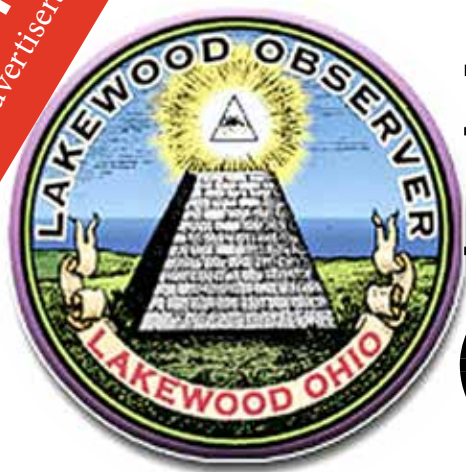


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“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” - Oscar Wilde

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Volume 17, Issue 19, October 6, 2021



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Some of Lakewood's finest. October 3rd everyone came together to celebrate the new, the old, those who have passed, and good moments. See more on pages 8-9

Lakewood Firefighter Recognition 2021



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Top Firefighters salute the passing of comrades, and the party after, all the photos on pages 8-9

Vote For Nora Katzenberger For Lakewood School Board

By Nora Katzenberger

You may have seen a few gold-colored yard signs around town telling you to “Vote for Nora Katzenberger for Lakewood School Board.” I’m excited to tell you a bit about myself as you prepare for the election on November 2. As a parent of two students in the Lakewood schools, I want to use my professional communications background and extensive volunteer experience to bring new energy and ideas to our schools.

I have been a very involved volunteer in our schools since 2013. I value the role our teachers and schools play in helping all of our children to realize their full potential. I am fortunate that the excellent public school education I received in Parma prepared me for the competitive challenges at the University of Pennsylvania. I want Lakewood



Nora Katzenberger

students to continue to have the same opportunity to realize their full potential.

As Chair of the 2020 Lakewood School Levy campaign, I worked side by side with administrators, teachers, parents, students, and community members to secure our schools’ healthy financial future with the support of 77% of Lakewood voters. My involvement in the campaign, as well as my role as an active parent volunteer, allow me to have a more personal understand-

ing of what happens in our schools, and the people and programs that make them great.

I have worked in public relations and communications at the Bank of New York and New York University, as well as in fundraising at University Hospitals of Cleveland and web creative management at Progressive Insurance. I will use my extensive background as a communications professional to improve communication among teachers, students, administrators, the board, and community members, so that everyone feels heard. I will work to analyze the transformative educational experience of the past two years and use the knowledge we’ve gained to leverage new technologies and address learning differences so that

continued on page 5



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Left to right: Mayor Meghan George with the three new firefighters she just swore in, including Lakewood’s first female Firefighter/Paramedic Kimberly Petty, Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Helbig, and Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Starcovic. Thank you for joining us.

LHS Salutes National Merit & AP Scholars



From left: National Merit Commended Student Joseph Daso, National Merit Semifinalists Abigail Hirsch and Caleigh Naylor, and Commended Student Andre Hallenburg

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School seniors Abigail Hirsch and Caleigh Naylor have been named National Merit Semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition. This designation recognizes Abby and Caleigh as among the top students in the nation. LHS also

can boast two Commended Students, seniors Andre Hallenburg and Joseph Daso.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. also recognizes Commended Students, who are among the top 5% of PSAT scorers. Seniors Andre Hallenburg and Joseph Daso were named Commended Students.

continued on page 10

The Mayor's Corner

City And School District Enter Into Joint Agreement For Fields

by Meghan George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

Those of you who know me well understand that sports are a personal passion – one of my great joys has always been the camaraderie and competition I found on the field or in the gym. Like many of you, I was lucky to spend countless hours as a youth playing sports through Lakewood's Recreation Department. I later worked for the department and volunteered as a coach. I see our city's ability to offer high quality sports and recreation as something that sets us apart. So I was thrilled that my administration and the Lakewood Schools recently developed a joint agreement that

finally clarifies each party's responsibilities for capital expenses and maintenance of city fields used by the Recreation Department.

The City and the Lakewood City Schools have a decades-long, highly beneficial partnership in recreation. Despite that long relationship, until last month there was never a formal, written agreement setting out whose staff would maintain the fields and where the financial resources for maintenance and capital needs would originate. As you can imagine, some challenges arose with no such written deal in place. The new joint agreement provides the clarity that was lacking for decades.

Many in Lakewood may not realize we have a fairly unique approach to our recreation department when compared to other Ohio cities. Almost all other Ohio recreation departments are housed within city government, while Lakewood's falls within the School District's oversight. While uncommon, it's clear that our model actually provides immense community benefit by ensuring that health, wellness, and physical activity are deeply engrained as part of the growth and development of Lakewood's children.

With this formal agreement in place, we can all move forward to ensure that we meet the standards of quality and excellence at our fields that everyone in Lakewood expects and deserves. In the short term, that means the City will fully fund infield upgrades at Jimmie Foxx Field in Kaufmann Park and George J. Usher Field at Madison Park. This work will be done after the 2021 season ends

and in advance of the 2022 season to avoid any interruptions in usage.

Moving forward, each year the City will repair and recrown one of the six fields on a rotating basis during the offseason. The School District will contribute \$20,000 annually, with the City paying for any other costs. The City and the Schools also agreed to meet annually to determine which field to address, ensure that field issues are prevented, and clarify maintenance and improvements timelines. Because the Recreation Department, not the City, will continue to maintain the fields, an open line of communication will be key.

I'll close with a word of thanks to the Lakewood School Board and Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki for working diligently with my team at City Hall to get this deal done and to City Council for unanimously approving it on September 20th. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone out on the fields again next year when spring rolls around.



Fire Prevention Week

October 3rd -9th

- A continuous set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.
- Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

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CURRENT HOURS OF OPERATION

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FRIDAY: NOON - 10PM

WEEKEND BRUNCH RETURNS

SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

ALA CARTE BREAKFAST/LUNCH FEATURING:

SUNDAY 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

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Upcoming Submission Deadline

October 15, 2021

October 29, 2021

Publish Date

October 20, 2021

November 3, 2021

www.lakewoodobserver.com

216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531

PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

Lakewood Observer

PUBLISHER	EDITOR IN CHIEF	ASSOCIATE EDITOR	ADVERTISING
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Lakewood's H2O

H2O Summer Service Camp - "When We Feel Heard"

by Emmie Hutchison

H2O “Help to Others” hosted three sessions of in-person Summer Service Camp in 2021. Middle school participants enjoyed eight days of volunteer work, small group interactions with awesome counselors, reflection, speakers, games, and more! We adapted the program for Covid restrictions, opting to keep our service onsite or at local, outdoor sites. While we hope to return to trips to area agencies like the Greater Cleveland Foodbank and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, we found rich satisfaction in the work of this summer.

The camp theme, “When We Feel Heard” guided and unified the breadth of our experiences. Campers integrated their reflections on service, information from speakers we heard, and their own experiences to reflect on what it means to be heard. As one camper wrote, “This theme has so much depth and meaning. In service, it means listening to those in need and not only listening to their needs and helping them get what they need, but also making sure that they feel heard as people too.” (Shannon Katzenberger, 9th grade). Another camper expressed the need to hear others, but also to be heard in his own life: “If someone who hasn’t been



H2O campers used ArcGis to put their observations into a map for city planners to use.

able to express their views finally gets heard, it can change their life. Because of this, it is important as an organization or person to hear everyone in your community but also to strive to make yourself heard and not lose your voice.” (Alessio Matera, 8th grade). They demonstrated a balanced understanding of how critical it is to truly hear others and to cultivate one’s own voice to make a difference in the world.

