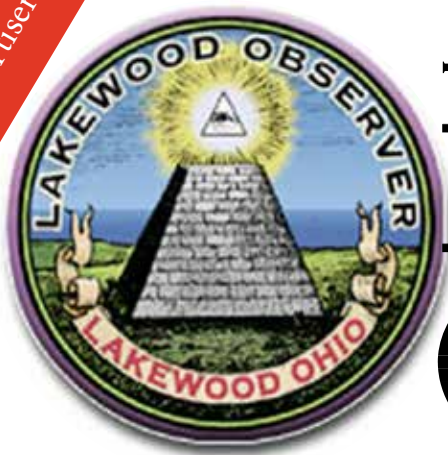


Free - Take One!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 17, Issue 5, March 3, 2021

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'
- Robin Williams



Lakewood's renaissance woman Betty Rozakis next to her latest art.

Betty Rozakis Thanks Beck Center With "Marble and Fire"

by Jim O'Bryan

Betty Rozakis, Lakewood writer, artist, and Graphology scholar is best known to Lakewood Observer readers as our Handwriting Expert. Betty studied Graphology at the British Academy of Graphology where she graduated in 2004. Many know her as wife, mother and grandmother to a great family located in the far north west corner of Lakewood. One the past 4 or five years we have seen her emerge, or a better term would be re-emerge as an artist, now mastering many different mediums. While there is not much good on social media these days, watching artists as they perfect their craft is one of the bright spots. Watching kids

emerge as writers, musicians, artists and photographers always makes me smile. Nothing better than fresh new talent with a pedigree. The other fabulous aspect of social media is watching others rediscover their passions. Betty falls into this camp. Online you can see her blossom in the not so easy world of glass art. In this new field Betty has handled all different complexities of working with glass, much of it learned at the Cleveland Institute of Art, where she graduated in May. This piece was developed especially for the Beck Center. In it she used drawings from art Life Drawing classes at the

continued on page 8

Lakewood Mourns The Loss Of Two Of Our Children



Alejandro Mercado



Maximus Close

by Betsy Voinovich

On Sunday, February 21 2021, Lakewood lost two of its children in a car accident. Max Close and Alejandro Mercado were both 19 years old, and Lakewood High School graduates from the class of 2020. A joint funeral was held Monday March 1st with both families, including a public webcast of the service to accommodate the many families who wanted to honor the memory of the boys and pay their respects to the families. GoFundMe pages can be found by scanning the QR Codes with your

phone or tablet.

Memorial contributions may be forwarded to the Cuyahoga County Ani-

mal Shelter, 9500 Sweet Valley Drive, Valley View OH 44125. Godspeed.

Alejandro Mercado

Maximus Close



\$150,000 From Three Arches For Hospice Of The Western Reserve's Palliative Care Program

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) 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 nonprofits 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 our community." **continued on page 7**

SIGN UP TO GET VACCINATED TODAY!

COVID-19 UPDATE 3-03-2021

Location	Cases	Deaths	Vaccinated
Lakewood	4,005	?	?
Cuyahoga	68,524	1,385	171,721
Ohio	970,583	17,189	1,725,566
USA	29,371,373	517,535	67,676,667



Selected COVID-19 Vaccines

Developer	Efficacy Rate	Platform
Moderna	94% vs. symptomatic disease	Nucleic Acid (mRNA)
Biotech/Pfizer	95% vs. symptomatic disease	Nucleic Acid (mRNA)
Astra Zeneca	63% vs. UK, Brazil & S Africa	Adenovirus Vector
Johnson & Johnson	72% vs. US strains, 85% vs. UK, Brazil, S Africa strains	Adenovirus Vector
Sanofi	Phase 2 starting	Recumbent Protein
Novavax	89% vs. UK strain	Recumbent Protein

SARS-COVID VARIANTS

B.1.1.7 United Kingdom	Increased transmissibility, and death	Covered by current vaccines
B.1.351 South Africa	Increased transmissibility	Reduced vaccine efficacy
P.1 Brazil	Increased transmissibility	Reduced vaccine efficacy
B.427 California	Information being gathered	
B.526 New York	Information being gathered	

Moderna begins trials for booster shot for South African variation, Phase 1 has started on these.

The Mayor's Corner

Preparing For Spring

by Mayor of Lakewood,
Meghan George

February is behind us and I am preparing for the debut of Spring later this month. I am excited to share a few recent updates concerning projects that the City has been working on.

At the February 16th City

Council meeting, we introduced an Ordinance that would allow us to update the code governing fences along property lines in Lakewood. The goal of these updates would be to make codes clearer for residents, protect pedestrian traffic, and avoid confusion concerning fence construction and permitting. City Council is

anticipated to approve these changes in the upcoming weeks.

The City has also been hard at work on a multi-phase integrated wet-weather improvement plan that aims to help Lakewood's sewer system meet the EPA's standards. City Council and I are looking at ways to support the infrastructure needed to

meet these standards affordably and equitably. Updating the City's sewer system is one of the biggest challenges we are currently facing, but I am hopeful that a solution will be in place by the end of the year.

On February 23rd, the City held a virtual conversation about the Cove Church redevelopment project where we heard feedback from community members about what they hope to see at the new facility. Another virtual conversation will be held on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 6:00pm. Please join us! Visit onelakewood.com/event/cove-church-community-engagement-meeting-2/ for more details.

Finally, another reminder: In February, we introduced a monthly e-newsletter that will feature city updates, news, events, and more. I am confident that this e-newsletter will allow our citizens to keep up to date with City news more easily and efficiently than ever before. If you would like to sign up, visit onelakewood.com/e-newsletter/.

I hope that you are staying safe and healthy, and hopefully enjoying this increasing sunshine.

Lakewood Recreation Hiring

by Sharon Mathaios

What better job for the summer than at a swimming pool, ball field, or summer camp? Take the opportunity to work outside, with kids, making a difference. Lakewood Rec is now hiring to fill many open positions for Field maintenance, learn-to-swim instructors, lifeguards, pool attendants, pool cashiers, baseball scorekeepers, summer camp counselors and more.

As winter turns to spring, many of our thoughts turn to warm summer days, filled with playing T-Ball, riding the water slide at Madison Park, or making friends at Kids Connection or Ohio Heritage. Lakewood Recreation is hiring seasonal employees



to make all those summer memories continue for a new generation. Applications preferred by March 31, 2021. Find application details at www.lakewoodrecreation.com/

summerjobs.

