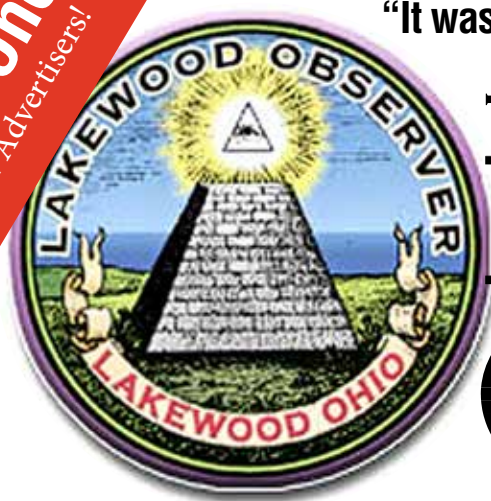


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“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” - Charles Dickens

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Volume 18, Issue 06, March 16, 2022

Healthy Lakewood Foundation Announces 2022 Grants Program

by Kate Ingersoll

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) Board of Directors is excited to announce new funding opportunities for 2022. Since March 2020, the Foundation has focused its grantmaking on responsive funding for initiatives and programs related to the COVID pandemic. Although a response to pandemic-related recovery continues to be important, HLF recognizes that a more comprehensive approach to grantmaking is vital to advance health and wellbeing in the Lakewood community.

HLF's 2022 grant programs are built on the Foundation's core belief that social determinants of health - the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age - significantly support or hinder health for all individuals and communities.

als and communities.

HLF has created distinct grant programs to support a spectrum of approaches to address the needs of populations in pursuit of improved health for Lakewood residents.

Community Grants will open to applicants on March 28. These grants are designed to support providers of care and direct service, advocates, community engagement, and research to advance existing programs and envision new strategies to support the Lakewood community.

Neighborhood Opportunity Grants will open in August 2022 and provide small, accessible, and community-based grants that support organizations and groups to initiate and expand meaningful projects at the hyperlocal level.

System-Level Grants will commence in 2022 via a by-

invitation-only process. These larger grants are directed to organizations undertaking system-level efforts (policy, advocacy, research) that seek to address the major challenges faced by certain populations and/or the general Lakewood community.

COVID-Response Grants will continue on a limited basis to support efforts that enhance the capacity for response to and recovery from the ongoing COVID pandemic.

“We are excited to begin a comprehensive grantmaking process to engage a range of non-profits, community organizations and residents to expand the services and programs that foster health and wellbeing in Lakewood,” said Kate Ingersoll, HLF's Executive Director.

To learn more about HLF's grant programs, please visit its website: <https://healthylakewoodfoundation.org/>



Ward 4 Councilman Dan O'Malley at one of his favorite morning meeting spots, Shore Restaurant, 12009 Detroit Avenue. Here with the owners, and great Lakewood residents, Angelo and Tina Skantzios.

City Council Losing O'Malley

by Jim O'Bryan

File Under Hottest Rumor On The Streets: Lakewood loses Ward 4 Councilman Daniel O'Malley to a "hire" calling.

I cannot get into how or why I have this feeling, but in dealing with people in and around town, suddenly the talk about Lakewood Councilman Daniel O'Malley has gone from, “He is doing a good job” to “You know Dan O'Malley has a real future in the real

world.” He is making a difference already advocating for his union members to the Bibb administration, where Dan served on the new mayor's transition team.

Of course it could be something in Dan's real job with the North Shore Federation Of Labor/A.F.L.C.I.O.

If the rumor is true, and it is, I wish Dan the best, he has been good for Council and Lakewood.

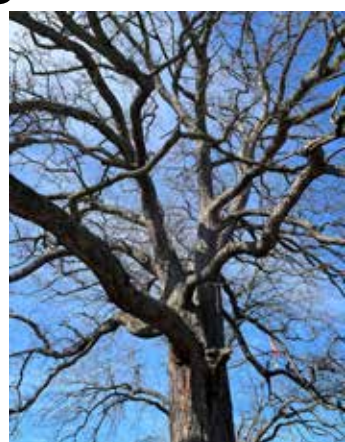
Lakewood's Most Distinguished Tree Contest

from the TAEB

Lakewood's Tree Advisory and Education Board and the Lakewood Observer are holding the first Most Distinguished Tree in Lakewood Contest, launching on Arbor Day 2022. The contest is aimed at celebrating Lakewood's status as one of the oldest Tree Cities in the USA and encouraging the planting and maintenance of the city's tree canopy. It also is focused on encouraging active participation by all residents in the appreciation of our trees. <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/help-grow-the-citys-tree-canopy-plant-a-tree>

Nomination Process

The contest encourages all Lakewood residents to nominate their selection for the Most Distinguished Tree by submitting an entry form that identifies the location of the tree by address, one of three categories (Biggest, Prettiest and Scariest) and comments on what attracted the nominating resident to that tree. The cat-



egories for this initial contest are being left open to the interpretation of the nominating residents in order to encourage broad participation with input from residents on what tree attributes capture their imagination and appreciation. The nominating resident does not need to be the owner of the tree. We encourage all tree loving residents to participate in the contest. Nominations will be accompanied by a photo of the tree. Nominations may be submitted beginning on Arbor Day, April 29, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The nomination form is available online at the

Lakewood Observer website <http://lakewoodobserver.com/daily-question/2022-03-15> or via mail to Lakewood Observer, PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

Selection Process

Once the nominations are submitted, Lakewood residents will be asked to vote on their pick for the Most Distinguished Tree through an online voting process that provides the photos, categories and addresses of the trees. Votes may be submitted from July 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022. After votes are tabulated, the trees with the most votes in each category will be named the 2022 Most Distinguished Tree of Lakewood and the nominating resident(s) will receive the top prize. In event of multiple nominations, all nominating residents will receive a prize. The top 10 runners up trees will also be identified and nominating resident(s) will also receive

continued on page 11



Ukulele Workshop In Lakewood

by Peter Luongo

Mysteries of the Ukulele Revealed!

Ukulele Magazine calls Cleveland “one of the most rockin’ ukulele scenes in the country.” The Northeast Ohio Ukulele group will be rockin’

right here in Lakewood with Peter Luongo, one of the world's most experienced and preeminent ukulele teachers. Peter founded the internationally renowned Langley Ukulele Ensemble - a student group

continued on page 7

Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Steps Up For Firefighters



Lakewood Fire Chief Tim Dunphy, Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst, Rocky River Fire Chief Aaron L. Lenart and Harlan Radord from Rotary at the Swim-A-Thon where the Rotary club raised money for fire equipment for Lakewood and Rocky River Fire Departments.

