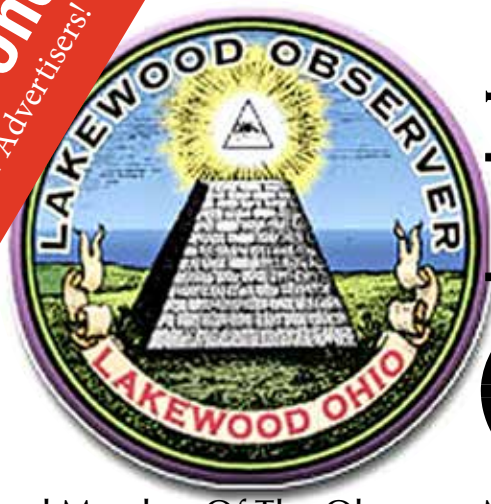


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Volume 18, Issue 02, January 19, 2022

FREE Federal Government COVID Test Kits HERE

by Jim O'Bryan

The Federal Government started their FREE COVID Test Kit Program earlier than expected. Scan the QR code with your phone, or go to:

<https://usps.com/covidtests>

One Set of 4 kits per household as of right now.



Lakefront Public Access Plan



from Cuyahoga County

The Lakefront Public Access Plan was announced by County Executive Armond Budish during his State of the County address in 2019 and aims to improve transportation networks and increase public access to Lake Erie in concert with shoreline stabilization efforts. The Lakefront Public Access Plan covers three general topic areas: improved public access to Lake Erie, erosion control and ecological enhancement, and enhanced transportation networks along the shoreline.

Currently, over 90% of the Lake Erie shoreline within Cuyahoga County is not publicly accessible. This plan will detail a multi-modal network of connected paths, all-purpose trails, boardwalks, roads, bridges, and public access points across the Lake Erie shoreline. This will positively impact the lives of Cuyahoga County residents by increasing public accessibility and lakefront resiliency.

The Cuyahoga County

Planning Commission is partnering with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and a consulting team led by SmithGroup to develop the Plan. This process is being done in coordination with lakefront communities and regional entities. The Plan will include detailed analysis and robust public engagement intended to build a unified, countywide vision for enhanced lakefront access.

Project Area

The Plan covers the entire 30-mile Lake Erie shoreline within Cuyahoga County. From the County's border with Lake County in the East to Lorain County in the West, the shoreline traverses six jurisdictions (the Cities of Bay Village, Rocky River, Lakewood, Cleveland, Euclid, and the Village of Bratenahl) and three Cleveland Metroparks Reservations (Huntington, Lakefront, and Euclid Creek). The Project Area is focused on the immediate shoreline, including the properties, roads, and infrastructure adjacent to Lake Erie.



An Old Friend Returns To The Area Blowing Snow/Cold Temps

by Jim O'Bryan

Sunday evening at 8:20pm the City of Lakewood issued a storm warning ahead of the storm that slammed us that evening.

All year really bad storms have avoided Lakewood for the most part. Perhaps it was that factor or others that made me laugh it off.

Monday morning we all

woke up with seven to ten inches in our yards.

It was somewhere around 2 am Monday morning when the snowfall went past the 4" kicking in the parking ban.

The ban is necessary as some of Lakewood streets are very tight, making it hard for the plows.

The city only had 6 plows working until daybreak Monday morning when more drivers were called in.

By the end of the day MOST roads had been plowed at least once.

The city reminds all of us

Residents are reminded to move cars off streets so that snow can be cleared. Snowed-in vehicles will be ticketed for 24-hour violations. LPD will

ticket snowed-in vehicles on all city streets @ 2 p.m. today & towing will begin 24 hours later.

It is also important to shovel walk for those walking in this walkable city.

We pride ourselves on that.



January 20, 6:30 pm Kindergarten Parent Info Night

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools will return to an in-person format for its Kindergarten Parent Information Night for the 2022-2023 school year. The event is set for Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 6:30 pm at Grant Elementary School. Students must be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2022 in order to be age eligible to enter kindergarten in Fall 2022.

The program will include a presentation by Director of Teaching & Learning Steven Ast, who will share details about the kindergarten curriculum and the registration process. Registration for the 2022-2023 school year begins on Monday, January 24. District Nurse Katy Corrigan will also be on hand to provide information on immunizations needed and other health care protocols. Following the presentation, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to ask questions and view the Grant kindergarten rooms. Some principals will also be on hand to answer questions.

If you plan to attend, please note that masks are required in all Lakewood City Schools buildings.

continued on page 7

The Mayor's Corner

Meetings Go Virtual

by Meghan George, Mayor City of Lakewood

Last week, I was proud to co-sponsor legislation with Councilwoman Sarah Kepple that now allows the City of Lakewood to conduct virtual meetings for council, committees, and other city business. As the surging Omicron variant of COVID-19 has driven infections and hospitalizations to an alarming rate, this new ordinance will be critically important to us doing our part to keep people safe and healthy and slow the spread. At the same time, I continue to be fully committed to moving our agenda forward and maintaining high quality services for the people of Lakewood. The virtual meeting legislation allows us to achieve those two goals while also ensuring transparency and public engagement for all meetings. The online format also allows for electronic comments and live questions from members of the public. Ohio's home rule authority for local governments allows us to adopt this type of legislation, and we join other cities who have adopted the virtual option. I appreciate

Councilwoman Kepple's partnership in co-sponsoring this ordinance, and it was great to see that City Council and I are aligned on this effort as the ordinance passed unanimously last Monday.

