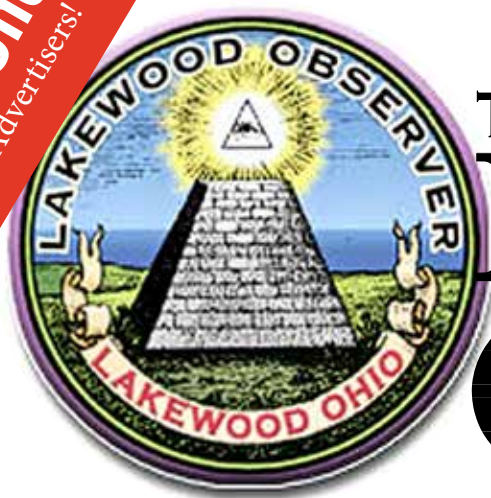


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Volume 17, Issue 21, November 3, 2021

Election Results 2021

**Sarah Kepple, Tristan Rader
Tom Bullock Remain On Council**

Tess Neff In As Judge

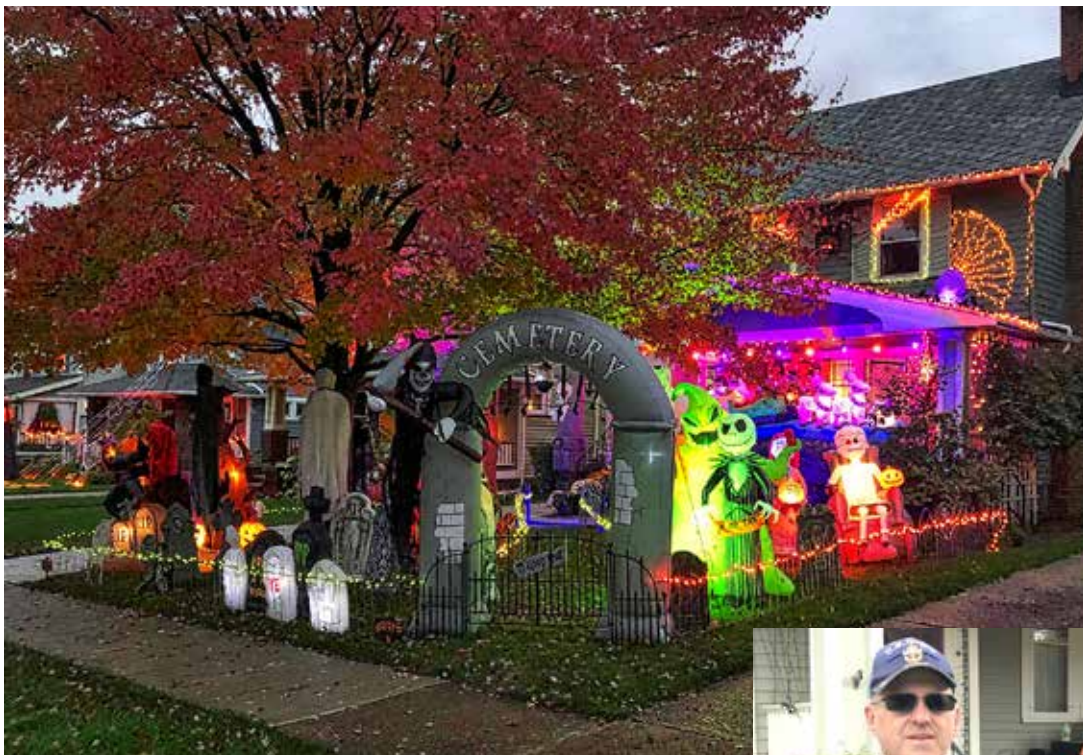
**Nora Katzenberger And
Betsy Shaughnessy
On Board Of Education**

Superintendent Listen & Learn Is Nov. 17

by Christine Gordillo

Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki will hold her second Listen & Learn session of the school year on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 6 pm in the Ranger Cafe at Lakewood High School. Listen & Learn give the parents and the greater community an opportunity to have the superintendent's ear. Bring you comments, questions, ideas. Drop in any time during the one-hour session.

Spookywood Grand Champion 2021



The Shell house at 1661 Lewis took top honors this year along with \$100 in fine dining from Woodstock BBQ. Chris Shell accepts the award: "I don't do this for the contest but I'll take the Woodstock BBQ, best barbecue in Cleveland!"

by Jim O'Bryan

Thank you everyone for an amazing Thank you everyone for an amazing Best In Spookywood decorating contest. This year we ended up with 212 quality entries! This underlines just how dedicated Lakewoodites are to having fun on city-wide levels.

The number of top quality entrants increased as well. We are now out awarding over

\$500 in gift certificates from Woodstock Smoke Joint BBQ, India Garden and West End Tavern. Three of the finest dining establishments in their fields in the the city!

What is not claimed will be rolled over to our Christmas/Holiday Lighting Contest which kicks off December 1.

We have already delivered prizes to Chris Shell and Sue

December 4

Light Up Lakewood 2021 To Spread Holiday Cheer

by Jacqueline Bon

LakewoodAlive's Festive Outdoor Community Event Returns to Downtown Lakewood

The most joyous of Lakewood traditions is returning to Downtown Lakewood for the 15th annual celebration. The spirit of the season will come to life with holiday cheer when Light Up Lakewood 2021 takes place on Saturday, December 4 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood and presented by LakewoodAlive, Light Up Lakewood celebrates the season and the richness of our



city's vibrancy. This free, family-friendly event on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter fireworks, The Roundstone Beer Garden, Holiday Train, live music, ice carvings, hot chocolate, food trucks, children's games and more.

Attendees are invited to stroll Lakewood's downtown district and visit local shops and restaurants while taking in the sights and sounds of one of Northeast Ohio's largest holiday celebrations. Light Up Lakewood serves as a marquee event for the entire region.

Light Up Lakewood represents a long-held holiday celebration of Lakewood's sense of community. Guests will be delighted by the festive atmosphere which includes the twinkle of holiday lights, the cheerful sounds of carolers and the warmth of hot beverages.

