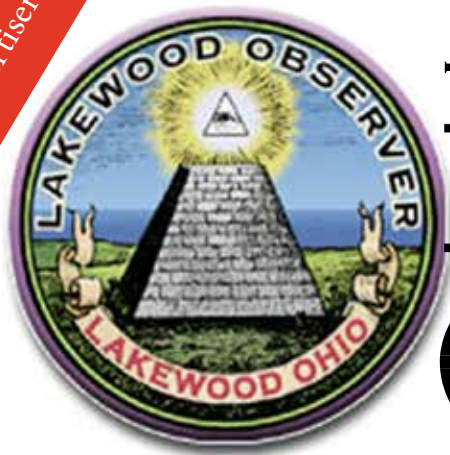


Free - Take One!  
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 17, Issue 3, February 3, 2021

**"Wear a mask!" - Dr. Fauci**  
Yale's top quote of 2020

## Councilwoman Tess Neff Announces Candidacy For Lakewood Judge

by Tess Neff

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce my candidacy for Judge of the Lakewood Municipal Court. Lakewood has been my home for over 32 years, and it is where my husband Rich and I raised our three children. I am deeply invested in our great community. Over the years, I have engaged in several civic opportunities such as the Lakewood Preschool PTA, serving on both the Lakewood YMCA Board and Beck Center for the Arts Community Engagement Committee and most recently, proudly serving on Lakewood City Council representing Ward 1.



Councilwoman Tess Neff is a candidate for Judge of the Lakewood Municipal Court.

My extensive public service makes me uniquely qualified to serve as the Lakewood

Judge. As a magistrate for 10 years in the Lakewood Municipal Court and 12 years in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Juvenile Division Court I have made many difficult and important judicial decisions on criminal and civil cases that directly impact individuals' lives. Like a judge, a magistrate must apply the law, consider community safety and victims' rights, all while ensuring equal and fair treatment to the individuals appearing in court.

In addition to my magistrate experience, I understand the operations of running a

continued on page 3



## COVID-19 AND YOU IN OHIO

Location	Cases	Deaths	Vaccinated
Lakewood	3,506	?	?
Ohio	902,736	11,336	882,336
USA	27,027,347	457,856	49,936,450
Earth	104,391,187	2,262,733	101,000,000

by Jim O'Bryan

**This block will only address COVID FACTS and Covid news that matters.**

For vaccines go to [cbch.net](http://cbch.net) and register today!

While the 3 vaccines now available have different efficacy rates, ALL OF THEM protect everyone from serious illness and or death.

### Get Vaccinated

The biggest news in COVID after vaccines would be the 3 new strains. As the virus multiplies it throws off variations, most do not affect the virus, some make it weaker, some make it stronger.

**UK Strain** - More transmissible by as much as 70%. Hence more potential hospitalizations and death. Vaccine works.

Currently in Ohio.

**South African Strain** - More transmissible, May reinfect people thought to be immune. Vaccine 60% effective.

Not in Ohio yet.

**Brazil Strain** - More severe, easy to transmit, and can reinfect those that already had COVID-19. Vaccine 60% effective.

Not in Ohio yet.

Wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands is still needed and very effective.

**We can beat this together!**

## Lakewood Announces New Resources In Small Business COVID-19 Assistance Grants

From Press Release

**More than \$216,000 in new funds available**

The City of Lakewood has expanded its popular Small Business COVID-19 Assistance Grant Program with new funding available. Applications can be found at <http://www.onelakewood.com/rent-relief-program/>.

Mayor Meghan George said, "We initially created this program to get these desperately needed funds out to our small businesses in an efficient and useful way. Now, we are very excited that this program is expanding to include even more small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19. Small businesses are the

backbone of Lakewood's economy, and we hope that these funds will lessen the undeniable toll that these last eleven months have taken."

The City of Lakewood's Small Business COVID Assistance Grant Program, which provides emergency assistance to eligible Lakewood small businesses that have experienced a reduction in revenue as a result of the current public health emergency, includes businesses with fifty (50) or fewer employees that commit to retaining at least one (1) full time equivalent (FTE or 40 hours) employee as long as the FTE position pays \$42,600 or less per year. The City of Lakewood will make \$216,475 available for this round of small business grants. Assistance is up to \$7,000 per business to cover rent and eligible payroll expenses. Businesses who own their building can apply for payroll support only.

Applications will be accepted until all funds have

continued on page 2

## Lakewood Kiwanis Offering Scholarships To 2021 Graduating Seniors

by Anna Bacho

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is proud to be offering its 2021 scholarship program to graduating high school seniors. The club's foundation will award eight \$10,000 scholarships, \$2500 per year for 4 years each. Edward Hadaway, Kiwanis scholarship committee chairman said "eligible applicants can be students at any high school, but must be a resident of Lakewood. They must demonstrate academic success

in high school and must have applied to one or more specific colleges or universities. Winners will be chosen based on need for financial assistance; community involvement and service; the qualities of leadership, honesty, loyalty, diligence and participation in extracurricular activities." Applications and contact information is online at Lakewood Kiwanis. Please submit by April 1, 20. Kiwanis serving Lakewood youth.

## HLF Healthy Lakewood Foundation Announces Four New Grants

by Kate Ingersoll

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) board of directors recently approved four new grants that represent a continuation of its commitment to meeting community needs stemming from the COVID-19 crisis. They are:

**\$4,000 to the Barton Senior Center** for an internet connectivity pilot for senior residents of the Westerly apartments;

**\$35,000 to Lakewood Community Services Center** for food assistance for Lakewood residents for the period of February through June 2021;

**\$25,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland** for services and outreach to Lakewood residents; and

**\$25,000 to the YMCA of Greater Cleveland** to support capacity to provide school-day

care for Lakewood's elementary school-age children while learning is remote or hybrid for the period of January through March 2021

"Although we've been living with COVID-19 for almost a year, the pandemic's devastating effects have only become more acute for many," said HLF President Jeanine Gergel. "Many people have lost jobs or income, and we know some residents are struggling with food insecurity. Some are also worried about having their utilities shut off or being evicted."

In addition to continuing its commitment to help meet residents' basic needs, the HLF board of directors has also kept in mind the needs faced by particularly vulnerable populations, including fami-

continued on page 7

# The Mayor's Corner

## Major Projects Underway

by Meghan George

February is here and the City of Lakewood has been busy implementing many exciting projects to get 2021 off to a fast start.

**Improvements to Kaufmann Park**, one of Lakewood's largest green spaces, have been approved by City Council and are expected to begin later this year. Updates will include a water main extension that will clear up sediment in the park's faucets, replacing outdated playground equipment, and the addition of an extensive new walking trail on the west side of the park.

We have made progress on several

large development projects in Lakewood. Residential projects at the former Barry Buick and Spitzer Chrysler sites will be called The View West and The View East, respectively. Each project will contain a commercial first floor component and affordable housing commitments from the developer, Jerome Solove Development Inc. In total, these two projects will bring 280 new residential units to the City of Lakewood.

