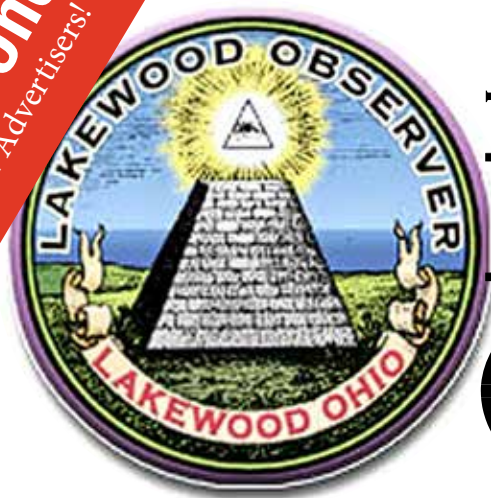


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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 18, Issue 03, February 3, 2022

## Kyle Baker Appointed Councilman For Ward 1

by Jim O'Bryan

As we were going to press last week, lifelong resident Kyle Baker was being chosen to fill Lakewood's vacant Ward One Council seat by a unanimous vote of City Council, 6 - 0.

The appointment process was triggered in November, when then Ward One Councilperson Tess Neff beat Lakewoodite Sara Fagnilli to replace Patrick Carroll as Lakewood Municipal Judge.

Kyle ran in the general election in November for a Council-At-Large position, missing qualifying for the seat by only 100 votes. When it came



Lakewood Councilman for Ward 1, Kyle Baker.

time for Council to choose Tess Neff's replacement, Kyle was at the top of the list.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

## Ice Rescue Practice - Lakewood FD

by Jim O'Bryan

Every year Lakewood Fire Department heads down to Rocky River in the Emerald Canyon when it freezes

over for ice rescue practice..

As Lakewood is bordered by water on two sides--literally half the city--a big part of the Lakewood Fire Department's rescue services are water rescue. Three months a year that water can be frozen over, hence the need for ice rescue.

It seems silly that a hundred yards from where Lakewood Fire Department was practicing ice rescue, families were walking on the ice. While the Fire Department chose the river, the families were walking the thin edge between the shore and the open water of Lake Erie. While I was talking with some of the fire department the point was made that the ice they were training on

was about an inch thinner than a day ago, because of afternoon temps. While it could still support an average human, it was getting to the point where it might not support 2, 3, 4 people or a family! The other day driving past Edgewater Beach I saw people about a tenth of a mile out. Today that is all open water. Fire Chief Dunphy pointed out that it is not illegal to walk on ice, just foolish. Even along the rocks there are always holes, breaks and slippery spots. And once you are in the water, your strength starts to leave you body in the first 30 seconds!

BE SMART, but if you get in trouble, or you see somebody in trouble, call Lakewood Fire Department, they are damn good at what they do.

## Neighborhood Family Practice Commemorates Opening Of Recently Relocated North Coast Community Health Center



photo: City of Lakewood

A healthy ribbon cutting at the new location at 11906 Madison Avenue.

by Andrea Lyons

On Monday, January 10, Neighborhood Family Practice (NFP) opened the doors to its newly relocated North Coast Community Health Center at 11906 Madison Avenue in the historic "Birdtown" neighborhood of Lakewood.

"In summer 2021, an unexpected but perfect opportunity presented for us to purchase this newer, larger building. This expansion allows us to accommodate continued growth and better address community need for the high

quality, affordable health care services to those living in Lakewood and surrounding areas," says Jean Polster, RN, MS, NFP's president and CEO. "We're incredibly grateful for the community's support of what we do."

NFP has recently added a second physician and has expanded capacity for new patient appointments. NFP provides care to all ages, regardless of ability to pay and accepts most insurance plans. Significant discounts are offered for uninsured and

those with high deductibles and co-pays.

A ribbon cutting ceremony, conducted to commemorate the opening of the new location, was attended by the following:

- Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood
- Dan O'Malley, President, Lakewood City Council and Councilman for Ward 4
- Jean Polster, NFP President and CEO

continued on page 3

## District Seeks Input For Strategic Plan

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools is embarking on a process to develop a three-year strategic plan, and we need your input!

The District will be gathering information throughout the month of February from staff members, Board members, District families, students, and the greater Lakewood community.

The aim is to have an actionable and measurable plan in place to start the 2022-2023 school year.

A survey will be open from Feb. 7-Feb. 25 for all community members to

respond. The survey can be found on the Lakewood City Schools website at [www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org) or you can access it via the QR code. Your anonymous feedback will provide valuable insight for the District.

Share your thoughts. Be a voice!





The Mayor's Corner

# The Scoop On Snow

by Meghan George

After a relatively mild December, winter is in full force and snow is top of mind for all of us. I often get questions from residents about street plowing, sidewalk clearance, and snow removal, so I'm dedicating this issue's column to sharing some facts about how Lakewood handles snowstorms.

The Department of Public Works is charged with preparing for and responding to winter storms, and meets in advance of any predicted heavy snow to review staffing and equipment, then plan accordingly based on capacity and forecasts. While storms can be unpredictable, we do our best to be prepared. The Streets and Forestry Division is responsible for plowing and salting of roads, with other divisions – including parks, refuse, and water – also having roles in clearing city-owned lots, sidewalks, and properties.

Although Lakewood is less than seven square miles in area, our compact nature, high number of streets, and reliance on street parking pres-

ent significant work and many challenges for snow removal. There are over 200 miles of street lanes to clear in our city. Our plowing plan focuses on safety, beginning by clearing main streets, hills, and bridges – the top areas where accidents occur and the most traffic – then moves on to residential side streets once those priorities have been addressed.

