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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 17, Issue 20, October 20, 2021

## We Ask The 2021 Candidates Your Questions



The Lakewood Observer solicited questions from our readers-- they broke down into three basic areas. So we asked them, and here are all of their answers. Pages 8,9,10, 11

## Re-Elect Ed Favre For Lakewood School Board

by Ed Favre

I have had the honor of being a member of the Lakewood Board of Education for many years and have been re-elected by fellow Lakewoodites several times. My life of public service began with the military when I served in the Army National Guard. I served 37+ years on the Lakewood Police Department and have been a consistent advocate for school safety. As a police officer, I saw firsthand kids in difficult situations and developed an appreciation for how the schools are invaluable and needed in their futures.

Lakewood is a diverse community and we have students from all backgrounds. Our kids speak over 30 languages and are literally from all over the world. I've been a supporter of the LGBTQ community since the early days of the gay rights movement when I was a police liaison the community could trust to report crimes and being victimized. We have very advanced and



Ed Favre

very challenged students and everything in between. We are not selective and educate and serve all.

My wife, Gladys, and I have lived in Lakewood for 46 years and raised 4 children here, all graduates of Lakewood City Schools. We have been involved in various support groups and commissions. I was President of the Athletic Boosters, during which time it was incorporated. Following levy failures, we obtained a license and ran bingo to lower the pay-to-participate rates.

Now with our children grown and out of Lakewood Schools, Gladys and I continue our support and involve-

ment (along with 80% of Lakewood households that do not have kids in Lakewood City Schools). We believe that the entire community benefits when they invest in a quality school system.

During my tenure, the community passed five levies and three bond issues. This was accomplished through a community effort and participation. We planned, started and completed the greatest construction project in the history of Lakewood; the complete rebuilding of our schools.

Although not part of the original plan, our facilities are serving us well during the COVID pandemic. The modern HVAC systems in the newer building are invaluable. Air is circulated, changed and filtered at a rate comparable to hospitals. Our buildings also have more flexibility in spacing students and staff.

The pandemic is the greatest challenge in our lifetimes

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## Help Us Find The Best Display In Spookywood!

by Jim O'Bryan

Recently we have seen two of our past winners singled out by various groups as "Scariest Places in Ohio." The entire Cannon block between Webb Road and Granger was published as scariest street, and the amazing display at Alameda and Lakewood Heights was called scariest house in Northern Ohio. While both of these are well worth the trip to see, there are hundreds of great homes ranging from subtle to over-the-top. With that in mind, we have changed the title of the annual Halloween contest to "

Spookywood's Grand Champion Search

And we need your help. Not only to help us find homes



worth calling out, but also helping us decide the "Grand Champion."

This year we have collected hundreds of dollars in prizes from our local advertis-

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Great progress on the updates to Lakewood Public Library's Madison Branch. Here they are laying the floor, which stopped me from going any further, but you can see how well it is coming together. Ken Warren would be pleased.



Best Overall was "The Flintstones." This was one of the dogs riding in the Flintstone car. Over 300 photos and videos online at the Lakewood Observer website. <http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>



The Mayor's Corner

# Addressing Affordable Housing

by Meghan George  
Mayor, City of Lakewood

Lakewood has long been known as “The City of Homes,” and I am dedicated to continuing this legacy. An important part of that tradition is that Lakewood residents across all economic spectrums can find an affordable place to call home. However, the latest mass appraisal of property by the County Fiscal Officer has generated justified concerns from our homeowners, residents, and the community at-large that I also share. While Ohio’s state

laws place the determination of property tax values completely in the hands of Cuyahoga County, and the City of Lakewood cannot change those valuations, I want to address these concerns here and share some important information.

The increased County assessed values follow larger market trends that show the costs of housing is going up swiftly. They also prove that Lakewood is a highly desirable place to live and own a home. But rising prices and the rise in taxes that accompany them also

affect people’s bottom lines – especially those with fixed or limited incomes such as our seniors, the disabled, and those just struggling to make ends meet. Although your total property tax will not rise in proportion to the increased County assessed value of your property, this still represents an affordability issue that I am committed to addressing to ensure Lakewood’s status as a place where people from all walks of life can find a home and stay for life.

My administration is actively working to address affordability through our affordable housing plan, which invests federal funds into new and rehabbed housing for income qualified individuals and families. In fact, our plan recently won a Vibrant NEO Regional Champion Award for its vision and effectiveness. However, I recognize that this program is not a solution for everyone. To this end, I have reached out to our county

government leaders and our state representatives to ask them to engage with me and hopefully other local government leaders to discuss possible updates to real estate tax policy. This is an issue that is becoming more pressing and needs attention. In the meantime, below I have provided a list of important information and some steps you can take if you believe your property value is incorrect.

Lakewood is a community that is proud of its diversity and ability to provide a high quality of life to people across all incomes. Affordable housing is a core value of our city, and I remain steadfast in my commitment to work with state and local officials in addressing the issue of making and keeping housing affordable in the City of Lakewood.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Meghan F. George

## You Can Attend a Public Meeting on Tax Valuation and Speak to County Officials

### From the Mayor’s Office!

The County Fiscal Officer will hold a community meeting here in Lakewood on October 21st beginning at 7pm at Lakewood Civic Auditorium (14100 Franklin Boulevard). I encourage you to attend. Additionally, the Fiscal Officer can be reached by phone at 216.443.7420.

### You Can Reach Out to Your County Representatives

You can also reach out to your representative on Cuyahoga County Council, who is charged with advocating for this district at the county government level. County Council makes policy decisions for the effective functioning of county government and is charged with acting as a link between county government agencies and citizens. Lakewood is part of District 2, represented by County Councilman Dale Miller, who can be reached at 216.698.2011 and damiller@cuyahogacounty.us. You can also contact the County Administrator, Armond Budish, who oversees the Fiscal Officer at 216.443.7181.

### You Can Appeal Your Tax Valuation

If you feel that your new valuation is inaccurate, you should know that you have the absolute right to challenge and appeal the County’s valuation of your process. But you must do so in January, February, or March of 2022. If you choose to challenge your value, the Board of Revision (BOR) will hear your case, and they can be reached at 216.443.7195, via email at BORInfo@cuyahogacounty.us, or through their website at [www.bor.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.bor.cuyahogacounty.us).

### If You are a Senior or Disabled, You May Qualify for a Homestead Exemption


The Homestead Exemption allows low-income senior citizens and disabled Ohioans, to reduce their property tax bills, by shielding some of the market value of their homes from taxation. The exemption, which takes the form of a credit on property tax bills, allows qualifying homeowners to exempt up to \$25,000 of the market value of their homes from all local property taxes. You can read more about the Cuyahoga County Homestead Exemption here: <https://fiscalofficer.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/homestead-exemption-faq.aspx>

### Your Taxes Do Not Rise In Proportion to the Increase in Value of Your Property

In 1976, the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 920. This law prevents increases to public levies based on increases to property valuations. Because of this, the portion of your tax bill connected to levies will not increase. You can read more about House Bill 920 here: <https://fiscalofficer.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/house-bill-920.aspx>

To get an estimate on how much your tax bill will change, you can visit this website, which has a calculator that provides the estimated change to your bill based on the new values: <https://fiscalofficer.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/property-tax-calculator.aspx>

If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the fiscal officer and ask them to provide the estimate or attend the public meeting on October 21st mentioned above.



### Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

<b>Upcoming Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Publish Date</b>
October 29, 2021	November 3, 2021
November 12, 2021	November 17, 2021

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**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** - Maureen Arbeznic, Kyle Baker, Tom Bullock, Laura Rodriguez-Carbone, Donna Childs, Sara Fagnili, Ed Favre, Mayor Meghan George, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Christine Gordillo, Henry Hilow, Kate Ingersoll, Nora Katzenberger, Sarah Kepple, John Litten, Tess Neff, Jim O'Bryan, Dan O'Malley, Tristan Rader, Tonya Sams, Mark Schneider, Jason Shachner, Betsy Shaugnessey, Kevin Spellacy, Eva Starr, Nic Starr, Tim Tavcar, Patricia Wellborn, and Jim Wooley



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Members of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Lakewood Family Health Center have been providing a full range of primary health care since 1976. The accredited program provides additional medical training to physicians who have chosen the specialty of family medicine.