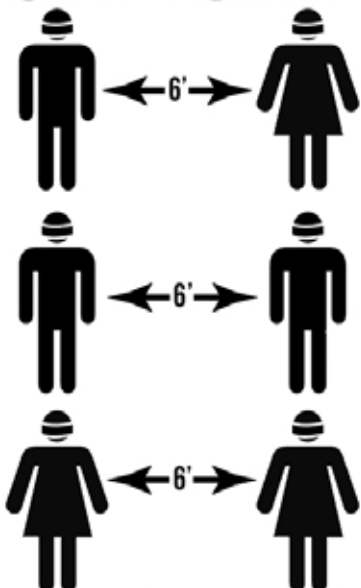
Another major project getting back underway after delays in 2020 is the downtown redevelopment at the corner of Belle and Detroit Avenues. The City's Department of Planning &

Development staff has been engaged in discussions with CASTO, our new development partner, to envision a project that will be the right fit for Lakewood today and for decades to come. We are eager to begin the community engagement process to hear from residents and businesses about what they want to see in this new design so please stay tuned for announcements of those virtual meetings.

I am incredibly excited about the direction that Lakewood is taking in 2021 and for all the projects we will be implementing this year.

Remember to stay safe and healthy.

ARE YOU  
PRACTICING  
SAFE SIX?



MASKING  
For A Friend



## Lakewood Announces New Resources In Small Business COVID-19 Assistance Grants

**continued from page 1**

been awarded. The City of Lakewood reserves the right to request additional documentation, change their requirements, and/or deny assistance. Assistance is not guaranteed.

Shawn Leininger, Director of Planning & Development for the City of Lakewood, said, "The expansion of this program clearly demonstrates Lakewood's commitment to lessening the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on our small businesses. We have seen significant success with these funds to date and we know that this round will be crucial to so many business owners who continue to fight the financial impacts of the pandemic. Lakewood, once again, has set a high standard for the way a small government responds to the needs of its citizens. Our team and our partners at LakewoodAlive will continue to make sure that these funds reach their recipients as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Mayor George added, "We had hoped that by this time, the pandemic would be winding down and our local businesses would be starting to bounce back from its impact. Unfortunately, we are still in the middle of this once-in-a-lifetime crisis, but, amazingly, so many of our small businesses have been able to maneuver through this. We couldn't be more proud of them, and so my administration is willing to do whatever is necessary to help. I want to thank LakewoodAlive and the Lakewood Chamber

of Commerce for their support of this initiative."

**Qualifying businesses must have the following criteria:**

**The Business Must:**

- Be physically located in the City of Lakewood
- Be in good standing with the City of Lakewood (i.e. no tax delinquencies)
- Have been established prior to March 22, 2020
- Employ fifty or fewer employees, including the business owner (1099/contact employees are not eligible)
- Rent or own a retail or commercial space (home based businesses are not eligible)
- Provide financial documentation
- Have a DUNS number

**The Business Owner Must:**

- Commit to retaining at least one (1) FTE equivalent position meeting HUD's income requirements
- Have been current with rent or mortgage prior to April 1, 2020
- Provide certified payroll sheets for all business employees (April 1st forward)

Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive, said, "Our partnership with Mayor George, Shawn Leininger, and the City of Lakewood for this program is such a significant step towards resolving the huge burden that COVID-19 has left on our citizens and businesses. There's no denying that our community has been particularly susceptible to the most devastating effects of this past year's

shutdowns and regulations, so we are doing everything in our power to help our community's small businesses get through this process and become more prosperous than ever before."

For more information on the Small Business Rent Relief grant program and other Business Emergency Resources, visit <http://www.onelakewood.com/covid19businessresources/>. For assistance with your application, contact LakewoodAlive at [iandrews@lakewoodalive.org](mailto:iandrews@lakewoodalive.org) or contact the Planning & Development Department via email at [planning@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:planning@lakewoodoh.net)

AROUND THE

Lakewood's  
Best Patio  
To Party On!

Book your  
fundraisers and  
special events  
With Us!

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

18616 Detroit Avenue  
216.521.4413 • [www.atccafe.com](http://www.atccafe.com)

CORNER  
DRINKERY  
PUNNERY



THE  
LAKEWOOD  
OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

Published twice a month with a current circulation of 10,000+ copies. The paper is made available free of charge and can be found at over 130 business locations within the City of Lakewood and on our website. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff. Copyright 2021 • AGS/The Lakewood Observer, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

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

Become an Observer!

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

Upcoming Submission Deadline  
January 29, 2021  
February 26, 2021

Publish Date  
February 3, 2021  
March 3, 2021

[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)  
216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531  
PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

 Lakewood Observer

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

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

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

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Jim O'Bryan, Greg Orosz

PHOTOGRAPHY - Christine Gordillo, Larry Faulhaber, Tommy Karakostas, and Jim O'Bryan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Senator Nickie Antonio, Anna Bacho, Jacqueline Bon, Larry Faulhaber, Aubrey Fox, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Laurie Henrichsen, Kate Ingersoll, Benjamin Justice, Nicole Nazario, Tess Neff, Debra O'Bryan, Jim O'Bryan, Jason Shachner, Eva Starr, and Betsy Voinovich

# Lakewood Government

## The View From Lakewood City Council

by Ward 2 Councilmember

Jason Shachner  
January 19th City Council Meeting Rundown

At our Council meeting January 19th, longtime Lakewood resident Sean McDermott was appointed to the Planning Commission for a five-year term by a unanimous vote. Mr. McDermott earned his Masters of Urban Planning, Design, and Development at Cleveland State University and is a registered professional engineer. He is currently the Chief Planning and Design Officer for the Cleveland Metroparks where he plays an instrumental role in the design

and construction of projects throughout the Cleveland Metroparks and Cleveland Zoo. Council was impressed with Mr. McDermott’s credentials and contributions to our City. Mr. McDermott is an excellent addition to the Planning Commission and I thank him for his service to our community. City Council unanimously passed a resolution that would authorize the City to enter and exit the chain of title of the former Barry Buick and Spitzer Chrysler sites. This step is required by statute to establish the tax increment financing incentives (TIF) for the development of these two locations. The next and final

step would be passing the ordinances establishing the TIFs. For more details about this project, please see Issue #37 of the View from Ward 2. The County intends to replace the Hilliard Blvd Bridge in 2023. At our meeting, City Engineer Mark Papke requested that Council approve the agreement that will allow this project to proceed. The County is the lead on this project and will fund most of the project. This project will be discussed further at a future Public Works & Sustainability Committee meeting. Council passed a resolution proclaiming January 2021 as Firefighter

Cancer Awareness Month. Fire Chief Tim Dunphy presented this resolution and shared with Council that firefighters are at a significantly higher risk of contracting cancer than the general public. The Lakewood Fire Department will be focusing its training and education this month on the importance of cancer awareness in the fire service. Jason Shachner is the Ward 2 Lakewood City Councilmember. He is currently serving as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Lake County Prosecutor's Offices' Criminal Division. He can be reached at Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net or at (216) 714-2150.



