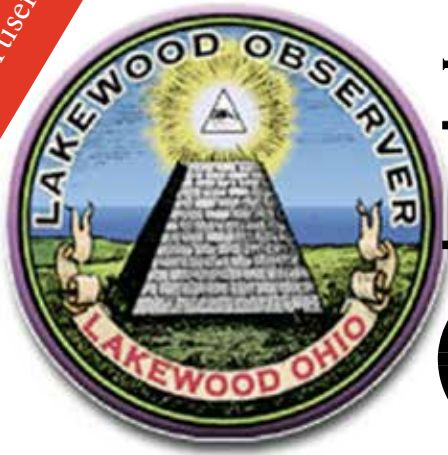


**Free - Take One!**  
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

**Pet Food Drive Saturday,**  
April 24th 10am - 2pm at LSCS, 14230 Madison Ave

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

Volume 17, Issue 7, April 7, 2021

## Rush Hour Parking Enforcement Resumes



by Jim O'Bryan

Rush hour parking will resume April 12th.

Effective 4/12/2021, The City of Lakewood will resume enforcement of "rush hour" parking zones as marked, Monday-Friday 7 am-9:30 am and 4 pm-6:30 pm.

Beginning 4/19/2021, vehicles found in violation of the rush hour zones will be subject to towing as posted.

In addition, all other parking violations will again be fully enforced as of 4/12/21.

*Consider yourself warned!*

## Dr. Christine Palumbo Named Next Asst. Superintendent

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education at a special meeting March 31 approved Lakewood City Schools Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Christine Palumbo, as the District's next Assistant Superintendent effective August 1, 2021. Palumbo will replace Maggie Niedzwiecki, who in February was named the successor to departing Super-

intendent Mike Barnes.

Palumbo brings a wealth of administrative and teaching experience to her new position. She spent her first 14 years as an educator with the Lakewood City Schools as a special education teacher and coordinator for special education services. In 2006, Palumbo moved on to become North Ridgeville

**continued on page 9**



Dr. Christine Palumbo

## Kyle Baker Announces Candidacy For Lakewood City Council At Large

by Kyle Baker

It is with an abiding sense of pride and belief in Lakewood that I am formally announcing that I am running for Lakewood City Council at Large in 2021. The theme of my campaign is From Lakewood, For Lakewood, Forward Lakewood. In line with that, I am eager to get out and meet with residents and local businesses to discuss how we can continue to move Lakewood forward.



Kyle Baker

By way of background, I am a proud product of the Lakewood City Schools. My experience in this community and the Lakewood City Schools has been foundational for me as a person and professional. After graduating from Lakewood High, I left for college (Miami University) and law school (The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law); but knew I would come back to raise my family. Growing up in Lakewood, I fell in love with the

diversity of backgrounds of my friends, classmates, and neighbors. I'm the youngest of 7 kids and come from a blue-collar tight-knit family. I'm proud of the fact that I was the first in my family to earn a college degree. I married the love of my life (Allison) in 2012 and we are raising our two young boys and dog (Champ) in the Lakewood home we bought in 2013.

I have a profound respect for public service. In 2014 I left

a large law firm to join Cleveland Metroparks because I wanted to be a public servant and make my community better. This occasion is no different. Lakewood is at a critical juncture. We are currently experiencing a fragile prosperity and need to continue to position ourselves as a community of choice, while at the same time investing in our aging infrastructure, nurturing a safe community friendly to every person, and welcoming appropriate development that fits and advances the community while at the same time preserving affordability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we've been experiencing some tough times. We must continue working to make Lakewood more resilient after the pandemic is over, and I believe that a strong City Council is necessary to help guide and provide vision to ensure that outcome.

**continued on page 3**



photos by George Kubas II

Cleveland Indians took us on another first step to normal with the 2021 Home Opener. It was limited seating, but it beats not having one, like last year. Thank you, Tribe! See all of George's photos online!

## LHS Students Reap Recognition For Writing And Art

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to a number of Lakewood High students who recently had their writing or artwork honored in state-wide competitions.

On the visual arts front, senior Nola Williams-Riseng's art was honored with an Award of Excellence as one of the top 25 pieces entered in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibit competition. Also earning a spot in the 300-piece exhibit with their artwork are juniors Grace Hoppel and Inga Wilhelmy. Judges received more than 1,000 entries from high school students across Northeast Ohio. From those entries, 126 were selected to join winners from the other Ohio regions to be judged at the state level to determine which pieces will be part of the exhibition.

From the 6,000 regional entries from across Ohio, approximately 1,000 are selected to enter the state judging. State jurors then select 300 for the actual exhibition, with 25 of the 300 chosen to receive the Governor's Award of Excellence. Scholarships are offered to seniors by over 30 universi-



Nola Williams-Riseng's artwork, "Respite," was honored as one of the top 25 pieces in the Governor's Youth Art Exhibit.

ties and colleges of art. The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition, now in its 51st year, is open to all of Ohio's high schools, both public and private. Its purpose is to provide all budding young artists of the state with opportunities to advance their talent, whether that be through scholarships or simply experiencing the process of entering their work in a competition.

Due to the coronavirus, and venue limitations on the number of people that can be safely accommodated, the 2021 exhibition and awards ceremony will be in a video/virtual format. Beginning Sunday, April 25, the artwork will be

**continued on page 4**



# The Mayor's Corner

## Safety And Recovery

by Meghan George

March was a busy month for Lakewood, and much of it was focused on safety. We began the month with discussions about how to improve traffic safety in light of February's horrific car accident on Clifton Boulevard that took the lives of two young men. We marked the one-year anniversary of the pandemic's economic shutdown. We responded to unfortunate gun-related incidents. I would like to provide you with a short update on the safety initiatives we are taking in the aftermath of these events.

In response to recent gun-related incidents, please be assured that safety continues to be our number one priority. On March 25th, we hosted a virtual community safety meeting to

address recent criminal activity in and around Lakewood. If you wish to watch the meeting, a recording is posted to the City's website. As discussed in the safety meeting, all resources have been deployed to address and investigate these incidents. These include increasing patrols in our parks, expanding policing and patrol efforts citywide, and scaling up our camera systems. These are short-term solutions to address the immediate safety concerns. However, to address the ongoing and long-term issues it will take a community-wide effort that addresses safety through an equity lens in a post-Covid world. Gun violence has increased nationwide and we need to work together as a community to address the long term impacts of Covid on mental health com-

bined with easy access to guns.

While March had its challenges, we saw many bright spots. I have been advocating for more than a year to our congressional delegation that we need help to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic and help is on the way. We received news in March that the City will receive new funds from the federal government through the passage of the American Recovery Plan. These funds will help Lakewood for years to come and it is important to develop a strategic plan to maximize the use of these funds, which will take extensive community and Council input.

Additionally, we are also coming closer to an agreement with our regulators to address the City's stormwater permit in a sustainable and affordable manner. I am advocating for additional funding from the State of Ohio and the federal government to address these issues that we did not create but we are responsible to resolve.

Finally, I am looking forward to the virtual State of the City address which will be held on April 16th at noon through the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's monthly "Brown Bag Lunch" series. A spinoff throughout April and May will be coming to each ward so please tune in and register through the City's website.

*Looking forward to a successful Spring and Summer.*



## Pet Food Drive

From a news release

The Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board and the Lakewood Community Services Center are collecting dry dog and cat food for families receiving food delivery due to economic hardship. To donate, please bring a bag of unopened pet food to the LCSC on April 24th between 10am- 2pm. Just pull into the back parking lot; you don't even need to get out of your car!