“The Center for Family Medicine at Lakewood Family Health Center specializes in primary care for infants, children, teens, adults and older adults. In some cases, we’re providing care to multiple generations of the same family,” says Sandra Snyder, DO, Program Director, Center for Family Medicine.

CFM physicians focus on primary and



preventive care, and residents provide care under the direct supervision of board-certified faculty physicians. Their patients can access the comprehensive inpatient, testing and lab services at Lakewood Family Health Center. CFM physicians can also assist with referrals for specialty care when needed, and behavioral health is integrated into the care provided at CFM.

According to Dr. Snyder, the importance of routine, preventive care cannot be overemphasized. “It’s best to identify and treat minor health concerns before they become major problems. The Center for Family Medicine can be an efficient and cost effective option in the management of chronic conditions for you and your family.”

In addition to offering evening and weekend hours, an on-call physician is available to Center for Family Medicine patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To make an appointment, or for more information including office hours and insurance coverage, please call 216.237.5672. Center for Family Medicine, Lakewood Family Health Center, 14601 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, 44107.

## Don’t put off your mammogram.

We know that there are a lot of questions when it comes to having a mammogram, but even in these uncertain times, your health should be a priority. And, rest assured that Cleveland Clinic – Ohio’s leader in breast health – is one of the safest places in healthcare today.

For your convenience, Cleveland Clinic offers screening mammograms at 30 convenient locations, including:

- Avon Hospital at Richard E. Jacobs Campus (includes walk-in mammogram)
- Cancer Center, Sandusky
- Elyria Family Health Center
- Fairview Hospital
- Lakewood Family Health Center (includes walk-in mammogram)
- Lorain Family Health and Surgery Center
- Lutheran Hospital
- Westlake Medical Campus Building A

Our walk-in screening mammography locations provide annual screening mammograms for women ages 40 and older who have no breast symptoms (such as pain, nipple discharge, or have felt a lump). A prior doctor’s order is not required, except for at Lakewood Family Health Center.

Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/Coronavirus](https://ClevelandClinic.org/Coronavirus) to learn more about the steps we’re taking to keep you safe.

MyChart scheduling is available for patients with mammogram orders. Visit [ClevelandClinic.org/WalkinMammo](https://ClevelandClinic.org/WalkinMammo) for all locations and hours.

## Cleveland Clinic Virtual Arthritis Talk

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Free Event!

Tune in from the comfort of your home as our board-certified specialist answers your questions about managing arthritis.

You’ll learn:

- How to treat arthritis pain without surgery
- Lifestyle changes to help manage symptoms
- Tips to manage pain with diet and exercise

Includes live Q&A!

Register at: [ClevelandClinic.org/ArthritisExpo](https://ClevelandClinic.org/ArthritisExpo).

For the latest bone and joint health news, visit [ClevelandClinic.org/InMotion](https://ClevelandClinic.org/InMotion) to sign up for the InMotion e-newsletter.

## EMPOWER U

Taking Control of Parkinson’s Disease

A free virtual online event.

Saturday, October 23, 2021  
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

This education-driven, one-day event provides a positive, interactive approach to helping individuals with Parkinson’s disease take control of their disease, maintain their identity and improve their quality of life. The goals of the event will be accomplished through educational and interactive sessions.

Registration required:  
[ClevelandClinic.org/EmpowerU21](https://ClevelandClinic.org/EmpowerU21)



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# Lakewood Public Library

## James Webb Space Telescope Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Nic Starr

Lakewood Public Library has been selected to be a part of the NASA initiative when the Webb Space Telescope launches this fall! The James Webb Space Telescope will be a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-meter primary mirror. The telescope will be launched from French Guiana in December 18, 2021. The Webb telescope will be the premier observatory of the next decade and will study every phase in the history of our universe.

### Virtual Outer Space Storytime

For the whole family  
October 2021 – December 2021

Join Librarian Nic Starr as they build anticipation and excitement about the launch by reading stories about outer space.

View these exclusive videos from our website at [lakewoodpubliclibrary.org](https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org) or through our Facebook at [facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary).

### Beyond the Stars: the James Webb Space Telescope

For all ages  
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an all ages virtual event featuring Amy Sardone, Ph.D. and learn about the James Webb Space Telescope. Launching in December 2021, Webb is the largest and most complex space science telescope ever built. Webb will observe the universe in infrared and will provide a never before seen view of the cosmos. Amy Sardone is a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the Ohio State University and a NASA subject matter expert.

Registration is required. Register here or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. You will receive a Zoom link before the program.

### Build Your Own Webb Telescope

For all ages

Calling citizen scientists of all ages! Try your hand at building a paper model of the James Webb Space Telescope and be entered to win a prize. Pick up a printed model of the Webb telescope at the Main Library and put it together at home.

Send a picture of your completed model to [events@lakewoodpubliclibrary.org](mailto:events@lakewoodpubliclibrary.org). Winner will be selected on November 19, 2021.

## Children/Youth Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Nic Starr

### 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](https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org) or through our Facebook at [facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary](https://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](https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org) or through our Facebook at [facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary).

### Virtual All Day Just Baby 'N Me

For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby

Thursdays, 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 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 26, 2021 – Friday, October 29, 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](https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org). No registration is required.

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# Lakewood Observer

## Legal Aid Partners With Local Organizations And Resident Groups To Promote Business Growth, Home Ownership

by Tonya Sams

As Managing Attorney for Community Engagement at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Anne Sweeney knows how important it is for neighborhood residents' voices to be heard.

"It's important to build local power," she says.

Legal Aid's Community Engagement team represents a wide variety of groups including tenant associations, block clubs, non-profits, and citizens who want to solve problems. To qualify for representation, these groups must be comprised of people with low incomes or primarily serve people with low incomes.

The Community Engagement team is currently working on a number of outreach initiatives, including teaming up with Cleveland Owns, an incubator for co-ops that are just starting out.

"Cleveland Owns sends co-ops our way for further development and help with legal documents," said Anne. "We work with faith organizations and non-profits on issues like commercial leases, debt, grants, money related problems, hiring, contracts for employees and interns, and help operating a nonprofit."

The Community Engagement team is also working on a collabora-

tive effort with Legal Aid's Economic Justice Department and Neighborhood Connections. Neighborhood Connections is an organization that promotes community building. It recently launched a pilot project which gives out micro loans as seed money to local businesses to get them up and running. The first organization to benefit from this program was a church in Euclid. Two other businesses engaged in the program involve arts and music.

Not only are these businesses supported financially, but they also gain social capital. Legal Aid and Neighborhood Connections offer mentorship

and guidance to each business through the life of the loan. These businesses can ask Legal Aid for assistance with legal documents and growth plans.

The Community Engagement team is looking to become more involved with issues regarding housing. In Lorain County, Legal Aid works with El Centro, an organization that provides health and social advocacy for monolingual Latinos, to help create affordable housing for non-traditional borrowers that have a stable income but cannot get a traditional loan. This work, which involves collaborating with community land trusts in Ober-

lin, mirrors a homesteading model in Cincinnati through which people enter a short-term lease to become homeowners.

Does your community group need help with establishing businesses, tenant associations, or other initiatives to improve local neighborhoods? Legal Aid may be able to help. To learn more, go to [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org). You can also apply for assistance online 24/7 or call 216-687-1900 during normal business hours.

*Tonya Sams is the Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.*

## HLF Community Meeting - Video Recording Available on YouTube

by Kate Ingersoll

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) held its third annual community meeting virtually on September 22. The HLF Board of Directors appreciates that so many community members joined the meeting to learn about the foundation's work over the past year.

"We are grateful for the robust attendance and interest in our grant-making, planning, and engagement efforts," said Kate Ingersoll, HLF's Executive Director. "One goal of the meeting was to highlight not just our endeavors

but to provide insight into how community organizations have responded during the COVID-19 pandemic."

During the meeting, short videos featuring four of HLF's grantee partners portrayed their resourceful and adaptive responses to community needs during the pandemic.

