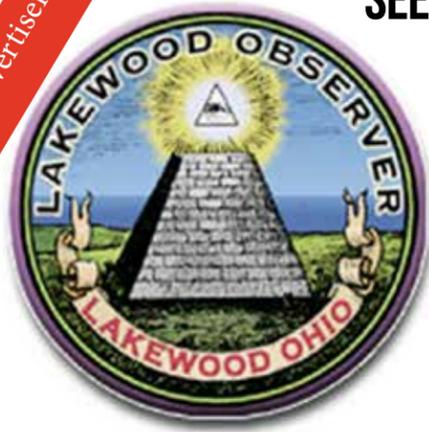


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Volume 17, Issue 15, August 4, 2021

School Supply Drive Summer 2021

by Karen Lee

Thank you to the Lakewood community for supporting Supplies 4 Success' city-wide school supply collection drive over the past 10 years. Your continued generosity makes a real difference to our students.

Believe it or not, it's that special time of year again. Back to School shopping! While most of you probably remember the excitement of picking out new

school supplies, there is just something about the possibilities of a brand new notebook, a fresh pack of crayons, many of our local students' families are unable to afford even the most basic of school supplies.

That is where our amazing community comes in: Supplies4Success (a committee of the Lakewood Area Collaborative) aims to support the families and students who find

themselves unable to purchase the supplies needed for a successful school year.

Fundraising has allowed us to purchase and donate graphing calculators to be part of a calculator library at Lakewood High School and to donate over 1,500 headsets – now an essential part of the academic experience. However, the majority of the supplies come from donations from the Lakewood community – one notebook, binder, or pack of pencils at a time.

This year we need your support again to make sure each student has the tools they need for academic success – from crayons to binders! We firmly believe all students should have the opportunity to learn regardless of need. It has been proven that a student starting their school year off with all of the tools they need will have a better chance at a successful academic year. It is far too easy for these students to fall in-between the cracks and drop off the academic track.

Supplies 4 Success will collect supplies until Sunday, August 22nd. Items can be dropped off at various locations throughout the city. A monetary donation can be made through The Lakewood Foundation (with S4S in the subject line), 12900 Madison Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107 or through The Lakewood Foundation/donate page. Please contact us at lkwdschoolsupplies@gmail.com for questions regarding the collection or

continued on page 6



Some of the supplies dropped off already.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood Fire Department never stops training. Here they are practicing Hydraulics and Relay work with the hoses. It was pretty cool, both getting wet and watching them target an area 100 yards away.

Announcing My Candidacy For Lakewood City Council-at-Large Think Davey – Think Recycling And Transportation For Seniors

by Keith Davey

It is with great pleasure that I would like to announce my decision to run for Lakewood Council-at Large.

Lakewood has been a true blessing to me since 2007 when I met my lovely wife Judy at an Open House on Marlowe Avenue on a cold Sunday afternoon in January. We married in 2008 and have enjoyed the diversity and vitality of this wonderful city. I feel that the time is right for me to start giving back to a town that has given me and my wife so much.

I have never held public office but feel that my long life experience working in the private sector will be a benefit to our city.

I retired in 2019 after a 30 year career in the waste and recycling industry. After taking a short break, I decided to start up a small local business transporting senior citizens to their medical appointments, the grocery store, beauty shop and other errands. I have had the privilege to meet so many wonderful individuals with amazing life stories. There is so much wisdom in our seniors! They have so much to offer. As a senior myself, I intend to be a voice for seniors in our community. We need to utilize their rich history and experience to benefit and enhance our city.

Increased recycling & waste reduction – I intend to use my experience in the recy-



Keith Davey

cling industry to work with our residents and businesses to increase our recycling and waste reduction efforts. People in Lakewood love to recycle and are dedicated to the environment. We need to insure that our recyclables do not end up in the landfill. That is totally unacceptable.

Expedite the development at the old Lakewood Hospital Site – Every day I drive by the hole in the ground that used to be Lakewood Hospital. My passengers continually voice their dissatisfaction with the decision to give up our hospital. While that whole deal, which by the way doesn't pass the smell test with most residents, is water under the bridge, it is now time to move on. We need to get started on the development of a project that will be beneficial to all of the residents of Lakewood. Several years have gone by and

continued on page 3

Why I Am Fighting For Our Senior Citizens

by Mark Schneider

I am the oldest of all my siblings. As the first born, I have had the privilege to know each of my grandparents on a personal level. During my childhood, I spent countless hours spending time with my grandparents-hearing about their experiences and the lessons they spent their lifetimes learning.

My grandfather William Schneider was a union carpenter for the county who told me about doing work for judges in the same courthouses where I would practice law twenty years later. My grandmother Betty Schneider was a legal secretary who told me about the adventures of being a woman working downtown at a very different time. My grandfather Mario Fioritto, whose parents died when he was just a young boy, told me about serving in the Pacific during World War II, and coming back to start a successful business to support his family. My grandmother Corinne Fioritto told me about how her whole family, including her many brothers and sisters, worked in her family's store and what a difference that made for her neighborhood.

These were not just grandparents, but heroes to a young boy. I learned the values of family, determination in the face of adversity, and the importance of hard work from them. These were lessons that would shape my life and career. I am better for having spent so much time with my grandparents at a young age.



Mark Schneider

The bedrock of any community is its senior citizens. In Lakewood, we stand on the shoulders of the generations that have come before us to make our community the place we are proud to call home. We are richer for their experiences and efforts. Our senior citizens deserve to remain a vital part of our community and must be protected.

As I meet with senior citizens during this campaign, too many express to me concerns that they are being left behind. They feel that younger generations ignore their needs, price them out of our community, and are too quick to sweep them away. Rising housing prices and taxes, high costs of services, safety in their neighborhoods, and threats to access to healthcare are among the chief concerns expressed to me during these visits.

Our senior citizens deserve the ability to remain in their homes, the opportunity to remain a vibrant part of

continued on page 3

The Mayor's Corner

Investing In Our Infrastructure

by Meghan George
Mayor of Lakewood

At the July 19th Council meeting, Lakewood City Council unanimously approved my administration's recommendation to dedicate \$25 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to water and sewer capital needs. Using ARPA funds this way is a smart, strategic move, and, fortunately, it also fits clearly within the strict guidelines the federal

government has set for ARPA dollars.

