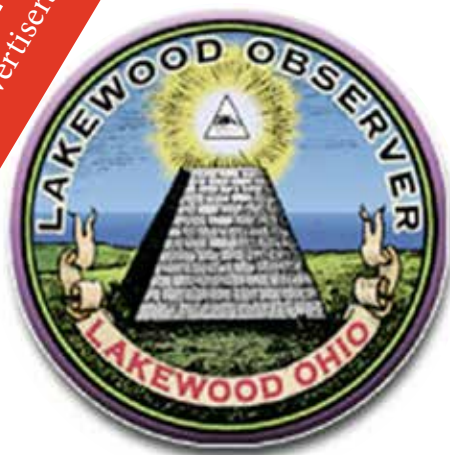


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 17, Issue 13, July 7, 2021

“Most of us probably feel we couldn’t be free without newspapers, and that is the real reason we want newspapers to be free.”
Edward R. Murrow

Lakewood Observer Celebrates 16 Years Printing News, Stories, And Images From Lakewoodites

by Jim O'Bryan
founder, Lakewood Observer

It started out as a lark, I was retired, and a mutual friend thought it would be fun to get Lakewood Public Library Director Kenneth Warren involved in a project.

The thought behind it was: “Mr. Warren is the smartest, most open guy in town, and you are capable of anything,” was how it was described to me by Mary Hagan, Lakewood’s City Council Secretary.

We started online as the Observation Deck. A place where vetted real names were the only way in.

A safe place to discuss the good and bad of the city we love, Lakewood, Ohio.

Mr. Warren never thought it would last 3 issues, then 6, then nine, then 3 years, then 9 years. Sadly Ken passed away.

But the foundation was laid for the next 409 issues. We focused on amplifying the intellectual and artistic nature of Lakewoodites, though we would not be afraid to handle tough conversations while helping everyone understand what was/what is really going on.

We have captured and catalogued the thoughts, words and images of more than 7,000 Lakewoodites, roughly one quarter of the community, working together on over 10,000 stories and nearly a quarter million photos and images. Here’s to the next 16!

LPL’s Madison Branch Renovation Is Underway

by the LPL Staff

In 1928, Library Trustees purchased the property near the corner of Madison and Clarence Avenues for \$1 from the City of Lakewood and built what is now the Madison Branch Library, which opened on May 3, 1929. With only three modest renovations in its nearly 100-year existence, Library Trustees have invested in a renovation of this vital community asset.

The renovation will restore the original architectural charm of the “little library,” nestled in Lakewood’s vibrant Birdtown neighborhood, while ensuring the Branch remains responsive to community needs



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Site manager Matt Collins of Action Contractors checks the drawings for the east wing of the Madison Branch. I was taken aback by how much history they saved, and how much will be improved. This will be nice. --Jim O'Bryan

for generations to come.

The renovation of the Madison Branch aims to improve the efficiency and usability of an historically significant building, including improving heating and cooling efficiency, addressing safety and ADA compliance, and increasing usable square footage, all while maintaining the building’s existing footprint.

The renovation will be financed by reserve funds that the Library has accumulated

from years of conservative spending. Property taxes will not increase as a result of this project nor will taxpayers be asked to approve a levy on upcoming ballots.

The Library’s goal is to minimize service disruption during renovation. While the physical Branch location is closed, patrons are still be able to access print materials and have access to the Library’s public Chromebooks at the alternate

continued from page 4

Living Large In The Wood

City Events In Lakewood

compiled from City of Lakewood Releases
Upcoming Events

July 6, 19 -

City Council Meetings

Council has resumed meeting in person. Citizens will still be able to watch the livestream and participate remotely. To review upcoming meetings, agendas, or for more information on how to watch visit the City’s Calendar.

July 9, 23 -

Friday Night Flick

Join us for a free movie



photo by Jim O'Bryan

This Lakewood trio is used to hitting the markets of Paris, Rome, or Nice. All looking forward to shopping at the Lakewood Arts Festival.

in the park. Bring your blanket and your lawn chair. Go to the Lakewood Observer for the

full schedule.

ADA Transition Plan

The City of Lakewood is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to lead an ADA self-assessment of city properties and services. The well-qualified consultant will develop a Transition Plan that prioritizes improvements.

Construction Update

Construction projects this summer are underway, as you may have noticed with orange barrels and signs appearing across the city once again. Here is a quick update and guide to this summer’s construction work:

continued on page 2

PARTY! Thursdays In Madison Park



photo by Kyle Montcastle

A Lakewoodite puts up the “Thursday In Madison Park” banner. What happens under the banner is magical. Residents partying and having fun with other residents in one of Lakewood’s nicest parks. Stop by and check it out, good times will be had by all families!



photo by Tristan Rader

Photo of Lakewood’s firework display taken by Councilperson-At-Large Tristan Rader. “This Fourth meant so much to all of us as we start to return to normal.” said Tristan.

The Mayor's Corner

by Meghan George
Mayor of Lakewood

First, I am proud to announce that the City of Lakewood has moved to officially recognize the holiday of June-teenth. I hope that Lakewoodites will use this holiday to educate themselves on Black history and culture.

On June 16th, the City held a virtual Community Conversation to discuss the next phase of the City's sewer plan, Clean Water Lakewood, and to discuss the Impervious Surface Fee which will greatly aid in the transition to sustainable sewer infrastructure. If you were unable to attend or wish to rewatch the meeting, a full recording can be found at LakewoodOH.gov/CleanWaterLakewood.

The City has recently completed a report on COVID-19-related assistance programs that were distributed across Lakewood with the help of CARES Act funding and the City's Economic



A rainy front moves over Lakewood in the last week of June.

Development fund. Lakewood was able to provide \$826,351 in small business assistance grants to 202 Lakewood businesses and provided \$1,362,123 in residential rent relief grants to 1,409 Lakewoodites. Supporting those in the community during crisis is paramount to Lakewood..

On June 24th, I had the honor of

participating in a panel held by Innovation Ohio, Ohio Mayors Alliance, and Small Business for America's Future. At this meeting, we discussed how funding from the American Rescue Plan will support local communities like Lakewood. Opportunities like this are great ways for city leaders to connect with citizens and discuss important events and news that will undoubtedly impact those in the community. I would like to thank Ohio Mayors

Alliance, Small Business for America's Future, and Innovation Ohio for giving me that platform.

I am confident that the positive momentum we saw in June will be carried throughout the rest of the season. I look forward to seeing you all this summer and hope that you will join me in taking advantage of the season and the countless activities that our beautiful city has to offer. As always, stay healthy and safe.