### Rotary Club Of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Books For Kids Project Is A Big Success Over Four Thousand Books Donated To Book Bank

by Larry Faulhaber

The Citizens of Rocky River and visitors to the Umerley Hall Books for Kids Donation Bin have generously supported this Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Project. The photo above shows just one of the twice-a-month pick-up of books from the Bin. Club members, Patty Boesken, Carol Barrett and Club President, Eric Jolly are shown unloading the Bin for delivery to the Book Bank in Ohio City. The Book Bank reports that over 4,000 books have been collected from the Bin since its installation by Civic Center staff in August 2019. The Books for Kids project is a national program that was established in 1986. It is founded on the belief all children have a right to books and deserve dedicated spaces where they can read. The project is designed to expand access to books in the places where children learn, live, and play, and to empower adults to read alongside them in order to develop lifelong literacy skills during the most critical years of their development. The Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank mission is to foster literacy and a love of reading by distributing free books to

children in need through collaboration with community organizations. The Kids’ Book Bank opened in February 2016 to receive, manage, and distribute truckloads of books every month. About 30% of their books come from the community. The rest come from online used booksellers. The Rocky River Kids’ Book Bank outdoor collection bin, just one of several around the Cleveland, provides a place where community members can deposit new and gently-used children’s books that they are no longer using. The Book Bank distributes the donated books through over 1,000 partner organizations who work with children and parents to encourage them to read. The Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary appreciates the continued support of Rocky River Mayor Pam Bobst, who arranged for the Bin installation and promoted book donations for this worthwhile project. The staff at Rocky River Civic Center, Mike Balla and Bob Holub, selected a location and arranged for the installation of a pad for the Kids’ Book Bank collection bin. It is located on the Memorial Hall side of the Don Umerley Civic Center, on the way to the Rec Center entrance.

### Councilwoman Tess Neff Announces Candidacy For Lakewood Judge

continued from page 1

large court. This is essential in a single judge court like Lakewood. In September 2015, I was unanimously appointed by the six judges of the Juvenile Court to serve as the Court Administrator and since have held that position. I believe the appointment is reflective of my strong work ethic, integrity, reputation for treating individuals with respect and dignity, and my ability to solve complex issues. Some of my current responsibilities include overseeing court operations, a budget exceeding \$50 million, and managing approximately 550 employees. I will bring all these critical skills and essential experience to the Lakewood Court if elected to the position on November 9, 2021. In November 2019, I was honored when the residents of Ward 1 elected me to serve and represent them on Lakewood City Council. My experience on city council has allowed me to more fully understand the needs and struggles of our community. Raised in a low-income family, I have experienced some of the challenges our own residents face. I overcame those struggles by working hard and was the first

in my family to go to college, and upon graduation became a police officer for three years in Houston, Texas. Serving the residents of Lakewood is a privilege and one that I would be honored to continue doing for many more years. It is a commitment I take very seriously because I care about our community. The Lakewood Judge seat is being vacated at the end of 2021. This has presented an opportunity to continue my public service as the leader of the Lakewood Court. The position requires an individual not only with robust skills and experience, but someone with a demonstrated judicial disposition. I pride myself on treating all people with respect, applying the law equally, and ensuring everyone has a voice. My well-rounded legal career as a practicing attorney, police officer, magistrate, court administrator and councilwoman, all required skills that will be directly applicable if I am elected the first woman judge in Lakewood. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the community in a judicial capacity.



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

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

Lakewood Education

Levy Commitments Status Check: Complete

by Christine Gordillo

This past April, our community resoundingly passed an operations levy for Lakewood City Schools with nearly 77% support of voters. During the levy campaign, the District shared with the community what its priorities would be for the new funds provided. Below is an update on where the District stands in regards to commitments promised:

**Expanding** mental health services and counseling for students

**Hired** five Student Wellness and Success Specialists that are working in all of our elementary buildings

**Expanded** our partnership with the Cleveland Clinic for mobile mental health supports

**Assigned** a social worker and social worker-in-residence at LHS, provided through Cleveland Clinic

**Continue** to have an adolescent psychiatrist available one day per week through at the Cleveland Clinic Medical Clinic at LHS.

**Created** a Student Navigator position in partnership with Cleveland



The District elementary schools now all have makerspaces, such as this one at Lincoln Elementary.

Clinic and a grant from the Three Arches Foundation to assist with risk assessments and transitioning students from mental health hospitalization.

**District** now has 1 full time mental health therapist through partnership with Bellefaire and the Three Arches Foundation

space initiative at each elementary school

**Keeping** educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date

**Implemented** 1:1 device initiative grades K-12

**Expanding** career-technical educational opportunities

**Added** exercise science as a program

**Expanding** early childhood education for our community’s youngest learners

**Launched** all-day preschool at the Taft Center for Innovation including before and after care

**Protecting** our community’s investment by keeping all of our buildings, athletic fields, vehicles, and other assets in good condition

**Completed** renovation of former Taft Elementary building

**Replaced** the turf field at First Federal Lakewood Stadium

The District is proud of what has been accomplished toward meeting its goals as laid out during our campaign, especially during a time when much of the staff’s collective energy has been focused on teaching and learning during a pandemic. Lakewood City Schools is grateful for the community’s continued generosity and support.

**Retaining** and recruiting high-quality teachers by paying them competitive salaries

**Hired** additional certified teachers to assist with remote learning at the K-5 level as well as an intervention specialist

**Expanding** STEM classes and keep learning materials up-to-date

**Require** STEM classes using the Project Lead the Way curriculum each year (grades 6,7,8) at both Garfield and Harding Middle Schools

**Continue** to build on the maker-

Continental Mathematics League Honors Local Young Mathematicians

by Aubrey Fox

Continental Mathematics League holds five meets per year that students can participate in from school or home. Students are given 30 minutes to answer six questions aimed at furthering students’ progress in the art of problem solving.

After the third test was completed this week, local Birchwood School students achieved the highest honors. Many maintain a perfect score through all three tests.

**Gold medal winners:**

Jonathan Samulak (6th grade of Cleveland)

Eric Velez (6th grade of Cleveland)

Jacob Gao (6th grade of Westlake)

Joshua Gordon (6th grade of Bay Village) Perfect score!\

Ted Alten (6th grade of Avon Lake)

Manya Raina (6th grade of Brecksville) Perfect score!

Shreeyans Bhavaraju (8th grade of North Royalton)

Manan Raina (8th grade of Brecksville) Perfect score!

