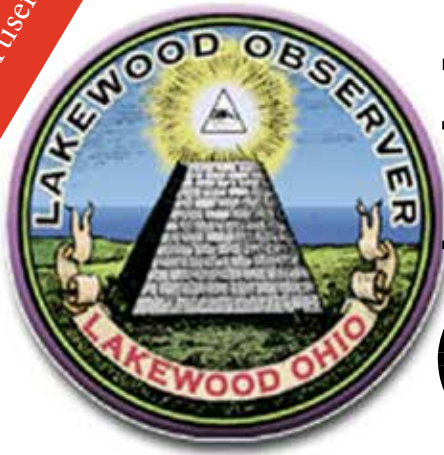


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Volume 17, Issue 4, February 17, 2021

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” - Betsy Farrell

COVID-19 UPDATE 2-17-2021



Location	Cases	Deaths	Vaccinated
Lakewood	3,728	?	?
Cuyahoga	66,103	1,258	146,321
Ohio	943,291	16,453	1,324,534
USA	28,380,869	499,940	57,676,667

Cases Dropping, But Not Locally! Do Not Stop Doing What You Are Doing

by Jim O'Bryan

Attention Lakewoodites, COVID vaccines have been reported available at most local drug stores or their sister stores. While getting vaccinated is a real pain in the ass, most chains allow you to sign in and surf for a location. In the U.S., we are now averaging over 2,000,000 vaccinations a day.

It has been reported that there are now 7 strains of COVID originating in the USA. All seem to have little difference from the original COVID-19 that arrived here through Italy and China.

There are 1,000+ cases of the UK variant in 38 states. This variation is now rated as 40% more virulent, and potentially more deadly. They are

continued on page 8

Margaret “Maggie” Niedzwiecki Named Next Superintendent

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education at a special Board meeting Feb. 11 approved Lakewood City Schools' Assistant Superintendent Margaret “Maggie” Niedzwiecki as the next Superintendent for the District. The Board's search process for new leadership began shortly after current Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Barnes announced his resignation in December 2020 in order to return to Mayfield City Schools as its new superintendent.

After reviewing the candidates and meeting with Niedzwiecki, the Board realized that the best person for the job was already in the District.

“Maggie brings unique experience that will help us



Margaret Niedzwiecki, Lakewood's new Superintendent.

qualities identified by the community as important for our superintendent.”

Shaughnessy continued: “Maggie will, in her words, maintain the great trajectory she sees happening in the Lakewood City Schools. She understands the terrific amount of work that was devoted to the development of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate and has a plan to act on that vision. We secured a stellar candidate and the District can now move forward seamlessly with meeting the needs of our students.”

Niedzwiecki has over 27 years of experience in education. She has served as assistant superintendent of

continued on page 5

move forward in addressing a Board priority – tackling the learning loss resulting from the impact of the pandemic,” said Board of Education President Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy. “She brings the leadership

Lakewood Public Library Services In The New Year

by Melinda Frank

Lakewood Public Library is still here to serve you safely whether you are looking for entertainment or education. Although services look a little different these days, we are open and ready to serve our community.

The Madison Branch has relocated to a temporary space while the branch is being renovated. Library materials and services are now available at 13427 Madison Avenue, Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Main Library is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. When visiting the library face coverings must be worn at all times.

Virtual programming for all ages is now underway. Families can enjoy a monthly themed storytime together using Tumblebooks. Elementary students in Kindergarten through Third Grade can join the Mercy Watson Virtual Book Club and teens in Ninth through Twelfth Grade can join the Woke Book Club.



The temporary location of the Madison Branch Library, 13427 Madison Avenue.

For adults, virtual local author events are posted on the Library's Facebook page and past presentations are available at youtube.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary.

Although public desktop computers remain unavailable, the Library has purchased Chromebook laptops to assist patrons with getting online. All library patrons can check out a Chromebook for in-library use.

Patrons needing black and

continued on page 4



From LO Deck thread, “Life In The Times Of COVID”: China Garden's wall of plexiglass.

Introducing H2O's Newest Project: A COVID COLLAGE: Capturing Lakewood's Story

by Meg Winters

2020 was quite the unique year. Using the pandemic's communal effect and differing

experiences of the community, H2O is working diligently to turn these experiences into a creative project for the

Lakewood community to take part in. “A COVID COLLAGE: Capturing Lakewood's Story” will be Lakewood's own time capsule to be used as a record for future generations. It will illustrate not only COVID-19, but also the numerous historic events of 2020. The goal of this project is to bring people together to create a resource that not only shows how it looks to live during this time, but also how it feels.

In order to capture an accurate picture of life during a pandemic, H2O will need help from everyone. This will be done by collecting your experiences in a creative way. The first opportunity to share your

continued on page 7

Please Keep Walks Clear



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Showing off the best way is my neighbor Joe, doing my walks! Read other safe ways to clear your walks @lakewoodobserver.com/forum

The Mayor's Corner

Improving Communication At City Hall

by Mayor of Lakewood
Meghan George

It is hard to believe that we are only halfway through February. We have accomplished so much this month already.

I have been appointed to the Ohio Mayors Alliance's Education Advocacy Committee alongside a handful of mayors from other large cities around Ohio. This committee will help me to

identify ways to support high quality education and workforce development opportunities in Lakewood and to advocate for education policy improvements at the state level.