Living Large In The Wood

continued from page 1

Projects In-Progress, to be completed in 2021:

- 2021 Sidewalk Improvements
- 2021 Watermains: Elbur (Lkwd. Hts to Athens), Lauderdale, Leedale
- Detroit Signal Timing Optimization
- Detroit Sloane Improvements
- Dominion Projects: Arlington/Clifton, Edgewater/Webb
- Kauffman Park Playground Improvements
- Lakewood Park Skate House Rebuild
- LPD Jail Improvements
- Outfall Rehabilitation

Projects In-Progress, to be completed in 2022:

- Fire Station #2 Building Addition
- High Rate Treatment Facility

Projects Not Yet Started, to be completed in 2021:

- Street Resurfacing: Bramley, Dowd, Magee

The City of Lakewood is Hiring!

The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

- Lateral Police Officer
- Part-time Bus Driver – Division of Aging in the Department of Human Services
- School Crossing Guards

Affordable Housing News

An important piece of Lakewood's Affordable Housing Strategy, new affordable home construction, is seeing results as work nears completion at two sites in Lakewood: Shaw Avenue and Plover Street. The construction

See the rest of this story at: lakewoodobserver.com



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Lakewood, Ohio 44107
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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
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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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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.

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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
July 16, 2021	July 21, 2021
July 30, 2021	August 4, 2021

www.lakewoodobserver.com
216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531
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 **Lakewood Observer**

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The Lakewood Observer is produced by volunteers/residents of Lakewood. Isn't it time you joined this effort to help us report news while preserving history?

Follow the QR Code to the "Member Center" to sign up.

www.lakewoodobserver.com/members

If you would like to help this history-making 17-year-old project continue to publish the words, stories and images of fellow Lakewoodites and you have a business, contact: production@lakewoodobserver.com and we will send out an advertising kit!

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

The View From City Council

by Ward 2 Councilmember
Jason Shachner

Housing, Planning, & Development Committee Meeting At last week's Committee Meeting, we discussed Ordinance 20-2021, which would authorize the City to enter into an agreement with a realtor to market and sell homes located at 12311 Plover Street and 17450 Shaw Avenue.

The City used funds from the **Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME Investment Partnership Program** to build houses on these formerly vacant lots. This project is part of Lakewood's Affordable Housing Strategy, and these homes will only be sold to buyers whose income is no more than 80% of the Area Medium Income (AMI). To avoid the home being "flipped," there is a deed restricted mortgage that requires any profits be shared with the City if the buyer sells the home within the first 10 years of ownership.

The Plover Street house is 1,758 sq. ft. and has two bedrooms and two baths. The home also includes a first-floor workspace, which would be perfect for anyone looking to jumpstart their small business. The Shaw Avenue house is 2,170 sq. ft and features a first-floor master bedroom, two upstairs bedrooms, and a two-car garage.

Block Parties are Back! The Reveley Block Party was held this past weekend and was the first Ward 2 block



Block Parties Are Back! The Reveley Block Party was held this past weekend and was the first Ward 2 block party of the year.

party of the year! After a year without block parties, it was great to get together again. Thank you Reveley for the hospitality and great conversation. I'm looking forward to the next one!

Pride Month Happy Pride! Every June we recognize the important impact that our LGBTQIA+ commu-

nity members have had in the world. Mayor George issued a proclamation to officially recognize the Month of June 2021 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in Lakewood. As the proclamation states, although the LGBTQIA+ community has made great progress toward full equality in recent years, much work is

left to be done to ensure full inclusion, safety, equality, and acceptance.

Cleveland Stonewall Democrats' June Meeting The June meeting was held on the 17th, and featured Avery Ware, who discussed Black queerness and the fight for Civil Rights. I learned a lot about the history of Black queerness in the United States, and different activists and leaders in the community who contributed to the movement and liberation work. Here's a link to the presentation on Facebook: <https://fb.watch/6fGoAlkdgL/>

After Avery's presentation, we voted on the endorsement for Ohio's 11th Congressional District. Stonewall has a thorough endorsement process, which includes speeches, interviews, questionnaires, and a thoughtful discussion from membership. I always appreciate how engaged and passionate the Stonewall Democrats are during this process. Congratulations to Nina Turner for receiving Stonewall's endorsement!

Simple Acts Of Kindness, It Is The Little Things That Matter

by Tess Neff

My son, Steven, was walking our dog Bentley on our street when he came across Bill. Bill works with the Lakewood Public Works Department, and he was removing our street signs to

replace them with new ones. Steven has always wanted our street sign. I recall one time he asked when he was in middle school if he could get in trouble if he unscrewed the sign. YES, I said! Our house on Narragansett Ave. is the only home he knows. Steven was born and raised on Narragansett. He grew up here, where he rode his bike and played on the street, he and his buddies took over lawns for their impromptu baseball games, and he met his best friends, George, and Luke. Narragansett Ave. is filled with memories that he will forever cherish. He will always consider it home. It is a special place to live and to be a kid. The neighbors are wonderful, inclusive, and caring.

Now back to Bill and Steven's conversation. Steven asked how he may buy the street signs. Bill was kind and took the time to explain the purchase process. Steven took in every word and relayed what he learned to me with an excitement as if he were a little kid again (he is now 22). I left a voice message for Kim in the Finance Department to inquire about how we may purchase the two signs. She called me back the very next day and said she would notify the individual in charge to pull the two



Steven proudly displaying his street sign.

Narragansett signs and hold them for Steven. It was only one day later that Steven paid up the \$50 (\$25 per sign) and I met Kim and picked up the signs.

Thank you, Bill, and Kim, for your tremendous customer service and assistance in helping me make Steven's very simple wish become a reality. Steven's ear-to-ear smile when I gave him the street signs expressed how happy he is to have a little piece of Narragansett Ave. to travel with him to Chicago.

July 1, he moved to the Windy City, but Lakewood will always be close to his heart. It was the best \$50 he has ever spent. Priceless!

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FOR LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL

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Lakewood Public Library



Another photo of the build out of the Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library, this is overdue and is another plus in one of the hottest neighborhoods in Lakewood, “Birdtown.”

LPL’s Madison Branch Renovation Is Underway

continued from page 1

location, 13427 Madison Avenue, during regular business hours, currently Monday thru Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This renovation of the Madison Branch will strengthen the Library’s century-long tradition of excellence and service to the community, ensuring the Branch remains a public fixture for generations to come.

Whether it is \$1 or \$1000, every dollar counts toward realizing the goal of modernizing our shared community asset. To learn more about the renovation or make a donation to support the

Library’s capital investment visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/madison.