City ordinances mandate that if four inches of snow fall in a 24-hour period, an emergency snow parking ban automatically takes effect on "snow streets" – no announcement is required, but the City routinely sends reminders of the ban through local news outlets and social media. "Emergency Snow Street" signs are posted, and you can also find a complete list on our website's snow information page: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/snow/>

Anyone without off-street parking may park in city-owned lots ([https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/pdf/Municipal\\_Parking\\_Lots.pdf](https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/pdf/Municipal_Parking_Lots.pdf)) at no charge during a major snow event.

One related topic I want to high-

light is sidewalk clearance. Lakewood is a community that values walkability, where many residents do not drive, and we are also one of a handful in the state where children walk to school (rather than take a bus). This makes keeping sidewalks shoveled especially important. Our city code (Section 521.06) reflects this by mandating that owners must clear snow from sidewalks that abut their property, and our building department sends out notices when walks are not shoveled. Multiple public works divisions will assist with both bus stop clearing and sidewalks, namely around schools, whenever possible.

We understand that disabled or elderly residents may be unable to shovel themselves or cannot pay for snow clearance. We are fortunate to have dozens of selfless volunteers that pitch in to shovel in those situations

through LakewoodAlive's shoveling program. The program needs more volunteers, so for those who are interested, please reach out to Matt Clark at Lakewood Alive (<https://www.lakewoodalive.org/volunteer/>). I have also begun conversations with City Council on this topic to see where we can update city policy and programs to help keep sidewalks clear.

I want to thank all our city workers who have been hard at work clearing snow recently – it is a tough job with long hours, and we appreciate the team effort to keep us safe during snow season. I especially want to thank group leader Brian Dawson, whom I spent a few hours with as he plowed his city route. Finally, I want to thank all of you who have shoveled your own sidewalks (especially the Wagar Ave. unicorn!) or pitched in to help neighbors. It shows how much people in Lakewood care for and look out for each other.

## Planning Update From Mayor George

### Planning for the future

Our balanced budget includes a \$150,000 Lakewood Pier study, which has been warmly received among residents. People want to enjoy the biggest asset we have, which is our waterfront. The County Planning Commission's Lakefront Access Plan provides a partnership opportunity which makes this the right time.

The Intergenerational Community Center should be opening this Spring, in the former Cove Church. This will really change the way that we approach human services, by bringing all the elements of this great department under one roof.

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Lakewood Observer



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City Hall

## Mayor Seeking Grant Dollars As Part Of The Warren Road Streetscape

This letter was sent to Ms. Feighan on 1/19/22 to request grant dollars for the Warren Road Streetscape Project.

January 19, 2022  
Katherine A. Feighan  
Department of Development  
Cuyahoga County  
2079 East 9th Street, 7th Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

## Neighborhood Family Practice Commemorates Opening Of Recently Relocated North Coast Community Health Center

continued from page 1

- Morgan Taggart, Chair, NFP Board of Directors
  - Jon Wise, NFP Board of Directors; Chair, NFP Facilities Committee
  - Jay Carson, Chair, North Coast Health Foundation Board of Directors
  - Terry Byrne, NFP Vice President of Health Center Operations
  - Chad Garven, MD, Physician, North Coast Community Health Center
  - Milijana Sucevic, Site Manager, North Coast Community Health Center
  - Gina Gavlak, NFP Vice President of Business Development; President, North Coast Health Foundation
  - Michelle Curry, NFP Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Diversity Officer
- The Birdtown location is accepting new patients and can be reached at 216.281.0872.

RE: 2022 Cuyahoga County Community Development Supplemental Grant Program

Dear Ms. Feighan:

I write to request your support of the City of Lakewood’s Phase Three of the Warren Road Streetscape Project. This third and final phase of the project is critical to complementing the work already completed along Warren Road. The Warren Road and Lakewood Heights Boulevard/I-90 intersection is perhaps the most utilized and visible front door to our city, for residents and visitors alike. Cuyahoga County has been a critical partner, along with LakewoodAlive, in the success of the beautification and pedestrian and vehicular enhancements of the Warren Road Gateway.

Phase Three fits strategically with other community investments in this area, and aligns with my goals of creating a safer, more vibrant, and healthier community. Phases One and Two greatly improved pedestrian and transit-rider safety and were critical aesthetic enhancements to the city. This all helps to contribute to the quality of life for all Lakewood residents.


This final phase will extend on the previous two phases and complete the vision for the Warren Road Gateway. A public art installation on Winterhurst, along with lighting and streetscape enhancements, will be a welcome addition for residents, visitors, and those who work in the city alike. This proposal will contribute to the sense of community in Lakewood and will help solidify that our city is a great place to work, live, and play.

Thank for providing support for the City of Lakewood as we continue to support investments, growth, and developments to enhance the larger community in which Lakewood is situated. The success of each community in our great county brings the benefits to all Cuyahoga County residents. If you would like to discuss this project or the City of Lakewood further, please contact me at 216-529-6601.

Sincerely,

Meghan F. George  
Mayor, City of Lakewood

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# Lakewood Schools

## Dr. G's Ranger Round-Up

by Dr. Charles Greanoff  
**January 26 - Rangers vs. North Royalton**

After a closely contested first half, the Lakewood Girls dropped the hammer on North Royalton and won going away, 56-37, cheered on by a boisterous student section pumped up by inspiring play and by the announcement of our snow/cold day. Senior Mollie Henrikson, who paced the Rangers with 19, set the tone early by hitting three silky smooth 3 pointers. Sophomore Delaney Garcia was a dominant rebounder and scored 10, while junior guards Sam Hudak and Sydney Hampton provided dribble penetration, energy, defense and scored 6 and 3 points respectively. Once again, Eva Carroll came of the bench and provide valuable minutes and 7 points.