**Saturday, April 24th 10am - 2pm**  
**Lakewood Community Service Center**  
 14230 Madison Ave





**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**

AROUND THE CORNER

Book your fundraisers and special events With Us!



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

18616 Detroit Avenue  
 216.521.4413 • www.atccafe.com

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.

<b>Upcoming Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Publish Date</b>
April 16, 2021	April 21, 2021
April 30, 2021	May 5, 2021

www.lakewoodobserver.com

216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531

PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107



**Lakewood Observer**

PUBLISHER <i>Debra O'Bryan</i>	EDITOR IN CHIEF <i>Margaret Brinich</i>	ASSOCIATE EDITOR <i>Betsy Voinovich</i>	ADVERTISING Sales Manager <i>216.407.6818</i>
-----------------------------------	--	--	---

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 - Jacqueline Bon, The Close Family, Jacob Chabowski, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Emmie Hutchison, George Kubas II, and The Mercado Family

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - State Senator Nickie Antonio, Kyle Baker, Dr. Michael Barnes, Jacqueline Bon, Bob Close, Brock Close, Donna Close, Melinda Frank, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Joseph Kelly, Anthony Kocinski, Alfonso Mercado, Antonio Mercado, Johanna Mercado, Johany Mercado, Tess Neff, Jim O'Bryan, Jason Shachner, Eva Starr, Lila and Jose Vazquez, and Betsy Voinovich



## The Mayor's Corner

### Virtual State Of The City

by Jason Shachner

Join us on the "Road" - Virtual State of the City

Mayor George and Director of Planning & Development, Shawn Leininger, will join the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's monthly "Brown Bag Lunch" series to present a virtual State of the City on April 16th at noon.

Additionally, a spinoff presentation will be coming your way! We have worked with your council representatives to take this show on the road. This is a great opportunity for you to tune in as Mayor George addresses "Where We Have Been and Where we Are Going." She will discuss what happened in 2020

and specifics around the COVID-19 pandemic along with goals and objectives for the year to come. Director Leininger will dive into ongoing projects and development updates. Joined by your ward representative and council members at-large, we hope to use this occasion to tailor aspects of this presentation to each ward.

*Registration is available on our website and we will solicit your questions ahead of time. Visit <https://lakewoodchamber.org/april-brown-bag-luncheon-virtual-state-of-the-city-address-where-weve-been-and-where-were-going/> for more details.*

### District 'Spring Into STEM' A Success

by Christine Gordillo

While most students were relaxing and taking a hiatus from school over Spring Break the week of March 15, more than 100 K-8 students signed up for the District's first three-day Spring into STEM program to engage in some fun project-based learning and enrichment activities.

Emerson school building was bustling with classrooms full of students from each elementary grade for the three hours of instruction each day. Keeping the focus on fun, teachers assigned creative projects that helped students grasp concepts related to science, math and engineering with a dose of literacy integration as well.

For example, shaking a structure built out of toothpicks and mini-marshmallows atop a pan of Jell-O was one class's fun way of learning about civil engineering and building an earthquake-proof (or not) building. Another class learned about buoyancy and built pirate ships and fifth-graders worked on an egg-drop project where they learned about force of gravity and aerodynamics. A program highlight entailed testing out the creations the fifth-graders built to protect and carry their eggs when dropped from the roof of the building! All classes were able to watch as program administrator Bridgette Firstenberger dropped the transport vehicles from the school roof. All cheered as the creations made their way down to the pavement followed by a classmate excitedly recovering the egg (or not).

At the high school, students in grades 6-8 enjoyed a program focused on the problem of food waste with the help of instructors from the West Shore Career-Tech Culinary Arts and Project Lead the Way programs. Students got hands-on in the culinary arts kitchen peeling some oranges and learning how to make candied orange peels so no part of the orange goes to waste. Students also spent time



*Students enjoy the hands-on projects that made up much of the programming for Spring into STEM.*

in the Project Lead the Way pre-engineering classroom examining the food waste problem worldwide through maps, charts and graphs and learning about possible solutions. Students even went "dumpster diving" and examined what was thrown away from their breakfasts and trash from West Shore Executive Director Bill DiMascio's house.

Chef Devan Corti brought the students full circle back to the Culinary Arts lab for the students to dip their candied orange peels into some melted chocolate, making a delicious and profitable treat! The oranges reminded students of how they can come up with creative solutions to tackle the food waste problem.

The Spring into STEM program was the first of several enrichment programs the District has developed to help give extra support that some students need as a result of the past year of online learning. There will be more programs and camps available this summer. More details on those will be shared later this spring.

### Kyle Baker Announces Candidacy For Lakewood City Council At Large

continued from page 1

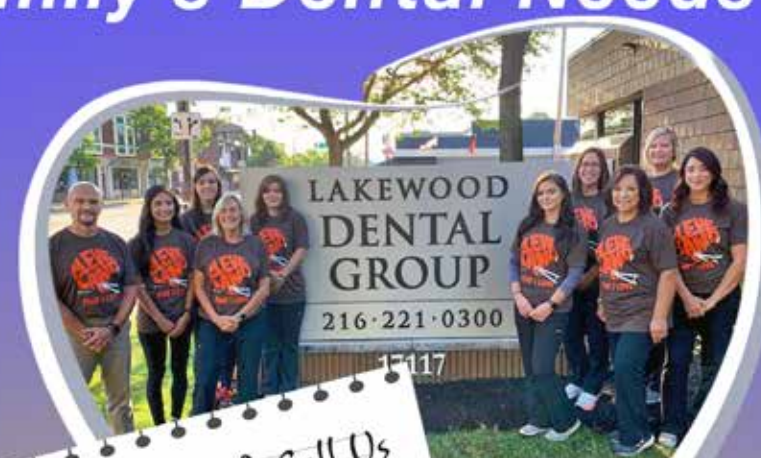
I have a unique blend of public, private, and volunteer experience. I've devoted countless hours to Lakewood as Board Member/President of the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation and as Chair/Vice-Chair of the Lakewood Planning Commission. On Lakewood Planning Commission I was involved with and made critical recommendations to the city on issues ranging from expanded outdoor dining to major development projects. I also oversaw the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation's transition from mostly alumni-based services and scholarships for graduating seniors to funding current initiatives, students and educators in the Lakewood City Schools. I also have extensive community development experience as a Board Member for West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development.

Through my role as Director of Real Estate and Senior Assistant Legal Counsel at Cleveland Metroparks, I work in many city halls across Northeast Ohio, where I see best practices and understand the complex inter-

play between municipal, county, state, and federal funding. I have overseen and stewarded the protection of over 1,000 acres (and counting) of new park land in Northeast Ohio. I also oversee the procurement and contracting process for Cleveland Metroparks along with other important organizational and law enforcement issues. While in law school, I worked for the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio House of Representatives, so I have a deep understanding of how decisions made in Columbus affect folks living in Lakewood. I will bring this diverse background and expertise to Lakewood City Council to keep Lakewood moving forward.

With my background and passion for this community – and a vision for an even stronger future for Lakewood – I am excited to begin this important and hard work. I look forward to knocking on doors and meeting with the community in the coming weeks and months. Please visit my website ([www.kylebakerforlakewood.com](http://www.kylebakerforlakewood.com)) or reach out on social media ([www.facebook.com/kylebakerforlakewood](http://www.facebook.com/kylebakerforlakewood)).

## Ready For All Your Family's Dental Needs



**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 Public Library

## Celebrate National Poetry Month With Lakewood Public Library

by Melinda Frank

From favorite poems to workshops and author events, celebrate National Poetry Month this April with the Library.