The City has launched a new e-newsletter to make it easier than ever for residents and businesses to stay up to date with news and events in Lakewood. The monthly email will be full of informational updates and hap-

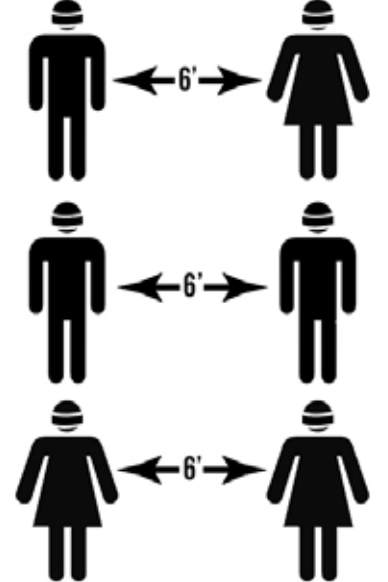
penings directly from City Hall. I am committed to increasing and improving communication between City Hall and our community, so I am excited about this new medium. You can sign up at onelakewood.com/e-newsletter.

I have been advocating with our elected and appointed officials, urging them to support certain measures to benefit our community and its citizens. I have encouraged our representatives to support measures for increased funding for local governments in the upcoming COVID relief legislation. This will enable our team at City Hall to continue providing for your public safety, health, and wellness as you expect. I have also advocated for new stormwater management grants in upcoming infrastructure legislation.

Our internal COVID-19 Taskforce, created back in March of 2020, continues to meet to ensure essential city services are delivered during these tumultuous times. In addition, we have a COVID-19 Financial Taskforce that is meeting regularly to address the financial challenges that COVID-19 has created. If you would like to stay up to date with or learn more about the City's COVID-19 measures, you can visit onelakewood.com/coronavirus.

On behalf of everyone at City Hall, I hope that you stay healthy and safe as we continue through this rapidly moving year.

ARE YOU PRACTICING SAFE SIX?



MASKING For A Friend



Be Careful Driving



photo by Jim O'Bryan

The other night as the sun went down, roads started to freeze over. This is a tough time to be driving. The shifting light and the cooling roads all can lead to trouble, as this driver found out.

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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.
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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
February 26, 2021	March 3, 2021
March 12, 2021	March 17, 2021

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Five healthy habits that are good for your heart.



AR Wattar, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family
Health Center

It's no surprise that 76% of Americans report feeling more stressed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a recent Cleveland Clinic survey. Yet only 55% know that stress has a big impact on their heart health.

"Managing stress is just one of five ways you can adjust your lifestyle to make a positive impact on your heart health – along with eating a healthy diet, exercising, monitoring your blood pressure, and avoiding smoking and alcohol," says cardiologist AR Wattar, MD, who sees patients at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center.

Dr. Wattar explains how you can

incorporate these five factors into your daily routine:

- **Manage stress.** One of the simplest ways to reduce stress is by taking a walk or going for a run. It may also help to engage in social activities or practice stress reduction techniques such as yoga or meditation.
- **Eat well.** The Mediterranean diet is an evidence-backed diet that almost anyone can follow to improve their heart health. It emphasizes fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains and healthy fats – alongside protein coming from fish, lean meats and low dairy intake.
- **Exercise.** Current recommendations call for at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise each week. Regular physical activity can lead to lower blood pressure and weight stability.
- **Monitor blood pressure.** Optimal blood pressure is defined as 120/80; however,

it may vary from one person to the next. The top number (systolic) refers to the pressure as your heart beats; the bottom number (diastolic) refers to the pressure as your heart relaxes. Your physician can help determine what is "normal" for you.

- **Do not smoke and limit alcohol consumption** to 1 drink per day for women; 2 drinks per day for men.

"Although heart disease remains the leading cause of death, you can reduce your risk by adopting these habits," says Dr. Wattar. "It's also important to see your doctor regularly to monitor your blood pressure, assess your risk factors, and help you maintain a heart-healthy lifestyle."

To make an appointment with Dr. Wattar, call 216.329.0953.

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

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

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If you experience a medical emergency, please call 911.

VIRTUAL EVENT

Heart Health in a COVID-19 World

Thursday, Feb. 18 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Join us online for questions, answers and conversations with our experts in heart health.

Specialists from Cleveland Clinic's Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute will answer your questions and provide details on:

- When to see a heart physician.
- How to manage your current level of heart disease during COVID-19.
- What health conditions affect your heart.
- How to recognize heart attack signs and symptoms.
- What to do in an emergency.

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Lakewood Public Library

Children/Youth Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Nic Starr

Library Pen Pal

For children three years old through sixth grade

Do you miss the Library? We miss you too! Write a letter to a Library staff member telling us about anything from the last book you read to your favorite animal or even include a drawing. A staff member will read your letter and write you back.

Send your letter to:

Children's and Youth Services
Lakewood Public Library
15425 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Virtual Mercy Watson Book Club

For students in kindergarten through third grade

Have you ever heard of Mercy Watson? Written by award winning author Kate DiCamillo, Mercy Watson is a six-book series of short early reader chapter books chronicling the adventures of the titular character, who just happens to be a pig. Each week we will discuss a different book in the series via Zoom. Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

January 28, 2021 Mercy Watson to the Rescue
February 4, 2021 Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride
February 11, 2021 Mercy Watson Fights Crime
February 18, 2021 Mercy Watson Princess in Disguise
February 25, 2021 Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig
March 4, 2021 Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes
Thursdays, January 28 – March 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Virtual Woke Book Club

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

In this bimonthly book club for teens, inspired by the Read Woke book challenge created by Cicely Lewis, we will read and respectfully discuss books selected to inspire change, embrace diversity, and promote inclusivity. Each month will focus on a different topic and you will choose which book(s) you would like to read from a diverse list of titles. Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

February: Own Voices and Representation
March: Feminism
April: Race and Anti-Racism
May: Body Image
June: Gender Nonconformity
July: LGBTQ+ Stories
August: Immigration and Refugees

Wednesdays, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Thursdays, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Virtual Girls Who Code: Do you want to build a snowman in JavaScript?