Also shared at the meeting was the announcement that HLF will continue providing responsive funding for Covid-19 related needs for the remainder of 2021. Furthermore, HLF will launch its comprehensive grantmak-

ing strategy in 2022 and will provide clear communications about the grant funding timeline early in the new year.

HLF also reported leadership changes. Khalilah Worley Billy and Becca Baas have been elected as Interim President and Secretary respectively. Kate Ingersoll explained that "Both Khaliah and Becca are tireless advocates for children and families in our communities. Their leadership styles foster

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Mayor Meghan George sits and talks with Ed Favre on his front porch.

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-US Senator Sherrod Brown

"...Fagnilli stands out for her experience and solid knowledge of the sort of cases, both civil and criminal, likely to come before her as judge."

- Plain Dealer & Cleveland.com

"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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Oct. 7-Nov. 2

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# Lakewood Schools



## Dr. G's Rangers' Round-Up

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

### Girls' Soccer

It wasn't senior night, but tonight's Lakewood Rangers Girls Soccer tournament game is the very last game that the class of '22 will ever play at iconic Garfield Stadium. With goals by junior Co-Captain Mallory Zvatchen and junior Annette Doren, the team came through with a 2-0 victory over a determined Barberton squad.

Senior Co-Captains Lucy McIntire and Alanna Cunningham, along with senior Reka Sundem, were rock solid in midfield and on the back line, as was junior Co-Captain Sam Hudak. In this all-around team effort, several freshmen provided both strong play and an optimistic outlook for the future, including Riley Forster, who had her first career varsity start, Sarah McGinley, Helen Fraunfelder and Emily Lajack. Junior Clarie Morrissey had significant playing time and played a solid, steady game. The same was true of Casey Funk, Rosie Lipka, Sophie Craciun, Grace Hildebrandt

and Sylvie Ballou. Lakewood's excellent goalie Lauren Barber was steady as ever, but wasn't ever seriously tested by the Magic.

What started in sweltering summer months' practices is now winding down as the days get shorter and the nights cooler. The Rangers, 7-9-1, travel to Brecksville to take on the Bee's this coming Thursday. At some point, the season will end—hopefully not soon—but the fond memories of watching these girls—the quintessence of student athletes—compete will far outlive this season.

### Football

Our undermanned (key injuries) Lakewood Rangers Football team gave Valley Forge all they could handle tonight before losing 32-25. Very proud of our Rangers! The consolation for losing, which always stings, is the knowledge that our guys gave it everything and should have the respect of anyone paying attention.

## Come Work For Lakewood Schools!

by Christine Gordillo

Although the 2021-2022 school year has been in full swing for a while, the District is still in need of some substitutes to support our current staff members when they have to miss work. Many of the positions we are looking to fill work directly with students. The District is currently in need of substitutes for the following positions:

Teachers - \$125 per day, Paraprofessionals/educational assistants, Lunch monitors, Health aides, Building cleaners, Cafeteria workers

Interested applicants should complete a Lakewood City Schools online application by visiting the Human Resources page on the District website ([www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org)).

## Harding Hosts 6th Grade Math In Business Symposium

by Christine Gordillo

Sixth graders at Harding Middle School recently completed a six-week project-based learning experience that was capped off with an incredible Math in Business Symposium on October 14. The symposium, which included speeches from Mayor George and Superintendent Niedzwiecki, highlighted the end product of students' work learning about how local business owners use math to help make their businesses successful.

While the focus was on math, the project was truly multidisciplinary, reaching across math and language arts as the students used many of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate competencies including creativity, communication, collaboration, growth mindset and critical thinking. Working in teams, the students were required to reach out via email to a Lakewood business owner asking to interview them about how math is used in their business.

More than 50 Lakewood businesses welcomed the students for interviews, which the students recorded and are now included in a podcast that can be listened to on Spotify. Each team then worked on creating an infographic outlining the ways that math is a part of the success strategy of the business they



profiled. They asked about math tools, math models and math calculations, among other concepts. What they learned, they compiled into amazing infographics, designed by the students and displayed at the symposium.

The pride and the excitement over their products filled the air at the symposium as students shared their work with parents and teachers.

"I liked getting to go out on our own," said sixth-grader Pip Speck. "We had fun learning about a new business."

Kudos to the sixth-grade teachers who brought this amazing project to our students: Stephen Kerney, Lisa Batkiewicz, Teresa Rhinehalt, Mindy Bruening and Amanda Kennedy, with support from teaching and learning coordinator Casey Squires.

## Students Part Of Chamber Community Leadership Program

by Christine Gordillo

A group of Lakewood High and Franklin School of Opportunity juniors and seniors are taking their learning outside the classroom and into the real world as participants in the Lakewood Chamber Leadership Academy. The program, which is administered by the Effective Leadership Academy nonprofit, aims to foster leadership skills, self awareness around skills needed to succeed in the business world, and community engagement.

Students participating have been recommended by their teachers and principals and attended the first of five half-day sessions on October 13 at City Hall. Each session, which are spread from October to April, is centered around a theme. The first theme was community. Successive sessions will address personal finance, entre-

preneurship, and two STEAM sessions. After spending part of the morning learning about foundational practices and behaviors to be successful leaders and learners, the students then heard from a panel of community business and civic leaders from LakewoodAlive, the Lakewood Fire and Police departments and the Mayor's Office.

"Through a variety of hands-on, engaging activities our students take a 'journey of self-discovery' and gain essential tools for success along the way," said ELA Executive Director Flo Brett. "This program will give you the edge when you move out of Lakewood High and into the real world," she told the students.

By the end of the program, the students will have completed a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats) regarding their community and present their findings in the final session.

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# Lakewood Observer

## Lakewood Needs A Judge Who Can Connect To The People And Progress The Court

by Tess Neff

Please let me tell you what type of person you will get as judge if I am elected. I am the eldest of seven siblings. My father worked at the Brookpark Ford Plant. My mother was a waitress amongst other things. When I was twelve, I bussed tables at her job and have been working ever since. I was the first person in my extended family to go to college. I put myself through undergrad and law school without a dime of help from my family. I worked as a police officer for three years after college and saved and borrowed enough to graduate from law school.

My first jobs as an attorney were working for a law firm, representing clients in municipal and state courts, and then working as a staff attorney for two Common Pleas Judges. In 1997 Nancy McDonnell, a long time Lakewoodite, was a Judicial Magistrate here in the Lakewood Court. She was elected and became a Judge downtown. Judge Carroll appointed me to take her place in Lakewood. For 10 years I wore the judicial robe and served our community as a Magistrate, and many times Acting Judge of the very court I am seeking election. I was trusted to hear important cases and make difficult legal decisions on every type of case before the court.

My ability to be fair and impartial was never questioned.

In 2007, my fellow Lakewood Court Magistrate, and longtime Lakewood resident, Tom O'Malley was elected to be a County Juvenile Court Judge. I was honored when he asked me to be his Judicial Magistrate and I wore the judicial robe again for 8 more years. My breadth of experience was complemented by working with underprivileged individuals, mental health, addiction, homelessness, and trauma. All these issues exist in our community. Being a judge in Lakewood Court is much more than "hearing" cases. Decisions that impact lives must be thoughtful, follow the law, and consider external factors such as family, addiction and mental health.

In 2015, the six Judges of the Juvenile Court unanimously selected me to be their Court Administrator. My responsibilities are numerous and very challenging. I manage over 500 employees, a \$50 million budget, and the complex legal issues the court faces daily. The everyday decisions I must make are incredibly difficult to say the least. I stay true to my morals, and always do what is right. Impartiality and integrity are of the utmost importance. Further, I have led policy and program-

ming change to equalize opportunity and access for everyone coming to the court. This experience is invaluable in a single judge court like Lakewood.