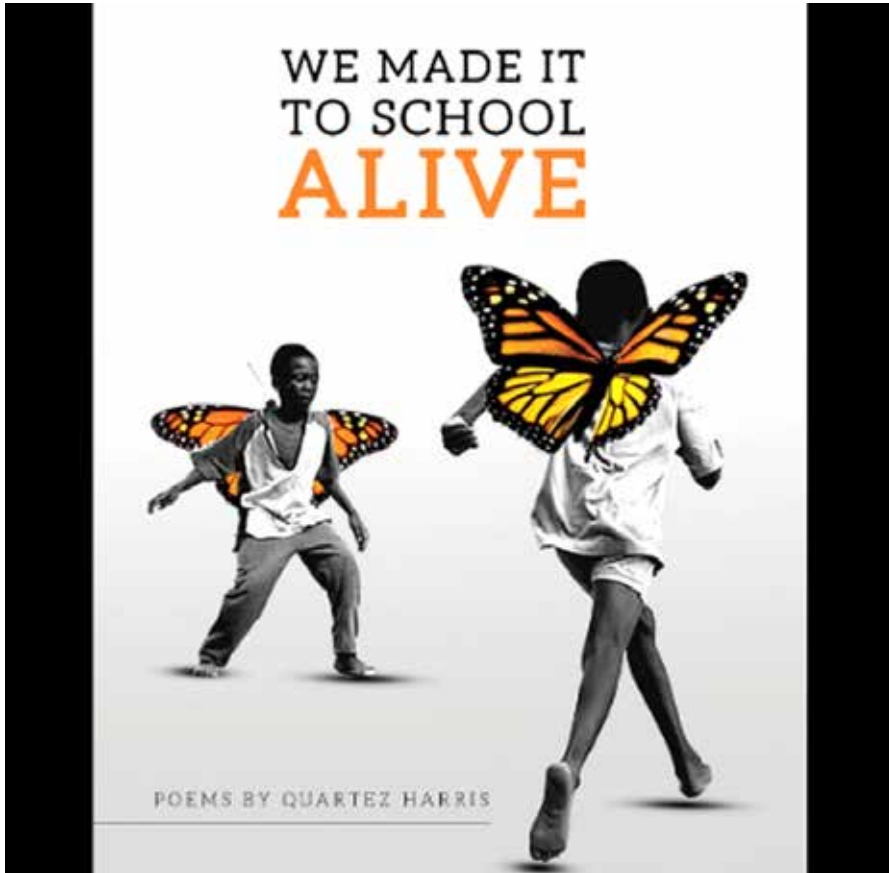
This year Lakewood Public Library is participating in the Favorite Poem Project. Created in 1997, The Favorite Poem Project is dedicated to celebrating, documenting and encouraging poetry's role in our lives. Share a sonnet, haiku or free verse with our community in an ongoing virtual open mic. Film a video of yourself reading your favorite poem. Poetry lovers of all ages are invited to participate. Share your video to our Facebook or Twitter and be sure to use the hashtag #favoritepoemproject.

Leanne Hoppe will lead two virtual poetry workshops this month. Hoppe is a local poet, writer, editor and college instructor. Each workshop will provide prompts to create your own poetry using personal myth, forty word meditation and other methods.

Grab a writing utensil and a notebook and create your own poetry. Workshop videos will premiere on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Cleveland poet and educator Quartez Harris is the latest author featured in our Virtual Meet the Author series. Harris' poetry collection "We Made It To School Alive" draws from his work with students dealing with gun violence, poverty and educational challenges. As a teacher in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood, Harris took the heavy stories his students shared and created this collection. The book is Twelve Literary Press' first publication. An exclusive author video will premiere on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

View these programs and more at [facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary) or [twitter.com/lakewoodlibrary](https://twitter.com/lakewoodlibrary). Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date on library news, programs and events.



Author Quartez Harris will discuss his poetry collection "We Made It To School Alive."

*We missed you...*  
**Welcome back to India Garden!**

**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](http://www.IndiaGardenCleveland.com)  
 18405 Detroit Road  
 Lakewood, OH 44107

## Cavani String Quartet To Join LHS Chamber Orchestra

by Christine Gordillo

In the District's first live concert of the school year, the LHS Chamber Orchestra will join with The Cavani String Quartet in a performance of the powerful Shostakovich String Quartet No. 8. The event will include a discussion of the life of Shostakovich, the art depicting life under Stalin, and the power of music to heal. The concert will take place on Thursday, April 8 at 7 pm at the Civic Auditorium. The concert is free but guests must register at <https://tinyurl.com/3wbszemk>. Masks and social distancing are required.

## LHS Students Reap Recognition For Writing And Art

continued from page 1

available for viewing at [govart.org](http://govart.org).

On the literary front, seven students had their literature pieces recognized by the Ohio PTA as winners for their submission to the 2020-21 PTA Reflections Program.

For Literature: Erin Ptacek - Award of Excellence (highest honor);

Amy Pilgrim - Award of Outstanding Achievement; Sylvie Ballou and Alexandria Russell - Honorable Mention

For Visual Arts: Grace Hildebrandt - Award of Excellence (highest honor, art pictured); Lila Wright - Award of Merit; Bailey Rohrs - Honorable Mention

Congratulations to all these talented students!

**TROY BRATZ**  
 Real Estate Agent  
 Residential / Commercial  
 Lakewood Resident

216.702.2196 | [TroyBratz@KW.com](mailto:TroyBratz@KW.com)  
 @TroyBratzKW

**KW ELEVATE**  
 KELLERWILLIAMS.

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

**WALL TO WALL TRANSFORMATIONS**  
 FULLY INSURED, FREE ESTIMATES

**PLASTER REPAIR**  
 Specializing In Plaster And  
 Lathe Restoration

**216-255-8529**



# Lakewood Education

## Win For Rangers Softball Team

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

That's the word to describe the Lakewood Rangers Softball (2-1, 1-0 GLC) experience today, as the home team won both the Varsity and JV games in front of many chilled but happy fans, who were also rewarded with free hot dogs and hamburgers.

The 13-1 varsity win was a complete team effort, with every starter either scoring runs, collecting RBI or advancing runners with sacrifices or hits. The young Rangers (no senior starters) were led by freshman starting pitcher Mia Carroll-Grieves, who pitched all 5 innings and was in command the whole way. Also starting today for the Rangers were: juniors Addison Miller (LF), Inga Wilhelmy (RF), Alesha Hanna-Kotula (SS) and Mia Condosta (3B); sophomores Jordan Rossen (1B), Charlotte Beno (C) and Lauren Barber (CF); and freshman Emily Potoczak (2B).



Photo by Jacob Chabowski/Lakewood Observer

The joy came not so much from the game, however, as it did from the atmosphere. Head Coach Lucas Youso and his staff have created a positive vibe and much needed energy and focus to a program that has languished somewhat in recent years.

There are great and fun things ahead for this group.

## Lakewood Rangers Beat Fairview Warriors

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Led by senior Jameson Supinski and junior Lucas Winters, the Lakewood Rangers (2-1, 1-0 GLC) broke open a tight game with a 3 run 5th inning rally and went on to 12-4 win over Fairview.

Supinski started, pitched 2 scoreless inning, and blasted a 2-run Home Run that hit the iconic "Big Tree" which looms over the right center field fence. Winters provided 2 key hits, includ-

ing a fifth inning thrill that spark the Ranger rally. Sophomore Sully Stois pitched three strong innings for the Rangers to get the win. Junior Hubert Carlin, sophomore Eli LaDue (2 hits) and junior Will Hyatt made fine defensive plays for the Rangers, while sophomore Ben Jablonowski was solid behind the plate.

