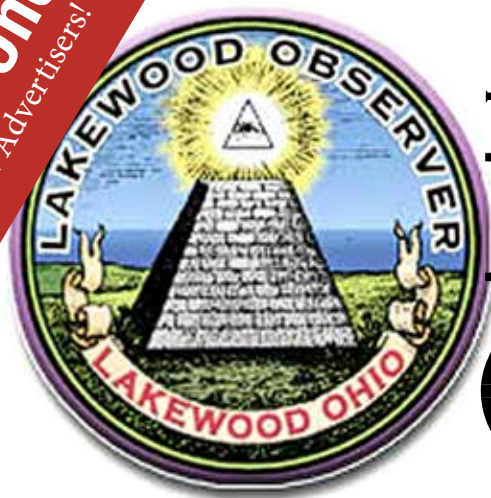


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Volume 18, Issue 10, May 18, 2022

City Adds More Police Officers And Ambassadors

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

I have 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 police work. (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 maximum 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. I have regularly met with leadership at City Hall to explore and evaluate innovative models that might achieve



Scholarship winners with Mary Warren in the Center. From left Sophia Gutierrez, Emma Hart, Kellyn Donahoe, Reka Sundem, and Nawar Yared. (Not Pictured: Teeghan McGann)

Applicants For Ward 4 Seat Announced

by Jim O'Bryan

The deadline for applying for the vacant Ward 4 Seat is closed, the following Lakewoodites have entered the process.

It is believed that Council is planning on interviewing all of the candidates.

Mary Brown
Mark Schneider
Ed Rand
Kate Foley
Jason Frederick

Traci Burke
Cindy Marx
Ruth Gillett
Donna Taylor- Kollis
Vinko Kovanovic
Marissa Clark

The Ward 4 seat was vacated by Dan O'Malley who also served as City Council President.

He will be remembered for his honesty and forward looking leadership. Thank you, Dan, for your service.

Published In The New York Times LHS's Helen Roche

by Betsy Voinovich

From the New York Times: We are honoring the top eight winners of our Student STEM Writing Contest by publishing their essays. This essay, by Helen Roche, 17, from Lakewood High School in Lakewood, Ohio, is one of the top eight winners of The Learning Network's third annual STEM Writing Contest, for which we received 3,564 entries.

Here is her essay:

Color And The Brain: Are We All Simply Puppets Of The Color Palette?

Just as we consume food, we consume color at an even greater rate, constantly digesting the different tonalities that paint our world. But little do we know that the beige of the library walls we study in, the red of busy hallways and restaurants, and the blue of your own bedroom have been strategically chosen from millions of different swatches and tones and shades to control our bodily functions and alter our emotional behavior.

From the moment you entered the world, you were



Helen Roche

swaddled in a baby pink blanket. The same pink of the padded walls that consoled a kicking and screaming child detained at the San Bernardino County Probation Department in California to sleep within 10 minutes. The same pink that covers the buildings of urban cities to prevent vandalism. And the same pink on the walls of visiting football teams' locker rooms to calm grown men into submission and defeat. This

continued on page 5

100th Anniversary Celebration: Lakewood League Of Women Voters Awards Six Scholarships

by Cindy Strebis

The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland is pleased to announce the awarding of six \$1,000 **Mary Warren Impact Scholarships**. The awards are presented to Lakewood High School Seniors based on community service, an essay on democracy, and a plan of continuing education.

Created in 2020, the Mary Warren Impact Scholarship has now awarded \$11,000 to

Lakewood High School graduating seniors. Mary Warren's impact can be seen in the affordable senior housing that we have here in Lakewood. She testified before Congress on the lack of housing for our senior citizens, a need that she recognized and acted on through her work as a social worker and League member.

At the first Celebration of Voting at Lakewood High School on Thursday, May 12,

continued on page 11

Register Now For H2O's Summer Service Camp

by Emmie Hutchison

H2O Summer Service Camp is an experience like no other! Campers are guided through each day by a counselor in a small group where they will experience a variety of service projects, including working at the Foodbank, growing food to donate, a clothing drive, supporting refugees, volunteering at the Cleveland Kids Book Bank... and more! The afternoons feature group activities, speakers, and circle time reflection. All of the experiences are tied together with a new theme

each summer.

The camp fee is \$80.00. Financial assistance is available; we truly welcome all eligible campers regardless of their ability to pay.

Please contact Emmie Hutchison at (216)529-6045 or emmie.hutchison@lake-woodoh.net for a code to receive a discount. Registration is open to Lakewood residents who will be in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade in Fall 2022.