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Use the JavaScript programming language to draw a snowman on a webpage. Learn about drawing on the canvas in JavaScript from facilitators with experience in the field of computer science. We'll also learn about a Woman in Tech. This session is designed for all coding abilities. Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Lakewood Public Library Services In The New Year



"Transversion" by Peter Diepenbrock

continued from page 1

white printing can email print requests to the Main Library at contact@lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or the Madison Branch at madisonbranch@lakewoodpubliclibrary.org. A staff member will print the documents and will notify the patron when the documents are ready to be picked up. Patrons receive 25 pages for free, and additional pages (up to 100) are charged at ten cents per page.

All items must be returned to the exterior or interior book drops at both library locations. All returned materials are quarantined for four days.

Lakewood residents who are

unable to leave their homes on a temporary or permanent basis are eligible for the homebound delivery program. No-contact deliveries occur every Tuesday. For more information or to register visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/services/homebound-delivery/ or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 110.

Distance learners needing a proctor for an exam are welcome to utilize the Library's proctoring service. To request an appointment visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/proctoring/.

For more information on our current services, please visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org.

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Lakewood Education

Students Return Thanks To Community Effort

Dear Residents of Lakewood,

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

Although options exist for our students for remote and eLearning instruction models, many families want their students to experience in-person instruction once again. As of Thursday, January 7th, the

Lakewood City School District will provide in-person instruction for the students that need this model.

The ability to bring some of our students back for in-person instruction is a direct reflection of the Lakewood community's commitment to safe practices during the pandemic. We thank you for being careful and cautious regarding social gatherings over the holidays and for adhering to other

safety protocols that minimize the spread of COVID-19. Only together, as a true partnership, can we keep providing the in-person instruction that so many of our students need.

Inevitably, there will be challenges ahead. Let us remain vigilant and committed to the safety protocols and practices that have allowed us to open for in-person instruction on January 7th. Finally, we thank the Lakewood community for your

patience, support and constructive two-way dialogue over these past months. Although it has been a challenge, the positive character of our community has consistently shone through and for that, we are truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Michael Barnes, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Margaret "Maggie" Niedzwiecki Named Next Superintendent

continued from page 1

the Lakewood City Schools since 2018. She has led the District Innovation Task Force as well as the development of the District's Vision of a Lakewood Graduate. Niedzwiecki also helped expand STEM opportunities in the District through the use of makerspace classrooms and Project Lead the Way. Additionally, she heads the District's Continuous Improvement Committee.

Prior to joining Lakewood Schools, Niedzwiecki served in many roles, including director of curricu-

lum and instruction, director of Race to the Top with the Ohio Department of Education, and elementary school principal. She spent the first 11 years of her career as an elementary teacher.

"Maggie is a great educator and a great person," said Dr. Barnes. "We have worked well together for several years and I have witnessed the positive impact she has had on our students and community."


Niedzwiecki will assume her new role on August 1, 2021.



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Lakewood Observer

Good Friends in Guitar Land:

Well, the deadline for filing complaints against the Boy Scouts of America passed in November, at least according to their own bankruptcy notice regarding potential settlements with their former members. According to sources, there were LOTS of complaints too. Where all this will end up, who knows, but for those of us who were in youth groups growing up, some memories, good and bad, will never end.

It's not just the Scouts either. I'd be willing to bet that many, if not most youth groups, have faced similar challenges regarding allegations as to how some of their members were treated.

This past week marked the normal observance of Boy Scout Sunday for Christians, although individual groups may celebrate at any date during February. The United Methodists, for example, celebrate it on February 14th. Jewish Scouts celebrate Scout Sabbath and Muslim Scouts celebrate Scout Jumu'iah.

The birthday of (international Boy) Scouting is Feb. 8th, by the way, and this is the 110th year of its official existence, unless you want to count the filing for bankruptcy and all the rest of Scouting's recent changes, at least here in America. So many things are changing here in America, are they not? But I digress here...

With rare exceptions, most of us have belonged to a youth group when we were kids, and hopefully, most of our experiences were pretty good ones. Youth groups generally espouse high ideals, along with having some sort of community service component. At their best, they combine a sense of identity, goal setting, and belonging, with fun and purpose. The social aspects of a well-run youth group can also provide a lifetime of making good friends, having good memories, and becoming better citizens.

Then, there's the flip side.

In order to be successful, a youth group requires dedicated adult volunteer leaders who are willing to freely give of their time and their thankless after-hours energy, in order to safely supervise a bunch of rowdy out-of-school kids who will do everything in their power to resist such supervision.

Absent such dedicated adult lead-

Youth Groups

by Gary Rice



Me, with Riki Hendrix, (from Buddy Miles' band) playing for a Scout Jamboree.

ership, to say that youth groups could be a recipe for disaster would be a polite understatement.

In the olden days, kids and adults both at least gave lip service to paying a great deal of attention to community morals and respect for all things that deserve respect. This does not mean that problems did not slip through the cracks. They certainly did, but on the whole, it was easier to find common ground for everyone with the commonly shared and respected high ideals of the past. Sometime in the last 40 years or so, and particularly after everything went downhill in the 1960's, things started to slip off the rails in our anything-goes society.

As mentioned, a great problem with youth groups has always been trying to find enough good adult volunteer leadership. Another significant problem with many youth groups was their tendency to want to cover up any problems that came along, or to handle those problems quietly "for the good of the organization." To a large extent, this went on with numerous churches, schools, and other youth-serving organizations back then, and more and more frustrated victims were unable to get a fair hearing, and find a just resolution for their concerns.

