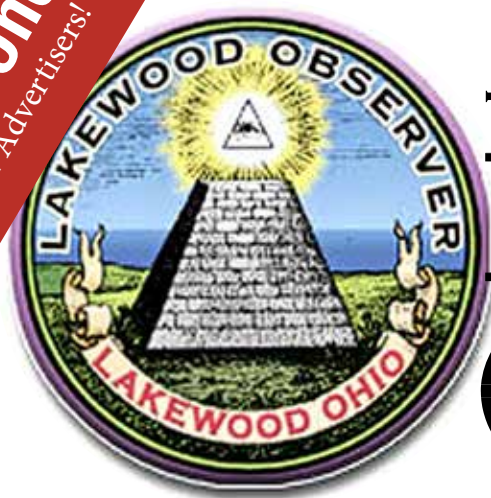


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 18, Issue 12, June 15, 2022

Knowing Your Home Workshop: Universal Design On June 23

by Jacqueline Bon

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home Workshop: Universal Designon Thursday, June 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Join LakewoodAlive and Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio (MAHO) for this unique workshop to discover how to bring the seven principles of Universal Design to

your home. We'll give clear examples of features you can add and improvements you can make to increase the accessibility and safety of your home so that people of all ages can enjoy it.

Register Now to Attend this Free Workshop at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/knowning-your-home-universal-design-tickets>

Birdtown Picnic At Madison Park June 25

by Jacqueline Bon

Let's come together for a celebration of community! Grab a blanket, folding chairs and join us for 8th Annual Birdtown Community Picnic at Madison Park on June 25 at noon until 2:30 p.m.

LakewoodAlive will supply lunches and local community groups will be providing enter-

tainment that includes yoga, youth activities and more. Lunch will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Please enter Madison Park off Athens Avenue.

Go here to learn more: <https://www.lakewoodalive.org/event/8th-annual-birdtown-picnic-at-madison-park/>

Register Now For Lakewood Schools PreK & Kindergarten

by Christine Gordillo

Now is the time to register for the Lakewood City Schools preschool and kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. Students must be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2021 to be eligible to enter kindergarten. The preschool program currently only has availability for its 4-year-old half-day program. Registration information and materials can be found on the Lakewood City Schools website (www.lakewoodcityschools.org) under the Student Registration Quick Link. Registration is by appointment only.

After collecting all required documents and completing all pre-registration forms online, you will be prompted to schedule an appointment to register your

child. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact the registration secretary by email at susan.robida@lakewoodcityschools.org or call 216-529-4279.

Children who attended the Lakewood City Schools' preschool program this past school year are enrolled in the District and do not need to re-register. Kindergarten information will be given to these families.

For a more information on the preschool program, please visit www.lakewoodcityschools.org/Administration/23. The program is designed to meet each student's academic, social emotional, creative, and developmental needs. All classes include Beck Center Music Therapy at no additional cost.

"I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my Father's life." - Sidney Poitier



We have a winner, Evie Solomon age 7.



Here are all the entries for the 2022 Lakewood Observer, Lakewood Fire Department Coloring Contest from one of everyone's favorite events, Lakewood Early Childhood PTA's Meet The Trucks. See you there next year!

Summer Meltdown

by Jacqueline Bon

Now's the time to start getting excited for Lakewood Summer Meltdown, sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled and presented by LakewoodAlive, on Saturday, July 16 from 4 to 10 p.m. in Downtown Lakewood!

Interested in participating in Summer Meltdown as a vendor, food vendor or food truck? Go to lakewoodalive.org/meltdown.

The Summer Meltdown features a 5K race, 1 Mile Family Fun Run and Walk, street festival, outdoor activities, games, food vendors, beer garden, live music and more. These races serve as a fundraiser for LakewoodAlive.

Families will love the

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

Beer and seltzer sponsored by Platform Beer Co. will be featured in the Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden sponsored by First Federal Lakewood. Live music by alternative rock band Front Porch Lights on the Meltdown Stage will delight the crowd as dusk turns to nightfall in beautiful Downtown Lakewood.

For more details about the Lakewood Summer Melt-

down, visit lakewoodalive.org/meltdown.

Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2022 is made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.

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Meltdown 5K Race Sponsor:

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THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Evaluating State Of Ohio’s Dispatch Mandate

by Mayor Meghan George

If you have read this column over time, you know that safety will always be my top focus as your mayor. Safety in our city has many layers, but one that ties many of those aspects together is our emergency dispatch center, which helps connect those who need urgent assistance with the help they need. We have a great team in place in our dispatch center, and I appreciate all the hard work they do to keep us all safe.

Unfortunately, a law passed years ago by the Ohio legislature dictates how state dollars can be used to pay for 911 call centers, and it poses a threat to Lakewood’s ability to fund this crucial service. That law, found in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 128, mandates that any county with more than three 911 call centers will have its state payments cut in half.

(Counties that have a city with a population over 175,000 can have one additional 911 call center). Oddly, that law applies to counties no matter what their total population or call volume is. For sake of context, Lakewood actually has more residents than over 30 of Ohio’s 88 counties – yet, this state law applies the same to us as it does to those sparsely populated regions.