Marine Towers West Update: As you may have heard, following the collapse of the Marine Towers West parking garage on December 23rd, the City of Lakewood has been conducting a complete investigation as to the causes and circumstances surrounding the situation. Through that process, we have confirmed that a construction crew was performing work on the garage that day without any permits and having provided no notice to the City. We have filed initial charges for those violations and are continuing our investigation. We are also exploring ways to be even more stringent with city ordinances and how we deal with our multi-family and commercial building codes and enforcement. For a more in-depth synopsis of the situation, please refer to the letter I provided



Lakewood gets some amazing sunsets. The best place to see them is where this was taken, east rim of the Emerald Canyon, Lakewood's "Big Sky Country."

to City Council, which is also printed in this edition of The Observer.

As temperatures continue to drop and winter enters its prime, our public works department has begun shift work and will ensure that we are fully prepared to respond to anything Northeast Ohio's winter weather may throw at us. We will be proactive in communicating with residents about snow emergencies or any other updates as they arise over the next couple of months.

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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
January 28, 2022	February 2, 2022
February 11, 2022	February 16, 2022

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PUBLISHER Debra O'Bryan	EDITOR IN CHIEF Margaret Brinich	ASSOCIATE EDITOR Betsy Voinovich	ADVERTISING Sales Manager 216.407.6818
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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Andrea Fisher, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Benjamin Justice, Buzz Kompier, Jim O'Bryan, Fernanda Quiroga, Betsy Shaughnessy, Tom Smith, Cindy Strebig, Betsy Voinovich, Kim Watters, and Barry Wemyss

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From The Board Of Education

Board President Shaughnessy Incoming Office Remarks, January 3, 2022

by Betsy Shaughnessy

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to the citizens of Lakewood for allowing me to continue as a member of this Board of Education and to my fellow Board members for trusting me to continue as president of the Board this year. I am so privileged to be working with a board committed to the children of Lakewood and to the community we love. Each member of the Board brings unique perspective, knowledge and skill – it has been a pleasure to work with Mrs. Beebe, Mrs. Petrie Barcelona and Mr. Callahan. Times have been challenging but they have never given less than 100% in support of our school family. I am also very happy to welcome Mrs. Katzenberger to the Board, and I look forward to working with her toward our bright future.

I think it is fair to say that we had all hoped and anticipated that this January would have marked a return to “normal” and respite from the strain and disruption of Covid. While this has not proven to be the case, we have learned from our experience over the previous year and it enables us to be more agile and proactive in meeting the needs and expectations of our students. We have tools to mitigate the threat that we did not have a year ago and are in some ways learning to adapt to the presence of Covid in our lives and to the rapidly changing information as to the nature of the virus.

Make no mistake – many of our students and many in the community continue to struggle with the emotional toll that this pandemic has imposed – isolation, anxiety, loss, and anger. Our effort to enable our students to cope and to reduce the burden they carry is paramount if they are going to thrive. We as adults must display the same resilience, persistence and imagination that we expect of our children as we work together to meet their needs.

I do believe that one message has come through loud and clear and cannot be ignored or postponed and that message is that each and every day we have the opportunity to make a child’s life better, safer, happier, filled with promise both for the moment and for the future.

We don’t have a day to waste. We have an obligation to act to meet the needs of our students as fully as possible despite the impediments we face. We must excel despite the reality of the moment; we cannot wait for the environment to change.

We were able to move forward in a number of areas during the past year, and many of the goals for the coming year were initiated in 2021 and include plans to:

Provide a safe and secure environment for our students and staff which includes addressing both emotional and physical needs



Betsy Shaughnessy

Expand communication with students, parents, staff and the greater community including the opportunity

- for the respectful exchange of views
- Reduce the continued impact of learning loss
- Act to make changes supporting diversity, equity and inclusion
- Develop and implement a District-wide strategic plan encompassing all Board of Education responsibilities including Community Recreation and Education
- Strengthen cooperation in areas of common interest with the City
- We can be certain that new challenges, expectations and opportunities will arise, and I am equally certain that with the leadership we have in this district, the teachers, students, and community to support us that we will meet each and every one of them.
- I want to end by extending my deepest thanks to the teachers, the

principals, secretaries, food service and maintenance staff who keep our buildings running and our students learning. Thanks to Central Office and District-wide staff for all they do to sustain and support.

Thank you to Superintendent Niedzwiecki and Treasurer Zeman. Their devotion to this district is in evidence every single day.

Our imperative in the coming year is not just to make up for the learning loss of the past but to enable our students to excel and thrive.

Thank you for the privilege of being a participant in this wonderful endeavor.

Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy
January 3, 2022

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Lakewood Schools

Dr. G's Ranger Round-Up

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Girls' Basketball January 12, 2022

Basketball is a true team sport—something that is central to the magic of the game. Tonight, such magic was on display as the Lakewood Girls used great team defense to defeat a determined Buckeye squad 45-38 at the New East Gym.

Many Rangers contributed offensively, including sophomore Delaney Garcia (7 points), senior Mollie Henrikson, junior Samantha Hudak (7 plus strong ball handling) junior Sydney Hampton (4 points, including two late clutch free throws) and Ava Carroll (2). Juniors Jacquie Hudak and Brigid McKenna chipped in with solid defense.