Main Library
15425 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107
(216) 226-8275
Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday through Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Madison Branch
13427 Madison Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
(216) 228-7428
Monday through Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meet The Author Events In July

by Andrea Fisher

Lakewood Public Library is excited to host another round of virtual Meet the Author events. You can watch these programs on facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary and twitter.com/lakewoodlibrary on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

July 15

Poet Jeff Tigchelaar shares poems from his collection "Certain Streets at an Uncertain Hour." This award-winning poet shows us that poetry can be both humorous and dramatic, and we can find inspiration in the world around us.

July 22

Join us for the real life story of a mother who started America’s first

boys’ baseball league. Ruth Hanford Morhard will share her mother-in-law’s life story in "Mrs. Morhard and the Boys."

July 29

Watch author Betty Weibel talk about her favorite places from "The Ohio Literary Trail: A Guide." In her book, Weibel highlights our state literary sites, and shows Ohio’s role in shaping literature and culture across the world.

If you miss the premiere, the videos will also be available on the Library’s website: lakewoodpubliclibrary.org

Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date on library news, programs and events.

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 Storytime

For all ages

Join Lakewood Library staff members virtually as they read children’s picture books and share songs, rhymes and finger plays.

View these exclusive videos from our website at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or through our Facebook at facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary.

Virtual Woke Book Club

For students in sixth through twelfth grade

In this bimonthly book club for teens, inspired by the Read Woke book challenge created by Cicely Lewis, we will read and respectfully discuss books selected to inspire change, embrace diversity, and promote inclusivity. Each month will focus on a different topic and you will choose which book(s) you would like to read from a diverse list of titles. Registration is required and you will receive a Zoom link upon registration. Attendance at both monthly meetings is not required.

July: LGBTQ+ Stories
August: Immigration and Refugees
July 22, August 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Virtual Special Friday Performance – Lake Erie Nature and Science Center: Mammals

For children in pre-school through early elementary

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center animal ambassadors will share the wonderful world of mammals with you in this fun, thirty minute live program. Covered with fur, mammals come in all shapes and sizes. Get up close and personal with some of the mammals you can see in your own backyard. Registration is required. The Zoom link to this program will be emailed one day before the program.

Friday, July 9, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Virtual Special Friday Performance – Virtual Tails or Tales of the Night Sky? – Armstrong Air & Space Museum

For students in kindergarten through sixth grade

Friday, July 23, 2021 and Friday, August 6, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Creativebug Now Available From Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Expand your DIY, crafting and art talents with Creativebug, a free online resource available with your Lakewood Public Library card.

Creativebug offers thousands of video classes taught by design experts and artists; learn to paint a landscape with oils or with gouache, make herbal infused body oil, a swimsuit or a flying squirrel glider with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math).

You can also download free patterns, templates and recipes. It’s easy! Just visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org, select the Research tab, choose Creativebug and enter your library card number to discover your next project. You’ll be crafting all summer long!

AROUND THE CORNER

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Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Public Library Awarded 2021 Cox Charities Grant

by Jeff Lavery

On June 17, 2021 Cox Communications recognized numerous non-profit organizations across the company’s Northeast footprint as part of the annual Cox Charities Day event. Cox Charities, the company’s charitable giving initiative, supports afterschool and summer learning programs focusing on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) learning and social well-being programs. Over \$105,000 in grants were awarded to local community partner organizations.

The 2021 Cox Charities Community Grants recipient in Ohio is the Lakewood Public Library, which will use its grant to help bridge the technology gap by providing kids ages 8-18 the opportunity to learn how to code. This program will prepare them for the jobs of the future by encouraging innovation and instilling life-skills like problem solving and creative thinking.

Recipients were selected by a group of elected officials, community partners and business leaders for providing quality after-school and summer learning programs with a focus on STEAM learning and a proven track record of creating innovative programs for Ohio’s youth.

The range of summer projects proposed from local organizations were as innovative as they were compassionate. For instance, one organization is using their grant to produce videos to increase



Lakewood Public Library Librarian Nic Starr and Lakewood Public Library Manager of Children’s and Youth Services Julie Strunk.

sustainability awareness, while another will construct a completely off-the-grid tiny home built from a recycled 40’ x 8’ storage container.

“As our communities return to normalcy, it is exciting to celebrate the impact of STEAM programs by rewarding students with much-needed funding to bring their projects to life,” said Dan O’Malley, president, Lakewood City Council. “With support from Cox Charities, organizations

like Lakewood Public Library will be in a position to help kids develop visions into realities that change the world for the better.”

Cox Charities Northeast, a charitable giving initiative of Cox Communications, is fully funded by business vendors and Cox employees. Since 2001, Cox has invested more than \$7 million in Cox Charities grants and in-kind support throughout Rhode Island, Connecticut and Ohio.

“STEAM programs are the lifeblood of the creative ecosystem that impacts all aspect of modern life, from social justice reform to game-changing technology,” said Rob Brill, market vice president, Cox Communications. “Cox Charities is once again overwhelmed by the genius of these proposals, and excited to award grants to local organizations that will leave lasting impacts on the communities they serve.”

About Cox Communications

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through technology. The largest private broadband company in America, we proudly serve six and a half million homes and businesses across 18 states. We're dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that make each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

Jeff Lavery is the public relations manager for Cox Communications in the northeast region.

Neighborhood Leadership Development Program Seeks 2021 Applicants

by Sandra Kluk

If you are passionate, committed and dedicated to taking an active role in improving your community and would like help enhancing your leadership skills, the Neighborhood Leadership Development Program (NLDP) is now seeking applicants to its 2021 program. NLDP is a free community engagement training program for residents of Cleveland, and its inner ring suburbs, who are working on projects in the City of Cleveland and who are determined to make a positive impact on their communities. The program was established in 2006 by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and is directed by former Cleveland Mayor, Michael White.

NLDP has helped emerging neighborhood leaders reach their potential by expanding their knowledge base and personal development through education, coaching and ongoing interaction

with their peers and other leaders. Participants and graduates also have ongoing access to the services of a Program Coach who will give advice and support tailored to the needs of the participant. The program covers topics such as program planning, marketing, communications, program fundraising, conflict resolution and negotiation, community engagement methods and more. After the application process, 20 committed individuals are chosen for the program year. NLDP participants and graduates are a diverse group with many interests and are working on a wide variety of issues to improve life in their communities.

