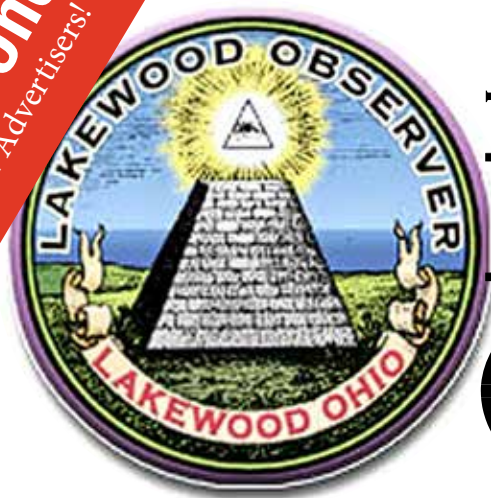


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Volume 18, Issue 09, May 4, 2022

District Earns Best Community For Music Education Award

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools once again has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts

to provide music access and education to all students. The District has been awarded the designation every year since 2016.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, the District answered detailed

questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and

continued on page 7

Keeping Lakewood Beautiful For All



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Anthony Johnson doing his part to keep Lakewood Beautiful

by Jim O'Bryan

Anthony Johnson, Lakewood High Senior, walked the neighborhoods of Lakewood on Arbor Day giving out free trees to those who would like one.

As part of Keep Lakewood Beautiful, Anthony, who has only lived in Lakewood about a half a year took this on. With extra trees from the event, he went into the neighborhoods going door to door asking if anyone would like a FREE flowering dogwood

tree.

"One of the many things I like about Lakewood is being able to walk around and enjoy the vegetation and trees," answered Anthony when asked what he liked about Lakewood. He then went on to say he loved Lakewoodite's easy attitude and the networking chances move from Germany. Nothing better than good people moving here for great reasons!

continued on page 8

Hospital Site Breaking News

As we went to press Lakewood City Council unanimously passed a resolution authorizing final negotiation of a development agreement with CASTO for the redevelopment of the former Lakewood Hospital site under the Term Sheet previously shared with the public.

The City looks forward to moving the project forward to meet the public goals identified in the visioning process.



Yesterday, Mayor George and Police Chief Kevin Kauchek administered the oath of office to five new members of the Lakewood Police Department. Congratulations and welcome to Officers Kayla Tomm, Robert Prendergast, Damien Russell, Mahmoud Sulieman, and Michael Lipcsey! Thank you for serving our community!

34th Annual Sale On The Grounds

by Heidi Murray

Members of the Lakewood Historical Society have been busy preparing for their annual sale scheduled for May 12 - 15.

Historic Nicholson House, located across from St. Edward's High School, is filled to the brim with antiques, collectibles and decorative and personal items; tents set up in our yard offer a huge selection of kitchen and craft items, toys, games, sporting goods, tools, electronics, and lawn, garden and picnic items. Prices start at just one dollar and there is something for everyone - from mason jars and kitchen items to costume jewelry to sterling silver and framed artwork. Set aside plenty of time to shop as not only is the Nicholson House filled, so is a 20' x 70' tent and several smaller tents on the grounds.

This is the perfect place to outfit a new house or apartment or find a special vintage piece to add to your collection. Our great deals get even better

on Sunday, when everything except the Antiques Room is half price. Even gamblers don't wait till Sunday, though—they won't risk it!

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 12, 13 & 14, the grounds open for shopping at 9 a.m. through 3 p.m.

Most Distinguished Tree Contest, And You Can Win!



One of the trees entered in TAEB's "Most Distinguished Tree" Contest. Which proves they do not have to be the biggest, or the best, just distinguished. Go to page 10 for details on entering.

On Sunday, May 15, sale hours are noon to 3 p.m.

If you've shopped this sale before, no doubt it's already on your calendar. If you've never been to this sale, make a point to come. This is one event you don't want to miss!



Arbor Day Surprise

by Christine Gordillo

Third-graders across the District received a special gift on today's 150th anniversary of Arbor Day as each took home a white dogwood seedling for planting. The seedlings were provided by the Arbor Day Foundation and paid for courtesy of long-time Lakewood resident Ed Denk, who had an Arbor Day tradition of planting a new tree with his two daughters when they were young Lincoln Elementary students. Denk said he was inspired by the



Most Distinguished Tree contest sponsored by the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Observer. Pictured are students at Lincoln receiving their seedlings.

The Mayor's Corner

Building A Good Year For Lakewood

by Mayor Meghan George

Lakewood is a city full of history. We value the sense of place that our avenues of century homes provide and the walkable scale of our main streets that were laid out in the streetcar era. Our community strives to honor our historic fabric by preserving its character in existing buildings whenever possible and by encouraging new development to incorporate elements of the historic surroundings while acknowledging that contemporary trends also have a place in our city. But perhaps the most successful impact we can have on preserving Lakewood's historic character is through taking older buildings with great bones and strong foundations and adapting them to contemporary uses before they fall too far into disrepair to be saved.