Chloe Leng (8th grade of Hinkley)

**Reyna Uechi (8th grade of Lakewood)**

Their teacher and coach, Nicole Gregory, responded to these results



Reyna Uechi

saying, “We are so thrilled at the improvement and growth that the students have radiated so far! We have had some students score a Gold (6/6), Silver (5/6), or a Bronze (4/6) for the first time and quite a few students are on their way to earn a perfect score for the year. It is so wonderful to see the students get so excited!”

Birchwood School looks forward to applying their student’s hard work to the upcoming fourth and fifth tests.

Birchwood School of Hawken is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. birchwoodschool.org

NFPA And State Farm Announce Grants For Wildfire Preparedness Projects

by Benjamin Justice

Wildfires burn twice as much land area each year as they did 40 years ago, and the threat continues to increase (even in Ohio). State Farm is committed to helping communities prepare for and reduce their risk of wildfire damage. That is why for the eighth year in a row, State Farm is sponsoring National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on May 1, 2021.

State Farm will be providing funding for 150 projects in the amount of \$500 each to cover expenses related to individual grassroots efforts. Activities can be coordinated by anyone (individuals, a small group, an entire neighborhood or a community-based organization) working to reduce wildfire risk, advance general wildfire preparedness, or minimize post-fire impacts from a recent wildfire.

Applications are now open for the grants.

Preparedness Day gives people of all ages a chance to plan and participate in a risk reduction or wildfire preparedness activity that makes their community a safer place to live. Communities, nonprofits, local firefighter groups, and individuals are all encouraged to submit an application with their ideas for reducing the threat of wildfires in their areas.

Project applications are now open for the grants and can be submitted through February 26, 2021.

To download your application and for more information about Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, funding awards, project ideas and free resources to download, please visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>

LHS Junior Runner-Up In Racial Justice Essay Contest

continued from page 5

through continuous struggle.” To seek real change, we must destroy racism at its core. By offering equal opportunities for everyone we can begin to stop inequality. By providing affordable housing, free health care, access to food and equal education we can create more opportunities for marginalized people. By making discrimination in the workplace, and at school, and in politics, and in law enforcement completely unacceptable we can put an end to injustice.

By removing policies that antagonize, destabilize and create disparities in oppressed communities we can begin to conquer inequity. And by getting rid of racist beliefs we can move away from discriminatory societal trends until they are gone forever. Through continuous struggle, we can dictate racism instead of letting it dictate us. By taking steps towards undermining racism’s core philosophies, we can begin to eliminate racism forever.

Enhance your rental experience!

Welcome to Madison Square Garden Apartments where our complex provides luxury suites of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom(s) with **PRIVATE OFF ROAD PARKING**. Each available suite has been renovated with new appliances and finishing’s throughout.

We are conveniently located on the 134th block of Madison Avenue.

For a quality rental living experience, call Tony Anthony at 216.228.1056 ext. 117.

# Lakewood Education

## District Furthers Commitment to Equity, Inclusion

by Christine Gordillo

Last fall the District began its initial efforts in addressing the racial inequities and biases that exist in the District in the wake of this past summer’s tragic events that spurred a sense of urgency around the country to address systemic racism. In response, the District has formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force comprised of staff members across all

buildings to examine where and how the District must address deficiencies that create barriers for some students to achieve their full potential.

The District DEI task force has been meeting monthly since October and staff members throughout the District have also been addressing the issue on their own initiative. Much of the DEI committee work is being done in subgroups in order for staff to

dig deep in different areas. Subgroups include: special education identification; discipline practices; gifted/advanced classes; leading elementary conversations; engaging students in leadership/clubs and in cultural competence and critical consciousness; engaging families; engaging/training staff; and hiring practices.

The work is already having an impact. Building on the Board of Education’s resolution passed in August urging the Ohio Department of Education to revise current core content standards to be more inclusive, Lakewood High beginning next school year will offer African American and Native American history electives that will allow teachers to more adequately explore contributions of Americans of all cultures and races.

Professional learning sessions focused on anti-racism have been taking place at some buildings as well. At the high school, several sessions have been held with more planned for the remainder of the school year. The entire LHS staff participates in these sessions that focus on honest conversation, exchanging ideas about the structural/institutional barriers facing students, and how LHS can create a more equitable, inclusive environment

for its students. The work at the high school has caught the attention of the State Superintendent’s office and has led to an invitation for Lakewood High representatives to be included in Supt. Paolo DeMaria’s new advisory committee formed to learn about and support Ohio districts’ efforts around equity and inclusion.

On the district level, Lakewood City Schools is participating in an equity audit as part of a project sponsored by the Educational Resource Center of Northeast Ohio. The audit is underway and will examine every aspect of district operations to reveal where improvement is needed in terms of racial equity. Staff members have also formed Communities of Practice to address issues at their building level.

Superintendent Mike Barnes views the District’s DEI efforts as critical to the District’s mission of graduating students who are career and college ready. “We are committed to identifying and removing existing barriers, developing cultural competence and critical consciousness in students and staff, and ensuring equity so that our Vision of a Graduate is achievable for all students.”

## LHS Junior Runner-Up In Racial Justice Essay Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Lakewood High junior Miles Watts, who captured second place in the junior/senior category in Tri-C’s Stand for Racial Justice High School Essay Contest. More than 200 students from across Northeast Ohio entered the contest. The second-place honor earns Miles a cash prize of \$500.

**Read Miles’ essay below:**

Racism isn’t just one thing, it is a combination of philosophies. When broken down racism is inequality, an imbalance of opportunities. Racism is an unjust and unfair treatment of minority groups. Racism is years of policies that were put in place to keep society in a state of imbalance and this is the sole reason there are such inequities. The core philosophies of racism strengthen one another. They mix and meld to form a construct. It is through the combination of these ideas that true racism is born, a seemingly unbreakable cycle of discrimination that many people ignore. We cannot let this happen any longer, and we cannot stand by and watch as good people suffer. Something must be done.

How do we address racism? By breaking the cycle. We need to be conscious of racism, we need to be aware that racism happens all around us. Many people (who are not its victims) ignore racism and choose to be ignorant because racism does not affect them personally. We need to make antiracism the new normal; switching from just disagreeing with racism to being actively antiracist in our everyday lives. We need to teach and portray tolerance and inclusivity, acknowledging and



Miles Watts

accepting one another’s backgrounds and differences. We greatly affect those around us, especially those younger than us. Being a role model by having an attitude of tolerance and acceptance can instill positive ideas into young minds. Including everyone can help diverse groups of people become accepting of one another’s differences, this can eliminate racist ideas that come naturally and can start a trend of acceptance in society. We need to use our privilege to spread awareness – staying silent only adds to the problem and can be taken as agreement. We can also use our influence (such as being a teacher, parent, politician) to spread awareness and promote positive behavior to those who support us.

What exactly should we do about racism? Martin Luther King Jr. once stated that “Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes

**continued on page 4**

### Roman Fountain

Pizza & Subs

**ORDER ONLINE @ ROMANFOUNTAIN.COM**

Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzeria in Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzone, stromboli, subs, pasta, wings, and salads.