Alex Robertson, a NLDP graduate, is one such person who is taking on an impressive project. Helping leaders create and implement a vision is part of the NLDP curriculum. Alex knows firsthand about making sure his vision for his organization, Recess Cleveland, remains a reality... “NLDP’s programming in one word: Transformational. Five years ago, before NLDP, I found myself struggling to manage my full-time job, and Recess Cleveland was in its idea phase. Now, thanks to the lessons, relationships, and continued support from NLDP... Recess Cleveland IS my full-time job. I would highly recommend NLDP to anyone looking for the perfect blend of inspi-

ration, strategy, camaraderie, resource development, and know-how needed to scale their organization’s impact”.

Recess Cleveland helps build active, healthy, and connected communities using recess, organized sports, and playful learning. They are best known for their Restore Recess programming where, during the summer, they organize community “pop-up Recess” events featuring kickball, dodgeball, soccer, bounce houses, zorbs, art, music, and play activities for people of all ages and abilities. Their goal is to have neighbors come out to exercise, socialize, and build relationships with each other in a fun way and to connect residents who don’t usually attend community meetings or events to resources they can use to increase their quality of life such as foodbank, books, health screenings, sanitary items, employment opportunities, school supplies and more.

The 16 NLDP sessions are on Saturdays at Trinity Commons at 2230 Euclid Avenue beginning September 18. The application period is now open and the deadline is AUGUST 15, 2021. For additional information and to view the curriculum and online application, visit www.nldpcleveland.com or call 216-776-6167.

Think you have what it takes? Apply to make a difference!!

Herb Guild Garden Club Scholarship Luncheon Postponed

by Barbara Armstrong

The Herb Guild Garden Club will not hold its annual Scholarship Luncheon this year due to the Covid Pandemic. The Luncheon is normally held at the beginning of August. Instead, scholarships will be awarded,

but in a private ceremony which will be announced. The club is planning some type of fundraiser for the Fall and details will be published at a later date. Club President, Shirley Swindell said, "We will come back bigger and better in 2022."

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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

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

Lakewood Education

by Celia Dorsch

Don't miss this chance to help your child be more prepared and confident in situations that could arise at home or traveling to and from school.

HOME ALONE events are designed by H2O high school leaders and staff to convey critical safety information to younger students in an engaging, meaningful way. HOME ALONE also stimulates important conversations between parents and children about safety concerns.

HOME ALONE is for students 9-12 years of age who are Lakewood residents. In order to attend, children must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian.

During each 2-1/2 hour training, students will rotate through six interactive safety presentations led by H2O high school leaders. HOME ALONE event topics include:

- * **Emergencies** – How and when to Call 9-1-1
- * **Basic First Aid** – What to do if accidents or injuries occur
- * **Tricky People & Street Smarts** – How to avoid potentially dangerous situations
- * **Routines and Siblings** – Establishing house rules and role-playing conflict resolution
- * **Internet Safety** – Advice for maintaining positive, healthy experiences online
- * **Mental Health and Well Being** – How to develop positive coping skills

H2O's HOME ALONE Events Return In July! Register TODAY!



Some of H2O's 2021 H2O HOME ALONE Student Leaders

While students are engaged with the high school leaders, their parents/guardians receive valuable safety information presented by local experts from Lakewood Police, Fire and EMS, as well as a cyber-crimes education expert from Geauga County.

Here are just a few comments from parents who attended HOME ALONE

in 2020.

"It should be required for all parents, it's that important!"

"MUST ATTEND. Life changing!"

"This is the kind of information you don't think you need, but you do!"

"Because of Covid, my son has had to stay home alone for a few short periods of time & said 'good thing we went to that class!'"

There is a \$15.00 Family Fee for HOME ALONE which covers the adult attendee(s) and all 9-12 yr. old family member(s) being enrolled. At the end of each event, families will receive a comprehensive safety manual published by H2O's program partner, SOS4Kids.

Pre-registration is required to attend HOME ALONE. Both sessions

are the same, so it is only necessary to enroll in one event. Be sure to click on the Eventbrite link under your preferred date to register. Space in each event is limited, so sign up today!

Wednesday, July 14th – 6:30pm – 9:00pm – Garfield Middle School

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-alone-registration-159485634827>



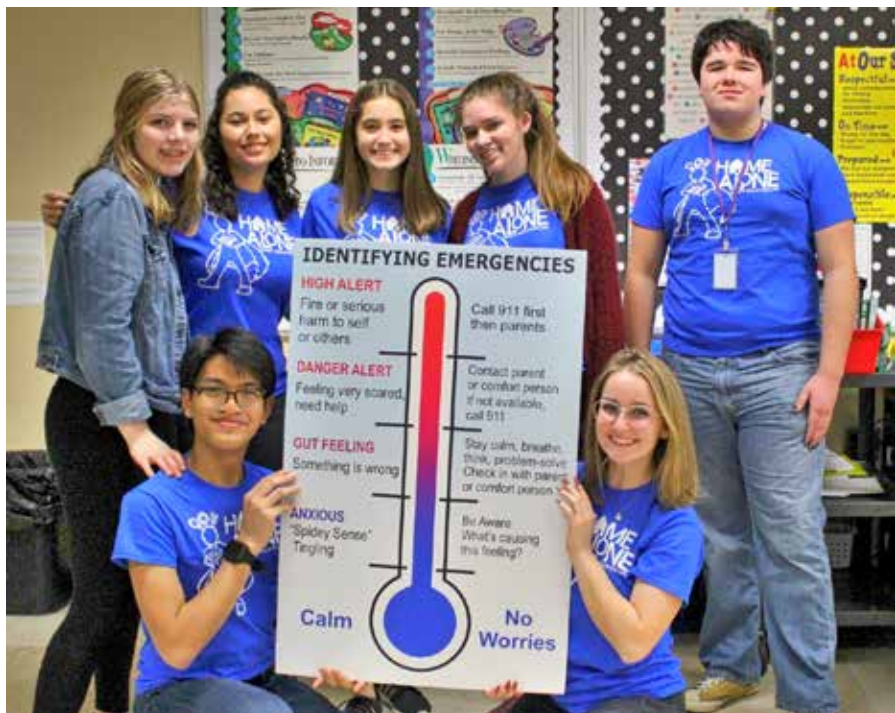
Saturday, July 24th – 1:00pm – 3:30pm – Garfield Middle School

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-alone-registration-156556620065>



Financial aid is available for families that need assistance in order to attend HOME ALONE. Contact H2O at 216-529-6045. Be sure to leave your name, phone number and a message requesting financial aid for HOME ALONE. You will be contacted by phone to register your family. Do not click on the above links.