Finally, society began to take notice. Mandated reporting laws were

developed, forcing adult leaders and medical personnel to report suspected abuse allegations to appropriate civil authorities. Eventually, lawsuits started coming along, and before long, major financial settlements were forcing youth organizations to either pay up, close, or to file for bankruptcy. As more and more cover-ups were discovered, many youth groups and other institutions fell under great suspicion, and that's pretty much where things sit today.

Being a member of several youth groups as a child, I had a fairly mixed experience with them. With my disabilities, I was not able to participate or advance in rank like the other kids. If there was a good adult leader on duty, things generally went well, but if not, there was sometimes the dickens to pay. (I remained a "Tenderfoot" with

the Scouts for example, due to being unable to do some of the more rigorous physical stuff required. These days, they do have alternative requirements, as appropriate.)

As a school teacher, I did go back and volunteer with several youth groups, in order to assist some of my own handicapped students with attaining badges, or achieving higher rank, but oftentimes, that too was an uphill battle with people who were set in their ways about accommodating special needs. Again, qualified and appropriately trained adult leadership made all the difference in such situations. If there were adequate youth protection policies and adult "two-deep" leadership, as is required these days in most modern youth programs, then things generally went well.

With the groups (youth or adult) that I've been associated with over the years, for the most part, they have offered mostly good experiences for their members. This point made however, within each of those groups, I have also discovered a number of agenda-driven individual fanatics. Groups need to have the courage to keep an eye on such people, and be willing to show them to the door at a moment's notice, if they get out of line, or get TOO wild-eyed. Once again, of course, I digress here.

Most of you know that in my columns, I very much try to stay positive, while at the same time, advocating for the change that is so necessary. At their best, youth and other groups serve a great social and civic purpose.

At their worst...well, you know...

Anyway, several years back, I retired from many years of active service with youth groups. I remain a member of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship. (ISGF)

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10.00 BAKED SMOKED SAUSAGE

11.00 BAKED SMOKED STEAK

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13.00 BAKED SMOKED TURKEY

14.00 BAKED SMOKED PORK

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17.00 BAKED SMOKED SAUSAGE

18.00 BAKED SMOKED STEAK

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46.00 BAKED SMOKED STEAK

47.00 BAKED SMOKED RIBS

48.00 BAKED SMOKED TURKEY

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Lakewood Cares

School Supplies And Clothes Delivered To Nicaragua By Rotary Fundraising

by Larry Faulhaber

Support of the fundraising activities of The Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River Rotary Sunrise enables the Club to not only fund local community projects, but also to help with joint Rotary International projects. Last year, the Sunrise Club joined with 24 Rotary Clubs in northeast Ohio to send 695 boxes and 25 layette bags plus an assortment of handmade dresses and other items that are desperately needed to Chinandega, Nicaragua.

The "Children of the Dump Project" started several years ago when a Rotary delegation visiting Chinandega noticed that children were going through a large local dump to salvage clothing and other items. Past Rotary District Governor, Jack Young of the Rotary Club of Conneaut, came up with an idea for an International Service Project. Rotary Clubs and Rotary members collect items needed by the children and families in this area of Nicaragua and pack them in boxes about the size of a large shoe box. Items are either purchased by the individual Club Members and/or the Clubs purchase the items using funds raised through their various fundraising activities. Items include school supplies, personal items like soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and tooth paste, an outfit of clothes and some toys.

Several years ago, the purchase and packing of layettes for mothers of new born children was added to the project. Blankets, towels, and personal items for the babies and mothers are packed in special Layette bags and are now shipped with the shoe boxes. They are distributed to a maternity center near Chinandega. Packing of both the shoe boxes and layettes often become a Club social family activity, with children joining in to get experience in service work.

Boxes are eventually gathered from several areas of the Country for delivery to a port city. In a recent year there were 11 pallets weighing over 18,000 pounds that were gathered and shipped. To promote school attendance, only children regularly attending school receive a "Shoe Box."

This is just one of many com-



munity, youth, vocational and international projects of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky Sunrise that is funded through the annual Jewelry Raffle. 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. 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/page/raffle> and pay by credit card using our safe and secure online processing system, or pay by check - made out to the Rotary Club of Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Foundation - mailed to

P.O. Box 16684, Rocky River, OH, 44116.

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. 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, contact - sloopyohio19@gmail.com

Introducing H2O's Newest Project:

A COVID COLLAGE: Capturing Lakewood's Story

continued from page 1

story will be provided in the upcoming weeks: a photo contest with several categories. The categories will guide the direction of the photos, such as the category "Together 6' Apart." The winners of each category will be selected by a panel of judges and have their artwork placed into the physical time capsule, with other submissions uploaded to a virtual time capsule. Other events will include art contests, writing contests, artifact collections, and more! More details about the photo contest and other events will be released at a later time.

Even before the photo contest begins, you can start participating by

reflecting on your experience thus far. Brainstorm where you are interested in showcasing your talents: Will you submit a work of writing? Will you take pictures of what lockdown looks like to you? Will you paint an art piece about how COVID felt to you? Anything you contribute will help to paint a more accurate picture of life during 2020.

H2O Assistant Coordinator Mrs. Chodzina reflects on the meaning of the project: "Bringing our stories of the past year together in this project will give us a space in which to connect and reflect on our shared experience now as we move forward and to discover the revelation of perspective in 20 years when

we look back." This strongly captures the essence of "A COVID COLLAGE: Capturing Lakewood's Story," as it serves as a reminder that the time capsule is a tool to work and reflect together after a year of isolation and that the most important part is that we will be working together as a community.