By investing a large portion of these unforeseen resources towards long-term, pre-existing infrastructure needs, Lakewood will meet many of the goals I've heard when speaking to our citizens. Those include being good stewards of public dollars and addressing affordability concerns while continuing to provide the high-quality services our residents and ratepayers expect and deserve.

Thou Shall Not Steal

by Jim O'Bryan

Is Shop Lifting A Crime? Yes!

Yes! I couldn't help but notice last week that a recent debate in Lakewood has been over whether or not shop lifting is a crime. Or is it a form of teens striking out against society?

Yes it is a crime, and possibly striking out against society but someone needs to tell them it is wrong.

"Back in my day..." starts off one reasoning, and for this example I will use myself: I was about 8 years old when a balloon from a local store ended up in my pocket. Mom asked where I got it. I told her the man at the store gave it to me. Mom called and was quickly assured that no member of the store had given me a balloon. The next thing I heard from Mom was, "Well, let's go back and thank them. You shouldn't take things from strangers."

By the time we were walking into the store, I was confessing. She had me talk with the manager who took over two hours telling me it was wrong, then picking up the phone to call the police. It was pure torture. If this had been 2021 instead of 1961, my Mother would have sued the store owner for mental abuse.

Fast forward to today, stores have cameras everywhere, so the usual chain of action is: Someone working at a store thinks someone stole something

so they go back later in the day and go through hours of tape to have proof. Normally at this point it would be turned over to the police. Sometimes images are placed into the public sphere to ask whether people recognize the shoplifter.

This actually serves 2 purposes, the first is to catch the perps, the second is to say to the world, don't come into our store and shoplift. Both acceptable things for a business wanting to stop theft from happening.

This is where life gets difficult in 2021. If a store owner treats one perp differently from others, they open themselves up to lawsuits. Yes, the person getting robbed will now be on trial in the court of public opinion or the real courts, over why they prosecuted one but not the other. This is the way laws work in America.

So in the end, they must prosecute. Some complain that this could ruin a young person's life. It won't ruin it as much as a life of crime would. Indiscretions committed by kids can be erased at age 18 in the courts, files sealed which never appear on their record again. UNLESS they commit a felony, then they have it for life, and that is the way it should be.

The better answer for all was to get Grandma to explain why you should not steal.

At the same Council meeting, City Council also approved my administration's proposal to introduce an Impervious Surface Fee, which ties storm water fees to the comparative demand properties place on Lakewood's wet weather infrastructure. Properties with larger amounts of impervious surfaces (such as parking lots) generate much more storm water runoff which our wet weather infrastructure must handle. But currently, ratepayers only pay sewer fees based on the metered water they consume. This new Impervious Surface Fee changes that system and is another example of meeting our goals of smart and fair fiscal policies.

Our city's Integrated Wet Weather Improvement Plan (IWWIP) and Clean Water Lakewood initiative (read more about these at this page on our website) were previously adopted to improve and update our city's 100-year-old sewer system and deal with storm water issues. As we've all known for years, our city's

water and sewer systems need major work, with associated costs.

The City has invested \$60 million in recent years to deal with the situation, and still faces over \$300 million in estimated costs to fully cover the IWWIP. Our opportunistic use of ARPA dollars will help take a meaningful chunk out of those costs, which otherwise would have fallen to residents and ratepayers. Pairing ARPA funds with the passage of the new impervious surface fee will both modernize rates while keeping money in ratepayers' pockets. In fact, previously approved water and sewer rates will now be reduced through 2023. Those reductions compound annually to save ratepayers even more – an estimated \$50 million in reduced fees for our residents and water users between now and 2040.

I applaud City Council for agreeing with my administration on this smart use of these one-time funds and remain committed to our tradition of superior water and sewer services for Lakewood while continuing to find creative ways to reduce costs and be a good steward of the public's dollars.



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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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!

Election News And Views

Send In Your Questions For Lakewood's Primary Candidates

by Betsy Voinovich

Though it's hard to believe with the calendar flipping to August just days ago, election season is upon us. It's early this year because Lakewood has a primary on September 14. That's just about 6 weeks from now.

If you aren't aware, it's time to pay attention.

Three contenders are running for judge: Sara Fagnilli, Tess Neff and Brian Taubman.

City Council has a big race also, with six candidates running for 3 city council-at-large seats.

They are: Kyle G. Baker, Tom Bullock, Keith Davey, Sarah Kepple, Tristan Rader, Laura Rodriguez Carbone, Mark Schneider and Susannah Selnick.

Here's where you come in. Every election year, the Lakewood Observer publishes the answers to questions submitted by readers and Observer

editors to all of the candidates.

Each candidate gets the same questions and the same amount of space to respond, which will allow you to compare their answers as you try to make an informed decision at the ballot box.

What is important to you? Bars and sidewalk dining taking precedence over the needs of Lakewood homeowners? The big hole where the hospital used to be and whether there are plans afoot to transfer any more of Lakewood's public assets into private hands? Speeders? Outdoor basketball?

These are some of the issues swirling around our editorial room. The winners of these elections will be in a unique position to DO SOMETHING about issues that you care about. What do you need to know from them?

Feel free to pose different ques-

tions for the two different jobs: Council-at-Large and Judge.

We will of course be asking each candidate about their background and qualifications.

Email questions to betsy@lakewoodobserver.com. We will sort through them and publish as many as we can in the paper and online in the weeks before the election.

If while considering your questions, you become inspired to share

more than a question with your fellow residents, feel free to write an article or editorial and submit it to our online newsroom at the Member Center, lakewoodobserver.com. Remember, the Lakewood Observer is completely written by its readers in the Lakewood community. All you need to do to be published is to write an article and send it in. Please include photos if you've got them.

Announcing My Candidacy For Lakewood City Council-at-Large

Think Davey – Think Recycling And Transportation For Seniors

continued from page 1

we have heard many excuses. I intend to focus my efforts on moving this project along and expediting development at one of the most prime pieces of real estate in our city.

Safety in all of our neighborhoods- My wife and I have always felt safe in our home. On the couple of occasions that we have had to call the police, they responded quickly and were always very professional and courteous. However, in my daily travels, residents in some neighborhoods do not feel quite as safe. We need to make sure that all of our residents feel safe. It is paramount that people feel safe when walking to

the store, at work, in restaurants and at our parks. Let me state that I completely support the Lakewood police and safety forces. I intend to make sure that they have all the funding and resources they feel necessary to adequately perform their job. I would like to see 4-6 additional officers added to the police force. In addition, I would encourage city council to evaluate the addition of an experienced Safety Director for a city with a large population such as Lakewood.