But basketball also showcases individual talents and efforts. With all due credit to Buckeye's excellent center Autumn Meyer, Molly Pilgrim was tonight's most outstanding player. Pilgrim scored 18 points to lead all scorers, but she also snagged vital rebounds, and made a key steal and basket down the stretch when the Bucks had trimmed what was once a 12 point Ranger lead the lead to one. If killing momentum was a crime, Molly would not be in school tomorrow.

Congratulations to Coach Work and the entire hard-working squad. Lakewood played with intensity all night. All in all, a fabulous team effort tonight against strong opponent. Go Rangers!

Boys' Basketball January 7, 2022

With a loud, large student section, on a freezing cold January Friday night, and a conference matchup against a tough opponent—all the elements were present for an enjoyable game at our beautiful Lakewood High School East Gym. The only problem was that the Parma strolled in and posted a seemingly commanding 19-2 lead before the Rangers found their bearings. From then on, though, the undeterred Rangers chipped away, using tenacious defense and crisp ball movement to close the gap. Finally, early in the 4th quarter, when senior M.J. Grayer (pictured) knocked down a 3 pointer, Lakewood took its first lead,

never to be relinquished. Lakewood 56-Parma 48.

In a total team effort with contributions from all who played, Grayer had the greatest impact, scoring 11 points—including clutch free throws down the stretch--and playing strong on the boards. Senior Michael Hamdan was steady at point, and also tallied important free throws late in the game.

In the hundreds of Ranger games I have seen in the last 50 years, few have ever had important contributions from so many players. Seniors Hakeem Quran and Andre Hallenburg, juniors Myles Harper and Brandon Volcansek, sophomore Drew Jablonoski and freshman Lucas Seguire (who helped the JV's to a win) contributed points, rebounds, hustle plays and defense. Given the magnitude of the comeback, the energized loyalists in our student section, and the never say die attitude of our team, this game stands out.

Congratulations to Coach Cammock and his staff. The New East Gym was a special place tonight—a place of unity. Our charged up student section, fabulous LHS Cheerleaders, supportive parents, and the guys in Purple and Gold—all from 44107--came to play tonight.

Long Live Lakewood.

Girl's Basketball January 5, 2022

The Lakewood Girls Basketball team avenged last seasons close loss to Valley Forge with a decisive 45-31 triumph in front of a decent sized, energetic crowd at the New East Gym.

Senior Mollie Henrikson (pictured) hit six 3 pointers on her way to 23 points, while sophomore Delaney Garcia drained 10 and was her usual strong presence on the boards. The remaining starters—juniors Sam Hudak, Sydney Hampton and Molly Pilgrim, all chipped in points and solid defense, as did sophomore Jacquie Hudak and Junior Ava Carroll. Mollie's sophomore sister Lucy played well in her few minutes after helping the JV's to a win, and, in keeping with the Henrikson tradition, hit a 3 on her first shot. Junior Brigid McKenna provided strong play off the bench, recording several assists



and playing tough defense.

It was great to see the Ranger Baseball team in attendance, clustering in the stands after a work out in the weight room. It was special to see my former baseball coach, LHS Hall of Famer Mr Ken Ciolek—who has a granddaughter on the Valley Forge team. Coach Ciolek caught up with me and another LHS Hall of Famer, current Baseball Coach Mike Ribar. Seeing current and past Ranger loyalists (from multiple generations—including Nicole Hudak '20 and Lily Germaine '21)

together in our beautiful gym is perfect medicine for the disjointed times in which we live. It's so easy to become alienated from our traditions and the multi-generational connectivity that holds communities together—games, concerts and plays provide a strong remedy.

Of course, tonight's treatment was brought to us by the hard-working Ranger Girls basketball squad, who played tenacious Lakewood Basketball from start to finish. Congrats to Coach Work and the entire squad from 44107.

Rangers Rec Baseball and Softball Registration Open

This program is for all boys and girls ages 4-15 at any skill level who want to learn the game.
All participants must have a physical form and birth certificate on file to register.
Registration deadline April 8th.



Start your New Year's resolutions in Lakewood's Fitness Facility, Door 31 at Lakewood High School at the corner of Bunts and Franklin.
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Lakewood Schools

Artists/Writers Earn Top Awards In Scholastic Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Once again Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Tech Media Art & Design students have won highest honors in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition. Congratulations to the young artists and writers who earned 51 awards collectively, 11 of which were Gold Keys, the highest honor given. Senior Inga Wilhelmy led the list of award winners with three Gold Keys, including one for her competition portfolio, and six awards in total. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 97-year-old competition.

Lakewood and West Shore students were well-represented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels as well. Fourteen students won 19 Silver Keys, including two by seniors Greta Frantz, Ivy Keeper, Caleigh Naylor, and Inga Wilhelmy, and junior Grace Hildebrandt. Fifteen students earned Honorable Mention designations for their art, including three mentions for senior Billy Hamilton.

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes creative achievement in 7-12 grade students in Northeast Ohio. The young artists and writers compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries.

This year's regional winners will be honored at a virtual awards ceremony on January 15, 2022 and their work will be on display in the Cleveland Institute of Art's gallery through January 28. Congratulations to all the winners and their teachers Amy Garritano, Dayna Hansen, Anne McQuay, Arline Olear, and Amy Sedlak.