With your help, H2O's "A COVID COLLAGE: Capturing Lakewood's Story" can become the perfect opportunity to create a time capsule that reflects the community's unique story.

Meg Winters is a sophomore at Lakewood High School and a leader on H2O's Executive Team.

Whoops There Goes Another



Just after going to press last issue a car went over the edge of the Emerald Canyon at Detroit Extension. It was stopped by trees, rescued by Lakewood Fire and Police Departments and towed up by Kufner! Good work everyone.

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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. Toppp	\$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

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Government

Senator Antonio Shares Covid-19 Vaccine Information

by Nickie Antonio

Over the past unprecedented year, our communities have come together to support one another and combat the Covid-19 pandemic. I am proud of our public health officials, medical professionals, and front line health workers for their endless commitment to keeping each of us safe and healthy. News surrounding the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine continues to change, so I wanted share important details about the process.

At this time, individuals considered to be part of Ohio's Phase 1B Vaccination group will be administered the vaccine, if they choose to receive it. These individuals include Ohioans ages 65 and older, those with severe congenital, developmental, and early onset medical disorders, and employees of K-12 schools who wish to remain or return to in-person or hybrid learning. Cuyahoga County's K-12 school employees became eligible last week. If you are eligible for the vaccine, it is recommended that you contact your provider to schedule a test. A comprehensive list of over 90 providers throughout the County can be found on the Cuyahoga County Board of Health website.

While the initial vaccine rollout began slowly in December, I am hope-



Senator Antonio testifying at the Ohio Statehouse.

ful that more Ohioans will receive their vaccinations soon. We must remain calm and continue to look to public health experts for guidance at this time. It is important to remember that not only is this the largest vaccine campaign in U.S. history, but the process may take longer than your average flu shot, as those distributing the vaccine are enforcing social distancing and our doctors and nurses continue to be stretched thin.

As distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine increases, my office continues

to hear from many of you hoping to be included in the next phase of vaccinations, including early childhood educators, childcare providers, airport workers, and other essential employees. It is important we get as many people vaccinated as soon as possible, and I will continue working with public officials and health experts to advocate for the health and safety of our community. I plan to get the Covid-19 vaccine as soon as possible, and I encourage everyone to do the same.

For more information on Ohio's Covid-19 response and vaccine distribution, visit the Ohio Department of Health's Covid-19 webpage. You can also call United Way's 211 line for assistance with vaccine sign-up in Cuyahoga County.

COVID-19 UPDATE

continued from page 1

still working the numbers on this.

There are 3 rerouted cases of the Brazil strain in 2 states. Again, not much is known of this strain but it is creating havoc in Brazil. There are no real numbers on many reasons why this variations seems more intense.

The CDC has confirmed that 2 masks are better than 1. This is just common sense, as we pointed out in the early days of masking and the cloth mask debate. A chicken wire mask has more effect than no mask at all. Now it might be only 00001% better however the concept is, the finer the mask, the more and smaller the droplets you can keep out. COVID-19 is spread about 85% in the air in the form of droplets. We are seeing less and less spread through contact. Again no real numbers on why but probably a combination of masks, hygiene, stores and restaurants cleaning, and better ventilation.

So until you get the vaccine, if you can double them up, or get one with more layers, do it. Still with or without a vaccine you should be masked. It appears those vaccinated have a better tolerance to the new strains than those that had COVID-19. At the same time they have very little information on if a vaccinated person can spread COVID. Also, while the vaccine has a high effective rate, it has a 100% rate against dying or getting seriously ill from COVID and its variations.

I repeat some of this in every

continued on page 9



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Please bring bags to carry the items you choose. Face mask and gloves required.
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Lakewood Fire Department



Lakewood Fire Department Gets Cold For Us



So in goes the victim



photos by Jim O'Bryan

They are shown the correct way to hook up the equipment and then proceed.

by Jim O'Bryan

There are many reasons to live in Lakewood, the best location in the nation, but one of the best is Lakewood's Fire, Police and City Services. I mention them together because I have lived elsewhere, I have projects in other cities and Lakewood service departments are the best. Today we are calling out and covering one of my favorites, the Lakewood Fire Department and their Ice Rescue practice.

Lakewood has over 4 miles of waterfront if you add up the lake and the river. Lakewood Fire Department covers it all. They have a series of boats, sleds, rafts, etc. to handle everything from a person over the cliff to a boat on fire a mile offshore. They also help out from the Cuyahoga River to Huntington Beach in an agreement with the surrounding cities and Homeland Security. While all of this is interesting, we have to add in one little addition--it's year round. So for every person that falls over the cliff, another person slides over the cliff. Instead of a boat on fire a mile out, we have a group of people on ice that broke away or broke through.

So when the Fire Department saw

the lake freeze and the temperature drop to 17 degrees and below, it was decided to practice ice and water rescues. The reason the Lakewood Fire Department is so good is that they never stop practicing.

So, everyone in the water! You know, the icy water that was consistently freezing over as they practiced. Since starting this project I have grown to understand first hand what first responders go through. It is truly a high pressure job with possible life and death situations with every call.

Thank you, Lakewood Fire Department, I cannot believe how eager everyone was to jump in that water!

Scan this QR Code to see all the photos from the raining



They are pulled out by the firefighters farther back in a safe location.



It is time to learn how to set tackle in the ice and check the thickness. In the river they can tie up to a tree or a rock, if they're way out on the lake rescuing a person who was walking their dog and fell through, not as easy.

COVID-19 UPDATE 2-17-2021

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report as it is important to make it register. We are on the right side of the curve because of all we do. Life does not return to normal until it is gone. And it can be defeated, the human race has defeated much tougher in res without any really science.