My plan if elected judge includes strengthening partnerships with our nonprofits, police, schools, and faith-based organizations as support systems for the Lakewood individuals involved in the court. Yes, people that enter the Lakewood Court system are our neighbors. A Help Kiosk, data collection, and evening court hours are a few of my many ideas for Lakewood Court. I believe my record as a knowledgeable and experi-

enced Magistrate, Acting Judge, Attorney and Court Administrator, has prepared me well for the Judgeship. I will bring unique and very relevant experience to the job that will greatly and positively impact the court and community. My 28-year career in public service has been dedicated to helping others and keeping the community safe. It will be my privilege to serve our community at a greater level if I am elected on November 2nd.

*Tess Neff is a 33-year Lakewood resident. She and her husband Rich raised their children here and love being a part of the community.*

### County Unveils Plans For Park And Traffic In Lakewood



A park on the north two lanes of the Clifton/Lake Road Bridge, along with roundabouts for three intersections was just a small part of the County's 53-page plan for the area. See them all online at: [lakewoodobserver.com/forum](http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum)



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-Jason Shachner, Lakewood City Council

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# Lakewood Observer Election Guide



Our 2021 Candidates for City Council-At-Large Seats (3), Left to right in order of finish in the Primary Election are: Council Member Tristan Rader, Council Member Sarah Kepple, Laura Rodriguez Carbone, Councilman Tom Bullock, Mark Schneider and Kyle Baker.

## Lakewood Observer Readers Questions For Council Candidates

This year we received a series of questions from our readers. Most revolved around three topics: Cost of living here. The handling of speeders, drunks, crime etc. And what is the future of the city for residents. We boiled them all down to two that we thought would cover 90% of the readers’ questions. Questions about the future of the hospital hole were left out as there is a link online at the city website to keep everyone up-to-date on what is happening there. With that we kick off Election Questions 2021. The order in which the candidates are presented is the order in which they finished in the Primary Election, from most votes to least. As a reader you would be best served by reading all the answers and thinking about how they apply to your life in Lakewood.

**Please describe your current job and past experience. (50 words)**

### Tristan Rader

I am a solar energy advocate, policy nerd, and public servant dedicated to making the world a more sustainable place, one solar panel at a time. I am currently the Ohio Program Director at Solar United Neighbors and a Lakewood City Councilman, with a Masters in Public Administration from CSU.

### Sarah Kepple

After serving as a librarian for over a decade at Lakewood Public Library and throughout the Cuyahoga County Public Library system, I launched my technology education business Gigalearn in 2014. I co-founded Action Together Lakewood Area, and I was honored to be unanimously appointed to City Council in February.

### Laura Rodriguez Carbone

I currently work as a member of the Federal COVID Response team under the direction of the White House, helping to address health care needs across the region in response to the pandemic. I am also the Co-Chair of Lakewood’s Anti-Racism Task Force.

### Tom Bullock

Most experienced member of Lakewood City Council—over 13 years. More than 25 years in public service and government, including on Capitol Hill and for top Ohio officials. Represented a national foundation and led Ohio advocacy on clean energy. Currently executive director for an Ohio utility consumer advocate and watchdog.

### Mark Schneider

I serve as a prosecutor and assistant law director locally. Before that, I was a State Representative and county prosecutor in the Major Trial Unit. I am a former co-chairperson of the Lakewood Citizens Advisory Committee and have volunteered for several Lakewood organizations, including St. Luke’s Church.

### Kyle Baker

- Cleveland Metroparks - Director of Real Estate/Legal Counsel (acquired/protected 1,000+ acres of greenspace and procurement/contracting for construction projects).
- Thompson Hine - attorney practicing construction, real estate, and government contracts law.
  - Lakewood - Planning Commission/Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation.
  - Ohio - externed for Ohio Supreme Court/Ohio House of Representatives.

### Question 1

**No one can dispute the fact that there has been an influx of businesses, mostly bars and restaurants, and a gentrification of the community. The previous two administrations had the residents carrying more than their fair share of the burden for this build-up through failed developments, taxes, property evaluation, and giveaways to both businesses and developers. Describe 3 programs you are looking to start that would principally benefit residents. Highlight which ones will help current Lakewoodites stay in their homes and/or improve their daily life. (250 words)**

### Tristan Rader

- I support capping the cost to residents of sidewalk repair. Good sidewalks are a common community interest, while typical damage to sidewalks is something which individual households have little control over.
- On Council, I played a lead role developing an eight-point affordable housing strategy. So far, we have followed through with more than \$1 million to help 500 families and seniors stay in their homes through and beyond the pandemic. We have also reduced scheduled water-rate increases.
- I support expanding the homestead property-tax exemption. I'm now working with the Housing Committee leadership, to get the best expertise available involved in identifying the most effective actions we can take next to support affordability.

### Sarah Kepple

- Serving on the Americans with Disabilities Act Task Force and on the Housing, Planning, & Development Committee, I see the potential for our new development projects to provide affordable and accessible housing, pay prevailing wage to create good local jobs, utilize women & minority-owned enterprises, and implement sustainability measures like reducing water runoff and adding to our tree canopy. Additionally, we can and should better advertise the city’s no-low interest loans for seniors and folks with disabilities for home adaptations and improvements.
- Our recent allotment of ARPA Funds, as well as potential Build Back Better federal dollars, presents a great opportunity to strengthen our technological and sustainable infrastructure. Solutions now exist to provide universal high-speed internet access throughout the city to reduce barriers for students, utility costs for seniors, and hiccups for those working from home. As one step toward this, I have proposed improving and expanding wifi in our public parks. To make it easier for residents to interact with their government, I helped establish eComment and closed-captioned live-streaming. With the majority of users now accessing the internet through mobile devices rather than desktop computers, the next step that I’ve proposed is to review the information most commonly needed by constituents and update the City’s app to be fully responsive, integrated with other city systems, and accessible, particularly for the Report a Problem type of concerns, and ideally with multiple language options.
- Finally, I have proposed development of a digital marketplace and delivery system to keep local dollars in our community.

### Laura Rodriguez Carbone

- 1) Expansion of health services to help working families, seniors, residents with disabilities, and others access immunizations and screenings in public facilities including the new community center.
- 2) Close loopholes that allow discrimination against renters, many of whom are seniors or those with disabilities. Additionally, ensure new development incorporates resident feedback and affordable housing.
- 3) Ensure our business community is supported in both the near and short term by recommending Lakewood hire an economic development officer who can prioritize Lakewood’s small businesses, including those owned by women and people of color. A more focused approach to Lakewood’s commercial development can also help ensure our businesses thrive while protecting residential quality of life.

### Tom Bullock

- 1) Keeping our foundation sound: remaining disciplined in responsible budgeting, effective management, and investment in workforce training and technology so our delivery of core city services (such as refuse, police, fire, street repair, and snow plowing) is reliable, effective, and cost-effective. Lakewood has come a long way in improving in these areas, and we can’t take that progress for granted.
- 2) Innovating every year: attracting residents through continuous improvement to our neighborhoods such as by slowing down cut-through speeders on more streets through expanded use of traffic calming; extending our investment in parks to include sports fields, so every square inch is beautiful, functional, highly used, and supports excellence in recreational sports; and extending options for affordable, 100 percent clean power to all Lakewood residents and businesses.
- 3) Addressing emerging strategic issues to position Lakewood for long-term success: attracting and shaping major commercial development so they add vital-



# Lakewood Observer Election Guide

ity, new residents, and new customers while fitting within Lakewood’s context; building on our strength as a walkable streetcar town to make our city green and healthy--a place where health happens in neighborhoods (a type of resiliency that’s all the more important in the midst of the COVID-19 public health crisis).

**Mark Schneider**

1) Whether Council realizes it or not, the decisions being made at City Hall are pricing residents, especially seniors, out of our community. Our senior citizens deserve the right to age in place and to afford to remain in our community. Twenty years of public service experience at the state, county and local levels of government give me a unique perspective to work with our state and county governments to push for deferment of property tax increases for senior citizens until a point of sale. I have been involved in innovative programs like this before, such as when I fought for funding for the Homestead Tax Exemption. This would prevent our seniors from being taxed out of their homes.

2) I will seek to partner with non-profit organizations like Lakewood Alive to offer grants and microloans to seniors for home improvements. As costs of homeownership continue to increase, this would allow seniors access to needed funds to remain in compliance with our building code.