Sharon Mathaios is Secretary at the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department.

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
- Calzones
- Stromboli
- Salads
- Pasta

- Subs
- Wings
- Appetizers
- Desserts
- Dinners

To see our menu or coupons please go to www.romanfountain.com
Or stop by at
15603 Detroit Ave
Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633

AROUND THE

Book your fundraisers and special events With Us!

Book your Arctic Igloos Now!

FRIDAY FISH FRYS AND OTHER LENTEN SPECIALS

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

CORNER

EATERY
DRINKERY
FUNNERY

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

Publish Date

March 12, 2021

March 17, 2021

April 2, 2021

April 7, 2021

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 - Sharon Mathaios, and Jim O'Bryan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Anna Bacho, Barbara Brisbane, Aubrey Fox, Mayor Meghan George, Dr. Charles Greanoff, John "Buzz" Kompier, Grace Lamparyk, Brandi Larsen, Sharon Mathaios, Tess Neff, Jim O'Bryan, Eva Starr, Nic Starr, and Betsy Voinovich

Celebrating Over 16 Years of Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Lakewood, Ohio: www.lakewoodobserver.com

City Of Lakewood

The View From City Council

by Ward 2 Councilmember

Jason Shachner

February 16th City Council Meeting Rundown

At February 16th's City Council meeting, **Ward 4 Councilman Dan O'Malley** introduced a "Pay to Stay" ordinance. Ohio allows a landlord to file for eviction immediately upon the nonpayment of rent. This ordinance will allow renters to avoid eviction if they provide their landlord with the full rent, including late fees, and court costs prior to an eviction hearing. The ordinance also caps late fees at the greater of \$25 or 5% of the monthly rent. In its current form, the ordinance would only be in effect during the current State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Mayor George announced that she has appointed Ward 2 resident, **Terry Vincent**, to the Board of Tax Review. Mr. Vincent is a partner at Brouse McDowell and has extensive experience representing clients before the IRS and previously served as a senior attorney in the Office of District Counsel for the IRS in Cleveland. Along with his Juris Doctor degree, Mr. Vincent also has a degree in Accounting and Mater of Taxation. Please join me in thanking Mr. Vincent for agreeing to serve our community.

Assistant Building Commissioner Chris Parmelee provided Council with an ordinance to update Lakewood's fence code. Mr. Parmelee explained that the current code has caused confusion for homeowners and contractors, and that the purpose of

this ordinance is to make the code easier to read and use.

Contract Awarded for Reforestation Program

Lakewood awarded a \$135,000 contract to Greenleaf Group Inc. for the City's annual reforestation program, which includes private property tree plantings. Greenleaf will plant 400 trees at a cost of \$313 per tree, an increase of \$10 per tree from last year.

Snow Removal and LakewoodAlive Snow Shoveling Program

Please remember that per City Ordinance 521.06, property owners are required to remove and keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice. It is important that our sidewalks are safe for pedestrians and children walking to school, and that we all do our part to ensure

that Lakewood is a walkable city year-round. On that note, LakewoodAlive's new Snow Shoveling Program was featured on Channel 19 News last week. The program consists of 45 volunteers between the ages of 13 and 65, who are currently dispatched to assist 30 residents that have signed up for the program. The program prioritizes our elderly and residents with disabilities, but if you need help please do not hesitate to contact LakewoodAlive. I would like to extend my gratitude to LakewoodAlive for providing this service.

To report problems relating to clearing snow from sidewalks, please go to <http://www.onelakewood.com/report-a-problem-concern/> to use our Report A Problem form or contact the Division of Housing and Building at 216-529-7697 or housing.building@lakewoodoh.net

In The Rear-View Mirror, My First Year On Council

by Tess Neff

Exhilarated was how I felt beginning year 2020. I was starting a new job. It was an honor to have been elected to Lakewood City Council, and I was eager to delve into the work the voters hired me to do. Sitting on the dais with my fellow councilmembers felt right. Observing the public members in the auditorium, engaging in conversations prior to and after the meetings was a highlight for me. Their interest in our community truly is quite amazing, and I often wondered why some of those people did not run for council. Maybe it is the long hours and extended time commitment. I knew the work would be intense and time consuming. What I did not know was that I would be a part of history in a way no one could fathom.

My first-year experience on council is nothing short of stunning, difficult, painful, and yet tremendous. There were many "first" decisions that council and the city had to make without the benefit or precedent of past data or experience for comparison. The pandemic invaded and abruptly disrupted our lives. Candidly, there were times that I worried because we were navigating uncharted territory. As a councilmember my resolve was to make decisions that were in the best interest of our residents, and community. We were determined to labor



Tess Neff, Lakewood City Councilwoman Ward 1.

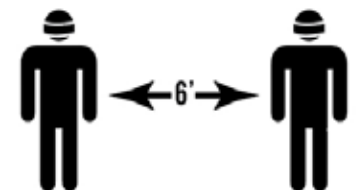
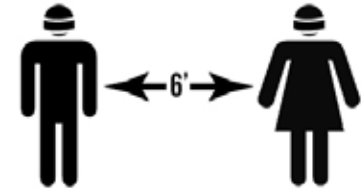
through the pervasive situation that the unwelcomed guest presented to us. Together we persevered and kept Lakewood operating as best we could.

It became profoundly clear to me that it was the little things that mattered to people. Folks wanted to be able to work, they wanted their business to stay afloat, they wanted to feel safe in the community, and they wanted to survive the tidal wave. It was the city leadership's responsibility to alleviate the anxiety and anger people were experiencing. I often lost sleep thinking if only we had a blueprint as a guide, but none existed. We were obligated to

create it. What is incredibly gratifying to me is how the city administration, community partners and city council collectively worked together to meet the needs of our community in the best way we knew at the time.

It was during those early months I became confident our city would survive the catastrophic times that were thrust upon us. Ironically, the concerns and complaints I received from constituents were a breath of fresh air. It was my pleasure to seek solutions for them because every concern is important. The individuals I engaged and the relationships I fostered working with residents and the various city departments are invaluable. 2020 delivered many positives in Lakewood in a world of negatives: infrastructure improvements continued; progress on development projects resumed; CARES Act funding supplemented decreased revenues; a park was dedicated in celebration of 100 years for women's right to vote; rent relief and small business loans were distributed; and bike lanes were installed. We should all be grateful and proud that we are able to look back at 2020 and realize it is in our rearview mirror. We are Lakewood, we are special, and I recognize all the hard work that lies ahead. Thank you for your patience and support during this past year.

