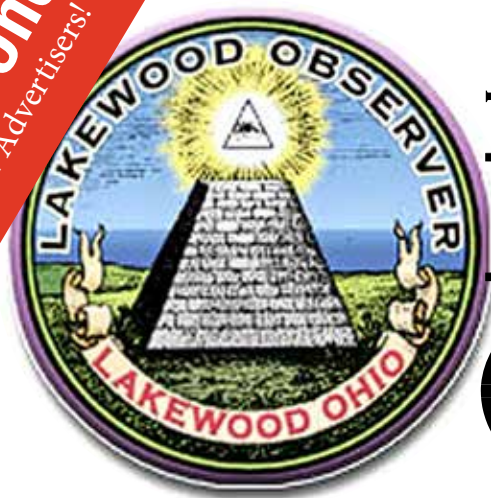


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Volume 18, Issue 08, April 20, 2022

State Of The City

On Sunday, April 5, Mayor Meghan George gave the State of The City Address at the new Cove Community Center. IT contained good news for Lakewood, here is her speech.

by Mayor Meghan George

OPENING

Good Evening. Thank you all for being here tonight, in person, to see firsthand our new Cove Community Center! I would also like to say

welcome to those in our community who are joining us virtually. Thank you for taking the time to tune in.

Before we get started I would like to take a moment and recognize former mayor Madeline Cain who passed away last Monday. For those of you that knew her, you would remember her warm smile and her sound character. Madeline had a long history of public service. Before being elected mayor, she served four terms as a state representative representing Lakewood

and surrounding areas. As mayor she remained steadfast in her commitment to human services and was successful in expanding the services that will be provided today in the new cove community center. Thank you Madeline Cain for leading the way with the many human services trailblazers that are gathered with us here today. Thank you Madeline Cain.

It is my great pleasure to formally open the Cove Community Center to the public, and welcome all of you to this fantastic new gathering place for the people of Lakewood.

This project has its origins decades ago with a group of visionary and dedicated women who pursued this project with a burning passion. They did not let their vision fade and were advocates for unifying our human services into a single, intergenerational facility. We are all the beneficiaries of their efforts I am eager to begin my remarks today by thanking the people most responsible for making this building happen.

Current Human Services Director Toni Gelsomino

Kathleen Lawther – Founding Director of Aging and Human Services

Paulette McMonagle – former Assistant Director Division of Aging

Judy Carey – former Director of Human Services

Mary Hall – former Assistant Director Division of Youth

Dottie Buckon – former Assistant Director of Health; Director of Human Services

DeDe MacNamee-Gold – Senior Services Manager

Laura Schuerger – Human Services Administrative Assistant

Let’s take a moment and give these women a grand round of applause.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the previous administration, and members of City Council who have worked on and supported this project from the beginning. And a big thanks goes to our current team at City Hall who have worked so hard to see this project through to completion.

Taking on such a large-scale project in the midst of



Emerson’s team basks in the glory of winning the 2022 Lakewood Ranger Purple and Gold Classic Tournament

The Start Of A New Tradition! The Lakewood Ranger Purple & Gold Classic Tournament

by Leslie Favre Krogman

For the 3rd straight year the youth basketball tournament that highlights 5th graders from each elementary school in Lakewood was in danger of once again being cancelled.

Realizing its importance and the impact and energy this event creates for our participants, the Lakewood Recreation Department

decided to take ownership, revitalize and revamp the former tournament and established the Lakewood Ranger Purple & Gold Classic.

This past weekend, the culmination of months long practices, organization and community support saw a day-long event that surpassed everyone’s expectations.

continued on page 6

Walter To Step Down As LHS Principal Named First Director Of Community And District Activities

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School Principal Mark Walter has been named Lakewood City Schools’ first Director of Community and District Activities, a new position focused on aligning the District’s curricular and recreational offerings and expanding programming to meet the needs of the community and students. The Board of Education approved Walter’s appointment at a special meeting this morning.

Walter will be charged with evaluating and improving all areas of athletics and recreation and creating a strategic plan focused on elevating the District’s programming in both areas. He will work to foster positive and productive relationships with the City of



Mark Walter

Lakewood and other organizations as it pertains to assuring sustainability of community recreational resources.

As Director of Community and District Activities, Walter will oversee the Athletic Director, Coordinator of Community Recreation and

continued on page 4

Performers Announced LakewoodAlive’s 2022 Front Porch Concert Series

by Jacqueline Bon

This Lakewood summer tradition is back, offering nine opportunities to enjoy free, live music in a welcoming Downtown Lakewood environment.

LakewoodAlive announces the talented lineup of musical performers for the 2022 Front Porch Concert Series sponsored

by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James. See the schedule inside for weekly performers comprising the popular live music program, which takes place each Friday evening (7 p.m.) from June 3 through July 29 on the

continued on page 14

Homeless Jesus Finds Home In Lakewood



by Robin Dillon

On Monday, April 11, the traveling Homeless Jesus statue arrived at Lakewood United Methodist Church. The installation of this artwork is intended to raise awareness of the unsheltered in our community. The traveling resin statue,

along with a full set of six bronze statues, are owned by Community West Foundation. This set of statues were created by Canadian Timothy Schmalz and the six distinct figures are based on the scriptures in Mat-

continued on page 10

continued on page 12

The Mayor's Corner

New Public Safety Initiatives by Mayor Meghan George

The safety of Lakewood continues to be among my highest priorities as mayor, and I am constantly working with our chiefs and directors to explore innovative ways to keep our city safe. That's why this past Monday, I presented Lakewood City Council with a set of recommendations to use federal dollars that our city received from the American Rescue Plan to fund two public safety initiatives.

Regarding our police force, after numerous discussions with Chief Kauchek, we are recommending that Lakewood increase our authorized number of officers by four, bringing our maximum capacity to 99. This increase is necessary to keep our staffing at key thresholds and not face a reduction in service as we deal with succession planning for known and expected attrition from retirements as well as industry-wide challenges with recruiting high caliber talent to the field of policework.

(Nationally, recruiting and hiring pools have sharply decreased and significant numbers of officers have left the field entirely). There is also a lengthy onboarding process required to bring in new officers – recruits or signees from other departments – and have them able to patrol solo (i.e., without a training partner).

By increasing our authorized number of police officers, Lakewood will take a strategic step that provides the financial ability and nimbleness to be proactive in recruiting, attracting, and keeping the City at its current number of uniformed officers. We also expect this to meaningfully reduce the need to use overtime in the police department, thus saving those dollars for other uses while helping with morale and retention for our current officers, who must work a significant number of overtime hours when our roster decreases.

In addition to increasing our maxi-

mum allowed capacity for officers, I am recommending that the City also enter into a contract with a vendor to staff our parks with ambassadors. I have heard from many of you that safety services beyond traditional uniformed officers presence is a priority, and I share this view. I have a holistic view of safety that includes the importance of police, but an understanding that our approach cannot only be about officers. With this in mind, I have regularly met with leadership at City Hall to explore and evaluate innovative models that might achieve this goal. We think that the ambassador program could be a great nontraditional model that adds to Lakewood's safety.

Ambassador programs with elements of safety work have been implemented across the U.S. by cities, neighborhoods, and community groups, including at least a half dozen locally in Cuyahoga County. The model will use trained personnel to provide a stable, friendly, non-hostile role in our

parks, interacting in a positive way with the public while also helping to identify and report potential safety issues before they arise or escalate. Ambassadors wear easily identifiable uniforms (ours will likely be purple and gold!) so they are a visible presence. They will work during warm weather months, primarily at Madison and Lakewood Parks, with additional presence rotating at our smaller parks. This will be a pilot program, and we will evaluate effectiveness at year's end to determine any potential future engagement.