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

At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites:

• Pizza	• Subs
• Calzones	• Wings
• Stromboli	• Appetizers
• Salads	• Desserts
• Pasta	• Dinners

To see our menu or coupons please go to [www.romanfountain.com](http://www.romanfountain.com)  
Or stop by at  
15603 Detroit Ave  
Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633

## Ready For All Your Family's Dental Needs

**LAKESWOOD DENTAL GROUP**  
216-221-0300  
17117

### 5 Great Reasons To Call Us

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

**WE ACCEPT MOST FORMS OF INSURANCE INCLUDING MEDICAID.**

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

Foodwood®

# Madison Take Out - MTO Goes In A Delicious New Direction



From left to right: Geo, Guayo, Mia, Jesus and Marlon

by Jim O'Bryan

About 6 months ago, lawyer Steve Trapp opened Madison Take Out, aka MTO, at 13359 Madison Avenue. The original idea was to serve the best and freshest food that Steve loved and that kept him going all day: smoothies, tuna, high energy salads and more. It was the perfect pastime for a lawyer who was sitting with courts in recess as they sorted out COVID protocols which even closed the courts for a couple months. Then the legal business took off, and Steve had two businesses pulling him in different directions. For the past month the restaurant has been closed except for an occasional weekend.

That has now changed. MTO is doing guest chefs and catering on the

weekend. Out of the box are two chefs from a couple well-known establishments in town, with other members of the family, the 502 group, also in the business helping out. They are putting out the freshest Guatemalan food on the Westside. MTO-502 have come together to see how this unique but tasty food catches on in a town that is quickly becoming the United Nations for foods. From my point of view, any new taste is a good taste. Lakewood has an incredible collection of restaurants now, and four more opening soon. Lakewood, I mean Foodwood, is becoming a little Toronto for diversity in dining.

Currently MTO-502 are only trying their menu on weekends.



Shrimp Ceviche, Green Aguachile Shrimp, Tacos de Carne Azada and Tacos de Cerdo al Horno.



Mural on the wall of TOST, Lakewood's newest restaurant and food establishment

# TOST Finally Opens On Madison Avenue

by Jim O'Bryan

In a year that has been extremely hard on businesses and restaurants, Tommy Karakostas, owner of Greek Village Grille, also on Madison, has not only stayed open, but donated heavily to charities and now finally opens his pet project down the street: "Tost a sandwich cafe," a new deli cafe.

When asked to describe the concept Tommy said, "My new venture will be featuring all panini-pressed sandwiches, fresh made side dishes, fresh green salads, deli meats and cheeses."

Those of us familiar with Greek Village Grille already know that Tommy knows how to rock the menu and keep people happy and well-fed. And those that have taken the time to talk with the people behind the biggest Gyros on the Food Channel also knows he doesn't stop where most do.

He goes on to say, "We will have lots of homemade desserts and pastries. As well also some great new coffees:



Just finishing up stocking all the shelves.

Freddo, Cappuccino, Frappe, Greek coffee and many flavors of American coffee and teas."

Hey Tommy, is that all? "Finally, we will have a small market area for some of your favorite things and munchies."

Tost is hiring this week for all positions, so stop on in or email [tost-sandwichcafe@gmail.com](mailto:tost-sandwichcafe@gmail.com). 13427 Madison Avenue.

Stop by and check it out. You know how good Greek Village is!

aMaezing

MEN'S CUTS

Men & Women's Cuts, Color, Styling

"You deserve the best."

15314 Detroit Ave. Lkwd OH 330 221-1883

[www.amaezing.net](http://www.amaezing.net)

# No One Does Carry-Out or Delivery Better Than Woodstock !

BBQ WHISKEY BEER

\$5 MULE MONDAYS

\$2 TACO TUESDAY

\$5 WING WEDNESDAY

\$10 RIB THURSDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-7 P.M.

ALWAYS SMOKING...

13362 MADISON AVE. + LAKEWOOD, OH + (216) 226-8828

TODAY'S MENU

5.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

6.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

7.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

8.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

9.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

10.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

11.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

12.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

13.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

14.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

15.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

16.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

17.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

18.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

19.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

20.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

21.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

22.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

23.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

24.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

25.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

26.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

27.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

28.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

29.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

30.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

31.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

32.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

33.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

34.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

35.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

36.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

37.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

38.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

39.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

40.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

41.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

42.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

43.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

44.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

45.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

46.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

47.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

48.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

49.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

50.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

51.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

52.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

53.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

54.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

55.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

56.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

57.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

58.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

59.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

60.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

61.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

62.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

63.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

64.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

65.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

66.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

67.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

68.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

69.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

70.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

71.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

72.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

73.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

74.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

75.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

76.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

77.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

78.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

79.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

80.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

81.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

82.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

83.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

84.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

85.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

86.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

87.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

88.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

89.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

90.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

91.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

92.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

93.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

94.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

95.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

96.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

97.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

98.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

99.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

100.00 BOUNTY SMOKED CHICKEN

WOODSTOCK

Smoke Joint

KITCHEN HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

4PM - 9PM

SATURDAY

11:30AM - 9PM

SUNDAY

11:30AM - 9PM

HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY - FRIDAY

4PM - 7PM

BBQ WHISKEY BEER

\$5 MULE MONDAYS

\$2 TACO TUESDAY

\$5 WING WEDNESDAY

\$10 RIB THURSDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-7 P.M.

ALWAYS SMOKING...

13362 MADISON AVE. + LAKEWOOD, OH + (216) 226-8828

Lakewood Cares



Healthy Lakewood Foundation  
Announces Four New Grants

continued from page 1

lies with young children and seniors.

“We are concerned about the effects of the continued isolation on our senior residents, many of whom do not have access to the internet,” said Gergel. “And, our hearts go out to families that are scrambling to find ways to keep their children safe and well cared for while school continues to be delivered in a remote or hybrid format.”

To support families with school-age children, HLF previously awarded funds to the City of Lakewood to provide scholarships to offset the cost of care while learning is remote or hybrid.

Lakewood families earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level are eligible. Scholarship applications are available by contacting the Lakewood Division of Early Childhood at 216-529-5018 or [jessica.parker@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:jessica.parker@lakewoodoh.net).

To qualify, families will need to provide local and federal tax returns and proof of current income and work/school schedules, along with a completed application. The requirement to provide tax returns may be waived if the family’s financial circumstances have changed due to the pandemic. For more information about eligibility and how to apply, visit <http://www.onelakewood.com/early-childhood/>.

Families interested in enrolling their children in the YMCA’s care program for elementary school-age children, called “YCARES,” can contact the YMCA Payment Registrar Office at (216) 263-6860 or [children@clevelandymca.org](mailto:children@clevelandymca.org). Children ages 5-12 are eligible. The program is currently being offered at the former Taft Elementary School and is available either on a 5-day basis or two/three days per week following the school district’s Purple and Gold schedule.