Go here to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/h2o-summer-service-camp-2022-registration-313910614097>

The Mayor's Corner

Fireworks On Private Property Not Appropriate For Lakewood

by Mayor Meghan George

Summer in Lakewood is fast approaching, and its arrival is welcome. It's been great to feel the weather finally heating up, and we are all looking forward to the many fantastic events and programs that our community provides in the summer months. From Meet the Trucks on June 4th and the Summer Meltdown on July 16th to the diverse sports programming of the Lakewood

Recreation Department and our centerpiece July 4th event in Lakewood Park (just to name a few), there is something for everyone to enjoy. Of course, our July 4th celebration includes one of the region's best and most loved fireworks displays, something our city is proud to offer in a safe and controlled environment for people to experience. But you may have also heard about recent legislation that I

introduced to Lakewood City Council regarding fireworks use in our city. Our local legislation was a proactive response to Ohio House Bill 172, which was passed by the Ohio Legislature late last year and makes the discharge of consumer grade fireworks legal statewide on a high number of days throughout the year. Thankfully, House Bill 172 also permitted local governments to opt out of the state legislation and craft ordinances appropriate for the characteristics of their local community. I have heard from many of you that the discharge of consumer-grade fireworks on private property is not appropriate for Lakewood. I share this view, and so does the leadership of our fire and police departments. Our city continues to be the most densely populated in Ohio, and adding more fireworks use here can only cause unjustifiable risks. In addition, vulnerable members of our commu-

nity – including veterans and others with PTSD, small children, and even our pets – are all highly sensitive to the intense noise fireworks create. Other communities might find it acceptable to allow people to blow off fireworks at will, but it's clear that this is not the right approach for Lakewood. I am thankful to Lakewood City Council for their partnership in reviewing and unanimously adopting Ordinance 11-2022 which updates the existing Chapter 549.10 of our Codified Ordinances to address the new state law and maintain our local ban on consumer-grade fireworks. This modified ordinance will keep our city safe and help our residents maintain the quiet enjoyment of their homes. I look forward to seeing you all out and about as the weather continues to heat up, enjoying all the summer fun that Lakewood has to offer.

City Adds More Police Officers And Ambassadors

continued from page 1

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 its 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.

City of Lakewood: Green Building Challenge Award Winner

from City Hall
The City of Lakewood is being recognized by Cleveland 2030 Districts/U.S. Green Building Council as part of their 2021 Green Building Challenge, the award for reducing transportation emissions, for its efforts in expanding the electric vehicle charging infrastructure over the last year.

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Upcoming Submission Deadline

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June 10, 2022

Publish Date

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Medical weight management program helps patients achieve, maintain weight loss.



Reena Bose, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family
Health Center

As an internal medicine physician, Reena Bose, MD, treated many patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol and sleep apnea. Often, these patients were overweight or obese.

“Excess weight often leads to these common chronic health issues, but I found many patients were reluctant to address the issue because it’s a sensitive subject,” says Dr. Bose.

Faced with this ongoing and growing concern and wanting to do more to address weight-related issues in her patients, Dr. Bose became certified in obesity medicine.

Today, she treats patients with a body mass index (BMI) of 27 or higher in the Obesity Medicine Clinic at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center.

“Obesity is a chronic health condition just like diabetes or high blood pressure,” says Dr. Bose. “The program provides precision obesity care tailored to the individual by a multidisciplinary team that includes nutritional support, mental health support and cognitive behavioral therapy to help treat

eating disorders. There is also a strong emphasis on diagnosing and treating sleep disorders that can impact our weight.”

The program begins with a new patient consult that includes a detailed medical history and focused conversation on weight gain – when and why it happened, followed by discussion on therapeutic options to begin their weight loss journey.

“Weight loss is a lifelong commitment, and patients need ongoing support. We provide that via one-on-one sessions, shared medical appointments and virtual visits,” says Dr. Bose. “We discuss prescription weight loss medications that assist with appetite suppression and help regulate the gut/brain pathways that can impact our weight, and work with dietitians, exercise physiologists and clinical psychologists to help patients with their nutrition, fitness, behavioral health and sleep disorders.”

To schedule an appointment with Reena Bose, MD, staff physician in the Endocrinology & Metabolism Institute at Lakewood Family Health Center, please call **216.237.5500**.

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Ernest Young, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family Health
Center, Richard E.
Jacobs Health Center
at Richard E. Jacobs
Campus in Avon and
Middleburg Heights
Orthopaedics

Physical activity is healthy for children, and although their bodies can bend, young bones can sometimes break. For proper healing, it’s important to get any fractures treated quickly by a pediatric orthopaedic specialist, trained to

care for children according to their age, development and size.

“A fracture, or broken bone, is a condition that changes the shape of the bone. Falls cause the most fractures in children under the age of six, but the most serious bone breaks are typically due to trauma, like a car crash,” says Ernest Young, MD, a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon who

treats patients at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, Richard E. Jacobs Health Center at Richard E. Jacobs Campus in Avon and Middleburg Heights Orthopaedics.

Telltale signs of fractures include:

- Pain and swelling.
- Deformity.
- A crunching sensation or sound.
- Numbness or tingling.
- Trouble bearing weight on the affected body part.
- Tenderness when you push on the bone.

“When in doubt, get the injury checked out,” says Dr. Young. “A basic evaluation and x-ray can be done at a primary care or pediatrician’s office, urgent care centers and emergency rooms. If a bone is fractured, immediate medical care is needed.”

In many cases, fractures are treated with cast immobilization, and the length of time in a cast is often less because children heal more quickly and their bones have the ability to grow straighter with time.

If your child has already been evaluated by a medical provider and you have an x-ray showing a fracture, go to **ClevelandClinic.org/PediatricFracture** to access an online fracture assessment tool that will give you the opportunity to schedule an appointment with a member of Cleveland Clinic’s pediatric orthopaedics team.