The Mayor's Corner

Good News From The Lakewood Police Annual Report

The City of Lakewood Police Department recently released its Annual Report, which provides detailed data and trends in the city for 2021. The report shows that despite national trends of rising crime in the U.S., offenses in Lakewood are generally flat or lower than they were previously over a five-year lookback period. What's especially encouraging is that violent crimes like assault, robbery, and burglary are down, as well as quality of life property crimes like theft.

This reduction in criminal activity within Lakewood actually goes against national trends, where violent crime data has ticked upward. The FBI's most recent annual uniform crime report provides

by Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood

data showing that violent crime reached a low point in 2014, but since that time, there has been a significant rise in those offenses. Over the past two years, new and increased safety challenges also emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thankfully, Lakewood has not part of these national trends.

Even though the data in the Annual Report shows Lakewood safety headed in the right direction, I want to acknowledge that our city is always working to improve, and we also realize that there were a handful of concerning crimes last year that deeply affected our community.

I am proud of our officers, who produced a very high clearance rate on those crimes, and do an excellent job keeping our city safe and serving our people.

Chief Kaucke and I are always in conversation on how to get better, improve our strategy and tactics, and make smart investments that improve crime prevention. Whether that means increasing patrols in key areas and paying overtime when necessary or buying new equipment and hardware, our goal is to help officers be more effective and stop crime from happening. One investment from 2021 that we found highly impactful are the 40 new cameras installed citywide. Those cameras have directly led to numerous cases of serious crime being solved, and are a great resource for prevention and investigation.

My administration is currently exploring additional methods to be creative in ensuring that safety capacity is maintained. That includes

looking at ways non-officers can help with keeping eyes on the community to make Lakewood safer while allowing officers to concentrate on dealing with direct calls for service and follow up on crimes.

I'm also proud that the annual report shows the focus that our police take a holistic approach to safety. Our officers know that not every situation is about crime or an arrest, and the data demonstrates this. The annual report's section on crisis intervention is a great example of this, showing that the LPD has a high success rate in responding to those experiencing a mental health or similar crisis and that none of those calls resulted in an arrest.

For those interested in reading the 2021 Annual Report from the Lakewood Police Department, it can be found on our website. Go to: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2021PoliceAnnualReport.pdf>

Lakewood Students Place First At Science Olympiad

by Abigail McNaughton

On Saturday, March 6, Lakewood locals Yianni Gountis and Brian Milindi placed first in the "Simple Machines" category in the 2022 Science Olympiad competition held at Case Western Reserve University. They were a part of the Birchwood team, coached by Linda Brown, Michelle Bogden, Lauren Miller, Sam Miller, and Rana Bottino that have been practicing since October 2021. This team composed of fourth through sixth-grade students faced off with many local schools and this event and met with great results.

Ohio's brightest middle and high school students attended the Ohio Science Olympiad regional tournament. Ohio Science Olympiad is the state's premier competition that allows students in grades 5-12 to demonstrate their skills in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) areas.

"Science Olympiad students went



Yianni Gountis Brian Milindi

through a rigorous tryout process in October to be selected for Team 1 or Team 2 in November. Students have been working diligently since November each week after school for an hour on Wednesdays. Many teams also put in extra time over weekends testing, building, and studying. We are very proud of the hard work they put in and their ability to be flexible when changes needed to be made along the way!" reported the Birchwood coaches.

Abigail McNaughton is an alumni of Birchwood School of Hawken and excited to be reporting on the successes of current students.

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April 15, 2022	April 20, 2022

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Lakewood Observer

Laura Shestina, Lakewood Pioneer

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Lakewood Ranger enthusiasts will fondly remember the exploits of our Athletic legends, such as Clark Graebner, Matt Fannin, Michelle Sikes and Barb Major. Each performed transcendently at LHS and went on to national and even international fame (Graebner was a Wimbledon semi-finalist.) Yet, before the mid-70's, equitable athletic opportunities were denied to half the population. Title IX, and some barrier breaking women and girls, began to change that. Sikes and Major got their chance, and made the most of it—thanks in large part to the many pioneering women, including the late Laura Shestina.

Laura's passing earlier this year (LHS '75) did not go unnoticed by family and friends, who were graced by her 64 years of life. Her generosity and fierce loyalty were fully felt by her siblings, nieces and nephews who could always count on her to be there for birthday parties, graduation and of course their games. Though she had no children, Laura was a family first person.

But Laura, like many early women pioneers, has a little known yet vital athletic legacy. As a member of the first ever (74-75) Interscholastic Girls Basketball squad at Lakewood High School, Laura was the leading scorer (25 points per game, including a 50-point outburst vs Rocky River) and rebounder (13 per



game). The Rangers went 11-1 that season, finishing 3rd in a truncated regional tournament. A state-wide OHSAA Girls tournament was started the year after Laura graduated.

LHS Hall of Famer Coleen Kelly Moran ('76), the first ever Female LHS Athlete of the Year, played both Volleyball and basketball with Laura. Other inaugural basketball team members included: Pat Dickey, Karin Leisenger, Kathy Mack, Karin Mack, Kathy Reilly, Cindy Weimer and Debbie Whitler. Waiting in the wings on the JV squad were sister Joanne Shestina, Sue Fink, Charlene Hazeldine, Donna Lesienger, Debbie Schlundt, Carol Van Hal and Kathy Vargo. Coach Linda Perkins, Laura and all of these women build a program and a legacy from which all Rangers have benefited, from the

obscure to the legendary. They deserve to be remembered and honored during Women's History Month and always.

Bridging Shestina, Kelly et al and today's team are among hundreds of Ranger girls who benefit from the grit of the pioneers, and to a transformative Federal Law. Established in 1972, Title IX mandates equal access to any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance, including sports. Federally funded institutions, such as public schools, are legally required to provide girls and boys with equitable sports opportunities.

It states that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

This year, Delaney Garcia and Mollie Henrikson were ALL-GLC first teamers, Sam Hudak was Second Team, and Molly Pilgrim and Sydney Hampton earned Honorable Mention. Their hard work helped the Rangers to a strong 15-8 record. Unlike Shestina's group, they got to play in the State Tournament, defeating Brecksville before losing to a tough Strongsville team. Ranger Head Coach Julie Work, as much as anyone, recognized the value of Title Xi and Women's athletics

and beyond.

"Title IX goes beyond sports. It prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Athletics is an integral part of the education programs and is thus covered.

Because of Title IX and the female pioneers before me, I have had the opportunity to not only play and coach a sport that I love, but also to also work in intercollegiate athletics. Because of women like Laura Shestina, who said 'Why not?' girls for the past 50 years don't know what it is like to not have the opportunities afforded to them, whether it is in sport, academia or the workforce. Thanks to the women who participated before us, we have the ability to create change and inspire people, and continue to say 'Why not?'

I am thankful for not only the women before me, but for the men that have been allies in our fight as well. Without champions on both sides of the coin, we cannot continue to move the needle forward."