Gold Key Winners: (*approximately 7-10% of regional entries*)

Muriel Bourn – Digital Art (West Shore)

Sophie D'Apollo – Photography (West Shore)



“Face” by Helen Roche

Grace Hoppel – Photography
Thaw Htoo – Painting
Victoria Klepsky - Drawing & Illustration

Clare Morrissey - Painting
Helen Roche - Drawing & Illustration
Scarlett Wankowski - Drawing & Illustration

Inga Wilhelmy (3) – Painting (2); Art Portfolio

Silver Key Winners: (*approximately 10-15% of regional entries*)

Ellie Clark - Critical Essay
Greta Frantz (2) – Ceramics & Glass; Drawing & Illustration
Mollie Henrikson– Ceramics & Glass
Grace Hildebrandt (2) – Drawing & Illustration

Ivy Keeper (2) - Short Story; Poetry
Clare Morrissey - Drawing & Illustration (West Shore)

Jazzayn Palma - Painting
Caleigh Naylor (2) – Drawing & Illustration; Painting

Helen Roche– Drawing & Illustration
Bee Rohrs (2) – Digital Art (West Shore); Personal Essay & Memoir

Alexis Stringer – Drawing & Illustration

Ah Klüh Thaw– Drawing & Illustration
Inga Wilhelmy (2) - Drawing & Illustration; Painting



Image by Inga Wilhelmy

Honorable Mention:
Jack Bonvissuto – Photography (West Shore)

Muriel Bourn – Photography (West Shore)

Sophie D'Apollo – Photography (West Shore)

Billy Hamilton (3) – Ceramics & Glass; Drawing & Illustration

Grace Hildebrandt – Drawing & Illustration

Thaw Htoo – Drawing & Illustration

Victoria Klepsky – Drawing & Illustration (West Shore)

Nicholas Mariani – Drawing & Illustration

Cecilia Miller – Printmaking
Clare Morrissey (2) – Drawing & Illustration (West Shore)

Caleigh Naylor (2) – Mixed Media; Painting

Helen Roche – Painting

Bee Rohrs - Poetry

Olive Rodemann (2) – Photography

Inga Wilhelmy - Drawing & Illustration

Lila Wright – Drawing & Illustration

Harding Students Earn Writing Honors

by Christine Gordillo

Several recent writing competitions have recently highlighted and honored the talents of several Harding Middle School students. Sixth-graders Harper Williams and Hank Janko earned second and third place, respectively, in their grade-level category in the 32nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest sponsored by East View United Church of Christ in Shaker Heights. The contest asked Cuyahoga County students in grades 4-12 to write about challenges they faced during the pandemic as a student, and how they overcame them.

In addition, sixth-graders Peyton Diemert and Ally Demaline each had

their poetry chosen to be included in an anthology compiled as part of the Creative Communication national contest. Young writers from grades K-9 were asked to submit poems, and from those the top 45% as deemed by the contest judges are included in the print anthology.

Finally, seventh-grader Holly Rogalski won first place in the local division of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Patriot Pen essay contest. The contest, which is sponsored by VFWs across the country, asked students to answer the question, "America: How Can I Be a Good American."

Congratulations to these aspiring young writers!

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Lakewood Observer

Lakewood League Of Women Voters Diamond Anniversary

by Cindy Strebis

Thank you Lakewood! You answered the call to increase our chapter membership to 100 in celebration of our Diamond Anniversary. Our membership is now 101 strong. I'm hopeful that by the end of this year we will match the membership of 1922 with 123 members. If you haven't joined yet and believe defending democracy is important, please visit lwvgreatercleveland.org to join. You may know that we are seeing some success in our fight for fair districts at the state level. We can use your support to meet the goal of choosing our representatives fairly.

Another goal for this Diamond Year is to recognize the 100 Pillars that have kept our Lakewood Chapter active and engaged in our democracy. We will share the histories of some of the women and men that sacrificed to make Lakewood a more perfect place to live, raise families and retire. Some of the Pillars you'll recognize, like Bernice Pyke, the chapter founder and first woman to run for mayor in

Lakewood, and Florence Allen, the first woman elected to judicial office in the US. Other names you'll recognize as local, living, icons of strength: Pam Smith, Kathy Kosiorek, Mary Osburn, Cindy Marx, Linda Beebe, Teresa Andreani, Chitra Walker, Janis Ford, Jacqui Davis, and Mary Warren.

Many Leaguers have passed, but their contributions to our city, schools, library, community service center, senior center, Arts Festival, historical society, garden club, school board, Shakespeare Festival, and democracy are not forgotten. We honor them by continuing their work to empower voters, defend democracy, and perfect Lakewood. We enthusiastically invite you to join us this year in celebration of Lakewood women. Events are being planned and we hope to see you in person again. Please watch this space for developments. Peace.

Cindy Strebis is a community activist and concerned citizen.



Thomas Sorrell "The Waning Edge of Winter"

Ohio Watercolor Society Exhibition

by Andrea Fisher

The Lakewood Public Library is currently displaying watercolor paintings from the Ohio Watercolor Society's annual juried exhibit. The artworks will be on display until February 6, 2022 in the Main Library Second Floor Gallery.

The Ohio Watercolor Society's competitive annual juried exhibition is a showcase of artwork created by Ohioans, as well as members of Ohio art organizations from neighboring states. The artworks were created with water soluble mediums: watercolor, acrylic, casein, gouache and egg tempera.

The Ohio Watercolor Society was formed in 1978 with the purpose of advancing watercolor as a major painting medium, to help in the education of Ohio residents in the area of watercolor aqueous painting, and to foster a greater appreciation and interest of



Frederick C Graff "Island Departure"

watercolor painting.

