suite allowing for built in social distancing and one-on-one service. Phenix found Lakewood to be a desirable loca-

tion because of its creative energy, walkable neighborhoods, business friendly environment and central location in the Cleveland area.

The Phenix Salon building was selected because it’s in the heart of downtown Lakewood and offers ample off-street parking. Its location provides great visibility for customers and convenience for the salon owners. Feedback has been very positive from the salon owners and their customers, and Lakewood residents have been welcoming and supportive of the local business owners located in Phenix.

Most of the salons operate by appointment but same day appointments can often be accommodated. The best way to learn about the various services and salon owners is to visit the Phenix website at www.phenixsalonslakewood.com. Online booking is available for many of the salons.



15314 Detroit Avenue



The Birds And The Trees

by Nicole Nazario

Yesterday on my walk home I stopped to rest at the roots of a tree. I looked up and saw the branches of three other trees spread out in the sky in front of me. I was staring at them for a while wondering why it was so soothing for me to be held by their presence.

I then recognized the structure before me. The branches are like the nervous and circulatory systems. I pictured the brain looking at the brain. The birds that come and perch themselves on the branches are like thoughts that arrive in the mind. The birds that fly away are like thoughts that go as they once came: A mind observing its own

structure and patterns outside of itself.

Nature outside is reflecting the nature within this human body I call home.

There is something soothing about looking at tree branches, observing the birds that come, that stay, that go until the branches are left bare. There is something soothing about observing the mind like I do the trees; the thoughts that come, that stay, that go until the quiet sets in.

It is soothing to see myself in the trees and through their presence, feel my own.

Nicole Nazario is a fellow human who has found the practice of yoga and sharing it with others supportive for life.

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Lakewood Is Alive

Citizen Map-Makers Invited To Join Redistricting Process

by Trudy Hutchinson

The perfect project awaits a civic minded technology buff who is able to redraw Ohio's state legislative district and congressional district maps. In 2015 and 2018, Ohio voters passed two state constitutional amendments that established rules that are designed to make a fair redistricting process more likely for the decade beginning 2021.

The current congressional district map of Northeast Ohio is often described as "the snake on the lake." That map joins the City of Toledo to the western suburbs of Cuyahoga County and includes part of the City of Cleveland. This map would not meet the criteria approved by the voters in Article XIX of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

The Constitutional criteria for the drawing of both types of maps is specific. The criteria requires "contiguity" and "compactness" which means that the new maps must honor established county, municipal or township boundaries. The criteria also consid-

ers existing population density to avoid fragmentation of neighborhoods, towns and cities. This strong language is intended to prevent gerrymandering and allow voters to cast ballots in congressional and state legislative districts that are drawn so that communities of interest are kept together.

Approval of a 10-year map requires bipartisan agreement. The approval process begins early this year and requires public hearings to be held after introduction of the proposed maps and before adoption of the final maps. Maps produced by citizens can be presented during testimony at a public hearing, can be circulated to members of the Redistricting Commission and can be submitted to a member of the Ohio Legislature where the vote to adopt the map will be taken.

Citizen map makers can contact All On The Line (<https://www.allontheline.org>) for more information. Individuals who would like to be involved in the fight for fair maps are also invited to join All On The Line.

The View From City Council

continued from page 3

is available if you complete the following form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftfqyyGgMPDWQlQKeSC7eIGzAkVkgNNDc0jt0BXAlXIzoWjw/viewform>

Where can I get the vaccine?

Two good ways to find a provider are via the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) website (<https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>) and the Cuyahoga Board of Health (CBH) website (<https://www.ccbh.net/covid-19-phase-1b-provider-list/>). You must directly contact the provider of your choice from these lists to schedule a vaccine appointment.

Per both the ODH and CBH websites, as of January 17, 2021, the following providers are available in Lakewood:

Please note that those eligible to receive the vaccine are NOT limited to specific providers based on location. In addition to the providers in Lakewood, there are approximately 90 providers in Cuyahoga County, including the major hospital systems (Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, University Hospitals), as well as pharmacies and other providers in neighboring cities. Please make sure to check for the ODH and CBH websites for updates, as provider information may change.

What is the COVID-19 Vaccine and should I get it?

There are currently two vaccines that have received emergency use authorization from the FDA: Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. Both vaccines involve two injections, given 21 (Pfizer) and 28 (Moderna) days apart. I found the following articles helpful in explaining how the vaccines work, who should get the vaccine (e.g., children? pregnant women? people with prior infection?), and what you can expect after each dose: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-vaccine/art-20484859> and <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/health/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine.html>. I am encouraged that the vaccines are becoming available to the public, and I plan to get vaccinated as soon as I am eligible.



A bus stop in Washington D.C. January 16. photo by our Observer in D.C Nadhal Eadeh.

The Epiphany: January 6, 2021

by Jean Brinich

The wise men did not come to this one.
They stayed home.
It was as if hell had released a swarm of madmen (mostly)
And they would not be stopped until they had trespassed
And trampled
And beaten
And stolen
Killed
They took away our innocence
Our trust that
Respect for this holy place
Would prevail and prevent pandemonium.
It did not.
And now we are left
Shaken
Supremely saddened
And wondering
Why was it allowed to come to this?
How many times did we say,
“If anyone else said that, they couldn’t get away with it!”?
Shame on all of us
And especially on you
Who was guided by self promotion
Rather than love for your country.

Jean Brinich is a retired Family Nurse Practitioner who spent her very early years and a few later years, so far, in Lakewood.

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