Moving the needle is just what Laura and her fellow pioneers did. For all her points and rebounds, her enduring impact is witnessed every time a girl lifts a weight, takes a shot, dives in the pool or kicks the soccer ball. Clearly, Laura's contributions will long transcend her all too short time on this earth.

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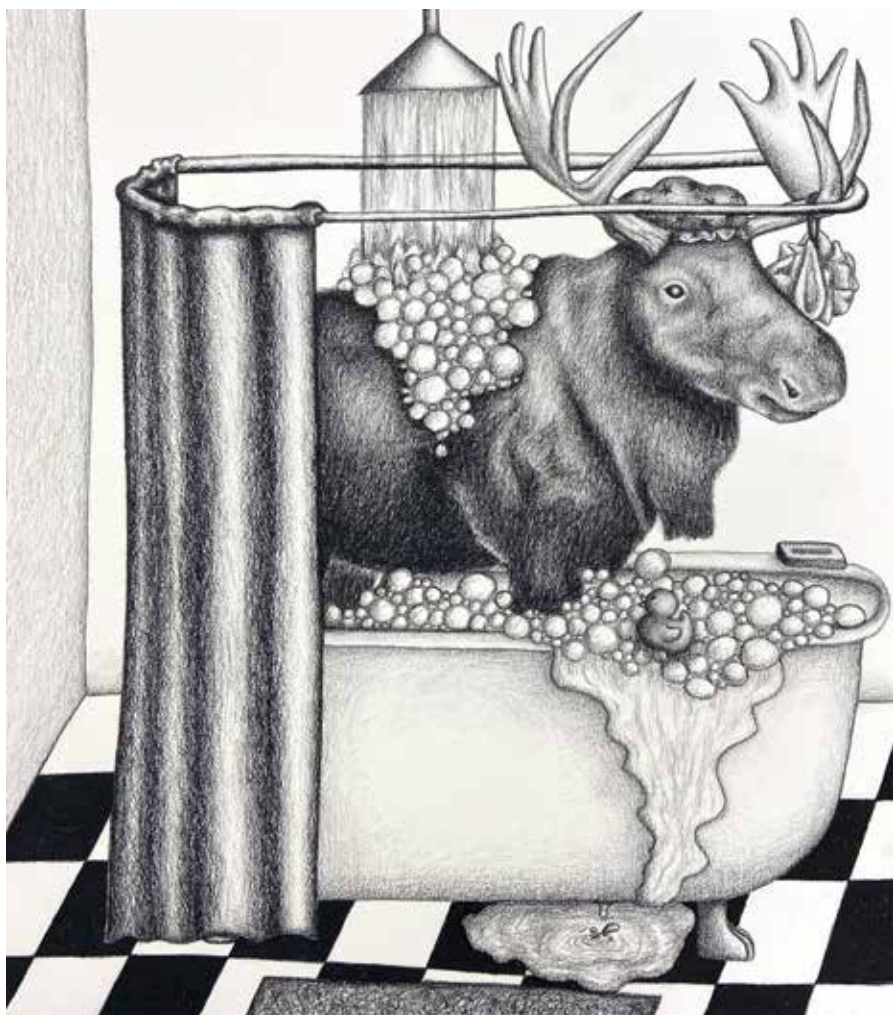
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Lakewood Public Schools



Lila Wright won first place in the Beck Center/Rotary visual arts contest with "Moose and Duck."

LHS Artists Reel In Honors In Area Contests

by Christine Gordillo

A number of Lakewood High students have won recognition for their artwork, including first-place prizes, in competitions held across Northeast Ohio recently. In the 77th annual Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contest sponsored by Beck Center for the Arts, Lila Wright (elevator photography) and Grace Hoppel took the top two prizes in the visual arts competition. Inga Wilhelmy claimed first place with her Invitation to the Couch painting in the Beachwood Arts Council's Ileen Kelner Juried High School Art Show, and seven students had 15 pieces of artwork chosen to move on from regionals to state judging in the Governor's Youth Art Exhibition!

In the Rotary/Beck competition, students from the five Lakewood and Rocky River high schools including Lakewood High School, Lutheran High School West, Magnificat High School,

Rocky River High School, and St. Edward High School, Lila Wright (1st) and Grace Hoppel (2nd) had their art chosen from 145 submissions. LHS students Alexa Colburn and Billy Hamilton also earned an Honorable Mention.

In the Region 8 contest for the Governor's Youth Art Exhibition, judges chose five of Inga Wilhelmy's pieces to move on to the state level for consideration of inclusion in the exhibit that begins in April in Columbus. Angelina Kona, Caleigh Naylon, Helen Roche, and Bee Rohrs (West Shore Media Art & Desing student) each had two pieces selected to advance. Rosie Lipka and Clare Morrissey each had one piece chosen to move on. Our students' art was chosen from more than 1,000 pieces submitted in Region 8!

Congratulations to these talented artists and their teachers, Dayna Hansen, Arline Olear, Amy Sedlak, and Annie McQuay.

LHS To Be A Pilot School For New AP Course

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School has been chosen as one of 60 schools across the nation to pilot an Advanced Placement course on African American Studies. The AP course will be in addition to the current LHS Studies in Black American Studies elective that was instituted with the 2021-2022 school year and has been very popular with students. If the pilot is successful, the high school is committed to offering the course for at least the next three school years starting with the 2022-2023 school year.

The course content will cover four areas:

Unit 1--Origins of the African Diaspora (8th-16th century)

Unit 2--Freedom, Enslavement, and Resistance (16th century-1865)

Unit 3--Practice of Freedom (1865-1960s)

Unit 4--Movements (1960s-early 2000s)

The interest in the course is high among students with 64 registered to take it next year.

Director of Teaching and Learning, Steven Ast, felt that Lakewood High would be a perfect fit for hosting the pilot course.

"I know our social studies department would do this new program justice and help become a model for

the AP community," Ast said.

Lakewood High Principal Mark Walter is thrilled to be able to add to the school's already expansive 200-plus course selection, including 18 AP courses. "We are always looking for opportunities to increase our Advanced Placement options for our students," Principal Walter said. Next year, the high school will boost its AP numbers to 20 with the new pilot course and also an AP Photography course to be added.

The AP course and the newer Studies in Black American Studies and Studies in Native American History are part of the district's increased efforts surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging that include providing a curriculum content that better reflects the perspectives of all of its students.

The district has embraced DEIB work both researching and working to address systems and to impact the classrooms directly such as the high school Black and Native American history electives and expanding elementary classroom libraries to include diversity rich literature. Lakewood City Schools has committed as a district to use the lens of DEIB and Social Emotional Learning to all of its work and recently devoted a full day of professional learning to the topic.