The Rangers travel to Fairview Monday for a 1pm rematch with the Warriors.

## Fourth Quarter Message From Superintendent Barnes

by Dr. Michael Barnes

Dear Families:

What a joy and blessing to be able to bring this message to you knowing that our students who wish to be in school every day are now able to do so! It's been a long and challenging journey to get to this point and it's taken a collective effort on the part of families, staff and our community to enable us to celebrate this accomplishment. We are not out of the woods in regards to the pandemic, but we have learned how to safely be together. I hope that this fourth quarter has our students each learning in the model that best suits them and their families.

We know that while many of our students managed to stay on track and even thrive this school year, we also know that many, for a variety of reasons, struggled. This is true of students across the country. Our governor has asked that districts create a plan to provide extra support to students to help get them back on track for the 2021-2022 school year. The District has developed several options for students who need further enrichment.

Over Spring Break, more than 100 K-8 students will participate in our Spring into STEM program, which will focus on collaborative, fun, project-based learning. We are also developing in conjunction with the Lakewood Recreation & Community Education Department several programs and camps that will take place over the summer. We will have more details on these later this spring.

I also look forward to celebrating our students who have managed to maintain the highest of academic standards despite all the challenges when we present our virtual Celebration of Excellence on May 18. And of course, we all look forward to honoring the members of the Class of 2021 in May as well.

It's been an unusual year but as always, I am buoyed by the amazing work of our staff and students to continually adapt and be flexible. There are so many lessons that have been learned this year both within and outside the educational setting and I know that moving forward we will take the resilience we have all forged and create a stronger District for all.

I hope you each enjoy a safe, relaxing and fun Spring Break!

#OneHeartbeatOneLKWD

Sincerely,

Mike Barnes Superintendent

## Big Tree Watches Over Lakewood Rangers

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Anyone who has played for Lakewood Rangers Head Baseball Coach Mike Ribar knows about the tradition of "The Big Tree" which looms over the right field fence on Bunts. This years' squad—led by senior ace Jameson Supinski—will be likewise schooled on hitting at "The Big Tree"—Coach Mike Ribar's way of making sure right-handed hitters "stay on the ball." More than ever, the Rangers will need a smart approach at the plate, with so many younger players lacking the experience and size of most varsity squads.

The Big Tree, which has seen Ranger Varsity home games since the Kennedy Administration, will be overseeing many young sophomore varsity players this year, perhaps the most ever. On the mound, however, the Rangers will rely heavily on two upperclassmen. Leading the way will be southpaw Jameson Supinski, a Findlay recruit who also plays center and first base. According to Coach Ribar, Jameson "leads from the mound, outfield, plate, and dugout, and pitches/plays with awesome emotion." Junior Will Hyatt, a hard-throwing right hander, plays 3rd and 1st and will be expected to log many innings for the Rangers as a starting pitcher.

The sophomore class ('23) will look to make its mark this year. Luke Jablonoski and Eli LaDue are slated to start at the key infield positions of catcher and shortstop respectively. LaDue, a good contact hitter, will lead off and provide speed at the top of the line-up. Sophomore Sully Stois will play first and pitch, while Luke Jablonoski will be called upon to fill multiple infield roles. The versatile Mason Ivinskis will pitch—perhaps as the number three



starting pitcher—and play outfield and infield spots.

A cadre of seniors, who of course missed out on play last year, will look to provide leadership and strong play. Carlos Cintron has speed and power and will play 2nd and provide innings on the mound. George Burke will catch and pitch in relief. Hubert Carlin, a lefty, will pitch and play outfield. Seniors Davis Coleman and Zach Krost will provide help in the outfield and infield respectively.

Juniors Danny Arth (infielder) and Lucas Winters (outfielder) will provide depth and could assume starting roles as the season progresses. Winters has promising power, with hopes of hitting gaps this year.

Coach Ribar ('85), is very thrilled to get back at it this season. "Our senior class is excited for their final go after losing junior year. Our junior class is filled with strong/athletic pitchers/hitters who should contribute near top of lineup. We have one of best sophomore/fresh-

continued on page 8

**Roman Fountain**  
Pizza & Subs

ORDER ONLINE @ [ROMANFOUNTAIN.COM](http://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](http://www.romanfountain.com)  
Or stop by at  
15603 Detroit Ave  
Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633



# Friends And Family Remember Alejandro and Max



Alejandro's Family Portrait: Top row: Jose (Grandpa), Eddie (Dad), Alejandro, Johany (Mom), Iris (Great Grandmother), Nilda (Grandma). Bottom row: Sophie (Cousin), Antonio (Brother), Alfonso (Brother.)

At this time the Mercado family would like to join with the Close family to thank the Lakewood community, schools, teachers, friends, family and strangers for your support, prayers and donations. Words are not enough to describe how thankful and proud we are to be residents of this awesome community.



Max Close carrying Alejandro Mercado at Graduation.



Max Close surrounded by family: Back row, left to right: John McCorkle, Bethany McCorkle, Rylan Close, Sara Close, Max Close, Brock Close, Barrett Close. Front row, left to right: Logan McCorkle, Bob Close, Kayla McCorkle, Donna Close, Nolan McCorkle.

## Memories Of Max And Alejandro

by Joseph Kelly

Alejandro was a close friend of mine. He was a quick witted and intelligent guy with a good heart. He was also kind of a pistol too. I would always laugh and laugh after he tore into someone in an online game and then proceed to politely ask how I was doing. He was always up to being with me and other people. We would always play games or watch tv as one big group. He had always had something clever to say whatever the situation. If it were in person or over the internet, I could always expect a good time to be had if he were around.

Max was a man with a great sense of humor. If I could pick a word to describe him it would be "class clown". He would always wear these silly matching sweat-shirts and pants every Friday. I know he took pleasure in making us laugh. He also had this little voice he would do sometimes that always cracked me up. His voice would get low, and he would say some-

thing like "ooooooooOOOOOOOoooh", or "mmmmmmhhhh yeah". I know that sounds a bit silly but if you knew him personally, you would know exactly what I am talking about.

They were two of the best guys I ever knew. They never did anything wrong to me and they always treated me with respect from the beginning. I keep telling myself that I have gotten over it and moved on. However, whenever I stop and realize that they are never going to talk to me again a little part of me dies inside. I hope that all the people who read this treasure life. It is not worth losing loved ones over something like an argument because they can be taken away from you so easily. It is important to always be nice to others, it's even more important to respect life. Never assume it is okay to do something you know is dangerous to others or yourself. Thank you for reading, have a nice day.

### Sweet Angel Alejandro

by Aunt Johanna Mercado

Words fall short in describing Alejandro and how much he means to me and to everyone who knows him. I will forever miss his smile and glint in his eyes that always greeted me and everyone he loved. I'm so grateful and proud to have such an amazing young man as my nephew. Alejandro's absence will never go unnoticed. I love you forever, my sweet angel Alejandro.

### Memories Of Jandro

by Lila and Jose Vazquez – great aunt and uncle from Chicago

Alejandro(Jandro) will always live in our hearts and his laughter will remind us of his happiness on earth as will be in heaven.

The family and Jandro--7 years old--came to visit us in Chicago. Jandro was unstoppable; he visited The Field Museum, The Shedd Aquarium, and The Adler Planetarium in one day! I remember when he said, I'm hungry! and eating like a man.