There has been significant conversation about the role that the Curtis Block building can play in the redevelopment of the former Lakewood Hospital site. This is an important discussion to have, and as the development plans continue to be fine-tuned, I will have more to say on this in the future. But in this column, I want to highlight how Lakewood has done a great job of partnering with developers recently on projects that breathe new life into older buildings. Currently, there are multiple major projects in development, under construction, or recently completed that advance our city's commitment to historic preservation and adaptive reuse. Here are a few great examples of those.

The Cove Community Center: The City of Lakewood was thrilled to open this new community asset to the public just a few weeks ago. The project transformed the former Cove United Methodist Church (built in 1969) into the new home of our Human Services



programming for seniors, youth, early childhood, and more. The project preserved the beauty of the church while refitting it to serve Lakewood's evolving needs in human services and community space.

The former Bi-Rite on Madison: **Construction** is now underway at the corner of Madison and Robin in a project led by developer Jim Miketo. The vacant former Bi-Rite store, built over 100 years ago, is being revitalized to include a mix of first floor retail, including a coffee shop, with office and business space on the second and third floors. In a nod to its surroundings in the Birdtown Historic District, the development will be called "The Nest."

St. James School and Rectory: **Oster Services**, a custom construction group that has been looking for new space for several years, is renovating these structures and will move once construction is complete. This growing Lakewood company wanted to stay in our city, and is excited to do so while also preserving two beautiful historic structures. In addition, Allied Enterprises Inc. will be relocating from Westlake into the building, bringing more economic growth to Lakewood.

into the site. The project also received an award of \$849,000 in historic tax credits from the State of Ohio.

The Phantasy Theatre and Mack Products: At the intersection of Detroit and Hird, developers Daniel Budish and Betsy Figgie are transforming the former Phantasy Theatre and adjacent Mack Products buildings into Studio West 117. This multi-million development is focused on providing "a hub for Cleveland's LGBTQ+ ecosystem," including turning the Mack Products building into a fitness and wellness space ("The Fieldhouse") and the Theatre into an multi-faceted entertainment center with additional retail space on the first floor.

All of these exciting projects will help to continue Lakewood's status as a historic place that is full of character while also adding new vitality to buildings that were in need of a future purpose and some renewed energy.

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NEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL

“The Futures’s So Bright We Gotta Wear Shades”

by Jason Shachner
Council Member Ward 2

Lakewood Downtown
Development Update

On April 4th, Mayor Meghan George presented to City Council the Term Sheet for Lakewood Downtown Development signed by Mayor George on March 25th and signed by Brent Sobczak, President of CASTO Communities, March 24th. This Term Sheet is a nonbinding agreement that lays the parameters of, and serves as a template for, a future Development Agreement. Essentially, the Mayor is asking City Council to authorize her to negotiate a Development Agreement with CASTO and North Pointe Realty based upon the parameters enumerated in the Term Sheet. There will be opportunities for you to provide input on this project during Council meetings, community meetings, Planning Commission meetings, and Architectural Board of Review meetings. I encourage you to share your thoughts. You can always contact me if you have any questions about this project.

CASTO and North Pointe Realty have proposed a \$90 million mixed-use development project that will include 65,000 square feet of new office space, to be wholly owned by Roundstone Insurance. Roundstone currently employs approximately 100 people and expects to higher nearly 100 more within the next five years. The project will also include at least 200 new residential units with at least 20% being set aside for income qualifying households. The affordable housing component would be a condition of a Community Reinvestment Area Affordable Housing Tax Abatement Program with would provide a 15-year tax abatement on 100% of the improved building value of the residential portion of the property. CASTO plans to provide 30,000 square feet of first floor retail and commercial space and to create a first-rate community space that will serve as the entrance to the project.

Mayor George provided Council with the anticipated timeline for this project. She estimates that the Development Agreement and Final Development Plan will be completed by the end of this year with a possible construct start date of Spring 2023.

City Council, the George Administration, and Brent Sobczak of CASTO had a thorough discussion of the financials of the project at a Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Sobczak shared that the total project cost is \$81,875,000. CASTO projects that they will be able to obtain a construction loan of \$49,500,000 and it would contribute \$14,500,000 in equity to the project. This leaves a financing gap of \$17,875,000 that can be closed with the CRA Tax Abatement, Tax Incremental Financing, Port Authority sales tax exemptions on construction materials, low interest financing options, and state funds.

Madison Ave Hawk Near Arthur Ave



Please see the table below to see how comparable development projects were financed in other cities.

At the following Committee of the Whole Meeting, Mr. Sobczak, along with Scott Dimit of Dimit Architecture, went into further detail about the design of the project. Of interest were the options that were explored concerning the Curtis Block Building. The design currently incorporates the preservation of the Curtis Block’s façade, which is estimated to cost \$2 million. This allows for the creation of 17,000 square feet of commercial space and four levels of apartments above it for a total of 88 units. That building’s footprint would look something like the drawing below.