ARE YOU PRACTICING SAFE SIX?



MASKING For A Friend



Lakewood Express

Safe and Dependable taxi service at low competitive rates.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Senior Discounts for 55 years of age and older

JACK Cleveland Casino

\$20.00 per person / Round Trip

Call us to schedule your next trip

440-320-6019 / 216-385-8730



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 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 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

Youth Reading Programs At Lakewood Public Library

by Nic Starr

Are you all Zoomed out? Then try two of these reading programs for kids. Help your child get ready for kindergarten by trying out our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Children, age birth to starting kindergarten, can register online or in-person and will receive a folder, bookmark and their first reading log. Read together and record your progress online at home or by bringing in completed logs to the Main Library or Madison branch to receive rewards and acquire a new reading log.

Children in Kindergarten through eighth grade can join the Library Explorers Badge Quest program by registering online. Participants will read their way through the Children’s and Youth Services collection and earn badges by completing the readings and activities covering juvenile and teen fiction, nonfiction, biographies, graphic novels, and more. Complete twelve of the seventeen badges to complete the program and receive a Lakewood Public Library drawstring book bag, a new book, and a bookmark.

from a diverse list of titles. Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

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

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

Thursdays, 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 make an interactive snowman in JavaScript?

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Use the JavaScript programming language to draw a snowman on a webpage and have it respond to actions taken by the user. Learn about drawing on the canvas and using mouse events to control changes in JavaScript from facilitators with experience in the field of computer science. We'll also learn about a Woman in Tech. This session builds on the previous session and is designed for intermediate to advanced coding abilities (beginning coders who completed the build a snowman in JavaScript are also encouraged to attend). Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

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

Virtual Girls Who Code: Python Guess the Word Game

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Use the Python programming language to create a guessing game. Learn Python and how you can create a simple game from facilitators with experience in the field of computer science. This session covers Core Computer Science concepts of variables, conditionals, loops, and functions. We'll also meet and learn about a local Woman in Tech. This session is designed for all coding abilities. Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

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

Virtual Girls Who Code: Python Virtual Pet

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Use the Python programming language to create a virtual pet. Learn Python with the Tkinter module to create an interactive pet from facilitators with experience in the field of computer science. This session covers Core Computer Science concepts of variables, conditionals, loops, and functions. This session is designed for intermediate to advanced coding abilities. Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Creative Writing Advances Birchwood Teams to the Next Level

by Aubrey Fox

Last month, Birchwood’s seventh and eighth grade teams competed at the district level Power of the Pen creative writing tournament taking top honors. The seventh grade team placed second and the eighth grade team placed first. Both teams advance to the regional competition.

Individually, Isabelle Bixler won 4th place overall, and also a “best of round” award. Areesha Nouman won “Best of Round” in two out of the three rounds.

Jennifer Seward, one of their coaches, described the event saying, “What many people may not realize is that Power of the Pen is more than a showcase of writing talent and creativity. Students must have stamina, they must be willing to practice their storytelling, and they must be open to constructive criticism. All of these students possess all of these things. It's such an honor to see their hard work pay off.”

Along with Jennifer Seward, coaches Charles Debelak, Lorraine Tzeng, and Maysan Haydar congratulate their teams who will go on to



Front row: Dilan Nadkarni (Avon), Cadence Guo (Broadview Heights), Manan Raina (Brecksville), Reyna Uechi (alternate) (Lakewood)

compete in the regional tournament on March 13th hosted by Baldwin-Wallace University:

7th grade:
Isabella Bixler (Fairview Park)
Mariana Del Rio (Strongsville)
Omar Elbadawy (Avon)
Katie Leonardi (Westlake)
Areesha Nouman (Westlake)
Michael Zhu (Avon)

8th grade:
Cadence Guo (Broadview Heights)
Sinan Haufe (Cleveland)
Dilan Nadkarni (Avon)
Sebastian Boyer (Cleveland)
Chloe Leng (Hinckley)
Manan Raina (Brecksville)
Reyna Uechi (alternate) (Lakewood)

Power of the Pen competitions consist of three rounds of timed creative writing based on unique prompts. But, competitions are not their only focus. Their broader mission is to help young people find and develop a creative voice that is uniquely theirs. Power of the Pen seeks to empower teachers and challenge students to embrace the art of creative expression through writing as a life skill, not just a competitive exercise. About 7,500 students participate in their tournaments each year, but they provide in-class instructional materials that reach over 120,000 students in Ohio.

Birchwood School of Hawken is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood's mission is to equip children to lead a life of becoming – growing, thriving and flourishing – through the development of intellect and character.

birchwoodschool.org

Lakewood Education

Cleveland Kids' Book Bank

by Grace Lamparyk

As children, many of us have fond memories of parents, grandparents, and older siblings reading our favorite books to us. Although these memories may seem insubstantial, to children who don't have these experiences, they're crucial. Reading shapes pathways in children's lifestyles that impact their success in the future. Having stories to read also provides a creative outlook on the world, making their present brighter in addition to their future.

Thousands of children don't have access to books in their home, and according to Scholastic.com, "Findings published in the journal Social Science Research show that raising a child in a home filled with books positively impacts her future academic growth and job attainment" (Rodriguez). This being said, children without books in their home are already at a disadvantage compared to those that do have access to books. To be successful in this world, reading and writing are common skills that every employer expects employees to have. Without these basic skills, one is likely to have trouble finding and keeping an occupation to support their family.

The Cleveland Kids' Book Bank of the Greater Cleveland area was founded when two brilliant minds, Judy Payne and Judi Kovach, realized this issue. Payne and Kovach were part of the Little Free Library Cleveland movement to encourage citizens to "take a book, leave a book." Passersby could take a book home with them from the little library if they needed one; it was as simple as that.

Upon gaining recognition, this movement was so successful that the book bank founders needed to do something more. What they did was create the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank.