3) I will use my extensive experience and proven track record at development to hold developers accountable and finally redevelop the former Lakewood Hospital site, expanding our tax base and easing the tax burden on our residents, especially seniors. To accomplish this, we need to craft a rock-solid development agreement and aggressively hold any developer to its task and commitments. We cannot afford another setback. I have done so as a State Representative, and as a local assistant law director. I can do it again on Council.

**Kyle Baker**

1) Property tax relief/low interest loans for home improvement. The new county property reevaluation will net \$3-4 million in additional municipal revenue for Lakewood. Those funds should be used to help seniors/those on fixed incomes with property tax relief/to provide low/no interest loans for home improvement focused on accessibility/aging in place (either directly from the City or with local non-profits like LakewoodAlive/Lakewood Community Services Center).

2) Climate resiliency planning/implementation. With potential federal infrastructure investment, we should implement the recommendations of the Resiliency Planning Task Force like incentivizing solar panels/battery storage technology/increasing fiberoptic connections to neighborhoods/potentially burying power lines to position Lakewood as a place with a resilient power grid for a future that includes much more work from home. With more frequent extreme storms and heat, there are more power outages, which are not only inconvenient, but dangerous for those with health issues/seniors and cost our residents/businesses in lost productivity. With solar panels/battery technology/better fiberoptic internet, a household/business could remain powered through grid outages allowing for a more climate resilient Lakewood.

3) Citywide snow removal programs. Some other suburbs do snow removal on all sidewalks. Lakewood has nearly 180 miles in sidewalks, so this would be expensive. However, we should study using American Rescue Plan/federal infrastructure dollars on capital equipment for sidewalk snow removal focusing on the main commercial corridors/pathways to school (possible partnership with Lakewood City Schools). This would provide for a safer/more accessible system of sidewalks for Lakewood residents/visitors.

**Question 2**

**What will you do to provide relief to residents whose quality of life has been impaired by the ever increasing intrusion of businesses into our residential areas? This includes outdoor dining, speeding/parking, loud behavior, accessibility to our sidewalks, crime etc.** (150 words)

**Tristan Rader**

In redevelopment, I always work to get local residents’ concerns heard and accommodated as much as realistically possible. Neighborhood and historic character are critical parts of what Lakewood offers.

I support a residents-first approach to street parking, to give residents priority access to parking in front of their homes.

Reducing speeding, and diverting “cut through” traffic away from residential streets onto main corridors, are also priorities for me. Residents have confirmed that traffic-calming measures like that on Marlowe are effective. I work to let more people know about this program, and I am here to help residents on any street.

**Sarah Kepple**

I have proposed the formation of an Intersectional Safety Committee comprised of community members with a diverse combination of experience to work with City leadership including traditional safety forces, planning, and human services to consider safety from a holistic lens and to proactively help residents rise from the mental, physical, and financial trauma of the pandemic; use research based approaches to buck the national trend of rising gun violence; and design a more sustainable future. One such approach on which I’m working is the development of a Community Stewards program to educate neighborhood leaders to connect their neighbors with resources, build resiliency, and community engagement. Serving on the Americans with Disabilities Act Task Force, I helped launch a new tool to make it easier for residents to report accessibility issues, and we’ve begun the work of making sure that all of our public spaces are accessible to all residents.

**Laura Rodriguez Carbone**

While the success of businesses in Lakewood has meant success for many of our residents, we also must maintain the character and safety of our neighborhoods. I believe Lakewood should increase enforcement of our traffic safety laws, accelerate plans to install traffic calming measures at high priority intersections and utilize signage with posted fines for speeding so the rules and consequences are clear to drivers. An addition of a public education campaign to highlight the continuing dangers of speeding will help our neighbors be good neighbors.

**Tom Bullock**

First, neighborhood problem-solving and advocacy by Councilmembers themselves can help to get an effective City response. To help buffer neighborhoods from the effects of commercial areas, I will continue to provide timely, responsive, and effective customer service to solve neighborhood problems and respond to specific neighborhood complaints.

To address speeding, I championed traffic calming, which has been implemented on a limited number of streets but recently implemented as a formal program for more streets. I support funding to expand that and to achieve safety and better quality of life via environmental design, such as engineering a street for lower speeds (traffic calming).

Consistent sidewalk repair was a program I co-championed years ago, and I’m happy to report we are completing our ninth year of a ten-year cycle of sidewalk repairs, resulting in more than 160 miles of sidewalks repaired to date.

**Mark Schneider**

The opportunity for a business to profit in our community must come with a responsibility to our residents. Businesses that jeopardize our safety or quality of life should be held accountable. I would push to hold businesses accountable for safety calls through our criminal nuisance laws, making them responsible for the safety costs that they bring about on our residents. I would institute an annual review process for any public incentives bestowed on businesses, from increased access to public rights of way such as expanded outdoor dining, to tax incentive programs. Businesses who jeopardize our public safety and quality of life should not have the benefit of our public moneys or assets. I am proud to be endorsed by our local FOP lodge, representing our police. I will fight to ensure that our police have the staffing, tools, equipment, and training to keep us safe. Businesses must be accountable.

**Kyle Baker**

Speeding/pedestrian safety/accessible sidewalks can be addressed with increased speed enforcement and traffic calming measures. With enforcement, Lakewood Police should emphasize it to send a message that speeding is not tolerated here. With traffic calming, I have been an advocate for complete streets which integrates people and place in planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our public rights of way (streets, sidewalks, and public spaces). This ensures we place safety over speed, balance the needs of different modes of travel, and support local land uses, residents, and businesses. This would increase safety, decrease car speeds, and improve the bicycle regional transportation network. This includes street treatments that let drivers know that the public right of way is not just for them (i.e., narrowing intersections, creating bumps at crosswalks, adding separated shared-use paths, large speed bump mats, traffic chicanes, reducing speed limits where allowed and feasible, etc.).

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# Lakewood Observer Election Guide

## Questions For Lakewood School Board Candidates

Please describe your current job and past experience. (50 words)

**Ed Favre**

**Now:** Public Safety Consultant and Marine Patrol Officer.  
**Past:** Army National Guard then 37+ years as a Lakewood Police Officer/ Detective - hence my strong advocacy for school safety. I've served multiple BOE terms and am involved in school organizations such as: Athletic and Music Boosters, Safety Town and LHS PTA.

**Nora Katzenberger**

Currently I am a writer and community volunteer, much of my time spent in Lakewood Schools. I chaired the 2020 Lakewood School Levy. Previously, I worked in communications and public relations at the Bank of New York, New York University, University Hospitals of Cleveland and Progressive Insurance.

**Betsy Shaughnessy**

I have been a member of the Lakewood Board of Education since 1994 serving as President 7 times. I worked for Lakewood Hospital, St John Medical Center and University Hospitals. I was a Lakewood Library Trustee and am currently a member of the Lakewood Foundation and League of Women Voters.

**Question 1**  
**What do you see as the biggest challenge facing Lakewood City Schools? What will you do about it?**

**Ed Favre**

Aside from navigating through the pandemic, our next challenge is to keep our students in school and tackle learning loss. We will follow recommendations and will err on the side of safety for our students and staff. During my tenure, we planned and completed the greatest construction project in Lakewood history with the complete rebuilding of our schools. The modern HVAC systems circulate, change and filter air at a rate comparable to hospitals and flexibility in spacing of our students and staff to keep them safe. While inconveniences do exist, they are far outweighed by the benefits of in-school learning.

**Nora Katzenberger**

The pandemic is the most pressing issue facing the district today. Keeping students and teachers in school, safely, is the priority. With a lack of state and county guidance, our administrators and board must make the best decisions for the health and safety of our teachers and students. I support the mask mandate currently in place, and I applaud the vaccine clinics that have been scheduled. I would work with city leaders to expand these measures and provide more vaccine information and opportunities for our community. Our schools fare best when we partner with our community members for solutions.