The highlighted project this summer,

which every camper contributed to, was the site we called “Parks and Rec” as a nod to the popular t.v. show. On the first day of each session, Dave Baas from the City’s Department of Planning & Development presented to campers, getting them to think about how the Lakewood community was formed and how it has changed over time. They learned how to use three key planning considerations: Big picture (how parks should grow and change), involving community (are parks safe, healthy, and accessible for all ages), and looking ahead to meet the needs of today while keeping the future in mind. With fresh perspective and knowledge, they visited Lakewood parks big and small to document existing features and to propose new and additional features. Each small group had an iPad with a GIS app to pinpoint their observations on a map and then offered critical thinking with a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis. They documented over 700 distinct elements of the parks. They recognized the value of both open space and recreational equipment. They noted elements that needed updates, proposed additional water bottle-filling stations and recycling cans. They expressed interest in new or expanded activities, like disc golf, gaga pits, and additional skateboarding facilities. Ultimately, the information

they gathered will help begin the work to update Lakewood’s Parks Strategic Plan in the near future. The campers enjoyed feeling heard, having their opinions matter, and gaining understanding how communities are built and sustained.


Eleven camp groups, 65 volunteers, worked on an outdoor art installation that has been placed in Madison Park. The project was summed up by camper Abriana Heinz: ‘In order to complete the project we all worked together by stringing yarn through multiple fences that, once done, would read as a visual

continued on page 12



Campers sorted and prepped thousands of items of clothing to sell at low cost

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"Sara Fagnilli has the right experience, knowledge and integrity to be our Lakewood Municipal Court Judge. I am confident she will serve our community well."

- State Senator Nickie J. Antonio

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The View From City Council

Housing, Planning, And Development Committee Meeting

by Jason Shachner
Council Member Ward 2

Lakewood has owned nine single-family residential properties adjacent to the former Lakewood Hospital site since the 1980s. When a tenant decides not to renew their lease, the Planning and Development Department requests the authority from Council to dispose of the property. At last week’s Housing, Planning, and Development Committee meeting, the Planning and Development Department requested the authority to enter into an agreement with LakewoodAlive for the sale of 1462 Belle Avenue. This property suffered fire damage in January of this year, however, because of the quick response of the Lakewood Fire Department, the damage to the structure was limited. The City would like to transfer the property to LakewoodAlive for \$2 and, in turn, LakewoodAlive would sell the property to a developer with the goal of preserving the historic nature of the property. The property would then be sold at market-rate. I asked if the City was able to use HOME funds or ARPA funds to make this property an affordable housing option and the Planning Department indicated that, because of the finite amount of funds that Lakewood receives, this property would not be a viable affordable housing option. Planning and Development Director Shawn Leininger did share that the City originally planned for three of the nine properties be affordable housing options and that they are on track to meet that goal.

We recommended for approval a \$175,000 economic development loan for the rehabilitation and adaptive



reuse of St. James School as an office building. Oster Services Companies is planning on retaining the historic character of the building and will be moving its company into the building. This \$3 million project has also secured commitments from Allied Enterprises Inc., Walk Your Plans Inc, and Lakewood Business Forum to relocate into the building. Oster also has a pending commitment from a Lakewood technology company that would otherwise have to leave Lakewood to expand its business.

Lastly, we recommended for approval a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Fund Loan for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse as retail and office space to the former Bi-Rite Building. With this \$4 million project, Little Jemmy LLC plans to name this building “the Nest” and has secured Phoenix Coffee, Shuffleboard Group Bar & Restaurant, and Heyday Collective as tenants. Shuffleboard Group Bar & Restaurant plans on featuring a full-service bar and restaurant with golf simulator rental booths.

City Council Meeting 9/7 Proposed Sidewalk Ordinance

At last week’s Council Meeting, I introduced an ordinance that would cap the cost of required repairs to sidewalks at \$1,000 for certain qualified property owners that participate in the Sidewalk Program. This would mean that if you participate in Lakewood’s Sidewalk Program and your property is an owner- occupied single-family home or an owner-occupied multifamily home with no more than three units then the maximum the City can charge you to repair or replace your sidewalks would be \$1,000.

The Sidewalk Program has greatly improved the walkability of our city by ensuring that all 180 miles of sidewalk are safe. I introduced this ordinance because safe sidewalks serve both a private and public interest and with the program reaching its final sections prior to starting over again, I believe it is time to explore capping the amount the city charges residents to repair their sidewalks if they choose to opt-in to the Sidewalk Program.

I reviewed the estimates from 2017-2020 to determine a reasonable cap that would not financially burden the city or residents. I found that

a cap of \$1,000 would provide residents the security of knowing that amount would be the most they would have to budget for and would keep the City’s cost under \$200,000 a year.

I anticipate that future costs would be even less because the Sidewalk Program will soon be inspecting sections that were previously reviewed in 2013. I anticipate that the debate on this piece of legislation will center around whether this ordinance should be enacted prior to the Sidewalk Program completing its inspection of the entire City and what the cap should be. I look forward to discussing this with the Public Works Department and my colleagues at a future committee meeting.

Proposed Amendment to Nuisance Vegetation Ordinance

I also introduced an ordinance that requires the removal of bamboo when it has spread from its original premise of planting or is not being maintained and clarifies what plants are not permitted in Lakewood. When not properly planted, certain species of bamboo can negatively impact sur-

rounding properties. The Building Department has shared that under the current iteration of Sec 1775.01, “Weeds, tall grass, nuisance vegetation or growths over sidewalks,” bamboo is considered a tall grass and therefore can only be limited in height. This is an issue because bamboo becomes a nuisance when its root system is not contained and it disrupts surrounding properties.

In addition, Sec 1775.01 currently prohibits plants that are not considered noxious weeds by the State, including milkweed, which is vital to the development of Monarch butterflies. Under my proposed amendment, milkweed is no longer considered a noxious weed, consistent with the Ohio Administrative Code.

This ordinance will provide the Building Department with the necessary tools to cause the removal of uncontrolled bamboo and provide residents with more clear guidance on what plants are prohibited in Lakewood.

Foster Pool Design Input

The Lakewood Planning and Development Department has been tirelessly working to gather community input on the Foster Pool conceptual plans. The goal is to complete the design process and begin construction in Fall 2022 to ensure that no pool season is missed. The new pool will provide ADA access, allow the pool systems to operate more efficiently, and will add amenities for people of all ages and abilities.

An Open House was held at Foster Pool on September 16th to view the revised draft, conceptual plans and to provide feedback. If you were unable to attend you can view the plans and provide your comments by going to: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/fosterpool>

Historical Society Fall Sale

by Heidi Murray

Lakewood Historical Society will hold its popular Fall Sale on October 7, 8 & 9 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m at The Haber Center for Family History, 13314 Detroit Ave. Items are priced to sell and include small furniture, lamps, fall decorations, framed artwork, tools, toys and more.