Lakewood is a safe community – you may have seen the news last month about positive trends in our city's crime data in the recently released Lakewood Police Department annual report. I am committed to keeping Lakewood safe – so while I am happy about those positive trends, we can never rest on our laurels. These proactive and strategic investments should help with our important safety goals.

Pop Up! Hobby Shop

by Heidi Murray

Lakewood Historical Society will host Pop Up! Hobby Shop on April 21-23, 2022, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 13314 Detroit Avenue.

The Historical Society has quite a collection for collectors. There is something for everyone from crafters to professional photographers. We have a mini-quilting shop at prices that cannot be beat, a photography collection that could be in a museum and enough trains to span a city block.

Textiles - in every color of the rainbow from remnants to full bolts, silk to wool and everything in between. Sought-after designer prints from Windham, Dear Stella, Andover and Kaffee Fassett. Several machines and many accessories including: Pfaff feet, knitting items, books, patterns, buttons, trims and additional craft items includ-

ing wreaths, ribbons and papercraft.

The photography collection showcases over 20 brands including Minolta, Kodak, Nikon, Mamiya, Olympus, Polaroid, Pentax and Argus to name a few. Many lenses, filters, film, negatives, flashbulbs, bags, tripods, several film projectors and much more. Some of the older pieces would make great display pieces on bookshelves.

Train buffs will find many brands including Lionel, Williams, Kline and Marc in several gauges and everything from engines to cabooses! Baskets of vintage vehicles and figures and several model buildings. Priced to sell.

Well-lit clean display. Cash, check and credit accepted.

All proceeds benefit Lakewood Historical Society.

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How to manage spring allergies.



DeVon Preston, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family
Health Center

The calendar says it’s spring, and if you have allergies, you’re not alone.

“One out of five people has some sort of allergy and the intensity can range from very mild to severe,” explains DeVon Preston, MD, at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center. “If you have spring allergies, there’s a good

chance that tree pollen is to blame for your sneezing, watery eyes, runny nose and more.”

Fortunately, there are options depending on the severity of your symptoms.

Antihistamines are preferred for basic symptoms like itching, sneezing or runny nose. Most are available over-the-counter, and there are two groups. Older antihistamines, or first-generation antihistamines, are typically sedating and include medicines like Benadryl® (diphenhydramine). Second-generation antihistamines, which include medications like Claritin® (loratadine), Allegra® (fexofenadine), Zyrtec® (cetirizine) and Xyzal (levocetirizine) are much less sedating or nonsedating.

Decongestants and nasal sprays are effective for nasal congestion, postnasal drip and sinus pressure. To help with these symptoms, one option is to add something like Sudafed® (pseudoephedrine), which is a decongestant. Decongestants are not recommended for people with hypertension or heart problems. A better option would be a topical nasal steroid like Flonase® (fluticasone), Rhinocort® (budesonide), Nasonex® (mometasone) or Nasacort® (triamcinolone).

“Topical nasal steroid sprays are a good choice for moderate to severe nasal allergies. They block many allergy symptoms by preventing inflammation,” says Dr. Preston. “Nasal sprays typically do not cause drowsiness and have minimal side effects, so they are good for daily use.”

If over-the-counter-medicines and nasal sprays don’t seem to be working, you might want to consider discussing with an allergist other therapies like allergy shots, also known as immunotherapy, which can help lessen your sensitivity to pollen and other allergens.

To make an appointment, call **216.444.6503**.

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- Common medical risk factors for a high-risk pregnancy
- The COVID-19 vaccine and pregnancy

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Questions? Email: wellnessevent@ccf.org.

New surgeon at Lutheran Hospital.



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Lakewood Public Schools

Walter To Step Down As LHS Principal: Named First Director Of Community And District Activities

continued from page 1

Education, and the Civic Auditorium manager and their operations. As a director, Walter will be a member of the Superintendent's Cabinet so as to ensure a seamless collaboration between athletics and recreation and the operations of the district as a whole.

Walter has served as principal of his alma mater since 2018, and has deep administrative experience as well as significant community service experience. He joined the District in 1998 as a science and language arts teacher. He eventually landed in leadership roles as an elementary principal, and middle school assistant principal and principal. He served 11 years as principal of Garfield Mid-

dle School before moving to the high school. Walter begins his new position Aug. 1.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to connect our recreation and interscholastic athletics and to grow our K-12 programs into a comprehensive Lakewood Ranger athletics community," Walter said. "I am also thrilled to be working more closely with the Civic Auditorium and supporting the incredible performing arts programs that have long been a source of Lakewood pride."

Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki is confident Walter is the right person for the job.

"When we began interviewing for this new position in the district, it became apparent that Mark Walter should be the first

Director of Community and District Activities for the Lakewood City Schools. Mark's years of experience and service to not only the schools but our community give him first-hand knowledge of how we can continue to grow our recreation, athletic and educational programs," Superintendent Niedzwiecki said.

The move for Walter comes with some bittersweet feelings about leaving his principal days behind.

"Serving as the LHS principal has been one of the greatest honors of my life," Walter said. "Leaving the dedicated and hardworking staff, the remarkable students and the supportive parents will be extremely hard for me personally and professionally. However, I

know that Lakewood High School will continue to be a great place to work and learn because of the community of people I have had the pleasure to work with."



New Lincoln Elementary School Principal Named

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education at its meeting on April 18 approved Lakewood City Schools Teaching and Learning Coordinator Brenda Budzar as the next principal of Lincoln Elementary. Budzar will replace Sandy Kozelka, who is retiring at the end of the school year.

Budzar has been with the Lakewood City Schools since 2006, when she was hired as a substitute teacher. Since then, she has served in a variety of roles for the District including Title 1 tutor, kindergarten teacher, and instructional coach. In 2014, Budzar moved into her current coordinator role, where she helps elementary principals strengthen their data analysis to inform classroom instruction, develops professional learning opportunities, and leads elementary curricular updates, among a number of other responsibilities. She also served as principal for Lakewood Schools students who remained 100% online when the District moved to par-



Brenda Budzar

tial in-person instruction in 2021 and co-facilitated the District's Reading Improvement Plan.

Prior to joining the Lakewood City Schools, Budzar was an elementary teacher in several other Northeast Ohio districts and schools as well as at a Department of Defense Dependent School in South Korea early in her career. She holds a bachelor's of science in education from Miami University

and a master's degrees in curriculum and instruction and educational leadership from Cleveland State University and Concordia University, respectively.

Budzar, a former Lincoln parent of three, is thrilled to be returning to the school as its leader beginning next school year.

"It is my honor to have been chosen as the new principal of Lincoln Elementary School and to have the opportunity to serve the Lakewood City Schools in a new capacity," Budzar said. "I look forward to joining one of our vibrant elementary learning communities, to engaging in continued collaboration with the dynamic elementary principal team, and to learning from and growing with dedicated staff, students and families at Lincoln."

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Lakewood Public Schools

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up: Baseball

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

April 14, 2022

Rangers vs Rocky River Pirates

In the face of a steady, chilly, punishing Lake Erie wind, the Lakewood Rangers Baseball squad (4-4, 2-0 GLC-West) battled to a hard fought, well deserved 10-6 win over the always tough Rocky River Pirates. The elements were hostile—first game on a grass field this year—but the Rangers jumped on the Pirates early with a four run first inning, with key hits from Will Hyatt and Mason Ivinskas. From that point forward, it was a back and forth battle. In a true team effort, the Rangers prevailed due to contributions from numerous players. After the Pirates stormed back to take a 6-5 lead, senior Will Hyatt blasted a homer over the left field fence to tie the game. Junior Eli LaDue, who had several sparkling plays at short, tripled and scored when River mishandled a relay. Sophomore clean up hitter Aiden Maxwell had two more hits, an RBI, and used aggressive base running to secure a key insurance run for the Rangers in the 7th inning.