CASTO did examine what a full preservation of the Curtis Block would look like. There are only five leasable commercial spaces of 1,100 square feet each. Mr. Sobczak described those spaces as not dynamic and explained that they would have to be leased at an extremely discounted rate to attract tenants. In addition, only five residential units would be available on the second floor and there would be no ability to build above the Curtis Block. A second building behind the Curtis Block would have to be constructed to add more residential units and commercial space. This would lead to a loss 32 units reduction of maximum available commercial space from 17,000 square feet to 8,230 square feet. The cost of the full preservation was estimated at \$7 million. The footprint of that plan would look like this:

CASTO also provided City Council with the fiscal impact of different scenarios involving the Curtis Block. The demolition of the building would cost \$250,000, the façade preservation would cost \$2 million, and the full preservation would cost \$7 million. CASTO estimated that the revenue loss that would result if the Curtis Block was fully preserved would be \$755,800 per year with a loss \$22.6 million in revenue over 30 years. This would also create a projected financial gap of \$27,674,000 as opposed to the current gap of \$17,875,000.

Update
Madison Ave Crosswalk
Since being elected to Council I

awarded to Iteris for traffic engineering studies. Among other things, Iteris will specifically be studying the need for a HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crossWalK beacon). The proposed timeline indicates that the field study will be completed by June and Iteris will be ready to provide their analysis and recommendations by the end of September. I look forward to reviewing this study and hope that we can find a solution for pedestrians on Madison Ave.

Building Evaluation
Winterhurst Ice Skating Facility

A \$50,0000 contract was awarded to American Structurepoint, Inc. to perform a building evaluation of Winterhurst, which will include assessing the physical condition of building systems, structural components & systems, property drainage and waterproofing measures, mechanical, electrical plumbing systems, and air quality. A 10-year plan for the facility will be formed from this evaluation, which will further inform any capital repair determinations. American Structurepoint is a first-time vendor with the City and the fact that they have an Ice Rink Specialist serving on their team significantly contributed to the George Administration choosing them.

have advocated for the installation of a HAWK crosswalk on Madison Avenue between Westwood/Morrison and Victoria/Revelry, a stretch of approximately 2,440 ft (.46 miles) without an intervening crosswalk. A HAWK crosswalk works as a traffic light for pedestrians and only lights up when a pedestrian presses the button to cross. This area experiences frequent foot traffic due to the popular shops, bars and restaurants, and people frequently cross from the public parking lot on the north side of the street to the restaurants located directly across on the south side of the street.

We have recently seen progress on this front with a \$70,000 contract

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DR. G's RANGER ROUNDUP

by Dr. Charles Greanoff
Baseball
April 29 Rangers vs. Lake Catholic

Although Friday Night Under the Lights is the best high school baseball event in Northeast Ohio, tonights 6-5 win over Lake Catholic took excitement to a whole other level. When senior Will Hyatt singled in junior Colin McCrone with the winning run in the 8th, it concluded an epic performance by Will, who had three hits, three RBI and was the winning pitcher in relief. (Colin had reached second on a perfect bunt by Luke Jablonowski.) Yet, the single most impressive at bat was by junior Luke Mason (pictured). With the Rangers down 5-3 with two outs in the bottom of the seventh, Luke, down to his last strike, fouled off 3 tough pitches before ripping a triple into the left field corner. Then, coming in cold off the bench, pinch hitter sophomore Andrew Krankowski jumped on the first pitch, delivering a clutch single that tied the game. Mason, Luke Jablonowski, Simon Gilchrist and Hyatt pitched for the Rangers, who as usual, enjoyed the support of a boisterous student section. Will, Luke and Frank had the most vital hits, but this was a total them effort. Freshman Leo Soneson got a hit in his first ever variety at bat, Ben Jablonowki and Aidan Maxwell sparked rallies with hits, and Mason Ivinskaskas worked a key walk to set up Hyatt's game winner. Defensively, Eii LaDue turned a rally killing double play, and Ben blocked many potential pitches at key times. Congratulations to Coach Graves, his staff and the entire squad on a thrilling, never say die come from behind win over a good Lake Catholic



team. Our guys never lost their poise or focus, and richly deserved this win. Long Live Lakewood.

April 27 Rangers vs. Buckeye
In a total team effort, the Lakewood Rangers Baseball squad defeated Buckeye 4-0, behind strong defense, pitching and timely hitting. Will Hyatt pitched three scoreless innings, following by two scoreless innings each by Luke Jablonowski and Simon Gilchrist. The Ranger defense was near flawless, led by short-stop Eli LaDue, who turned a difficult 1-6-3 double play and made several other fine plays. Center fielder Emmett Frantz played his usual fine center field, and Colin McCrone was solid at second base. The unsung defense star, though, was catcher Ben Jablonowki, who was a flawless receiver, making at least 5 key blocks of wood be wild pitches. The Rangers offense was sparked int he bottom of the 3rd when Eli LaDue doubled with a runner on first, and Mason Ivinskaskas (pictured) platted two runs with a single down the 3rd base line. Lucas Winters doubled in Luke Mason in the 4th. The Rangers tacked on an insurance run in the 6th when Ben Jablonowski tripped in Emmett Frantz (who had stolen second pinch running for GH Aidan Maxwell, who had coaxed a walk. Defeating a strong Bucks team (rematch tomorrow at Buckeye) after a 4-3 win over traditional power Amherst should give the Rangers momentum going into he second half of the season. Congratulation to Coach Graves, his staff, and the entire squad.