We have salvage pieces including interior/exterior doors, glass door knobs and hardware, wood windows, light shades and more. Measure before you come and be ready to move items yourself, salvage sells quickly. Additional items include a dining room set, antique metal crib, wicker vanity, desks and rockers and many unique one-of-a-kind must see items.

Cash, check or credit accepted. Contact Lakewood Historical Society for more information 216-221-7343 or visit us online lakewoodhistory.org.



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Community



Quilts For Cancer Research On Friday, October 8

by Suzanne Bednarchik

The Quilting Bee will offer extended shopping hours – 10 am to 9 pm - during the Shop + Eat + Unwind LKWD event on Friday, October 8. During the event, several beautiful quilts will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the quilt sale will be donated to Pelotonia, whose objective is to fund innovative cancer research.

The Quilting Bee, located at 15709 Detroit Avenue, is approaching its second anniversary. When you enter through the door of The Quilting Bee, you'll see the newest high quality cotton fabrics from many manufacturers, including Moda, RJR, Cotton+Steel, Clothworks, Robert Kaufman, and

Rifle Paper Co. The shop also offers patterns and notions for quilters of all experience levels. As the shop owner and a Lakewood resident I chose the name The Quilting Bee to reflect the community aspect of quilting. Throughout history to the present day, sewers have gathered to work together to create beautiful quilts. We strive to provide an atmosphere where quilters – novice and experienced – can come to learn, share experiences, and try new techniques.

The team at the Quilting Bee looks forward to seeing you!

Suzanne Bednarchik is the owner of the Quilting Bee and a Lakewood resident.

Vote For Nora Katzenberger For Lakewood School Board

continued from page 1

every child receives the education they deserve. I will advocate to ensure that the values of diversity and inclusion that we value as a community are supported through our school policies and the way they are administered, so that every student and teacher can feel safe and can be their true selves.

As a parent and volunteer in Lakewood City Schools, I have put these ideals into action. I have raised money for school programs and equipment, helped found an LGBTQ+ parent group, designed a “maturation unit” program that provides equitable health and body development education to fifth graders throughout our district, served on the gifted program committee, helped establish STEM-friendly maker spaces at every Lakewood school, connected our CHAMPS program with the Beck Center for art-based special educational opportunities, and much

more. Outside of the schools, I have served on numerous boards and committees, including the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), where we heard proposals from community groups and distributed federal block grant funding. As part of CAC, I helped increase funding for child care credits and domestic violence advocacy, programs that support causes that are important to women in our community.

Most important, I have a fresh perspective and new energy to apply to service on the Lakewood City Schools Board of Education. I have a sense of urgency about the issues facing Lakewood schools, because my own children walk those halls every day.

The past few years have been a transformative experience in education. Your vote for me on November 2 would be a vote for fresh ideas, new energy, and innovative leadership. Our students, teachers, families, and community deserve it!

Shop + Eat + Unwind LKWD Event Reloaded



by Danielle Zann

We had a great turnout for our first Shop + Eat + Unwind LKWD event last month and are ready to do it again! Back by popular demand, please join us on Friday, October 8th beginning at 6pm to once again enjoy our THANK YOU for continuing to shop and dine at small businesses in Lakewood. We truly appreciate how the community has come together to support local.

We are pleased to be adding some new participating locations to the roster. This upcoming event will now be held between the 15000 – 19000 block of Detroit Avenue, but the same premise applies... a beautiful evening filled with shopping, dining and plenty of unwinding. The merchants on the western half of Detroit Avenue will be extending their store hours and have joined up with neighboring eateries to offer \$5 off your purchases of \$25 or more, beginning at 6pm. Simply

present your receipt of purchase from one of the participating locations (see below) and enjoy a sweet reward.

All the Joy, Burning River Coffee, CeramWorks Studio, Cleveland Vape, Cleveland Vegan, CouCou Sentiment, Eclectic Cleveland, GV Art + Design, Milo & Me, Mishi Lifestyle, The Quilting Bee, Salt+ A Restaurant, Simply Sugar & Skincare

Don't forget to follow all the participating locations to check out the amazing eats and duds. Go to your favorite spots or just explore and don't worry. Bring your friends and family. All are welcome!

For more information regarding participating locations and details, check out our Facebook and Instagram @ShopEatUnwindLKWD and don't forget to follow for updates.

See you then!

Danielle Zann is the owner of Cou-Cou Sentiment.



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Lakewood Public Library

Children/Youth Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Nic Starr
Virtual Storytime

For all ages
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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 All Day Just Baby ‘N Me
For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby

Thursdays, October 7, October 14, October 21, and October 28, 2021
Just Baby ‘N Me is a lap-sit story time for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. Just Baby ‘N Me is meant to facilitate interaction between you and your baby and develop their language and early literacy skills.
Registration is required. Register to receive a video link here (<https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/8329129>) or phone (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Virtual All Day Pre-School Story Time
For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-school Child

Wednesdays, October 6, October 13, October 20, and October 27, 2021
This four-week pre-school story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. You and your toddler and pre-school children will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. Register to receive access to a video link for the entire day of story time.
Registration is required. Register to receive a video link here (<https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/8297037>) or phone (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Virtual Code Club: HTML
For students in third through fifth grade

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 – Friday, October 22, 2021, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Welcome to Prendapolis! It’s up to YOU to defeat the evil Dr. Lou Gnarr and save the internet! Coder, we need your help to build a real website. Join us virtually for a week of four one-hour sessions of afternoon coding challenges. Using Prenda, a web-based educational platform, children will have the opportunity to learn the basics of HTML coding and create a Website with the guidance of a library staff member. This program is specifically for beginners but all levels are welcome.
Registration is required. Register here (<https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/8297026>) or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. You will receive a Zoom link before the program.

Wanda the Wacky Witch Halloween Fun Show
For the whole family

This fun-loving witch is non-scary, non-threatening, and wears no crazy green make-up. This thirty minute show is full of Halloween themed magic, and crazy corny Halloween jokes that the whole family will enjoy.
Watch this program from the comfort of your home by visiting our website at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org. No registration is required.

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Virtual Events In October

by Andrea Fisher
Lakewood Public Library will premiere four exciting new virtual Meet the Author events in October. You can watch these programs on facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary and twitter.com/lakewoodlibrary on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

October 7
Join Hannah Shaw as she shares her story of survival in her book, "Still I Rise: My Journey to Conquer Chronic Pain." Shaw candidly talks about her experiences of navigating the healthcare system and her inner struggles, giving fellow chronic pain sufferers hope and courage.

October 14
Brandy Schillace tells the story of Dr. Robert White, one the country’s leading neurosurgeons who most notably performed the first brain transplant on a monkey in her book, "Mr. Humble and Dr. Butcher: A Monkey's Head," "The Pope's Neuroscientist," and "The Quest to Transplant the Soul." Schillace explores both the scientific and ethical issues of experiments on animals, as well as Dr. White’s own devout religious beliefs, with his conviction that the soul was part of the brain.

October 21
Cleveland-born Hari Ziyad talks about his memoir "Black Boy Out of Time," an honest story about what it’s like growing up black and queer. Ziyad examines complex themes of race and gender, amidst a large blended family with a Hari Kishna mother and Muslim father.

October 28
Case Western Reserve University Political Science professor and Cuba native, Dr. Laura Tartakoff, reads bilingual poems in English and Spanish, which are inspired by nature.
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.