HOME ALONE Youth Leadership Program is sponsored by the City of Lakewood/Division of Youth/H2O



2020 HOME ALONE Emergencies Presentation



2020 HOME ALONE Tricky People Presentation

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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 Education

First Federal Lakewood Shows School Spirit

by Katie Riley

On June 24, First Federal Lakewood announced the introduction of their new School Spirit Debit Cards featuring Lakewood and Olmsted Falls designs. These cards allow First Federal Lakewood and its customers to support the schools in these communities through a nominal annual fee of \$10, half of which is donated back to the school district. Additionally, each time a user swipes their debit card, \$0.01 will be donated to the school district featured on the card.

“Finding new and innovative ways to support the schools in our communities is an ongoing area of focus for First Federal Lakewood. It has long been a goal of ours to incorporate school spirit cards into our offerings, and we couldn’t be more thrilled to give our customers the ability to show their pride while giving back to their district every time they make a purchase!” said Kurt Raicevich, Senior Vice President, Chief Retail Officer of First Federal Lakewood.

All First Federal Lakewood checking account customers are eligible to

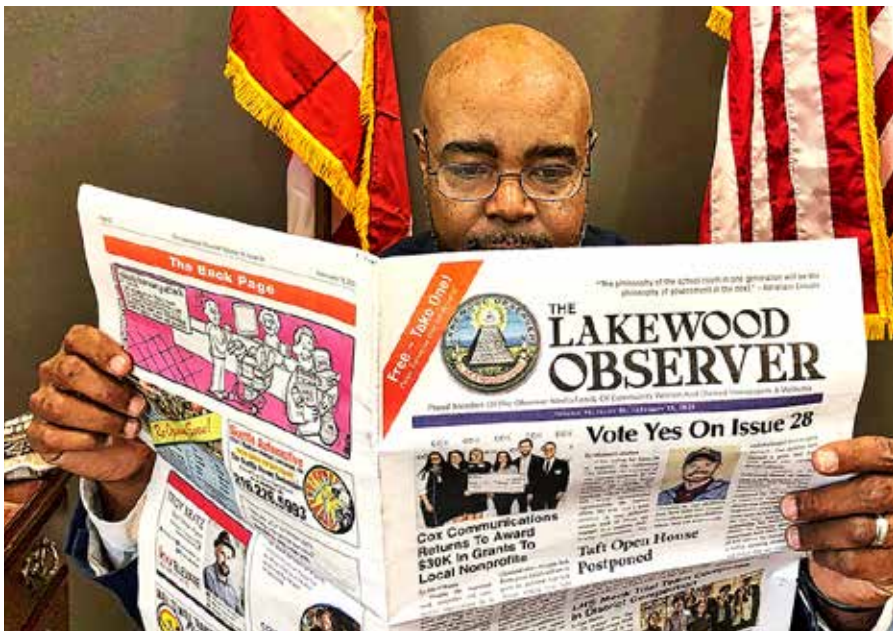
select a School Spirit Debit Card at any time. Currently, designs are only available for Lakewood City Schools and Olmsted Falls Schools, but First Federal Lakewood is looking forward to adding more districts in the coming months. The Lakewood design, which can be purchased at the Lakewood branch, features the Lakewood City Schools logo along with a monochromatic background in shades of purple with a kaleidoscope effect. The Olmsted Falls design, which can be purchased at the Olmsted Township branch, features the Bulldog logo and the blue and yellow colors.

“We’re thrilled to be one of the first school districts to be a part of the First Federal Lakewood’s School Spirit debit card program,” says Betsy Shaughnessy, President, Lakewood Board of Education. “First Federal Lakewood has made it so easy for our community to give back to our schools in a meaningful way.”

“Olmsted Falls City Schools is excited to be a part of the School Spirit debit card program at First Federal Lakewood,” says Brett Robson, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Olmsted Falls City Schools. “Not only is this an opportunity to donate to the school, but a great way to share and display #TheBulldogWay.”

About First Federal Lakewood:

First Federal Lakewood is the largest independent depositor-owned bank headquartered in Ohio with assets of \$1.9 billion. With 20 full-service branch locations and 11 mortgage lending offices throughout Ohio, First Federal Lakewood provides deposit, lending, residential mortgage lending, cash management and investment services to individuals and businesses. Since 1935, First Federal Lakewood has been a stable community owned bank committed to deploying funds that foster local economic growth.



Barnes Bids Lakewood A Fond Farewell

June 29, 2021

Dear Lakewood Family:

As I prepare to leave the District at the end of the week, I am more aware than ever how this community has etched its mark on my heart. From Day One, Lakewood has embraced me and my family. From Day One, I have admired the commitment and investment this community has in its school system. It has been a privilege to lead the Lakewood City Schools these past three years. It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with the Board of Education, Mayor Summers, Mayor George, our dedicated parents, and our outstanding staff members. I take pride in the wonderful way our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate developed, with input from all sectors of our community, and how our teachers have woven the Vision into our classroom teaching.

This past school year was the most challenging any of us have faced, yet we came through it stronger and more agile. Under new Superintendent Maggie Niedz-



wiecki, the District will be ready to move forward with the knowledge from the lessons we learned. I will miss much about Lakewood and the Lakewood City Schools. Most of all, I will miss popping into the buildings and engaging with our amazing students. They never failed to lift me up.

Gratefully,

Mike Barnes

#OneHeartbeatOneLKWD

Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Awards Five Scholarships



Lakewood’s Quinn Costanzo

by Lynn Donaldson

Five area graduating seniors have been awarded scholarships by the Rotary Club of Lakewood-Rocky River. Recipients include Luke Kishna, Amani Salti and Cecilia Wischmeier from Rocky River High School, Quinn Costanzo from Lakewood High School, and Acacia Uechi from Lutheran West High School. Each will receive a \$3,000 award from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation. This \$15,000 scholarship program is part of over \$60,000 that the Rotary club donates to the community each year.

In addition to demonstrating academic achievement and potential, the five scholarship winners were chosen for their character, as well as extracurricular and community involvement.

Quinn Costanzo serves as student body secretary for Lakewood

Read this story online at lakewoodobserver.com

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Lakewood Observer's Foodwood®

Chef Tony Fortner:

Lakewood's Soul Food Fusion Master

by Bruce Checefsky

Chef Tony Fortner started cooking when he was fourteen years old. He worked the line at a restaurant called Earth by April, located at Cedar Ave and Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. It was his first job in a professional kitchen. Fortner's mother, Matti Adams, was the inspiration behind his interest in food.