The Book Bank's website tells the story of the nonprofit organization to inspire others to make a change in the world, whether that be founding their own nonprofit, or donating a few books to this one. The "Our Story" portion of the website states, "Our work is made possible by the more than 6,000 volunteers who have sorted, packed, and boxed books at our Mid-Town Cleveland warehouse." The volunteer-based organization uses the help of programs including the City of Lakewood's H2O "Help to Others" program to package and sort their books. They also "...were able to divert hundreds of thousands of high-quality children's books annually from the recycling heap and get them into the hands of Cleveland children in need." Benefiting the environment and children, this program is a gift to our city. The success of the Book Bank is described by the sentence, "Since our first partner pick-up in March 2016, we have distributed more than 2 million high-quality children's books total to 100,000+ children and families in need in Greater Cleveland annually." Every single child affected by the program is bound to have a brighter, more fulfilling future. H2O is very proud to be able to help this wonderful organization, and all citizens of the Cleveland community can be, too.

Just outside of Lakewood High School on 14100 Franklin Blvd., there is a large metal box with the Book Bank's logo on it. Located on the Franklin side of the building, this



H2O volunteers sorting donations at the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank in the fall of 2019. Pictured: Grace (left, author of article) and Ella (right).

box is always open for anyone to drive by and drop off a few books. The bin was installed in partnership with the Lakewood City Schools. The Book Bank accepts any book that would appeal to children age birth through eighteen and doesn't contain topics on holidays or religion. Every citizen is able to make a difference in this world, and the Kids' Book Bank of the Greater Cleveland area makes this task easy and possible.

Sources:

"Science Says: A Book-Filled Home Has Benefits Beyond Reading for Kids." Scholastic, www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/study-finds-benefits-of-childs-home-library.html.

"How The Kids' Book Bank Came To Be." Kids' Book Bank Cleveland, www.kidsbookbank.org/our-story/.

Grace Lamparyk is a sophomore at Lakewood High School and a leader in H2O's Executive Committee.

We missed you...

Welcome back to India Garden!



ONLY \$14.95

Starting on Tuesday February 23rd, 2021

We will be serving Best Indian Cuisine Lunch Buffet.

OPEN DAILY

Mon – Fri 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sat – Sun 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Spice your week with us!


Reservation Highly Recommended: 216.221.0676

www.IndiaGardenCleveland.com

18405 Detroit Road

Lakewood, OH 44107

Ready For All Your Family's Dental Needs



LAKEWOOD 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

Lakewood Observer

Congrats To Our LHS State Qualifiers

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the 10 Ranger athletes who thus far have qualified for their sport's state tournament.

Junior Kelsey Dalton competed in the Girls Wrestling State Tournament Feb. 20 and nine Rangers qualified for the upcoming Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches

Indoor State Track Championship Meet. Competing at Spire Institute in Geneva on March 6 are: Ebony Bradford, Sadie Gregg, McKenna Hunt, Teeghan McGann, Helen Roche, Abby Sacha, Alicia Smith, Aniya Symons, Mallory Zavatchan.

Good luck, Rangers!

Rangers Shine In Final Game

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

As is the case for 99% of all high school teams, the season for Lakewood Boys Basketball team ended in a loss last night as the Rangers fell to higher seeded Cleveland Heights 64-51. The Rangers shooting was off early, and by the time they found the range, so had the Tigers, who held off several late runs to pull away at the end. (Through most of the second half, the gap was between 6-10 points).

This was the last ever game in the purple and gold for Mark Jarrous, Mohammed Kutkut, Ahmed Muhammed, Ayden Wacker, JaQuan Neal and Peter Patsouras, all of whom have made contributions to the program*, whether as starters and leading scorers/rebounders, or in supporting roles off the bench and practice competitors.

Tonight, two seniors, JaQuan Neal (known as "Q") and Ahmed Muhammed, shined bright in the absence of leading scorer Pete Patsouras, unavailable due to injury. Ahmed hit four 3 pointers (12 points) to keep Lakewood within striking distance in the second half, while Q (17 points) did everything—rebounded against taller players, defended and stole the ball, set up teammates, and hit three 3's. Junior

Hakeem Quran played well on both ends of the court, and had 16 points. Point guard Riley Ulintz (6 points) and forward Ayden Wacker (3 points) rounded out the scoring.

The best part of the game came ironically when Q (pictured), having left everything on the court, fouled out in the waning minutes, as teammates and coaches hugged and consoled him. The joy of the increasingly rare, but persistently magical, community based sports was there for everyone to see.

*The Lakewood Rangers are part of an actual program that nurtures the talents of community members. The Duke Blue Devils have a great coach and great players, but they are an assemblage of talent from far and wide, many of whom spend but one-two years there. Our group—many here k-12- comes from as far as between Lake Erie, 117th, Rocky River and I -90 (Ok, save the little island south of 90).

The guys from the 44107 lost today, but in playing for the hometown—especially during a year with unprecedented challenges—they reaffirmed the value of community based sports, and have earned the title—Ranger for Life. See you next season. Long Live Lakewood.

Oh Those Were The Days



Breakfast at the Shore with former Mayor of Lakewood, Thomas George. Owner Angelo joined us while Tina listens.

Lakewood Kiwanis Increases Scholarships For 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 increased the awards to TEN \$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 college or university. 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 www.lakewoodkiwanis.com. Please submit by April 1, 2021. Lakewood Kiwanis serving Lakewood youth and celebrating our Centennial year in 2021.

Lakewood Lutheran School

CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION IN A CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT



Lakewood Lutheran School

Small Classes allow In-Classroom instruction, 5 days a week

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2021-22. LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE



lakewoodlutheranschool.com
216-221-6941



Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist Church

Community Service Center

We are open by appointment only!

1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Behind Taco Bell. Enter through school glass doors.

Providing **FREE** gently used adult & children's clothing and shoes, household items, books, videos, and toys

To schedule an appointment, please call between 10am and 8pm
Barbara at 727-902-2808
or **Eddie at 216-577-3693** (alternative)

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



Lakewood Cares

Pandemic Project Gives iPhone Users New Game

by Brandi Larsen
Larsen creates Scorch Injector app to fight frustration

At the start of the pandemic, Matt Larsen was looking for a job. Today, the Lakewood native launched his own.

Larsen created Scorch Injector, the iPhone game billed as a stress-relieving boredom buster to spice up 2021.

Larsen said, “The pandemic has pushed every parent to their breaking point. I wanted to give people a positive resource to release their stress and frustration. So I taught myself to code.”

Scorch Injector is the fun, fast-paced medical action game with a food-lover's twist. Play as the hero with the hot sauce to destroy the BLAND and restore the patient and planet's good taste.