About the Healthy Lakewood Foundation: The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit 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 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](http://www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org) or email [info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org](mailto:info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org).



Help Rotary Serve The Community -  
Jewelry Raffle Fundraiser

by Larry Faulhaber

In this time of the Pandemic, many agencies and organizations that provide needed services to the Lakewood and Rocky River area need help to meet the needs of their clients. The Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise is devoted to serving the community as it follows its motto of “Service Above Self.” Club community support includes the Rocky River Assistance Program family food distribution packages of non-perishable food for over 300 families in Rocky River and the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation program which delivers food to 300 families in Lakewood at Thanksgiving and Christmas, two of the community organizations that are helped by Rotary each year. Recently, the Sunrise Club added Trials for Hope to the list of organizations it helps. This program provides food for the homeless and needy on the near west side.

You can help by participating in a Jewelry Raffle Fund Raiser. Over the last 11 years the Sunrise Rotary has held a Dinner Auction event, with over 200 friends of members and supporters of the Club attending. Due to the pandemic, it is not possible for us to have our Dinner Auction at this time. We are replacing it with the raffle which will assist the Club’s Foundation in meeting the needs of the local organizations mentioned above and others such as Beck Center, Harrison School in Lakewood and The Rocky River Firefighters Charity.

By participating in the Club’s Jewelry Raffle you will help the Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise continue to serve the community

and you will have a chance to win a \$3,750 Diamond Bracelet donated by Broestl and Wallace Fine Jewelers in Lakewood, pictured above. It is a 14 Karat gold two tone bracelet with 14 diamonds totaling 2.42 carats.

Tickets are \$10 each ticket; \$50 for 6 tickets; \$100 for 13 tickets; and \$200 for 28 tickets.

You can buy your tickets one of two ways: go to <https://lrrsunriserotary.org/raffle> and pay by credit card using our safe and secure online processing system, or pay check - made out to the Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Foundation - mailed to P.O. Box 16684, Rocky River, OH, 44116.

You will be on your way to helping Rotary to continue serving the community.

The drawing will occur on April 28th at 7 pm with a special guest, Rebecca Silber (Rotary International Foundation Zone Annual Giving) who will give a brief talk on the activities of Rotary International. To attend the drawing use the Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2aabmdx>. The winner does not need to be present to win.

There are many Community, Vocational and Youth Service Activities of the two Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Clubs. A Noon Club meets every Monday, and a morning club meets every Wednesday, both at Umerley Hall of the Rocky River Civic Center. Contact Kathy Berkshire at [sloopyohio19@gmail.com](mailto:sloopyohio19@gmail.com) to learn more about how you can join with men and women in your area to give back through service in your community, and internationally.

the Root cafe espresso bar  
15118 detroit ave  
lakewood, ohio 44116  
216.228.4401  
www.theroot-cafe.com  
organic local bakery vegan vegetarian kitchen

HOME ALONE  
PET SITTING, INC.

In Home Pet Care  
While You Are Away  
Experienced  
Veterinarian Technician  
Bonded & Insured  
216-548-1543  
[djmhokin@gmail.com](mailto:djmhokin@gmail.com)  
[homealonepetsittinginc.com](http://homealonepetsittinginc.com)

Lakewood's #1 choice  
for interior and exterior  
painting

**Neubert  
PAINTING**

Serving Northeast  
Ohio Homeowners  
since 1975

Quality Painting.  
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at  
216-529-0360  
for a Free Consultation!  
[neubertpainting.com](http://neubertpainting.com)

**NUNZIO'S Pizzeria** Visit Sicily Without Leaving Home

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

SINCE 1990 • 26 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

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

NOW SERVING 3 LOCATIONS!  
Lakewood • Fairview Park  
Rocky River

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

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

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

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

**17615 Detroit Ave. • 216-228-2900**

Celebrating Over 16 Years of Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Lakewood, Ohio: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

# Lakewood Observer



Senator Antonio stands outside her new Minority Whip office with her wife, Jean.

## Senator Nickie Antonio Shares Budget Priorities

by Nickie Antonio

As we embark on the new 134th General Assembly, I look forward to all that can be accomplished over the next two years. The first item on the agenda is the biennial state budget. Totaling nearly \$70 billion, the state budget makes two-year appropriations for healthcare, early child through higher education, workforce development, local government, and more. During this process, I plan to prioritize funding programs which promote Ohioan’s health, education, and job security.

Advocating for the health and safety of all Ohioans has always been a priority of mine, however, this became more essential given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Our state budget needs to include increased funds for PPE, testing, and vaccines, in order to expand access and quantities throughout our communities. Simultaneously, funding public education programs regarding the virus and vaccination process will be necessary in mitigating the continued impact of Covid-19. Another dangerous side effect of the pandemic was the surge in domestic violence cases due to stay-at-home orders across the United States. Providing funding to support domestic violence survivors’ services is critical, especially now.

While many Democratic legislators have been working to correct the inequalities in our education sys-

tem, Covid-19’s virtual schooling has further highlighted these inequities. Throughout the pandemic, students with poor internet access struggled, and so increasing broadband support across the state is a budget priority this year. We must also establish a fair funding formula to better support our public education. And finally, teachers are the backbone of our education system, so we must guarantee a livable wage for all, including early childhood educators.

Over the past year, my office has connected dozens of constituents to unemployment benefits assistance as the pandemic continues to affect Ohioans economically as well. Commitment to the economic success of Ohio’s workers will continue to be a priority for me. This includes increased funding resources for our small businesses and women-owned businesses in the state’s budget.

As we begin working on the state budget, I will be meeting with mayors, city council members, constituents, and stakeholders in the following weeks to work on these budget priorities. Email me with your budget priorities at [Antonio@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Antonio@ohiosenate.gov) to be a part of the conversation. I look forward to working for you and with you to do all that we can for Ohioans, and specifically, Ohio’s 23rd Senate District.

## Hospice Of The Western Reserve’s Receives \$150,000 Grant From Three Arches Foundation

by Laurie Henrichsen

Three Arches Foundation has awarded Hospice of the Western Reserve a \$150,000 grant (over two years) to support its Western Reserve Navigator (WRN) in-home palliative care program in Lakewood and surrounding areas. WRN is a comprehensive non-hospice program that supports people with advanced, serious illnesses as their health declines. A dedicated team of caregivers develops and implements a customized plan of palliative care to address the physical, functional, emotional and spiritual needs of each patient and their caregivers.

The community-based program is not fully funded by Medicare or commercial insurance and is grateful for philanthropic funding.

Three Arches Foundation ([threearchesfoundation.org](http://threearchesfoundation.org)) is a 501(c)(3) public charity that invests in advancing the health and well-being of the people of Lakewood and surrounding communities through grant making. The Hospice of the Western Reserve grant is part of \$1.5 million awarded this year to 20 Northeast Ohio non-profits for their work in addressing solutions that make it easier for people to navigate, understand and use information and services to take care of their behavioral and physical health.