With all that, Lakewood only led by 4 at half and the Bears had the energy and the momentum. But the Rangers responded, with additional

help from junior Brigid McKenna who once again came off the bench to provide staunch defense and timely offense (4 points). Senior Molly Pilgrim scored all 8 of her points in the second half, and was a major factor in sending the Bears into hibernation. Kudos to the Lakewood Student section, most of whom were baseball and/or football players, who were enthusiastic in their support of the girls all game long, though nothing could match the explosion of joy when their temporary hero—Superintendent Niedzwiecki—texted the school cancellation announcement. The whole is far greater than the sum of its parts, and more than anything else this was a team win—players, coaches and even a bit from fans. The Girls Basketball Team earned tonight's win and the student section helped build a sense of community. It was another fabulous evening for the students from 44107



Molly and Mollie, Rangers for life.

**January 24 - Rangers vs. Holy Name**

There is but one ideal remedy for a tough loss—beating that opponent the next time around. Tonight, led by tenacious team defense and superb all-around play by senior Mollie Henrikson (21 points), the Lakewood Rangers earned a 41-29 victory over Holy Name. After last Saturday's frustrating 1 point loss to the Green Wave, the Rangers played with that much more energy and purpose. Junior Sam Hukak (4 points) set the tone with a driving layup and the Rangers were off to the races.

Sophomore Delaney Garcia (6 points) was dominant on the boards and played her usual stifling defense. Senior Molly Pilgrim (2 points) and Junior Sydney Hampton (2 points) played well in starting roles on both ends. The Ranger bench, a clear strong point, once again came through. Junior Eva Carroll (4 points) scored two quick baskets upon her entry in the game, and juniors Brigid McKenna and Jacquie Hudak (2 points) provided, as usual, strong, aggressive and bothersome defense.

Tonight's win had many ingredients, but every time Lakewood needed a basket, steal or rebound, Henrikson delivered. She handled the ball extensively, was instrumental in breaking the press, and had very few turnovers. This was not another record setting performance, but given the magnitude of the game (playing for 1st in the GLC East) and her all-around play, it was one of her very best.

Congratulations to Coach Work, her staff, and the entire 44107 squad for concocting the perfect remedy.

**January 22 Rangers vs. Normandy**

As Mollie Henrikson and Molly Pilgrim left the floor to rousing applause today, they departed knowing that they were instrumental in Lakewood's decisive 54-30 senior day victory over Normandy. As usual, they used hustle, 3 pointers, rebounds, put backs, driving layups, steals and high energy to propel the Rangers to a win. But today was senior day, and while losing would be a serious buzz kill, the game was not the main event. Today was a celebration of the commitment it takes to play four years of high school basketball--enduring hours of practice, summer workouts, weight training, grueling conditioning and the occasional heartbreaking loss. The success on game day—and these two have had plenty this year-- is made when no one is watching. Mollie set a school record this year (seven 3 pointers in one game) and Molly was a key component of the vastly improved Volleyball team (1st Team all GLC). They make an impact.

Today's celebration at our beautiful East Gym was shared, and created, by teammates, middle school Rangers, Ranger basketball alumni, the pep band, coaches (past and present), parents, extended family, and friends. It's hard to imagine anything else that so fully captures the essence of community-based high school athletics than the senior celebration. Thanks to Mollie and Molly, especially, for those things that don't show up on the scoreboard—for being good teammates and stand-up citizens of LHS. These Rangers for Life have been great representatives of Lakewood High School. I look forward to seeing them at Lakewood senior nights down the road. What a great day in 44107.

## Lakewood Public Library

### February Virtual Meet The Author Events

by Andrea Fisher

**February 3**

Author and chef Sara Bir shares the secrets of the pawpaw, a fruit native to North America in "The Pocket Pawpaw Cookbook." For those not in the know, the elusive pawpaw are in season during late summer to early fall in Ohio and taste like a combination of mango and banana. Bir gives expert tips on where to find, how to store and how to cook with this unique fruit.

**February 10**

Local author Mike Fiorilli's "Dead Last" follows Mike Anthony's reinvention as a marathon runner after he loses his high-powered corporate job. As Mike embarks on his first race, his storyline intersects with Kenyan runner Joseph Kipchumba, as each man searches for meaning and purpose.

**February 17**

Northeast Ohio writer, Monica Weber Babcock uses her family's real life mystery as inspiration for her second historical novel, "A Melancholy Union" which tells the tragic story of Irish Famine survivors who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1850s.

**February 24**

Local author Lou Masterson talks about his action-filled novel "Operation Cua Thu – The Last Mission in Vietnam." The CIA's head of counterintelligence has a rare chance to get some information from the Head of South Vietnamese Intelligence near the end of the Vietnam War. Readers will go on a wild ride, as this newly assembled crew navigates the risky mission in the midst of all of the pandemonium as the U.S. prepares to leave Vietnam.

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# Lakewood Schools

## LHS, Garfield Earn \$5,000 STEM Grants

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School and Garfield Middle School programs were each awarded \$5,000 grants from two separate organizations.

Garfield has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Ohio STEM Learning Network STEM Classroom Grant Program to help in the school's effort to become a more environmentally conscious community. The grant will be used to establish the GO Green Garfield program (G3 for short), which will be led by STEM teacher Jaime Chanter, who wrote the grant proposal.

Chanter's focus for G3 will be on helping the planet while also helping others. The grant will go toward purchasing materials to create gardens both inside and outside to grow microgreens as well as to buy supplies to create t-shirts, buttons, infographics, videos and posters to help raise awareness of the benefits and need for recycling and other green practices.