“Being able to shoot BLANDs with your food injector is cathartic,” Larsen said. “As we wait for an end to the pandemic, game play helps fight frustration, relieve stress, and release tension.”

Scorch Injector utilizes an innovative approach to gameplay, using motion control as virtual reality to

immerse players in the world. Players become ANDOUILLE, launched into the patient to defeat the BLAND by shooting hot sauce at all copies found while navigating the body's digestive tract. Players move their device to find where the BLAND is hiding and tap to destroy.

“It's virtual reality without the reality,” Larsen said. “I relied on my expertise in tech support for the foundation, boosted by an online class I took this summer. But it was my skills as an artist and an improviser that supported the programming, turning the imaginary into the real.”

Larsen built a draft of the idea on App Wednesday, a concept he and his wife, Brandi Larsen, created to give him uninterrupted focus time away from the kids. The entire family has been home together since March.

“Any good piece of art is a collaboration. Brandi saw the initial design and thought to make it a medical action game and I thought of adding Cajun flavoring to the recipe. I knew Scorch Injector hit the right level of fun when the kids begged to play.”

“This is an escape from the pandemic. Games inject the spice we miss,” Larsen said. “In truth, each of us can make 2021 less bland than 2020. Wear a mask, practice social distancing, get the vaccine when it becomes available to you, and find ways to relax and care



Matt Larsen is a graduate of Lakewood High School and a current resident of Lakewood. He and his wife both operate small businesses in Lakewood. He's available for interviews: Contact: Brandi Larsen

for yourself.”
Scorch Injector is available now for iPhone in the Apple app store for \$0.99.

LKWD CAST LLC is a development studio dedicated to creating apps to make your life better, based in Lakewood, Ohio. Matt Larsen is the company's founder.

Brandi Larsen is a Lakewood-based writer, speaker, and coach building a more inclusive publishing landscape. She helped create NYT best-sellers and earned Emmy nominations. Her talks about publishing, leadership, and grief inspire audiences from Zoom to Harvard. She serves as the board president for Literary Cleveland and writes books and essays. Scorch Injector is a COVID collaboration close to her heart. BrandiLarsen.com

\$150,000 From Three Arches For Hospice Of The Western Reserve's Palliative Care Program

continued from page 1

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, or by calling 216.383.3700.



Scorch Injector is the fun, fast-paced medical action game with a food-lover's twist. Play as the hero with the hot sauce to destroy the BLAND and restore the patient and planet's good taste. Available for iPhone in the Apple App Store.

HOME ALONE
PET SITTING, INC.

In Home Pet Care
While You Are Away
Experienced
Veterinarian Technician

Bonded & Insured
216-548-1543
djmhokin@gmail.com
homealonepetsittinginc.com

Lakewood's #1 choice
for interior and exterior
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

NUNZIO'S
Pizzeria

Visit Sicily Without
Leaving Home

SINCE 1990 • 26 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

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

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

www.nunziospizza.net

Lakewood Is Art®

Betty Rozakis Thanks Beck Center With “Marble and Fire”

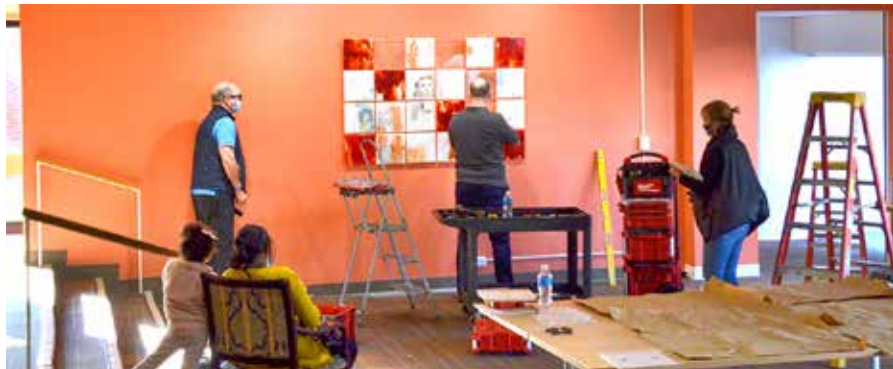
continued from page 1

Beck Center. “Because of my classes in art and creativity at the Beck I was able to build my portfolio and finally get into Cleveland Institute of Art, a life-long dream.” Without the Beck, none of this would have been possible.

Decals from drawings she had done at Beck Center in 2010 were incorporated through the use of special decals. Then the panels were fired again. Other panels were created with Betty using glass powder and Exacto Knives. Finally the 10” by 10” panels were referred again with a clear glass layer. 10” x 10”, the final piece is 43” x 65” hung on the wall of the large meeting area at the Beck. This is a perfect

place for Betty’s latest because not only does the Beck Center have a great history of showcasing local artists in every field, they offer great space to impress and motivate others.

Speaking with some friends at the Beck it’s clear that the times of COVID have been tough, but the school (now redesigned for safety), and some grants from groups like Three Arches have helped to sustain one of Lakewood’s greatest treasures. Please consider supporting the Beck Center now in these difficult times and in the future. Support is easy and ranges from buying Chocolate Bars on their website made by Sweet Designs with 100% going to the Beck to leaving a bequeathment in your will, and everything in between.



George Rozakis checks out the work of son Nick as Betty, Nick’s wife Paola and daughter Camila look on, proving once again the Beck is great for families. Paola and Nick are expecting another child in a month. Congratulations!



After a full day of building the detailed intricate rack holding the art to the wall, Betty and Nick Drop their masks and pose next to the final installation. Betty wants everyone to know she is ready for her next corporate commission.



I included this photo of Nick working as I have never seen so many Milwaukee products in one field of view. Normally you see a mix. When I mentioned to Nick he explained, “Milwaukee is my brand! They have whatever I need, and it always works. Top notch is what you need, besides doesn’t it look great?!”