With this law looming over Ohio cities, several local dispatch operations in Cuyahoga County have consolidated; however, Lakewood has continued to maintain our local dispatch. This continues to be true despite Cuyahoga County’s decision last year to begin imposing a penalty on Lakewood’s dispatch funding. I made the decision to pay that penalty last year and decline options to enter a consolidated dispatch

center because I feel that a local presence is preferable for our city, and it was worth that cost. However, I also am obligated to explore all options as that county penalty could increase dramatically soon and make this situation even more difficult. I would not be meeting my obligations to Lakewood taxpayers if I simply ignored a state law on the books that will have a major impact on Lakewood’s safety operations and our budget. I have also sought the input and counsel of our fire chief, police chief, and our IT department on these issues to continue assessing options and potential impacts.

Last week we sent a communication to Lakewood City Council about the impact that the state legislation is having on the future of our city’s emergency dispatch center. We asked Council to refer the matter to the public safety com-

mittee so that there can be a public dialogue on the issue and further exploration of all the factors at play and the options on the table.

One x-factor in all of this is pending legislation, House Bill 445, which is currently in committee and, in its present form, would appear to repeal the problematic law in ORC 128. As we all know, bills often change radically during the legislative process, but my hope is that this legislation makes its way through and solves this issue. I am in contact with state legislators on the matter. In the meantime, our public process in Lakewood will move forward to evaluate the dispatch issue, and I will continue to keep all impacted parties and Lakewood taxpayers informed.

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 THE LAKWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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July 6, 2022

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Center for LGBTQ+ Care provides primary and specialty care in Lakewood.



Henry Ng, MD, MPH
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family
Health Center

Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTQ+) Care offers culturally and clinically competent care to the LGBTQ+ community from adolescents to adults.

“Our primary and specialty care providers are trained to take a complete health history, including social and sexual history, and to provide gender affirmation-related healthcare,” explains Henry Ng, MD, MPH, an internal medicine physician and director of the Transgender Surgery and Medicine Program and Center for LGBTQ+ Care at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center. “Our providers are skilled at performing appropriate, sensitive and comprehensive physical examinations to provide recommendations for applicable health screenings, risk factor reduction

and wellness support based on relevant guidelines for the LGBTQ+ people.”

Primary care services include:

- General preventative healthcare.
- Disease screenings (diabetes, high cholesterol, hepatitis, etc.).
- Immunizations.
- Health promotion counseling.
- Sexual health care, Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and screening.
- HIV Prevention with Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

Specialty care includes:

- Behavioral health for adolescents and adults: treating psychosocial needs, including self-identity issues, substance use/abuse, discrimination and victimization.
- Gastroenterology: care for hepatitis B and C, as well as care for certain types of precancerous conditions, such as anal dysplasia.
- Transition-specific services: gender

affirmation care for transgender patients, prescription hormone therapy and monitoring, assistance with identification and gender marker changes and gender-affirming procedures and surgery.

- Male urology: treatment of common urologic conditions.
- Infectious disease: treatment for conditions including HIV, AIDS.
- Fertility, contraception and family building: evaluations and counseling for patients seeking fertility care.
- Routine gynecologic care: for anyone who can benefit from gynecologic care and cancer screenings based on their anatomy.

“Our caregivers have a keen awareness of and demonstrate respect for every LGBTQ+ patient and their specific health needs,” says Dr. Ng.

For an appointment with a caregiver at The Center for LGBTQ+ Care at Lakewood Family Health Center, call **216.237.5500**.

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health to best determine next steps: treat and release to home, admit to the hospital, transition to a skilled nursing or rehab facility or prescribe home care services.

Visit **ClevelandClinic.org/Emergency** to learn more. For older adult emergency care, call 911 or choose a Cleveland Clinic Emergency Department.

Is This Typical? Your Child’s Development.

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Parents will learn about:

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- Speech and language milestones.
- Atypical behaviors for all ages.
- Ways to facilitate developmental skills at home.

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Register at **ClevelandClinicChildrens.org/IsThisTypical**.



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Virtual And In-Person Programs Children’s And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert

In-Person Pre-school Story Time

For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler
This six-week pre-school story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. You and your toddler and preschoolers will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. Registration is required. Register once for all six weeks.

Main Library- Tuesdays, June 14, 2022- July 19, 2022
11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, June 15, 2022- July 20, 2022
11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Madison Branch- Thursdays, June 16, 2022-July 21, 2022
10:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Virtual All Day Pre-school Story Time

For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler
This six-week pre-school story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. You and your toddler and preschoolers will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. Register to receive access to a video link for the entire day of story time. Registration is required. Register once for all six weeks.

Wednesdays, June 15, 2022- July 20, 2022

In-Person Family Weekend Wonders
Looking for weekend entertainment for the whole family? Look no further! Drop in to the Library's special weekend story time. Your whole family will enjoy these programs full of enthusiastic stories, engaging activities, entertaining music and clever crafts. Family Weekend Wonders Drop-In Story Time is offered every weekend throughout the year and features a different theme each week to keep things engaging. No registration is required.

Begins Friday, June 3, 2022
Main Library- Fridays- 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays- 10:30 a.m.
Madison Branch- Fridays- 10:30 a.m.

In-Person Just Baby 'N Me

For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby
Just Baby 'N Me is a six-week lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. Registration is required. Register once for all six weeks.

Mondays, June 13, 2022- July 18, 2022
6:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 15, 2022- July 20, 2022
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

The Architecture Of Walker And Weeks

by Andrea Fisher

Cleveland Historian Thomas Matowitz Jr. will present “The Architecture of Walker & Weeks” on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch Meeting Room. The Madison Branch is located at 13229 Madison Avenue. This program is free and open to the public.