The good news--and I am sure this is for all sides in the mask debate--you know the people that would say, "It is no worse than the flu." Well we are having one of the lowest flu rates in a long time thanks to masks, hygiene,



social distancing and caring about other people.

Thank you.

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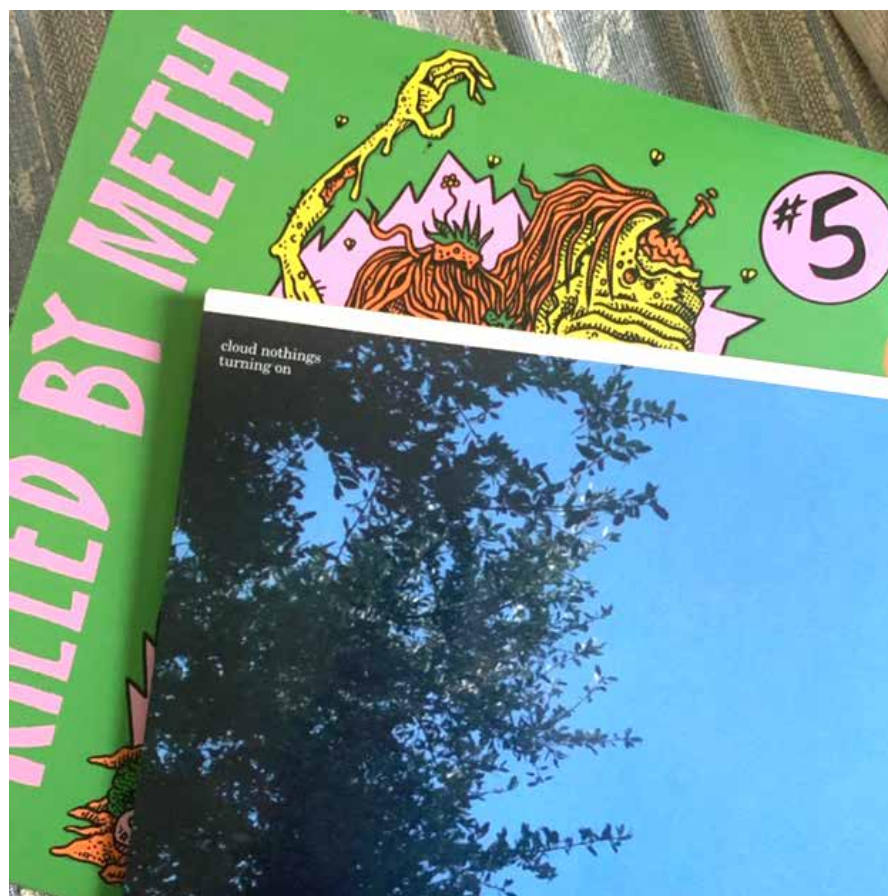
Increasingly Curmudgeonly:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 112

by Buzz Kompier

Cloud Nothings - Turning On - Carpark Records - 9 songs - LP, CD, digital

Note: the CD and digital versions have more than 9 tracks, but I just have the LP so that's what I'm reviewing here. This was the first record by the pride of Westlake, originally released 11 years ago. It is really interesting to hear these tracks (and the second, self-titled LP) in comparison to the music Cloud Nothings has made since— it's kinda like two different bands, though it must be said that both of those bands are very good. This record is all Dylan Baldi doing everything I'm pretty sure, which is also probably the reason for the big change in sound later. This record is basically a lo-fi power pop/indie rock record from what I would guess were the glory days of bedroom indie rock. Don't ask me, I wasn't there. I've never been too into that sound, but Cloud Nothings on this record are a cut above almost all of those bands. Dylan could (and still can) write really catchy, hooky tunes. Most of the ones here are somewhere in the range between Matador-era Jay Reatard and Car Seat Headrest, though I don't know if either comparison is quite right. The title track and "Strummin'" are both very reminiscent of the Strokes at their catchiest and best— on the latter, the



"my baby's been gone..." part almost sounds like he's doing a Julian Casablancas impression. My favorite tracks here are "Can't Stay Awake" (where Dylan's screaming guitar solo and falling apart drumming are almost a precursor of things to come), the funky-riffed "You Are Opening," and "Hey

Cool Kid," which besides being a very melancholy but very hooky tune with dark lyrics (from what I can make out) and vaguely ominous harmonies holds a special place in my heart because it was the second Cloud Nothings song I ever heard (after "Stay Useless"), sometime in probably 2013. That said, every

song on here is pretty good and it's easy to hear why this record caught people's attention. 4/5

(carparkrecords.com)