Better communication with our residents – It is my opinion that the top priority of a councilperson is to communicate with and respond to the needs of the residents in a timely manner. We need to hear your opinions and concerns on issues affecting the city. I intend to hold monthly informational meetings at various locations around Lakewood. I will regularly reach out to the residents by knocking on doors, not just in election years, but throughout my term. I will be accessible to everyone and vote on legislation based on the residents opinions, not my own.

Additional transportation services for Seniors- I intend to work with council to provide additional transportation services for our senior citizens. We still have some gaps in service that need to be filled. My clients have voiced the need for the return of a circulator type service and additional transportation evenings and weekends.

Seeking His will in all that I do - As a born-again Christian, my faith is a very important part of my life. Twenty-two years ago I accepted the Lord, and He released me from the bondage of alcohol addiction and abuse. My life verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. On a daily basis, I try to seek His will in everything I do and I intend to continue to do that if elected to council.

On September 14th, you will have the opportunity to vote for 3 candidates for Lakewood Council-at-Large. Please consider Keith Davey as one of those votes.

I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns. With your help, we can make Lakewood an even better place to live!

Email: kd44107@yahoo.com / www.lakewoodcitizensfordavey.com

Why I Am Fighting For Our Senior Citizens

continued from page 1

our community, the access to affordable places to live, the right to feel safe in their neighborhoods, and access to affordable health care. As a candidate for Council at Large, I feel it is my duty to fight for our senior citizens.

We need to focus on innovative programs that will incentivize landlords to provide affordable places to live. We need to work with other government agencies to ease and defer the increasing tax burden placed on our seniors. We need to find creative ways for our senior citizens to afford the increasing costs associated with maintaining and improving their homes. We need safe neighborhoods. We need to ensure that senior citizens in Lakewood have access to affordable and convenient healthcare.

I bring a unique depth of experience as a problem solver in the fight for our senior citizens in Lakewood. As a state representative, I fought for funding for benefits to seniors and for innovative programs like the Homestead Tax Exemption. As a prosecutor, I work with law enforcement to keep neighborhoods safe. As an assistant law director for Parma Heights, I work every day with businesses, healthcare providers, and government agencies to provide better alternatives for senior citizens.

If elected to City Council, I want to ensure that the next generation of Lakewood residents is able to learn from and thank our senior citizens the way that I have learned from and benefited from my own grandparents. In Lakewood, we owe our senior citizens a debt of gratitude and much more. That is why I am fighting for our senior citizens in this City Council campaign. And that is why I will fight for our senior citizens if elected to Council.

Mark Schneider is a candidate for

Lakewood City Council at Large.

You can learn more about him and reach him at Voteschneider.com. Election day is September 14, 2021.

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Lakewood Public Library

Back To School Online Resources

by Andrea Fisher

Lakewood Public Library has a variety of online resources to support learning just in time for back to school. Students of all ages will find these online tools helpful, no matter what area of study. You can find these resources at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/research

Finding a good book is easy with NoveList Plus and NoveList K-8. Students can find enjoyable books based on their interests, as well as their grade and reading level. Search and browse by genre, readalikes, award winners and more.

With EBSCOhost, students can search thousands of magazines, newspapers and peer-reviewed journals. Search for articles by keyword or use publication search to browse through the archives of

specific magazines and journals.

The Library also has three language learning tools available to help you master nearly any foreign languages: Rosetta Stone, Mango Languages and Transparent Language Online. Each of these resources offers an interactive experience for learners at all skill levels.

LinkedIn Learning (Formerly Lynda.com) has more than 12,000 courses, ranging from computer programming to project management including instruction on various computer software, programming languages, and business topics. The video courses are taught by industry experts and are designed for any skill level.

All of these resources and other online resources are available at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/research.

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 Author Visits

For all ages

Join local authors and illustrators virtually as they share and read some of their own children's books.

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

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

For students in kindergarten through sixth grade

Participants in this program will be taken on a journey through the night sky to experience the different tails and tales it has to communicate! Participants con-

nect the dots in the night sky and learn of how different cultures share different stories of constellations. Some of the stories told shape into animals that have a tail and yes, a tale to tell! Registration is required. A Zoom Link will be emailed one day before the event.

Materials are provided for this program. Materials for participation may be picked up at the Main Library Children's and Youth Services or at the Drive-Up Window. You will specify your pick up location during registration.

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

Now That Is Cool



Both the Madison Branch Library and the Guardians were designed by Walker & Weeks, the Cleveland architecture firm that also designed Severance Hall and the Cleveland Public Library, among other magnificent buildings. Photo credit: Cleveland State University Special Collection.



Virtual Meet The Author Event With Diane Vogel Ferri

by Lisa Calfee

Post-civil war America could not keep pace with Emily Warren Roebling. She was one of those notable women in history who didn't waste daylight waiting for public sentiment to approve of her non-traditional ambitions.

Considered the nation's first female Field Engineer, she took over construction of the Brooklyn Bridge when her husband, the chief engineer, fell ill. She also studied law, travelled extensively and became a sought-after speaker who became determined to convince an incredulous world that women deserved equal rights.

Local author Diane Vogel Ferri chronicles the life and times of this 19th century suffragette in "No Life But This: A Novel of Emily Warren Roebling." Ferri will be joining Lakewood Public Library for a virtual Meet the Author event at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021 to talk about the book.

You can watch this program as well as other Meet the Author events on

facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary and twitter.com/lakewoodlibrary on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If you miss the premiere, the videos will also be available on the Library's website lakewoodpubliclibrary.org.

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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

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Lakewood Observer

Supporting Residents, Communication, The First Step During Blackouts

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Power outages seem to be a perennial issue in Lakewood. Residents can usually expect outages after thunderstorms, due to fallen powerlines, or fallen tree limbs. But a few weeks ago, in over 90 degree heat and on a cheerfully sunny day, the lights went out for reasons that are still a mystery to most Lakewood residents like me on the West End.