For more information, visit: ohio-watercolorssociety.org

Lakewood Project's "Say My Name" Concert Rescheduled

by Christine Gordillo

Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases currently in our community, the Lakewood Project concert originally scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 22, has been moved to Saturday, Feb. 12 in the Civic Auditorium. The show begins at 7:30 pm and tickets are available in the LHS Bookroom (216-529-4047) and online at www.payschoolevents.com.

The "Say My Name" concert features The Lakewood Project

performing songs from all genres and decades that have a name in the title. Songs such as Gloria, Uma Thurman, Valerie, Baba O'Reilly, Hey Jude, and Jessie's Girl to name a few. It's sure to be a fabulous concert for all ages. Presale tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. With the purchase of one presale adult ticket, you can get one student ticket for \$1 off. Tickets at the door are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.



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Government



Letter On Council Docket Re:
Updating Of Building Codes

Meghan George
Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

January 18, 2022

Dear Members of Council:

The sudden collapse of the Marine Towers West parking garage on December 23, 2021 was an immense shock to our community. We are incredibly fortunate that no one was physically harmed during the collapse, but over one hundred of our fellow residents were forced to evacuate right before the Christmas holiday. Dozens suffered the complete destruction of their cars and additional loss of property, and all the residents suffered fear, panic, inconvenience and so many other emotions as they were forced from their homes.

As you know, we have filed initial charges against the involved parties for commencing work on the parking garage without securing permits from the City of Lakewood. This work was intentionally being done with no notice to the City, and a construction crew was actively working on the garage right before the collapse. I am utterly appalled that anyone would undertake this kind of high-risk construction project while trying to skirt our city and state laws on permitting. Our investigation continues and we expect to have final results soon.

What all of this has made abundantly clear is that council and the administration need to jointly explore how we can think outside of the box regarding our building and housing code as well as our criminal offenses. We must be innovative and more aggressive to ensure that property owners and contractors know that Lakewood is a city that will forcefully implement and pursue our building codes and policies.

I have asked multiple departments within the Administration to work together and thoroughly review our ordinances then develop a set of recommendations for council. We look forward to presenting this initial analysis to City Council next month.

I want to finish by again personally stating my deep gratitude to the multiple city departments and regional partners who rushed to the scene to deal with the chaos and then worked tirelessly for days to make sure people remained safe. I appreciate all their dedication to keeping our community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Meghan F. George
Mayor, City of Lakewood

Lakefront Public
Access Plan

continued from page 1

granted the City an easement across their property in exchange for the City funding the construction of shoreline protection infrastructure and a publicly-accessible waterfront trail.

The Lakefront Public Access Plan will use the ‘Euclid Model’ to identify areas impacted by shoreline erosion in order to determine opportunities to improve transportation networks and increase public access to Lake Erie as part of public-private partnerships for shoreline stabilization.

Public Meetings

County Planning is coordinating with local communities and regional entities to develop the Cuyahoga County Lakefront Public Access Plan. The Plan builds upon past and current planning efforts including the following:

- Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)
- Regional Lakefront TLCI

Cuyahoga Greenways Plan

- Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Study (CHEERS)
- Community Confluence TLCI
- Vision for the Valley TLCI
- Downtown Cleveland Transportation Connectivity TLCI

See the Regional Planning Context page for more information about these planning processes.

Public Engagement

Public input will be important to the success of this planning process. Whether you are a lakefront property owner or a resident interested in better access to Lake Erie, your input matters. We will be hosting public meetings throughout the planning process in order to gather your thoughts and ideas.

County Planning is committed to meaningful public engagement, and the restrictions placed on public gatherings due to COVID-19 present unique challenges. In response, County Planning and our partners will be conducting virtual meetings with clients, stakeholders, and the general public. We are continually working to improve public engagement by incorporating the latest technology and techniques during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information go to <https://www.countyplanning.us/projects/cuyahoga-county-lakefront-public-access-plan>.



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Lakewood Cares

African Talent, In Chimoio

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 the last article, I told you that I arrived in Chimoio, Mozambique in Africa, and I started working on different projects with the community, children and teenagers. With the sun setting very early these days here in Lakewood I've been thinking of Chimoio and remembering the fun I had with the projects. The one that I'm going to share today was my favorite project for sure.

After spending a couple of weeks in the school in Chimoio, I started to feel less like the new person and more comfortable to offering my help with whatever they needed. One day I was talking with Teacher Carlos, he teaches culture, history and arts. He asked me if I had any experience in theater or in art, so I could help him in that area and do something new. I, of course said YES! I was so excited because I thought I could teach dance or theater, which are my favorite things to do! So, I proposed to him the idea of a Theater Club.

When I told the students about the idea to start a Theater Club, they got so excited and immediately asked me if they could show me a play they had. After they finished the play, I told them that it was amazing!!! and we should do a new play, and I'll find a new option. Then I remembered that while I was in Brazil, I saw some teenagers learning the play "The Little Prince," and they ended up giving me the script which was Portuguese. The situation couldn't have been more perfect, because everyone in Chimoio speaks Portuguese, so I didn't have to make any changes to it. When students read the script, they were so happy and came up with the idea to show the play at graduation as an artist number for everybody. I started to help them figure out and assign the roles that I thought were best



for them. When we started to rehearse, I was so impressed with how talented they were! Unbelievably good!