"My mother was the inspiration behind becoming a culinarian," he said in a phone interview. "She was an extraordinary cook, one of the best you've ever seen. She still does things that I can't do."

Fortner was impressed by her culinary skills. His favorite foods of hers were corn bread dressing, peach cobbler, and spaghetti. Everything she made was from scratch. She did nothing out of cans, according to him, and even when she made yams she would peel them, add butter, sugar, cinnamon, vanilla, and nutmeg. Green beans were always fresh. A garden in their back yard provided cabbage and tomatoes.

"I used to dread the summer when we had to weed that garden every week. We used a pitchfork to loosen the soil to let the roots breathe. We were on our hands and knees pulling out weeds so the vegetables wouldn't suffocate," he said.

As early as age 7, Fortner helped his mother with cooking. He came from a large family, six siblings and two cousins, and the food was in the kitchen. Tasting food was part of cooking and by the time dinner was ready to serve, he was full. The other kids would get mad at him but they didn't want to cook.

"In order to get extra food, I would make the macaroni, pick greens from the garden, clean the beans, and stir the sauces. I blanched tomatoes and peeled the skins off for fresh spaghetti sauce. I learned how to make black bean chili, gumbo, jambalaya from scratch."

Matti Adams was from the low country in South Carolina. Her mother was a great cook, too. While the whole family knew how to cook, Matti was the best of them. Vinegar and mustard sauces for pulled pork and smoked meats are common in the low country. The tangy tartness of the vinegar is considered a regional specialty. Further north, in Cleveland, people tend to prefer a sweet and spicy sauce, Fortner explained. Matti knew how to make both.

When Earth by April opened in 1973, the Cleveland Heights spot aimed to be the area's first counterculture seafood and vegetarian restaurant with a vast buffet of marinated vegetables and cold salads. The popular destination was named Restaurant of the Year six out of seven years. Celebrities including professional sports personalities from the Browns, Indians, and Cavaliers flocked there. Fortner started working there in 1979.

In 1983, Fortner joined the Navy where he was on an aircraft carrier with over 5,000 men. It was a different style of cooking than he had been used to.



Chef Tony Fortner

"Cooking for that many people at one time taught me how to deal with pressure and paying attention to detail. It was a very good learning experience and prepared me for this profession," he said.

Fortner left the Navy in 1987 and returned home to Cleveland where he worked the local restaurant circuit cooking for some of the best places in the region including Lake Forest Country Club, Beechmont Country Club, Johnny's Downtown, Embassy Suites Beachwood, and the Clifton Club. It was different style of cooking.

land that are as talented as I am. I'm not bragging, it's just a fact," he said.

Prior to opening his first restaurant in 2008, Fortner did mostly catering through his company called Creative Catering with weddings and graduations, private parties, bridal showers. He was cooking like he had done in the Navy. The business was doing well but he missed the à la carte distinctive style of cooking in a restaurant, the "controlled chaos where you have to bring everything into control." A la carte was better suited to his skill and talent.



11817 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, 216-801-4535.

"The Navy was commercial institutionalized cooking but when I got out I went back to à la carte cooking. Ten people ordered ten different things. We had to serve them all at the same time," he said, adding, "I did all the recipes and took care of the books. I wrote the menus. I was making everybody else successful and rich and never received credit for it. They couldn't do what I did for them." Frustrated by the lack of recognition and financial gain despite working ten and twelve hour shifts, Fortner decided to open his own restaurant.

"There aren't many chefs in Cleve-

"Absolutely fits my talents better," he said. "If I have a table of five or six people and one of them wants a long bone veal chop, one wants clams, and another wants a medium strip steak with a béarnaise sauce, you need to have skill to do it. When someone orders a rack of lamb and you don't know how to break it down, that's a problem."

Southern Cafe, 11817 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, opened to critical fanfare. Reviews were good and business steady. The recipes, at least 90% of them, came from his mother. It was the food he grew up on. Eventually, he added twists

and variation on standards like walleyed and collard artichoke dip. His talents as a chef shined through once again.

"Momma taught you the recipes. She didn't write them down. Old school chefs never wrote anything down. They showed you. You had to pay attention to get it right," he said.

"There were no standardized recipes which is why it's so hard to replicate them. Home style cooking is the food most of us have grown up on. Pork chops with gravy and onions, liver, or meatloaf, everybody knows what that is. Basic, simple, clean food is where the money is. That's what people eat."

Fortner sources all of his meats from Sam's Club. "They have the best meats without hormones or antibiotics. All of their meat is grain fed, USDA Choice or better so it doesn't have that musty flavor. It's a very mild flavor. They have the best fish and lobster. Their shrimp is wild caught from Argentina not farm raised."

He opened a second restaurant on Kinsman Ave in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood (13905 Kinsman Road, Cleveland) last year two weeks before Gov. DeWine shut down the state because of COVID-19. It was devastating. Fortner was on the way to Edgewater Park when he got a call from one of his employees. They had to close the restaurants. He wasn't prepared but fortunately his two sons were trained to work in the kitchens. They quickly mobilized both restaurants for takeout and delivery.

"UberEats and Door Dash were taking 30% for delivery. It was ridiculous but if you couldn't pay them, you weren't moving your product," he said. "The City of Cleveland finally stepped in and said they couldn't take more than 15% and that was only recently. We paid the 30% for 15 months."

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) didn't help either. Small business owners like Fortner didn't have the accountants and lawyers to help with processing their applications. The Paycheck Protection Program, as part of the \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package passed in December 2020, allowed entities to apply for low-interest private loans to pay for their payroll and certain other costs.

"The PPP program wasn't set up for small business like mine. They gave the Marriott Company more than \$15 million dollars," Fortner said. "Restaurants on the bottom end were devastated. The money got all sucked up by the big guys. It was a nightmare."

Since restrictions were lifted earlier in June, Fortner has seen a steady rise in customers. While he can't compete with companies like Amazon when it comes to hiring staff for his restaurants, he remains optimistic that people will find their way. He sure did.

Southern Cafe has two locations on 13905 Kinsman Road, Cleveland, 216-772-2222, and 11817 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, 216-801-4535.

Bruce Checefsky is a contributing writer for the Plain Press, East Side Daily News, Lakewood Observer, CAN Journal, Tremonster, and others.

Lakewood Cares

Free Eviction Help Expands Across Cuyahoga County

by Erica Drufva,

The COVID-19 pandemic left millions of families across the country, including thousands in Cuyahoga County, in a state of financial hardship. Now, with the CDC’s Moratorium on Evictions ending June 30th, many fear losing their housing this summer.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (Legal Aid) and United Way are here to help. Together, we’re expanding the reach of civil legal aid services to help families across Cuyahoga County avoid eviction with the launch of Free Eviction Help.org.