**Betsy Shaughnessy**

Our most pressing issues are maintaining a safe in-person learning environment for our students, making up for the learning loss experienced by our children, continuing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, and addressing the strain the pandemic has put on relationships and our community.  
We can keep our children in school by requiring masks, encouraging vaccination, and improved ventilation. Intervention and enrichment provided by additional staff is needed to address the learning loss of individual students. DEI



Lakewood Board of Education candidates. We are electing two. Left to right: Ed Favre, Nora Katzenberger, Betsy Shaughnessy  
work will continue in all areas of school life. Increased dialogue around issues of concern may help reduce distrust or misunderstanding.

**Question 2**  
**Cite one new and unique plan you have for Lakewood schools.**

**Ed Favre**

To combat our declining enrollment and further enhance student learning, I am advocating for a district-wide before and after school program synchronized with the regular school day. This would surpass the current before and after school care that is provided by outside organizations and most importantly would supplement the teaching and learning that occurs during the regular school day. We should also incorporate an all-day Pre-K program which would create and motivate early learning, of which we know the value. These programs would entice prospective students and families, further support our diverse student population and provide critical assistance for our working parents.

**Nora Katzenberger**

I want to study the different learning models Lakewood Schools implemented during the pandemic. We could collect data and hold focus groups with teachers, students, parents, and administrators to learn what worked and what didn't. How can we leverage new technology? What did we learn about different learning styles that we can implement in the classroom? What targeted programs should we develop for children with disabilities and mental health issues? If we take the time to gather this valuable information now, we can use it as a basis for future educational plans that better serve our students.

**Betsy Shaughnessy**

I cannot promise a plan but I can say that I would like to see our summer school program include more opportunities for students to have experiences that will make them better prepared for learning. Field trips provide many of our underserved students the opportunity to see the bigger world. They can stimulate curiosity and friendships that build the capacity of children to be successful and be confident. I believe we can then build on that confidence to encourage these students to be successful in academic areas and take advantage of college credit classes or subjects they might have avoided.



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# Lakewood Observer Election Guide

## Questions For Lakewood Municipal Judge Candidates

Please describe your current job and past experience. (50 words)

Tess Neff

**Current:** Juvenile Court Administrator. Manage 500 staff, \$50 million budget, court operations, address complex legal issues.

**Past:** Performed the duties of Lakewood Municipal Court Judge for 10 years as Acting Judge and Judicial Magistrate deciding every type of case that appears before the Court.

- Judicial Magistrate Juvenile Court.
- Attorney 29 years.
- Police Officer

Sara Fagnilli

My legal experience spans 35 years, as a municipal prosecutor, law director, and attorney in private practice, focused on municipal law. I previously represented the City of Lakewood. I am currently the Prosecutor for the Cities of Hudson, Vermilion, and Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor for the City of Streetsboro.

Question 1

What is your judicial philosophy? (50 words}

Tess Neff

There are really two judicial philosophies: Restraint and Activism. In a municipal court a mixture is needed. When legal decisions are made, restraint must be used by applying the law in a fair manner. However, activism is useful to proactively link individuals and companies with resources that may be available.

Sara Fagnilli

Judges must come to work every day recognizing they are in a position of trust that has been granted by the public they serve. Experience, deep knowledge of the law, and good temperament ensures that everyone appearing in court is treated fairly, justly, and respectfully.

Question 2

The Lakewood Court established a housing court diversion program to assist residents in addressing housing code violations and bringing homes into compliance. Do you support this program? Please describe any other procedures you would implement to address housing code violations in Lakewood. (100 words)

Tess Neff

Yes. Compliance is important to protect the safety and quality of our neighborhoods, and property values. Diversion is great, but resources are needed to assist the homeowners. The Court must collaborate with the Building and Planning Departments. The Heritage Loan and Home Enhancement Loan Programs are excellent means of assistance where the Building Department can serve as the resource to help the owner to work through their noncompliance. Also, the Planning Department can allocate resources to assist homeowners by seeking block grants. Fining and charging homeowners should be the last resort so that money can be used toward compliance.



Candidates for Lakewood Municipal Judge. We vote for one.  
Left to right: Tess Neff, Sara Fagnilli

Sara Fagnilli

Housing code violations may seem like minor infractions to some but they directly impact a city in terms of value, safety, and economy. This program has had a positive impact on Lakewood by helping people avoid undue stress while trying to maintain their property. Housing must continue to be a priority for Lakewood and the court. I have successfully utilized similar diversion programs for several cities. I will continue this program and also utilize the new Eviction Toolkit recently announced by the Ohio Supreme Court to work with landlords and tenants to maintain safe housing for residents and ensuring landlords receive rental payments to be able to meet their obligations.

Question 3

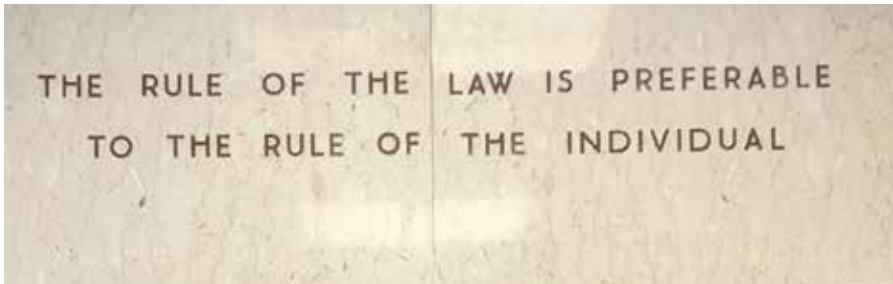
If elected, do you plan to implement any new programs with the Lakewood Court? Please describe. (50 words)

Tess Neff

I will plan to implement the following programs:  
Help Kiosk to provide resources to assist citizens about the court processes.  
Data Collection to track case outcomes, demographics.  
Evening Court hours to increase access to the court.  
Diversion Matrix to provide equal opportunities.  
E-filing for convenience and efficiency.

Sara Fagnilli

Continue implementing the court’s docketing system to provide more complete information to the public. Utilize technology to increase productivity and provide options for handling cases to minimize impacts on daily life: video appearances, telephone conferencing, and implementation of a night court or similar alternative. More diversion programs for first-time offenders in criminal and traffic matters.



Paid for by Tristan Rader for City Council

NOV. 2 GENERAL ELECTION – RE-ELECT

TRISTAN RADER

to Lakewood City Council At-large

Endorsed by Senator Sherrod Brown and

Lakewood Mayor Meghan F. George

City Council President Dan O’Malley

Cuyahoga Councilman Dale Miller

State Senator Nickie Antonio

State Rep. Michael J. Skindell

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# Lakewood Community

## "The Pit" And The Pendulum Of Community Involvement

by Laura Rodriguez-Carbone

Earlier this year, the city of Lakewood entered into an agreement with Casto to redevelop the former site of Lakewood Hospital. As of August the city, according to its website, anticipated that by the end of 2020, city council would advance legislation authorizing the negotiation of a Development Agreement with Casto and start the Planned Development zoning process.

From the discovery of hazardous chemicals, issues with the foundation, to supply chain breakdowns, increased supply costs and delayed timelines for construction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest profile development project our city has seen in a hundred years has seemed to have stalled. Considering the issues found at the site, it's important that we do our due diligence to make sure we erase any trace of adverse environmental or safety hazards to keep future patrons, business owners and residents safe. This, understandably, takes time. We also have to factor in safety protocols for those who will work to rebuild the site, as many new precautionary measures have been taken by construction companies to mitigate risk and labor shortages because of the pandemic.

But, communication with residents is also key. Questions about the site can come from long absences of direct communication from city leaders. Factors like the continuing pandemic limit public meetings and



opportunities for connection, but community input and clarity on the intended changes, designs, and amenities for this site is critical to ensure everyone feels included and informed on next steps in the process, even if the next steps right now can't yet include direct onsite construction.

The fact is, there will ultimately be changes to the original design and usage of the site based on the unique factors and limitations found after removing the old hospital. According to the city's website, Casto has worked throughout this year to update the original design, which will undoubtedly reflect our new post-COVID world and realities. But, it's important that city leaders provide a status update about any issues at hand, and allow our residents to add their input and thoughts about whatever changes

are being proposed.