Appointments can be scheduled for patients under the age of 18 years old, with a fracture of the arm, hand, shoulder, foot, hip or leg.



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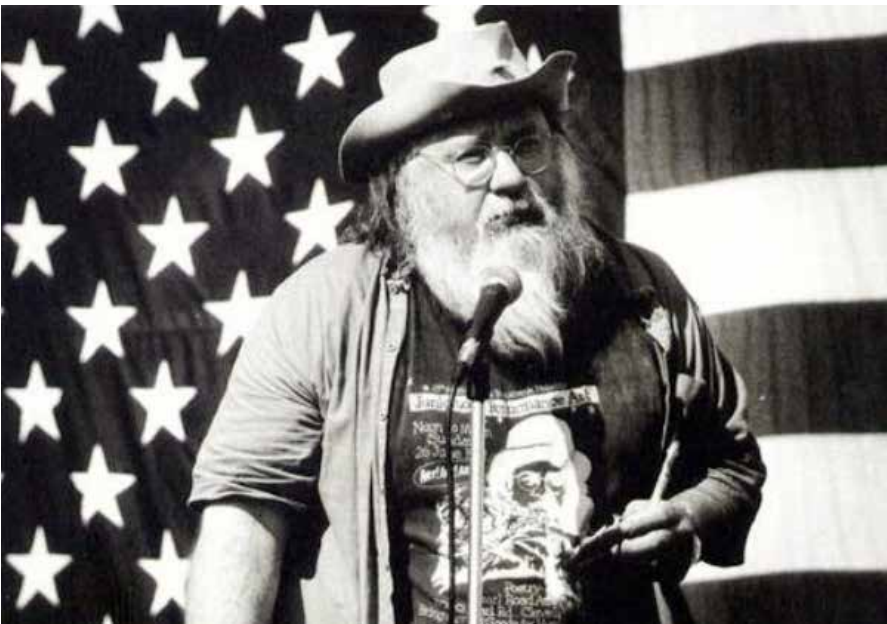
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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Celebration Of Daniel Thompson:
Musical Performance By Drumplay To Benefit
Northeastern Ohio Coalition For The Homeless



by Andrea Fisher

Lakewood Public Library is proud to support an evening of music to celebrate the life of poet Daniel Thompson with a performance by Drumplay on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Five O’Clock Lounge. The Five O’Clock Lounge is located at 11904 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.

World music ensemble Drumplay has been performing for more than 30 years and played alongside Cuyahoga County’s first poet laureate Daniel Thompson. The group continues to celebrate his legacy with their Afro-Cuban, Jazz, Brazilian and Middle Eastern sounds.

Daniel Thompson was more than a poet, he was an anti-war activist who spoke out against discrimination and injustice and the failures of the

prison system. Thompson continues to inspire others more than a decade after his death from leukemia in 2004.

Come celebrate the life of poet Daniel Thompson with this unique performance by Drumplay at the Five O’Clock Lounge in Lakewood on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In the meantime, the works of both Daniel Thompson and Drumplay are available for checkout at the Lakewood Public Library. Visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org to reserve a copy, or call 216-226-8275.

This special program will benefit the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, which exists to eliminate the root causes of homelessness through organizing, advocacy, education, and street outreach. Visit neoch.org to learn more.



WordStage Presents "Wildeiana"
At Lakewood Public Library

by Melinda Frank

Oscar Wilde is known for his theatrical plays, but this storied author’s body of work includes much more. Take a look at Wilde’s life with an exclusive performance from WordStage Literary Concerts on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Wildeiana combines excerpts from Wilde’s letters, recorded memoirs and fictitious work. From "The Importance of Being Earnest" to "The Picture of Dorian Gray," Wilde is known for his detailed dramas. Raised in Ireland and Oxford educated, the man himself was a legend in his own right and a member of popular social and artistic circles. From fairytales to satirical comedies,

Wilde’s work spans multiple genres, continents and constructs.

This performance will evoke the wit and wisdom of Ireland’s idiosyncratic author, poet, and playwright. Local actors Tim Tavcar, Agnes Herrmann and Paul Slimak will be joined by violinist Mary Beth Ions, who will play traditional Irish and British melodies of the Victorian Era.

WordStage Literary Concerts is dedicated to the presentation of works with special literary, historical and musical merit. Using letters, diaries, conversations and music, WordStage performances mix the humanities and performing arts to create a truly unique experience



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Front row: Walker Lueck and Kellyn Donahoe Back row (from left): Roosevelt Principal Allison Aber, Roosevelt intervention specialist Caroline Flannery, District speech language pathologist Ellen McCafferty, Lakewood High intervention specialist Aimee Guzowski, Student Services Director Lisa Bruening.

Awards Honor Special Needs Students, Peers, Educator

by Christine Gordillo

For the past 43 years, the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio and State Support Team – Region 3 have recognized students with special needs, peers and educators with the annual Excellence in Education Awards. This year, the District held a breakfast on May 13 to celebrate its three award winners, including a special award for senior Kellyn Donahoe.