April 22 Rangers vs. Amherst Comets
Enduring a difficult schedule and

some tough, close losses (4-3 to St Ed, 5-4 Holy Name) the Lakewood Rangers showed mental toughness tonight, defeating the always strong Amherst Comets, 4-3 at Lakewood Stadium. Sophomore Drew Jablonowski pitched five solid innings for the Rangers, who trailed 3-0 until a 4th inning rally featuring a key hits by senior Will Hyatt and junior Luke Mason, and an RBI single by senior Lucas Winters. Next inning started when junior Luke Jablonowski walked on a 3-2 pitch (Luke made no less than 3 outstanding plays at third). Eli LaDue—who made a terrific play at short- sacrificed Luke to second, who then took third on a ringing single by junior Mason Ivinskaskas. Will Hyatt's sacrifice fly scored Mason and the Rangers had their first lead. Junior Simon Gilcrest started the 6th and proceeded to pitch 2 dominant



innings, retiring all six batters.
Great team win tonight.
continued online at
lakewoodobserver.com

History Club:
Amish And Mennonite Heritage Center



Eighteen engaged, intellectually curious Lakewood High School History Club students visited the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center in Berlin, Ohio today, the highlight of which was a 10 foot by 265 foot circular mural, called Behalt (meaning to keep, hold remember). This pictorial rendering of Amish-Mennonite history, one characterized early on by brutal oppression (torture/burning at the stake) at the hands of European State-Church regimes, took 14 years for Heinz Gaulgul to research and paint.
In order to live true to their faith without harsh persecution, the Anabaptists were forced to migrate across Europe, some into Russia, and across the Atlantic to North America, including to several counties in Ohio.

Our students learned the basic religious tenets of the Anabaptists—also including the Hutterites—as well as the details of their journey to our country and elsewhere. Our guide was well-informed and engaging, soliciting and answering questions with an inviting demeanor.
Of course, no field trip would be complete without lunch, and the Amish Door in Wilmot came through. The Buffet was a big hit (surprisingly, no one fell asleep on the way home) but the Fudge Brownie Delight probably won the day. On top of all of that, our bus driver—Jim—was top notch. He brought each of our kids a small jam/peanut butter jar, and was a de facto tour guide on on
continued online at
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Lakewood Library



Courtesy of the George Eastman Museum.

Celebrate National Photography Month At The Library

by Melinda Frank

May is National Photography Month and Lakewood Public Library has programming to celebrate all month long. From early photography to celebrity portraits and smartphone snaps, we will explore the history and artistry of photography.

Staff from the George Eastman Museum in New York will be presenting the World of Daguerreotypes via Zoom in our Main Library Auditorium or on your home computer. Drawing inspiration from R. J. Palacio's book "Pony," learn about the history and art of photography and the early processing of daguerreotypes. Patrons ages 10 and older can join us on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Adults and families are welcome. Registration is required. Register at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or by calling (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Renowned portrait photographer Abe Frajndlich is known for his celebrity portraits and striking creative style.

He will discuss his upcoming book "Seventyfive at Seventyfive" on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. This book covers his storied career and includes some of his favorite photos including portraits of Dennis Hopper, Jack Lemmon and Miles Davis, along with breathtaking shots of landscapes and architectural structures.

Photography professor and Lakewood resident Dave Thum will guide you through the History of Photography: From Silver to Sensors on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Learn how to identify the types of images in your own family photo collection. Meet the inventors of this medium and see examples of daguerreotypes, tintypes and stereoscope images. This program is open to patrons ages 10 and older. Adults and families are welcome.

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



Videogame break

A good time to start having short, frequent conversations about alcohol and other drugs.

Talking with your child at an early age about drinking and drug use is the first step toward keeping them safe. For tips on how and when to begin the conversation, visit adamhsc.org/talk.



#TalkTheyHearYou



Oceans Of Possibility

by Jeffrey Siebert

Do you wonder what life is like under the sea? Then explore Oceans of Possibility during the Lakewood Public Library's summer reading challenge.

Choose the books you want to read and come into the library once a week to collect stickers. Whenever you read one book or read for twenty minutes, log each title in your reading record or online. Read thirty hours if you are a

student entering sixth through twelfth grade and check in every ten hours you complete.

If you check in your thirtieth book, ten hours, or thirty hours of reading by Monday, August 15, 2022, you will receive a final reward.