Culinary Students Earn Top Ratings In Contest



by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the West Shore Career-Tech culinary arts students who earned gold and silver ratings in the Baking & Pastry, and Culinary Arts events in the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America's regional competition held at Tri-C Feb. 26. Earning gold in the Culinary Arts category were Garrett Schweter, Sophia Fishbaugh and Christian Reyes. In the Baking & Pastry event, Tahoor Syed and Laura Kotran each earned a silver rating. Students will be notified March 15 if they qualify for the state competition.

The Culinary Arts event recognizes participants' ability to demonstrate ability to produce a quality three-course meal using industrial culinary techniques and equipment.

Participants must develop a plan for the time allotted, prepare menu items given to them prior to the event, and present prepared items to evaluators.

The Baking & Pastry event recognizes participants enrolled in career-technical culinary programs for their ability to demonstrate baking and pastry skills through the preparation of a quick bread, choux pastry, and demonstration of cake decorating skills. Participants must develop a plan for the time allotted, prepare menu items at the time of the event, and present prepared items to evaluators.

Students have been practicing and perfecting their skills for the past few months after school to prepare for the competition. Nice to see the hard work pay off!

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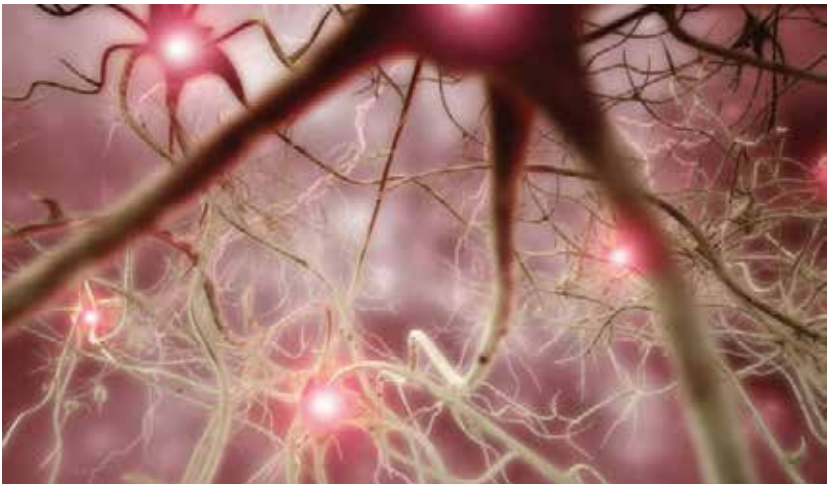
Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system – the immune system damages myelin, the insulating sheath that surrounds nerves in the brain and spinal cord. Damage to the myelin sheath interrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body.

Symptoms of MS are numerous and can include vision problems, muscle weakness, imbalance or numbness. It is a leading cause of disability among young adults.

“Multiple sclerosis isn’t always diagnosed right away because the symptoms can mimic other medical issues,” explains Devon Conway, MD, a neurologist at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital.

Changing the course

There isn’t a cure for MS and damage to the central nervous system can be permanent, but MS medications can alter the course of the disease – not just manage the symptoms.



Dr. Conway says that beginning an MS medication regimen as early as possible can:

- Limit central nervous system damage.
- Reduce MS relapses.
- Slow the accumulation of disability.

“Once a diagnosis is made it’s imperative to begin treatment as soon as possible rather than allowing brain and spinal cord damage to accumulate,” advises Dr. Conway.

If a patient experiences a return of disease activity or worsening of symptoms, switching to another medication may be necessary. This is why it is important to closely monitor MS for signs of active disease through regular physical examinations and MRIs.

“It’s exciting to see all the recent progress in the treatment of MS,” says Dr. Conway. “By slowing its progression, patients don’t have to be defined by their disease.”

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Conway or another Cleveland Clinic neurologist, call **216.636.5860**.

New endocrinologist in Lakewood.



Reena Bose, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family Health Center

Endocrinologist Reena Bose, MD, is now seeing patients at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bose or another provider in the Endocrinology & Metabolism Institute, please call **216.444.6568**.

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Lakewood Public Schools



Lincoln School Jump Ropers Raise Over Seven Thousand Dollars For American Heart Organization

Lincoln Elementary 4th and 5th graders had a hopping good time right before Spring Break as the school held a Jump Rope for assembly and celebrated raising more than \$7,000 in eight days for the American Heart Association! The reward for the highest student fundraisers? A pie to the face for a lucky staff member!

Vision Of A Lakewood Graduate

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

If you are a teacher, you know that every 4 years or so a new gimmick is visited upon us—who can forget "clear learning targets", "flipping the classroom", etc.? Many "new" techniques provide some help, but they usually over promise and under deliver. Often genuine in-person human interaction—the gold standard of education in my view—is usurped by the latest technological fad. The fad loses steam, another one comes along, and the cycle repeats. Techniques and technologies are no substitute for genuine pedagogy, although what constitutes genuine or even "good" pedagogy will never be fully settled, which is probably just fine.

But last year, when our district rolled out the vision of a Lakewood Graduate, something was different. The vision doesn't dictate techniques but is instead aspirational and transcends the day-to-day elements of the curriculum. I find it to be a beacon that encourages teachers to ground their lessons in foundational elements of engaged citizenship.

For instance, if I was now enrolled in AP Chemistry (that would be a serious scheduling error!) I would hopefully approach my struggles with a Growth Mindset (how could I get better?) rather than a punitive one (how could I be so bad at this—what is wrong with me?) Empathy is sim-

ply the cornerstone of all meaningful relationships. Critical Thinking is at the core of effective decision making, whether one is running a business, working in human services, or raising a family. All elements of the vision add up to being an engaged, aware, active citizen with a strong work ethic and a desire to serve others. The aspirations are sublime.

For my part, no lesson is ever fully satisfactory, no day is perfect. But the classroom isn't even the half of it. Students lead and run clubs, teams, performing arts groups, etc., providing so many opportunities to collaborate and grow. This year's LHS History Club has been better than ever, with one fabulous student presentation after another.

All things considered, I'm not sure that any high school in Northeast Ohio offers a richer array of opportunities to grow into ethical, empathic and informed citizens than does LHS. This opportunity-rich environment is owed to the citizens of Lakewood, past and present, who have always had—and supported—our vision before it was a formal entity. In Ohio's most densely populated community, we understand that lifting one child helps all others. Our vision works—it's no fad, but is rather grounded in the most fundamental human aspirations to collaborate, lead and serve.

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A person is sitting on a white beach chair, looking out at a swimming pool. The pool has blue water and a diving board. There are some people in the pool. The background shows a fence and some trees.

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The logo for Lakewood City Schools, featuring a stylized figure of a person running or jumping, with the text "LAKESIDE CITY SCHOOLS" and "RECREATION & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT" below it.