The Outstanding Student Achievement Award acknowledges achievements of school-age children and youth with special needs in Northeast Ohio. Kellyn Donahoe is this year’s District winner. Kellyn is also the Region 3 winner for the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award. This award is presented to one exemplary student receiving special education services and support from each of Ohio’s 16 State Support Team regions. Kellyn was selected as her region’s winner for

her outstanding academic success and extensive extracurricular involvement and service to her school and community. Kelly will be attending Kent State University in the fall as only one of 10 students chosen for KSU’s Career and Communities Studies program.

The Outstanding Peer Achievement Award recognizes students without disabilities who have established positive relationships and who have assisted other students with disabilities, serving as exemplary role models. This year’s District winner is Horace Mann third-grader Walker Lueck.

The Outstanding Educator Achievement Award honors educators who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs. Roosevelt Elementary intervention specialist Caroline Flannery was this year’s District honoree.

Congratulations to these amazing students and teacher, and thank you to the ESC for these important recognitions.

Special Olympics Comes To LHS

by Christine Gordillo

Wonderful weather was the backdrop for a special day of Special Olympics competition at LHS on May 13. The school welcomed John Marshall, John Hay, and Highland high schools to a Special Olympics Unified Champions track and field meet.

Special education students and their neurotypical peer partners teamed up in the spirit of competition, camaraderie, and inclusivity.

Lakewood High Track & Field team members and coaches helped run the meet and athletes and other students teamed with special needs students from the high school’s M.I.L.E.S. unit.



Published In The New York Times LHS's Helen Roche

continued from page 1

shade of “Baker-Miller” pink finds itself recurring in our lives, all resulting in the same effect — comfort.

It’s known that color sets a mood: red feels energetic; orange and yellow are lively and a bit overwhelming; green and blue bring calmness; violet feels creative; pink is comforting; and neutrals feel ... neutral. But it’s not so known how and why. Stephen Westland, a professor and the chair of color science and technology at the University of Leeds, explains that these effects are based on “light but not vision.” When exposed to color, the retinal cells of the eye don’t just send signals to the visual cortex to recognize such color, but also to the hypothalamus, the part of the brain in charge of the body’s self-regulation — the part of the brain unable to recognize visual images at all. Simply seeing a color, or, more particularly, the light the color gives off, can affect a person’s mood, temperature, sleep, heart rate, ability to eat and breathing patterns.

This stands true in an experiment conducted by Harold Wohlfarth, published in a 1982 issue of the International Journal of Biosocial Research, in which he repainted an orange and white classroom in shades of blue and installed gray carpeting in place of the

previous orange rug; all of the students’ blood pressure, respiration rates and pulses dropped, and they all became calmer, after the room makeover. That included two blind students: Although their eyes were unable to see the physical changes, their hypothalami picked up the changes in wavelengths, so they were ultimately able to reap the same benefits of those with sight.

It might seem silly, but simple changes in colors can save lives. All around the world, each day, the color blue saves lives, whether by bathing a premature baby in blue light to replace blood transfusions or by shining blue light on the platforms of Tokyo’s Yamanote rail lines to keep a survivor of depression here to live another day. Blue is just one color, so imagine what the whole rainbow could do with a little research.

Maybe now you’ll think a little harder about that shirt you wear tomorrow — not only what it will say about you, but what it will do to you.

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“The Psychology of Color.” The New York Times, 8 Jan. 2006.
“The Psychology of Colors and Their Meanings.” Color Psychology, 2021. Westland, Stephen. “Does Color Really Affect Our Mind and Body?”



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Take a moment to talk about alcohol and other drugs.

Kids don’t always have all the facts when it comes to alcohol and other drugs. Talk with your child about the risks of underage drinking and substance use, and be clear and consistent about your expectations. For tips on how—and when—to begin the conversation, visit adamhscc.org/talk.



Lakewood Public Schools

LHS Senior Soon To Earn Dual Diplomas

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School senior William Yeung has pulled off a feat that no other Lakewood High graduate has done before him. Thanks to Ohio's College Credit Plus program and the guidance and care of his parents, school counselors, and teachers, William will walk across the Civic Auditorium stage on May 27 to receive his high school diploma having already earned enough credits for his bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University.

William's path to his dual diplomas began in seventh grade, after a concussion had forced him to shift his education online. That school year he took drawing as his first college course at Cuyahoga Community College to dip his toes in the water. It was full steam ahead from there with a mission to complete this daunting challenge.

William entered Lakewood High as a freshman with more than 20 college credits and took courses each summer. He earned his associate's degree from Tri-C as a sophomore and received a Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership, graduating magna cum laude, on May 14 from CSU. After his double graduations, William plans on taking a gap year with an eye toward



William Yeung

working on a political campaign and studying for the LSAT in preparation for law school.

Congratulations, William, and well done!



Abigail Norman

Roosevelt Teacher Named Educator Of Year

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Council of PTAs handed out its annual awards at a ceremony on May 4 at Garfield Middle School. The ceremony included awarding four senior scholarships and recognizing Roosevelt Elementary music teacher Abigail Norman as the District and Ohio PTA Region 1 winner of the "T" in PTA Award.