DINE IN • CARRY OUT • DELIVERY

WOODSTOCK

13362 Madison Ave Lakewood, Ohio
(216) 226-8828

FISH FANS: ENJOY LAKE ERIE PERCH
DELICIOUSLY FRIED PLATTERS

EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT

Fish Dinner consists of 3 pieces of Breaded Seasoned Perch,
French Fries, House Slaw, tarter and a lemon wedge for \$13.50.
Dine in, carryout or delivery. Available until sold out



WALL TO WALL TRANSFORMATIONS
FULLY INSURED, FREE ESTIMATES



PLASTER REPAIR
Specializing In Plaster And
Lathe Restoration

216-255-8529

TROY BRATZ
Real Estate Agent
Residential / Commercial
Lakewood Resident



216.702.2196 TroyBratz@KW.com
@TroyBratzKW





SOLD

SELL now for top dollar
BUY for your future
INVEST in the community

Lakewood Is Art®

A Figment Of Your Imagination:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 113

by Buzz Kompier

Bill Fox - Transit Byzantium - Scat Records - 18 songs - LP, CD

I've heard that this has been coming out for many years now—it's been on my list of "upcoming releases to possibly review" since around the time I started this column. "Transit Byzantium" is Bill Fox's second solo LP (following up "Shelter From The Smoke"), originally released on CD only in 1998. I've had that CD for a while, so I was familiar with the music here, but this is a new remaster and a nice new package and of course I wanted it on LP because I'm an annoying snob, so here we go. Bill Fox is basically a folk singer—these songs are mostly acoustic and most of them feature just him on vocals and guitar (and sometimes some kind of bass or percussion—on one song he plays piano too); however, that doesn't do his songs justice. I've described the music of Bill Fox with this complex analogy: it's like "Nick Lowe and Dave Edmunds Sing The Everly Brothers" except it's "The Beatles Sing Bob Dylan." It's sort of like an inverse folk rock: instead of Bob Dylan style songs but with Beatles style arrangement, it's Beatles style songs with Bob Dylan style arrangements. There are the obvious folk elements (particularly prominent on "From A Dark Night," "Quartermaster's Wintertime," and "Dixie Darling," for a few examples), but with very melodic tunes

that are far more pop ("I'll Give It Away" (featuring Tom Fallon and Tommy Fox) and "My Baby Crying" being the most overtly Beatles-influenced, I'd say). Of course, there's also nice harmonies, interesting guitar interplay, and simply beautiful songs that are a hallmark of all of Bill's best work. One weird digression is the brief and especially lo-fi "Sycamore," which must've either been recorded when Bill was a teenager or sped up, because his voice is very high on this one. Anyway, the man knows how to write very, very good songs and there are a lot of them on this record. Honestly, there are too many highlights to point them all out, but some particular favorites are the aforementioned "I'll Give It Away," "Thinking Of You," "Bonded To You," and all three tracks that make up the final side ("Portland Town," "For Anyone That You Love," and "When I Blow"). Very nearly as good or maybe even just as good as "Shelter" (which, by the way, is also back in print and you also definitely need) and definitely worth checking out. I'm very happy this is back in print. **4.5/5** (realscatrecords.com)

Leaking - Inborn / Suture - self-released - 2 songs - cassette, digital

This is the second release from Leaking, the trio of Depew, MacCluskie, and Taylor. I know the first two more from punk and punk-adjacent bands and don't know the last

one at all, but together they make long form instrumental experimental music. When I picked up this tape from Depew himself, he used the magic words to get me to dislike something before I've even heard it: "Grateful Dead." That one's gonna get me a lot of hate mail, I'm sure. That said, I tried to go in with a pretty open mind because I have a lot of respect for Noah (that's Depew) and David (that's MacCluskie) as musicians. The first side is "Inborn," which starts with some melancholy and vaguely psychedelic guitar and violin, joined by some light percussion. This all builds up to an intense swell, then goes right back down to almost nothing before coming back to an ominous mood again. Eventually, the drumming picks up to a bit of a frenzy and brings the song to an atmospheric mess...then comes down again. This cycle repeats itself several times—the loud parts are noisy enough that it becomes an interesting kind of mash, with the violin droning while the guitar continues to meander morosely and the drums basically blow up the proceedings. The other section of note of this piece is a part where everything abruptly stops, only to be brought back in by the drums...and then stops again. This also repeats and is pretty menacing, not only because of what the group is playing but because of the unexpectedness of every stop. It leaves you on edge a bit not knowing when or if it'll suddenly halt again. It's

interesting how what's mostly a change in drumming accounts for such a change in mood in the song. The final section carries a similar foreboding vibe, with an acoustic guitar creeping into the mix. My problem with this type of music is usually an attention span one, and Leaking aren't quite exempt from that here, but they did pull off an interesting array of moods and changes in the song's over-20-minute runtime. "Suture," on the other side and other hand, did have a very different feel from its companion track here, so I give them points for that, but did not cohere for me nearly as well. It was just as long but felt much more aimless. There were interesting parts (I liked the violin and drum call and response, for example), but overall could not hold my attention as well as "Inborn" did. But hey, that's still not bad considering that I frankly don't really have an interest in this kind of thing. I lack the knowledge of the context that would be helpful in rating this definitively, but given that I found parts of it pretty interesting, I'd think that people who tend more towards this kind of experimental music (or, gulp, the Dead) will enjoy it. (leaking.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.



MARCH
Aries:

The Ram's focus is behind the scenes, maybe a little flirtation with a leprechaun, keep your eyes open, all it not as it seems, there may be surprises in the finances, watch the green.

Taurus:

The Bull finally ventures away from the Bull Pen, lots of social activity going on in the area of friends & associations, Uranus is front in center in the Bull's Pen, try out a new look.

Gemini:

Career is on the mind of the

Twins, work your wit & charm & you'll impress even the most caustic of bosses, plan that trip to distant lands, the Blarney stone & a Guinness...hmm.

Cancer:

The Crab loves the Seashore, it's not too late to plan, Greece, Italy & France all have seashores last time I checked, your four-leaf clover is in other's money, lotto, IRS refund?

Leo:

The Lion/Lioness may have stumbled upon the pot o' gold, your lucky star is shining on your business/personal relationships, & surprises are in

store in the career arena, do an Irish jig.

Virgo:

The Luck of the Irish is sprinkling its fairy dust in the area of health & service, stay within moderation when eating all that corned beef & cabbage, quit worrying to reduce stress.

Libra:

Balance is something you work at, keep the over-indulgences down this month, & you should fare on the other side of the scales. Limit the green milkshakes & curb the corned beef.

Scorpio:

Romance, Fun in the Sun, (yeah

you'll have to come out-of-the-dark) letting your inner child come out to play, & family relationships are in store for the Scorpion, top o' the morning.

Sagittarius:

The Centaur takes a closer look at its roots this month, you may be getting out & about in your community, take a look at volunteering at a neighborhood soup kitchen, say yes.