Dive In To Lakewood Rec's Underwater Egg Hunt



by Matt Demaline

Grab your bathing suits, towels, baskets and goggles for Lakewood Recreation's annual Underwater Egg Hunt. This year's event will be held Saturday, April 16, 2022 at the Lakewood High School Pool beginning at 9:30am.

Children are split up into age groups for the hunt. All children ages 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult in the pool; no separate registration fee is required for the adults accompanying younger children. Eggs can be redeemed for prizes after the hunt.

Don't be fooled by the name; not all the eggs sink. Approximately half of the eggs float at the surface. The other eggs are spread out on the pool bottom, varying in depth from 3.5 feet deep to 9 feet deep. There are a variety of activities in the pool for the children to participate in when not diving for eggs. There are pool toys out for the little ones, and, always a favorite, the high dive for the older kiddos.

Pre-register and save - \$7 registration available only through April 18. Registration is available online at www.lakewoodrecreation.com. We look forward to seeing everyone for this year's hunt.



"Songs For A New World" Review

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Songs for the New World explores lives' uncertainties and losses, but offers hope. The school experience has been in recovery for some time, from zoom dystopia, to hybrid models, and back to all-in--all the while with a heavy undercurrent of anxiety. But, like the mythical Phoenix, the Lakewood Rangers Barnstormers stormed back from the a 2-year hiatus with a heavy dose of hope and more, demonstrating once again the resilience of our students.

Traditions—in this case the sheer excellence of the Lakewood Performing Arts programs—are thankfully stubborn things. They don't die easily, and when challenged come back stronger than ever, thanks to our teachers (In this case Ms Brooks and Dr. Hankins), students and the power of tradition itself. Every Lakewood Ranger that ever played an instrument and/or sang a song owns a part of this magic.

On a personal note, I'm so grateful to get to see the seniors that I knew in Freshman APUSH get a chance to do what they love on a big stage. To finally see Eva Strazek (pictured front and center), who was one of the most fiery students in a wonderfully boisterous ninth period class, in her element was deeply satisfying. Same goes for seniors Ryder Crone and Amy Pilgrim.

All the singers/dancers—Madison Twining, Joe Twardesky, Alex Hodson, Eileen Brady, Ilana Darr, Sophia Gutierrez and Ava Bruening—brought energy and talent to the stage. The pit orchestra was vital to the show and was tremendous. Tonight was therapeutic.

Long Live Lakewood

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood League of Women Voters Diamond Anniversary, 100 Pillars Spotlight: Mary Warren, Voter Services Chair Emerita

by Cindy Strebis

Mary Warren has been registering voters in the Lakewood High School Cafeteria for a very long time. Her 'No nonsense' approach brings order to the cafeteria lunch table as she quizzes the candidates for eligibility. "Who will be 18 by the next election?" Some raise their hands, others just point. "Here." She hands them a registration form. "Fill this out." "What is it?" "You're going to register to vote," she says. "No, I'm...I don't want..." they stammer. "Yes," she replies, "we need you to participate in the decisions being made." To their blank stare, she returns a look of concern. They understand.

The difference between need and want is something Mary knows quite well. A life long social worker, she is committed to improving the lives of people in Northeast Ohio. At 92, her involvement



2021 Mary Warren Impact Scholarship winners with Mary(center).

with the Citizens Advisory Board to Juvenile Court is coming to an end, but three League members will be replacing

her. Her new engagement? She's actively registering voters at her new apartment building where she is concerned about low voter turn out, of course.

Mary has been concerned about citizen participation since joining the League of Women Voters over 60 years ago. She has registered thousands of voters; led and participated in many studies; and educated herself and other League members on issues for over half a century. She even testified before Congress on the urgent need

for affordable senior housing. She'll tell you with a little chuckle and smile, "I'm in the Congressional Record."

In 2021 we created the Mary Warren Impact Scholarship to honor her commitment and drive. We recognize Lakewood High School Seniors who exemplify her values of volunteerism and democracy. We are currently raising funds and will be hosting a 'Disco Ball' on April 30, 2022 for these scholarships. Watch this space for details on this upcoming dance, competition, and fun-fest. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact megbenko22@gmail.com.

To make a direct donation to the Mary Warren Impact Scholarship: Go to <https://www.lwvgreatercleveland.org>. Click on Donate at the top of the first page. Click on Education Fund. Complete your information AND add Mary Warren Scholarship to the Contribution Details Comment section. OR: Please make your tax deductible check out to: LWVGC Education Fund... and write Mary Warren Scholarship on the Memo line. Mail your check to: LWVGC Education Fund P.O. Box 5310 Cleveland, OH 44101

To apply for the Mary Warren Impact Scholarship for LHS Seniors:

Ukulele Workshop In Lakewood

continued from page 1

that under his tutelage performed for 25 years at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort. Peter also taught the amazing ukulele artist, James Hill and was also prominently featured in the award-winning film, "The Mighty Uke."

Peter will present a two-hour workshop, "Unlocking the Mysteries of the Fretboard" which will help 'advanced beginner' to 'advanced' ukulele players learn to use the full fretboard to play chords, finger pick, continue to develop ear playing, learn 'user friendly' music theory, and play solos by combining melody and harmony.

Date: Monday, April 4, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Location: The Horace Mann Elementary School Horace Mann Ele-



mentary School, 1215 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood

Cost: \$40 and includes an introductory Zoom session and a video link of the session!

The evening is sure to be stimulating, invigorating, inspiring, and a lot of fun!

For further inquiries or to Register email: peterluongoukulele@telus.net

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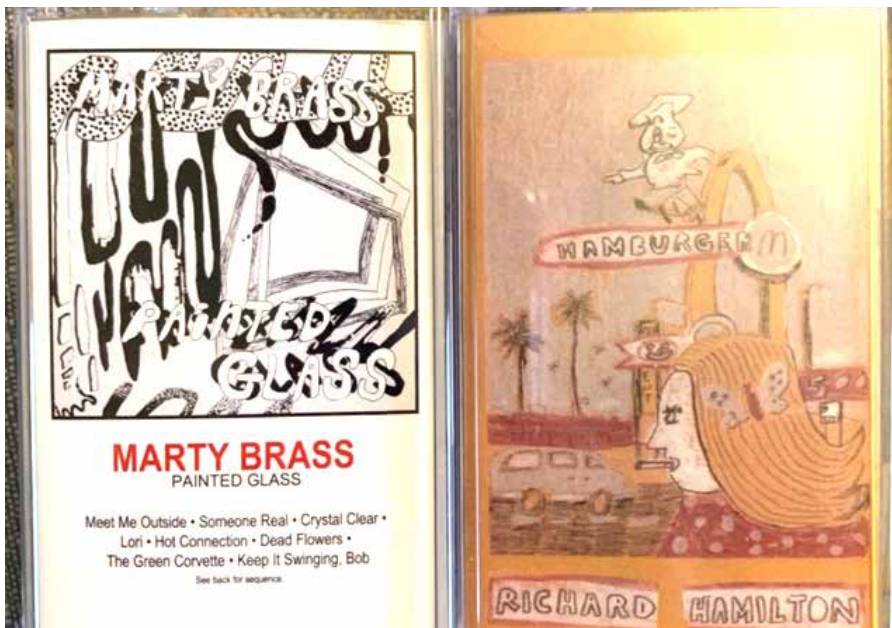
Quality Time Reunion:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 124