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Lakewood Public Schools

LHS Class Of 2023 Hosting Senior Citizens Dance



by Aimee Guzowski

The Lakewood High School Class of 2023 is hosting a senior citizens dance on Friday, May 20, 2022 at Lakewood High School in the Cafeteria.

The dance, titled "The Golden Prom," is from 6:00-8:30 PM. Residents age 65 plus are welcome to attend and enjoy music from their generation.

There is a cost of \$10 per person as this is a fundraiser for the LHS Class of 2023. Guests can enjoy music, dancing, coffee, tea, and light refreshments.

Guests can purchase tickets at the door or by calling Lakewood Recreation at 216-529-4081.

Lakewood High School is ADA compliant and guests are to enter at Door 35 (off Franklin Blvd). Students and staff will be outside of the building in order to assist guests and direct parking.

We hope members of the senior community consider coming to this fun event and enjoy an evening of music from their past!



LHS Mock Trial Team

LHS Mock Trial Team Competes In Virtual Courtroom

by Dan Shields

The Lakewood High School Mock Trial Team competed this spring in 2021-2022 Ohio High School Mock Trial competition, which is sponsored by the OCLRE (Ohio Center for Law Related Education). Each fall high school teams from around the state prepare a trial based on a case created by a panel of judges, lawyers, and staff. This year's case was State of Buckeye ex rel Fitzpatrick v. DeBier, which involved a restaurant owner seeking damages against the state, claiming that her restaurant was forced to close due to regulations put in place during the pandemic.

Lakewood's team worked diligently on the case materials as they organized strategy and legal arguments.

The Prosecution team was led by Leah Campbell and Zoey Serna. The two Prosecution witnesses were played by Edie Barcelona as Hollis Fitzpatrick, and Avelyn Cleary as Phoenix.

The Defense team consisted of attorneys Cameron Wereb and Chaiya Herberger. The Defense witnesses were played by Parker Toms as Ellis, and Delano Yeung as Riley.

Liam Yeung and Yasmine Elhachdani worked overtime as bailiff and timekeeper for both teams. Their contribution was invaluable as they helped each team to compete smoothly.

The students worked hard for over three months, on their own, to prepare for this competition. They conducted a thorough trial, and impressed the judges with their preparation, questions, and arguments.

Outstanding Attorney was awarded to Cameron Wereb, while Edie Barcelona, Parker Toms, and Delano Yeung were each given Outstanding Witness awards.

The 2022 Lakewood Team was led by teacher/moderator Mr. Joseph Lobozzo, with assistance from local attorneys Amelia Leonard, Dan Shields, and Peter Soldato. The moderators are especially proud of this year's team, as the students had to prepare and try the case online. They met the challenge of combining law and technology.

The mock trial team is open to all Lakewood High Students. The team encourages everyone to join them next year, including those who participated in Middle School Mock Trial at Harding and Garfield middle schools.

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LHS Junior Wins Stop The Hate Grand Prize

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to junior Jacquie Hudak on being selected as the grand prize winner of the annual Maltz Museum of Jewish History's Stop the Hate Youth Speak Out essay contest and to Garfield Middle School's seventh-grade choir on earning first place in the Youth Sing Out portion of the contest! Jacquie's essay on championing body positivity for girls in the face of a culture of body shaming was selected from among 10 finalists from Northeast Ohio schools. Jacquie's essay earned her a \$20,000 scholarship and \$5,000 for Lakewood High. The choir earned a \$3,500 anti-bias grant for Garfield.

Now in its 14th year, the Stop the Hate contest is comprised of an essay writing contest and a songwriting contest for students in sixth to twelfth grade. The contests celebrate students who are committed to creating a more accepting, inclusive society by standing up and speaking out against bias and bigotry. Each year about 3,000 students enter both contests combined. This year's contestants were asked to write about how they have been and can continue to be agents of positive change.



Jacquie Hudak

Lakewood Public Schools

West Shore Culinary Student State Champ

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to West Shore Career-Tech junior Reagan Fishbaugh, who placed first in the annual Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, (FCCLA) statewide culinary arts competition! Reagan earned a place in the state competition thanks to her gold rating in the regional contest. Juniors Christian Reyes and Garrett Schweter also qualified for state, with Christian placing in the top seven.

Within a 90-minute time frame, state contestants were required to prepare an Asian chicken noodle soup, South-Asian curried tofu cutlet with rice pilaf, and a lemon curd and fruit compote. Students were judged on their knife skills, safety and sanitation, organization, culinary knowledge, cooking techniques, plate presentation and tasting. Reagan, who said she was shocked when she heard her name announced as the winner, is excited to now move on to the national FCCLA competition in San Diego at the end of June. "Her jaw literally dropped," said Reagan's instructor,



Christian Reyes (left) and Reagan Fishbaugh.

Chef Devan Corti.