Capricorn:

Hanging around neighborhood pastures, rather than mountain climbing for the Goat, go ahead & network, finances get fairy-dusted, & visits from young ones suddenly appear.

Aquarian:

Jupiter is shining its lucky Leprechaun rainbow rays on you, time for an eclectic new look, shock the world, you're good at that, sudden changes appear on the home front, be ready.

Pisces:

The Fish probably should stick close to the Blarney Stone this month to keep you grounded, with Venus, Mercury & the Sun all lined up in your Sea, you're all about illusions.

Eva Starr, local astrologer has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at evastarr.com

State Government

Lawmakers Say Governor's Budget Significantly Defunds Transit In Ohio Reps. Skindell And Upchurch Seek \$150 Million Annually For Public Transit

by Barbara Brisbane

State Reps. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Terrence Upchurch (D-Cleveland) today filed legislation to introduce the funding of public transit in Ohio at \$150 million annually, using a mix of State and Federal revenues. The legislation seeks \$100 million from Ohio's General Revenue Fund and \$50 million in revenue from Federal Highway dollars, known as Federal Flex dollars, annually over the two-year budget to go to transit.

In his proposed state budget, Governor DeWine outlines a small appropriation of approximately \$7.3 million annually from the General Revenue Fund for public transit. Neither the state operating budget nor the state transportation budget earmarks federal flex dollars for transit. The existing state operating budget passed in 2019 appropriated \$70 million annually for public transit from the General Revenue Funds. Transit systems have received less than this amount due to budget cuts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am extremely discouraged



State Reps. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood)

that Gov. DeWine and his administration do not understand the importance of public transit for many working individuals in this state," said Rep. Skindell. "I was pleased that the Ohio General Assembly made a significant commitment to greater public transit funding in the last transportation bill. Our legislation today recognizes that we need to create a transportation system that addresses Ohio's changing

demographics and transportation preferences, links people to jobs and training opportunities, and provides access to businesses and healthcare."

Rep. Skindell has been advocating for increased public transit funding in every state budget since 2003. The use of General Revenue Fund (GRF) dollars has radically decreased from \$44 million in 2000 to \$6.5 million in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. Currently, the use of federal flex dollars for public transportation is only at \$33 million per year. With these combined amounts, Ohio was spending 63 cents per person on mass transit.

"The historic cuts and underfunding in public transit have resulted in higher fares and cuts in bus services, including senior

and disabled transportation options, across the state," said Rep. Upchurch. "Our proposed investment increase in public transit is a historic step forward, but more is needed to address the needs of public transit in Ohio after nearly two decades of under investment."

In 2015, the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Statewide Transit Needs Study reported that there was a significant shortfall in funding public transit and recommended a \$120 million investment in 2015 to stabilize transit systems to address both service and capital investments, and increasing that investment to \$185 million over a decade.

Reps. Skindell, Denson Testify On Legislation To Repeal Corrupt Price Gouging Budget Amendment Benefiting First Energy, HB 58 Puts Money Back Into Ohioans' Pockets

by Barbara Brisbane

State Reps. Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Sedrick Denson (D-Cincinnati) testified today on House Bill (HB) 58, previously introduced as HB 740 in the 133rd General Assembly, which would repeal a provision in state law allowing First Energy to keep excessive profits rather than returning the money to electric customers through a rate adjustment. The pricing provision was added to the state two-year budget, HB 166, which was signed into law in July 2019.

In Ohio, electric distribution utilities are entitled to earn monopoly profits from the electric services they provide to customers. Ohio's allowance for profits is larger than most other states. Prior to the HB 166 amendment, electric utilities were allowed to earn excessive profits but "significantly excessive profits" were required to be returned to customers through an adjustment in prospective rates. HB 166 changed how "significantly excessive profits" are calculated, benefiting FirstEnergy by amending Revised Code Section 4928.143.

Under the language adopted in HB 166, FirstEnergy would be allowed to treat its three distribution utilities (Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison and Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company) as one, so if one utility had significantly excessive profits, those profits could be spread out among all three utilities. The practical impact of the amendment allowed Ohio Edison's higher profits to be combined with Toledo Edison and Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, thus allowing FirstEnergy to keep Ohio

Edison's excess profits rather than adjusting consumer rates. All three distribution electric utilities are subsidiaries of First Energy.

"No utility should benefit from and consumers should not bear the burden of legislation passed through corrupt means. This legislation must be fully repealed to restore the confidence in Ohio government," said Rep. Skindell.

"If we are going to restore public trust in our government, we must take every step to do so. Passing HB 58 would be a huge step toward restoring the trust that every Ohioan deserves to have in their government," said Rep. Denson.

The Ohio Manufacturers Association and the Ohio Consumers Counsel, among others, opposed this language being added to the budget. In a May 2019 report, entitled "Connecting the Dots: FirstEnergy Political \$\$\$, Profits, and Utility Policy," Common Cause of Ohio suggested a link to political contribution and the passage of energy policy.

On July 21, 2020, federal prosecutors arrested former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and others for corruption and racketeering. The indictment alleged that First Energy bankrolled Householder's campaign for Speaker and the campaign to pass favorable legislation for the electric utility. In addition to the budget amendment, Householder ushered the passage of HB 6, which provided for more than a billion dollar bailout of two First Energy nuclear power plants.

Barb Brisbane is Legislative Aide to State Representative Michael J. Skindell.

Democratic Lawmakers Testify On Bill To Repeal House Bill 6

by Barbara Brisbane

House Democratic lawmakers Reps. Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Michael O'Brien (D-Warren) testified before the House Public Utilities Committee today on House Bill (HB) 57, their legislation to repeal HB 6. The Democrats urged lawmakers on the panel to act swiftly to repeal the controversial corporate bailout legislation at the center of an FBI investigation into an alleged \$60 million public corruption scheme led by then-Republican Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford), the largest corruption and money-laundering scheme ever in Ohio.

"Electric customers are on the hook for paying for legislation adopted because of a \$60 million corruption scheme. House Bill 6 must be immediately repealed to protect Ohioans and restore con-

fidence in state government," Rep. Skindell said in his testimony.

The Democratic legislation would repeal HB 6, a \$1 billion bailout for Ohio's two nuclear power plants, which was signed into law in July 2019. Then-Speaker Larry Householder and several associates were allegedly paid tens of millions of dollars to pass HB 6 and to prevent a referendum against the law from coming before Ohio voters. Householder was arrested on July 21, 2020 for his role in the alleged racketeering scheme.