We started to practice three days a week after class, and yes! I was the Director, so I started looking for some other opportunities to show everybody how talented they are. One day I went to the council office, looking for some information about festivals or organizations where we could make presentations in public. While I was there, I met Joel, a lawyer that worked for the government, and I told him about our project. He was so interested in our work that he invited us to participate in a Theater Festival for schools. The only problem was that the festival was in Tete, which is another city that is about five hours away, so in order to participate we needed funds to pay for the trip and expenses like food, gas and accommodations.

I talked with Soní, the director of the school, who was so proud of the work that we were doing, and she helped us with the funds for the food, and I did a fundraising with friends to pay for the costumes and props for the play. However, we still needed help for the transportation and accommodations. Days later, the students decided to make a different type of art and they organized an art sale at the city

square. From the sales of the art, we got the budget for gas so I called Joel and asked him if there was any chance that the council could provide us the transportation, and he said YES! Then Soní got a school in Tete to receive us and accommodate us in classrooms with mats to spend the weekend there for the festival. Everything was ready and set in motion for us to go to participate on the festival and travel around the city, everybody was so happy because travel is always fun!

After knowing that we were going to participate in the festival, we were working even harder, rehearsing every day and making all the costumes and props by hand. The day arrived and we left for Tete, happy and enthusiastic about being there. On our way there we sang, played, took naps and funny pictures. We arrived at the school of ADPP in Tete (an African organization who fights against poverty), a very pretty and homey school. At the festival, there were five different groups participating in the competition, and they were so good too, so everybody started to feel the pressure of the competition, hahah... The day of the competition was a sunny with a fresh breeze, and there were a lot of people expectant to see all the wonderful plays.

We were the second one to present of five different groups. I was behind the curtain making sure that everything was going according to plan. After all the presentations, the jury went to another room to discuss the decision and we stayed on the stage waiting

for them, the tension was everywhere haha... When they finally made the decision, we got third place!!! and we were awarded with a handmade wooded Giraffe as a trophy, it was wonderful. The students were jumping and taking thousands of pictures. That was the first trophy that they won as a Theater group. I felt so proud to be part of that amazing moment for them and happy to see that this first step will give them all the courage to keep pursuing art.

When we came back to the school, the community was waiting for us with a beautiful party and the music group singing and dancing, showing us how much they appreciated the hard work. I personally love theater, and it was kind of my dream when I was younger. I did it once in Chile and it was great, but this time was different, it made me feel part of the beginning of something powerful.

This is part four of a series of articles. Every article that I write and share makes me feel so much better when I don't feel my best, and looking at these amazing memories makes my days more hopeful about coming back one day.

Please read more about my world traveling adventures in future issues of the Lakewood Observer.

References:
Schoolin USA: <https://oneworld-center.org>
African Organization: <https://www.adpp-mozambique.org>
Fernanda Quiroga is a Traveler from Chile currently working in Lakewood.

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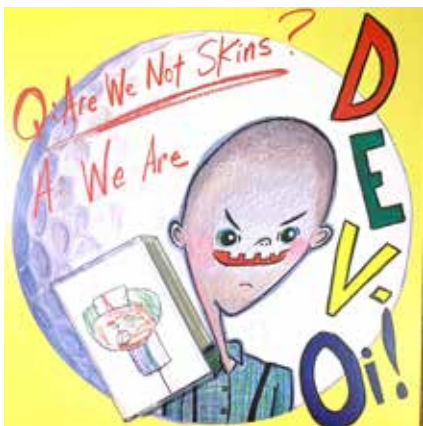
I Yell Oi! And I Punch You:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 121

by Buzz Kompier

Machine Go Boom - When We're Ghosts - Just Because Records - 10 songs - cassette, digital

The unexpected return of Machine Go Boom, a whopping fourteen years since their previous album "Music For Parents." Avid MGB fans will be thrilled to learn that they sound largely the same as ever, perhaps older and wiser, perhaps not. In any case, the opening track here, "Oh, The Cold," immediately proves that they haven't lost it— it certainly shows the band at the height of their powers as a catchy, scrappy indie rock group (and plus, it's got the classic acoustic start to full band after first chorus bit; you can never go wrong with that). Other highlights here for me were the hooky lo-fi "You're An Adult," the big fast electric number (i.e. the "Madeline Isn't Coming



Home" of this record) that is "Situation Comedy," the beachy feel of "Ape Sounds," and the quiet acoustic ballads "Chop Chop" (which repeats the quiet front half into full band big ending trick, but I don't mind at all) and "On A Sovereign Coast." The other songs here, however, have their good parts and definitely have

the Machine Go Boom signature sound, but in some way or another just don't have enough going on. Several songs are driven by the same uninspired drum beat played with absolutely no change throughout the whole song, and you'd be astonished how something as simple as that can doom an otherwise decent song like "It's Funny" or "Body Costume"— or, even worse, when the rote drums collide with a song where there's not enough happening melodically or musically and the lyrics are basically inaudible so there's really nothing to grab onto. I think on the whole the album's worth hearing, especially if you like nice sloppy '90s-inspired poppy rock music, or especially especially if you're already a fan— if you can look past the parts where it gets, forgive me for using such a strong negative word, boring, there are a lot of good songs here. Also, I think I mentioned this in the Suitor review as well, but big props to Just Because Records for putting out tapes that look so good and have matching download codes and all that; it's clear a lot of love goes into these releases and that's always good to see. 3.5/5