Norman, who is a 2016 Lakewood High graduate, joined the District in the 2020-2021 school year when students were learning remotely. The Roosevelt PTA nominated Norman for how she has worked tirelessly to keep her students engaged and excited about music during challenging times. Her efforts to get to know students and their families by attending every event and pitching in wherever there is a need are qualities that the PTA said do not go unnoticed. "She has boosted the music program, engaged kids and fam-

ilies in music, and dove head first into helping/volunteering with the PTA," her nominators said.

The PTA Council also honored the overall success of four seniors. Earning \$1,000 scholarships each this year were Greta Frantz, Julia Kavc, Teeghan McGann, and Inga Wilhelmy.

The Helping Hand award goes to a staff member in the school buildings other than a teacher who goes above and beyond in helping students and staff. This year, Garfield Middle School paraprofessional and PTA Council President Rachel Vuyancih won the award for her dedication to the BRIDGES students, the Garfield community, and her overall dedication to PTA. Vuyancih will return as president of the PTA Council next year.

Congratulations to all the award recipients and to the new slate of officers who will lead the Council of PTAs in the 2022-2023 school year.



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DR. G's RANGER ROUNDUP

Updates From LHS's Sports/Education Programs

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Girls Track

May 13
What a great night for our GLC Championships. So many great things that happened. Our girls Team took 3rd overall. Our 4x2 Team of Kaydence, Mckenna, Elliott, Teeghan broke our School Record set back in 1985 with a 1:45.66 Our 4x1 Team of Kaydence, Aniya S, Elliott, Mckenna broke the Meet Record with a 50.98. Happy Birthday Aniya S. Kaydence and Aniya S took 2nd & 5th in the long jump. Jumps of 17-04.25 & 15-10.25. Anna W took 7th in discs with a PR 90-05. Gianna was 15th. Mckenna was 6th

in the 100m & Aniya J 4th in 300mH with a PR 49.13. Anna D was 8th in the mile with a PR 5:43.40 & Julia K was 9th 5:47.40. Helen F was 7th in the 800 in a PR 2:31.06 & Mallory was 10th 2:37.78. Teeghan took 4th in the 200m with 26.65 & Mckenna was 8th 27.59. Josie K took 3rd in the 3200 with a PR 12:10.33 & Mae 9th with a PR 12:48.29 Teeghan also took 2nd in the 400 and broke the 60 second barrier going 59.07. Our 4x4 was 4th with a seasons best 4:14.57. Elliott, Kaydence, Helen R, Teeghan. All in all we are very proud of how hard each and everyone performed over these 2 days. Hard work paying off.

Baseball

May 11, Rangers/Parma
The weather stayed warm today but the bats went cold. No matter, strong pitching and defense carried the Lakewood Rangers to a 2-0 win over Parma at Lakewood Stadium. Shutout innings by Simon Gilchrist (2) Michael Klasa (3) and Colin McCrone (2) kept Parma off the board, with great help from shortstop Eli LaDue (pictured—thank you Grace Hoppel), who made three sparking defensive plays, including applying the tag on a throw from Aidan Maxwell, who cut down a runner attempting to steal second. To end the game, Eli ranged behind second, spun and fired a strike to first to nip

the Parma runner and send a relieved Ranger rooting section home happy. Lakewood scored early on first inning doubles by Luke Mason and Will Hyatt, followed by an Aidan Maxwell sacrifice fly. From that point on, neither team could punch across a run.
The Rangers finish 7-3 in the GLC West and stand at 11-9 overall. They play Olmsted Falls on Thursday (430) and Elyria Friday (7:00 pm), both at home. Tournament play starts Monday when the Rangers take on the winner of the Lorain Shaker Heights game. Lakewood has played a tough schedule and held up well. Onward
read the rest of this article online at: lakewoodobserver.com



2022 Lakewood Kiwanis College Scholarship Recipients



by Anna Bacho
Drum roll please.....
Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation is proud to announce our 2022 recipients for this year's graduating high school seniors. The following 15 graduates are being awarded 14 \$10,000 and 1 \$5000 for vocational, for their academic, citizenship and leadership abilities.
This scholarship fund is funded thru the efforts of The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood. The Lakewood Kiwanis Golf Outing and Annual Scarecrow Festival were just two of our major fundraisers. New this year is our Swing Dance on May 27.
The winners of the 2022Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarships are:
CONGRATULATIONS TO
Cale Clemens, Lakewood HS
Mia Condosta, Lakewood HS
Amal Elhachdani, Lakewood HS

Mollie Henrikson, Lakewood HS
Abigail Hirsch, Lakewood HS
Collin Hunt, Lakewood HS
Teeghan McGann, Lakewood HS
Lucy McIntire, Lakewood HS
Amy Pilgrim, Lakewood HS
Alexandria Russell, Lakewood HS
Sophie Schmidt, St Joseph Academy
Julia Shields, Lakewood HS
Nate Sinagra, Holy Name HS
Joseph Twardesky, Lakewood HS
Inga Wilhelmy, Lakewood HS

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is the leading service organization in Lakewood and last year we celebrated 100 years of service. Along with our scholarships, we also support Lakewood High Key Club, Harding Builders Club, K Kids Club's at Grant, Horace Mann, and Family Life B&A Care at Harrison and Emerson. #KidsNeedKiwanis