The architecture firm of Walker and Weeks, known for iconic structures such as Severance Hall, Public Auditorium and the Guardians of Transportation (Hope Memorial Bridge), also designed the Madison Branch Library in 1929. Matowitz will discuss the Library Branch, along with these other well-known buildings.

Frank Walker and Harry Weeks studied architecture at Massachusetts

Institute of Technology and traveled to Europe to build upon their training. The two came to Cleveland and eventually established their firm when the development of the city really started to boom.

Thomas Matowitz, Jr. is a native of the Cleveland area, and has a long-standing interest in Cleveland's rich architectural history. Matowitz writes a column on historic Cleveland for Freshwater Cleveland and has written several books on local history.

Learn more about the architecture of the Madison Branch, and other important Cleveland architectural gems on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch Meeting Room.

Front Porch Concert Series Continues

by Jacqueline Bon

Join us for the Front Porch Concert Series, sponsored by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James.

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

See the schedule below for the 2022 Front Porch Concert Series comprising the popular live music program, which takes place each Friday evening (7 p.m.) from June 3 through July 29 on the front steps of Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Avenue).

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

June
6-17-22: Jah Messengers
6-24-22: Pete Lazard
July
7-1-22: The George Martins
7-8-22: Cats On Holiday
7-15-22: The Michael Weber Show
7-22-22: Apostle Jones
7-29-22: Ray Flanagan

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





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LAKEWOOD CITY HALL

Community Questions Mayor Regarding Local Dispatch Services At City Council Meeting

by Susan Hutner

Of the 13 community members who submitted public comments about the possibility of Lakewood outsourcing its police dispatch center at the June 6 City Council meeting, none of them supported Mayor Meghan George’s plan.

Mayor George opened this portion of the city council meeting by stating that Cuyahoga County began financially penalizing Lakewood last year because Lakewood continues to run its own emergency dispatch center, in what the county believes is a violation of Section 128.571 of the Ohio Revised Code. This requires municipal governments to join together for dispatch services. Mayor George did not state how much Lakewood had been financially penalized by the county. She did say that this section of the law may be overturned by Ohio House Bill 445, which is currently in committee.

The mayor stated that many west-side communities had been in talks to join Chagrin Valley Dispatch, noting that 33 of 59 municipalities within Cuyahoga County are already members.

However, Chagrin Valley Dispatch’s website states that they only serve as the communication center for 26 municipalities. Many of these municipalities are to the east and south, including Bratenahl, Solon, and Moreland Hills.

Mayor George stated that mayors, police chiefs, and fire chiefs who were members of the Chagrin Valley Dispatch believed they had “improved safety due to access to superior technology based upon economies of scale.” While she had discussed moving Lakewood’s dispatch services to Chagrin Valley Dispatch, Mayor George stated the matter would be moved to the Public Safety Committee for further examination.

“This is really the beginning of a discussion,” she said.

That discussion began with public comments, the first of which came from Anthony Ciresi, an off-duty Lakewood police sergeant. He noted that the eleven women who run



A packed audience of community members at the June 6 City Council meeting.

Lakewood’s dispatch unit have 188 years of collective experience serving Lakewood. Ciresi highlighted the Lakewood dispatcher’s important role in community safety, stressing that Lakewood’s police department doesn’t have the same problems other communities have because “we work together

where there is little regard for a dispatcher’s lack of familiarity with a city or its geography, even if it costs precious, life-saving minutes. “Chagrin Valley Regional Dispatch is a disservice to the communities it serves and a detriment to responder safety,” Tharp said.

“This is really the beginning of a discussion,”
Mayor Meghan George

as a team, and that team includes our dispatch center. If we lose them, we are losing ... our ability to communicate.”

Denise Tharp, a dispatcher with 15 years of experience, recalled a time working as a dispatcher for the Cleveland Metroparks when she was communicating with police regarding a shooting in the parks. As the suspect crossed over Lakewood’s border, she worked in cooperation with a Lakewood dispatcher. The short response time and geographic knowledge from the Lakewood dispatcher contributed to saving a shooting victim’s life.

Tharp said she had also worked as a dispatcher for Chagrin Valley Dispatch, the dispatch center Mayor George referenced in her opening remarks.

“This is not the type of service that any city that is part of Chagrin Valley Regional Dispatch center receives,” Tharp said. She categorized Chagrin Valley Dispatches’s philosophy as one

Rebecca Wise spoke movingly about how every second counted in an emergency. In an emergency, she stated, you might be disoriented or panicked. Because Lakewood’s dispatchers have so much experience and have served the community for so long, they are able to locate someone and send help faster than a dispatcher who is unfamiliar with the city or its landmarks.

Bridget Roda, a Lakewood dispatcher with 22 years of experience, said that Mayor George spoke to the local dispatchers union only after a public records request was filed. The request was for information regarding meetings Mayor George, Chief of Police Kevin Kaucke, and Fire Chief Tim Dunphy had with Chagrin Valley Dispatch. Mayor George told Roda and the other dispatchers they could be moved to Chagrin Valley Dispatch by early 2023. Because Chagrin Valley Dispatch is not unionized, there would

be no guarantees of safe work practices.