During the outage, my phone, social media and email were almost immediately filled with messages - some from neighbors wondering what was going on, others calling for help for refrigerated items like insulin and perishable foods, and others from seniors who worried about heat exhaustion with the loss of A/C. I spent the next 8 hours coordinating resources, putting residents in touch with local organizations and trying again and again to reach someone at FirstEnergy who could provide some answers. At 2am, I was finally able to get a representative from FirstEnergy's Facebook page to give me a direct line I could call in the morning. At 9am, I was told by First Energy that they had no idea why the lights went out in the first place.

Residents have continued to experience power outages since. The power even went out during a recent city council



meeting (though quickly restored). Though city council was able to keep on track during the outage, tweeting photos, and continuing the people's business, many residents say they wish local leaders would notify them as soon as outages occur and keep them updated throughout these events.

Communication is critical during adverse events, even those that may be seen as temporary or low risk, like a power outage. Those with limited income, seniors, and people with medical conditions that require access to oxygen tanks, refrigerated medicines or food, air conditioning, or power wheelchairs are increasingly at risk. Luckily, Lakewood is part of the West-

shore Community Emergency Response Team (or CERT), sponsored by the Westshore Governments Council. CERT is a volunteer-based organization that supports safety forces and first responders to help prevent, prepare for and mitigate emergencies and disasters.

As part of FEMA during the Federal COVID Response, I worked with CERT teams in other states and saw how vital their services were to patients quarantined and unable to leave their homes for basic necessities or medical care. I was able to speak to one of Lakewood's CERT representatives, resident Jessica S. Cotton, who says that CERT is something that could be utilized by Lakewood more often.

"A few weeks ago, a good number of Lakewood residents experienced a power outage with...power turning on and going back off for hours for several days with no community information to follow the power outage," says Jessica. "Westshore CERT could have been utilized [to] go... through the neighborhoods to check on residents and hand out emergency information while...first responders continued to do their duties." In January 2019, nearly 200 homes were without heat during

the Dominion Gas outage in Rocky River. "CERT knocked on every door to check on residents and give them information on emergency shelters."

According to Jessica, CERT can also assist with non-emergency projects that improve community safety, like helping to distribute and/or install smoke alarms, replace smoke alarm batteries in the homes of seniors, distribute disaster education materials, and provide services at special events, such as parades, sporting events, and concerts. "Utilizing CERT and the Cuyahoga County ReadNotify system for emergency notifications, helps to send out rapid and accurate information essential for residents' immediate safety," Jessica says.

I know first hand how much of a support simple communication would have been during the outage to my family, as well as to others reaching out for help that day. Something as simple as a text message, or automated phone call, coupled with making sure we maximize valuable resources like CERT could do a great deal of good for Lakewood residents in need during recurring events like these. With this valuable resource right at our fingertips, I hope we consider a plan to do so.

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Lakewood Education



Alumni Event Celebrates The Ranger Bond

by Christine Gordillo

The middle school years. Most say they never want to relive those precious few years where everything seems to change in a young person's life. However, on a recent Sunday afternoon a group of about 75 Lakewood City Schools alumni celebrated the bonds and memories created as middle schoolers with a fun day of games, food and friendship they dubbed "Revenge of the Rangers."

Rangers primarily from classes from the 1980s-2000s gathered in the

Metroparks for an afternoon of friendly competitions between Emerson, Harding and Horace Mann alumni. Some private school alumni or "Saints" participated as well. The teams tried to best each other in tug-of-war, egg toss and sack races. From talking to participants and comments online, the event was a great success and a blast for all.

Class of '93 grad Terry Alexander imagined the event as a kind of take off on the movie "Revenge of the Nerds," and when he threw the idea out on Face-

book, many alums jumped on board for the event. Jennifer Kunes ('91) joined as the master organizer and put in tons of hours finalizing the logistics and details while Alexander served as the grill-master, cooking up 15 slabs of ribs, 40 chicken legs and 8 pork shoulders. Jessica Clayburg ('97) was the official event photographer and Marc Reimer donated handmade Rangers and Browns corn-hole boards as prizes.

Alexander said he came up with the idea as a way to "bring people together

and connect them." "Lakewood was a really cool place to grow up and I am blessed to have grown up with the people I did," he said.

The highlight of the day for Kunes was seeing everyone come together in the Ranger Spirit and share a day of fun and laughter that left people walking away with some new Ranger connections. The energy and enthusiasm surrounding the event "speaks so highly of our time growing up in Lakewood," Kunes said.

School Supply Drive Summer 2021

continued from page 1

additional information on how to help.

Families in need of school supplies can get them the following ways:

Elementary Families: Contact their Parent Resource Coordinator after the start of the school year. Supplies will not be required the first week of school.

Middle/LHS Students: Can get supplies from their school Guidance Counselors on the first day of school, and throughout the school year.

Items needed:

- Folders (3 prong/pocket)
- Notebook paper/Notebooks
- Dividers
- Tape/Glue
- Pen/Pencils
- Erasers
- Markers/Sharpies
- Scissors (pointed)
- Pencil boxes/pouches

- Colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Dry Erase Markers (Expo)
- Composition Notebooks
- Post It Notes/Index Cards

Drop Off Locations:

- Addicted Coffee Bar
- Becks Pool/Foster Pool
- The Beck Center
- Blackbird Baking Company
- Breadsmith
- Caffeine
- Coffee Pot
- KB Confections
- Lakewood Family YMCA
- Lakewood Garden Center
- Nature's Oasis
- Pet's General Store
- The Root Café
- Stem Soaps
- Lakewood Recreation Dept.

Karen Lee is the chair of Supplies4 Success.

Lakewood Schools Hiring For New School Year

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City School District is busy preparing for the 2021-2022 school year, including filling some remaining vacancies for its staff. The District is currently accepting applications for lunch monitors and other support staff positions in both general education and special education. The District is also looking for preschool paraprofessionals, who will be hired through the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio. Those interested in applying should visit the district website at www.lakewoodcityschools.org and follow the application links contained in the news article titled "We're Hiring!"



Around Town

Lakewood Fire Department spending a hot summer day going through Hydraulics and Relay practice. What is amazing is not just the sheer quantity of water coming out but how far and how accurately they can shoot it. I was nearly 100 yards away and got drenched.

Lakewood Education

Lakewood City Schools' Back To School Plan

by Christine Gordillo

Our protocols and strategies for the 2021-2022 school year have been developed with the #1 goal of keeping our students in school five days a week with minimal disruption due to illness. The following will be in place for at least the first quarter with a re-assessment on September 17, 2021:

Masks:

Students grades PreK-5: Required when indoors, except when eating.