In tough conditions, every defensive play mattered, and the Rangers got key plays from third baseman Luke Jablonowski, catcher Ben Jablonoski (always strong behind the plate, Ben threw out a wood-be stealer), second



Lakewood Rangers senior right hander, Will Hyatt.

baseman Keegan Schroeder, center fielder Emmett Frantz and left fielder Lucas Winters.

For all the defense and hitting, three relief pitchers were perhaps the most vital to the win. Junior Simon Gilchrist pitched 3 strong innings, followed by shut out innings from senior Danny Art and junior Colin McCrone, who retired the side in order to close out the win. Gilchrist also drove in the go ahead run, breaking the 6-6 tie, with a line drive sacrifice fly.

Despite the cold, it was a warm atmosphere for the Lakewood Rangers across the bridge. Parents were out in force, undeterred by the hostile

weather, as were student loyalists Grace Hoppel and Kaia Schroeder, among others. Rocky River is a very fine opponent in any sport. Their programs are good across the board and offer a great rivalry and a good measuring stick. The Girls Softball team, led by sophomore Mia Carroll-Greeves, also defeated the Pirates tonight (9-0). This fall, the football team won the Battle of the Bridge and the Boys Soccer team reclaimed the Riverwood Cup. Great wins tonight—here's to more. Long Live Lakewood.

April 12, 2022

Rangers vs Valley Forge
Lakewood Rangers senior right

hander Will Hyatt made history tonight, pitching a masterful 8-0 complete game no hit shutout over Valley Forge while tying the school record for strikeouts in a game (16/Tom Mayer) that has stood since 1984.

Will also hit well in the double header sweep. Junior Luke Jablonowski got the win in game one (11-1) with Danny Arth closing it out on the mound. Many Rangers contributed offensively, including senior Lucas Winters, juniors Luke Mason, Eli LaDue, Colin McCrone, Emmett Frantz and Mason Ivinskas, along with sophomores Aidan Maxwell and Andrew Krankowski.

Lakewood (3-4, 2-0 GLC-West)

Earth Day Cleanup

by Tish Marshall

Earth Day Cleanup is back in Lakewood! Please join Keep Lakewood Beautiful (KLB) and other volunteers at Lakewood City Hall on Saturday, April 30 from 9am to 11am. We'll pick up litter and spruce up nearby city streets and public areas. KLB provides safety vests, grabber tongs, gloves, garbage bags and buckets. No preregistration is necessary, just come if you can. We strive to keep this a family-friendly event, children are welcome; we'll find a safe spot for them to participate. We're giving away free trees!

Hope you can join us in keeping our beautiful city beautiful.

Also mark your calendars for the return of KLB's Humus and Perennial Flower sale. It'll be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at the Lakewood Park skate parking lot from 9am to noon.

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram by following @KeepLakewoodBeautiful.

KLB is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to working with our fellow citizens on recycling, litter prevention and beautification. We are always looking for new board members, volunteers and ideas. Contact information can be found through the Keep Lakewood Beautiful page on the city website.

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Lakewood Public Schools

The Start Of A New Tradition! The Lakewood Ranger Purple & Gold Classic Tournament

continued from page 1

Played in the Lakewood High School gym, teams representing Emerson, Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann, Lincoln and Roosevelt competed in a single elimination bracket to claim the Commissioner’s Cup.

The first game tipped off at 8:30am, but players, coaches, parents and spectators began descending on the high school campus as early as 8:00am. To keep the masses energized the Lakewood Athletic Boosters had its concession stand in full swing in the cafeteria throughout the day.

In lieu of an entrance fee, donations were collected at the doors of toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, diapers



A good time was had by all!

and more, that were delivered to the Lakewood Community Service Center – over three van loads!!



All games were competitive, the crowd’s enthusiasm and school spirit was evident throughout the day reaching its pinnacle in the championship game that was played at 2:00pm between Emerson and Hayes Elementary Schools. When the final buzzer sounded, Emerson claimed the inaugural championship and was presented the Commissioner’s Cup by Community Recreation & Education Commissioners Joe Stolitza, Tom Zigman and Bill Fraunfelder, to display at their school until next year.

Already we are planning for next year, April 8th, 2023 once again in the Lakewood High School Gymnasium. We thank all of our participants, volunteer coaches, game day staff, concessions stand workers, custodial staff, principals and fans for the atmosphere this past weekend.

One person said it best, “This is what school spirit is and feels like. Being here to support, cheer and enjoy an event that focuses on these kids is the greatest feeling to be a part of.”

Leslie Krogman is the Coordinator of Community Recreation & Education Department for Lakewood City Schools.



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Elections

Councilman Rader Endorses Nina Turner For Congress

by Tristan Rader

I'm voting for Nina Turner for Congress, in the May 3 primary. I encourage you to join in supporting a champion for Lakewood and our progressive values.

I filed to run for Congress, myself, because when the filing deadline for candidates arrived, districts were still up in the air. If that sounds like doing things backward—candidate deadline first, maps later—I couldn't agree more.

The Republican leaders in Ohio who have drawn one illegal, gerrymandered map after another have created an unreasonable situation for everyone. People are still fighting to get the fair districts that voters demanded, and which voters deserve. Cuyahoga County's West Side, which has been broken into separate districts for years, may be reunited once fairness and the law prevail.

But meanwhile, voting is under-

way in a primary in which Nina Turner is running to represent Lakewood and Cleveland, and she has my fullest support.

Nina has been fighting for the values we do our best to promote here in Lakewood for many years and has taken on the toughest battles in the Ohio Senate. She champions affordable housing and renter protections. She supports Medicare for All and pushes back against price increases for prescription drugs and healthcare.

Nina Turner has been an informed and respectful ally to the LGBTQ+ community. Just like our city, Nina is insistent that refugees are welcome here.

Nina stands and fights for environmental justice. Lakewood is fast becoming a more sustainable, resilient, and diverse place, through the efforts of many of us here at the local and grassroots level. We need leaders like Nina in Congress who will partner with us to fight climate change and



Councilman Tristan Rader stands with Nina Turner.

make sure no one is left behind.

Above all, Nina Turner is on the side of working people, not big money. Restoring an economy that works for

Lakewood, and communities like ours, needs fighters like Nina.

Let's vote our values, with Nina Turner for Congress!

Engaging In Wellness Day On April 30

by Anne Schleicher

The World Health Organization estimates that global anxiety and depression increased by 25% the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Locally, many people are still struggling with the effects of the isolation, stress and fear caused by the uncertainty of the pandemic's reach.

In response, the Lakewood Council of PTAs teamed up with its counterpart organization, Lakewood City School District, to bring "Engaging with Wellness Day 2022" to the Lakewood community. The event takes place Saturday, April 30th from 10 am to 3 pm at Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Avenue in Lakewood, Door 32.



Mental, physical and spiritual wellness professionals from northeast Ohio will join employees of the school district to share ways to not only improve health, but look for signs that a loved one's health may be in jeopardy. Staff members from Ebb & Flow Counseling, the Cleveland Clinic, Holistic Health Cleveland and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland are among the presenters.

Topics include identifying adolescent anxiety and depression, yoga as a way to lessen stress and trauma, proper diet and sleep, and the role of breathing and meditation. A dance demonstration will take place in the gym courtesy of The Beck Center. The schedule of presenters and their sessions can be found at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/view/wellnessday2022/home>.

Though targeted at adolescents and their parents, organizers believe the general public can benefit from the sessions.