This is the first year for the Ohio STEM Learning Network STEM Classroom Grant Program and is sponsored by Battelle, which funds STEM learning projects in classrooms and schools across Ohio.

At Lakewood High, For the second year in a row, horticulture teacher Shannon Snare has been awarded a \$5,000 Environmental Education and Stewardship Grant from Dominion Energy. The grant program offers money toward programs that encourage environmental stewardship with students. Snare plans to use the funds for basic program needs such as maintaining the landscaped areas on the LHS campus, purchasing supplies, tools/equipment and plant materials as needed. Snare also hopes to add a new garden bed or landscape area to the campus as well and has dreams of community outreach some time in the future.

## Message From Superintendent Regarding School Mask Policy

February 1, 2022

Dear Lakewood Families:

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Last week Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said the U.S. can manage "sufficient control" over COVID-19 so it "does not disrupt us in society, does not dominate our lives, not prevent us (from doing) the things that we generally do under normal existence."

Thank you all for your continued support in ensuring our students and staff remained in school throughout this year. Despite the challenges over masks and vaccines, our students are thriving being in school. Additionally, as a community, we are all working in the office and attending large events indoors more regularly.

With that said, I had shared that I would update our school community on February 1 about our mask mandate. Throughout the past two years, we have adjusted and pivoted our protocols often to align to state and county recommendations. This past week I met via Zoom with state and local medical and educational professionals. Things are changing rapidly as the latest surge of the Omicron variant begins to wane. As we all know, the coronavirus has surprised us time and time again. In an abundance of caution, we are delaying until February 14 our decision on the date that we will institute masks recommended but optional. This gives us a bit more time to ensure the surge is over and to revise our protocols in accordance with state and local health official recommendations.

I think we have all learned from this pandemic that if we are not feeling well, stay home. Be respectful of those around you and continue to take care of yourself and your families.

Respectfully,  
Maggie Niedzwiecki  
Superintendent

## Calling All 2022 Graduating High School Seniors

by Anna Bacho

Students who live in Lakewood. We have scholarships to award.

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is proud to be offering its 2022 scholarship program to graduating high school seniors. The club's foundation increased the awards to FOURTEEN \$10,000 scholarships, \$2500 per year for 4 years each.

Applications and contact information is online at [www.lakewoodkiwanis.com](http://www.lakewoodkiwanis.com). Please submit by April 1, 2022. Lakewood Kiwanis serving Lakewood youth and celebrated our Centennial year in 2021.

#KidsNeedKiwanis

### 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. 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107 • (216) 529-4081 [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com) follow us on facebook.com/lkwdrec • twitter.com/lkwdrec •

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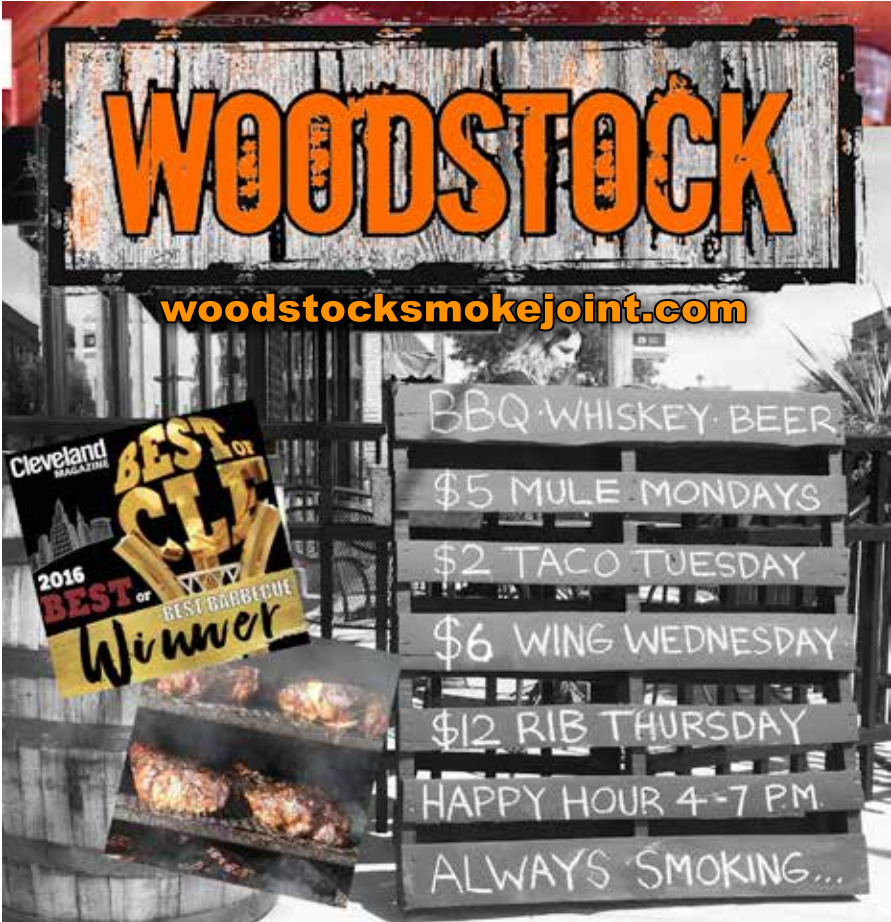
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# Lakewood Is Art

## West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, And The Music Settlement Offer Special Black History Month Concert At West Shore UU Church

by Dorothy Richards

On Sunday, February 27 at 4 pm, you are invited to attend a special concert in honor of Black History Month to be held in the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary, located at 20401 Hilliard Boulevard in Rocky River. The concert is free and open to the public. Masks are required to be worn in the church at all times.