Students grades 6-12: Optional for all but strongly recommended for those who are unvaccinated.

Staff: Optional for all but strongly recommended for those who are unvaccinated.

eLearning Option:

Families who are not comfortable with their student(s) returning to the classroom may choose our eLearning LKWD option. This is a full-time blended learning program administered by Franklin School of Opportunity. Students work from home on lessons but will be required to meet in-person 30 minutes per week with District staff. Those interested in this option can call 216-529-4037 for more information.

Athletics and Extracurriculars:

As of July 22, the Ohio High School Sports Association (OHSSA) is not requiring the COVID-19 mandates that were in place for the 2020-21 season. Student athletes and other extracurricular participants must still wear masks on school transportation as mandated by Centers for Disease Control.

Building Safety Protocols:

Custodial staff will continue to thoroughly clean and sanitize our buildings with special focus on high-touch surfaces. Other protocols that will be in effect include:

Masks required for students grades PreK-5 and strongly recommended for unvaccinated students grades 6-12 and for unvaccinated staff.

3-foot physical distancing when possible

Hand sanitizer available in every classroom

Cleaning supplies to sanitize work areas will be available throughout the day

Bottle-filling stations on all water fountains. Students should bring a water bottle to school.

One-way hallways/stairwells when possible

In addition to their daily/weekly checklist, custodial staff to use daily log for facility/restroom cleaning/disinfecting of high touch surfaces using CDC/EPA-approved disinfectants throughout all shifts

HVAC modifications: reduction of recirculated air, increase of outside air supply & installation of higher MERV-rated air filters.

Suspected Illness Protocol:

We will follow these steps if a student or staff member has suspected COVID-19 symptoms or feels ill during the school day:

If a student or employee displays COVID-19 symptoms at school or during work, he/she will immediately report to the building's health center where they will be assessed by our nurse or health aide.

The student or employee will leave campus if COVID is suspected and be recommended to seek medical attention.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, a parent/guardian must pick up their child from school.

The custodial team will begin disinfection procedures.

If a person displays a symptom/s of COVID-19 they should be isolated at home and contact their physician to determine if testing is necessary.

All positive cases are to be reported to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) by the phy-

sician, testing agency or school district as required.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must inform your school office. You may return to school/work when the quarantine period has been completed. Please report positive COVID cases on our Student COVID Reporting Form. The form will reside on the front page of our website throughout the year.

Vaccination:

Through our vaccination clinic held for staff last spring, more than 80% of our staff have been vaccinated. We also held a clinic for those students 16 and up in May. For those families with students 12 and older who remain unvaccinated, we encourage you to consider vaccination. It is the best way to keep our community safe. Options

to schedule a shot include:

Any drugstore pharmacy

Cleveland Clinic at 216-448-4117

MetroHealth

University Hospitals at 216-415-6149

As we know, conditions related to COVID constantly change. Although our re-assessment is planned for the end of the quarter, we may need to alter the plan at any time, including before the school year begins. If that is the case, we will adjust and adapt as we have done throughout the pandemic.

Despite the teaching and learning challenges COVID caused last school year, our teachers and students showed amazing resilience and achieved many great learning moments.

We look forward to seeing what great moments and milestones lay ahead for 2021-2022!

New Faces, New Roles In District Admin Ranks

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education recently approved a number of administrator moves that include one new face to the District with incoming Horace Mann Elementary Principal Sanya Henley and several current administrators taking on new roles.

At the June 21 meeting, Lakewood High School House Principal Bridgette Firstenberger was approved as the next LHS associate principal. She will replace Brian Siftar, who has taken a position in another district. Firstenberger has been with the district since 2015 when she was named the House 2 principal.

At the elementary level, Sanya Henley was named the next principal at Horace Mann Elementary School at a special meeting on July 7. She will replace Dr. Merritt Waters, who will begin a new position as a teaching and learning coordinator and will oversee the District's student wellness and mental health initiatives.

Henley was the coordinator of learning initiatives at Euclid City Schools and principal of its Early Learning Village. Under the direction of former Euclid Superintendent, Charlie Smialek, Henley was charged with

creating and bringing to fruition the Early Learning Village for the district's preschool and kindergarten students. She has also served as a principal in the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools and a teacher and International Baccalaureate coordinator at Shaker Heights Schools.

The Board also approved Grant

Elementary intervention specialist Meredith Wojtkun as the replacement for Firstenberger for the House 2 position at its July 19 meeting. Wojtkun was a former principal at Harding Middle School and served in many other roles within the district over her nearly 30 years with Lakewood City Schools.

District Moves To Cashless System For Fees, Events

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools has begun the process of transitioning to a cashless system for most transactions, including lunch accounts, general instruction fees, pay-to-participate fees, bookroom purchases, event tickets, and more.

The PaySchools EZPay system families have used to pay fees and load money on lunch accounts has been upgraded to PaySchools Central. The upgrade offers all the features of EZPay. The EZPay link on the District website (www.lakewoodcityschools.org) will be replaced with the PaySchools Central link. Families will be prompted

how to transition from EZPay to PaySchools when they first click on the updated PaySchool Central link.

PaySchools Central offers families many new features allowing for greater control over their accounts. New benefits include real-time loading of lunch account funds, a mobile app capability, the ability to store multiple payment options, details on purchases and payment history, auto lunch account replenishing, and advanced payment scheduling. A full list of features is included in the attached document.

The District will also be using PaySchools Events for district-wide online ticket purchasing for various events like athletic competitions, music performances, and District fundraisers. This link will be located on the District website. Tickets purchased online can be printed out or stored electronically. Entrance to the event will occur through the scanning of a QR image on the ticket.

Tickets also can be purchased in advance or at that door the day of the event.

Some minimal cash will be on hand at events for those who are unable to use the PaySchools system, however the District encourages families to take advantage of the benefits of the new cashless system.



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Observer's Forum

Susannah Selnick Will Work To Bring Us Closer To A Society Where Everyone Is Valued And Participates

by Cindy Strebis

Congratulations hippies! Your work, worked!