Highlights include the Outdoor Vendor Village; The Roundstone Beer Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance; the ever-popular Holiday Parade, which commences at Manor Park Avenue at 5 p.m. and ends at Elmwood Avenue; the Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at City Center Park and a can't-miss fireworks show at 7 p.m. over Downtown Lakewood.

Things to see and do at Light Up Lakewood 2021:

Outdoor Vendor Village
Live Music, DJs and food trucks

The Roundstone Beer

Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance on Detroit Avenue between Arthur and Mars Avenues

Holiday Parade starting at Manor Park and Detroit Avenues, headed westbound on Detroit Avenue

Santa Sightings along Detroit Avenue

Lighting Ceremony at Main Stage at City Center Park (in front of the Marc's Plaza)



Fireworks Show sponsored by First Federal Lakewood

"After a year apart, we're thrilled to come back together for Light Up Lakewood. This long-standing community event has become a tradition for thousands of Lakewoodites and visitors from across the region alike," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "We hope that the festive atmosphere

continued on page 11



Chris Shell with his prize,

Easter. If your house is pictured on page 7 please contact the Lakewood Observer at: production@lakewoodobserver.com to arrange when we can drop off your prize. Any prize not claimed by November 30 will be rolled over to next contest!

The Mayor's Corner

Safety Is Top Priority

by Meghan George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

Safety has always been a top priority for our city, and since taking office as mayor last year, I have taken numerous steps to address safety in Lakewood. That includes capital investments such as 40 additional cameras with enhanced technology that we have installed across the city. But it also includes being strategic in how we approach the work. In that vein, we developed a strategic plan for comprehensive safety at our parks, including our safety forces staffing, physical improvements, and more community involvement.

Part of that strategic plan included physical changes as simple as trimming trees to improve visibility, but it also included working with community groups to increase programming. One

key aspect of the plan I would like to highlight was increasing the presence of our city security guards at parks. Lakewood now has uniformed security guards present seven days a week at Madison Park, including evening hours. This is an increased presence and these security guards work in partnership with our police officers to patrol parks and increase safety by keeping eyes on the grounds and the activities taking place.

As you likely have heard, there was an incident at Madison Park in October where one of our security guards observed a male who appeared to be having a drug or mental health related crisis episode. Our security guard called police to respond, and continued to observe the male. When the suspect grabbed a child practicing soccer at the park, the security guard immediately

jumped into action with a coach to subdue the suspect and hold him down until officers quickly arrived.

I was highly concerned for the safety of the children and others involved in this incident. I am thankful that the enhanced safety protocols implemented earlier this year were successful in preventing a bad situation from becoming much worse. Our security guard spotted the issue, kept an eye on the situation, and then acted immediately with others on scene to apprehend the suspect when he grabbed a child.

Our city has moved to prosecute the suspect to the fullest extent of the law. He is currently in custody and charged with kidnapping, a first degree felony. I want to personally thank our security guard, who has decades of public safety work experience and used his training well to protect our children. I also want to thank the coach who helped subdue

the suspect, the other parents on scene, and our police officers who also took swift action to help.

I have personally spoken to the parents of the victims to check on their wellness. Support services are also being offered to any children who were involved or witnessed the situation and whose families are interested. I have also met with the leadership from the soccer team that was practicing that day, and have spoken with others to keep an open dialogue on working continuously to improve safety. I know that by listening and fine tuning our approaches, we can always keep improving safety in Lakewood.

Lakewood's parks are community treasures and we will continue to be vigilant in working to make them as safe as possible.

Sincerely,
Mayor Meghan F. George

Russian Pianist Arsentiy Kharitonov Comes To Lakewood!

by Carol Jacobs

With a Live Audience and a Live Streamed Concert

Lakewood Congregational Church
1375 West Clifton Boulevard,
Lakewood, Ohio

Monday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

Unlike most serious musicians, award-winning pianist Arsentiy Kharitonov started playing piano at the unusually late age of sixteen. His playing began at the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music and the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. Soon he was giving solo recitals that featured his own compositions and improvisations.

Kharitonov learned a variety of musical styles as well as the standard piano repertoire. His first orchestral appearances included solo

performances at the Mariinsky Theatre and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic. In addition, Kharitonov has written multiple scores for various art films and other media in Russia and America.

After a triumphant debut in Carnegie Hall in 2016, the New York Observer noted, "Arsentiy Kharitonov has been placed in the top ranks of keyboard players today." Fanfare Magazine described him as "a pianist of sumptuous tone, technical mastery, and elegant phrasing." We are proud to be hosting another U.S. tour by Arsentiy Kharitonov. He will be playing works by such favorites as Bach, Schubert, Scriabin, and Rachmaninoff.

Read the rest of this article online at:
lakewoodobserver.com

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood Observer



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The View From City Council

by Jason Shachner

Housing, Planning and Development Committee Meeting

At the October 4th Housing, Planning and Development Committee meeting, we discussed the sale of 1451 St. Charles Ave. to Jim Miketo of Neighborhood Drummer. As you may remember, Lakewood has owned nine single-family residential properties adjacent to the former Lakewood Hospital site since the 1980s. Those properties were held for potential expansion of Lakewood Hospital. When a tenant decides not to renew their lease, the Planning and Development Department requests the authority from Council to dispose of the property.

This particular property became distressed several years ago and the home was slated for demolition, until the Planning Department decided to seek alternatives to try and save the home. After several rounds of Request for Proposals (RFPs) seeking a developer who would commit to preserving the exterior of the home the City selected Neighborhood Drummer.

The City requested that the Committee recommend for approval a purchase agreement that would sell the property to Neighborhood Drummer for \$1 with the understanding that the developer will preserve the historic features of the home and sell the home at market rate. There is a profit-sharing clause with the agreement that any profit margin over 25% will be split with the City 50/50.

After hearing the developer express his interest in preserving the home over earning a significant profit on the project and after the City indicated that selling the property “as is” would yield a negligible amount of money for Lakewood and significantly decrease the influence the City has over the look of any future renovation, the Committee recommended the agreement for approval.