Considering the history of the loss of the hospital, the worst thing we can do is leave the community on the sidelines of the process. Our world has changed dramatically since the original plans for the site were drawn and discussed five years ago, and it is important that we start the conversations now, much like we did with the new Cove community center, to come to consensus on what types of redevelopment fit our community, its needs, and goals today.

Laura Rodriguez-Carbone is currently Co-Chair of Lakewood's Anti-Racism Task Force and serves on the Board of Directors for the Fedor Manor Senior Living Community. Laura is currently the Midwest Regional Outreach and Communications Lead for Combat COVID, working to increase access to treatment options and equity in clinical research in communities of color.

She and her husband, Christopher have been residents of Lakewood for six years and own their home on McKinley Avenue.

## Help Us Find The Best Display In Spookywood!

continued from page 1

ers, and will be handing some of them out leading up to Halloween Night.

If you see a house worthy of calling out for a prize, send it in through the "Question of the Day" feature on our homepage, or in the "Suggestion Box" or through email: [production@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:production@lakewoodobserver.com).

We will go out and take the photo, and they could possibly be selected for dinner at Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, West End Tavern, or the Root Cafe, on the spot.

Halloween weekend (10.28 - 10.31 midnight) we will open voting for the top twenty decorated homes.

The the top vote earner will receive Grand Champion 2021, and \$100 in Gift Certificates.

Past winners are eligible.

To get this started I drove Lakewood, and took photos of the Halloween displays in daytime.

This week we will be going back at night and getting them too.

Good luck to all, and thank you for celebrating fun, families, kids and Halloween in the city we love.

A running catalog will be posted shortly.



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

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



# Lakewood Living

## HLF Community Meeting - Video Recording Available on YouTube continued from page 5

diverse perspectives and ideas in discussions and decision making.” Khalilah is Senior Organizer at Greater Cleveland Congregations and Becca is Supervisor of University Hospitals Rainbow Center for Child Health and Policy.

HLF will continue to provide updates on its grantmaking and outreach during the remainder of the year. Both a recording of the meeting and the four grantee video conversations are available on the Healthy Lakewood Foundation's public YouTube channel.

About the Healthy Lakewood Foundation: The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) is a 501(c)3 non-

profit foundation. HLF was created to ensure remaining assets from the conversion of the Lakewood Hospital will continue to benefit the health and wellness of residents in the City of Lakewood. HLF was established in September 2018 as part of the master agreement following the closing of Lakewood Hospital. HLF was formed from the Foundation Planning Task Force and through their recommendation to the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association.

To learn more about HLF, visit <http://healthylakewoodfoundation.org>, or email the foundation at [info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org](mailto:info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org).

## Lakewood Black Caucus Addresses Racism In America

by Patricia Wellborn

The newly formed Lakewood Black Caucus in conjunction with the Barton Senior Center will hold a series of six video lectures and documentaries on the history of racism against African Americans and how structural racism has shaped every facet of human interaction in this country. The educational series will be held at The Barton Senior Center, 14300 Detroit Ave. in the Auditorium. There will be two films per week for three weeks from November 2nd through November 18th. The dates

are November 2nd, 4th, 9th, 12th, 16th and 18th. from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. The participants will view the film, and have the opportunity to ask questions. This program is free and open to everyone.

The Lakewood Black Caucus was formed in July of 2021 to specifically address the special needs of not only the Black residents of the Westerly Apartments, but for all of the new and existing Black residents of Lakewood. LBC provides education, community

continued on page 15



**ARIES:** The Ram’s focus this month is on relationships, luck is found with your friendships/groups, since you’re always on the run, & fast...go to a Halloween party as Man o’ War (horse)

**TAURUS:** Uranus is in the Bull’s house of identity, change it up a bit, come out of your comfort zone & show up at the office party as a down-n-out hobo, hitching a ride on the back of a train

**GEMINI:** The Twins are finding a bit of luck traveling to a foreign place this month, & romance seems to be following you, when in Rome...go to the party as a bottle of Chianti Classico

**CANCER:** Jupiter is lined up in your house of other people’s money, play the lotto, look for monies coming from other’s, inheritance maybe? Have a home party this year Crab, by the shore

**LEO:** Throw a block party Lion, the Jungle is where it’s happening for you, Jupiter is casting its lucky spell on your personal/business relationships, dress up as the King/Queen you are

**VIRGO:** Your focus is on finances this month, and your four-leaf clover is coming to you in the health arena, all those smoothies & time at the gym are paying off, go to the party as Dr. Kildare

**LIBRA:** Mercury Retrograde is in Libra, hold off on updating software till next month, the Sun is shining in your first house, it’s all about you, find your balance, dress up as the Scales of Justice

**SCORPIO:** The Sun is in the Scorpion’s 12th house of secrets, that’s right up your alley, your fortune comes at home on Halloween, do your Vampire bit, & hide behind the underground door

**SAGITTARIUS:** Networking & your associations are where the Centaur should be pointing that bow-n-arrow, Venus enters your sign, go to the party as the Huntsman who saved Snow White

**CAPRICORN:** The Goat is hitting the jackpot this month, the Sun is shining in your career sector, & Jupiter is in your house of finances, own it; go to

the party as the Wolf of Wall Street

**AQUARIUS:** Focus is on 9th house studies, higher learning, metaphysics & astrology, Jupiter is in your 1st house, rock the world in a big way, show up at the part as the eccentric Gypsy

**PISCES:** Something big is going on behind the scenes in the Fish’s Pond, may have something to do with money from another source...make your entrance at the ball as a Fish Called Wanda

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



A wooden sign for "WOODSTOCK" in large, orange, block letters. Below it, in smaller orange letters, is "woodstocksmokejoint.com". To the left of the sign is a Cleveland Magazine cover from 2016, featuring "BEST of CLE" and "BEST BARBECUE Winner". Below the sign is a menu board with items like "BBQ WHISKEY BEER", "\$5 MULE MONDAYS", "\$2 TACO TUESDAY", "\$6 WING WEDNESDAY", "\$12 RIB THURSDAY", "HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM", and "ALWAYS SMOKING...".

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# Letters To The Editor

## Judicial Endorsement

by Maureen Arbeznik

I first became acquainted with Sara Fagnilli almost two decades ago when I taught her two sons. I was always impressed with how candid, courteous, fair-minded, and articulate she was, as well as how deeply committed she was to her family and to her community. It wasn't until several years later that I discovered the breadth of her municipal legal experience not only in Lakewood, but all over northern Ohio as well. Our community will be well served to have someone of Sara's character and integrity as our next Municipal Court Judge. I urge you to consider her trusted experience when you cast your ballot.

Maureen Arbeznik has been a Lakewood resident for 40+ years and is a long-time educator and administrator in Lakewood parochial schools.

## Tess Neff Is The Ideal Choice For Lakewood Judge

We are lifetime Lakewood residents. We have over 100 years of experience as practicing attorneys. We have been prosecutors. We have been defense attorneys. We have handled countless cases in the Lakewood Municipal Court as attorneys and as Acting Judge.

Most importantly, we know there is one ideal candidate for Lakewood Judge: Tess Neff.

Tess is a caring person with the perfect temperament for judicial office. We know this because we have seen her in action: Tess served for years as a Judicial Magistrate and Acting Judge in Lakewood. Significantly, she is the only candidate in this race with any judicial experience. Her opponent has not presided over a single court case, while Tess has presided over literally thousands of criminal and civil cases involving Lakewood residents. And she has done so with fairness, integrity, compassion and humility.

Tess is widely respected by our colleagues and peers in the legal community, including those with substantial experience in Lakewood Court as civil attorneys, prosecutors and defense attorneys. You need not take our word for it: when the five greater Cleveland area bar associations that comprise Judge4Yourself.com thoroughly assessed and then rated the candidates for this critical position, Tess received the greatest number of "Excellent" ratings.

Tess Neff is the known, proven quantity in this race. She is the absolute perfect choice to serve as judge on the Lakewood Municipal Court.

Henry Hilow, Kevin Spellacy, Jim Wooley  
James Wooley is a Lakewood High grad, lifetime Lakewood resident, practicing attorney who has, among other things, been a federal prosecutor, a state prosecutor, a defense attorney, and Acting Judge in Lakewood. Henry Hilow and Kevin Spellacy are also lifetime Lakewood residents and experienced attorneys.