There are many special things we can share about our great nephew. It brings us warmth to remember Jandro's special greeting with a smile and saying, Hey, What's up? Gave hugs to everyone and with his gentle ways would sit around family and enjoyed being together. He sure

## Tribute to Alejandro and Max

by Anthony Kocinski

I first met Alejandro and Max in freshman year of Highschool. We shared the same IT class, and I sat next to Alejandro. I later met Max in my English class soon after. In both cases, we hit it off right from the start. As I ended up growing apart from my middle school friends, these two helped quickly fill that void. Not to mention the whole group of people of which would help me grow, and become the person I am today.

Alejandro and Max were two bright minds with large plans for the world. Their happiness and laughter were the most contagious thing known to man. Whenever they were around, I couldn't help but smile and laugh along with them. They both had a very distinct and different sense of humor that worked well together. This world has grown much darker since that day they left us.

enjoyed his family, friends, and FOOD.

Although H.S. graduation was different due to the pandemic, Jandro was excited and the family was proud of his accomplishments. It was awesome to see Jandro become so mature, grounded, and, enthusiastic about his studies in Engineering at Toledo University.

Jandro would talk with his uncle and cousin about the needs in the world for access and advancement with infrastructure. Jandro was kind and respectful to everyone and would strive to always be at his best.

We had him in our life for too short, but the memories are treasured and everlasting.

"By being yourself you put something wonderful in the world that was not there before." Edwin Elliot

## Close And Mercado Memorial And Scholarship

by Brian Siftar

In the early morning of February 22, Lakewood High School tragically lost two of our Class of 2020 graduates. As the parents, families and community continue to grieve the loss of Max Close and Alejandro Mercado, Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Technical District have been planning a tribute to our former students whose lives tragically were cut too short.

With the support of many, we plan to create a living memorial at LHS with benches and trees in remembrance of

Max and Alejandro. Additionally, a scholarship in their names will be awarded in conjunction with the Lakewood Council of PTAs and the Project Lead the Way Engineering Program.

Our thoughts continue to be with the families and friends of Max and Alejandro.

**For those wishing to make a donation to the scholarship fund, please make your check out to Lakewood High School and send to 14100 Franklin Blvd. Lakewood, OH 44107. You can also donate by credit card by calling 216-529-4047.**

## Alejandro, Our Shining Star

by Johany Mercado

On February 8th, 2002 we welcomed our firstborn son Alejandro Ramon Mercado. He is and will always be our shining star. He is the oldest brother to Antonio and Alfonso. Alejandro enjoyed and loved to spend time with friends and family. He enjoyed trying all kinds of new foods especially if it was spicy. He enjoyed his grandmother and mom's cooking. He was willing to try anything and appreciated everything. Gratitude is his legacy. Building others up is how he expressed that gratitude. He was proud of his family and friends. He never held grudges and

friends describe him as the mediator, the rock, setting an example of forgiveness as he would point out the good in people. This was the kind of engineer he hoped to be, someone who sees a challenging situation and has an idea for a solution. Alejandro wanted to help and focused on ways to develop resources and assistance to under served populations. He had a vision of improvements to basic infrastructure that would upgrade living conditions as well as the quality of life for folks globally. We will continue to carry his dreams and goals.

To see all the notes and photos sent in follow this QR Code or go to [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com)



Young Max and Alejandro

### From Grandpa To The Max

by Bob Close

Thanks for making this tribute available to the entire Lakewood community.

It would seem to me that it would be hard to find a stronger friendship between two young men. Their likes and interests were similar as were their senses of humor. Max befriended all and equally was considered a friend by all.

He will be missed for all of time.



Kyle, Anthony, Jason, Alejandro, Ethan, Liam, Max, Issac, Adam and Mackenzie.

### Alejandro Took The Time

by Jason

Alejandro was a very close friend to me, he made me feel like I was wanted by others outside of my family. He would take the time out of his day to hear anyone talk about anything or to play video games with us. He was special to me that he felt like a second brother to me. He would stay up late at night to talk to me about problems I had, and he would give me suggestions on how I could fix said problems. He was a caring person, he never really showed hate towards anyone, even if they did poor things to him. He never really meant it when he said he hated someone. Another thing I found special about him was how genuine he was to everyone, something that is hard to find in a lot of people.

### Max, The Kindest Silliest Guy



Young Max and Dad  
by Brock Close

Max was the kindest silliest guy I knew. I loved hanging out with him, he was an amazing son and one of my best friends. I am so proud of him. I will miss our projects, games, road trips, and most of all his happy go lucky way of approaching life. He brought so much happiness and joy to the world. His legacy of kindness will live on in us forever.

Max, I love you buddy. I know you and Hondro are out there having a blast in the great beyond. Take care of each other and know that I love you so much.

### Pirate Rides And Cookies With Max And Rylan

by Donna Close

Max was a generous, loving, hilarious grandson who made everything fun!! One especially fond memory I have of him was when we were baking Christmas cookies at my house. Max and his brother, Rylan, were rolling out the dough and cutting it with my Christmas cutters. I was encouraging them to put them close together so as not to waste dough. Suddenly Max yelled, "Hey! My reindeer is kicking Rylan's gingerbread man in the head!" We chuckled about that. Then it became a goal to make the shapes close together and Max made up a story to go with each interaction between the cookies. Soon Rylan, Max and I were wiping

the tears from our eyes from laughing so hard at his stories!!

Another time the boys and I were spending time at our family cottage in Lakeside, Ohio. The boys went swimming with an inflatable raft and began calling out, "Pirate rides! Anybody want a pirate ride?" Soon there was a line of children waiting on the dock for a pirate ride and a pirate battle ensued. So Max and Rylan entertained the entire group of kids swimming in the lake at that time. This was typical of Max because he never met a stranger. Everyone was a new friend! So big was his personality that he drew people to him!

From his proud Grandma Close



# Lakewood Observer

## Breakfast With The Bunny



by Emmie Hutchison

H2O hosted its annual spring tradition, Breakfast with the Bunny, as a drive-through experience on March 27, 2021. Almost 200 young children enjoyed donuts, juice, seed planting kits, activities, and pictures with the bunny (featured in the slideshow below). Our H2O high school volunteers were truly delighted to host this event; their excitement was contagious! It was a true pleasure to see our community have fun and support youth volunteer service.

Thank you to event sponsor,

First Federal of Lakewood, and to the Root Cafe for donating coffee to the event. While we weren't able to feature beautiful raffle baskets on display, the event did raise additional funds by raffling three gift baskets. Thank you to The Jablonski Family, Angelo's Pizza, Sweet Designs Chocolatier, and the Gelsomino Family for contributing those baskets. Thank you to H2O's dedicated volunteers for attending numerous crafting sessions and showing up with pride and joy to welcome the community to Breakfast with the Bunny.

## Big Tree Watches Over Lakewood Rangers

continued from page 5

man classes in long time, primarily due to the strength of Lakewood Community Baseball Association. We are excited for new GLC challenge with renewed rivalries and some past foes. This should be a great spring at the corner of Bunts and Franklin!"

Coach Ribar, an LHS Athletic Hall of Fame inductee and a starter at an elite Division I College Program (Kent State), has a likewise capable staff of assistants, including Pitching Coach Brian Karpel ('99, also an LHS Hall of Famer, who pitched for Purdue), Hitting Coach Grant Graves ('11), JV Head Coach Dan Harrington ('11), Freshman Coach Matt Kocur and Assistant Coaches Eric Thomas ('07) and Zach Schrieber ('06).