“We are extremely grateful to the Three Arches Foundation for supporting the vital role of palliative care in improving the quality of life for

seniors with advanced illnesses,” said Joan Hanson, RN, director of Western Reserve Navigator. “Our team-based approach combines home visits from advanced practice registered nurses and social workers with 24/7 phone access to nursing staff. Trained volunteers serve as a ‘second set of eyes and ears’ for the team and provide spiritual support and companionship between visits. The program fosters greater independence among seniors and prevents repeated hospitalizations.”

Patients keep their own doctors and can continue to receive curative treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation. The WRN team collaborates with patient, the family caregivers and the patient’s physicians on a plan of care that provides an extra layer of support. The social worker communicates with



insurance companies or the Veterans Administration about benefits, helps access community services and assists patients in identifying and documenting their longer-range healthcare wishes and advanced care plans.

More information about the Western Reserve Navigator program is available at [hospicewr.org](http://hospicewr.org), or by calling 216.383.3700.

INDIA GARDEN

18405 DETROIT AVE. ■ 216-221-0676

Open Daily Lunch 11am - 2:30pm

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

Dinner 5pm - 10pm

Ask About Gift Certificates And Catering

# Lakewood Observer



Nicole Tera Jeet

## An Invitation To Practice

by Nicole Nazario

Hello dear friends and fellow humans. My name is Nicole Tera Jeet. Tera Jeet means she who overcomes all obstacles in realizing she belongs only to God. God here refers to the loving nature that exists within all beings and the source of all life. In honesty, I have belonged to many things. I have belonged to parents, to friends, to lovers, to food, to mind altering substances, to work, to emotions, to thoughts, to ideas, to obsessions, to approval of others, and to controlling that which lies outside of me. All of these alienate me from a sense of embodiment and fulfillment. I am humbled to have found a practice that supports me in strengthening my body, mind, and heart so that I may show up in conscious ways for my community. The practice of yoga goes beyond the physical aspects of moving the body. It is a way of raising awareness of self to be of better service to others. It is a way of living from the space within us that is rooted in loving nature.

The source of life that supports not only me, but every being in existence-- my fellow humans, animals, plants, earth, and universe-- is to what I truly belong. I share these teachings and

hold space for others with Kundalini Yoga classes. The classes I offer focus on the relationship we carry with the life force within us and all things. The repetitive movements done in Kundalini Yoga invite us to reconnect with our own rhythm. A tool to help us listen to our unique song-- the one we knew so well as children. A teacher once told me that my soul's favorite sound is the sound of my own voice. That one really stuck with me-- the idea that my greatest desire lies within me. Once we know our song we can experience being part of the symphony of the collective.

When we learn to listen to ourselves our song no longer strives to be any louder or quieter than anyone else's. It feels the beauty of its belonging, as it is, with the belonging of all the others. If this resonates with you feel free to reach out to me through email: nicolenazario17@gmail.com or seek me out on Facebook @ Nicole Nazario. My classes are currently held through zoom online. I look forward to the warmer days, when it is safe for us to do so, to practice outside with Mother Earth. May all beings be well and know that their presence is the greatest gift of all.

## Live Streamed Classical Saxophone Concert

by Debra O'Bryan

We are so lucky to live in north-east Ohio where classical music thrives alongside of rock, blues, and every other genre. The Rocky River Chamber Music Society has always held free concerts in the outstanding acoustical environment of West Shore Universalist Church in neighboring Rocky River. Due to the pandemic, the concerts have been virtual.

On Monday, February 15th at 7:30 p.m., you have the opportunity to hear a true treat. Steven Banks, saxophone virtuoso and Xak Bjerken on piano will perform works by Mozart and Schumann that have been arranged specifically for saxophone. They will also perform works created directly for the saxophone by composers Carlos Simon, Saad Haddad, and Steven Banks himself. Steven captured First

Prize at the 2019 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. He has performed with symphony orchestras across the U.S., including The Cleveland Orchestra, and is currently the Assistant Professor of Saxophone at Ithaca College.

Xak Bjerken, professor of piano at Cornell University has performed on stages all over the world, and has recorded for Chandos and Albany Records.

Access to the concert will be available by using one of the following links shortly before the concert on February 15th.

[https://bit.ly/RRCMS\\_Facebook](https://bit.ly/RRCMS_Facebook)  
[https://bit.ly/RRCMS\\_YouTube](https://bit.ly/RRCMS_YouTube)

Although RRCMS remains dedicated to continue presenting free concerts, donations are always welcome. For further information visit the RRCMS website at [www.rrcms.org](http://www.rrcms.org)



### FEBRUARY

**Aries:** The Ram has never been a shy one, this month try finding love amongst the groups and associations you belong to...**Tip:** *accept compliments*, this may lead to love on that mountain.

**Taurus:** The Bull knows all about love, Venus just so happens to be all lit up in your sign this month, the Goddess of love points to your career, *hang out at the water cooler just little longer*.

**Gemini:** 'I believe in magic' is the Twins theme song this month, try some log-distance flirting, maybe even hang out at the travel agency, *foreign love is waiting to communicate with you*.

**Cancer:** *The Crab is in love with love*, sometimes a little too much, let your natural beauty shine this month, any dealings with taxes just might leave you with more than money in your account.

**Leo:** The Lion/Lioness has command over his/her jungle, pay extra attention to your relationships this month, business and personal, simply "be present" *it's not all about YOU*.

**Virgo:** If there's anyone who has closed their mind to love, it just might be you...try putting a lid on that criticism, create some healthy culinary surprises, and *invite that Yoga instructor over*.

**Libra:** Take a gamble this month, you're not known for taking risks, go all out, take a walk on the wild side, let your creative juices flow, *take a wine*

*and paint class, love is at the next canvas.*

**Scorpio:** For once the Scorpion doesn't need to come out of his cave, love is within your four walls, ok maybe behind that secret door in your basement, *put on your Zorro mask and go wild*.

**Sagittarius:** The Centaur is all about wide open spaces and adventure, however, this month your arrow seems to be pointing in your own neighborhood, *try out the coffee shop, a love-latte?*

**Capricorn:** Typically the Goat is not an intuitive sign, hmm, you're about to get your psychic groove on, and at a place you're more than familiar with...money, *try your luck with the love lotto*.

**Aquarian:** The stars and the planets have put you on a pedestal this month, the Sun, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter have all lined up at your front door, *it IS all about you*, go find crazy love.

**Pisces:** The Fish ought to join the Crab this month, you're both all about the Sea, *and the Fish falls in love with the illusion of love...*who doesn't love a mermaid, or a sea-faring Captain Ahab.