The concert features Oberlin Conservatory’s Associate Dean Christopher Jenkins on viola with soloist, accompanist and educator Dianna White-Gould on piano. The music will focus on African-American composers, particularly those with significant relations to Cleveland and Ohio.

According to David Blazer, West Shore’s Director of Music, the concert is being paid for through a grant by the Music Settlement, located in University Circle, that offers a wide variety of music instruction. “This special concert marks the return of a long-standing pre-Covid era collaboration between West Shore and The Music Settlement, which is underwriting the cost of the concert.”

Founded in 1912, The Music Settlement is a centuries-old community music school forged out of the Settlement Movement as a way to welcome immigrants to Cleveland and unite them through the common language of music. Today it offers music therapy, early childhood education, and music instruction to people of all ages and levels of experience in Greater Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. The school is located in The Burke Estate in University Circle as its main campus, which now encompasses five buildings across more than 56,000 square feet.

Per Blazer, “We are proud to co-sponsor this amazing concert, which features high caliber musicians offering a unique musical perspective to the public.”

Violist Christopher Jenkins is the Associate Dean for Academic



Dianna White-Gould, pianist

Support at Oberlin Conservatory. He is currently earning a DMA in viola performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and a Ph.D. in musicology from Case Western Reserve University, where his performance and research focuses on the music of African-American composers. The American Society for Aesthetics awarded him a curriculum diversification grant for his annotated bibliography on sources related to the aesthetics of African-American classical music, and the Irene H. Chayes “New Voices” award for his paper reimagining the practice of classical music through the lens of Black aesthetics. Mr. Jenkins was a 2003 laureate of the Sphinx Competition, and was Dean of the Sphinx Performance Academy for seven years prior to coming to Oberlin. His alma maters include Harvard University, Columbia University, New England Conservatory, and the Manhattan School of Music.

Dianna White-Gould is an active soloist, accompanist and educator. She was born into a musical family. Her father was a cellist with The Cleveland Orchestra and her mother a composer and pianist. She graduated from Oberlin College Conservatory. She later received a



Christopher Jenkins, viola

Masters in Piano Performance from Cleveland State University. She attended L’Ecole de Fontainebleau in France as a student of Gaby Casadesus. She has also toured Germany performing as accompanist and soloist at The Odenwald Summer Music Festival. Ms. White-Gould has appeared as the featured soloist with The Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra, and twice as soloist with the Heights Civic Orchestra. Other performing appearances include solo and collaborative performances at Severance Hall,

Oberlin College, Ursuline College, Cuyahoga Community College, The Music Settlement, Cleveland State University, Cleveland Public Library, Wooster College and The South Shore Cultural Center in Chicago. She has a strong interest in new music and music of African-American composers and has given world premieres by composers Dolores White, H. Leslie Adams, Hale Smith, and George Walker. She is on faculty at the Cleveland Music Settlement and the Dike School of the Arts, where she directs the Choir and Keyboard program.

For more information, contact the church office at 440-333-2255.

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OPINION

Letter To The Editor

# Comments On The Foster Pool Project

by David Abineri

The current Foster Pool was planned in 1953 and in 1955 Lakewood Council approved its construction. At that time, there were few full sized (50meters by 25 yards) Olympic Sized pool in the nation, let alone in the Cleveland area.

The current plan for replacing Foster Pool seems several steps backwards from the original vision. The 1953 plan was incredibly ahead of its time in anticipating the needs of the community..

I would agree that the new facility should meet the needs of the community, allowing for younger swimmers, competitive swimmers adult fitness and masters swimmers.

I wonder if the planning group for this project would take a broader look at the planning.

Lakewood has two outdoor pools to meet the community needs. The Becks pool is well suited mostly to recreational swimming for youngsters of all ages, rather than competition and fitness swimming.

So, to compromise the Foster pool project while having the Becks pool available seems to be an unwise choice.

The new Foster pool should be on the same footprint as the current pool with any remaining space used for a splash (teaching) pool and slides etc. Having the young swimmers on the slides so close to the deepest (diving) part of the main pool is not a practical plan. A modified slide etc could be moved to make use of the green area north of the pool, so as to maintain the size of the new Foster Pool.

The current Foster pool has ten lanes as seen by the number of starting blocks in this picture below. In the past, all 10 lanes have been used for competition , as well as for training and fitness sessions.

Having a new full-sized Olympic Pool would certainly put Lakewood on the swimming map and would attract teams from far away to come and compete. Lakewood has actually hosted a team from Hawaii! Teams are much more likely to visit Lakewood if there are 8 or 10 lanes available, as such meets would take less time to run and allow for more qualifiers for finals. Visiting teams actively consider the quality of pool facilities.

Adult fitness is growing in its recognition of the benefits of swimming. Compared to running, for example, swimming offers a totally

different environment with benefits to the whole body rather than the pounding on the body that running imposes.

Finally, I have seen Foster Pool on hot summer days truly crammed with swimmers. To take all these people and put them in a smaller pool would seem to be a dangerous situation since it would be a monu-

mental task for the life guards to do an adequate job.

This is our opportunity to raise the quality, usefulness and safety of Foster Pool, and build on the foresight of the 1955 plan.

*David Abineri is a long time resident of Lakewood as a teacher and coach.*

## Calling All Lakewood Republicans, Conservatives & Patriots

by Keith Davey

Our kickoff meeting of the Lakewood & West Park Conservatives was held on January 19th and was an overwhelming success. Over 50 people attended that evening and I would like to thank all of you who took time out of their busy schedules. It was so encouraging to spend an evening with like minded individuals that share common goals and values.

In an effort to continue the momentum of the group, we have scheduled our next meeting for Tuesday February 15th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. It will be held at The Summer

House located at 12900 Lake Avenue in Lakewood.