Under the guidance of Chef Corti and Chef Rob McGorray, the culinary students have been practicing and perfecting their skills for the past few months after school in preparation for the FCCLA competition. We wish Reagan the best of luck as she competes at the highest level in San Diego!



Fox8 Morning Crew has covered the Lakewood High Cardboard Regatta for years. This year they decided to try one of their own at LHS. IT would seem Team Staci won the big trophy. Always nice having Fox8 in the city.

District Earns Best Community For Music Education Award

continued from page 1

community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/ cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. In a series of landmark studies by scientists and researchers at Northwestern University a link was found between students in community music programs and life-long academic success.

The Lakewood City Schools offers music education from kindergarten

through 12th grade. Instrumental instruction begins in 5th grade. Middle school offerings include classroom band, orchestra, and choir with extra-curricular opportunities in all three. Lakewood High School's curricular offerings include five orchestras, four choirs, three bands, and several non-performance music electives. In addition, our high school extracurricular ensembles provide numerous opportunities for our students to enhance their musical experience through groups such as the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band, The Lakewood Project electric rock orchestra, and Chamber Choir.

LAKWOOD DENTAL GROUP

A group of seven people, likely the dental staff, are standing in front of a graphic that features the Cleveland skyline and the text "We accept most forms of insurance including Medicaid." They are all wearing blue t-shirts with the Lakewood Dental Group logo.

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A photograph of students playing various instruments, including a guitar, drums, and a keyboard, in a music classroom or rehearsal space.

The logo for The LMC (Lakewood Music Center), featuring three stylized figures in a circle.

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LAKEWOOD CARES

How Local Agriculture Is Affected By National Law, The Farm Bill

by Emily Kichler

Organic, local, and regenerative farming practices, as opposed to large-scale monocropping operations and factory farms, provide a different kind of life force to ourselves and the planet. Access to these foods and access to land to grow these foods are important facets to a more holistic and sustainable landscape.

Last month, I attended a farm conference put on by Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association in hopes of finding some new local restaurant suppliers, as well as quenching my curiosity about how the local organic farm community grows and works together.

Almost every state has their own organic farming association, and each will operate a little differently. At Ohio's annual conference, local farmers are provided resources, such as research on different growing methods, grant possibilities, and niche seminars from peers and experts in their respective fields. Seminars were available to learn about growing outdoor mushrooms, the developments of a successful you-pick veggie CSA (where members hand-pick their own veggies each week from the farm), and the stresses and coping mechanisms that small farmers face and utilize respectively, amongst many others.

Other major topics of discussion were actions toward changes involving the upcoming Farm Bill.

The Farm Bill was created during the Great Depression and provided subsidies to farmers for crops and livestock that were deemed essential by the government. Subsidies went toward

milk, beef, pork, chicken, corn, soy, wheat, cotton, sugar, and tobacco. The farm bill also allocated funds toward food assistance.

This bill has remained in effect since the Great Depression and is updated about every five years. Since its creation, not much has changed. The most notable changes have been the removal of tobacco, and in the most recent bill, the addition of cannabis. Consistently, dairy has received a large share of support over the years through dairy promotion and research, dairy buy-back programs, and dairy margin coverage programs.

What do these programs all look like in practice?

The dairy buy-back program started in the late 70's, and in the 80's low-income families started becoming familiar with the term "government cheese."

Milk has a short shelf-life, and so to keep dairy farms from experiencing losses, the government would buy back unsold dairy and turn it into cheese, which was then stored in refrigerated warehouses around the country. In the 80s, this cheese was handed out in 5-lb packages and used as food assistance.

While the program was cut shortly after the release of the cheese, it continues privately to this day. Through the Farm Bill's dairy donation programs, these cheeses can continue to go back to people in need of food assistance.

Using what would otherwise be food waste to feed hungry people is

not a bad deal, right?

When considering the funding that has gone into and continues to go into dairy promotion and research, some have a more holistic take on who is really benefitting from all this dairy industry upkeep.

Lobbyists have long had their input in political decision-makings and legislation around dairy. The potential for biased research is much greater when promotion and research are lumped into the same category, as they are in the Farm Bill:

The research and promotion funded by this bill helped inform the food pyramids many of us relied on for our nutrition information growing up, and it created the dairy for healthy bones commercials that many of us were inundated with over the years. In the US, we are led to believe that dairy is necessary for our daily health, yet countries around the globe consuming little to no dairy have gotten along that way for centuries. China, a country that has 4.35 times the population of the US, consumes a minor fraction of our intake per capita. India, with about 4 times the population of the US, consumes less than half of our intake per capita. The United States consistently consumes the most dairy globally, and when considering ourselves the third most populous country in the world, our farming practices have a more significant impact on the planet. In Ohio, 113,630 dairy cows are housed in just 41 facilities. The larger the farming operations, the more challenging it is to manage waste sustainably and responsibly, and the more challenging it is to provide ethical living conditions for animals.