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood High School Horticulture Classes And Keep Lakewood Beautiful Educational Partnership Celebrate Nearly A Decade

by Marianne Quasebarth Usiak

This time of year, as spring becomes more and more apparent, it is a time when we celebrate trees, as it is one of the best times to plant a tree. Lakewood has a variety of many species of beautiful trees. Having a diverse tree canopy in a city takes continual effort, but is well worth it, for trees impart us with many benefits (see list below). Yet we are not in a forest where nature takes its course; we are living in one of the most densely populated suburbs in the state. For trees to thrive here, this translates to having a clear plan and caring for the trees from a tiny seedling until the time a tree must be taken down. Thus, it is important to teach why trees are important and what benefits they give us all to enjoy in our urban setting, as it takes a long time for trees to mature. This is reflected in this anonymous famous quote: "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second-best time is now." Taken together, this is why learning about trees is so important. Keeping with one of the mission goals of Keep Lakewood Beautiful, education, we partnered for the 8th year with the Horticulture class at Lakewood High School to support tree education. Since the program's inception nearly 500 hundred students have had the opportunity to participate and over 800 seedling trees have been given away to the community.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Keep Lakewood Beautiful and the Lakewood High School Horticulture classes' educational partnership resumed to celebrate Earth Day once again. It has been nearly ten years since I created this program. What is it you ask? It is a hands-on lab-type lesson where LHS Horticulture students learn about understory and native trees, which are small trees that live naturally under the canopy of a large tree needing part sun/shade. This type of small tree is well suited for many compact Lakewood yards which are near houses, sidewalks, and streets. Next, the students get to see and touch 2-4-year-old bare root seedling understory trees that are from 1-3 feet tall



Outside the LHS Greenhouse, LHS Horticulture students and their teacher, Mrs. Shannon Snare with the result of their lab lesson: potted tree seedlings.

and learn how to carefully plant them in pots. A potted tree has a much better chance of survival than bare dry roots. Keep Lakewood Beautiful provides and delivers to LHS all the “ingredients” needed for this lab experience for the LHS Horticulture students. Students are offered to take one home if they are interested in caring for this baby tree. The rest are given away to the community at the annual Keep Lakewood Beautiful Earth Day and Great American Cleanup which was on April 30th meeting this year near city hall. We had great morning talking trees to the community and giving them away. A special note of thanks to LHS student Anthony Johnson, who kindly also volunteered before, during, and after the event and spoke to the attendees about what he learned, promoting trees.

We couldn't do this without you! It takes all of us to build a community where we have a continual canopy of trees to enjoy. A big thank you all who have contributed to making this program possible this year. We gave away for free over 90 seedling trees (2 varieties: Chinese Dogwood and Serviceberry) that were potted by Lakewood High School Horticulture students under the expertise of the Horticulture teacher, Mrs. Shannon Snare. Thank you, Mrs. Snare (and previously Mr. Rathge), for your

years of support in this partnership and making this fit annually into your curriculum. Keep Lakewood Beautiful purchases all the supplies needed for this annual classroom experience where students learn how to and then also actually plant bare root tree seedlings in pots. A thank you to Lakewood Garden Center who kindly donates the pots. An additional thank you to Sherwin Williams who kindly donates the tree label “stakes” (stir sticks). A big thank you LHS students for your help potting the trees!

Tree benefits: Trees provide us with beauty and many benefits: they help purify the air we breathe by absorbing pollutants and produce oxygen, increase property values, shade and cool our buildings and paved surfaces, reduce the amount of water and pollutants in sewer systems, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, and foster safer, more sociable and attractive neighborhood environments.

The Keep Lakewood Beautiful (KLB) organization was initially created in September 1982 to promote

civic involvement through public interest in the general improvement of the environment of Lakewood. It maintains an affiliation with Keep America Beautiful. The all-volunteer board initiates, plans and coordinates programs for litter prevention, solid waste reduction, recycling and green space beautification such as Earth Day, Great American Cleanup, Spring Humus Sale (on 5-14-22), over 50 Adopt-a-Spot Gardens, Beautiful Home Awards, and pop-up litter clean up events. For more information or to support the Keep Lakewood Beautiful organization see: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/keep-lakewood-beautiful/>

If you are interested in specifically supporting trees in Lakewood (all of the above former tree positions have now been combined into the Lakewood Tree Advisory and Education Board (TAEB). <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/tree-advisory-and-education-board/>

Marianne Quasebarth Usiak is a KLB Volunteer Alumni Board Member, former City of Lakewood Tree Task Force member, and a former KLB tree committee chair.

Walk To Remember June 12 Supports Lakewood Hospice Care

by Laurie Henrichsen

Lakewood residents are invited to participate in the 11th annual Walk to Remember sponsored by Medical Mutual and Oswald Companies on Sunday, June 12 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. As Hospice of the Western Reserve's largest fundraiser of the year, the event brings the community together to celebrate the lives

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Lakewood Is Art

Lakewood Residents Lead International Concert Of Brazilian Music

by Leo Zimmerman

Lakewood-based singer/songwriter, Luca Mundaca joins her neighbor, Kristopher Morron, Music Director and Conductor of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra for a celebration of Brazilian music on Saturday, June 4th at 7:00 pm.