by Buzz Kompier

Marty Brass - Painted Glass - Just Because Records - 8 songs - cassette, digital

I was going to call this the debut solo release from Marty Brass until I remembered “On The Grass” from a couple years ago— but I don’t know, can you really count a digital-only release as a true debut? Perhaps things are going that way but I suppose I think of it as the equivalent to what a demo tape before a first album used to be. Does this make any sense? Anyway. Marty, who you may remember from The Nico Missile, Pig Flayer, and Red Devil Ryders and who you really ought to remember because he shreds, comes out with an eight song tape here. At first I was gonna call it garage rock but that would be a bit misleading because I think at its core this is actually far closer to power pop, it just has a grungy production style and freewheeling sloppiness (affected or not, I can’t decide) that begs you to call it garage but most of it just isn’t quite garage. This is in no way a slight and I hope it doesn’t read that way— I love power pop and would love to see Marty openly do that kind of thing. The first three songs here are all excellent— “Meet Me Outside” is the perfect hooky opener (and it has a dramatic “bum ba-bum” bridge that I love— you’ll know exactly what I mean when you hear it); “Someone Real” has a little bit of the ‘80s vibe melodically that’s worked so well for Marty’s contemporary and sometimes bandmate Ricky Hamilton; and people might think this is a weird comparison but something about “Crystal Clear” reminds me of “Rose Parade” by Elliott Smith. “Lori” closes out the first half here and is pretty decent garage pop with some excellent guitar work. The flip side opens with “Hot Connection,” a bit of a slower one with a



great guitar solo, but it’s here that I’ll address my biggest criticism of this tape: the almost complete inaudibility of the vocals. You can pick up the melodies clearly and a phrase or two every so often, but they’re swamped in reverb and buried in the mix. I get that it’s a stylistic choice but at this point it’s almost a cliché move and I’m sure Marty has interesting things to say in his lyrics, so why not let us hear them? “Hot Connection” and “Meet Me Outside” are probably the worst offenders but it persists through the whole tape. Just my two cents. We get a cover of The Rolling Stones’ classic “Dead Flowers” transposed nicely to the Marty Brass style. It’s obviously a great song and a decent version (although I wish he’d stuck with the original harmonies) but in a way it’s the least interesting and least successful track here. “The Green Corvette” is another garage/punk/pop tune and in “Keep It Swinging, Bob” we get a dumb punk rocker to close things out and why not? So yeah, a very good and very enjoyable tape for the most part— certainly some room for improvement but definitely worth the listen. Marty Brass still shreds, some

seven years on from the first time I said that in one of these reviews. 3.7/5
(justbecauserecords.bandcamp.com)

Richard Hamilton - Memory Palace - Tetryon Tapes - 12 songs - cassette, digital

The third release under the Richard Hamilton moniker and the hits just keep coming. I suppose the past couple years have been prolific ones for our friend Ricky. “Psychomanteum,” the opening track here, is him at his best— a great lo-fi indie rock track with some hooky keyboards and a great pop melody. Other highlights include “Real Neat,” with its guitar riff slightly reminiscent of “Picture Book” by the Kinks (or that Green Day song that sounds like “Picture Book”) and some interesting guitar production choices which add to the already pretty good song and which I can only describe as...real neat; “Southern Girls (Deep Fried Pickle)” whose title made me doubtful but actually turned out to be quite good and I have to admit the payoff of the “deep fried pickle” part is actually pretty funny and clever; “Happy Go Lucky,” which, despite the somewhat awkward way the title lyric has to be delivered to fit the meter, is still almost annoyingly catchy; and “Lovers In Mobile,” perhaps the most punk track we’ve heard yet from Richard Hamilton and almost a throwback to his Nico Missile days. I

also have to give him props for taking as potentially lame a concept as “Long Time Listener (First Time Caller)” and actually making an acceptable song out of it— the chorus reminds me a bit of Paul Westerberg for some reason and suspiciously enough, the subject seems to like all the same bands as Ricky himself does, from The Cars to Linda Ronstadt to Crime to Bryan Ferry. Probably just a coincidence. A few on here (“South Of France,” clocking in at nearly five minutes, comes immediately to mind) could’ve been better if they were shorter— sometimes that extra repetition of the first verse again does not add to the experience— and we do occasionally get the clumsy turns of phrase that, at his best, our pal Richard can make charming, but sometimes on here come out as just that, clumsy. Of the three Richard tapes thus far, this is the weakest, but that said, it’s still pretty darn good. If I hadn’t heard the other two and therefore could not make the comparison (which, whether this is a good thing to do as a reviewer or not, I cannot help), you could easily become a Richard Hamilton fan on this tape as it is. 3.5/5

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

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Lakewood History

Lakewood Makes History: A City Of Farms And Fruit Orchards

by Jacqueline Bon

Take a journey back in Lakewood’s history to a time when the city was dotted with farmhouses and fruit orchards. In celebration of Loving Lakewood: Let’s Make History!, we are highlighting the history of our city and organization. Take a journey back in Lakewood’s history to a time when the city was dotted with farmhouses and fruit orchards.

150 years or so ago, you might have heard the clippity-clop of a horse-pulled fruit wagon traveling to the market on the oak planks paving Detroit Avenue.

The French & Andrews 80-acre fruit farm, run by Edwin & Virginia Andrews and her uncle Collins French, was located between Detroit Avenue and Lake Erie from Lakeland to Andrews Avenues.

Their farm was known to be beautiful, landscaped with fragrant plum and cherry blossoms and was famous for harvesting delicious strawberries,



grapes, apples and pears.

The Andrews home on Detroit Avenue, built in the 1850s, was torn down in the late 1930s to make way for Lakewood Plaza (formerly Mars Shopping Center) and its parking lot.

Lakewood was once a major supplier of produce for Cleveland. There were multiple fruit farms in Lakewood, which also included The Hall Fruit Farm, located further west on Detroit Avenue.

Although the farms are long gone, Andrews, French, Hall, and Virginia’s names became street titles, forever ingraining their legacy into Lakewood!