Can you imagine funding going instead toward commercials about the benefits of composting for healthy soil, or promoting oats and lentils, which also nourish the soil? What if it went

toward mycelium, which can be used as innovative building materials, clothing fibers, and plastic alternatives? How about algae, an eater of waste materials that can be turned into fuel and material alternatives?

The general consensus of the ecological conference-goers was that better allocation of funds was needed toward small farmers and away from industrial farming operations.

Other facets of the farm bill and general policy updates that entered conversations throughout the conference included land access to new farmers and especially farmers of color, better funding toward regenerative and sustainable agriculture, better laws

continued on page 10



Keeping Lakewood Beautiful For All continued from page 1

Keep Lakewood Beautiful is one of the best ways to give back to Lakewood, along with LakewoodAlive, and writing for the Lakewood Observer.

From Keep Lakewood Beautiful

We never cease to be amazed by

the power of our community! A huge THANK YOU to the 60+ volunteers who participated in yesterday's Keep Lakewood Beautiful 2022 Earth Day Cleanup, collecting 19 bags of trash while dispersing dozens of tree saplings for planting.

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3 Items	\$9.00	\$11.25	\$15.00	\$17.50
4 Items	\$9.50	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$19.00
Deluxe	\$10.00	\$12.75	\$17.00	\$20.50
Extra Items	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$2.50
Chicken	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$4.50
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$4.00

Available Items: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green & Red Bell Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Beef, Pineapple, Jalapeño Peppers Special Toppings: Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Tomato, Broccoli, and *Chicken

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Lakewood Cares

Making A Difference - One Note, One Bridge At A Time

by Jim O'Bryan

Over 3 years ago, one person's love of the world's people put her on a course to save lives; in one of the most simple, yet beautiful ways: handwritten notes of love and inspiration.

Starting with the Black River Bridge, Brook Park Bridge, and then the Lorain Bridge, she would leave notes of love, encouragement, and affirmation tied or taped to the bridges that were far too often used by people committing or attempting to commit suicide by jumping. There are notes all along the bridges where someone might stop and read them, and hopefully...think.



Help is available
Speak with someone today
National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline
Available 24 hours.
800-273-8255
Languages:
English, Spanish. Learn more

That is how my wife and I stumbled onto this story. We thought we discovered them on an afternoon walk over the Hilliard Bridge. As I posted the photos people started to chime in that "there is a woman who does this regularly. I think it has something to do with the young woman that jumped a couple years ago." And then, "Her name is Jen Stross and she has been doing it for some time." So I contacted this Lakewood High School Graduate and met her at the historic Hilliard Bridge.

What I found out says so much about both the person and the problem she was trying to address, keeping anyone who is desperate and lost alive, long enough to think it through one more time. By reading "You are loved," "It is often darkest before dawn" and others, Jen is making a difference. With Suicide Prevention numbers sprinkled throughout, each note is done by hand on cards of vari-



Jen Stross, the woman behind the notes of love, affirmation and positivity appearing on a bridge near you, and already saving lives and making a difference.



Flowers others have left behind with the cards.

ous colors that attract and pull you in.

You think it may sound silly, but studies have shown that if you can distract a person set on suicide, it opens a pathway for reasoning to come in. NO ONE wants to die--some people just need a reason to continue. And the sad fact is that the trend is going up, not down. And what we have been doing is really not working, so why not? Besides, it already has a track record of working! One man, we will call Dave, contacted her after reading a message and deciding not to jump. Today he is living a good life and keeps in contact with Jen. Other friends work with her on and off, whose lives have also been touched by suicide.

She constantly checks on the messages and makes sure they are



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



MAY

ARIES:
The Ram’s money house is shining this month...maybe spend a little extra on Mom...your luck behind the scenes couldn’t be better...you’ve got the initiative, go for it

TAURUS:
You finally come out of that Bull Pen for the whole world to see, maybe a new look, change that appearance to something out of your comfort zone, your social circle also widens

GEMINI:
What the Twins are working on behind the scenes is getting you a second look from your higher-ups, take that bonus, & buy Mom flowers, double the pleasure-double the gratitude

CANCER:
The Crab’s associations are where you shine...the foreign emphasis is still strong, use your intuition, opportunities abound for you, capitalize on them, you’re everyone’s mom

LEO:
The Lion/Lioness is no stranger to shining in the public eye, after all, you are King/Queen & you own it, good luck comes to you from other people’s money, get something flashy for mom

VIRGO:
If you’re on the personals don’t be afraid to check out foreign shores, you might find someone who fancies your garden & herbs as much as you do, bake something organic for mom

LIBRA:
You’re shining in the 8th house of other people’s money; health & service is where your benefits come from this month...take that surplus & get something for mom that shouts artistic

SCORPIO:
The Scorpion is keeping his relationships under tight wraps this month, although the child in you comes out to play & you decide to take a risk, & have some fun for the world to see

SAGITTARIUS:
The Centaur is getting its health back, & with that, you’re giving back to the Universe, don’t forget mom as your bow & arrow this month is pointing right at home & hearth