Roda noted that the legal complexities surrounding statute 128.571 could have been better uncovered had Mayor George asked more questions of local interested parties rather than the for-profit dispatch center.

Roda highlighted the irony of Mayor George’s past suggestions that she supported female empowerment, while also making moves to disband Lakewood’s only all-female union made up of African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, and LGBTQ+ women.

Ron Bunner, a Lakewood police officer, spoke about his conversations with two police officers from an east-side suburb whose dispatch is now run by Chagrin Valley Dispatch. “They no longer respond lights-and-siren to calls in progress because response times are so low that by the time they get there, the crime is over,” he said.

Bunner also stated that during a June 1 meeting with Lakewood’s chief of police, Chief Kaucke “admitted this may hurt our response times and officer safety, but that this was the wave of the future.” Furthermore, Bunner reported that Chief Kaucke acknowledged the move to Chagrin Valley Dispatch would not yield significant, if any, cost savings.

A local business owner spoke in support of the Lakewood dispatchers, noting that Lakewood’s dispatchers had served in close quarters throughout the entire pandemic at a risk to themselves and their families. Disbanding their union and outsourcing their jobs was “not a way to treat people.”

Bryan McNeeley, a Lakewood police sergeant, said, “Technology is not a replacement for knowledge of the community. There’s no replacement for that.”

A full video of the City Council meeting is available on the City Council’s webpage at <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos/>.

Susan Hutner has been a resident of Lakewood for over 15 years.

View From City Council

by Jason Shachner
Lakewood Downtown Development Update

Earlier this month, City Council authorized Mayor George and her Administration to begin negotiations with CASTO & North Pointe Realty for the development of the former Lakewood Hospital Site by approving the Term Sheet. The entire month of April was devoted to reviewing the Term Sheet. if you have any questions regarding the development, I highly recommend that you either watch the Committee of the Whole meeting or review the minutes of those meetings that took place on April 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and 28th. You can find the minutes at <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/minutesandagendas/> and you can view the

videos of the meetings at <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos/>.

Future negotiations between the City and the developer will primarily involve Mayor George and her Administration. However, City Council wanted to ensure that our priorities are fully considered during the negotiation. That is why we attached Council’s Downtown Development Priorities (<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:9c1e1dd5-3a5c-3a6a-8c7d-5c903435fce7#pageNum=4as>) an addendum to the Term Sheet.

We look forward to working with Mayor George and the developer to create the best possible use of the former Lakewood Hospital property.

Lakewood Alive Services Contract Renewed

The City awarded a \$155,000 contract to LakewoodAlive to continue providing operational and program support to improve the local economy and our community’s quality of life by growing its Housing Outreach Program, Pride Fund, Bed Bug Support Services, Small Business Support, and Rent Support. Lakewood Alive provides home paint rebates, lead paint assistance, and a low-income loan program as part of its Housing Outreach Program. LakewoodAlive has also become more involved in Housing Court by assisting residents with addressing housing code violations. Lakewood Alive will be billing the City for their various initiatives, with

the \$155k figure being a cap on what they can earn.

Police Body Cameras/Body Armor

A \$165,000 contract for the support and maintenance of police body cameras and a \$32,000 contract to purchase new police body armor were both approved by the Board of Control. Body cameras are issued to each Police, Animal Control, and Parking Enforcement Officer and video storage for each is available for up to a year on evidence.com. Police body armor is warrantied for 5 years and must be replaced at the end of that period per industry standard. 26 vests and carriers will need to be replaced by the end of 2022.

Email Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net

LAKEWOOD EDUCATION

Lakewood League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner Kellyn Donahoe's Winning Essay

by Kellyn Donahoe

"How can our federal, state, and local governments better provide for basic human needs?"

Education, jobs, personal hygiene and safety, healthy food, clean water, housing, transportation and good friends are all things that people need. It shouldn't be so hard to get those things. Our government can help with those. Everyone should be included in the schools so that everyone has a chance to learn about their interests and prepare them for the adult world. Everyone should be able to go to school, even people who have challenges. College should be for anyone who wants to learn more to become independent and get ready for a career.

Transportation is necessary where people who can't drive need a way to get around. Bike lanes are helpful for people who can bike. Safe walking places need to be available for everyone. It isn't just cars that should take people places. We need transportation for all people. Healthy food keeps people healthy. Not everyone has a grocery store nearby. That's not right. We should be able to get good food easily. There is enough for everyone to have but we aren't making it very easy to get it.

When you go out of the house you should present yourself nicely and make a good impression on others. It goes along with feeling safe in your neighborhood and wherever you go. You should feel safe when you leave your house. Everyone needs a job where they can earn money to buy what they need to take care of themselves. Everyone can do something and should be able to get a job in the field that interests them. If you like your job you will do it well. People with challenges should also be able to get a job because everybody is good at something and they need to find a job that matches their skills. Everyone needs a place to live. No one should be without a home. Clean water and fresh air are important so we can live. We shouldn't allow dirty water and pollution. People get sick and can't live like that. People need friends who sup-



Kellyn Donahoe and Mary Warren

port them and care about them. Friends encourage you in life. You need friends when you are an adult too. They are a resource and someone to look to when you need a hand.

The government can help by committing to make laws that will help people. College shouldn't cost so much money. More money should be spent for buses, bike lanes, safe walkable sidewalks and not so much just for cars. We need more grocery stores nearby so people can get healthy food and not junk food. When you leave your house you should feel safe. The government can get rid of guns.