*Eva Starr continues to follow her metaphysical path, teaching Astrology, hosting her television show Reach for the Moon, and exploring the diversified culinary delights Lakewood has to offer.*

**BENTLEY**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT OF  
**RAYMOND JAMES®**



**MICHAEL A. BENTLEY**  
Vice President, Investments

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

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

LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive Announces Award Honorees

To Be Recognized At “Loving Lakewood: Life’s A Beach”

continued from page 8

strategies for LakewoodAlive’s large scale and fundraising events. Tim has truly elevated the way that LakewoodAlive shares their mission and work. “Lakewood is a special place because of the purpose and power present in its sense of community. LakewoodAlive plays an incredibly important role in developing that sense of place and I want to be a part of making it happen,” said Dewald.

Kelly Florian – Community Leader Award

Kelly has been a longtime volunteer with LakewoodAlive’s annual fundraising event, Loving Lakewood. Kelly, Director of Educational Services for Great Lakes Theatre, is always quick to volunteer to help with all aspects of the event’s planning and often adds the special, finishing touches to the evening’s festivities. Kelly consistently goes above and beyond donating her time and creativity while helping to make this annual event a unique and successful evening. “Volunteering with LakewoodAlive is such a satisfying way to give back to this incredible community, LakewoodAlive makes it so easy! They are an amazing group of people that work hard to find the need; to define the goals; to organize the people-power; and make it happen. When you have such incredible leadership it’s easy to give of your own time. Did I mention the people? There’s no one I’d rather work – and party – with. Every meeting is a bowl of soup and a glass of wine and a deep sense of togetherness – all working to do good within our community. You can’t go wrong with this organization because this organization is made up of people who care deeply about Lakewood and its residents,” Florian said.

Brent Pease and Geoff Mathias, Sauced Taproom & Kitchen – Community Leader Award

When Sauced Taproom & Kitchen (14701 Detroit Avenue) opened up over two years ago, LakewoodAlive was excited to see a restaurant with a creative and affordable menu coupled with



Loving Lakewood: Life’s a Beach Honorees Tim Dewald, Jen & Laird Wynn, Brittany O’Connor, Bryan Evans, Brent Pease & Geoff Mathias (Sauced Taproom & Kitchen) and Kelly Florian.

a wide-ranging beer selection. What LakewoodAlive couldn’t have known is how special and supportive this partnership with co-owners Brent Pease and Geoff Mathias would become. “Brent, Geoff and their team have been such a welcomed addition to the Lakewood community and we are thankful for their belief in us and our mission,” said Ian Andrews, LakewoodAlive Executive Director. “In a physically small community of 5.5 square miles, there is no shortage of opportunity,” Mathias said. “There’s a shop for every niche. There’s a restaurant for every taste. There’s always something to do. And almost all of it is owned and run by people just like us trying to make it, doing something we love.”

Brittany O’Connor – Community Leader Award

Brittany O’Connor, a Senior Public Affairs Market Manager with Citizens Bank, joined the LakewoodAlive board in 2014 after volunteering and connecting the organization with then

Charter One Bank. Her passion for the community and LakewoodAlive shone through early and she became highly involved in several committees including Development, Housing and Loving Lakewood. Brittany’s leadership and dedication was quickly apparent to the board and staff, solidifying her status as a most valued volunteer. Brittany was elected vice president of the LakewoodAlive board in 2016, later becoming board president in 2018. During that time, she helped oversee the successful completion and implementation of a strategic plan along with the growth of many mission-focused programs while volunteering a tremendous amount

of time. “LakewoodAlive has accomplished so much over the last 17 years,” O’Connor said. “It has become the go-to organization for residents and small businesses in need of assistance, as well as presenting events that bring the community together and serving as the city’s biggest cheerleader. Over the next five years, I’d love for LakewoodAlive to be at the top of everyone’s list of charitable donations. No matter the amount, a gift to LakewoodAlive is a sound investment and we all benefit.”

Jen and Laird Wynn – Community Leader Award

Longtime supporters of LakewoodAlive, Jen and Laird Wynn are one of the organization’s most valued donors. Owners of Cleveland Property Management, Jen and Laird have raised their family in Lakewood and have been friends of the organization for more than a decade. Cleveland Property Management has served as title sponsor of Loving Lakewood each year since 2017 and has supported other events in the past including Summer Meltdown. The Wynn’s are most passionate about LakewoodAlive’s Housing Outreach Program and its efforts to ensure all residents are living in healthy and safe housing. Their personal support coupled with event sponsorship and professional guidance has been invaluable. “We support Lakewood Alive because of the staff’s authentic and energetic commitment to Lakewood. The programming executed by LakewoodAlive consistently provides improvements to the City that are sustainable and result in a more vibrant, engaged community,” reflected Jen Wynn.

“We are grateful to this year’s Loving Lakewood award recipients,” said

the rest of this article online at: [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com)

# Fedor Manor

## Apartments

Affordable Senior Housing Community

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

*Seniors*  
Make us your NEW HOME this winter!

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

[www.fedormanorapartments.com](http://www.fedormanorapartments.com)

# WALL TO WALL TRANSFORMATIONS

## PLASTER REPAIR

specializing in plaster and lathe restoration

# 216-255-8529

fully insured, free estimates

Community of Giving

Your donation can save up to 3 lives!!

**Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
The Gym (enter through school doors)  
1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107  
**Saturday, February 20, 2021**  
**and Saturday, March 20, 2021**  
**11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Due to COVID-19, your temperature will be taken immediately upon entering the building.  
**Face mask required.**

Schedule an appointment using the app, on-line or call  
**redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS**

**The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.**

The Back Page



### Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Full Service Salon For Females

*Everyone knows to check out our Pink Hair pieces, Flowers and Bows.*

*Gift certificates available for all services and supplies including a relaxing Cranberry Facial or Rose scented hair products.*



Follow Us On Facebook To See Accessories and New Ideas!

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

15309 MADISON AVENUE • 216.226.8616



### Skettle Automotive

15501 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH

**NOW OPEN ON SATURDAY**

**Tim Skettle Owner, Technician**

Formerly at Steve Barry Buick

For an appointment CALL

**216.226.5993**



# health markets

The Smarter Way to Shop...

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


Call today for your FREE QUOTE!  
**216-228-0765**  
[www.clevelandinsurance.info](http://www.clevelandinsurance.info)  
16506 Detroit Rd. Lakewood, OH 44107

**Carl Lishing** Licensed Insurance Agent

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



## We're here to help you keep going.



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

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

**COX BUSINESS**

Not all services are available everywhere. Learn more at [coxbusiness.com](http://coxbusiness.com).  
© 2020 Cox Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

This paper is written, produced, and delivered by residents of Lakewood. Isn't it time you joined with us? Visit the "Member Center" today to sign up and submit an article to the LO! [www.lakewoodobserver.com/members/login](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/members/login) If you would like to help this history-making 17-year-old project continue getting out the words, stories and images of your fellow Lakewoodites and you have a business, contact [production@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:production@lakewoodobserver.com) and we will send out an advertising kit!