A gifted artist with a stunning voice of great intimacy and emotion, Luca’s music is a glorious blend of her native Brazil with a touch of downtown New York. She mines deep melodic roots in her country’s heritage, creating musical gems that she polishes with the lightest of touches. Influenced by samba and bossa nova, themes in her songs often revolve around nature and our relationship with it. Her hit song “Ha Dias” has over 3.4million plays on Spotify alone. “CYO students will have the extraordinary opportunity to meet and rehearse with Ms. Mundaca over the five weeks before the performance,” said Kristopher Morron, CYO Music Director and Conductor. “Collaborating with professional composer/performers like Luca is just the kind of unique music-making experience we’re passionate about providing.”

Contemporary Youth Orchestra is comprised of high school students from all over NEO, including several from the Lakewood community. These serious musicians have played with legendary artists including Jason Mraz, Tommy Shaw of STYX, Mellissa Etheridge and Ben Folds.

Antônio Carlos Jobim was a Brazilian composer, songwriter, and singer whose work celebrates Brazil and a passion for the natural world. Considered by many to be the “father of bossa nova,” he merged Brazilian music with jazz to create a new sound that first achieved great popularity in the 1960s. CYO will be performing four of his works written specifically for



Luca Mundaca

orchestra. These rarely presented compositions were featured on the Latin Grammy-winning album, Symphonic Jobim.

Special musical arrangements of Luca Mundaca’s songs by Rob Moose



Kristopher Morron

and Kris Morron will highlight CYO students and create a one-of-a-kind listening experience for all. In addition to the live audience at Cuyahoga Community College Metropolitan Campus, the concert will be livestreamed to

reach Luca’s international fan base from South America to Europe.

Tickets on sale now at cyorchestra.org/performances.

An international-award-winning strategic communicator, video producer, writer and creative director, Lakewood resident Leo Zimmerman has decades of experience creating programs and messages that get results. Focusing intently on the audience perspective, he helps connect organizations with what matters personally to the people they need to reach. His philosophy: “It’s a matter of using empathy to make sure a connection is achieved, and the heart of the story comes through.”

Drops of Color
Featuring the music of Luca Mundaca and Antonio Carlos Jobim.
Saturday June 4, 2022 - 7 PM
Cuyahoga Community College, Metropolitan Campus Auditorium.

Students’ Award Winning PSA Films Exhibited At Regal Cinemas

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations are in order for three of West Shore Career-Tech’s Theatre Arts students, winners in a short film contest sponsored by University Hospitals’ Rainbow Babies & Children Hospital and State Farm Insurance.

The contest asked for submissions of a PSA on distracted driving. Senior Weylin Dalton (pictured in hat) was the grand prize winner and had his film shown prior to movies at Regal Cinemas at Crocker Park and on some streaming apps for two weeks in April.

Ilana Darr and Amy Pilgrim’s

film was shown at Regal’s Great Northern theater.

To view the short films go to

<https://www.lakewoodcityschools.org/news/30010#sthash.554dICVz.dpbs>



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Literacy For All In Ohio!

by Mary McCool Berry

The Literacy Action Society for Community and School Parents in Ohio will announce their inaugural meeting date and location soon. Issues addressed will be: How are schools teaching reading? Why does it matter? Why do we need to speak now?

We're facing a literacy crisis in the United States. 130 million adults in the United States struggle to read basic sentences which can make it difficult or impossible to navigate everyday life. Sixty-six percent of Cleveland residents are functionally illiterate. Some Cleveland neighborhoods have an illiteracy rate as high as 95%. 17.7% of adults in Ohio have low literacy. Ohio ranks 23rd out of 50 in the U.S. of adults who have low literacy. The percentages of Ohio 4th graders with a below essential reading ability by race is White 24%, Latinx/Hispanic 43%, Black/African American 57%, Asian 14%.

Functional illiteracy is defined as having math, reading, or language skills below a 4th-grade level. At this level, people may struggle to read a bus schedule, medicine bottle, or job application. An adult without a high school diploma earns 42% less than an adult with a diploma. The percentage of adults without a high school diploma who live in poverty is twice that of those who have a high school diploma. A mother's reading skill is the most significant determinant of her children's future academic success and outweighs other factors like neighborhood and family income.

Join me in the first meeting to address literacy in Lakewood, our surrounding communities, and Ohio. Together we can make literacy for all actionable and achievable.

STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ON THE INAUGURAL MEETING.
Questions/comments: Email: mary@readkeys.com

Mary McCool Berry is a reading specialist with a Master's Degree in Reading K-12 and a Wilson Certified Dyslexia Practitioner, teaching students across the United States virtually, an adult literacy volunteer, and an international literacy consultant.

She is the founder of Reading Keys LLC, a literacy resource hub for parents and educators. You can find her on YOUTUBE and Apple Podcasts at "Read Keys" hosting her own tutorials and co-hosting "The Literacy View" with two cutting edge reading specialists.

McCool Berry taught children in grades 2-6 in the Lakewood City Schools for 32 years. She left classroom work in 2019 and currently devotes her time to working with children and adults who struggle with literacy in the United States and other parts of the world. She believes that LITERACY FOR ALL is achievable in the United States and is a fundamental right for every American.