Over the years, players have come and gone—some were outstanding talents that went on to play professionally and/or in college. The Big Tree saw Jamie Baby ('73), who pitched in the Expo's organization, but most likely missed Eddie Morgan ('31), who is one of a select few players to hit a Home Run in his first Major League at bat, with the St. Louis Cardinals. Ranger All-Ohio standouts like George Anastopolis ('81), Coach Ribar ('85), A.J. Shubic ('86), Jeff Baller ('88), Vince Curiale ((89), Chris Haber ('90), Eric Theis ('90), Joe Armstrong ('91), Pat O'Toole ('92), Jack Neal ('93), John Adams ('94), Brain Biggs ('95) Phil Williams ('98) Luke Beeler ('99) Jesse Paciorek ('00) and Wayne Naida ('13), and so many others have helped build our tradition rich program.

But most Rangers have been workmanlike players, lacking superior talent in one or more facet of the game. Most weren't all Ohio, All League and many were non-starters. But all of them have been part of, and built, the traditions that make up the fab-

ric of Lakewood Ranger Baseball. Friday Nights Under the Lights, a Lakewood tradition, will feature more fans than day games, music between innings, and sometimes very cold, loyal friends/family huddled under blankets sporting "theme" wear. Like "The Big Tree" our players are rooted in Lakewood, all live here, most having attended the Lakewood City Schools K-10, 11 or 12.

Community-based high school teams—and our hyper local group is as "community" as one can get—are the perfect remedy for the soulless Major Leagues, who present superior talent, but essentially assemble a collection of all-stars from all over the world, advantage to the highest bidder. Conversely, the Lakewood Ranger program develops the talent within our town, giving Lakewood kids the opportunity to play in a fine local program. The magic at the corner of Bunts and Madison, which will hopefully include many wins, has been conjured up right here in Lakewood, from the sweat and dedication of parents, volunteer coaches and of course the players themselves. Our team is as organic as our tree.

**Earn your degree sooner!**

Take summer courses at Tri-C!

### Transfer credits seamlessly

- Reverse transfer options
- Statewide transfer guarantees
- University partnerships

[tri-c.edu/transfer](http://tri-c.edu/transfer)

### Affordable tuition

[tri-c.edu/payingforcollege](http://tri-c.edu/payingforcollege)

### Choose from three summer sessions

June 1, June 14, July 6

### Convenient campus locations

[tri-c.edu/campuses](http://tri-c.edu/campuses)

[tri-c.edu](http://tri-c.edu)  
216-987-6000



21-0294

**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY  
PLAN AHEAD**

**DAN SHIELDS**  
Attorney-At-Law  
Will • Living Will  
Power of Attorney  
Healthcare  
Power of Attorney  
Call now to  
discuss your estate plan  
**216-200-2863**

**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 Observer

## Dr. Christine Palumbo Named Next Asst. Superintendent

continued from page 1

City Schools' Supervisor of Special Education and eventually Director of Special Education and Family Services for the Region State Support Team. She returned to Lakewood City Schools as the Director of Student Services in 2011. Palumbo stepped into her current role as Director of Teaching and Learning in 2016.

"Dr. Palumbo brings a wealth of leadership experience across a number of areas and during her long history with the Lakewood Schools she has exhibited an absolute devotion to protecting and nurturing all of our students," said Board President Betsy Shaughnessy. "She and future Superintendent Niedzwiecki will be an excellent team and will be able to hit the ground running in providing for our students, staff and families. We are very fortunate to have her in this very important role."

Palumbo holds a Ph.D. in Urban

Education and a master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Cleveland State University. She earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from John Carroll University, where she is a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame due to her diving accomplishments.

Palumbo is thrilled to be able to continue her career in a district that holds a special place in her heart.

"While I was not born in Lakewood I feel that in many ways my life began in The Lakewood City Schools," said Palumbo, who met her husband through the District.

"I am so thankful to the Board of Education for hiring me all those years ago and for putting their faith in me over the years. I am honored and thrilled to embark on this next journey with LCS as Assistant Superintendent. Lakewood is an incredibly special place made so by the students and families we serve and the passion with which we serve them."



### April

**Aries:** Ram, you've earned it, now surrender to success, the Sun, Mercury & Venus, are aligned on your mountain, it's time to plant those seeds, & go for the gold, you've got the green light.

**Taurus:** Venus & Mercury move into the Bullpen, surrender your need to people please, get out & smell the roses, treat yourself to a massage, think about your own happiness.

**Gemini:** Mars is in the Twins corner this month, but just because you think you're the energizer bunny, doesn't mean you can take on the entire village, let others show their love & support.

**Cancer:** We know the Crab is Caretaker, you're nurturing every poor hermit crab that gets washed ashore, feeding the sea urchins, etc. nurture yourself, give yourself some needed R&R.

**Leo:** Give up that rigid stance of yours, just because you're King of the Jungle doesn't mean you can't compromise, be like a tree, sway with the wind, be flexible before you break.

**Virgo:** The key to positive change, & yes, you do need an attitude adjustment, allow some joy in, don't be in such a hurry to judge every Tom, Dick & Mary, try it you just might crack a smile.

**Libra:** You're all about relationships, however, overcontrolling is just going to sabotage what you so madly desire, give the people in your life some breathing room, everyone wins.

**Scorpio:** Celebrate, this is your chance for miracles, as long as the Scorpion can let go of resistance & put that stinger away, this time you get more bees with honey, give it a try.

**Sagittarius:** The Centaur is known for its confidence, however, this month you're allowing doubt to creep in, give it a boot; trust, then take action knowing you're on the right path.

**Capricorn:** The Goat is typically pretty fair-minded, but you're holding onto some resentment, & guess who's swallowing the poison, holding onto the bitterness is killing you, not them.

**Aquarian:** You're usually the opinionated one, & that still holds true, listen carefully to what others are saying, don't be swayed by their opinions, listen to your heart, then decide

**Pisces:** The Fish knows better than to push, what happened? You're pushing so hard you're liable to cause a Tsunami, let go, it's not worth a major disaster, let it go, & go with the flow.

*Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at [evastarr.com](http://evastarr.com)*

## LakewoodAlive's Paint Lakewood Program Kicks Off 2021 Season

by Jacqueline Bon

A fresh coat of paint can do wonders for making your home look fresh and sharp. If your home is in need of an update, a fresh paint job may be more affordable than you think.

LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach Program announces the return of its Paint Lakewood Program for the 2021 season. The Paint Lakewood Program's primary goal involves revitalizing Lakewood's neighborhoods, while reducing lead hazards and educating residents on lead safety issues. The Paint Lakewood Program is available to low-to-moderate income residents.

This innovative program is designed to help make it more affordable for qualified Lakewood homeowners and residents to beautify their homes through exterior whole-home painting, ultimately making their homes safe for their families and the community.

Paint Lakewood will provide a grant of up to \$4,500 to qualified Lakewood homeowners and residents for exterior paint, supplies and professional labor costs to paint their home. The program has been designed to offer a grant on a sliding scale to help reduce the cost of an exterior paint job.



"The Lakewood Paint Program is such an important program; not only does it help make exterior painting more affordable, it allows us to have important conversations with residents and families about lead paint safety," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director. "To us, that fresh coat of paint not only looks amazing, it helps to provide a safer environment for people and animals."

Qualified Paint Lakewood Program applicants must meet HUD-established income guidelines, and other restrictions do apply. For more information, visit [LakewoodAlive.org/PaintLakewood](http://LakewoodAlive.org/PaintLakewood) or contact Alex Schreck, LakewoodAlive's Staff Program Assistant, at 216-521-0655.