Lakewood Makes History: Lakewood's "Early Settler"

by Jacqueline Bon

In celebration of Loving Lakewood: Let’s Make History!, Lakewood Alive is highlighting the history of our city and organization. This week, we are highlighting Viktor Schreckengost’s “Early Settler,” known to Lakewoodites as “Johnny Appleseed.”

“Early Settler” is an 18-foot-tall terra cotta sculpture commissioned by the Lakewood Board of Education to adorn the new Civic Auditorium at Lakewood High School in 1954.

The sculpture won first prize at the Third Architectural Ceramic Sculpture Competition, Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, 1954.

Viktor Schreckengost was a renowned artist, industrial designer and teacher who taught at Cleveland Institute of Art for 78 years.

It seemed fitting that the sculpture portray early settlers of the region however, there are two interpretations of this legendary character...

The artist created the sculpture to be Johnny Appleseed, sowing apple trees all throughout America.

According to the plaque inside of Lakewood High School, the character is based off of local legend Dr. Jared



Viktor and Johnny

Potter Kirtland: Botanist, Doctor, Naturalist, and Early Settler of Lakewood (back when it was still Rockport, OH).

Viktor Schreckengost also created the famous mammoth and mastodon sculpture in University Circle and “The New Yorker (Jazz) Bowl” commissioned by Eleanor Roosevelt.

He died in 2008 at age 101. Nearly a decade later, in his honor, the sculpture was cleaned and restored after over 60 years outdoors exposed to the elements.

Come and celebrate LakewoodAlive and our community’s history by dressing up as your favorite historical character, artist, artwork or favorite ephemera from your most cherished museum.

LakewoodAlive's Loving Lakewood Fundraiser

by Jacqueline Bon

Come and celebrate LakewoodAlive and our community’s history by dressing up as your favorite historical character, artist, artwork or favorite ephemera from your most cherished museum.

Our spring fundraising event - Loving Lakewood: Let’s Make History! will be held on May 21, 2022 outdoors at The Sanctuary Museum Courtyard.

Tickets for Loving Lakewood: Let’s Make History go on sale April 5 at 10 a.m. and can be secured at LakewoodAlive.org/LovingLakewood.

RSVP and invite your friends on Facebook

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Lakewood Public Library

March Virtual Children’s Meet The Author Events

by Jeffrey Siebert

March 21

Local author Ladosha Wright, hair stylist turned writer, combines her career in cosmetology with writing to promote her books to various audiences about self-acceptance, culture and life. In “Curly Hair Adventures,” Wright focuses on a difficult question young girls, of all ethnicities, want answered: “What can I do to manage my hair and how can I continue to take care of it?”

March 31

Local author Karen Tapp’s book, “Molly the Mallard Duck,” is the true story of Kathy and the mallard duck she named Molly. A bedtime story Karen told her niece when she was one year old, she is now sharing this story with your children.



Another famous Cleveland relief sculpture by Viktor Schreckengost.

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Lakewood Cares

Community West Foundation Awards \$963,000 In Grants For First Quarter

by Maria Estes

The Community West Foundation Board of Directors approved \$785,000 in first quarter grants to non-profit agencies that provide food or refugee services located in Cleveland, western Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. An additional \$178,000 was distributed through their Community Impact Fund bringing the grand total to \$963,000. The Community Impact Fund was established for donors who wanted to invest alongside Community West’s mission knowing that contributions would be distributed directly to grantees quarterly.

Community West Foundation announced in December they were reorganizing their grant cycle process for 2022 focusing on specific areas of its mission. For the first quarter, the Foundation fielded applications from organizations that focus on water access and hunger elimination as well as those that aid our refugee and immigrant neighbors. **Grant recipients include:**

- Beyond the Walls Food Pantry
- Building Hope in the City
- Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services
- CHN Housing Partners (Water Champions)
- Drink Local Drink Tap
- Greater Cleveland Food Bank
- Hunger Network
- ID Crisis Collaborative



(from left to right) Lynda Kovach, Executive Director at West Shore Meals on Wheels, Lauren Walsh, volunteer at West Shore Meals on Wheels and Marty Uhle, President and CEO at Community West Foundation

- Joshua and Caleb Leadership Center
- Refugee Services Collaborative
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Centers
- The Refugee Response
- Trials for Hope
- US Committee for Refugees & Immigrants
- Village Project
- West Shore Meals on Wheels
- Westlake United Methodist Church – Food Pantries
- Youth Bee Works

Four additional non-profit agencies outside of the focus area were funded after being deferred at the end of 2021 including: Cleveland Christian Home, Linking Employment Abilities

and Potential (LEAP), Safe Families for Children Alliance, and Transformations by Cleveland Angels.

The other quarterly grantmaking focus-areas for 2022 include:

- Second Quarter: Housing and homeless services; Incarcerated or those who are re-entering society.
- Third Quarter: Mental/physical health programming; services for the disabled; addiction treatment and recovery.
- Fourth Quarter: Community Service Organizations that provide a variety of services and any other unique programs not specifically listed.

About Community West Foundation:

The mission of Community West Foundation is to advance the health and well-being of our community. The staff and Board of Directors are guided by the words in Matthew 25:35-40. While their mission is based on these teachings, they are not affiliated with any particular religion. Their grantees, friends and donors come from diverse faiths and practices.

For more information, contact Community West Foundation at 440-360-7370 or visit communitywest-foundation.org



Connecting For Kids Teams With Lakewood Elks Lodge #1350/Rotary Clubs For 10th Meet And Greet

by Lorilynn Wolf

After taking two years off, the Connecting for Kids Meet and Greet is back in Rocky River offering local families resources for children struggling with academic concerns, behavior problems, depression, anxiety and other issues brought about by the pandemic. The event will take place on Thursday, April 7 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River.

Approximately 50 vendors will be on hand representing area therapists, summer camps, adaptive sports and other programs.

For a complete list of participants, and to register for either the in-person resource fair OR to reserve a grab & go bag, visit connectingforkids.org/meetandgreet, or call/text: 440-570-5908 (para español, 440-907-9130).

Connecting for Kids is partnering with the Lakewood Elks Lodge #1350 to offer resource bags for the event while the professional networking hour is generously supported by the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River.

“With so many families in crisis due to the effects of the pandemic, we are so appreciative that the local Elks Lodge and Rotary Club have stepped in to help with this event,” said Sarah Rintamaki, Executive Director of Connecting for Kids. “Both groups put such an emphasis on community service that we are proud to work alongside them to enhance this resource fair, especially as

we celebrate its 10th anniversary.”

The Meet and Greet offers families concerned about their child (ages birth – 12 years) two options to get information:

Option #1: Indoor, In-Person Event

The socially distanced in-person event allows families time to interact with a variety of programs and services aimed at helping children thrive. Spanish translation will be available at the event. Those who pre-register and attend the fair will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 VISA gift card.