HAWK Crosswalk on Madison

For the second consecutive year, I submitted as my Budget Priority the installation of a HAWK crosswalk on Madison Avenue between Westwood/Morrison and Victoria/Revelry, a stretch of approximately 2,440 ft (.46 miles) without an intervening crosswalk. A HAWK crosswalk works as a traffic light for pedestrians and only lights up when a pedestrian presses the button to cross. This area experiences frequent foot traffic due to the popular bars and restaurants and many have observed people crossing the north side of the street from the public parking



lot to the restaurants located directly across on the south side of the street. I am fairly confident that the necessary traffic studies will occur in 2022, but if not, I will continue to advocate for the installation of a crosswalk.

Affordable Housing

Promoting diversity in housing choices and affordability in Lakewood has been a priority for me since joining Council. Councilmember Tristan Rader and I authored a communication informing our colleagues and the public that the Housing, Planning, and Development Committee will be conducting a series of hearings that will provide you an opportunity to learn about the numerous programs that the City has implemented to address affordable housing, receive your input on how we can best address your housing needs, and to discuss potential policies that improve access to affordable housing.

I also coauthored a communication with Mayor George informing my colleagues that the Department of Planning and Development has made substantial progress in investigating barriers to aging in place and that we are ready to begin discussing potential policy solutions, including changes to our Zoning and Building Codes. This discussion will include changes in our code to make it easier to build additions to homes and allow for first-floor master bedrooms and plans for how accessory dwelling units (ADUs) may be part of the solution to provide additional housing options for families and seniors. You can read more about our communication by visiting <https://www.cleveland.com/community/2021/10/lakewood-exploring-aging-in-place-options-for-seniors-priced-out-of-homes.html>.

exploring-aging-in-place-options-for-seniors-priced-out-of-homes.html.

If you are interested in being notified about when these items will be discussed, then please visit <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/lakewood-city-council/> and click on the link for Public Notice Email Sign-Up.

Baseball Field Design Contract

The Board of Control met and approved a contract for \$11,000 with OSPTS/Osborn Engineering for the design of Fox and Usher Fields. Three bids were received and all bids were

reviewed with Lakewood City Schools. The design work is expected to take about two weeks and will rely on the Recreation Department providing field dimensions and other specifics. Once design work is completed, the School District will put out the bid for labor. The City and the District will then review the bids together. The estimated cost of the field renovation, for both fields, is \$125,000.

Radar Speed Signs

A \$17,000 contract was awarded to Traffic Logix Corporation to purchase 6 digital radar speed signs for use in support of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. This acquisition brings the City’s radar speed sign total to 16. Digital signs can be easily moved and are supported by batteries that last for several weeks at a time. The Signs Department has plenty of batteries that they rotate on a needed basis. 6 of the 16 are solar signs, which can be cumbersome and require a bucket truck to move locations. All signs collect data on speed and frequency of travel on a street. After the first year of ownership, the City pays \$400/year per unit for cloud services that integrate with our existing network. The cloud provides real time data to the Department of Planning and Development, which

continued on page 9

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Lakewood Public Library

Virtual Events In November

by Andrea Fisher

Lakewood Public Library will premiere five exciting new virtual events in November. You can watch these programs on facebook.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary and twitter.com/lakewoodlibrary.

Thursday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Watch Case Western Reserve University professor Heather McKee Hurwitz talk about her book, "Are We the 99%?": The Occupy Movement, Feminism, and Intersectionality. Hurwitz discusses how women, people of color, and genderqueer activists struggle to be heard and understood, even as we look at the Occupy movement 10 years later.

Monday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Artist Arabella Proffer talks about her new collection of portraits painted from 1999 to 2019, "Lips, Eyes and Hair." Faced with terminal cancer, Proffer created this collection to showcase twenty years of her realistic and surreal artwork

Thursday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Watch Ida B. Wells-Barnett, portrayed by Women in History's Tina Stump from Women in History. Wells-Barnett was a well-known journalist and activist during the turn of the twentieth century, who was an early leader in the Civil Rights movement and women's suffrage.

Thursday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Writer, poet and director of Bottom Dog Press, Larry Smith shares from his recent book of poetry, "Mingo Town & Memories" and an anthology called "Cleveland Poetry Scenes." Smith examines suffering and inequality, as well as joy and peace.

Tuesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Watch award winning Lakewood documentary filmmaker Lindsay O'Keefe talk about her films, "Alive Day" and "Youth Challenge: The Power of Inclusion." Both films examine what it's like to live with a disability and disability rights, a topic which O'Keefe is very passionate about.

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

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

Children/Youth Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Nic Starr

Virtual Storytime
For all ages

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

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

Virtual Author Visits
For all ages

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

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

Virtual Girls Who Code Club
For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Mondays, November 1, 2021 – November 29, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Using Zoom, club members will focus on the Games in Scratch Activity Set from GirlsWhoCode.org. During the five weeks of this club, members will create 2 different games in Scratch through the online lessons and then together design and



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.

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.

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 or through our Facebook at 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

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. Winner will be selected on November 19, 2021.

create a 3rd game of their choice based on what they learned. The online lessons provide for varying ability from beginners through advanced Scratch users. Build confidence, develop leadership skills and succeed as a team. An email with a Zoom link will be sent to all registrants the day before the session. Please register with a personal email instead of a school email.

Registration is required. Register here (<https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/8427650>) or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.



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Community Service Center

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Barbara at 727-902-2808
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Please bring bags to carry the items you choose. Face mask and gloves required.
No children are permitted in the Center at this time.