Our key note speaker that evening will be Frank LaRose, Secretary of State of Ohio. Several of our other local candidates will speak as well. It is a great opportunity to meet the candidates and ask them about the issues that are important to you and your family.

Please feel free to bring your friends and neighbors. All are welcome!

If you need more information or would like to discuss further, please email me at: kd44107@yahoo.com or call me at 216-385-8730.

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# Lakewood Cares

## Legal Aid Offers Free Legal Help With Tax Problems

by Tonya Sams

Tax season is headed our way faster than lake effect snow, and there are many community organizations helping Northeast Ohio residents with tax preparation.

The pandemic has affected how and when we file taxes, as well as what we file. One of the most recent federal tax policy changes is the Child Tax Credit. The Child Tax Credit gives up to \$3,000 for each dependent child

under the age of 17 and \$3,600 if under the age of 6. Through this program, taxpayers may also qualify for a refund if the unused tax credit is larger than the total amount of their tax bill.

If you have questions, you definitely need to reach-out for help! You can call 2-1-1 to find free tax prep help near you or visit [www.lasclev.org/tax-help](http://www.lasclev.org/tax-help) for a list of organizations that help you file taxes for free.

In addition to great community

resources that help you file taxes, Legal Aid is here to help with legal problems related to taxes. Legal Aid has a tax practice that works closely with community organizations not just during tax season, but throughout the year. Legal Aid's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) is a free legal service that helps to resolve taxpayer disputes with the IRS regarding federal income tax matters.

Legal Aid helps people resolve legal issues related to tax issues. For example, Legal Aid attorneys can help people negotiate with the IRS to settle a debt for less than the full amount owed, or lower/eliminate taxable income from debts that were forgiven from banks and credit card companies.

**Legal Aid also helps:**

- Prevent the IRS from taking property, wages, and social security benefits;
- Solve identity theft problems;
- Correct tax preparer fraud;
- Help H-2A workers file taxes (an important step towards gaining citizenship);
- Help people obtain income tax records;
- Protect against spousal abuses in connection with tax returns;
- Advise taxpayers on their rights and obligations regarding the health care marketplace;
- ...and more!

Legal Aid recently helped "Thomas" with a tax problem that needed an attorney's help (name changed for privacy). Thomas owed the IRS five years' worth of taxes. The liens affected his credit report, which created a domino effect. When employers conducted background checks and saw the tax liens, they didn't want to hire Thomas, and financing companies wouldn't loan him money to make much-needed repairs to his home.

Thomas sought help through Legal Aid's tax practice. The Legal Aid attorney discovered that the IRS had failed to release the liens it had filed, although the 10-year collection statute had expired. The attorney then reached out to the IRS as Thomas's legal representative, requesting that Thomas be released from the liens. The IRS granted the request and Thomas could move forward with his job search without the worry of past tax issues destroying his chances at a new and better life.

You can learn more about our tax practice at [www.lasclev.org/get-help/work/tax-problems](http://www.lasclev.org/get-help/work/tax-problems). If you run into a legal issue with your taxes, Legal Aid is here to help. Call Legal Aid at 216-687-1900 or apply for help online 24/7 at [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org).

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

## Local Volunteer Child Advocates Needed

by Tricia Kuivinen

*Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) Help to Change the Lives of Local Kids*

Cuyahoga County CASA, a Northeast Ohio youth advocacy organization, seeks community-based and diverse Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers to work with children at risk for abuse, neglect and dependency who are involved in Cleveland's child welfare and juvenile law systems. CASAs are caring adult volunteers to advocate for the best interests of vulnerable children, both in courtrooms and communities.

CASAs are legally appointed to children's cases directly by the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, and help to provide information the Court needs to make critical decisions in a child's life. To be effective, CASAs get to know the child(ren), work with family members and caregivers, and interview other significant individuals associated with the child(ren), including relatives, doctors, therapists, teachers, social workers, and attorney Guardians ad Litem (GALs). CASAs review educational and medical records, attend Court hearings and make recommendations in court

regarding how the child(ren) can achieve permanency, meaning a safe and loving permanent home.

Due to large numbers of local youth in foster care, many more community volunteers are needed to serve as child advocates. Each of these children deserves the individual support and advocacy that a CASA volunteer provides. CASA volunteer candidates must be age 21 and up, complete an application and interview, pass a background check, and complete 30 hours of Pre-Service training before being formally sworn in by the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court and being assigned to a child's case. Once assigned, CASA volunteers are asked to invest 10 hours per month visiting their child at home or in school, collecting information, working collaboratively with case parties, and making best interest recommendations to the Juvenile Court.

*There is no cost to become a CASA volunteer, but the personal reward that comes from serving a local child in need can be great! To learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer or to provide a donation that will help to sustain the CASA program, visit us online, follow @CFAAdvocates on social media, or call us: 216.325.7747.*

## Lakewood Seniors, Listen Up!

by Adelaide Crnko

Do you enjoy discussions on TV or the radio covering a variety of subjects? How about actually partaking in a nearby event? Now's your chance.

Aimed toward those 55+ in age, SLA Video Productions will be producing a video podcast series before a live audience which can also be live streamed or viewed later on demand from their YouTube channel.

The purpose of the series is for older adults to select content of interest to them and then present it through SLA Video Productions. And, it gives seniors an opportunity to utilize modern technology by linking them to the live stream and even a chat box where they may submit a question.

The pilot broadcast will feature representatives from the Virtual Brain Health Center. Vital information about this increasingly significant topic, including practical tips and resources to support brain care, will be offered. Or, quite simply, "what is brain health and why does brain health matter?"