**WOODSTOCK**  
Smoke Joint

BBQ · WHISKEY · BEER

\$5 MULE MONDAYS  
\$2 TACO TUESDAY  
\$5 WING WEDNESDAY  
\$10 RIB THURSDAY  
HAPPY HOUR 4-7 P.M.  
ALWAYS SMOKING...

**KITCHEN HOURS**  
MONDAY – THURSDAY – 4PM–12AM  
FRIDAY – 4PM–2:30AM  
SATURDAY – 11:30AM–12AM  
SUNDAY – 11:30AM–9PM  
BAR IS OPEN LATER...  
HAPPY HOUR MONDAY – FRIDAY 4 PM – 7 PM

**13362 MADISON AVE.**  
**LAKWOOD, OHIO + (216) 226-8828**



# Lakewood Observer

## A Lakewood Anchor Servicing Our Most Vulnerable Residents

by Tess Neff

In 2019, I visited and toured Lakewood Community Services Center (LCSC) and afterwards I felt like I just visited with friends in their home. Recently, I spoke with Executive Director Trish Rooney who leads LCSC, a nonprofit organization in our city. Our conversation inspired me to write this article because Trish's passion for our community's vulnerable citizens is infectious. For 39 years LCSC has been supporting our residents during their most difficult times. Trish is supported by a dedicated staff, several of whom have been with the center for over ten years. Trish deflects all credit and accolades to her staff, volunteers, and community partners. She and her team are tireless advocates for the center's clients. LCSC is like a one stop shop that prides itself on delivering personalized care. Think customer service at its finest.

Prior to the pandemic, LCSC provided emergency food during the weekdays and clients could walk in to the center for assistance. Their well-oiled machine had to abruptly shift gears when the COVID bomb hit. The walk-in food pantry closed for three days when the stay-at-home mandate was issued by the governor. No pandemic was going to prevent LCSC from doing its job. The center reopened as a drive-thru and walk-up delivery model. Trish said it was one of only a few food centers to be open in Cleveland, and the only one open five days a week, serving over 3,500 clients a month since July. This includes servicing 400 seniors who live in Lakewood and Rocky River. In September, the center became a 100% home delivery service to ensure clients could remain safely at home and continue to receive emergency food. This shift was particularly important to seniors, single moms and individuals with disabilities. Currently, the LCSC team is providing door-to-door food delivery to over 500 households twice each month during



Tess Neff,  
Lakewood City Councilwoman Ward 1

the pandemic.

LCSC is not just about feeding those in need. The center continuously works to keep individuals and families in their homes. Some of the services they provide include rental and utility assistance, homelessness prevention through case management, access to benefits, landlord negotiations, housing search and placement services, and short-term shelter services for Lakewood families who become homeless. A partnership formed in 2014 with Murtis Taylor has allowed the center to offer on-site mental and behavior health assistance quickly, if not immediately. This is critical when someone is facing a crisis. The list of support services is expansive. Equally important is the way the LCSC staff deliver the necessary services to clients. The LCSC standard is service with care, compassion, confidentiality, dignity and respect for all clients.

A large component of the center's success is attributed to relationships. Trish and her team have fostered working partnerships with stakeholders in and outside of Lakewood to extend their service capacity. One vital partnership is with the private landlords and property management companies in Lakewood. For many years LCSC has been working with local landlords.



Senator Antonio speaks on the floor of the Ohio Senate.

## Senator Nickie Antonio Commends Passage Of Transportation Budget

by Nickie Antonio

Last week, the state's transportation budget, House Bill 74, was passed unanimously by the Ohio Senate and concurred by the Ohio House of Representatives. As the highest ranking Democrat on the Transportation Committee, I am pleased to have participated in this bipartisan process that will fix Ohio's roads and bridges, keep public transit as a priority and move Ohio into the 21st Century with regard to electric vehicle supports.

H. B. 74 includes almost \$6 billion over the biennium to fix Ohio's roads and bridges, adds an additional \$70 million

The result has produced strong relationships that are built on trust, and together they have helped residents remain stably housed. The pandemic has tested the strength of the relationships and the bond remains robust. None of us want to think Lakewood has residents who are at risk of hunger and homelessness. Let us be proud and thankful for our community's hidden jewel. To learn more about LCSC, how to volunteer or donate visit [www.lcslakewood.org](http://www.lcslakewood.org).

*Tess Neff is a 30-year Lakewood resident. She and her husband Rich raised their children here and both have worked in the community. She loves Lakewood and its uniqueness.*

per year over the Governor's budget for public transportation as well as \$8 million for Electric Vehicle charging stations.

It also requires the Ohio Department of Transportation to have a policy to make the purchase and replacement of rail lines used for public passenger transportation eligible for funding, subject to approval by the Transportation Review Advisory Council, which will benefit RTA.

The bill also modernizes and expands the possibilities for Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), something in the works for years.

I want to thank the advocates, businesses and organizations who worked closely with my office throughout the past few months to create a promising state transportation budget. H.B. 74 now awaits Governor DeWine's signature.

State Senator Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) is honored to be serving in her first elected term in the Ohio Senate District 23, following 8 years of service in the Ohio House of Representatives, 13th House District with 5 of those years serving in leadership as Minority Whip. Antonio has also served as Lakewood City Councilmember, Executive Director of an outpatient drug/alcohol treatment program for women and teacher for children with special needs.



**NUNZIO'S**  
Pizzeria

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

*Visit Sicily Without Leaving Home*

**Since 1990 • 31 Years in Business!**  
**Now Serving 4 Locations!**  
**Lakewood, Cleveland, Akron, and Parma**

**OPEN:**  
**Monday - Thursday**  
**4pm - 3am**  
Delivery till 3am

**Friday - Saturday**  
**4pm - 3:30**  
Delivery till 3:15

**Sunday**  
**2pm - 1am**  
Delivery till 1am

**17615 Detroit Avenue • 216-228-2900 [nunziospizza.net](http://nunziospizza.net)**

PIZZA	Small 6 cut 9"	Medium 8 cut 12"	Large 12 cut 16"	Party Tray Half Sheet
Plain	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$13.00
1 Item	\$8.00	\$9.75	\$13.00	\$14.50
2 Items	\$8.50	\$10.50	\$14.00	\$16.00
3 Items	\$9.00	\$11.25	\$15.00	\$17.50
4 Items	\$9.50	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$19.00
Deluxe	\$10.00	\$12.75	\$17.00	\$20.50
Extra Items	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$2.50
Chicken	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$4.50
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$4.00

Available items: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green & Red Bell Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Beef, Pineapple, Jalapeño Peppers Special Toppings: Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Tomato, Broccoli, and \*Chicken

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](http://neubertpainting.com)

**HOME ALONE  
PET SITTING, INC.**



**In Home Pet Care  
While You Are Away**  
**Experienced  
Veterinarian Technician**

**Bonded & Insured**  
**216-548-1543**  
[djmhokin@gmail.com](mailto:djmhokin@gmail.com)  
[homealonepetsittinginc.com](http://homealonepetsittinginc.com)



# LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive Unveils

## "Knowing Your Home" Schedule For 2021

by Jacqueline Bon

Tackling a home improvement project doesn't need to feel intimidating. This virtual workshop series is designed to educate and inform first-time or long-time owners and anyone in-between. The series, focused on best sustainability and home maintenance practices hopes to empower residents to tackle necessary repairs and improvements.

LakewoodAlive announces the schedule for the 2021 edition of "Knowing Your Home." The schedule for this year's series is truly focused on working to bring century homes into contemporary times while working to preserve the amazing and historic aspects that makes them so special.