"It's an awareness-raising event for the community," explains Lakewood Council of PTAs president Rachel Vuyancih, who envisioned the event after attending a mindfulness session for Lakewood City Schools staff. "Almost

everyone has been affected negatively in some way by the pandemic."

A paraprofessional who works with many special needs students at Garfield Middle School, Vuyancih is aware that her wellness affects how she does her job. She and Dr. Merritt Waters, Coordinator of Student Wellness for the District, and other staff and PTA Council members, tapped into some of the many wellness resources this community has.

The event is free and open to the public. Come for one session, or come for the whole day! No need to RSVP. Contact lakewoodcouncil@gmail.com with any questions.

Anne Schleicher is a longtime Lakewood resident, Lakewood High and Cleveland State graduate, and Lakewood Council of PTAs member.



Human Services Under One Roof, At Last



Mayor Meghan George and Human Services Director Toni Gelsomino cut the ribbon on the new Cove Community Center.

by Matt Kuhns

It's a small irony that work on the roof of Lakewood's Cove Community Center was not 100% complete, as of the ribbon-cutting on April 12. Because for many of those taking part in the ceremony, the greatest sense of accomplishment was one roof covering all of the city's human services, at last.

Most speakers at the ribbon-cutting referred to the decades of interest in bringing together the department's divisions of aging, youth, and early childhood at one location. State Representative Michael Skindell recalled ambitions toward this outcome from his years on Lakewood City Council, more than two decades ago. Mayor Meghan George honored several women in attendance, including Human Services Director Toni Gelsomino, for long careers making the department a success while advocating better facilities.

Gelsomino says that the depart-

ment's work out of five different addresses will, finally, unite in one location at the Cove Center.

State Senator and Lakewood resident Nickie Antonio says a few words from her heart knowing how important the new space is to the Lakewood community.



LAKEWOODALIVE'S L

LakewoodAlive Announces Awards At “Loving Lakewood: Let’s Make History”

by Jacqueline Bon

Let your creativity shine! A sense of community is the ultimate work of art. LakewoodAlive will host Loving Lakewood: Let's Make History! on Saturday, May 21, 2022 outdoors at The Sanctuary Museum Courtyard. Guests are cordially invited to socialize with statues, explore artifacts, drink with docents and relish displays all while learning of the cultural and impactful work of LakewoodAlive at this outdoor venue turned museum in Lakewood's historic Birdtown neighborhood.

LakewoodAlive proudly announces Tom Fraser as the 2022 Founders Award recipient and fellow community members Carol Barrett, Bill Craighead, Matt Fish, Judy Gryzbowski, and John Turner as the 2022 Community Leaders award honorees to be recognized during Loving Lakewood: Let's Make History. Each will be honored as part of the evening's festivities in recognition of their exemplary service to LakewoodAlive and the Lakewood community.

This outdoor venue turned museum is expected to sell out, so be sure to act quickly, tickets will go faster than Amelia Earhart's plane at 10 a.m. on April 5. For more information and to buy tickets visit, LakewoodAlive.org/LovingLakewood.

The Founders Award

Tom Fraser - Founders Award

Tom is the CEO of First Mutual Holding Co., the largest member-owned mutual holding company of its kind in the Midwest, with affiliates that include First Federal Lakewood and First Mutual Bank. A former Lake-

woodAlive board member, Tom has been central to our incredible partnership with First Federal Lakewood for more than a decade. In 2012, Tom saw the value that LakewoodAlive brought to the community's housing stock and its residents and made a commitment to invest in the Housing Outreach program. When COVID-19 struck, Tom was a key member of a city-wide response that included members of government, institutions, non-profits and schools. The creation of an emergency small business loan - in a matter of days - is a testament to the commitment Tom has to Lakewood, and the ability for this community to rally together.

"I love Lakewood as it is my hometown, an original streetcar suburb that continues to evolve and reinvent itself. Over the past century, it has been the gateway for success for immigrants, small business owners and families to launch themselves to success. It seems everyone in Northeast Ohio was born here, lived here, dines here or speaks glowingly of my hometown," said Fraser.

Community Leader Award Honorees:

Carol Barrett – Community Leader Award

Carol is the owner of Carol Lynn Salon Plus (15516 Madison Avenue). A Lakewood graduate and resident, Carol opened her own salon in 2007. In no time, she became a pillar in the community as a board member for the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River Rotary Sunrise. Carol led

the Uptown Lakewood Business Alliance for 4 years including through the COVID-19 pandemic. Quick with a smile, Carol's passion is for her clients and her community. Most recently, Carol joined the LakewoodAlive board in 2021.

"I volunteer and support LakewoodAlive because they provide support to small businesses including my own. They are a solid source of information such as loans, grants, and many opportunities for business-to-business networking. LakewoodAlive truly led the business community through the Covid-19 pandemic," Barrett said.

Bill Craighead – Community Leader Award

Bill is the Managing Partner at Cleveland Home Title. A lifelong Lakewood resident, former LakewoodAlive board member and current LakewoodAlive Housing Committee member, Bill is a champion of the Housing Outreach Program. Through his work on the committee, Bill has championed the Pride Fund leading to healthy and safe housing for Lakewood families and residents.

"From the time I joined LakewoodAlive, Bill has been a big advocate for the Housing Outreach Program," said Housing & Internal Operations Director Allison Urbanek. "He has helped champion the Pride Fund from the early days to full program launch in 2019. Bill truly cares about this community and the people who call it home."



LakewoodAlive is proud to announce Tom Fraser as the 2022 Founders Award recipient and Carol Barrett, Bill Craighead, Matt Fish, Judy Gryzbowski & John Turner as the 2022 Community Leaders award honorees recognized during Loving Lakewood: Let's Make History.

Matt Fish – Community Leader Award

Matt is the owner of Melt Bar & Grilled (14718 Detroit Avenue) which opened its first location in Lakewood in 2006. LakewoodAlive was thrilled

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the Founders Award recipient and Carol Barrett, Bill
Turner as the Community Leaders award honorees to be
tory!

to see an incredible concept take hold in the emerging Downtown District. What LakewoodAlive couldn't have known is how special and supportive the partnership with owner Matt Fish would become. Melt Bar & Grilled has been the title sponsor of Lakewood Summer Meltdown since its inaugural year in 2009.

"LakewoodAlive simply makes the City of Lakewood better in so many ways. Where other cities have reduced the community involvement options, LakewoodAlive has increased them and made the events and the city better year after year," Fish reflected.

Judy Grzybowski – Commu- nity Leader Award

Judy recently retired as the Manager at Lakewood Public Library Madison Branch in Birdtown where she was employed for 32 years. Many children and families love "Mrs G." She is the honorary "Mayor of Birdtown" where she lives and worked, influencing many lives by providing neighborhood access to books and the library. Judy was always a supportive partner of LakewoodAlive's work in Birdtown, together strengthening a proud neighborhood.

"I support Lakewood Alive because it is imperative that we have a committed community that works together for a common goal," reflected Gryzbowski.

John Turner – Community Leader Award

John is a devoted volunteer for the Knowing Your Home Educational Workshop Series and has been since 2014. He has a deep love for old homes and believes in preserving Lakewood's historic housing stock. He is a mentor and huge advocate for educating and encouraging people to tackle their own home repairs and improvements.

"I was a contractor in the Cleveland area for many years. I always preferred to work with customers that were savvy and well informed about the work they wanted to be completed. Lakewood Alive's mission resonates with that outlook and is why I enjoy volunteering my time to their educational workshop series," said Turner.