This episode will be filmed at the Westlake Community Services Center (28975 Hilliard Boulevard) on Friday, February 18, at 11:00am EST. Covid protocols will permit a limited audience and masks are mandatory. To reserve a seat, phone 440/899-3544. Find the live stream link @slavideo on their facebook page or @SLA Video Productions on YouTube, the latter site is where post-broadcast viewing is accessible. The brain health presentation is sponsored by Hospice of the Western Reserve.

The Women in History program of Northeast Ohio is being considered as a future topic. The dialogue will showcase the background of this impressive group familiar to many Lakewood Library patrons who have seen their performances there.

SLA Video Productions services include social media, PSA's, podcasts, documentaries and consumer marketing. To reach them for further information, go to [slavideo.com](http://slavideo.com) or [cheryl@slavideo.com](mailto:cheryl@slavideo.com).

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# Lakewood Is Art®

## What Is Love?

by Gregory Norris

While shopping in the greeting card section of a local store, I was looking for a birthday card for a close friend.

You may be looking for the card that expresses exactly what you want to say, but cannot find it, so you settle for the best one you can find to show that special someone how much you care, support, love etc. you have for them.

While trying to accomplish this and Valentine's day being heavily promoted in the store, many of the cards expressed love for someone in one way or another. I found myself asking the

question: What is love? Many cards tried to answer this but did not. Being a person of faith, I found myself looking in a Bible for the answer. I found the best answer in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth, it always protects, always trusts, always hopes always perseveres."

"Love Never Fails"

Thinking about this a friend shared a post from (Positivity in Life)

"When you have a friend that checks on you and wants nothing but the best for you without motive... keep them close. Such souls are hard to find." This shows the kind of love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

In other words, if you love someone, it is a road you walk together as one, helping and supporting each other and just by being present.

I think I have found my answer and I hope you find yours this valentine season.

*Gregory Norris is a 28 Year Corporate Security Professional and 16 Year Golf and Life Skills Coach with First Tee who enjoys writing.*



## FEBRUARY

**ARIES:** The Ram likes taking risks, the way to the Ram's heart is doing something physical, how about snowboarding together, then afterward, let your animal instincts come out by the fire.

**TAURUS:** The Bull doesn't want to leave the Bullpen on Valentine's Day, they prefer the comfort of their castle, a home-cooked gourmet meal, wearing nothing but an apron? Hmmmm...

**GEMINI:** The Twins love their intellect stimulated, they love books, try reading a few pages from Fifty Shades of Grey, while serving up a couple of Sicilian Kiss cocktails on the rocks.

**CANCER:** You'll win an Oscar with this Crab if you cook up some homemade Chocolate Salted Popcorn,

paired with a bottle of Moscato & Cary Grant's "An Affair to Remember"...

**LEO:** The King/Queen of the Jungle loves the Royal attention, pull out all the stops, glamour & the glitz, serve up your best bubbly, paired with a filet mignon & then let out your best ROAR.

**VIRGO:** This one's a bit more challenging, make a veggie pizza together with herbs you grew on your windowsill & homemade sauce you canned, with organic wine from your basement.

**LIBRA:** You are one of the true romantics of the Zodiac, traditional flowers, chocolates, and a small but tasteful piece of jewelry with Bocelli playing in the background should lock it up.

**SCORPIO:** Scorpions, you must come out of your cave for this one, unless you have something we can't

print in mind, you love the mystery, a titillating game of hide & seek, winner takes all.

**SAGITTARIUS:** If you really want to take home the Gold with your Centaur, book a room somewhere new, tell them you're taking them on an adventure, blindfold them in the car and go.

**CAPRICORN:** The Goat's still at the office on the most romantic day of the year, tell them you have a great business opportunity waiting at home, show up at the door with only a briefcase.

**AQUARIUS:** If you want to score points with the Aquarian, it definitely needs to be out-of-the-box thinking! Whatever is the craziest rebel-rousing idea you can produce, do it, and good luck.

**PISCES:** The Fish, true romantics, it's hard to screw this up, take them to a wine & paint event, then go home and play "Unchained Melody" while eating chocolate-covered strawberries, bingo!

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



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# OBSERVATIONS

by Debra O'Bryan

The coldest time of year is upon us. Don't let our furry friends become casualties of the extreme weather. We love our dogs (and cats) here in Lakewood, yet there are still people who are ignorant about their care or worse. There are many reasons people have dogs. Companionship, support, and security are the top few.

Most of us who have pets today, treat them like members of the family. They're in the house, warm and dry, loved and well taken care of. Unfortunately, for the unlucky dogs and cats who are left outside without adequate shelter, it can be life threatening.

Cats should not be left outside in this weather. Period. They may still ask to go out, but you may not get them back in, they could get spooked and run off. I've heard too many times that cats are tough, farm cats don't come in, and so on. Well, "farm" cats get acclimated to the weather and they do have shelter. They're called barns. Barn cats can thrive with other livestock in the right conditions, but this is Lakewood. Too many cats get killed every year by crawling up into warm engines of parked cars to sleep. Make a habit of giving your hood a good whack in the winter to chase away guests before starting your car. If you notice a stray or two in your neighborhood, have a heart and take

## The Dead Of Winter

some initiative. Providing a safe haven isn't hard or expensive. An old styro-foam cooler makes a great cat shelter. It should have two small entries on opposite sides that a cat can squeeze through. (One is an emergency exit if a predator visits.) It should contain an old sweater or small blanket to snuggle in. Under the porch or tucked in under some heavy shrubs are good places for a small cat shelter where it won't get blown away by heavy wind. If you know where the cat on the loose lives, take it home or let the owners know where you last saw it if unable to pick up.