Various - Killed By Meth #5 - It's Trash! Records - 14 songs - LP, digital

I always check out these Killed By Meth comps because they usually have at least a couple Cleveland bands on them. That said, they don't usually feel like good documents of the best of the current punk scene but instead a bunch of also-rans, bands that weren't good enough to get a Total Punk single (even though there are a couple 'bigger names' on here, like Erik Nervous and Archaeas, both of whom actually do have Total Punk singles of their own and who have two of the better songs on here-- our pal Erik seems to be covering a song from Whose Line Is It Anyway? and that's the kind of thing that I also find funny, so props to him there) (Also, this is not to say that I consider Mr. Rich Totally Punk an arbiter of good taste-- he's put out a lot of really great punk singles but also quite a few pretty crappy ones). Apart from that, most of the rest of the tracks on this thing are either painfully generic or have something that makes the song a non-starter ("Spinners" from The Smart Shoppers is a particular groaner-- the aforementioned Whose Line song might be for some people too, I wouldn't hold it against them if they thought it was horribly corny). Maybe it's the comp nature that leads to these bands sending in tracks that are sorta throwaways-- I've seen Alpha Hopper before and I know they're a decent band, but "Yardbird" is really not their best. Ohio is represented here by Columbus's Phlox (not good), Cincinnati's Black Planet (actually a highlight, a pretty catchy garage-y post-punk kind of song-- I would be willing to check out more from them, and that's more than I can say for most of what's on here), and the one Cleveland band here, Au Shovel. This particular group is made up of two former Jim Davis members (who were also in The Sight, The Roobydocks, and many other bands, of course (they're from Cleveland)) and I happen to like both of them and the music they make, and I like their song here, "Flies On Shit," even though it's doomed by a crummy, half-baked (or perhaps completely baked, maybe that was the problem) mix. So take all that as you will. Those who like the state of punk today will find more to like here than I did, but even I (an aging, increasingly curmudgeonly music critic) found a few things worth hearing. I still can't help but feel like this will be in everyone's dollar bins in about 18 months. 2/5

(itstrashrecords.bandcamp.com)

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

Granite Angel Productions:

A Lakewood Resident's Recording Studio

by Kyle Mountcastle

Cheap, but professional sound recording doesn't seem easy to pay for during COVID.

Bad Racket - one of the top recording studios in Cleveland - may be a popular place to record, but it's also an expensive place to record. What many folks don't know is that there's a cheap alternative run by a Lakewood resident.

David Snider runs a studio called Granite Angel Productions just out of the Lakewood border marked by the West 117th highway exit along I-90 Westbound.

"I went to school for recording at the Recording Workshop in Chillicothe, Ohio. I always had an interest in music,



photo by Kyle Mountcastle

David Snider of Granite Angel Productions

and I was a musician before that. After leaving the Recording Workshop, I tried to get some work in local studios. It didn't really pan out, so I decided to start a recording studio business myself."


David explained this decision

by referring to "the flooding of the market with plenty of qualified candidates." David could not keep up with the countless other recording school graduates already hired by bigger studios in Cleveland.

Further into our interview, David talked about his two other staff members, as well as Granite Angel's most recent endeavors. Lisa Kimpel is the secondary engineer to David. Meganne Stepka switches roles between clientele manager for Granite Angel, and a tertiary engineer for the studio. David's current band is Meg & the Magnetosphere, which is fronted by Meganne Stepka. David plays guitar, and Lisa plays drums.

Meganne plays the role of booking and managing clients." David puts "trust in Meganne as a consultant for David and engineer" for the studio. David added an example of Meganne's roles. "...case-in-point would be the new Meg & the Magnetosphere album we're working on. We've got a couple of singles out from it now.

Take note, folks. David Snider runs a studio near you. If you're in a local band, and you're looking to record a single, an EP, or a full-length album for the first time, then David embodies a neighborhood solution for you. No need to agonize over studio rates from bigger studios in the Cleveland area, you can record right here!



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Lakewood Essay

Creative Destruction or Destructive Creation? Part 2

by Ashley Stover, LHS Class of 2024

New inventions come up to make improvements, but some things can be called creative destruction. This means that a new invention can come up with a new production unit that can take the place of an outdated production unit. This concept was created by Joseph Schumpeter in the 1940s, when he contemplated the essential fact of capitalism. There are many creative destructions, but one of these is cell phones/ smart phones. There are as many pros as there are cons. Cell phones have replaced many things over time, such as television, telegrams, regular landline phones, and many more inventions. Even though some of these inventions are still used, a lot of people, especially younger generations, prefer cell phones. This is more of a creative destruction than a destructive creation. As time went on, cell phones took the place of outdated production units, even though some of the things that cell phones take the place of aren't completely outdated. As cell phones have many advantages, they also have many disadvantages. I wish they never were created, but of course I have an iPhone...

Over 5 billion people own a mobile device, but more than half of this is the number of people who own a cell phones around the world. There are many pros of having a cell phone. These little devices allow people to communicate with each other in a matter of seconds, and you can be around the world, and it would still be a matter of seconds to contact that person, that can be via email, text and phone calls. One pro of having a cell phone is that it is good to have when there is an emergency. According to Pew Research Center, 40% of people who have cell phones said that when they found themselves in an emergency, having their cell phone with them helped. Although, they might be more prone to take risks in the first place...This doesn't just mean calling 911, but teenagers can call their parents, the police, the fire department, etc. Also, with your phone, if someone is following you or stalking you, you can use your phone camera to either take a picture of them and/or you can

call someone to talk with. Taking a picture and calling can help protect you, and can help the police find the person. Another pro of having a cell phone is that it can teach children and teenagers responsibility. According to Kids Health, having a cell phone teaches children and teenagers responsibility because they have to care for it, which means keeping the cell phone charged and in perfect and working condition. Another pro of having a cell phone is that it can keep you organized. You can keep your grocery lists on there along with to-do lists, important dates, and more. According to Reader's Digest, using your phone to organize lists, dates, and other things and making it simple helps get things done, keep to a routine and that way you don't get as forgetful. Not only can cell phones be used to go onto the internet, to play games, or to go on social media, you can use these little devices to help sort out and organize your routines and most important things. There are many more advantages of having a cell phone. But, what if the mind is not being exercised because the phone is doing so much for us?