Housing is a basic human need – yet, when a person is faced with eviction, they do not have a constitutional right to an attorney (the Miranda rights you hear on television crime shows and movies - “you have the right to an attorney” only apply to criminal cases). Eviction can have devastating and long-lasting consequences, including homelessness, poor health outcomes, and job loss.

In July of 2020, the City of Cleveland enacted its own Right to Counsel for certain residents facing eviction. Legal Aid and United Way partnered to implement the law and are working to make sure all who qualify have access to free, high-quality legal representation. In the program’s first six months, 93% of tenants represented in Cleveland Housing Court by a Legal Aid attorney avoided an eviction or involuntary. Legal counsel is a critical and life-changing resource.

Inspired by Legal Aid’s success keeping families housed and connecting tenants with rent assistance to pay their landlords, Cuyahoga County has granted \$1 million in federal funding to Legal Aid’s eviction prevention work in the region. This support will specifically help people and families recover from financial distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit www.FreeEvictionHelp.org to learn more about this expanded service and how to apply for help.

Crucially, Free Eviction Help does not stop at legal representation; renters can receive information about rental assistance, case management, access to food, and other necessary services.

If you are facing an eviction and need help, contact the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland immediately at 216-861-5835. You can also apply for help through the 2-1-1 chat box/ phone number. A lawyer will contact you with information and next steps. If your court date has already passed, you may still be able to get help before the day of your eviction hearing. If your hearing is in Cleveland Housing Court, tell the Court at your hearing that you would like a lawyer assigned to you. If you are in another suburban court, click this link and fill out the appropriate form to present to the court.

Erica Drufva, one of our Summer Associates. Erica is currently a student at Wheaton College in MA.

Letter To The Editor

Overkill -- Unneeded -- Redundancy -- Better Uses

by Edward Graham

According to its website, Lakewood is now “seeking a consultant to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for both the municipality and community at large.” Our City government wants to spend up to \$100,000.00 of your hard earned tax dollars to develop an “action plan,” not only for Lakewood, but to include the “community at large.” Lakewood, itself, is part of a “community at large” known as Cuyahoga County which already has its own Climate Action Plan. I’m sure the county would share its Plan with the City at little or no cost. Does our City’s government think that the County’s plan is inferior?

May 15, 2019 Cuyahoga County published its Climate Change Action Plan: “The Cuyahoga County Climate Change Action Plan is an effort to set targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, implement and track actions to meet targets, and adapt to climate change across the county.” Ohio University has undertaken establishing an action plan for dealing with climate change. The United States Government has for some time been engaged in efforts to deal with climate change. Why should Lakewood spend a large chunk of tax dollars for its own action plan when it would simply be an overkill? Lakewood’s area is less than 2 hundredths of one percent the area of Cuyahoga County. The Cuyahoga County community, of which Lakewood is part, already has a Climate Action Plan.

Lakewood would be better off using the proposed action plan money to help pay some of the millions of dollars required to update our sewer system. Lakewood actually needs that project. Lakewood citizens will actually benefit from an improved sewer system that would help stop sewer backups into our homes as well as improving water purification. A climate action plan by Lakewood is not going to save the world, or Lakewood for that matter. A better sewer system, however, will improve health conditions and quality of life in Lakewood.

We missed you...

Welcome back to India Garden!

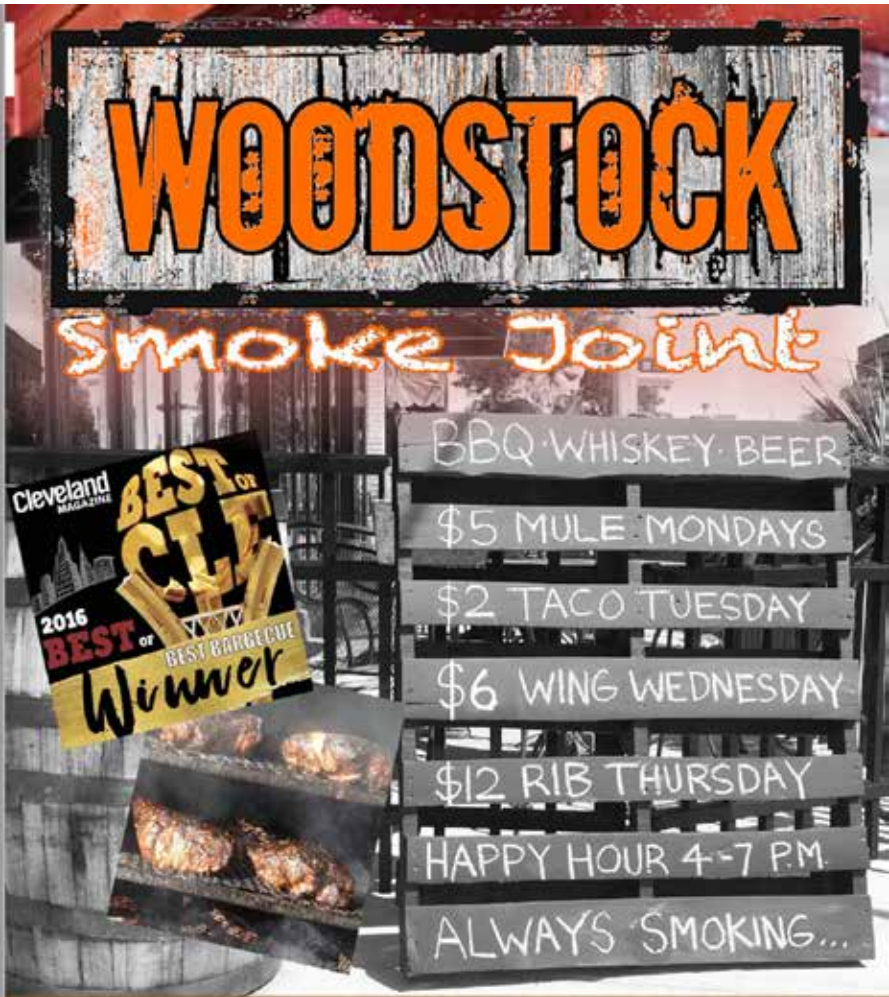


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Lakewood Is Art®

Local Photographer's Paris Pictures Selected For Book Benefiting Notre Dame Cathedral

by Bob Soltys

The Leica Historical Society (LHSA) selected three photos that I took of Cathedral Notre Dame for inclusion in a book LHSA is printing to help raise funds to restore the cathedral. LHSA is a group of photographers who use Leica cameras and lenses.