"Often referred to as the worst energy policy legislation passed by any state, HB 6 is an example of how a corrupt system can pass legislation hurting average working families to benefit large corporations," said Rep. O'Brien in his testimony.

The Lakewood Observer Serving Lakewood Residents & Businesses Best, For 10 Years

In Print & Online And Now In 20 Other Communities!

Isn't it time you joined with this history making, award winning project?

Call 216.407.6818 Today



Lakewood Over Easy

A Discussion Of Lakewood's New "Pay To Stay" Tenant Ordinance

by Betsy Voinovich

We had some questions regarding details of Lakewood's new "Pay To Stay" ordinance which were graciously answered by Ward 2 Council Representative, Jason Shachner.

"This ordinance will allow renters to avoid eviction if they provide their landlord with the full rent, including late fees, and court costs prior to an eviction hearing. The ordinance also caps late fees at the greater of \$25 or 5% of the monthly rent."

Lakewood Observer:

If renters have the money to "pro-

vide the landlord with the full rent" why is there any question of eviction? I thought the problem was that some renters don't have the money to pay rent, and thus they can be evicted.

Jason Shachner:

In Ohio, if rent is due on the 1st and the tenant does not pay on the first, the landlord may immediately file for eviction. Furthermore, if a tenant comes up with rent after rent is due, the landlord does not have to accept it and may proceed with the eviction. This ordinance will mandate that a landlord accept rent from a tenant, plus any late fees or court costs accrued, at any

point prior to the execution of eviction judgment. Without this ordinance, a landlord would not have to accept the rent from the tenant after it is due and may proceed with the eviction.

LO: What is the average time between being served an eviction notice and the execution of eviction judgment? How much time do renters have, in general, to get their finances in order?

JS: I do not know the average time between being served and the execution of the eviction judgment. Without this ordinance, renters would have no time to get their finances in order.

LO: Isn't there already a Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 (Order) issued by the CDC that "prohibits residential landlords nationwide from evicting certain tenants through March 31, 2021"? How does the Lakewood ordinance work with this order from the CDC, or are Lakewood residents not classified as the "certain tenants" referred to above?

JS: The CDC order expires on the 31st and this ordinance will be in effect as long as the state of emergency is in effect.

According to CDC, the moratorium only applies to "covered persons." Covered person's are defined as:

A "covered person" is any tenant, lessee, or resident of a residential property who provides to their landlord, the owner of the residential property, or other person with a legal right to pursue eviction or a possessory action, a declaration under penalty of perjury that: (1) The individual has used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing; (2) The individual either (i) expects to earn no more than \$99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2020-2021 (or no more than \$198,000 if filing a joint tax return), (ii) was not required to report any income in 2019 to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or (iii) received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act; (3) The individual is unable to pay the full rent or

make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, a lay-off, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses; (4) The individual is using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual's circumstances may permit, taking into account other nondiscretionary expenses; and (5) Eviction would likely render the individual homeless— or force the individual to move into and live in close quarters in a new congregate or shared living setting—because the individual has no other available housing options. This ordinance would apply to all residential leases in Lakewood.

Thank you, Council member Shachner.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

World's fastest animal, with a top speed over 186 mph, the Peregrine Falcon. This is one member of the 3 mating pairs in and around Lakewood. They are already active on their nests, and tending their new babies.



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

BENTLEY

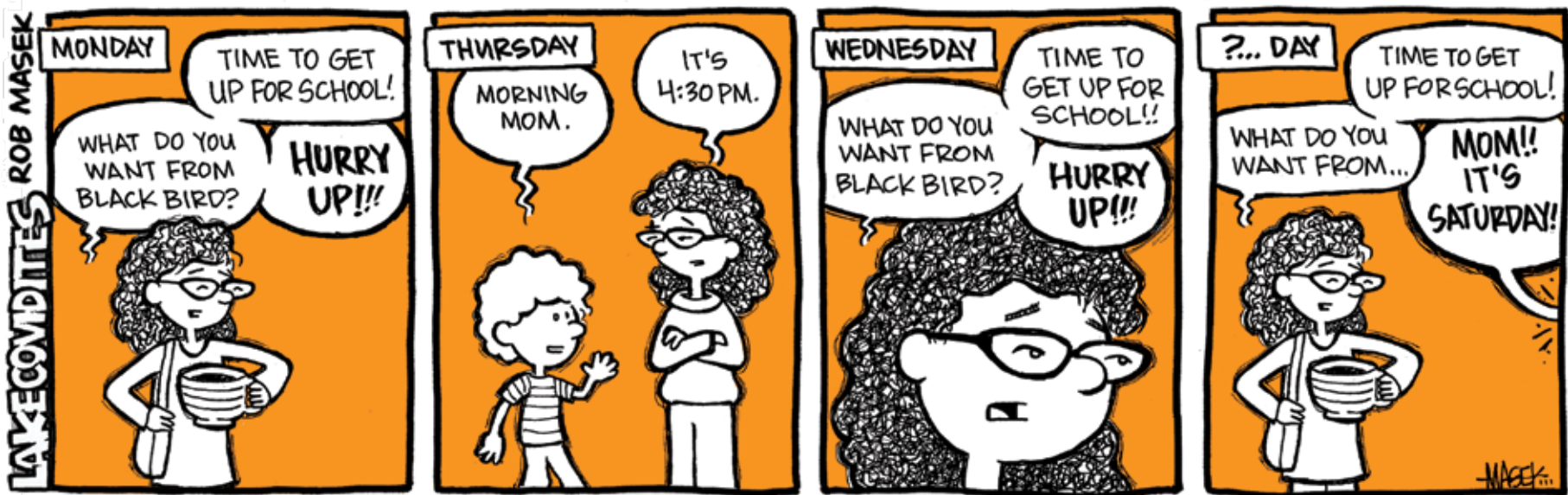
WEALTH MANAGEMENT OF
RAYMOND JAMES®

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 // 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

The Back Page



Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Full Service Salon For Females
See our new stuff for St. Pats Day.
Green masks, eyelashes, wigs,
and hair accessories.
Also Floral masks for Spring, Easter,
and Mother's Day.
Purple and Gold for teachers
and students.

 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
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 or call (216) 535-3323.

COX BUSINESS

Not all services are available everywhere. Learn more at 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
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 and we will send out an advertising kit!