There should be enough jobs so everyone can have one and not just some people making money. Houses should not be expensive. Not everyone has enough money and it's based on their jobs. So if you don't have enough money then you don't have a place to stay. We shouldn't have dirty water. The government needs to test the water for pollution so you can live anywhere. The government can't give you friends but if we can live and get out in our community then we can make friends. We all need to work together so that everyone can live a good safe life.

Kellyn Donahoe will be attending Kent State University in the Fall.



95 Percent On Time? Tape Your Principal To The Wall

by Christine Gordillo

More final days shenanigans! Roosevelt students and staff on the last Wednesday of the school year celebrated the school meeting its goal of students being on time 95% of the time (6 out of 8 months).

The possibility of taping your principal and family resource coordinator to the wall was powerful incentive! What good sports you are, Allison Aber and Donna Schaefer! And great job, students!

Board Of Ed Resolution Condemning Discriminative Legislation

by Betsy Shaughnessy,
Linda Beebe, Emma Petrie
Barcelona, Michael Callahan,
Nora Katzenberger

The Board of Education, Special Meeting June 1, 2022

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE LAKEWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OH HB 322, 327 and 616

A RESOLUTION to condemn in the strongest possible manner House Bills 322, 327, and 616 currently before the 134th Ohio General Assembly:

HB 322: Which seeks to prohibit the teaching of "prohibited concepts" such as systemic racism, gender identity and fluidity, or current events in Ohio's K-12 schools;

HB 327: Which seeks to prohibit the teaching of "divisive concepts" such historical oppression of racial and ethnic groups, or discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, or sex, in PreK-12 schools, including threats to teacher

licenses and state school funding;
HB 616: Which seeks to restrict how schools talk about sexual orientation and gender identity, including threats to teacher licenses and state school funding.

WHEREAS teaching independent and analytical thinking is essential for students to develop the skills necessary to participate in their own education, civic discussion, and contribution to society, and

WHEREAS educators have the knowledge, training, experience, and responsibility to provide students with an unbiased, comprehensive, inclusive education without pressure from partisan politics, and

WHEREAS The Lakewood Board of Education has a duty to ensure that our schools present our students with a curriculum that is age-appropriate, unbiased, equitable, and diverse, and

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lakewoodobserver.com

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LAKEWOOD EDUCATION

Rotary Awards Scholarships To Five High School Seniors

by Lynn Donaldson

Five area graduating seniors have been awarded college scholarships by the Rotary Club of Lakewood-Rocky River. Recipients are Estella Dajko, Elana Rouse, and Isabella Shaner of Rocky River High School, and Abigail Hirsch and Teeghan McGann of Lakewood High School.

Each will receive a \$3,000 award from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation. This \$15,000 scholarship program is part of over \$60,000 that the Rotary club donates to community programs each year.

In addition to demonstrating academic achievement and potential, these five Rotary scholarship winners were chosen for their character, as well as extra-curricular and community involvement.

Abigail Hirsch has a passion for building connections among students. She was a captain of the Rangers Cross-Country team. She was deeply involved in the school's Race and Diversity Club to build bridges and break down barriers, and the Home Alone Club to guide younger students on safety measures when going to empty homes after school. She was inducted into Lakewood's chapter of the National Honor Society. With aspirations to become a psychiatrist, Abby will attend Ohio University to study psychology.

Teeghan McGann lives the volun-



Steve Clark (left), Rotary Club of Lakewood-Rocky River president, and Jon Fancher (right), scholarship chair, congratulate the club's 2022 college scholarship recipients (from left) Elena Rouse, Estela (Stella) Dajko, Isabella Shaner, and Teeghan McGann. (Abigail Hirsch was not present for the photograph).

teer life, helping with her high school's programs like Help 2 Others, Home Alone, and the Lakewood Youth Running Club. She also volunteered at St. Luke's parish and at a local nursing home in the early days of the pandemic when residents' families were unable to visit. She co-captained the Ranger Track & Field and Cross-Country teams. Teeghan likes to work collaboratively with her peers, and plans to do that studying business at Miami University.

Estela Dajko used the challenge of immigrating to this country as motivation to make the most of opportunities.

In her high school career Stella found a home in the performing arts departments, singing in various choirs and being involved in Drama Club productions in backstage and on-stage roles. She is a National Honor Society member. With a passion for reducing stigma around mental and emotional health, Stella will study health sciences at Baldwin Wallace University.

Elana Rouse finds many ways to express her creativity, including playing violin, supporting her school's Environmental Club, creating art selected for Rotary's recent art show at

Beck Center, and writing a first place-winning essay for the Maltz Museum's "Stop the Hate" program. Elana was part of the costume shop crew for her school's Dazzle Award-winning production of the musical "Young Frankenstein" this spring. She will study fashion design at Kent State University because she wants to increase sustainability in fashion to counter "fast fashion cycles."

Isabella Shaner is the model of dependability. She was in concert and march band, and National History Day competition, and on the fencing team all four years of high school. She tutored middle school students and maintained pen pal communications with area nursing home residents. Last summer she was accepted into a two-week painting course at Cleveland Institute of Art. Isabella will study biology at The Ohio State University with plans to pursue a career in physical therapy.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood-Rocky River is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs (known as Rotarians) provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



A portion of the Elmhurst Wall which stood from 1901 to May 2022 when it was removed.