I'm supporting Susannah Selnick for Lakewood City Council because she gets it and works hard. I met her three years ago when she joined the Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters to help register voters. I asked her to help me register voters at LEAF (Lakewood Earth And Food). "Yes." I asked her to help me register voters at the Birdtown Picnic. "Yes." I asked her to drive with me into Cleveland and register voters. "Yes." I asked her to join me on the Lakewood YMCA Board and use her fundraising skills to help our neighbors participate. "Yes." She's ready to work and help our community. She gets it.

From Peace and Love in the 70's, to Pride and AIDS Walks in the 90's, to BLM right now, she understands, it's in her DNA. We don't have to educate her on why people who are different matter, she sees that value already. I heard her say recently, "We can't have a conversation about you, without you." This understanding is insightful and telling.

We need more female representation at all levels of government. A counselor was recently explaining to me the disservice that we do to our young boys and men when we expect them to lead, many without the desire, skill set, or knowledge. It makes them think that their



Susan Shaw and Susannah Selnick study Census 2020 information to share with neighbors at Madison Park.

ideas are always correct and that they're entitled and righteous. Instead of forcing Square Pegs... let's continue to encourage and support girls and young women to lead. Let's have equal representation on decisions that affect our pursuit of happiness, our bodies, and our futures.

We have a long way to go to a fully functional society where everyone is valued and participates, Susannah brings us closer. Please join me in supporting her with words of encouragement and a financial gift if you can. You can donate her to efforts at voteselnick.com.

Cindy Strebis
Community Activist

Kyle Baker For Lakewood City Council

by Andrew Moses

When I moved to Cleveland 8 years ago, the first question I was typically asked was: "Are you a Westsider or an Eastsider?" After letting them know I had just moved from Columbus after graduating from Ohio State, I would say, "I live downtown and I love it." Fast forward a few years, my wife and I were looking for more space for us and our goldendoodle, Duke. As young professionals, we wanted a community that is walkable, has an established restaurant scene, has access to the Lake and parks, and is safe. We started our research and talked to close friends about the communities they lived in and where they grew up. No one had a deeper passion for and understanding of their community than Kyle Baker for Lakewood.

I met Kyle through an Ohio State connection and we became fast friends. Long before he became a candidate for City Council, Kyle was a proud advocate of the community that raised and shaped him. Raised in Lakewood and a proud Lakewood High School graduate, he has a keen understanding that his community, its schools, and its people had built a durable foundation in him. His community work on the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation and the Lakewood Planning Commission showed he put his passion into action.

As my wife and I did our homework on communities, it was evident that Kyle's day job at the Cleveland Metroparks

and his work on the Lakewood Ranger Education Foundation and Planning Commission was directly impacting our decision. Lakewood school facilities were undergoing a vast upgrade, and the amount of sensible, integrated development around the city was impressive. After we moved to Lakewood in 2018, that work continued. Kyle's work on the Planning Commission helped turn a vacant lot on the corner of Detroit and Edwards Avenues into a thriving, innovative, family and dog friendly establishment in Lakewood Truck Park. Businesses and investments that enhance walkability continue to affirm our decision to live in Lakewood.

Kyle's work at the Cleveland Metroparks helped re-establish Edgewater Park, develop the Whiskey Island Connector, and the Wendy Park Bridge. With Cleveland Metroparks' continued investment in the Rocky River Reservation, Kyle has directly worked on projects that bookend our city in ways that will attract and retain the next generation of Lakewood families.

When I now get asked about what side of Cleveland I call home, I respond directly: "I live in Lakewood, and my wife and I love it." Kyle Baker has helped this community develop into what it is today, and I know as a City Council member, Kyle will work to continue Lakewood's growth and improve the quality of life for all of its residents. Kyle Baker is the right choice for our City Council.

Who Should Judge Us, Revisited

by Bob Soltis

A couple of weeks ago I sent a letter to the editor that did not fully assess Brian Taubman's outstanding qualifications to be our Municipal Court Judge. After reading Brian's article to this paper, and talking with him for almost an hour about his experience and his philosophy, I've changed my mind.

Upon further reflection, it occurred to me that the federal system requires only seven years of experience to sit for administrative law judge examination. Thus, Brian's thirteen years of experience trying cases before civil and criminal courts is more than enough to qualify him to be a judge.

At great cost to his political career, Brian ran for judge six years ago. Our municipal court bench needs his independence and commitment to doing the right thing no matter what other people think.

As a former federal administrative law judge, I know that being a judge is not just about prior experience, but is all about integrity, values, and doing the right thing. It also requires listening to different points of view. After talking with Brian and doing more research, I'm convinced that he has the experience and integrity to serve as our Municipal Court Judge.

Lakewoodite Bob Soltis is a retired federal administrative law judge.

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Lakewood Business

Welcome CeramWorks Studio To The Neighborhood!

by Meran Rogers

A new small business has opened in Lakewood, CeramWorks Studio, located at 17303 Detroit Avenue. CeramWorks Studio is a painting studio that offers a wide variety of ceramic pieces and canvas images to paint, as well as a large private room to rent for parties and events.

CeramWorks Studio is a community space that provides a fun and creative environment for people of all ages, to create art, long lasting memo-

ries, and gifts for all. Designed to be an accessible and welcoming space, the studio offers ceramics and canvas kits for a fun and easy going painting experience. Guests can choose from a wide range of pre-made ceramic objects including mugs, bowls, pet dishes, piggy banks, and figurines, as well as over 100 paintable designs printed on canvas. CeramWorks Studio will also have special items available for the holiday seasons, including Halloween, Christmas, Lunar New Year, Easter.

I started this family-owned business with my husband Julian and my sister Elizabeth Chang. Elizabeth and I grew up in Lakewood where our parents owned a small business. I spearheaded the concept because I have always found joy in painting. CeramWorks Studio is dedicated in loving memory of our late mother who shared her love of painting and community. The floor plan is designed to accommodate private parties and the studio's walls exhibit a rotating selection of works by local artists and entrepreneurs.

We feel fortunate to be in such



Studio space and guests. They also have a nice private room for parties and events.



Located at the corner of Detroit Ave. and Larchmont.

an amazing community. Lakewood is the perfect home for our small business. We love Lakewood's diversity and appreciate how welcoming everyone has been to us. Our dream is to provide a space that is fun and creates memories, where all people are welcome and can participate, no matter their age, skill, or background. We hope that our business does well and look forward to

many years in this lovely place.

CeramWorks Studio is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00am to 7:00pm, closed on Mondays. More information can be found online at ceramworkstudio.com, as well as on their Facebook and Instagram pages @CeramWorksStudio.