(justbecauserecords.bandcamp.com)

The Toughskins - Q: Are We Not Skins? A: We Are Dev-Oi! - My Mind's Eye - 10 songs - LP

Yes, this is exactly what you think it is. Everyone's favorite oi! group, Kent, Ohio's own Toughskins, play the songs of everyone's favorite new wave group, Kent, Ohio's own Devo. Musically they're pretty straight punk covers of the Devo songs (i.e. sped up and played with distorted guitars, no keyboards on here that I heard) with the lyrics changed so they appeal to the skins: from the obvious ("Mongol Oi! d"; "Freedom Of Ch Oi! ce") to the stupidly genius ("Mr. B's Mosh-pit," a favorite here for me; "Black Eye Express"; "Skinhead"). "Social Fools" retains its title, which is honestly funnier than any change made. Not everything is so blatant: one of my favorite moments here is when Dave—I mean Food— I mean Jimmy Mustang yells "that's pep!" during "Uncontrol-

lable Oi!" instead of "that's right!"— not because it's an oi! thing but because it's a reference to a Devo song in a different Devo song. These are some true fans, these Toughskins. Actually most of the funniest moments come from the subtler changes as opposed to the yelling of "oi!" (though I'll never object to a well-placed "oi!" myself), like when instead of "he had a job" in "Mongoloid," it becomes "he had a WORKING CLASS JOB!" Also, every time Jimmy Mustang pronounces a long O sound, it sounds like he might slip into saying "oi!" I don't know if he's doing that on purpose or he's just conditioned that way from years of beating up hippies and having skinhead picnics. If all this sounds obnoxious to you, it probably will be, but if you're the target audience (Toughskins fan, Devo fan with a sense of humor) here I'm pretty sure you'll get at least a couple laughs from it. That's all for now. That's all we know. This is the end. Oi!

(you can contact My Mind's Eye at 216-521-666-0)

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.

Get Your Taxes Done For Free

by Tom Smith

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Provides In-Person Service at Lakewood Congregational Church

Beginning February 7 and continuing through April 12, AARP Foundation is providing tax assistance and preparation through its Tax-Aide program — and it's completely free.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is the

nation's largest volunteer-based free tax preparation service. Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to ensure they understand the latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code. In 2020, 1.5 million taxpayers who used AARP Foundation Tax-Aide received more than \$1 billion in income tax refunds.

Tax assistance will be provided using a low-contact method of operating where taxpayers interact with IRS-certified Tax-Aide volunteers in one or two short, in-person meetings to exchange documents. COVID safeguards including distancing, table shields and required face masks for taxpayers and volunteers will be in place.

The new location in Lakewood is the Lakewood Congregational Church, located at 1375 W. Clifton Blvd at Detroit Avenue. Appointments are available every half hour from 11:00 AM through 1:30 PM. To make an appointment please call 216-221-9555.

For more information about AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, including types of service, other locations, and documents preparers require to file your taxes, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669).

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New Year, New Salon!

by Kim Watters

Lake House Salon and Spa, LLC located on the first floor inside the Lake House Condominium in beautiful Lakewood, Ohio offers a safe and comfortable environment to relax in while getting pampered with beauty services.

I saw the opportunity to reopen the salon on November 20, 2021 after it was closed in March, 2020 by the previous owner due to the pandemic. It is my intent to provide our clientele with the same warm and cozy comforts of being at home with a great view of Lake Erie. Lake House Salon and Spa, LLC provides comprehensive hair and nail services that range from hair coloring, cuts, and styles, to manicures, and pedicures. I am proud of our highly qualified stylist and nail technicians who offer services using the best up to date techniques and products on your hair and nails, because our mission is to make you smile.

I currently employ one hair stylist and two nail technicians. I am lucky to have Cherie who is a hair stylist with

over 14 years of experience and prides herself on being dedicated and precise. She enjoys her craft and loves to make her clients beautiful. Cherie specializes in making damaged hair healthy again. She is proficient in all the latest coloring techniques, cuts, updo's, and braiding styles.

My nail technician Jasmine has over 20 years of experience. She is very excited about bringing her passion for nails to the community. She specializes in pedicures, nail enhancements, and manicures. Jasmine likes to pamper her clients with her gentle care and make them feel extra special. The other nail technician on our team is Shantrice, who strives to provide new and existing clients with a safe and clean environment. Shantrice guarantees that she will provide you with all your looking for and more in a nail technician. Her nail art style is very trendy and modern. She also has bling placement skills to add to her list of talents.

We're happy to be in Lakewood and look forward to meeting you. Please call and schedule an appointment today and always remember your smile is our mission.

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Lake views from the pedi-spa chair.

Serving Lakewood Seniors: Lending A Helping Hand To Those In Need

by Barry Wemyss

Volunteerism is alive and well in Lakewood. Of the huge number of people giving of their time in this community, few are more appreciated than the people helping to bring meals to our home bound neighbors. Coming from all walks of life, Lakewood Division of Aging volunteers are united in their desire to provide a hot meal and a smile to Lakewood's vulnerable elderly. From the retired who are wanting to make productive use of their time to young moms and dads who are wanting to teach volunteerism to their children, to professionals who are willing to take some time during their day, they are all working together to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors.