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H2O Home Alone Fall 2021

City Of Lakewood H2O “Help to Others”

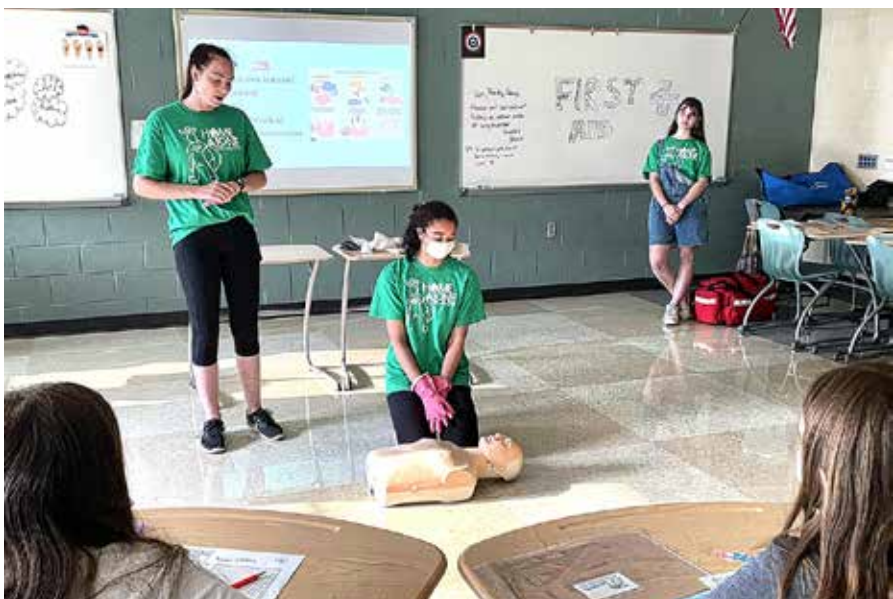
by Greta Frantz

Join our upcoming session of Home Alone!

HOME ALONE is a volunteer program designed and run by high school students to teach young Lakewoodites about how to stay safe when home alone. Our program is open to children of Lakewood between the ages of 9 and 12 and has been specifically created to address the concerns that were commonly expressed by children of the same age during our data collection period.

Based on these concerns, we found that our focus should be centered around six main topics: First Aid, Emergencies, Tricky People/ Street Smarts, Routines & Siblings, Internet Safety, and especially due to the recent effects of Covid-19, Mental Health.

While children are presented with researched information from high school students, parents attend



a similar presentation from safety professionals. After each Home Alone program, we ask for feedback from parents and their children on what they have just experienced. In response to being asked what the best part of HOME ALONE is, one parent said, “gaining knowledge on some serious topics through the experience of small groups and with older students allowed our student to learn and grow in a safe environment.” When asked about how the program impacted families in light of the pandemic, one parent responded “Yes - as we are coming out of the pandemic and can't always be home, it was important to use to have our son

go through this course to be able to stay home alone for short spans of time.”

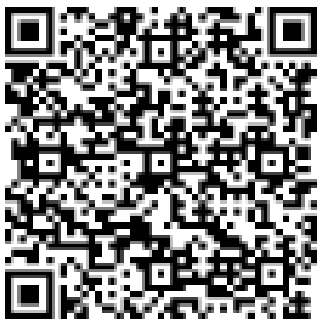
Though the exact impact varies among families, it is clear from our parent and student feedback that the HOME ALONE program has a strong

positive influence on the families who attend, and the community as a whole.

Registration information can be found on the Lakewood Foundation website: www.thelakewoodfoundation.org or by following the QR code. This final session of 2021 will be held on Tuesday, November 16th at Garfield Middle School.

Greta Frantz is a senior at Lakewood High School and a dedicated volunteer with H2O. She is a Project Design Leader in the First Aid group of HOME ALONE.

H2O is a youth volunteer program sponsored by the City of Lakewood’s Division of Youth Office. H2O receives tremendous support from the Lakewood City Schools, the Lakewood Foundation, generous donors and a dedicated group of adult volunteers.



Lakewood Black Caucus Film Series Correction

by Patricia Wellborn

The last film in the six film series that is being presented at the Barton Senior Center Auditorium will be showing from 4-6pm. on November 18th. The film series investigates rac-

ism against African Americans, and it will be moderated by Patricia Wellborn, President of Lakewood Black Caucus.

For more information contact: queenmistressp@yahoo.com

ADVERTISEMENT

Diabetes and your eyes: How to protect your sight.



Barbara Bingham, OD
Cleveland Clinic
Cole Eye Institute

People with diabetes are at a greater risk of conditions that can lead to vision loss and even blindness. Over time, high blood sugar can damage small blood vessels throughout your body, harming your kidneys, the nerves in your hands and feet, and your eyes.

Specifically, studies link high blood sugar with:

- **Diabetic retinopathy** – damage to the retina, the light-sensitive lining at the back of your eye
- **Cataracts** – clouded lenses

- **Ischemic optic neuropathy** – damage to the optic nerve, caused by poor blood flow
- **Glaucoma** – high pressure in the eye that can damage your optic nerve

“Early detection of diabetic retinopathy is the best way to prevent vision loss,” says Barbara Bingham, OD, who sees patients at Cleveland Clinic Medical Outpatient Center in Lakewood and the Westlake Medical Campus. “Often there are no noticeable symptoms in the early stages of diabetic retinopathy. Vision may not be affected until the disease is severe.”

Depending on the diagnosis, watching and waiting may be recommended, or eye



drops, laser treatments or injections may be used to slow the disease.

The best way to protect your eyesight if you have diabetes? “Work closely with your diabetic health care team. Follow your providers’ recommendations for nutrition, exercise, checking your blood sugar and medication. Monitor your vision and call to be evaluated if you notice changes in your vision including blurriness, distortion, and new floaters.” says Dr. Bingham.

The safety of our patients and caregivers remains our top priority. We want to assure our patients that our Cleveland Clinic facilities are safe for them to receive care. We have taken several steps to increase safety, including limiting visitors to our facilities and screening everyone for potential COVID-19 symptoms.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bingham or another Cleveland Clinic eye specialist, call 216.444.2020. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.

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Lakewood Schools



Dr. G's Rangers Round-Up

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Football October 29

Tonight, as usual, the Lakewood Rangers never backed down, never quit, and made their fans very proud, even if the outcome was not what we hoped for. Traveling to Barberton, the Rangers went toe to toe with the highly ranked Magics, trailing 10-7 at half. Eventually, the Magic wore the Rangers down, and posted a 38-7 win. In a season highlighted by a Battle of the Bridge rivalry win over eventual GLC Champions Rocky River, the Rangers posted a 5-5 regular season record. Coach Tom Thome, here pictured with many of the seniors, and his staff have done a terrific job of rebuilding the program. The football experience at LHS is back where it belongs, with student enthusiasm, competitive football and of course our Cheerleaders and the always fabulous Lakewood Rangers Marching Band. The Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town, that gives it their all. See you next season. Long Live Lakewood.