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Let's Talk Politics

Thank You Lakewood - On To November!

by *Tristan Rader*

I want to thank each of the voters, volunteers, and others who helped our campaign to a first-place finish in September's lively eight-candidate primary. I am very grateful for this vote of confidence, going into the November election for three at-large seats.

Lakewood has not had this kind of crowded field of candidates for quite a few years, and the readiness to step up as well as the positive direction of the campaigning speaks very well of our community. It is genuinely an honor to exit the primary ranked first.

No one can do this alone. I'm thankful for my wife Caitlin, for her partnership and support. I'm grateful to everyone who has endorsed my re-election, from Senator Sherrod Brown, to labor unions and progressive activists, to Mayor George, our state legislators, and many others.

I also want to congratulate all the candidates who ran in this primary. All of them are compassionate people

who care about Lakewood and wanted to make a positive impact. Everyone brought forward substantive issues and creative solutions that only make all of us better candidates and leaders.

Above all, I really appreciate everyone who took the time to vote, in a mid-September local primary. Nearly 5,600 people voted in total. Even in a crowded field, 50% voted for me, to keep our campaign going strong into November. This is humbling to say the least. Thank you Lakewood!

I have never taken our community's trust for granted. I am here to represent the people of Lakewood, as an at-large city council member. I will continue full-speed with the work of reaching out, talking with residents, and finding ways to help make our city better.

I hope you will all return to the polls in the November 2 general election!

Tristan Rader, is a Lakewood Council Member-At-Large and candidate for re-election.

Municipal Court Judges Need Extensive Experience In Municipal Court

by *Sara Fagnilli*

The role of a Municipal Court Judge is comparable to an emergency room doctor. The court moves quickly, can see hundreds of cases weekly, and is the only encounter many residents will have with the judicial system. Municipal Courts handle a variety of cases, civil, criminal, housing, felony arraignments/preliminary hearings, and misdemeanors. That is why it is so important to elect the person with the most relevant experience to the bench.

Having served local communities in a variety of high-level legal positions including as a prosecutor or law director gives me the advantage of not just knowing how Lakewood Municipal Court operates, but also how courts operate all across Northern Ohio including Federal, State, and multiple Municipal Courts. Knowing in detail how a courtroom functions is critical to the fair and equitable administration of justice,

As the Plain Dealer says about me, "...she seems to have been preparing for the job of Lakewood Municipal judge during three decades of municipal work." This is the job I want to perform and I assure you that this is not a stepping stone. I will not run for another seat after serving a year of my term.

My knowledge of municipal court, its operations and the laws that apply, comes from having a broad range of experience. I have represented people, worked with clients, witnesses, and victims, in civil and criminal cases, on both sides of the cases. Judicial decisions can have a major impact on a person's life and it is imperative that Lakewood's next judge have up-to-date knowledge and understanding of what the law and how it should be applied.

In addition, a municipal court judge should have experience representing parties in court, arguing a case, and helping clients navigate the legal system. This requires staying abreast of the constant changes in the law across the spectrum of civil and criminal cases. Having spent much of my career in municipal court, I am deeply familiar with the types of cases that come before a judge and the laws that come into play. There is not a case that will come before the court that I am not familiar with; whether seeking monetary relief, a victim of crime, defendant in a criminal case, a landlord or tenant in an eviction proceeding, a property owner or the city regarding a building violation, a traffic matter or any other myriad of cases that come before the court.

My method has always been to thoroughly review every detail of a case, with the keen understanding that each circumstance is unique and deserves my attention. I hope to bring that, along with extensive real-world municipal court experience, and my sense of fairness, compassion and justice to the bench to serve the City of Lakewood and its residents. Having the right experience matters.



Sarah Fagnilli, Candidate for Lakewood Judge.

A Thank You From Tess Neff

by *Tess Neff*

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I thank all the supporters who voted for me in the September 14 primary to be the next Lakewood Judge. Together, we put forth a tremendous amount of energy and effort that resulted in my first-place finish. Our work is not finished, and we have many more tasks to perform before the November 2 general election.

My appreciation extends to many dedicated family, friends, and neighbors who volunteered their spring and summer days to help me! Every job, whether big or small is important and it all matters.

In addition, it has been very rewarding to talk with my Lakewood neighbors, to answer their questions, articulate my vision for the court, and to tell them about my unique experience. Thank you for taking a pause in your day to listen to me. The show of support is magnificent and overwhelmingly humbling.



Tess Neff, Candidate for Lakewood Judge

I cannot ask for more genuinely good souls to be in my corner. I look forward to our continued journey through the fall and into the early days of November. The demands of a campaign cannot be met without you. I will be forever indebted to you for your volunteer work on my behalf.

Thanks For The Memories

by *Keith Davey*

Those of us that are old enough might remember Bob Hope's theme song 'Thanks for the Memories' that played at the end of his television show.

Well that's the way I feel as my recent run for city council came to an end.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone that voted for me and supported me in the September 14th primary. Thank you to all the folks that worked so hard distributing door hangers, handing out flyers and allowing me to place a sign in their yard. A special shout out to the saints at New Life Church for their amazing support and prayers!

The campaign was a great experience for me and a time that I will never forget.

I met so many wonderful people and learned so much about our city. Your hospitality and kindness was overwhelming!

My congratulations to all the other council-at-large candidates that will be moving forward into the November general election. You ran great campaigns and were all very gracious to me.

I intend to stay involved in civic issues, especially those that affect seniors in our community. I look forward to working with Lakewood residents and city council on the development of the old Lakewood Hospital site and on a more comprehensive recycling and waste reduction plan.

Again, 'Thanks for the Memories' and I look forward to seeing you on the streets.

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Firefighter Recognition 2021



The scene of the accident on Thoreau Avenue August 11, 2021

Life Saving Recognition

On August 11, 2021, the following members of Lakewood’s Fire Department, Lakewood Public Works, Fairview Park Fire Department, Westlake Fire Department, and Kufner Towing Company, under the command pf Asst. Chief Darren Collins accomplished the difficult rescue of a person who was trapped under a 14,000 lb. excavator.

Lakewood Fire Department in alphabetical order; FF Adam Bartinelli, FF Ryan Birth, FF Nicholas Boatman, FF John Catani, FF Joseph Cawley, Captain James Chaky, Assistant Fire Chief Darren Colins, Captain Robert Dean, Fire Chief Timothy Dunphy, FF Benjamin Fitchwell, FF Gregory Gillard, FF Alec Hradisky, FF Joseph Kappa, FF Kyle Captain, FF Eric Klonowski, FF Nicholas Kovach, FF Christopher Makaryk, Fire Inspector Michael Matwijiw, Captain Gordon Palando, Captain Matthew Pruer, Paramedic Supervisor Scott Russell, FF Dominic Schirripa, FF Brian Sedmak, FF Jeffery Stoskus, Fire Inspector Scott Thomas, FF Michael Trammel.

City of Public Works: Director Roman Ducu, Daniel Jankowski (Forestry), James Beckwith and Michael Stanik (Public Streets)

Lakewood Police Department: Captain Scott Eschweiler, Sgt. Steve Fioritto, PO Zachary Wiles, and Dispatchers Christine Sykora and Tonya Graham

Fairview Park Police: Chief Tony Raffin, and Captain Draves

Bay Village Police Department: Captain David Stump

Kufner Towing: Dale Kufner , Kufner Towing and crew.