If These Walls Could Talk

by Mary Gagen

Anyone who has taken a stroll along Lake Avenue from Cove to Nicholson has walked past a series of stone or brick walls, each of them unique and each of them reminding us of a bygone era in Lakewood’s history.

This stretch of Lake Avenue tells a story. Houses are gone but the walls remind us of what was here before. From Cove to Nicholson once stood eight estates: Shady Cove, Bon Air, Elmhurst, Belmar, Roseneath, Waterside, Adar and Lake Cliff. The walls and the names on them pay homage to Lakewood’s past. Preserving these walls is a reminder of the property owners who shaped Lakewood’s early history.

“Elmhurst” was the property at 12574, now the site of the Meridian condominiums. In 1901, Charles and Martha Wieber purchased the property (4.54 acres), where there was a cottage onsite. Nearby neighbors at that time were Mars and Frances Wagar and Ezra Nicholson. They hired the architectural firm of Hubbell and Benes to design their home. Hubbell and Benes was a highly regarded firm in the early 20th century that designed many landmark properties throughout Cleveland, including a number that are on the National Register of Historic Places: West Side Market, Wade Memorial Chapel in Lakeview Cemetery, Masonic Temple, and the downtown YMCA. They had many other Cleveland structures to their credit, including the original wing of the Cleveland Museum of Art and the former St. Luke Hospital.

Hubbell and Benes designed a 5,300 square foot, 14-room home along with a 1,000 square foot carriage house, and a wall at the entrance of the prop-

erty. All three structures used Roman Brick Veneer, a treatment favored by Frank Lloyd Wright in a number of his Prairie Style designs. Elmhurst was occupied by the Wiebers until Martha sold it in 1935 after Charles passed away. The home was gutted by a fire in 1963 and razed in 1969. However, the brick wall along the entrance remained intact. When the Meridian condos were built in the early 1970’s, the developers kept the wall, recognizing its place in the history of the neighborhood and as a nod to the architectural firm that designed so many significant buildings in Cleveland.

When a portion of the wall collapsed in late February 2022, many assumed the wall would be repaired. However, the entire wall removed in late May. The seven-member Board of Directors of the Meridian voted to remove the wall without the benefit of input from any owners of the 197 units in the building in an open meeting. There was no opportunity to explore funding options to repair the wall nor to submit an application to the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board for a possible historic designation, given the stature of the architectural firm that designed the wall.

The Heritage Advisory Board has identified potential historic districts throughout the city and one such district is “Lake Avenue East”, which includes properties on the north and south side of Lake Avenue from Cove to Nicholson. Historic preservation is important to our city. It defines our character and helps to tell the Lakewood story. It is our housing stock, commercial buildings and architectural elements such as walls that give Lakewood its charm. When we



The Elmhurst house’s facade.

Three Arches Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



Gina Gavlak



Seona Goerndt

by Kristin Broadbent

Three Arches Foundation, a community-focused grant making foundation, added two new members to the board of directors and elected current member Becky Starck, M.D. as its new secretary. Gina Gavlak and Seona Goerndt join the 19-member volunteer board. The Foundation also recognized the contributions of outgoing director Jean Polster for her service on the board since the organization’s inception in 2017.

Gavlak is vice president of business and fund development for Neighborhood Family Practice, a Federally Qualified Health Center with locations in Cleveland’s west side and Lakewood neighborhoods. She also serves as president of the North Coast Health Foundation, a supporting organization of Neighborhood Family Practice established in 2019 when the two organizations joined together to advance their shared mission of providing high quality health care to anyone in need, regardless of ability to pay. With 30 years of experience in leadership, program and fund development, advocacy, and direct patient care, Gavlak has

focused her career on increasing access to adequate, affordable, and equitable health care and working to reduce health disparities.

Goerndt is the executive director of Recovery Resources, a non-profit behavioral health agency that helps people triumph over mental illness, alcoholism, and drug addiction. With a keen understanding of the unique challenges and impact social determinants of health have on a community, she helps provide strategic direction and thought leadership centered on the need for accessible care and services. Prior to joining the organization, Goerndt served on the Recovery Resources board of directors where she chaired the Development, Marketing and Community Engagement Committee. She currently serves on the board of the local chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives and co-chairs the Experience and Engagement Committee of the Metro-Health Direct Contacting Entity, dba Collaborative Care Partners.

About Three Arches Foundation (TAF) – Three Arches Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that invests in advancing the health and well being of the people of Lakewood and surrounding communities through grant making. By connecting people, ideas and resources, the Three Arches Foundation fosters a collaborative approach towards investing in organizations whose work directly addresses the continuum of physical and behavioral health issues. For more information, visit threearchesfoundation.org

lose these historic structures, we lose a piece of Lakewood history. If we're not careful, we will become just another suburb. And that would be a shame.

Mary Gagen is a longtime resident of Lakewood with a passion for historic preservation. Mary and her husband are owners of a unit in the Meridian Condominiums.

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LAKEWOOD BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Lakewood League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary, 100 Pillars Spotlight:

Kathy Kosiorek

by Carol Thums

As the Lakewood chapter of the League of Women Voters celebrates its 100th anniversary, we take this opportunity to consider the women who have supported and made the organization strong. One such pillar is Kathy Kosiorek, long time and active member of the Lakewood community.