Cross Country October 23

Congratulations to Teeghan McGann 20th, Josie Kavc 27th, &



Charlie Payne 20th for qualifying to Regionals next weekend @ Boardman. Both girls and boys teams left it all out there today. The girls were 13 points away from qualifying as a Team. This is the most girl individuals to qualify to Regionals since 2004. I'm so very proud of all of them. These girls fought all year and did their best today. Hold your heads up.

The Fabulous Flag Line



by Dr. Charles Greanoff

"Hey, Dr. G, want to join the flag line?" This friendly shout out came from Senior MacKenzie Mulloy, one of the 3 tri-captains of the Lakewood Rangers Marching Band Flag Corps. It was a late Thursday evening, and the squad was practicing--something they do beginning in early summer and continuing through the duration of the football season. So, it's no accident that the Flag Line adds a crisp visual element to pre-game, halftime, marches and everything else that they do. They produce. They put in the time.

Yet, given that the LRMB features fabulous musicians and the iconic Rangerettes, it's easy to overlook the Flag Line. But as I contemplated my offer--ultimately declining because I didn't want to give anyone a concussion--I realized how hard this crew works, how skilled they are, and how much they add to the LRMB.

Along with MacKenzie, fellow Captains senior Molly Minadeo and junior Graci Yost organize and choreograph the routines, taking several hours to craft each show. What starts with summer band camps, extends through five 2-3 hour practices per week through football season, which this year will extend into November. Their splendid performances on Friday

nights happen because of all they work they do when no one is watching.

This twirling, dancing, energizing crew, advised by Ms. Sarah Miller, once again delivered a fabulous performance at last Tuesday's band concert in the Civic Auditorium. It was great to see Flag line members Anneliese Parker, Amalia Marich, Madeline Rybak, Adriana Bajha, Lennah Papadorotheou, Maya Blume, Cameron Wereb, Vinnie Halstead, Misha Platt, Caroline Baas, Isabella Chambers-Deckers, and Ava Schmoltdt. As I watched the dazzling display of purple and gold flash through the Civic Auditorium light, I for the first time saw up close the intricacy of their choreography.

"Love" and "Fun"—those were the words that a smiling MacKenzie used to describe being on the Flag Line. In fact, by all appearances, every Flag Line student has the same enthusiasm. For McKenzie, the path to Flag Captain was paved by her mentor, Halle Sullenberger (LHS '21) a former captain and great role model.

So, next time you see the fabulous Lakewood Rangers Marching band, and are regaled by the sounds, the formations and the movements, consider giving the Flag Line a shout out. Thank you, Flag Line!

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Spookywood's Top Ten 2021

Thank you to all the entrants, nominators, and voters who helped the Lakewood Observer select our winning homes. This year we started with over 200 and cut that down to the top 25, and finally these top ten. Thank you Woodstock Smoke Joint BBQ, India Garden, West End Tavern and Root Café for the prizes. If your house appears on this page please contact the Lakewood Observer at: production@lakewoodobserver.com to claim your prize. Any prize not claimed by 11/31/2021 will be added to our Holiday Lighting Contest.



Lakewood History

Grace Presbyterian Church Celebrates 100 + 1 Years

by Nancy Sanders

The congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church looked eagerly forward to a year-long celebration of its one hundredth anniversary, scheduled for October 2020. Each month was to celebrate one decade of Grace’s life in the church; each month, during the worship service, a “speaker from the past” would address the congregation; each month, music of the decade would be featured by the choir. A museum of the decade was to be featured in the parlor. A history book would be published; an original play, called “The Decades Speak,” was presented during the kick-off celebration; a grand finale banquet was booked. And then, in the third month, the third decade... COVID.

The church closed its doors and the celebration ground to a halt. But the activity inside the quarantined homes never ceased. There would be no public performances but the work of the committees continued. The research into the history of Grace Church intensified, ending in a book of nearly forty pages.

Grace Church began in 1920 as a mission church, branched out from Lakewood Presbyterian Church on Marlowe and Detroit. The members who lived on Madison Avenue, if they had no car (few did), would have to take a streetcar down to 117th street, transfer to Detroit Avenue and transfer again to the church. In the summer it

was inconvenient; in the winter it was a disaster. The Madisonites petitioned to purchase land for a mission church on the present site at 1659 Rosewood Avenue.

In 1917 a small white chapel was built. They named themselves “The Community Church” because they felt that their mission was to serve the community of Lakewood and its surrounding areas. By 1920, they felt that they could now stand on their own, boasting ninety-nine members and one hundred seventy-five children. They petitioned the Presbytery and became an independent congregation in October 1920.

By the end of the decade they knew that they needed a much larger sanctuary. They hired an architect who drew plans for a massive stone “cathedral” and began construction. But as soon as the basement was completed disaster foiled their plans. The depression stopped construction for, being true to their mission of serving the community, all funds and efforts went to serving the now-destitute families of the community. For the next two decades people in Lakewood nicknamed Grace “The Basement Church” because the ever-growing congregation met and worshipped in the basement of their future cathedral.

Following the depression came World War II and again, the mission of Grace depleted all building funds.

Twenty-seven percent of the congregation, both men and women, went off to serve their country. The remaining congregation threw themselves into helping the families of the soldiers, with food, clothing and emotional support. Their efforts were recognized by the larger Presbyterian organization: they received the Presbyterian Citation of Honor in recognition of “distinguished service to God and humanity through participation in the Wartime Service Program of the General Assembly (1942-43).”

At last, in the fifties, the congregation realized that they would never have enough money to erect their English cathedral. Taking a realistic look at how much money they had, they now envisioned a new church, a modern church, to reflect the forward looking mission of Grace. This would have rising arches reaching toward Heaven and clear glass windows looking out on the community which they would serve.