Matt Langenderfer, the man who was saved that day.



Firefighter Recognition 2021

Meet Our New Firefighters/Paramedics



Mayor Megan George swears in Lakewood Firefighter/Paramedic Kimberly Petty, as her mother and Fire Chief Tim Dunphy look on.

Kimberly “Kim” Petty was born in Orrville, Ohio and grew up knowing that she wanted to help people. Her interest in becoming a firefighter developed after she earned a degree in exercise physiology at Ohio University. The desire to provide patient care led her to completing an EMT and Paramedic training program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). Wanting to add to her skill set, she enrolled in Tri-C’s Fire Training Academy where she became president of her class and valedictorian runner-up. Kim Petty is Lakewood Fire Department’s first-ever female firefighter/paramedic.



Mayor George swears in Lakewood Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Helbig, as Chief Dunphy and Aaron’s Uncle retired Lakewood Fire Department Captain Jim Helbig looks on.

Aaron Helbig was born and raised in Lakewood, attended Lakewood City Schools, and graduated from the University of Cincinnati where he studied economics and earned an international business degree. Hearing from friends that firefighting is the best job in the world intrigued him to enroll in Cuyahoga Community College’s Fire Training Academy. While attending the academy, Aaron worked at Sarita which offered him a flexible schedule. Helbig took the firefighter/paramedic job in Lakewood to give back to his community in a meaningful way. He is following in the footsteps of two uncles Dennis and Jimmy Helbig, retired Captains of the Lakewood Fire Department.



Patrick Starcovic’s wife Cara putting his badge on, and his daughter Reagan watches.

Pat Starcovic, born and raised in Strongsville, has been ready for a career in firefighting since high school. During his junior and senior years, he earned his firefighter certification as well as EMT Basic. He went on to become a certified paramedic and then continued his adult learning at Cuyahoga Community College in the nursing program where he became a registered nurse (RN); a license he still holds today. Starcovic worked as a firefighter/paramedic in another city for seven years. Hearing about the culture of the Lakewood Fire Department being great and forward-thinking and knowing that there is room for advancement drew him to work for the City of Lakewood. He and his wife Cara are proud parents of a 15-month old daughter named Reagan.



Meritorious Service Awards:
Christian Flores by A/C Mick Tanasijevic
Joe Cawley by A/C Darren Collins
Nick Sambula by A/C Jim Bennett



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Lakewood Sports

Dr. G's Rangers' Round-Up

by Dr.Charles Greanoff

Football - October 2

The Lakewood Rangers (5-2) withstood an early surge by Parma, earning a hard fought 34-14 win at Byers Field. After Parma took an early 8-0 lead, things seemed a bit bleak for the Rangers. Lakewood had seemingly scored first on a long TD pass, but a penalty erased that and forced a punt, which was blocked. Parma scored in two plays on a short field, then converted a 2 point conversion, and just like that the game "flipped." But the Rangers stayed poised, and behind the hard running of Hakeem Quran, answered on their

next drive, converting their own two point conversion (Both scores courtesy of Quran's tough runs). On their next possession, QB Lucas Winters broke containment and sprinted 65 yards for a TD, and the Rangers were on their way. Quran scored once more in the 2nd quarter and the Rangers led 21-8 at half. Rain arrived at Byers Field for the second half, but Lakewood scored two more touchdowns. Sophomore Aidan Maxwell had several strong runs and bulled his way into the end zone on 4th down for his first ever varsity TD. Junior Mason Ivinskas caught a Winters pass in the end zone to round out the scoring for Lakewood.

Kudos to our players, coaches, and fans on tonight's win. Because the game was rescheduled from Thursday, the band, with a prior commitment, could not attend. (The Lakewood Ranger Marching Band adds incredible energy and joy to the experience, pumping up the fans and players). Factor in the frankly dreary atmosphere at the cavernous Byers Field and a steady second half rain, and some of the usual sources of energy/spirit were missing. But the players were extra loud on the sideline, the LHS Cheerleaders sang the fight song, and the Rangers loyalists in the stands did their best to encourage our Rangers to "get off their blocks" among other shouts of encouragement.

Next week is Senior Night at our classic home stadium. Coach Tom Thome, in his fourth year, has been with these seniors since day one. The players and coaches have earned the success and joy that this season has brought, paid for with hours in the weight room and on the practice field. There are no guarantees, but the Team, the Band, the Coaches, the Cheerleaders and Fans will be ready with a big dose of Lakewood pride and effort for Buckeye. Hope to see you there.

Girls' Soccer - September 29

On a team dominated by a deep and talented junior class, a couple of freshmen made the difference in tonight's 1-0 Lakewood Rangers Girl Soccer win over a determined Valley Forge squad. With just over 9 minutes remaining in

the game, freshman Helen Fraunfelder (#20) broke free down the right wing and beat the Patriot goalie on the short side for the games only goal. Fellow freshman Sarah McGinley came off the bench and sparked the Rangers with several strong 2nd half runs. Junior Lauren Barber was flawless in goal. The Ranger Volleyball team was out in force, loud and proud Rangers, as they should be. Great team effort tonight by the fans, coaches and most of all, the players.

Volleyball - September 23

The transformation of the Lakewood Rangers Volleyball Team continued tonight with a resounding 3 Sets to 0 win over Buckeye at the beautiful New East Gym. In a match featuring close competition, the Rangers came through in the clutch, led by junior libero Helen Hylton, senior back row stalwart Lexa Bunevich and junior setter Sophie Boyer. The three played strong all around games and served well late, leading the Rangers from behind in tight 1st and 3rd sets. The Pilgrim Twins, Molly and Amy, had many kills, as did Sophie Dent and Calyn Smith. Elliot Snyder again was a force in the front row, with many blocks and kills, Alex Russell served well and was solid in the back row. The Rangers will look for another strong team effort when they play at Fairview on Saturday at 11. Hope to see you there!

LHS Salutes National Merit & AP Scholars

continued from page 1

Although these students do not move on in the scholarship competition, we recognize them as among the best students in the state.

Based on their PSAT score from the 2020-2021 school year, Abby and Caleigh join the group of 16,000 Semifinalists across the country. These academic standouts rose to the top of more than 1.6 million students who took the PSAT. Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U. S. high school seniors and are the highest scoring entrants in their state. Semifinalists are designated on a state-representational basis. The number of Semifinalists named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors.

Abby and Caleigh are now eligible to continue on in the competition in hopes of being named a Finalist and receiving one of more than 7,500 scholarships worth nearly \$30 million to be awarded in the spring.

Besides the school's National Merit Scholars, LHS also learned this summer that it had 42 students earn recognition as AP Scholars with Distinction, AP Scholars with Honor, or AP Scholars.