Born in Cleveland, Kathy was brought into the League by her mother, Margarita Madson. While living in Cincinnati, Kathy's mother came to believe that Ohio needed a better juvenile justice system. She joined the League of Women Voters and began to study the issue of juvenile detention. When she graduated from high school at the age of 15, she was unable to attend college, but she loved to study and research. She became an expert in Ohio's constitution and in city charters. She considered the League of Women Voters her university. When the Madson family moved to Lakewood, she brought Kathy, then a high school student, into the League to help with her studies. Kathy found herself a member of the League before she could vote.

Kathy attended library school and joined the Lakewood chapter of

the League of Women Voters. She met her husband Andrew at the Lakewood Little Theater and became a librarian at the Fairview Park Branch of the Cuyahoga Public Library system. After the birth of her two children, Kathy remained in the League until 1982 when she returned to work. Kathy maintains that her studies with her mother on behalf of the League influenced the way that she worked. In the League she learned to study all sides of an issue without bias. Results were then presented to the chapter membership and needed consensus before final presentation. This unbiased and disciplined technique was adopted and used by other organizations.

On her retirement in 2006 Kathy rejoined the League. In 2007 Kathy was elected Chair of the Lakewood chapter of the League, a position she held until 2015. During her tenure three local Leagues of Women Voters, the Cuyahoga Area, Shaker Heights and Cleveland Area chapters voted to merge, forming today's League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. "It was a time of transition. We needed a new strategic plan to do 21st century things and increase our visibility." As Lakewood chapter chair, she



Kathy Kosiorek stands next to the Historic Marker at Lakewood Park celebrating 100 years of League in Lakewood.

presented forums at the Lakewood Public Library, worked with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce to present the non-partisan candidates nights, as well as welcoming new teachers to the Lakewood schools. Her goal was to provide depth to the organization and find new ways of doing things.

Kathy continued her contributions to the League after stepping down from the Lakewood chairmanship. In 2019 she became part of the team researching the newly installed historical marker at Lakewood Park. She has written extensively for the Lakewood, Rocky River and Bay Village Observer. She is active in her church, at the Lakewood Historical Society, and LEAF. She recently exhibited three works in various media at the Rocky River Senior Center's annual art exhibition. When asked what draws her to all these organizations, she says, "It's simple: the people, the purpose of the organization, and the subject matter." For now, Kathy is looking forward to the Community Board Relations sponsored

diversity potluck supper at Lakewood Park, and the Lakewood Community Festival at Madison Park. She feels that all these activities support the main goal of the League, namely "To keep making involved citizens!"

Please join the Lakewood League of Women Voters for a screening of Iron Jawed Angels on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 from 6:00-8:45P at Lakewood Public Library Auditorium and learn more about how to get involved. American suffragette Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) takes her advocacy to Washington, D.C. to fight for the right to vote. When President Wilson refuses, Paul shows how far she is willing to go for the cause. While challenging the ideology of patriarchy, the film supports the ideology of democracy and exhibits white privilege. The film will be followed by a discussion with Kathy Kosiorek and Pam Smith.

Carol Thums is Secretary of the Lakewood Chapter of LWVGC and wordsmith.

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AROUND TOWN



The Westshore Young Leaders
Hold Their Final Meeting At Urban Air

by Noreen Kyle

The Westshore Young Leaders is a youth organization comprised of students from the six Westshore cities of Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake. The group meets once a month during the school year in the Bay Village Police Department's community service room. It has been around for twelve years and is headed up by Mrs. Noreen Kyle, the School Outreach and Education Specialist of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau. The mission of the organization is: Westshore communities working together to support young leaders and promote healthy,

safe and substance-free life choices.

The students held their final meeting at Urban Air at Crocker Park in Westlake. Meetings normally consist of an educational piece instructed by the Effective Leadership Academy or McKeon Educational Group followed by interactive games and activities. This month, they took the show on the road for the last meeting of the school year. They were hosted by owner Ted Grambo and the fun, friendly staff of Urban Air in Crocker Park for an evening of ropes courses, go karts, obstacle courses, trampolines and pizza. The Young Leaders had a great evening hosted by a great staff.

Rose Show At Church Of The
Ascension June 25-26

by Corky Thacker

The Forest City Rose Society will hold its Spring Rose Show on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26 in Strom Hall at Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. The show includes 47 classes for horticultural specimens of all types of modern and old garden roses as well as eight classes for arrangements in traditional, modern and East Asian designs.

Entering roses and/or admission to view the show is free, and American Rose Society Certified Consulting Rosarians will be available to discuss questions about roses and their care.

The show will be open for viewing from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and following the 10:30 church service from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Please take time to stop and smell the roses—the

winner of the Fragrance Class will be chosen from visitors' votes on Saturday!

Exhibitors may prepare and place entries from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 25. Vases will be provided. All horticulture specimen roses must be grown by the exhibitor in their own private, outdoor garden. All roses used in arrangements must be outdoor garden grown and must be the dominant floral element in all designs. There are Novice classes in both horticulture and arrangements. The horticulture section has a class for unidentified roses ("No Name Rose"); all other classes, including arrangements, require entries to use the American Exhibition Name of each rose. For more information or a show schedule of the rules and classes, please email Corky Thacker or call her at 216.371.4693.