CAPRICORN:
Time for a little fun, all work & no play makes the Goat boring, it’s your month to get out in the community & mingle amongst the other playful souls, put the business aside

AQUARIUS:
Home & money are where your futuristic self is benefiting this month, mom may just go for that new-fangled gismo you discovered on your journey to the cosmos, light it up

PISCES:
You’ve been granted some Luck with Jupiter in Pisces in your first house, invite the school of fish over to celebrate Mom, the whole neighborhood will know where Fantasy Island is

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

Lakewoodites Get Up, Get Out And Look Up

by Jim O’Bryan
Time to get off the couch and go for a walk or even a drive. The TAEB (Tree Advisory and Education Board) and the Lakewood Observer are teaming up with some local businesses to find “The Most Distinguished Tree In Lakewood.” Plenty of prizes from Lakewood Garden Center, Woodstock BBQ, West End Tavern, Lakewood Hardware, India Garden, and more.

To make it even more inclusive we have decided to let you decide what a “distinguished tree” is. To all that love LO contests, we are more dedicated to fun and giving things away than rules and definitions. After all, this is supposed to be fun, not rocket surgery.

To enter a tree simply scan the QR Code with your smart phone or tablet, and send us the address. Or, go to “Question of the Day” on our website’s front page and we will take the photo.

Or send the photo and address to production@lakewoodobserver.com.

Nominations can be made through May 30th, then a select group of Lakewoodites, will convene and give some prizes away.

If you have won any of our contests in the past two years, congratulations! Now win some more things.



Another entry for TAEB’s Most Distinguished Tree In Lakewood Contest. This tree is up at Madison Park, home to one of the most family friendly parks in the city. Friends of Madison Park have family events all summer long. Check it out!



How Local Agriculture Is Affected By National Law, The Farm Bill

continued from page 8

around animal protection and wellness, and more accurate guidelines for organic farming certifications.

If you ever have interest in getting involved in the bigger policies behind where food comes from, it’s worth supporting/getting involved with your local organic farming association.

More sources

What is the Farm Bill? <https://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/campaigns/fbcampaign/what-is-the-farm-bill/>

How the US Ended Up With Warehouses Full of 'Government Cheese' <https://www.history.com/news/government-cheese-dairy-farmers-reagan>

19 Organic Food Organizations and Businesses Working to Protect Consumers and the Global Environment

<https://foodtank.com/news/2015/09/nineteen-organic-food-organizations-and-businesses-working-to-protect-consumers-and-the-global-environment/>

Ohio’s Concentrated Animal Feeding Facilities: A Review of Statewide Manure Management and Phosphorus Applications in the Western Lake Erie Watershed <https://theoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Manure-Report.pdf>

Stuffed and Starved by Raj Patel <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/127985/stuffed-and-starved-by-raj-patel/>

Emily Kichler is a cook and clothier with a passion for creating more ecologically harmonious and sustainable systems.

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A portrait of Troy Bratz, a man with a beard and a fedora hat, wearing a blue button-down shirt.

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REMEMBERED

In Memory Of Jan Soeder

by Emmie Hutchison

Dear Lakewood Community,

H2O, the “Help to Others” youth service organization recently received a very generous donation from the estate of Jan Soeder, in honor of our friend and board member, that will make a lasting impact on the program. This gift is not only emotionally significant to our entire H2O community, past and present, but it will enhance our ability to provide high quality service learning well into the future. We will continue to be reminded of what a thoughtful and kind friend Jan was to youth and to H2O.

When Jan retired from Lakewood City Schools as Assistant Superintendent, she volunteered to help conduct a series of strategic planning sessions to guide H2O through a period of financial uncertainty and leadership transition. One of the outcomes of those sessions was the formation of the H2O Advisory Council, which she served for many years. She shared wisdom about youth development, fundraising, and connecting to stakeholders in Lakewood. Her advocacy meant a great deal to the program. She cultivated respect and admiration wherever she went, and it was an honor to experience the rewards that were realized by her deep commitment to H2O.

Although she had countless admirable qualities, it was her sense of purpose that I recall most vividly. Certainly, she had sharp leadership skills— she was decisive, practical, insightful, and knowledgeable. Yet, when faced with any decision, above all other considerations, Jan asked, “What does this mean for children?” She was attentive to the big picture of our city and schools, but always remained focused on the fundamental question about the well-being of children as her guiding principle.

When I heard that Jan had passed away, I personally grieved the loss of someone I admired and I grieved for our community, because we lost a treasure. Her gift is a reminder of what she spent her life working to ensure— that children have the opportunity to grow into their fullest potential. She sowed the



seeds for the next generation of compassionate citizens through her career, her work in the community throughout her retirement, and through generous gifts to youth-serving organizations she cared about. H2O is fully resolved to pay tribute to Jan’s legacy by applying her contributions, personal and financial, to continue to touch the hearts and minds of youth in Lakewood.

I appreciate the opportunity to share H2O’s news and personal reflections.

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

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