AP Scholars with Distinction (earned by averaging at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and

grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams):

Class of 2021: David Gramo, Jayden Jackson, Sophie Lipka, Mohamed Manaa, Gina Marjanovic, Sean McHugh, Aidan Peck, Katherine Spilsbury, Simon Thompson, Aidyn Zingale

Class of 2022: Anna Weiss

AP Scholars with Honor (earned by averaging at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams):

Class of 2021: David Coleman, Jack Holian, Emily Kompier, Jasmine Magda, Emma Owens, Willow Rosser

Class of 2022: Joseph Daso, Emma Hart, Abigail Hirsch, Alexander Pon-gracz

AP Scholars (earned by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher):

Class of 2021: Caroline Harmon, Jacob Kavc, Erin McHugh, Griffin Miller, Aubree Nagel, Maxwell Potter, Samuel Saracina, Nola Williams-Rising

Class of 2022: Mia Condosta, Julia Costello, Lewis Fetting, Andre Hallenburg, Veruca Jouriles, Teeghan McGann, Lucy McIntyre, Caleigh Naylor, Erin Ptacek, Eva Strazek, Reka Sundem, Sophia Weiss

Class of 2023: James Holland
 Congratulations to all of our academic superstars!

District To Benefit From \$34K STEM Grant

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF) are pleased to announce that Howmet Aerospace Foundation has awarded a \$33,959 grant to LREF that will be dedicated to bolstering the school district's STEM resources across all grades. The grant money will be used to purchase Sphero programmable robots packages for every building in the District.

"We are thrilled to have played a part in securing this grant to enrich STEM education in our District," said LREF Executive Director Terri Richards. "LREF's mission is to help provide a world class public education for each and every Lakewood student and we are grateful for partners like the Howmet Aerospace Foundation, who assist us in fulfilling that commitment."

Added Assistant Superintendent Christine Palumbo: "We are so thankful to LREF and the Howmet Foundation for their amazing support of our students. The Spheros' Bolt Power Pack compiles the best of Spheros' STEM solutions all in one package enabling our students to use programmable robots to learn

programming while completing educational activities.”

Howmet Aerospace Foundation invests in STEM and technical education as part of its efforts to educate and inspire tomorrow's scientists, engineers and technical experts. The Howmet Foundation is the independently endowed charitable arm of Howmet Aerospace.

The grant opportunity was brought to LREF's attention by one of its trustees, Heather Watson, who is a quality engineering manager with Howmet Aerospace.

"I am so happy that Howmet Aerospace Foundation found the value in supporting STEM projects for Lakewood City Schools. It's a benefit that I will treasure as an employee of Howmet, a member of the LREF Executive Board, but most of all as a parent in the district," Watson said.

LREF serves current students in the Lakewood City Schools by providing educational enrichment opportunities that enhance excellence in learning, and elevate the quality of each and every student's education, at the elementary, middle or high school levels.

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Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Lakewood Education

Statement On October 4th School Board Meeting

by Maggie Niedzwiecki
Superintended
Lakewood City Schools

October 5, 2021
Dear Families:
Lakewood City School District is open to constructive, respectful and meaningful dialogue and is appreciative of public participation.
During last night's Board of Education meeting a group of audience members refused to comply with rules that promote civil public participation and mask-wearing. Many of the members of this group were not residents of Lakewood. Due to the disruptions, which were often uncivil, and the inability to continue the meeting with decorum, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting prior to completing the agenda.
The District is committed to a civil dialogue with community members.

The Board also remains committed to the safety and well-being of our students, staff and community as our top priority. In order to best protect our students and staff from COVID-19, the universal masking policy was put in place at the beginning of the school year. Board of Education meetings are no different, and staff, visitors and Board of Education members are required to wear a facial covering. The Lakewood City School District and its Board of Education continue to welcome public comment on school issues; however, Board policies must be adhered to at all school functions, including BOE meetings.
We appreciate the continued cooperation and support of our school community as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Thank you,
Lakewood City Schools



All-State qualifiers Jill King (left) and Madeline Oldfield.

LHS Musicians Chosen For Honors Ensembles

by Christine Gordillo
Congratulations to the Lakewood High musicians chosen to be part of the Ohio Music Educators Association's Northeast Ohio Region Orchestra, including junior Madeline Oldfield (viola), who earned a chair in the All-State Orchestra as well. Joining Madeline in the regional honor ensemble are sophomore William Detmar (bass) and junior Jill King (cello). Jill

also was chosen as an alternate for the All-State ensemble.
Students must qualify for the Region Orchestra to be eligible for a spot with the All-State Orchestra. The All-State ensemble performs at the OMEA annual conference. The conference will be held in Cleveland this year at the Huntington Convention Center from February 3-5.

Board/City OK Fields/Pools Agreement

by Christine Gordillo
The Lakewood Board of Education at its Sept. 22 meeting approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and the City of Lakewood that outlines the responsibilities of the two entities in relation to the maintenance and capital improvements of the City-owned fields and pools. The Board and the City have shared responsibility for the recreational facilities for decades without a formal agreement in place. Lakewood City Council approved the agreement at its Sept. 22 meeting as well.
The agreement defines each party's role in ongoing maintenance and capital expenses, as well as establishing a formal annual schedule for regular meetings between the City's Public Works Department and the Recreation Department to ensure that communication between the two regarding field and pool conditions remain current.
"We are pleased that our administrative team and the Board of Education were able to work together with Mayor George and city officials to resolve these longstanding issues,"

said Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki. "We look forward to being able to provide the community more quality programming through our Rec and Athletic Departments now and in the future. Our Community Recreations and Education Commission will be engaging with the community to gather feedback on programming wants and needs."
As part of the agreement, the city has agreed to fully fund infield upgrades at Jimmie Foxx Field in Kaufmann Park and George J. Usher Field at Madison Park in advance of the 2022 sports season. Moving forward, each year the City will repair and recrown one of the six fields on a rotating basis during the offseason to ensure high standards are maintained. The City and the Board also agreed to meet annually prior to September 15th to agree on which field will be addressed in the coming off-season, based on specific conditions at each field and industry standards. The Board will contribute \$20,000 annually to this work with the City paying for any other costs.

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TRISTAN RADER

for Lakewood City Council At-large

I am incredibly grateful for a **first-place finish**
in September's primary—

Thank you voters!

The general election is Tuesday, November 2!

Lakewood Community

Facing Eviction? Legal Aid Can Help!

by Tonya Sams

On August 26, the Supreme Court’s decision not to extend the federal eviction moratorium has left many tenants who lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic fearful of losing their housing. Northeast Ohioans at risk of eviction can get help through the new Free Eviction Help program, a collaboration between The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and United Way’s 2-1-1 service. Free Eviction Help provides free legal representation to tenants facing eviction.

The program has already helped many people in our region stay in their current housing or find new living accommodations. Another benefit is that children can remain in school without worrying about disruptions caused by displacement and homelessness.

People who contact Free Eviction Help may also qualify for Cleveland’s Right to Counsel (RTC)



From left to right, Lakewood Municipal Judge Patrick Carroll, US Senator Sherrod Brown and Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor. Sherrod Brown and the Chief Justice stopped in Lakewood to underline that there still is financial assistance and ways to avoid eviction. Legal Aid and Lakewood Community Service Center are the best places to start.

program, which applies to households with at least one child and incomes at or below the federal

poverty guideline. Through RTC, eligible tenants now have the explicit legal right to free legal representation in their eviction cases.

Hazel G. Remesch, Legal Aid’s Managing Attorney in the housing law practice group, has been able to help many clients from being evicted.

“There is a lot of trauma that comes with facing eviction,” said Hazel. “The uncertainty causes stress. We help our clients by putting dignity into the process. They know

that they have an advocate by their side, helping them make informed decisions. We are able to give them a softer landing than they would have without an attorney.”