In 1954 the vaulting roof arches arrived from California: a new type of laminated wood, each made up of many pieces, steamed and pressed into one very solid piece. As the arches, wrapped in paper, were hoisted into place, traffic jams clogged Madison and Hilliard as folks gaped at the rising edifice. Would-be construction workers gathered on the sidewalks to offer advice to one another, half expecting the whole thing to go down like dominoes. No one had ever seen anything like it. The radically different church did not go unnoticed by the press. In 1956, WNBC-TV’s morning show out of New York, “The Dave Garroway Show” contacted Grace to do a feature on the “New Look In Churches.” So Grace Church appeared coast to coast as an example of forward looking architecture in churches.

The mission of Grace Church never stopped. The Lakewood Meals-On-Wheels originated in the kitchen of Grace as the ladies cooked (from scratch) and delivered forty-seven meals every day. They also worked diligently in the food pantries of Cleveland.

The Grace members noticed that Cleveland citizens had access to the

Cleveland Food Pantry but the citizens of Lakewood did not. Therefore Grace reached out to other churches in Lakewood and, leading the way, founded the Lakewood Christian Service Center (now known as the Lakewood Service Center). Grace volunteers, both men and women, worked diligently so that the Lakewood homeless could get food and assistance in finding housing.

Grace Church traditionally reached out to the men and women of the Joint Veterans Council of Western Cuyahoga County. Beginning in the late 1960’s, continuing through the 70’s, and to this day, Memorial Day was dedicated to all the veteran groups in the area. The veteran men and women march down the aisle, under the many different flags of the United States, to present their colors across the front of the sanctuary. In 1977 Grace was awarded The George Washington Award of the Freedom Foundation.

Today, on Grace’s One Hundred Plus Anniversary, Grace is still committed to service to the community. The congregation has begun its forward movement to serve the community just as it always has and as it always will. Even though, like so many small churches, it faces many new challenges, the members say that, “If we follow God’s will and do as He wishes, we will be here until the Rapture.”



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Lakewood Is Art



NOVEMBER

ARIES: The Sun is shining on other people’s money this month for the Ram, & your Good Luck charm is hanging with your friends, associations & groups. Get about town, mingle & network.

TAURUS: The Bull is no stranger to relationships, business/personal use that Bull charm & schmooze those relationships this month, Lakewood’s got some great eclectic places for lunch.

GEMINI: The twins focus this month is in the health arena, check out some of those new healthy vegan/vegetarian places this town is known for, & start planning a trip abroad, ahoy.

CANCER: The Crab might be cooking up an affair this month, the romance flames are lighting up, not to mention your 8th house of other’s resources is being blessed by the magic wand, lotto?

LEO: Home is where the Lion’s heart is this month, you’ll be the King/Queen of the Thanksgiving spread, your relationships, including family will bring you much gratitude.

VIRGO: If you’ve got a doctor’s checkup this month, chances are you’ll be leaving with a lollipop, your health is 5-stars, get out in the community & help donate turkeys to the hungry.

The View From City Council

continued from page 3

can be analyzed for the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

New Parking Payment System

Starting November 1st, Downtown Parking Lots A, B, and C will have a new parking payment system. These are the lots on the North side of Detroit between St. Charles Avenue and Gladys Avenue. The parking kiosks currently in place have reached the end of their useful life and have been plagued by equipment failures and slow service response from the manufacture. The lots will have a combination of contactless payments, coin operated meters, and permit parking. The contactless payment can be made through the ParkMobile App, by visiting the ParkMobile website, by texting “Park” to 77223, or by calling 877-727-5009. Long-term parking permits can be purchased from the Police Department. Parking will still only be enforced Monday through Friday, 8am through 6pm.

Jason Shachner is the Ward 2 Lakewood City Councilmember. He is currently serving as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Lake County Prosecutor's Offices' Criminal Division. He can be reached at Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net or at (216) 714-2150.

LIBRA: The Sun is shining on the peace-lovers finances this month, you’ll be smiling all the way to the bank, just don’t overdo it, the romantic flames are burning, throw a log on the fire.

SCORPIO: You’ve got more going on this month than everyone else on the Planet. The Sun, Mercury, & Mars are all lined up at your cave, so you’ll have to come out eventually, do it.


SAGITTARIUS: Aim that lucky bow-n-arrow in the community this month Centaur, that’s where you’ll find the wishbone, it’s also time for some self-reflection behind the scenes.

CAPRICORN: Breathe a sigh of relief. Jupiter, the benefactor planet, is camping out in your 2nd house of money, spend a little extra on the turkey dinner & invite your closest friends for a feast.

AQUARIUS: Jupiter expands & it’s in your 1st house of self – be careful not to have too much dressing and/or pumpkin pie, or you’ll be the one who’s stuffed, Sun is shining on career.

PISCES: The fish has travel on its mind, good for you, it’s nice to see how the other sea creatures live, start looking through those travel brochures, keep it to yourself till you’ve set sail.

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



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Shred It Again: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 119

by Buzz Kompier

Screaming Human Scum - Metally Ill - My Mind’s Eye - 3 songs - 7”

S.H.S. is the (relatively) new solo project of Shaun Filley, who you might know from Wetbrain, Midnight, Puncture Wound, or many other pretty great bands. The title track is an excellent metal-punk track with appropriately ridiculous lyrics and a great guitar solo from Graham Clise of Annihilation Time. Both “Fright Night” and “Homicidal Tendencies” are very Motörhead inspired– there’s one vocal trick that he does in “Fright Night” in particular that is incredibly Lemmy-inspired. Hey, if you’re gonna borrow from anyone, it might as well be Lemmy. All three tracks are excellent example of this kind of music— Shaun knows what he’s doing and he’s very good at it. Nice cover, too, which consists of the actual cover and then, by my count, three different stickers layered on top of it. Good stuff. 4/5

(My Mind’s Eye is at 16010 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood)