About Loving Lakewood

Loving Lakewood: Let's Make History is a pop-up museum experience featuring a curated selection of food, drinks, décor and iconic entertainment. Proceeds will support LakewoodAlive's programming as we strive to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods in Lakewood. Much like established artists throughout history, we at LakewoodAlive see our

community as our canvas, using our inspiration, determination and tireless drive to assist the residents and small businesses of Lakewood, to create our work of art, an even more vibrant and welcoming community. For ongoing updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/LovingLakewood.

About LakewoodAlive

LakewoodAlive is community development organization with a mission to foster and sustain vibrant and welcoming neighborhoods. Our organization takes a comprehensive approach of working with both residents and small business owners to ensure a strong and resilient community. We work daily to ensure healthy and safe housing for all residents as well as a kind word and a helping hand to our small businesses working with them to create strong foundations making Lakewood a great place to live, work and play.

Loving Lakewood: Let's Make History is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood League Of Women Voters 100th Anniversary, 100 Pillars Spotlight: Linda Beebe

by Carol Thum

Linda Beebe has been a pillar of the Lakewood community as a business-woman, a mainstay of the Lakewood schools, and a staunch supporter of the League of Women Voters. She and her husband Bruce moved here in 1972 following a three and a half year stint in Scotland where he pursued his PhD in medieval history and the Crusades. Meanwhile, Linda taught English in the Dundee schools.

Upon arriving in Lakewood where Bruce would teach history and social studies in the Lakewood schools for the next 30 years, Linda explains, “I didn’t know anyone. I needed to meet people. I was initially invited to join the League of Women Voters by Elaine McNamara, who later became president of the Lakewood chapter. And where better to meet intelligent, thoughtful women than the League of Women Voters?”

With the Fairview Park League, she worked on the Urban Park Initiative, resulting in the creation of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreational Area in 1974. “The League’s study had a significant impact. We achieved one of the first urban parks on a national scale.” Stretching just over 50 miles from Cleveland to Akron, the area was re-designated as a National Park in 2000, and remains the only national park that originated as a national recreational area.

Linda's son Aaron was born in 1972 followed by daughter Megan three years later. At the same time Linda began substitute teaching, which she continued to do until 1980. However, with declining enrollment in the Lakewood schools and fewer days when she was needed as a substitute, Linda embarked on a new career path. She enrolled in John Marshall College of Law where she earned her LLD, specializing in wills and estates. She laughs when asked how she managed it all: wife, mother, homemaker, teacher and student simultaneously. "Just don't ask me anything about pop culture from the '70s and '80s! I had no time for movies, TV, or recreational read-



Linda Beebe.

ing. It was hectic and exhausting, but always interesting and challenging.”

While her son and daughter were enrolled in the Lakewood schools, Linda became involved, as a Girl Scout troop leader, in the PTA, and then on the school board where she has served for 38 years and been president of the Board five times. "I love and have always been interested in education. My bachelor's degree is in education and I taught for 15 years. My father was on the school board and when I left teaching I ran for the Board of Education myself. I believe the issues are important and am a great advocate of public education."

In the 1970s, along with League members Jan Resiger and Donaleen Podeska, Linda joined the effort to fight House Bill 920. “By denying the schools revenue from increasing property values, HB 920 denies schools the ability to meet increasing costs or to improve and expand programs without going back on the ballot. Even though it’s been declared unconstitutional, the League and other advocates still monitor and advocate for change.” When asked about her proudest achieve-

ment she answered without hesitation, "Rebuilding and renovating all of our schools on time and on budget!"

She acknowledges that there is still a lot to be done. "Students and teachers lost a lot these past two years. We still need to give every student a full academic year of growth and to make up for all that has been missed. Our objective remains to develop responsible citizens who are critical thinkers, prepared for the challenges of a new century."

When asked what she would like

to see the League tackle next, Linda said, “There is a lot to be fixed. It’s hard not to get scattered. I’d like to see us focus on juvenile justice, gun control, and especially school funding. These are big issues, but the League can be an extremely persuasive and unifying force. Take gun control. We need to seek out and ally with groups that have similar views on some of the issues. United we can effect change. Maybe just small changes, and not everything that everyone wants at once, but we can achieve some of our goals incrementally.”

For now, Linda intends to continue practicing law. "I love the problem solving aspect," she says. With two grandchildren in Texas, she loves to travel and plans to do more of it. "I wish that every teacher had the opportunity to live or at least travel abroad for a period. It has given me a depth of understanding and a recognition of the possibilities for change." Meanwhile, she remains impressed with the League leadership. "Their energy, ideas and attitudes are a joy to work with."

The Lakewood League of Women Voters is hosting a Disco Ball on April 30 at Around the Corner from 7P-10P to raise funds for the Mary Warren Impact Scholarship. Recipients are Lakewood High School Seniors that actively volunteer and exhibit an understanding of democracy.

*Carol Thum is an active Member
of the Lakewood Chapter of the LWV.*



Homeless Jesus Finds Home In Lakewood

continued from page 1

threw 25: 35 – 40, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.” They were designed to spark conversations around social justice, privilege, compassion and empathy.

During the eight weeks that the traveling Homeless Jesus statue will reside at Lakewood United Methodist Church, the church will sponsor programs to highlight this important community issue. On Sunday, May 1, during the 10:00 am worship service, Rev Robin Dillon and Rev Laura Jaissle

will interview Jonathan Gray, the Executive Director of Trials for Hope. Trials for Hope is a non-profit on the West Side of Cleveland whose mission is “to deliver dignity and hope to those who fall between the cracks, bringing wholesome food, personal care items and warmth to the Greater Cleveland Area.” Lakewood United Methodist Church has also recently sponsored a sock drive, collecting nearly 500 pairs of socks for those in need.

Stop by to visit the statue at 15700 Detroit Ave and to pray and reflect on how you might help the unsheltered in our community.



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood Celebrates Arbor Day 2022: Trees For 3rd Graders And More!

by Rita Stevens, on behalf of the
TAEB

150 years ago, J. Sterling Morton organized a tree planting holiday in the Nebraska Territory. On that day, April 10, 1872, individuals and civic groups planted 1 million trees in that single territory. Arbor Day soon became a national holiday that is celebrated in all 50 states. This year, communities throughout Ohio will be celebrating Arbor Day on Friday, April 29, 2022.

Here in Lakewood, “The City of Trees,” 3rd grade students in each of the Lakewood Elementary schools and the Lakewood Catholic Academy will receive a native flowering tree seedling such as the redbud pictured here, suitable for growing at home, with the knowledge of how to plant and care for it. The trees have been carefully



selected by the Arbor Day Foundation and will arrive just before Arbor Day. Many thanks to long-time resi-

Getting A Fresh Start: Sealing A Criminal Record And CQE’s

by Tonya Sams

Many people who have been incarcerated have a difficult time obtaining employment after their release from prison. This can hinder them from fulfilling their parole obligations as well as providing for themselves. Reentrants can try to alleviate this problem by applying to have their criminal records sealed or applying for a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE).

Sealing a criminal record is often confused with expunging a criminal record. An expungement completely erases a criminal record, and this is not actually allowed in Ohio. When a person’s record is sealed, they are not obligated to reveal an arrest, charge, or conviction when applying for a job.

Not all sealed records are withheld from employers, especially those positions that are related to the conviction. This could include jobs involving children, older people, or people with developmental disabilities.

Convictions that cannot be sealed are 1st and 2nd degree felonies, most sex crimes, crimes against children, crimes involving serious acts of violence, and traffic and OVI/DUI convictions.

There are two ways a person can qualify for record sealing: under Criteria A or under Criteria B. Applicants who meet Criteria A have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony offense. Those who meet Criteria B have no more than two felony convictions and four misdemeanor convictions. If an applicant has two felony convictions, they can not have more than two additional misdemeanor convictions.