Hazel reflected on a recent eviction case, saying, “The client had a history of acute seizures, was a rape survivor, and suffered from PTSD. She was not able to pay her rent for a year, but because of her (Legal Aid) attorney, she was able to get rent assistance and stay in her unit. She ended up getting approved for \$12,000 in rent assistance, which covered three months of future rent.”

Resources are also available through United Way’s 211 and also the Cleveland Housing Network (CHN) Housing Partners Family Stability Initiative. CHN provides assistance with eviction cases, helps homeowners avoid foreclosure, and assists with paying utilities.

To find out if you qualify for help, contact Legal Aid at 216-861-5835 or apply via 2-1-1 chat box/phone number. You can also learn more about your rights and apply for help online at www.FreeEviction-Help.org

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church Celebrates 75 Years!

by Dorothy Richards

West Shore will hold a Gala Organ Rededication Concert for our prized Holtkamp organ on Nov. 14, 2021. Guest organist Christa Rakich will be the distinguished performer. Christa is an internationally renowned concert organist and is currently the Visiting Professor of Organ at the Oberlin Conservatory.

H2O Summer Service Camp - "When We Feel Heard"

continued from page 3

message. Together the fences created the message 'Peace, Love, Basketball.' This message well represented H2O's theme this year, 'When We Feel Heard,' because not only were the basketball players' message, to play, being heard but H2O's message of peace was, and is, being spread on and off the court."

The return to in-person camp included the return of one of H2O's most popular projects – Clothing Drive! We collected hundreds of bags of donations and thanks to the Lakewood City Schools, we were able to store and sort them, hosting a one-day public sale. All items were fifty cents, including some high-quality items! We raised

almost \$1,000.00 to support H2O's service projects before offering the remaining clothing for free in partnership with local agencies.

While the mornings at camp were centered on volunteer projects, the afternoons were full of games and enriching activities. The featured speaker was Kari Kepic from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), who brought a youth-centered presentation called “Ending the Silence.” They learned about warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if they or a loved one show symptoms of a mental health condition. On a different afternoon, artist Randee Stroud facilitated creative expression workshops. Camper used magazine clippings, texts, and old books, focus-



Fence mural at Madison Park

ing on creating a piece of art/poetry using the existing words on the page or adding their own. They were invited to apply the theme in any way they chose.

These are just a few of the activities of Summer Service Camp 2021. I hope to share more stories and to keep the memories of this very special summer fresh. We will keep the theme, “When We Feel Heard” in our hearts as we

embrace new service work in the community. The H2O program will bring meetings to Harding, Garfield, and Lakewood Catholic Academy in October and we have already launched high school programming. Please contact me at emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.net with questions about H2O.

Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist Church

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No children are permitted in the Center at this time.

Lakewood Living



What Does A Yard Sign Mean?

by Colleen Clark-Sutton

My vote is private. So is yours. We never have to disclose to anyone else who we vote for in any given election.

My yard signs, on the other hand, are a public statement about who I am supporting in the upcoming election. Signs in my yard say I am committed to these candidates, proud of their experiences and expertise, and confident they will do a fine job once elected to their positions. Signs in my yard are one of the most visible ways I try to persuade my neighbors and friends to join me in voting for candidates.

I ask neighbors about candidates whose signs are in their yards. It's one of the ways I learn about candidates. "I've worked with him for years: he's very thorough and professional. I recommend you think about voting for him." Sometimes neighbors don't know much about the person. "He came to my door. He was pleasant. He asked to put a sign in my yard." I ask, "will you vote for this person?" "I'm not sure yet. I have to do more research."

Yard signs started appearing in August for a November General Election because we had a primary election in mid-September. It narrowed the field for Lakewood City Council and Lakewood Municipal Judge, but our job as voters is not finished for this year and so the yard signs still have work to do too. School board seats have been added to the next ballot. If your preferred candidate made it through the primary, he and she need you to keep your yard sign up for a while longer.

Early voting starts Tuesday, Oct. 5th and Election Day is Tuesday, November 2nd. We each have the right and responsibility in Lakewood to vote for up to three at-large city council seats, one municipal judgeship, and two school board seats.

Yard signs indicate who a voter supports. But yard signs don't vote – you do! Please remember to vote for the candidates of your choice.

Colleen Clark-Sutton lives in Lakewood and plays an active role in local politics and civic engagement.

Get Ready For Lakewood Kiwanis Scarecrow Festival

by Anna Bacho

Neither wind nor rain will stop the scarecrows from arriving in the fall on Madison Ave. Madison Avenue will become a parade of playfulness with scarecrows lining the entire avenue: West 117th to Riverside Drive, from October 11-25, 2021 for the 9th Annual Lakewood Scarecrow Festival. Make plans to build your own scarecrow and participate in this fun opportunity for individual, families, businesses, clubs and organizations.

Business owners bring more attention to your storefront by building a scarecrow that is unique to your business. Families can bring school lessons or a family activity to life with their

scarecrow. This is a great activity as we practice social distancing and get out from behind the screen and get creative.

As a community, we have supported each other through these difficult times. Madison Avenue will be the perfect route to walk from October 11-25th. Now is the time to have some fun together and visit your local merchants on Madison. It is a growing area.

Details and applications are available by visiting www.kiwanis-foundation.com

Cost: scarecrow entry fee is \$25.

All proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Kiwanis Community Service #KidsNeedKiwanis

Sara For Lakewood Judge

by Sandy Maline

I am writing to tell you about Sara Fagnilli who is running for Judge. I have known Sara for a very long time. (A few decades). She has the best experience to jump into the position that Pat Carroll held for so many years. This is a very busy court and we cannot afford a learning curve. This position is

the safeguard of our community. Sara has the integrity, experience and temperament to be outstanding.

Sandy Maline grew up in her hometown of Lakewood. She is a Real Estate Broker who owns a small boutique real estate company. She has 36 years experience in sales in the greater Cleveland area.

Car Show At Church Of The Ascension

by Susan O'Donnell

CAR SHOW at Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Ave., Saturday, October 16th from 10am to 2pm

Fundraiser: Kicking off 150 years in Lakewood

10-dollar Registration Fee for Collectable Cars with Trophies Awarded

Music, Fifty-Fifty Raffle, Gift Baskets and Concession Stand

Come and Join the Fun!!!!

Church of the Ascension stands proudly back off the street on Detroit Ave. It all began when Lakewood was named Rockport Township and then became the Hamlet of Lakewood. It was mostly farmland at that time with Detroit Ave the main thoroughfare through Lakewood. As more and more settlers came there was a need for churches. Hence Church of the Ascension began as Ascension Mission, organized by Trinity Parish, now Trinity Cathedral. Property for the church was purchased from the Nicholson family who lived in Lakewood's historical Nicholson House. The church cornerstone was laid in 1875. Initially it was built as a small wood frame church. Church members included the names Fry, Hird, Beach, Hall, Nicholson, Newman, and Westlake, now names of Lakewood's wonderful residential streets.