Meran Rogers is Co-Owner of CeramWorks Studio.

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Take A Walk Through The Morgan: Continuing To Fill Our Galleries After The Pandemic

by Belle Mercurio

When all hope seemed lost and our gallery walls screamed for something new, we were ecstatic to begin our exhibition season this February with "Navigation: Lake Erie – Great Lakes," and have continued with the 2019 Artists in Residence exhibition, "This Moment." The pandemic put a halt to our operations, not too long ago our staff were furloughed, we paused our residency program, and paused our gallery season for 2020. However, with perseverance and faith in the mission of the Morgan, we have officially reopened our gallery doors for in-person tours. Our in-person workshops have resumed, our Artists in Residence are hard at work as well. We are restructuring our staff department and have added many new faces here at the Morgan. They include Destyni Green, Anna Rouston, Belle Mercurio, Seneca Kuchar, and Hannah Ayers. We are excited to see what they will bring to our organization within their respective roles!

In conjunction with the Museum of Creative Human Art (MOCHA), the Morgan Conservatory will be housing "Cross Generations; bridging the gap of artists" now through September 17th. MOCHA sets its intentions on inter-generational connection as it plans to deliver (curate) a show that brings multidisciplinary artists of different generations under one roof. MOCHA states, "Relationships are the critical ingredient in well-being, particularly as we age." Combining the voices of older and younger generations, this show is a



testament of the best work from these artists at this moment in time, creating an artist network and celebrating camaraderie. Amplifying our artists of color, this exhibition is our collaborative way to shift our focus, bridge the gap, and continue to highlight our artists in our community.

Following this collaboration, we are hosting Art Books Cleveland for their show entitled, "Leaves and Leaving." Art Books Cleveland and the Morgan have had a long standing relationship and we are looking forward to this upcoming exhibition, which will be running in our galleries October 8th through November 20th.

We are waiting in anticipation for these two exhibitions to come to life as we begin to return to our normal schedule at the Morgan. For more information please visit our website, morganconservatory.org, as well as to walk through a virtual gallery experience.

Help Wanted Now!

by Jim O'Bryan

Help Wanted

All up and down Detroit, Madison and even Lake Road.

Over the past two weeks while making my rounds at least 5 restaurant owners asked me if I knew of anyone looking for a job. I mentioned offhand that I did not, but then they asked about a Help Wanted ad in the Observer. While I mentioned that choice is always good, let me make a cattle call for all the restaurants in Lakewood. Parnell at the West End Tavern said, "We could really use some quality help on the line." I asked if he was willing to pay, and his answer was a flat, "If they are good."

Meanwhile across the street at India Garden, Sonny asked, "Know any dependable people looking for work?" Again I said, not at the

moment.

This call for workers was reported in almost ever restaurant and bar venue. Bob Tagliotti at Woodstock BBQ, "Out crew is great but they could use a day off, do you know anyone?" Picking up a pie at Roman Fountain I did not see Bill Campbell so I asked, "Where is Bill?" The answer came from way in the back, "He is delivering, know anyone looking for a job?" So big restaurants, small restaurants, and everything in between are looking for workers everything from entry level to complete professionals.

Now is the opportunity to jump into one of these places and make a career, or pay off bills and loans.

Call or stop in one Lakewood's many fine restaurants an ask today.

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AUGUST

Aries: The Ram is King of the Mountain this month, the sun is shining in your House of Romance, Manifestation is the Name of the Game...You're first out of the gate, go get 'em Ram.

Taurus: Let Go Bull, we know that's not an easy assignment for you, however, you'll be seeing red if you don't loosen the reins a bit, luck is in the career arena for you & focus is on family.

Gemini: Communication, education & travel is in the Twins corner this month, it's your story, write as you see fit, make yourself the STAR of your own movie, you've got the green light.

Cancer: Money, money, money is

shining on the Sea of the Crab, your finances & other's money...go spend some time in nature, & let the creative juices flow, you've got the potential.

Leo: You are the heart of the Jungle this month, it's all about the Lion King, your body & health are in tip-top condition, you're the envy of all the players in the Zoo, enjoy your relationships.

Virgo: Patience has never been your strong suit, Mercury, Venus, & Mars are lined up in your sector, put your analytical & critical self to sleep, enjoy the blessings of life for a change.

Libra: Trust is key for you, don't try to question if this is right or this is wrong, just TRUST that everything will work out, Venus the Planet of Love

& Money moves into your house of self.

Scorpio: Tell your inner critic to go take a vacation, put away that stinger of yours for a while & let JOY into your life, that's right you heard me J-O-Y, remember that word? Heed this advice...

Sagittarius: The Centaur is no stranger to adventure in foreign lands, love may be found amongst the educational realms, hanging out at the museums, or taking a cruise to distant lands.

Capricorn: Has the Goat been overdoing it at the office again? We know the answer to that...pull yourself away from your desk & get out in nature, r-e-a-l-l-y get out in NATURE!

Aquarian: Jupiter has moved back into Aquarius, along with Saturn, working on forgiveness is just what the Dr. ordered to bring the prosperity ship to your front door, give it some thought.

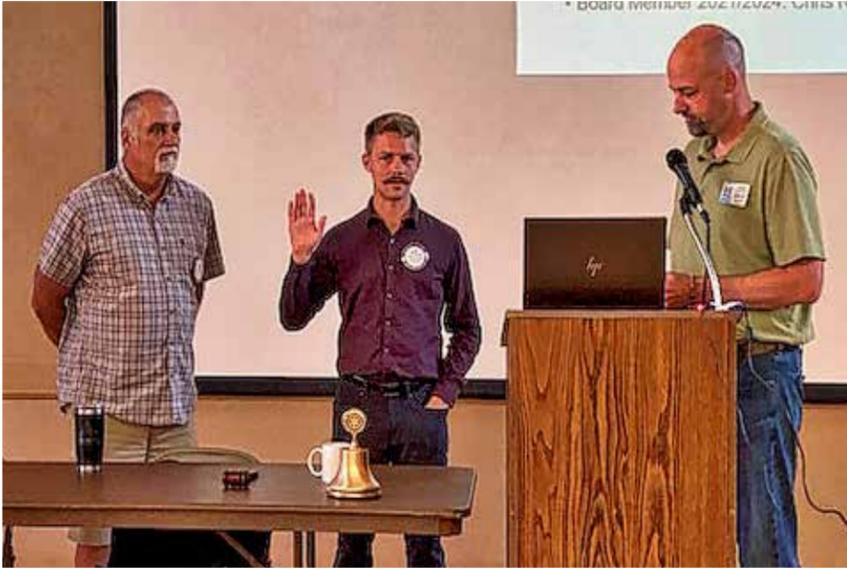
Pisces: The Fish has some action going on behind the scenes, are you swimming under the radar? The Sun is shining from sea-to-shining-sea on your health & connections this month.