## WordStage Literary Concerts Presents An Evening Of Mystery Romance And Murder

by Tim Tavcar

On Friday, October 29th at 7:30 p.m. - just in time for the Halloween season, WordStage Literary Concerts presents a double bill of mystery, romance, and murder adapted from literary masterpieces written by Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edgar Allan Poe.

The program will feature dramatic treatments of Hawthorne's romantic and tragic short story, "Rappaccini's Daughter" by Christopher P. Nolan and Jeffrey Hatcher's masterful mélange of many excerpts from the Poe canon in his one-act play, "Murder by Poe", performed by ten of the talented WordStage Company Members.

These chilling tales will be accompanied by poignant and malevolent music from the pens of Erik Satie, Camille Saint-Saens, and Edvard Grieg, played on the Wright Chapel's Steinway grand Piano by Patrick Wickliffe.

WordStage performances are in the Wright Chapel of the Lakewood Presbyterian Church - 14502 Detroit Ave. in Downtown Lakewood, OH. The Church and Chapel are fully accessible and ADA compliant. We request that all our audience members come with a masked unless medical reasons prevent them from doing so. We will have free masks available at our Box Office for anyone who needs them.

Tickets are \$20.00 for adults/\$10.00 for students and seniors, WordStage also maintains a policy of "pay what you can" so that our performances are accessible to all who wish to see them. Currently, our box office accepts cash or check only.

Reservations can be made by calling 440-857-0717 or purchased at the door the evening of the performance. You can also visit our website at [www.wordstageoh.com](http://www.wordstageoh.com) and leave us a message on our "Contact Us" page.



Council members Jason Shachner, Sarah Kepple, Dan O'Malley and John Litten.

## Re-Elect Sarah Kepple

As the three Lakewood City Council members who aren't on the ballot this year, we want to be sure our fellow residents know how we feel about our colleague, Sarah Kepple.

Sarah has been an active member of our community for many years. When she applied to fill a vacant seat on Council last year, she was selected unanimously from a crowded field of applicants. Since then she has distinguished herself as a leader at Lakewood City Hall, thinking critically and outside-the-box to confront the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and many other issues. She has provided a voice to the marginalized in our city and has made it clear she believes all residents of Lakewood are integral parts of the community. She has boldly championed racial justice, economic empowerment, the rights of the

disabled, and transparency in government.

Simply put, Sarah Kepple has been an invaluable addition to Lakewood City Hall. She has a unique ability to think like a policy wonk and yet illuminate complex issues to her colleagues and neighbors alike. As city councilmembers - and as residents ourselves - we are proud to enthusiastically endorse her.

Please join us in voting to keep Sarah Kepple on Lakewood City Council. Election Day is November 2nd. Early voting has begun

Jason Shachner  
Ward 2  
John Litten  
Ward 3  
Daniel J. O'Malley  
Ward 4

## Vote For Kyle Baker

Redevelopment of the old Lakewood Hospital site may be the most important issue facing Lakewood at this time and yet, most of the candidates for council hardly mention it. The City's recent settlement with Carnegie Management brings new hope that this property can be developed wisely; washing away lingering bitterness about the hospital closure and subsequent questions regarding Carnegie's connections to former Lakewood politicians.

Kyle Baker appears uniquely qualified to help Lakewood move forward. As a real estate lawyer working for Cleveland Metroparks, his knowledge about public/corporate partnerships is tailor made for this situation. Whether your ideology leans more toward strengthening safety forces, or expanding social programs, you can't accomplish much without revenue. Please vote for Kyle G. Baker for city council in November.

Thank you,  
Donna Childs

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Ed Favre with two of his daughters and his Little League team.

# Re-Elect Ed Favre For Lakewood School Board

continued from page 1

and the Board knows that the best we can do for our students is to have them back in class. To do so, we must follow recommendations and, when necessary, err on the side of safety. Some inconveniences are far outweighed by having kids safely in classrooms. Our staff is to be commended for working above and beyond the norm.

The above notwithstanding, we operate with a state government that has become less friendly to public education and diverts tax dollars to private businesses running schools. These companies do not and cannot address the needs of all students. The Lakewood City Schools do.

Beyond the pandemic, we need to combat our declining enrollment and further enhance student learning. I am advocating for a district-wide before and after school program synchronized with the regular school day. This would surpass the current before and after school care that is provided by other organizations and most importantly would supplement the teaching and learning that occurs during the regular school day. We should also incorporate an all-day Pre-K program which would create and motivate early learning, of which we know the value. These programs would attract prospective students and families, further

support our diverse student population and provide critical assistance for our working parents.

Experience is needed during these challenging times and we must maintain consistency going forward. I respectfully ask for your support. I've been endorsed by Mayor Meghan George, State Representative Michael Skindell, the North Shore AFL-CIO, C.A.M.E.O, the UAW, the Fraternal Order of Police #25, and recommended by the Lakewood Teachers Association.

## Lakewood Black Caucus Addresses Racism In America

continued from page 13

support and a safe space to express our unique concerns and find solutions.

This educational series is one of LBC's outreach programs for all of the citizens of Lakewood who truly believe in diversity, equity and inclusion and are willing to take actionable steps to make this a reality in Lakewood.


For more information contact Patricia at queenmistressp@yahoo.com

*Patricia Wellborn is an African American woman, and has lived in Lakewood since 2015. She is a senior, and active in social justice work. She is the president of the newly formed Lakewood Black Caucus.*

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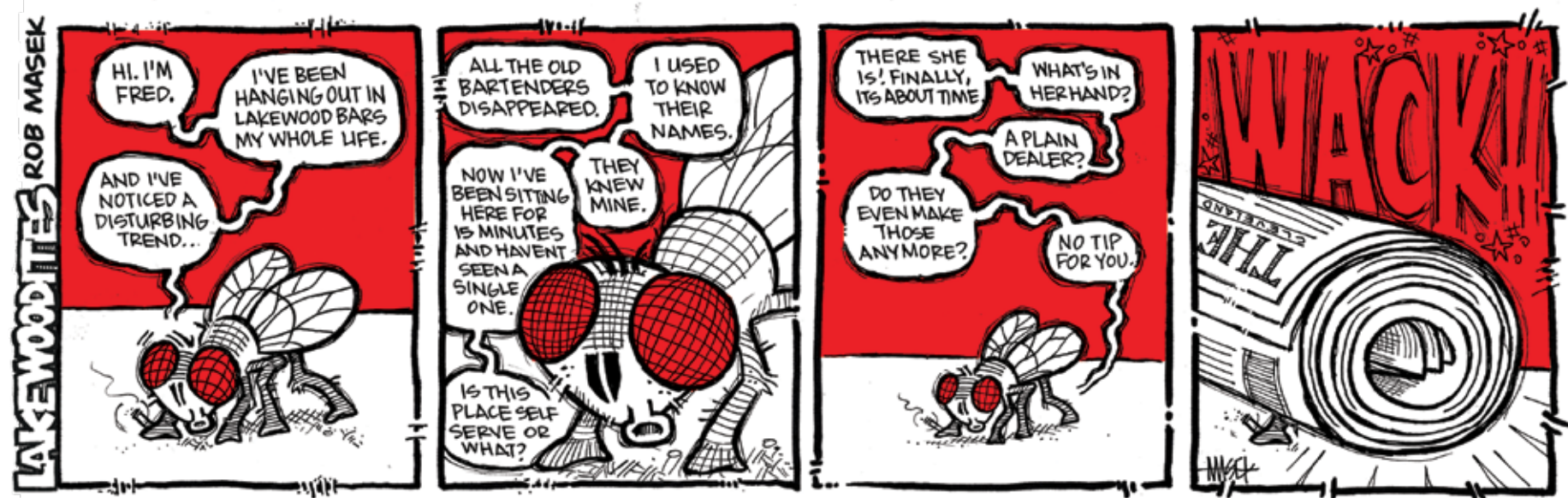
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Legal Aid thanks the Healthy Lakewood Foundation for its outreach support!