Ascension began its history in 1875 as Ascension Mission and continues to live into its original Mission name in 2021. This year Church of the Ascension has already served 800 meals to our community representing, 450 volunteer hours. Ascension sponsors three community meals each month, four



Frankfurter Fridays each summer, a Thanksgiving Meal, a Christmas Meal and a Summer Picnic. Ascension sponsors 10 AA meetings each week, Monday through Friday. Ascension lives into the Episcopal Church motto, "God Loves You, No Exceptions." Church of the Ascension also sponsors an annual school supply drive benefitting Garfield Middle School, a yearly toy drive at Christmas benefitting Trials of Hope, Christmas gift donations benefitting parish members and community members, a Shawl Ministry supporting those experiencing changes in their life. Visit us at ascension-lakewood@org

Celebrate Lakewood and Church of the Ascension's 150-year kickoff celebration.

Join us for the First Ascension Car Show. October 16th, Saturday from 10am to 2pm and help us to support Church of the Ascension's Mission and its next fifty years in the Lakewood community.

Susan O'Donnell is a Senior Warden at Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit. She is an LHS graduate and a lifelong resident of Lakewood, Ohio.

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1 Item	\$8.00	\$9.75	\$13.00	\$14.50
2 Items	\$8.50	\$10.50	\$14.00	\$16.00
3 Items	\$9.00	\$11.25	\$15.00	\$17.50
4 Items	\$9.50	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$19.00
Deluxe	\$10.00	\$12.75	\$17.00	\$20.50
Extra Items	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$2.50
Chicken	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$4.50
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$4.00

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Long-Time Dream Fulfilled With Opening Of The Blue Cafe

by Mish Gajewski

Circumstances had to be just right for Lakewood’s newest coffee shop, The Blue Cafe (15715 Madison Ave.), to open up. It had to be “the right time.” The right space needed to become available. The right people needed to sign on. And Karen needed to give Paul her phone number.

Jump back to West Lafayette, Indiana, 1992. Paul just had an incredible night dancing with Karen to Morrissey’s cover of “That’s Entertainment,” originally by The Jam, at a dance club not far from Purdue University’s campus. He’d love to see her again, but Karen isn’t having it. He can’t help but keep trying, ‘til finally one of her friends relents and gives up Karen’s sacred digits. She agrees to one date at a coffee shop. She orders a blackberry tea, and it’s brought out to her on a tray with a single flower, slipped to the barista in advance by Paul.

The next day, Karen skips all her classes. She can’t help it. She just wants to keep hanging with Paul.

This version of how the Beegans met wasn’t the most likely. By all accounts, they should have met much earlier, when Karen attended a house party that Paul’s band was performing at, or during one of Paul’s shifts at one of Karen’s favorite campus coffee spots: The Blue Cafe.

Karen and Paul Beegan had their separate reasons for adoring the original Blue Cafe, owned and operated by a Puerto Rican woman named Iris. Paul had fallen in love with the place the first time he walked in. He loved the live music and that the staff could play their own tunes while they worked. Paul asked if they were hiring; lo and behold, they were. Karen was a regular, stopping by for brews and entertainment often enough to become close with a number of the staff -- just not Paul. It wasn’t long after they met and established their mutual love of The Blue Cafe that they started saying to one another, “Hey, wouldn’t it be cool to open a coffee shop someday?”

Many days passed between that first utterance and “someday.” They relocated to Lakewood in 1996 (Paul is from Fairview Park, while Karen is from Chicago), and they were married in ‘97 (their first song at their wedding was “That’s Entertainment” by Morrissey). Paul finished a graduate degree in architecture. Karen worked in her field - retail management - for a number of years, ‘til she followed her heart, and, “in two years with two babies,” she earned her Masters in Primary Education from Cleveland State. She’s now a beloved kindergarten teacher at Lakewood Catholic Academy. Over all the years -- three kids, career shifts, new businesses -- they kept posing that same question to one another: “Wouldn’t it be cool to open a coffee shop?” The image of their dream cafe started to crystallize: it had to be in Lakewood,



The Blue Cafe at 15715 Madison Ave.

because a late-night, live venue sort of place would be perfect for the city; it had to be The Blue Cafe, because the old one, though long-shuttered, was worthy of revival; and it had to be for everyone, because the world needed a little bit more of that.

“We thought we would do it later, after all the kids had grown up and moved out of the house and we had some free time,” says Paul. “Things happened a little bit differently.”

Paul’s firm, Beegan Architecture, shared a block with a coffee shop which closed in fall of 2020 due to the

pandemic.

“We thought, ‘Well, rather than let it close and go away, maybe now’s our time. Maybe something’s telling us: Here’s an opportunity for you to come in and do it.’ And that’s what we did.”

They took over the space and in the early spring of 2021, set to work creating their Blue Cafe.

“Our family - our kids - helped us get this place together. They worked really hard in everything that we asked them to do. It’s a lot to ask of teenagers,” Karen says. “But that



Karen and Paul Beegan

part we wanted to instill in them: hard work.”

The pay-off from that hard work is Lakewood’s newest cozy getaway. The Blue Cafe today is bright and welcoming. Its main wall serves as a gallery for local artists to share and sell their work. Fresh flowers in miniature vases adorn every table. A cozy couch and two armchairs beckon from the back. The counter boasts a full coffee menu of Phoenix Coffee, as well as two large pastry cases brimming with tarts, cheesecakes, cookies, and scones, all sourced from local bakers.

They’re open Monday through Thursday, 7 AM to 7 PM, Fridays 7 AM to 10 PM, and Saturdays 9 AM to 10 PM. Open Mic is every Friday night from 7 PM to 9 PM. Keep an eye on their Instagram (@bluecafelkwd) as more events are added to the calendar.

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14th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade Brings Bark To Madison Park On October 16

by Jacqueline Bon

It won't be long until Birdtown goes to the dogs. LakewoodAlive's 14th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade takes place on Saturday, October 16, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Madison Park.

Sponsored by Discount Drug Mart, the family-friendly Spooky Pooch Parade consists of a free-to-attend festival in Madison Park, a parade through Lakewood's Birdtown neighborhood and an awards presentation. The parade takes place on the streets surrounding the park and leaves on Athens Avenue. A map of the route can be found [here](#). A favorite autumn tradition for Northeast Ohio dog lovers, this community festival represents a one-of-a-kind event within the region, providing a tail-wagging good time for canine and human guests alike.

Pre-registration for the parade is \$10 per dog and day-of registration is \$15 per dog. Pre-registration ends on October 15at noon. Multiple dog discounts are available with pre-registration only. Humans are free. This community event takes place rain or shine, and proceeds from the parade benefit LakewoodAlive, a nonprofit community development organization.

Festivities get underway with the Spooky Pooch Festival beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Madison Park, during which attendees can enjoy entertainment including music by DJ Byron, dog games, children's crafts and over 30 dog-related vendors. This year's festivities include the return of doga, a free dog yoga session hosted by Pink Lotus Yoga.

The much-anticipated dog parade commences at 2 p.m. Dogs of all shapes and sizes dressed in their most festive Halloween costumes will strut their stuff along Madison Avenue. Judges will award top-three prizes beginning at approximately 3:15 p.m. in the following categories: Best Pooch & Child, Best Pooch & Adult, Best Pooch & Group, Spookiest Pooch and Best in Show. Winner of Best in Show will receive one year's worth of complimentary dog food courtesy of Pet's General Store.

For a schedule of events, information or to register your dog, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/SpookyPooch](#).

The 14th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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