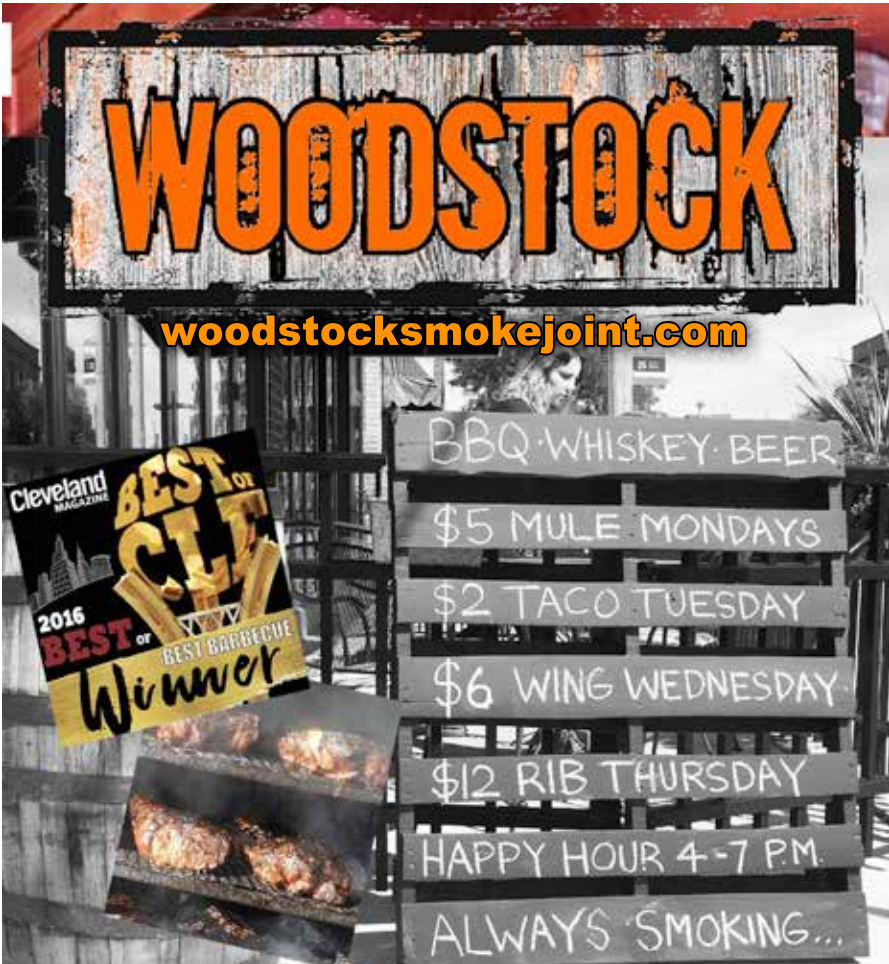
Tracy Marie - A Dark Place - self-released - 12 songs - CD, digital

I believe Tracy Marie is known more as a folk/singer-songwriter type, but on her new album here, she goes in a much heavier direction. It’s very ‘90s influenced alternative rock, very reminiscent

of the poppier side of grunge. Some songs are pretty good (the title track, “Stick For The Cure” (which has a great transition into a pretty good chorus), “Soul Lost”), others, particularly on the second half and a couple that sound like what I imagine Metallica sounded like in the ‘90s, are a little weaker, but it’s a consistent sounding album. We also get “When It’s Over,” an acoustic waltz that despite standing out in the track listing doesn’t feel misplaced. Ed Stephens (better known as Dead Stephens of Queen Of Hell infamy) plays bass on here, so it has some legitimate credentials as well. And it’s cool to hear someone do something entirely different from what they’re known for, so hey, good for Tracy Marie. 3/5

(tracymarie.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.



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Lakewoodites Around The World

My Arrival In Mozambique, Africa

by *Fernanda Quiroga*

Hello People! My name is Fernanda. You may have seen me around town or read my story in the previous issue of The Lakewood Observer. In that story, I left my familiar family and my comfortable life in Chile in order to experience a different culture and to learn about people by living with them the way they live. This was an idea that I got from some documentaries that I watched as a child in Chile.

When I traveled to Mozambique it was a very long trip where we saw an impressive cultural mix of many colors, many cultures, many ways of dressing, many beliefs and many different effects. They are very beautiful, even the flight attendants on the way to Mozambique wore a very cultural dress from their country, it was very cute, beautiful, I would say.

When we arrived in Mozambique, we were met by a girl named Sofia, she is from London and she worked at ADPP on community projects. She helped us to settle in a house where we would be during the first days while the documentation was prepared to travel to our respective projects, where we



would be for 6 months.

Sofia, in the 3 days that we were in Maputo, explained some rules to us. For example, even if you feel bad for a child you see on the street, never never give them money. At first, I thought that she was exaggerating ... but as the days went by, my traveling companion was so moved by a girl of about 10 years old, who was selling some "bolinhos" (fried sweet dough) and gave her \$ 300 meticais (US \$3), is not a lot of money for us, but for them it is a lot. I was there and I got so mad about it because I also gave her cookies and milk so money was not necessary.

My friend did not understand that a generous gift like this could put the girl in danger. Then I saw two guys, age around 15 -16 years old, watching her receive the money, so I started to pay attention while the girls were walking away from us and the boys kept looking at the girl, and then started to follow her... I got nervous and I stopped them, they got mad and aggressive, but I did not stop! My Portuguese wasn't that good, but they thought that I was from Brazil because of my accent. So, I threatened them and told them that I worked in ADPP (ayuda de povo para povo – help the people to people), and

that if they did something to harm her, I was going to find them and put them in jail and that if they didn't change direction where they were walking for ten minutes, I was going to call the police. When I named them the police did not believe me, they did not care, but since I was yelling and drawing attention, they had no other option.

I was very scared, but I showed them nothing of fear because I felt that endangering the girl was my fault.

After that situation I understood that Sofia told us that for a reason and I should believe more in what she said.