Reentrants are eligible for record sealing if their cases were ruled “no bills” (not enough evidence to prosecute and the case is dismissed) or “not

guilty”, even if they do not meet the requirements of Criteria A or B.

Based on the type of conviction, there is a certain length of time that you must wait before applying for record sealing. For example: applicants with misdemeanors and 4th or 5th degree felonies must wait a year after completing their sentence, parole, or probation to apply, and they must also make sure all fines have been paid before applying.

There is no waiting period for people who were found not guilty and people whose cases were dropped (nolled) or dismissed.

More information is available in Legal Aid’s “Sealing an Ohio Criminal Record” brochure. The brochure is available at: <https://laslev.org/record-sealingbrochure/>.

If you are not eligible to have your record sealed, applying for a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) might be an option. CQE’s remove collateral sanctions that prevent people with records from being employed, certified, or licensed in certain fields. Collateral sanctions are penalties that were included in a prison sentence. CQE’s do not guarantee employment, but they do allow people to be considered for positions that they were previously barred from. CQE’s also have guidelines on the length of time that an applicant must wait to apply. Those time limits are based on the type of conviction.

Legal Aid may be able to help you seal your criminal record. Call 888-817-3777 or visit laslev.org/contact for more information.

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

dent Ed Denk, for his leadership in initiating and coordinating this activity with the curriculum directors here in Lakewood and at the Urban Community School in Cleveland, and for purchasing the trees and associated materials.

And that’s just the start of it! Here are three additional ways Lakewood residents can join our 2022 celebration of trees:

1. Attend the the City of Lakewood’s April 29 ceremonial tree planting ceremony in recognition of Arbor Day and the City of Lakewood’s

45th year as a “Tree City USA.” The brief ceremony will begin promptly at 2:00 pm on the grounds of the newly renovated Cove Community Center-12501 Lake Avenue.

2. *Participate in the Distinguished Tree Contest, which was featured in the March 16 issue of the Lakewood Observer. Nominations will be accepted between April 29 and May 30, and can be submitted online at lakewoodobserver.com Click on “Question of the Day.”*

3. Purchase a shade tree for your yard, to help us increase our urban tree canopy. Residents can purchase a shade tree AND have it professionally planted in their desired yard location at the same pricing that the city pays (plus applicable tax). Based on availability, you can choose any tree species from the extensive planting list of trees the city is planting this year. The 2022 price for all trees (including installation) is \$329/tree. To select a tree and place an order, contact The Greenleaf Group Inc. at (330) 441-6326 or by email at greenleafgroup@hotmail.com. Mention that you are part of the 2022 City of Lakewood Shade Tree Purchase Program.

For more information on the City of Lakewood’s urban forestry initiatives, please visit: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/streets-forestry/>

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State Of The City

State Of The City

continued from page 1

the pandemic has been a huge undertaking, but we knew the importance of this building and the services provided by human services and are proud of this beautiful space.

As you can see, there are a few finishing touches here and there, as well as a new roof that is going on soon now that the weather is more friendly, but we are excited to have this facility open and to start serving Lakewood.

In addition to welcoming you to this beautiful new facility, it's also my honor to share with you some remarks on the state of the City of Lakewood and our vision moving forward. I am happy to report that our city is healthy, strong, and our future is bright.

Lakewood is truly a special place, a community where all are welcome, and all can find a home. Our city celebrates diversity and offers an opportunity for families and people from all walks of life to experience a high quality of life in an affordable manner. This is one of the things that makes Lakewood different, and it is part of our city's values and character. Lakewood is a place for everyone, and we want to keep it a place for everyone. We are fortunate to have many inviting parks and other community assets that contribute to making Lakewood welcoming for all. And today, we are excited to celebrate the grand opening of another important public asset for Lakewood.

Now is the perfect time for Lakewood to unify its human services in a single place that also provides many additional community amenities, including active and inviting outdoor spaces.

COVID-19 has taught us once again about the critical importance of the city's work in this area. Just two years ago, shortly after I took office our city had to make hard decisions to keep Lakewood operating in an uncertain time amidst the beginning of a global pandemic. Many things that we once had down to a science suddenly became very complicated. Questions such as how do we continue to provide services to our community? how to respond to an entire shift of safety forces being quarantined? and how do we respond to an in-home visit? These all became quite difficult. We had to ensure that both our employees remained safe and that we continued to provide the services that our residents deserve and expect. There was no operator's manual on how to handle a pandemic. However, we knew that Lakewood needed to keep our services high while not breaking the bank. I quickly formed an internal task force made up of members of every department. We met daily for months going over the rapidly changing health updates and mandates. Much of our continued successes come from that task force that ensured we did not miss a beat when it came to delivering city services.

Like most municipalities we were facing uncertain times when it came to

finances. Early pandemic projections had us facing a nearly \$5M shortfall in our budget. We quickly shifted gears and implemented a voluntary furlough program that saved the city over \$500,000 and reduced overtime by another \$500,000. These, along with other cost-saving programs allowed us to be fiscally prudent while maintaining high-quality services. Despite the pandemic, we finished the year in a better financial position than where we started. Based on these and other cost-saving initiatives, the City of Lakewood has received the Auditor of State Award as well as the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2021 budget for the first time since 2007. This outside recognition affirms our commitment to financial best practices and being good stewards of your tax dollars. Affordability and superior services are two of the pillars of my administration, and core values for Lakewood.

SERVICES and AFFORDABILITY

Even though we were dealing with challenges no prior Lakewood administration had faced over the past 2 years, we knew everyone else was facing the same uncertainties and hardships, and we saw how our community pulled together as one to get through the worst parts of the pandemic.

One thing the pandemic did provide our city was a unique opportunity to leverage federal relief dollars to address key municipal challenges. That included using funds for immediate, emergency needs through our programs for; Residential Rent relief, Small business assistance; and Homelessness prevention

Those programs acted rapidly to get dollars in the hands of people who needed them most and did so faster than almost any other community in our state. Lakewood leveraged our relief funds to keep 227 small businesses open and over 1,400 residents in their homes. Can you imagine how different Detroit or Madison Avenue would look without those 227 small businesses? Those dollars directly impacted and benefited our community so that Lakewood was able to come out of this pandemic stronger than when it began.

We have also been strategic in how to use the \$47 million in American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds we were awarded. We knew these funds would be highly regulated with strict guidelines for spending, but we also saw an opportunity to use them to address a long-term issue of affordability for our community by dedicating them to offset water and sewer costs that we knew are coming to bear on Lakewood.

Lakewood rightly takes pride in our historic character, but having a historic community also means that key parts of our municipal infrastructure are very old and in serious need of major upgrades. By leveraging a large portion of the ARPA dollars to address those infrastructure costs, we have been able to reduce previously

approved rate increases. This puts real dollars back in the hands of every ratepayer, now and in future years. The savings we will accrue by making this move add up over time and will allow us to keep our services strong, our bond ratings high, and our community affordable for people from all walks of life. For some, this may not qualify as headline-grabbing news, but it's the kind of strategic move that will pay off by leveraging once-in-a-lifetime funds to benefit the people of Lakewood now and for decades to come.

SAFETY

In addition to affordability, one of the core pillars of Lakewood is safety. We are fortunate to have world-class safety forces in our team of first responders with Lakewood fire, EMS, and police. A great example is how we recently saw them all respond to a major crisis with the collapse of the Marine Towers West parking garage. Being on the scene that day I was so impressed, but not surprised with how our safety forces sprang to action and secured a chaotic scene to ensure everyone was safe.

Lakewood is fortunate in how safe we are. Chief Kauchek recently issued the police department's annual report. And although the nation trend on crime has increased dramatically, the report shows that crime in Lakewood is either flat or falling compared with five years ago.