On any given weekday a team of Division of Aging volunteers delivers 70 to 80 hot, nutritious lunches to home-bound isolated seniors. For many, this will be their only hot meal as well as their only face-to-face human contact that they will have that day. Particularly in

this age of covid, when so many vulnerable people are still forced to self-isolate for their own safety and wellbeing, the opportunity to receive a good meal and a warm, friendly greeting from someone who cares is truly priceless.

The Lakewood Division of Aging is currently on the lookout for Home-Delivered-Meal volunteers. Meal routes typically take an hour or less to complete. Volunteers can serve on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. Here at the Lakewood Division of Aging we care about the health and wellness of our seniors, volunteers, and staff. There are a range of covid protocols in place to provide an additional layer of security for all of us.

For more information or to apply for this or other volunteer opportunities, please call the Volunteer Services Office at 216-529-5005, or reach out via email to barry.wemyss@lakewoodoh.net.

Lakewood resident Barry Wemyss is the Volunteer Services Supervisor for the City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services, Division Of Aging.

State Farm Celebrates 100 Years With 100 Grants

by Ben Justice

State Farm® is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2022 by building State Farm Neighborhood Assist® bigger. That means more submissions, more grants and spreading good to more communities.

This year, the program will award 100 \$25,000 grants (vs. 40 grants in previous years) to nonprofit organizations to help fund neighborhood improvement projects. Additionally, we're doubling the number of cause submissions to 4,000.

"State Farm Neighborhood Assist truly embodies the spirit of what our company has been about for 100 years-being a good neighbor," said Rasheed Merritt, assistant vice president at State Farm. "We are excited about expanding the program in 2022 to help even more neighborhoods."

Here's how the program works:

Submission Phase: Starts February 16 and ends when 4,000 submissions

are reached.

Individuals can submit a cause at www.neighborhoodassist.com starting February 16 at 1pm ET. You can prepare now by going to the website and downloading the submission guide. We will accept the first 4,000 submissions. The State Farm Review Committee will then narrow the field to the Top 200 finalists using a scoring rubric.

Voting Phase: April 27-May

The 100 causes that receive the most votes will each win a \$25,000 grant. Winners will be announced on Tuesday, June 7, at www.neighborhoodassist.com.

Last year, 125,000 people cast more than 3 million votes in support of their favorite causes, selecting winners from small towns and big cities.

Since the program began, more than 380 causes have received a total of \$10 million to enact change in their communities.



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Prizes Awarded!

Thank you to all who decorated homes, bringing joy to their neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who nominated or voted, and all who went out and checked out the homes. A big thanks to the Lakewood Observer's advertisers and partners in this, Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, Root Cafe and West End Tavern for providing the gift certificates. Congratulations to the winners.



First place - Maria Gramajo on Lewis Dr.



Second place - Nidhal Hammad on Lincoln Ave.



Third place - Ron Manner on Lewis Dr.



Fifth place - Richard White on Olivewood Ave.

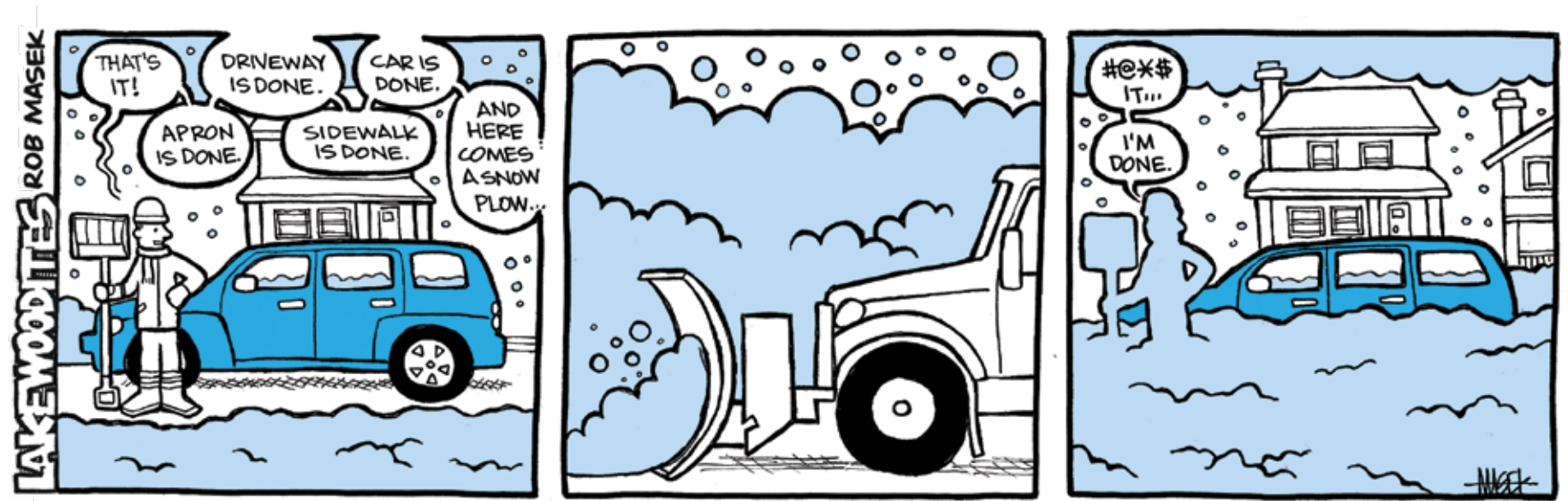


Sixth place - Rich Tallant on Edanola Ave.



Eighth Place - Bob Dempsey of Mars Ave.

The Back Page



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