Dogs who spend a majority of the time outside require sufficient shelter from the cold. This means a dry, draft free, preferably insulated dog house or igloo (not a crate!) packed with straw. Not just loosely thrown on the floor, but filled to the top. The dog should be able to burrow into the straw to maintain his body heat. The dog house should be raised a couple inches off the freezing ground with a heavy rug secured over the entrance as a flap to keep out the wind. The shelter should be located out of direct wind, preferably with a garage or fence to help as a wind break. Straw should be added as it breaks down.

When the temps drop below freez-

ing, into the 20's or lower, bring the dog inside! Sooner, if the pooch is under a year, elderly, or small as frostbite and hypothermia increases dramatically. Dogs who are outside also require extra food as they burn calories to stay warm. Provide a warm meal at least twice a day along with fresh water. Use plastic feeding bowls so their tongues don't get stuck to metal. Don't forget to give them love and a good checking over as well. Look for signs of frostbite. Discoloration on paw pads, nose, and ears. Please remember to store anti-freeze inside a garage and clean up any spills.. It tastes sweet, dogs will drink it. It will kill them.

For our inside babies, forego that winter haircut. Let the poodles and the like grow a heavier, bushier coat. It's their natural defense. Closely cropped cuts may look cute, but without a sweater to protect them, they're going to freeze. Be aware of their paws on walks. Vaseline or cocoa butter slathered on their pads prior to walks will help immensely. Salt and other dangerous ice melting chemicals damage paws and poison them if ingested by licking. Give them a good wipe when you get them back in the house. Not a bad idea to have a small towel with

you on your walks to get those ice balls from out between their toes that will cause them to lift their feet. Keep the walks frequent but short as the temps fall. You'll both be happier.

See something, say something. Please speak up for those who cannot. Politely let your neighbor know that you are concerned about their pet. Whatever the issue. Usually, that's all that is needed to open their eyes and hearts to a condition that they may not have fully understood. I had a neighbor years ago that kept their pooch out in all kinds of terrible weather. Broke my heart, didn't want to confront. They came home one day during a blizzard to find their Golden wearing one of my old parkas. The dog wore it proudly by the way and smothered me with gratitude licks as I bundled her up! Nothing was ever said. They always took the dog in after that. Since then, I have found my voice as well. Most people will do the right thing when they realize how much you care about thier pet.

When all else fails, if you encounter animals being abused or neglected, it is our duty as a community to to report them to our law enforcement. It is a crime.

*In the dead of winter, help them survive and thrive.*

## Lakewood Fire Department Ice Rescue Practice



Firefighter Seth Andregg shows how it is done, throwing a rescue bag to the victim.



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PENULTIMATE PAGE

Pastoral Care And Pastoral Counseling

by Seth Smith

Pastoral care and pastoral counseling are integral concepts necessary for effective ministry within institutional settings and church communities. It is vital to identify, recognize and differentiate between these two vocations. Although pastoral care and pastoral counseling are very similar, they have striking differences that one must understand to properly pursue and satiate our spiritual needs.[1] This essay will briefly demarcate pastoral care in light of pastoral counseling.

Pastoral care “historically included any activity of the church that meets the needs of its members and its community; thus, activities of pastoral care can include preaching, visitation, performing funerals, counseling parishioners, outreach to the homeless, and many more”.[2] Pastoral care represents the reaching out of Christians to help, heal, or aid in the spiritual advancement and betterment of mankind. The duties of the chaplain are to give primary care to all those in need who seek the help and compassion of one dedicated to the holy life lived out in Christlikeness. Pastoral care does not require the regimented psychological background that pastoral counseling requires. In essence, anyone who

cares can provide pastoral care. While rooted in pastoral care, pastoral counseling differs in specialization and need. “Pastoral counseling is both a specialized form of pastoral care and a specialized form of counseling.[3]” It is ethically important for the chaplain to understand how pastoral care transfers over to counseling so that he/she will know when, where, and how to get help or help others. Whereas pastoral care is the reaching out of one Christian to another, pastoral counseling involves deeper levels of therapy not afforded by regular parishioners, patients, or clergy.

“Psychology became a vital part of the chaplain’s preparation and has provided skills that were needed, readily discernible and marketable in the clinical setting.”[4] Knowing the skills needed for proper counseling with patients who experienced trauma, etc. allows for a broader way to serve those in need.

Recognizing the similarities and differences between care and counseling sets up boundaries that allow proper healing and growth to the client by the correct person.[5] Many times the pastor or chaplain may take on the role of a counselor by supplementing it with care. Knowing the limitations of one’s ability to prop-



erly assign soul care and direct those in need of proper counseling to the right people is the right move in all situations. If we overreach our pastoral duties and attempt to help those that need serious counsel, we run the risk of further damaging the client.

The importance of soul care could not be more important than in the new modern age of pills, medication, and overreaching physicians. “To attempt to reduce all pastoral care to counseling is to fail to recognize both the breadth of pastoral care as well as the distinctive nature of counseling.”[6] It may be an oversimplification to state that all pastoral counseling is an extension of pastoral care but not all pastoral care is an extension of pastoral counseling. Identifying where one ends and the other begins is the true challenge of the steward. But its importance cannot be overstated.

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[1] Certain portions of this essay are taken from original material written by Seth Smith for South University in “Introduction to Pastoral Counseling” in 2017 titled Pastoral Counseling and Soul Care.  
[2] Barbara J. McClure, Moving beyond Individualism in Pastoral Care and Counselling: Reflections on Theory, Theology and Practice (Cambridge: Lutterworth Press, 2011).


[3] David G. Benner, Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-term Structured Model, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003), pg.28.  
[4] Lawrence E. Holst, Hospital Ministry: The Role of the Chaplain Today (Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock, 2006), 18.  
[5] Gordon Lynch, Pastoral Care and Counselling (London: Sage, 2002),  
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