My administration's approach to crime is strategic. We provide our officers with the tools and equipment they need to play their part in keeping Lakewood safe. Over the past year, that meant new tools, equipment, and vehicles, as well as 40 new specialized cameras that our officers use to track crime. However, we must also have an appropriate and effective response to incidents which include:

Prevention

Fund and support effective youth programming and prevention strategies

- Invest in recreational assets such as our pools and recreational facilities
- Enforcement
- Continue to support robust community policing strategies
- Continued investment in Crisis

Intervention Training

- Investments in technology to help solve crimes: As mentioned, last year we installed 40 new high tech cameras throughout the city. These have been instrumental in solving a number of high-profile crimes and identifying stolen vehicles.
- Partnership and Advocacy

The City cannot address these issues alone. We need to continue working with state legislatures on policy that will reduce the ability for criminals to obtain guns.

And finally, Community Accountability.

We will continue to work with community partners to ensure our parks and public spaces remain active. I appreciate the great work of the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee and the Friends of Madison Park, among others, who said we will not turn over our park to violence.

And to continue to work with both police and anti-racism task force on appropriate responses that include everyone

Our philosophy on crime in Lakewood is to make sure we keep truly dangerous criminals off our streets while using prevention and alternative dispute resolution to help those who encounter police when they are in crisis. That's why if you review the LPD annual report, you will see a large section on crisis intervention. It's also one of the reasons that we have such strong human services and homeless prevention programs in Lakewood. We continue to explore other strategic initiatives and partnerships to maintain a safe Lakewood.

Parks, Foster Pool, Lakefront planning/infrastructure

As I've mentioned, Lakewood is safe and affordable, but we also have incredible public assets to enjoy.

We are not resting on our laurels with the opening of the Cove Community Center today. Our Lakewood residents deserve the best, and we have a number of projects in the works to improve our existing resources and explore the potential for new ones.

This year, we break ground on major improvements to Foster Pool that will help make one of Lakewood's most used and most cherished public facilities



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State Of The City

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ties better than ever. When the project is complete, Foster Pool will be better positioned to serve the recreation and fitness needs of our intergenerational community, including everyone from serious swimmers looking to train and young swimmers learning their strokes to families looking to relax and cool off on a hot summer day.

2022 will also mark the first year of implementing the new joint agreement reached last year between the City and Lakewood Schools on repairs and improvements to ballfields heavily used by Lakewood Recreation. This year, both Jimmie Foxx Field and Usher Field will be completely rebuilt in time for the baseball season and moving forward, we will rotate work on fields to ensure that they are in top condition. This agreement is a major win for Lakewood. It addresses a lack of clarity from years past that led to issues with ballfield conditions and ensures our kids and adult athletes have the facilities they need to enjoy themselves.

Recently we made significant investments in Madison Park, Clifton Prado Park, Wagar Park, and Kauffman Park.

We also completed pedestrian safety improvements to the Detroit/Sloane intersection, which included extending the multi-use path out of the Metroparks Rocky River Reservation, along Detroit Avenue, creating a welcoming gateway into our community and improving access to one of our region’s greatest assets. I would like to extend our thanks to the Cleveland Metroparks for their commitment to the City of Lakewood and their partnership.

We are currently working with Cuyahoga County, the City of Rocky River, and Cleveland Metroparks on how to improve the pedestrian connections between our two communities, including how to repurpose excess

traffic lanes on the Lake Clifton Bridge to create a scenic overlook. If COVID-19 reminded us of anything it was just how essential having many high-quality outdoor recreation spaces and parks is to a healthy community, and my administration is focused on meeting the public’s needs.

With that in mind, we are currently exploring two potentially transformative projects that would add more public access along our greatest natural asset, Lake Erie. The first is a planning process to determine whether we can add a public pier to provide better direct access to the lake.

The second is an effort made in partnership with Cuyahoga County to assess the feasibility of adding a multi-use trail along the Lake Erie shoreline, with a focus on the area right here in front of the Gold Coast neighborhood.

While both projects are in the early stages, they are promising, and my administration will make every effort to vet them and explore creative ways that we or other partners might finance their design and implementation

We continue to work with our community and county partners to make Lakewood a desirable place to live, work and play.

DEVELOPMENT

As our team at City Hall takes the lead on advancing and improving public assets, we are also a key driver and partner for development of private business and housing that add to the character and vitality of our community.

The biggest news in this area is that just last week, we submitted an updated plan to City Council for the future use of the former Lakewood Hospital site. What’s especially exciting about the project is that it will retain a major growing business in our city for decades to come while using other parts of the site for community space as well as hundreds of new hous-

ing units, including affordable units.

By keeping Roundstone Insurance in Lakewood, we retain a company that expects to grow to 200 high-paying jobs in the near future, and that otherwise would have found it nearly impossible to stay in our city. And don’t worry – the project also includes a multi-story parking garage to serve its immediate needs as well as provide additional public parking for downtown visitors.

The project will also include street level retail to add energy to Detroit Avenue, and a public gathering space where the Lakewood community can come together for events and gatherings or just have a place to relax and enjoy downtown.

In addition to this exciting key development, we have a variety of many other important projects going on throughout our entire city. Some of those advance our city’s commitment to historic preservation through adaptive reuse that maintains the charming character of Lakewood including:

The former Bi-Rite on Madison is being renovated for a mixed use project.

St. James School is being adapted to office space. If you have driven by there lately you have probably seen the new stairs to the old gymnasium.

Trinity Church continues to move forward with approximately 11,000 square feet of retail, commercial, and office space

And finally, The Phantasy and Mac Products buildings near West 117th street. This adaptive reuse project will bring much needed energy to the east end of Detroit Avenue.

We also know that new infill development is important, and have multiple new construction projects underway including:

The Marlowe Townhomes on the former St. Clement School site will provide 16 new townhomes on Madison and Marlowe Ave.

The Lake Avenue Homes on the former Marathon Gas Station site

And the two Solove developments on the former Barry and Spitzer car dealership sites. These two major developments will provide over 200 apartments along our main commercial corridor. Keeping with our theme of affordability, 20% of these rentals will be affordable units defined by federal HUD guidelines.

We are excited about these projects because they truly reflect the diverse needs of our community and residents, from the single person looking to rent their first apartment to the growing family that wants to raise their children in a vibrant, walkable neighborhood, to the senior that loves Lakewood and wants to stay in a home that suits their needs as they age in place. By providing options for many, we honor and continue Lakewood’s legacy of being a place for everyone, building on that legacy for generations to come.

As I stand before you all today, it has been my honor to share that the state of our city is strong, it is resilient, and we are proud of how we come through this challenging time. But we know we will always have more work to do to keep Lakewood vital and healthy. I invite you, as a valued part of our community to join us on this journey. Engage with your block club. Get to know some new neighbors. Volunteer, and participate in city programming and events. Above all the things I have mentioned today, what makes Lakewood a truly special place is our people. And I am grateful to all of you for taking the time to be here this evening. Thank you.

I welcome you to stay for tours of this incredible community space. Staff from human services are on hand to answer questions.

Thank you and good night.

Volunteers Needed For LCAC’s Spring Cleaning Supplies Distribution

by Sara Crawford

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation (LCAC) will be having its first in-person event since 2019 in mid-May.

When the pandemic first began, LCAC, like so many organizations, had to find a different way to help Lakewood families without hosting our twice-yearly food drives or our spring cleaning drive.

In lieu of food drives, LCAC distributed \$50 Giant Eagle gift cards to 300 families twice in 2020 and three times in 2021. In addition, we hosted a drive-thru diaper drive in 2020.