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 Cares



Assistant District Governor Adam Sonnhalter administers the oath of office to Sunrise Rotary Club President Jason Pickering.

Mamaliga, Here We Come (Again)



by Betty Catana

The 2021 version of St Mary's traditional Romanian Festival awaits you with outstanding foods delivered to your car. You will be able to enjoy some of your favorite Romanian foods at home or at a picnic table by the lake.

Starting Friday, August 20, from 4-8 pm, continuing Saturday, August 21, from 2-8 pm, and winding up Sunday, August 22, from noon-6 pm, you can order your selections from the modified menu being offered in this second year of the pandemic: stuffed cabbage, chicken paprikash, our famous mamaliga (polenta baked with cheese), sausage and sauerkraut, mititei (our Romanian mighty burgers) grilled on the spot, hot dogs and fries for the kids, plus the ever-popular elephant ears (langosi) and dessert delivered right to your car

"It was a difficult decision to continue with a second year of drive-thru, but, according to Father Remus Grama, parish priest, "We decided to remain cautious, and we hope this decision will be seen as a valuable substitute for our successful yearly summer festival. All appropriate safety precautions are in place for the food preparation and drive-thru serving process."

This year experience a smaller

"taste of Romania" through the good foods being cooked and offered with love by St Mary Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, located right up the street at 3256 Warren Rd in the Kamms Corners neighborhood. Call 216-941-5550 for further information or visit our website www.smroc.org

Betty Catana is the media representative for St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, 3256 Warren Road, Cleveland, and publicity chairman for the upcoming Romanian Festival.

The Rotary Club Of Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise Sets Goals For The 2021/2022 Rotary Year

by Larry Faulhaber

Newly installed Club President, Jason Pickering, has accepted the challenge of Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta, of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, to add members to Rotary. The R.I. Theme for his presidency is "Serve to Change Lives." New members will join existing members to practice the motto of Rotary, "Service above Self."

The Sunrise Rotary Club members work through committees such as Community, New Generations, Vocational and International Service. Service projects implemented by these committees can truly "Change Lives" in Lakewood and Rocky River.

At his installation on July 28, President Pickering challenged the Club members to reach out to friends and business associates, particularly younger men and women, and give them an opportunity to help "Change Lives" by joining Rotary!

R.I. President Shekhar Mehta has been a Rotarian since 1985. He trained as an accountant and founded a real estate development company, Skyline Group, which he also chairs. Jason Pickering, Sunrise Rotary President, lives

in Lakewood and is active in his family's farm and retail market in Avon, Ohio. The Sunrise Club has a Co-President, Marty Harris, a past president of the Club, who will assist Jason during peak farm work seasons and share work with the various committees.

Rotary is a vibrant organization with a 116 year history, with 1.2 million members in 220 countries and geographic areas. It is the oldest and largest service organization in the world. It has a rich legacy of work in polio eradication and other humanitarian programs. President Mehta's goal is to add 100,000 members by June 30, 2022.

To find out how you can be a part of the dynamic organization of Rotary, visit the Rotary Club of Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise website, www.lrrsunriserotary.org.

You will learn more about how you can join with men and women in your area to give back through service in your community, and internationally. Then contact Kathy Berkshire at sloopyohio19@gmail.com.

Larry Faulhaber is Public Image Committee Chair for Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club.

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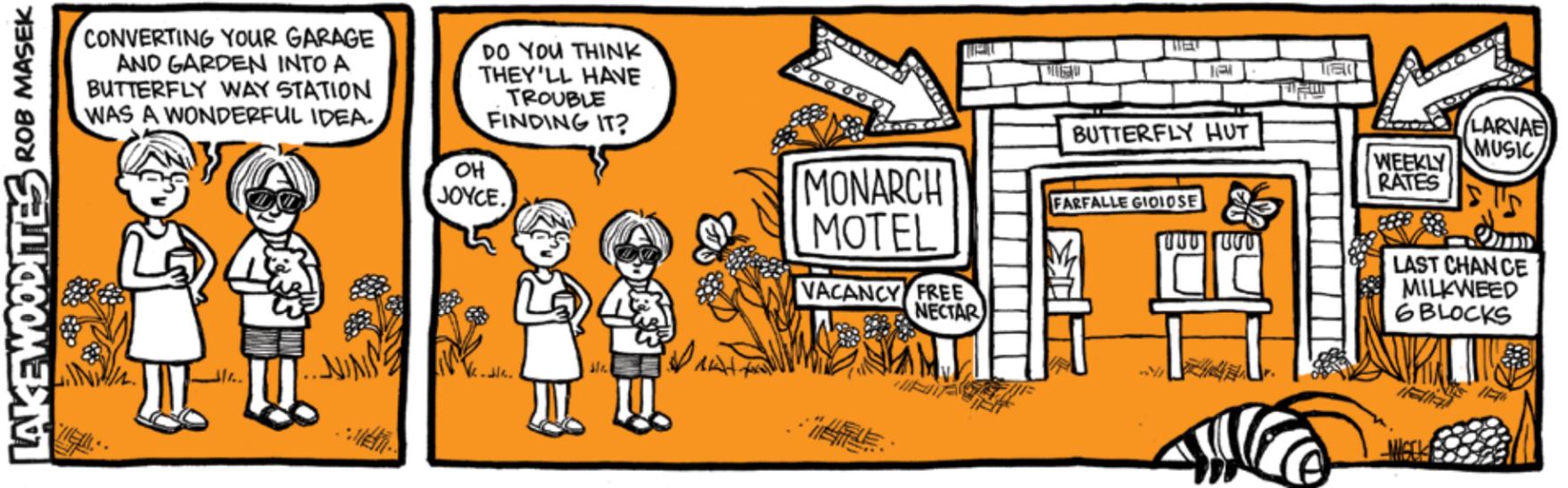
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