I have been documenting the Parisian joie de vivre since 2007 and have worked exclusively with Leica cameras since 1989 due to the superb sharpness and contrast that Leica lenses provide.

Master Framer John Rehner of Lakewood encouraged me to print some of my pictures of Notre Dame the first time I came into the gallery, even though I thought they might be cliché. Turns out John was right in more ways than one. The LHSA selected the photos for its book. Since the fire, those pictures are a way to see a part of Paris



we won't have access to for who knows how long.

I made the third photo as I walked home from dinner at the Quasimodo Café the week before Christmas. White lights in trees along each side of the rue



d'Arcole framed the Cathedral's North Tower. Since I always wear my camera, I made a photo on Ilford Delta 3200 film.

Until the book is printed, you can see my hand-crafted gelatin silver prints at John Rehner Fine Art and Framing at 16108 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. After a hiatus due to Covid-19, the gallery is open again on an appointment-only basis. You can make an appointment on the gallery's website at www.johnrehner.com. The gallery's phone number (216) 227-2790.

Prints are available through the gallery. A share of print sales will be donated to the fund dedicated to restoring the cathedral.

You can see Bob's pictures of Paris online at <http://www.bobsoltys.net/>.



JULY

Aries:

The Ram finds their good fortune this month behind the scenes...home & family is where you'll shine, get creative to find romance, go find those hidden gems Lakewood is known for.

Taurus:

The Bull will find the pot of gold hanging with friends & groups, you'll be a networking bonanza this month, get out in your neighborhood, save the romance for home.

Gemini:

The Twins are shining on the financial front this month, your career receives a mega-boost, higher-ups are noticing...you'll find love & romance in networking & the neighborhood.

Cancer:

The Crab is on fire to get motivated on your physical well-being, find a walking or workout buddy, love & money can be found together, maybe a foreigner is in the stars, hmmm.

Leo:

The Lion/Lioness is lighting up the Jungle with Venus & Mars swinging from vine-to-vine, get out & meet the animals in that forest you rule, finances are shining on his/her royal self.

Virgo:

You are shining in the clubs &

organizations you belong to, love can be found behind closed doors...& your relationships both personal & business receive a jolt of Jupiter energy.

Libra:

Your career is where the Sunbeams shine this month, your health & service to others is getting a boost from Lady Luck, & you'll find love & romance thru your organizations.

Scorpio:

The Scorpion has the Sun shining on its foreign affairs, & higher education/learning such as Metaphysics, etc., romance can be found thru your career, & your creativity is booming.

Sagittarius:

The Centaur's focus this month is on other people's money, get your taxes in order...romance comes thru a foreigner or higher education, the four-leaf clover is at home...

Capricorn:

The Sun is shining on the Goat's personal & business relationships this month, Venus & Mars are tied up with other people's money...Luck is plentiful with your networking.

Aquarian:

Health seems to be bountiful this month, romance can be found thru your business & personal relationships... Jupiter, Santa Claus of the Zodiac is

traveling thru your money house.

Pisces:

The Fish is coming out of the water & lighting up the shores with your presence, your creativity is sky-rocketing, love & romance can be found at the gym or the health-food store...

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

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Lakewood Observer

by Nickie Antonio

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 21 into law; legislation I introduced in an effort to save precious minutes to possibly improve the lives of stroke patients and reduce the effects of stroke with regard to disability and possible death. This legislation requires the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to develop statewide guidelines for the assessment, triage, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients in partnership with Ohio’s health leaders. Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke[1]. The right treatment can mean the difference between life and death as stroke is the fifth leading cause of death, and a leading cause of disability in Ohio.[2]

This issue is personal as we lost my mother to complications from stroke 21 years ago. At the time, we first called EMS when my mother was in some kind of distress, however, I had to insist that EMS transport her to the hospital,

Governor Signs Antonio’s Stroke Legislation



Senator Nickie J. Antonio with Governor Mike DeWine and Senator Nathan Manning at the bill signing for S.B. 21.

even as she was rejecting care. She kept saying “No, no, no” and referring to herself as “it”- as in “it doesn’t want to

when she got to the hospital, she had a massive stroke. Regrettably, she ultimately died from those complications a few weeks later. I firmly believe that if this legislation would have been in place, my mother’s outcome might have been different. We will never know. However, what we do know is that proper and immediate stroke care in those first moments, when every second counts, is essential. In enacting SB 21, we hope lives will be saved throughout the state. [1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Stroke Facts. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/stroke/facts.htm> [2] <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/ohio/ohio.htm>

Rep. Skindell Votes “No” On State Budget

by Barbara Brisbane

Says budget underfunds public education by nearly \$1.4 billion and leaves average Ohioans behind Rep. Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) has voted against the 2022-2023 state operating budget, House Bill 110. “The state budget passed is a wish list for the wealthiest Ohioans and largest corporations but represents a backwards slide for low and middle-income working people struggling in the current economy,” said Rep. Skindell. “While I strongly support the adoption of the Fair School Funding formula in the budget, state leaders left it underfunded by nearly \$1.4 billion. At the same time, the wealthiest Ohioans will continue to see a significant reduction in state taxes, with personal income tax revenues being reduced overall by \$1.64 billion.” Rep. Michael Skindell expressed concern that the budget fails to restore college assistance funding to pre-2009 levels, to increase family eligibility for child care assistance and to strengthen local government funds which pays for essential safety, senior and youth services in our communities. Skindell also expressed continued disappointment that the legislature has failed to give low-income families relief by making a portion of Ohio’s earned income tax credit (EITC) refundable. He



has advocated for a refundable EITC for nearly two decades. “Ohio has one of the highest number of people living in poverty in the nation and yet the legislature refuses to adopt a refundable EITC, a proven anti-poverty program,” said Rep. Skindell. “At a time when employers are concerned about recruiting employees, the EITC would help in promoting and supporting work particularly in lower income jobs. A refundable EITC would give Ohio’s economy a boost.” Additionally, Rep. Skindell joined other Democrats and opposed several public policy measures within the budget, including attacks on health-care access for LGBTQ Ohioans and

abortion care, as well as undermining police accountability measures and Ohio’s new redistricting reforms. Skindell also opposed the elimination of funding to protect families with Medicaid-eligible children and pregnant women against dangers of lead paint hazards and the insertion in the budget of a measure that will make it easier for oil and gas drilling on state lands.



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