Option #2: Grab & Go Pickup
New this year! Families who are not comfortable attending an in-person event can drive up to the tent in front of the Don Umerley Civic Center during fair hours to receive materials in a safe, socially distanced way.

Resource Bag

Whichever option a family chooses, they will receive a free grab & go bag filled with fliers and resources from providers located in Cuyahoga and Eastern Lorain Counties, a folder filled with information from our sponsors that can be used to organize the materials.

The Platinum Plus sponsors of the 10th Annual Meet and Greet are Julie Billiard Schools, State Support Team Region 3, and Westlake Porter Public Library.

Lorilynn Wolf is the Communications Director for Connecting for Kids.

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H2O

Upcoming H2O (Help To Others) Events

by Emmie Hutchison

H2O “Help to Others” is a youth volunteer program that is part of the City of Lakewood’s Division of Youth. We have a couple of events coming up and we’d like to share some information:

HOME ALONE – This is an innovative course created by high school leaders, designed for youth ages 9-12. In the words of senior HOME ALONE designer Greta Frantz, this program “has been specifically created to address the concerns that were commonly expressed by children of the same age during our data collection period. Based on these concerns, we found that our focus should be centered around six main topics: First Aid, Emergencies, Tricky People/Street Smarts, Routines & Siblings, Internet Safety, and especially due to the recent effects of Covid-19, Mental Health. While children are presented with researched information from high school students, parents attend a similar presentation from safety professionals. After each Home Alone program, we ask for feedback from parents and their children on what they have just experienced. In response to being asked what the best part of HOME ALONE is, one parent said, “gaining knowledge on some serious topics through the experience of small groups and with older students allowed our student to learn and grow in a safe environment.” The next

HOME ALONE event will take place on Thursday, March 31st at Lakewood High School. Registration will open on March 9th.

Breakfast With the Bunny – This annual family favorite is returning for an in-person event after being adapted as a drive-through experience in 2021. There will be four seating times to enjoy a pancake breakfast served by H2O volunteers, take photos with the bunny, and bid on raffle baskets. Breakfast with the Bunny takes place at the Women’s Pavilion at Lakewood Park on April 9th, four reservation times between 8:30-12:45; registration will open on March 21st.

H2O Summer Service Camp –

This popular day camp will have four sessions to choose from and each will feature a balance of volunteer service learning, socializing, reflection, and fun. They will have opportunities to go to a variety of service sites to learn about different needs and how they can be part of strengthening their community. Camp maintains a 6:1 ratio of counselors to campers, which means each group has a high-quality experience. Camp has a choice of four sessions from June-early August and registration will open the first week of April.

For each of these events, more information and registration links will be available on H2O’s page of the City

of Lakewood website, found at [H2OL-lakewood.org](https://www.h2ol-lakewood.org). Our social media will also be updated with notices and information. Questions are welcome; call 216-529-6045 or email emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.net for more details.

Emmie Hutchison is the Coordinator of the City of Lakewood's H2O "Help to Others" program.

H2O connects Lakewood youth with volunteer opportunities to develop a strong desire to SERVE the community. Nurtured by a culture of kindness, they LEARN valuable skills while helping others. They GROW into more engaged citizens empowered to make an impact in the world.

Lakewood’s Most Distinguished Tree Contest

continued from page 1

a secondary prize. Results will be posted in the Lakewood Observer and highlighted on the Tree Advisory and Education Board’s webpage on <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/>. Owners of the selected trees will receive a certificate from the City of Lakewood noting their selection in Lakewood’s 2022 Most Distinguished Tree Contest.

Sponsorships

Various Lakewood companies are or will be asked to sponsor the contest and provide contest prizes. Their sponsorship will be included in all news and social media posts related to the contest. Prizes may include gift certificates or gift cards, as well as tree saplings ready to be planted.

The Tree Advisory and Education Board collaborates with the City of Lakewood on urban tree policies and practices, promoting the City’s tree programs and educating residents regarding responsible tree stewardship and the benefits of tree planting on private property. We encourage you to consider planting a tree this year on your private

property! The city of Lakewood is offering discounted pricing for tree planting through their preferred vendor who will be planting over 400 trees on city properties and tree lawns in 2022. Check <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/tree-advisory-and-education-board/>. We will be updating this page with all of the most current information, including the available species for this year’s program.

Of winter’s lifeless world
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Yet each one holds
summer’s secret

Deep down within its heart.

~ Charles G. Stater

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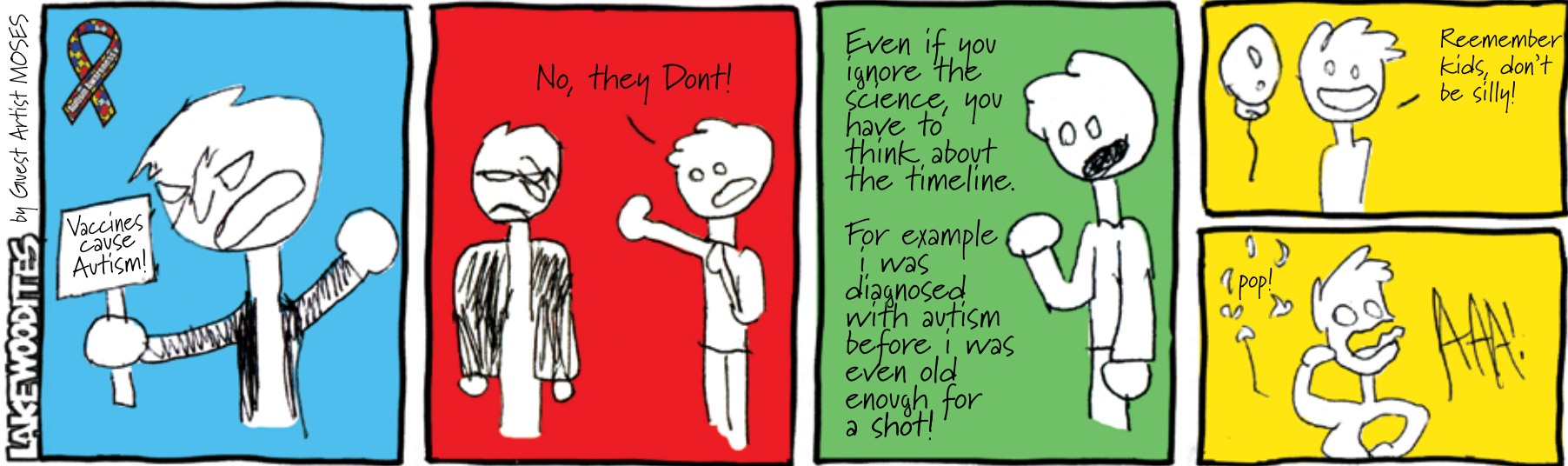
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