Even though there are many pros of having a cell phone, there are also the same amount of cons. People are becoming addicted; according to nydailynews, 84% of people who own a cell phone said that they could not go without their phone in their hand for a single day. This is really sad that people are starting to become addicted and that people can't function without their phones. According to the Los Angeles Times, a study by psychologists from San Diego State University and from the University of Georgia proved that the increase of American teenagers' screen time from their cell phones decreased their happiness from 0% to 75% over the years. It also states that teenagers experience not only a decrease in happiness, but they lose self esteem and life satisfaction. From this experiment these psychologists concluded that less screen time makes happier teens. Another con of having a cell phone is that in schools, students tend to lose focus because the cell phone is causing a distraction. 100 percent!! Also in schools, students

cheat using their cell phone, they can send text messages to each other to get the answer, or they look it up by hiding their phone so the teachers wouldn't see it. Even though a lot of students do not do this, the students that do won't learn. Another disadvantage of cell phones is that they can ruin your eyesight. In the New York Post, according to researchers at the University of Toledo in Ohio, they found out that the blue-light that is being emitted from the screen can ruin your eyesight, they call the particles coming from the blue-light "poisonous molecules." Wow! These blue-lights not only harm our eyesight, but it destroys the retina of the eye, this was proposed by professor at the University of Toledo and co-author Ajith Karunaratne, he and his team also state that the reason blue light is dangerous is because the cornea of the eye can't block it or reflect it. There are more disadvantages as well, but these are some of the many disadvantages.

The reason cell phones can be a creative destruction is because they take the place of outdated production units. One of the things that cell phones can take the place of is television. With cell phones, you can use the internet, which means that you can watch anything you want anywhere and at any time. But it is nice to watch television with family or on your own on an actual television set. Television doesn't strain your eyes as much as looking at a cell phone screen because television screens are way bigger than cell phone screens. Another thing that cell phones can take the place of is books. You can look up anything you want at any time, and the internet allows you to read books as well online. But it is still nice to pick up a book to read. Another thing that cell phones have replaced is regular landline phones. Some families still own landline phones, but cell phones are more advanced. On regular landline phones, you can only call someone and listen to the missed calls someone has sent to you, while on cell phones, you can access the internet, go on apps, make phone calls along with texting. But it is still a good idea to have a landline phone. These are some of the things cell phones have replaced and

the reasons why cell phones can be a creative destruction by taking the place of outdated production units.

In conclusion, cell phones can be declared as a creative destruction because of how they can take the place of outdated production units, even though some of the things that cell phones take the place of aren't completely outdated. Also, cell phones have their advantages and disadvantages, just like everything else does. Cell phones are good to have around when there's an emergency and it is good to keep things organized. But, cell phones can ruin your eyesight and make you unhappy along with lowering your self esteem, and can become addicting. According to Joseph Schumpeter's definition of "creative destruction," cell phones/ mobile phones, would be declared a creative destruction.





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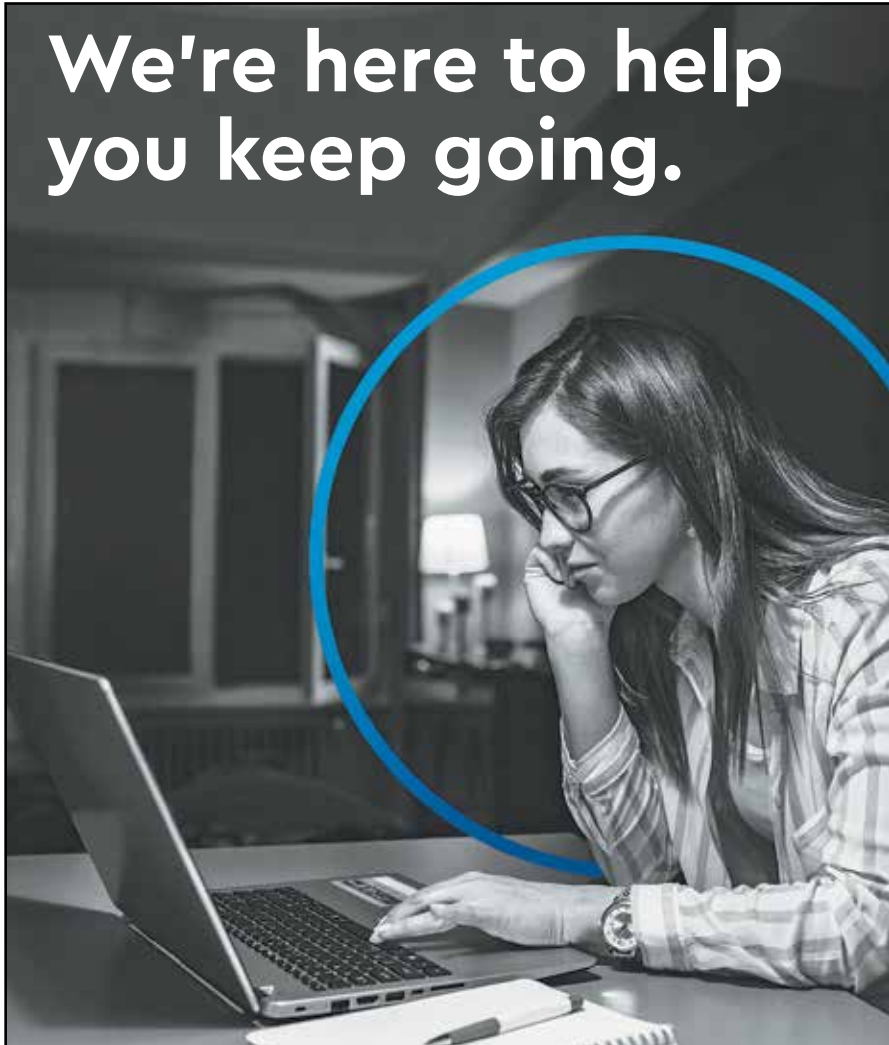


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