Antoinette "Toni" Gelsimino Retires



Surrounded by her family with a Resolution from the City of Lakewood honoring her 30+ years of spectacular service to the City of Lakewood, Human Services Director Antoinette "Toni" Gelsimino will be retiring at the end of the month. Toni has made such a positive impact on Lakewood and so many families that no words can do it justice. One of Lakewood's best! Thank you for each and every day. Enjoy your retirement.

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Recapping A Festive Free Comic Book Day 2022

by Matt Kuhns

When I heard about SuperScript Comics opening up, in early 2020, I hoped they would succeed but thought it might be tough. Especially as a pandemic took hold followed by lockdowns and social distancing.

So participating in Free Comic Book Day on May 7, 2022—still being in existence this long—is impressive by itself.

The homegrown festival spanning two days, three other businesses plus the Beck Center, and several guest cre-



ators was something to make the whole community proud.

Popping in on a beautiful Spring Saturday was fun. The organization and promotion was, from a professional standpoint, a feat to admire and envy.

To SuperScript, The Beck Center, The Bottlehouse, Rising Star, and Lakewood Art Supply: congratulations.

Thank you for not only bringing Free Comic Book Day to Lakewood, but going above and beyond to make it a local community event.



Rotary Assists With RiverSweep

by Lynn Donaldson

Rotarians George Hwang, Mark Bacon, Doug Cooper and Curt Brosky participated in the 33rd Annual RiverSweep on May 7. This marks the eighth year the Rotary Club of Lakewood - Rocky River has participated in this project organized by Canalway Partners. Over 1,000 area volunteers participated at multiple locations in the Cuyahoga River valley, with over sixty at the club's location near Steelyard Commons. Members picked up trash along Big Creek and adjacent streets of Jennings Road, Valley Road and Crestline Avenue, filling dozens of trash bags with collected trash.



Rotarians at RiverSweep on May 7 were (from left) George Hwang, Curt Brosky, and Mark Bacon. This marks the eighth year the Rotary Club of Lakewood - Rocky River has participated in the project.

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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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PENULTIMATE PAGE

100th Anniversary Celebration:
Lakewood League Of Women Voters Awards Six Scholarships

continued from page 1

the Lakewood League of Women Voters awarded scholarships to Kellyn Schalk Donahoe, Sophia Eleanor Gutierrez, Emma Hart, Teegahn Rose McGann, Reka Dagny Sundem, and Nawad H.



Above and below - Lakewood High School Seniors at the first Celebration of Voting.



Yared. This years’s winning essays about ‘How can our federal, state, and local governments better provide basic human needs?’ impressed the League judges with insight into housing, food, climate, education and friendship. Please watch this space for the full printing of the winning essays later this year.

The Lakewood Chapter is celebrating 100 years of empowering voters and defending democracy and is planning several other community events to recognize this occasion. Please plan



Mary Warren and Cindy Strebeg with a cake from the Lakewood City Schools PTA.

to join us on July 20 at the Lakewood Public Library to view Iron Jawed Angels and discuss the history of vot-



Representatives from the Campus Votes Project, Board of Elections, and Lakewood League of Women Voters.

Lakewood Adopts 100% Clean Electricity As Default Option Through NOPEC

by Glenn Campbell

Starting January 1 of next year, electricity from 100% renewable sources will be the default electricity purchase option for Lakewood residents. That’s thanks to Lakewood City Council’s recent passage of a resolution authorizing Lakewood to participate in the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council’s (NOPEC) Green Community Choice Program.

NOPEC is the local nonprofit energy aggregator that uses a bulk-buying approach to purchase electricity and natural gas to help local households and small businesses save on energy costs. NOPEC recently developed its Green Community Choice Program to allow cities to choose 100% renewable electricity -- through solar and wind generation -- as the default electricity supply choice for their residents.

The program comes with an estimated 3% cost increase over conventional electricity supply from fossil fuels like natural gas and coal. That is an amazing bargain in view of the incalculable costs that our society is incurring through increasing climate disasters linked to fossil fuel use. And the program allows any Lakewood resident or business to opt out of the 100% renewable option if they don’t wish to pay this very small premium.

What’s great about Lakewood’s adoption of this program is that it makes it easy and affordable for all residents to do the right thing in our electricity purchase decisions. In fact, because 100% renewable has been made the default option, residents will be automatically enrolled in it unless they actively select another supply option. Thanks are due to those who proposed the resolution to participate in the Green Community Choice Program -- Councilmembers Tom Bullock and Tristan Rader and Mayor Meghan George -- along with all of city council.

This is the type of policy that’s needed for Lakewood to achieve its

ing. To join the Lakewood League, please visit <https://www.lwvgreatercleveland.org/>

aggressive commitment to 100% renewable energy use throughout the city by 2035. To avoid the worst and costliest effects of climate chaos, we need to start restructuring choices and decisions across all aspects of society so that climate-friendly options are made easy or incentivized.

This needs to be done across all communities and nations, of course, but we should be proud that Lakewood is in the vanguard of this good work.

Glenn is a longtime Lakewood resident.

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Legal Aid thanks the Healthy Lakewood Foundation for its outreach support!