The 2021 season commences with "Knowing Your Home: Creating a Sound Investment" on Thursday, April 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This kickoff workshop consists of a panel discussion addressing the process for tackling major home improvement projects. Panelists will share wisdom and insights to make the construction process more streamlined and effective, equipping you with the knowledge you need to pursue your project with confidence.

Moderated by Allison Urbanek, Housing & Internal Operations Director of LakewoodAlive, the panel of experts for "Creating a Sound Investment" consists of:

Bill Gaydos, William J. Gaydos & Assoc., LLC

Chuck McGettrick, Architects C.A. McGettrick, Inc.

Chris Parmelee, City of Lakewood

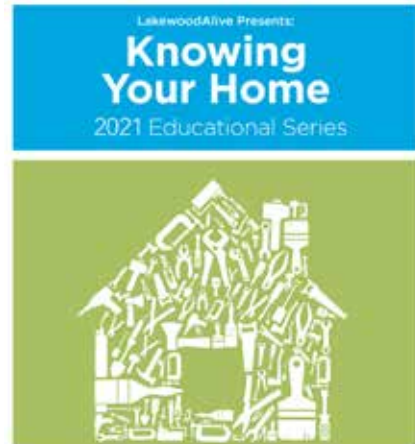
Dana Paul, Prairie Stone

Caroline Purcell, First Federal Lakewood

Mike Quinn, Cleveland Lumber Company

Two days after the season kicks off, LakewoodAlive will also be hosting "Container Gardening" on Saturday, April 17 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Led by Paul Bilyk of Lakewood Garden Center, this workshop will cover how to maximize your garden potential with limited space.

The eighth year of this popular



home maintenance program features a collection of 14 workshops taking place from April through November led by experts within the industry. These workshops will cover a wide range of topics designed to educate residents regarding improvements and best practices for their homes. The best part? Each workshop is hosted in a virtual format that is open to the public and free to attend.

The workshops comprising the 2021 schedule will be hosted in a live, virtual format and will be recorded and shared on our social media platforms.

"We are excited to announce that our 2021 season of Knowing Your Home workshops will be presented in a digital format," said Allison Urbanek, LakewoodAlive's Housing & Internal Operations Director. "Not only will this format allow residents to view these live workshops safely from home, they'll also be recorded and available on social media so they can review it whenever convenient."

Visit [LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome](http://LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome) to learn more or sign up, you can also call the office 216-521-0655 ext 3. Our workshop series is generously supported by: City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

Please consider making a donation to LakewoodAlive to support this workshop series along with the other programs offered through the organization that helps us to accomplish our mission of fostering and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods. We appreciate your support.



Make no payments for 6 months when you finance a new Lennox® system for as little as **\$132 A MONTH\***

OR

RECEIVE UP TO **\$1,800 IN REBATES** with the purchase of a complete Ultimate Comfort System.\*\*



**Slife Heating & Cooling, Inc.**  
**216-220-5710**  
 13729 Madison Avenue  
 Lakewood, OH 44107  
[slifehvac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slifehvac@sbcglobal.net)

OH Lic #16431  
 Offer expires June 11, 2021.  
 \*Offer available March 8, 2021 to June 11, 2021. Offer based on a retail price of \$10,000. Requires purchase of qualifying system. Financing available to well-qualified buyers on approved credit. No down payment required. Financing requires 120 equal monthly payments of \$132 a month of principal and interest after the first 6 months. Normal late charges apply. Cannot be combined with any other Lennox promotional offer. Minimum and maximum amount financed of \$3,000 and \$100,000, respectively. You may prepay your account at any time without penalty. Financing is subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. See Truth in Lending disclosures available from lender for more information. \*\*Rebate requires purchase of qualifying items between March 8, 2021 to June 11, 2021. Qualifying items must be installed by June 18, 2021. Rebate claims (with proof of purchase) must be submitted (with proof of purchase) to [www.lennoxconsumerrebates.com](http://www.lennoxconsumerrebates.com) no later than July 2, 2021. Rebate is paid in the form of a Lennox Visa® Prepaid card. Prepaid Card is subject to terms and conditions found or referenced on card and expires 12 months after issuance. Conditions apply. See [www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions](http://www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions) for complete terms and conditions.  
 © 2021 Lennox Industries Inc. Lennox Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.

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



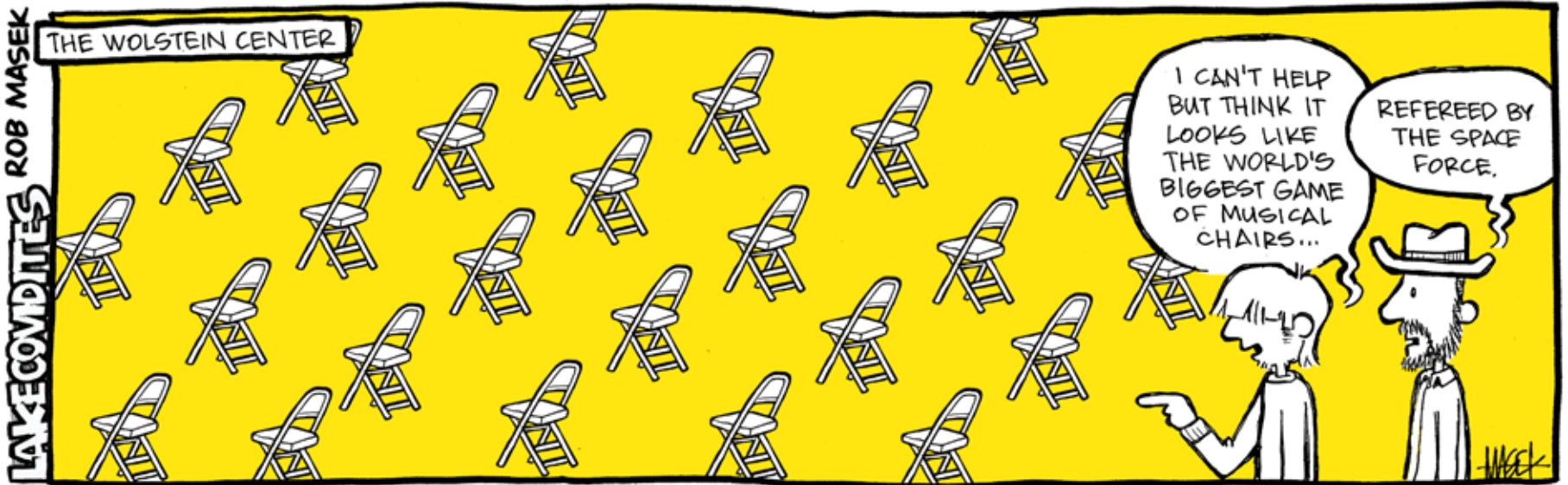
**MICHAEL A. BENTLEY**  
 Vice President, Investments

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

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



# The Back Page



**Carabel Beauty Salon & Store**  
 Full Service Salon For Females  
**It's never too late to look Great!**  
**Your age is your business, how young you look is our business.**



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 HMAIA000589



Knowing your IT spend before you spend it

It's not fantasy.  
 It's Cox Business Cloud Solutions.

Transparent, all-in pricing. We're all for games. Board games, online games - heck, even reindeer games. We're just not into playing around with IT pricing. With Cox Business Cloud Solutions, you'll know your total investment right off the bat. So you can accurately budget for your actual monthly spend. We just think that's the best way to start a relationship.

Let's Talk Reality  
 coxbusiness.com/cloud | 866-961-1075

**COX BUSINESS** | Cloud Solutions

Seamless Migration | End-User Help Desk | Included Co-Management | All-in Pricing  
 PAD107499-0012

**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!**