LCAC, also known as the “food drive people” switches gears every May to help provide cleaning supplies and hygiene items for Lakewood families in need. This drive is especially appreciated by the recipients as cleaning supplies and toiletries cannot be purchased with SNAP or WIC benefits.

And, now that the COVID numbers

are decreasing, LCAC will be hosting a Spring Cleaning Drive on Saturday, May 14 at 9 a.m. in the back parking lot of the Masonic Temple, located at 15300 Detroit Road in Lakewood.

In an effort to ensure everyone’s safety and comfort level, this short event will take place entirely outdoors (rain or shine) and masks are optional for all volunteers.

So... on May 14th please come help us with this important event! Volunteers of all ages are always welcome at LCAC events and there is a job for everyone to do as these much-needed cleaning supplies are sorted and then delivered these to Lakewood families.

If interested in helping LCAC’s effort, visit our website at www.LCAC.info or find our Facebook under “Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation” for more details.

Sara Crawford is a long-time Lakewood resident and a recent journalism graduate from Kent State.

Club Seat Tickets For The Guardians, Catered Dinner Parties, Golf Outings!

by Larry Faulhaber

These are just a few of the great items you could pick up in the Winner’s Circle at the Rotary Club of Lakewood-Rocky River Sunrise’s Derby Fundraiser! Get your tickets now for the Friday, May 6, Dinner/ Silent and Live Auction event at the “Track” in the Umerley Hall, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River. You will be “off from the Starting Gate” at 6:00pm. The “Featured Race” will be a delicious dinner and live auction. Funds raised will support the many service projects of the Club including annual Holiday Food Distribution, Trials for Hope, Food Pantries, 3rd Grade Dictionary Distribution, Youth Exchange Programs (sending dozens of youths to experience other cultures and welcoming dozens of youths into our homes and

schools), Foster Care birthday bags & school backpacks, Nicaragua Student Supplies, Emergency Shelter Boxes, supporting children’s sight in Ukraine, and more.

Tickets are only \$30 or \$240 for a party of eight. RSVP with your name, address, phone number and email and your check payable to Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Foundation. The foundation is a 501c3 Corporation and \$10 of each ticket is tax deductible.

Mail your ticket order today to: The Lakewood - Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Foundation; P.O. Box 16684, Rocky River, Ohio 44116. Help us Serve to Change Lives!

Larry Faulhaber is Public Image Committee Chair for Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club

LAKEWOODALIVE

Performers Announced

LakewoodAlive’s 2022 Front Porch Concert Series

continued from page 1

front steps of Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Avenue).

The 2022 edition of the Front Porch Concert Series will offer something for many musical tastes. From reggae to rock to soul and pop, each weekly concert remains family-friendly while delving into diverse musical genres.

“We’re thrilled to be back in person this year with a fun and diverse lineup of performers representing a wide spectrum of sounds. We can’t wait to see folks dancing and singing along with these amazing musicians,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “We’re thankful to the community and to our sponsors for supporting us and encouraging us to bring back this beloved summer series.”

Now in its 12th year, the 2022 Front Porch Concert Series comprised of returning acts and new performers alike, kicks off June 3 with a performance by Smith Taylor, a talented indie-soul singer-guitarist who does it for love. Smith Taylor looks to lead in advancing the ideas of black sound and creativity, in hopes to inspire thought and self-discovery.

Up next is Raven Rae, a high-energy performer who bridges the gap between the classics and contemporary. Raven is a vocal chameleon who fuses together neo soul, pop, jazz and R&B through dynamic and dramatic performances.

Get ready to put on your dancin’ shoes for Jah Messengers. This Cleveland-based reggae band’s mission is to utilize reggae music as a catalyst to unite all people. The band’s journey began in the late 70’s when six brothers from Jamaica came together to express themselves through roots reggae music.

Local Cleveland musician, Pete Lazard, is a soulful solo acoustic act who covers the popular hits of the last 60 years. Pete’s act offers

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June 3
SMITH TAYLOR

June 10
RAVEN RAE

June 17
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July 8
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a stripped down approach to the classic songs we all know and love, with guitar playing that is complemented by the rhythms he creates using a loop pedal.

The George Martins formed in 2016 to perform at the annual Beatles-themed hunger relief fundraiser, All You Need Is Love (and Food). Since then, the band has perfected a repertoire spanning the entire career of The Beatles, welcoming fans of all generations to re-live Beatlemania by singing along to Strawberry Fields Forever and “na-na-na-ing” with Hey Jude.

Cats On Holiday is a Cleveland based swamp pop band that has been delighting audiences for over 20 years with a unique fusion of Louisiana inspired rock, roots and Zydeco music.

The Michael Weber Show is an explosive rock group featuring guitar phenom, Michael Weber. In 2018, Weber won MTV’s “Amazingness” television talent/variety show hosted by Rob Dyrdek.

Next up is Apostle Jones, a popular rock and soul group, known for keeping their shows fresh, rotating between styles that speak to who they are as people and musicians to give a feel good experience to their fans.

Closing the series will be Ray Flanagan, a Cleveland, OH based songwriter that writes and performs his songs with the no nonsense attitude of a skilled journeyman. Although he is one of the most sought after guitarists in Northeast Ohio, songwriting is his true superpower.

2022 Front Porch Concert Series Schedule

All concerts start at 7 p.m. and will be performed on the front steps of Lakewood Public Library

June

- 6-3-22: Smith Taylor
- 6-10-22: Raven Rae
- 6-17-22: Jah Messengers
- 6-24-22: Pete Lazard

July

- 7-1-22: The George Martins
- 7-8-22: Cats On Holiday
- 7-15-22: The Michael Weber Show

For more information regarding the 2022 Front Porch Concert Series please visit: LakewoodAlive.org/FrontPorchConcerts.

The Front Porch Concert Series is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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LakewoodAlive Announces Return of Lakewood Summer Meltdown On July 16

by Jacqueline Bon

5K & 1 Mile Family Fun Run & Walk Registration Opens on April 19

The biggest block party in the city is poised to heat up Lakewood this summer once again. The Lakewood Summer Meltdown, sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled and presented by LakewoodAlive, returns to Downtown Lakewood for its 14th year on Saturday, July 16 from 4 to 10 p.m.

The Summer Meltdown represents one of the region’s most highly anticipated street parties. A summertime celebration of our city’s vibrancy, this free community event draws nearly 15,000 attendees from across North-east Ohio to the heart of Lakewood each July.

This fixture on our city’s summer calendar takes place on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood between Marlowe and Arthur. The Summer Meltdown features a 5K race, 1 Mile Family Fun Run and Walk, street festival, outdoor activities, games, food vendors, beer garden, live music and more.

Mark your calendar and start training! Meltdown race registration for the 5K race, 1 Mile Family Fun Run & Walk goes live on Tuesday, April 19. These races serve as a fundraiser for LakewoodAlive.

Families will love the street festival component, which features a variety of local small businesses and nonprofit organizations, many of which offer interactive opportunities. Activities range from the “Water Moose” sprinkler park to fitness activities to a

skateboard park.
Beer and seltzer sponsored by Platform Beer Co. will be featured in the Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden sponsored by First Federal Lakewood. Live music by alternative rock band Front Porch Lights on the Meltdown Stage will delight the crowd as dusk turns to nightfall in beautiful Downtown Lakewood.
For more details about the Lakewood Summer Meltdown, visit lakewoodalive.org/meltdown.
The Lakewood Summer Meltdown is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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The Back Page



photo by Jim O'Bryan

"The finest sunsets in the entire midwest" George Hudak, world traveler, and one time Lakewood resident. This photo from the east rim of the Emerald Canyon would make one agree.

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