Sofia took time to show us around the city, the farmers market, a Handicraft fair, beaches, etc. but the most wonderful place was the Orphanage. We went there for 3 days, living with them, cooking with them, learning and playing... this Orphanage has 34 children from 3 to 17 years old... they are a family. There are 3 teachers and the mom Ofelia. Ofelia is a woman who cannot have kids, so she takes care of all these beautiful kids. Isn't this lovely?

The girls were so fascinated with my hair, because at that time my hair was very long. They were begging me to style my hair like them or dread my hair to make me look like an African. It was a very wonderful time.

The Mom, Ofelia, at 8:30 each evening, begins her walk around the dorms singing and sending everybody to sleep. She always was singing different songs in Shona dialect.

In the morning, before 5am, everyone rises again to pick up water, and get ready for breakfast and then classes.

These are some things that I was able to see and feel and witness just because I decided one day to leave my comfortable life in Chile and challenge myself to try and live a different way. Just think! These adventures would one day lead me to Lakewood, Ohio where you are now seeing these things and feeling them too through my writing in the Lakewood Observer.

This is part two of a series of articles. Please read more about my world travelling adventures in future issues of the Lakewood Observer.

References:

School: <https://oneworldcenter.org>

African Organization: <https://www.adpp-mozambique.org>

This essay was written in early 2021 before many states began efforts to minimize voting opportunities.

League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner Sophie Lipka

by *Sophie Lipka*

A true democracy cannot exist without the participation of its people. Through voting, citizens can express their wants and needs, and make the government more representative of its people as a whole. One vote can make a difference in local, state, and even national elections. Voting is crucial in our democracy in order to ensure the country functions in a way that benefits the highest number of citizens possible.

People throughout the United State's history have understood the importance of voting, which is why they fought for it. The Women's suffrage movement was so widespread because women recognized that the easiest and most direct way to have their voices heard was through voting. New laws are passed through the election of political figures. Protesting

is influential, but voting directly on something is much more effective. In 1919, the 19th Amendment was passed, which gave women the right to vote. This amendment doubled the size of the voting body, and the opinions of women were finally able to be heard nationwide. This made our country more democratic. In a true democracy, every citizen's opinion should be heard.

Black men were given the right to vote after the civil war, but there were many barriers put in place by state governments that made it difficult for them to do so. This obstruction of rights was removed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Laws that prevented people of color and poor people from voting were declared unconstitutional. This is incredibly important because it allowed minorities to have a voice. Throughout much of our his-

tory, wealthy white men have held the majority of power. This did not represent a true democracy, and it allowed people to be elected and laws to be passed that were not supported by the greater population.

Now that most Americans can vote without restrictions, our country is more democratic than it has ever been before. Voting allows people to express their opinions, and allows them to fight for the things they need. One vote may seem small, but it can be extremely influential, and the privilege of voting should not be taken lightly. There is a reason that people have fought for their right to vote. Voting makes our country more democratic. Voting makes a difference.



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continued from page 1

of this event inspires the spirit of the holiday season and showcases the city's vibrancy and strong sense of community."

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As part of our commitment to fostering and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods, LakewoodAlive partners with Avenue Home owner David Stein to provide two \$500 scholarships to Lakewood residents who are high school juniors in the 2021-22 school year. This scholarship celebrates community service, pride in Lakewood, and a commitment to further strengthening the

community. Finalists will be selected to be interviewed; ultimately, two Royalty will be chosen by the selection committee as the scholarship recipients. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood to access the scholarship application, which is due via email or postmarked November 4, 2021.

For more information and continued updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood.

Jacqueline Bon is the Marketing & Development Coordinator at the LakewoodAlive. She enjoys the people, places and events that make Lakewood a uniquely beautiful community.



Buddy the Elf and Santa with a helper from a couple years back.

Book Review:

New Deep-Cover-Cleveland Book Summons Lakewood Readers

by Terri Simons

I'm proud to add the latest book by local author/ historian Laura Peskin to my collection. This volume, "Topics in Depth," is the third in Peskin's series called "Deep Cover Cleveland" (2014-2021) Peskin explores and exposes forgotten, overlooked, significant regional developments around the Lakewood area and beyond. "Topics in Depth" features more interviews and illustrations.

As an artist and an arts supporter, I loved the series' chapters on 2,000-year old Native American jewelry and artifacts. "Topics in Depth" highlights include Cleveland favorite Victor Schreckengost (artist, sculptor, teacher and researcher). Detailed in the book are his equally deserving brothers: Paul and Don Schreckengost. Also included is Schreckengost nephew, illustrator Don Eckleberry, most noted for painting in the "Audubon Bird Guides" of 1946-57.

Artist and historic Lakewoodian featured in "Deep Cover Cleveland" is esteemed enamellist Doris Hall (1907-2000). Of interest to Lakewood residents too would be a feature in volume II of female suffrage leader Maude Comstock Waitt (1875-1935.) Lakewood was an early city in 1917 to grant women the local vote. Waitt was an early state and earlier Lakewood city lawmaker and designer of a nationally-adapted citizenship class curriculum for the

newly enfranchised female voter.

Music is a big part of my life and I like progressive rock among many types of music. Naturally, I really enjoyed Peskin's well-researched account of connections to Northeast Ohio of British progressive rockers Vincent Crane (Atomic Rooster) and Peter Banks (first guitarist of Yes.) Also I really appreciated "Topics in Depth" co-author Randy Rosko's contributions on space rock and the Gothic scene. Rosko immortalized the 1990s Lakewood Goth scene by featuring The Chamber (located downstairs of The Phantasy Nightclub) on 118th and Detroit Avenue. He pays tribute to all the talented and friendly people who comprised the Goth scene. Rosko contributed material to the book on musicians Chrome/Helios Creed, Hawkwind, Jim Lascko and the Solar Fire Lightshow. These stories bring back fond memories for me.

While "Topics in Depth" has more on rock music than the previous "Deep Cover Cleveland" volumes, volume II (2015) has a chapter on the Youngstown, Ohio guitar tradition. I enjoy pipe organ music as well, and Peskin included a chapter on the area's organs in churches and theaters.

The "Deep Cover Cleveland" series is available at area bookshops and libraries.


Terri Simons is a Lakewood Art League-affiliated painter.

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