Lakewood Firefighters at Lakewood Fire Station One, check out all of the art entered.

Artists At Work At Meet The Trucks

by Betsy Voinovich

Over forty young artists stopped by the Lakewood Observer table to color a firetruck for a chance to win a trip to Lakewood Firehouse One. We had abstract art from kids as young as two, to budding Picassos who used

every crayon on the table. Next year we'll bring more red ones! Thanks to all of the kids and parents who stopped by to chat, and of course to Lakewood Early Childhood PTA and to the Lakewood Fire Department, for all that you do for this community.





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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

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PENULTIMATE PAGE

A Good Father

by Gregory Norris

With the passing of Mother's Day I started to think about Father's Day and what makes a good or great father. I often have said at the end of my life would I want to be remembered as a great employee or great father. For me the answer was always a great father and husband.

My dad apologized to me shortly before he died for not being with me in the operating room for surgery I had when I was about 3 Years old. He said, "I am sorry for making you mad at me for not being in the operating room like I promised. The doctor would not allow me in." I replied, "I was never mad; I never knew you were not there they put me to sleep for the surgery and you were the last person I remember seeing and the first when I woke up. I am sorry you carried that with you for twenty some years."

I thought how caring and loving that was to carry that for so many years and that may be part of what defines a good father.

- What defines a good father:** A good father makes you feel safe.
- A PBC lists ten qualities of a good father.**
- 1.) Dependability-Being available to your kids in good times and bad.
 - 2.) Involvement-Being engaged in your kids, lives, interests, hopes and dreams daily.
 - 3.) Compassion-Hope and belief when your kids need it most.
 - 4.) Validating of the mother-Show respect for your kids' mother, value and validate your partner. This shows your children how to treat each other.
 - 5.) Empathy- Put ourselves in the shoes of others.
 - 6.) Being verbally expressive-Uphold guidelines without being belittling or controlling.
 - 7.) Being Human-Own mistakes: be open for feedback.
 - 8.) Honesty-Teach and live by honesty and integrity.
 - 9.) Playfulness-Show delight in children through fun and play. Teach kids to accept limits and boundaries.
 - 10.) Being industrious-healthy work ethic.

Pulpit Weirton Ministerial Association-Six Attributes Of Godly Fathers:

F - Good fathers are faithful

A - Good fathers are people of action

T - Good fathers are teachers

H - Good fathers offer hope to their families

E - Good fathers are a positive example

R - Good fathers are dependable and respectful to their partners.

To all the dads doing an excellent job: keep it up, there is nothing more rewarding. If you have not been, try changing, your relationship with your kids and partner may be at risk.

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

Mellow Melodic Acoustic Concert At Blue Cafe

by Martin Jaffe

Congito Jaffe, local singer songwriter will present his third free concert Saturday June 18th at 6:30 pm at the Blue Cafe in Lakewood. Jaffe shares the lyrical richness of Rocky River poet Lady Ives and his melodic vocals and subtle guitar wizardry as his Spring tour of Lakewood venues continues.

Congito Jaffe is a singer song-

writer of melodic mellow folk music and a veteran of Lakewood forums like Winchester songwriters events, Kelly's pub and others. In the past he was director of InfoPLace, the career resource center for adults of Cuyahoga County Public Library and a writer for Cleveland Jewish News--my recent political and social commentaries have appeared in JEWTHINK, the UK website of social issues.

Nothing To Worry About

by Jean Brinich

Parents, grandparents, friends:
Enjoy your children until they're gone
Until some crazed young man
Unhappy, unhinged, with weapons close at hand
(more and more every day)
Decides that TODAY is the day of his glory
When he, till now unknown, is famous
But soon gone (usually gunned down)
Thankfully for us
(to not have to spend time on his just desserts)
Thankfully for him
(as he might some day realize the horror of his deed).
Don't worry about it!
Pretend he is not lurking
Likely it won't be your treasure he finds
And you can go on pretending
That you live in the greatest country on earth.

Jean Brinich is a retired Family Nurse Practitioner, she lived in Lakewood until 1969, returned 2015. She is the mother of 3 children who experienced a school shooting in Bethel, Alaska, on February 19, 1997. They have never forgotten.

A Letter To Cleveland

by Ralph Hutchison

I am not a catch. I'm not a piece of fish.
I'm not a Dolphin even, nor can you
wrap any net around me in your mind
nor span the breadth of my experience
with any book of yours
nor any man's imagination grasp
the breath
that runneth all along
my coral spine.
I'm here. I haven't died and yet
I'm not offended by your grieving articles
announcing that my ghost has left.
In fact I've wondered in the past
how it might feel to hear my death scroll
on your human lips.
I heard this rumor and it made me think.
Just yesterday it seemed like I was fine.
How long have I been growing here?
Twenty thousand pulling five times five.
And how the thing that hurt me most at first
was how you drilled into my body for my oil.
I let you do it though. How could I not?
There's oil there.
It's just the memory and residue
of so many millions of years
of life on earth.
I wanted to say something to Cleveland at least.
I'll say these last lines now and make it brief:
Take it from me, The Great Barrier Reef.
Welcome humans, to a world of grief.

Ralph Hutchison is a baker at the Root Cafe who loves Lakewood and whose specialization is gluten-free engineering. Ralph stands for "Modern Algorithms running on Vintage Acoustic Media".

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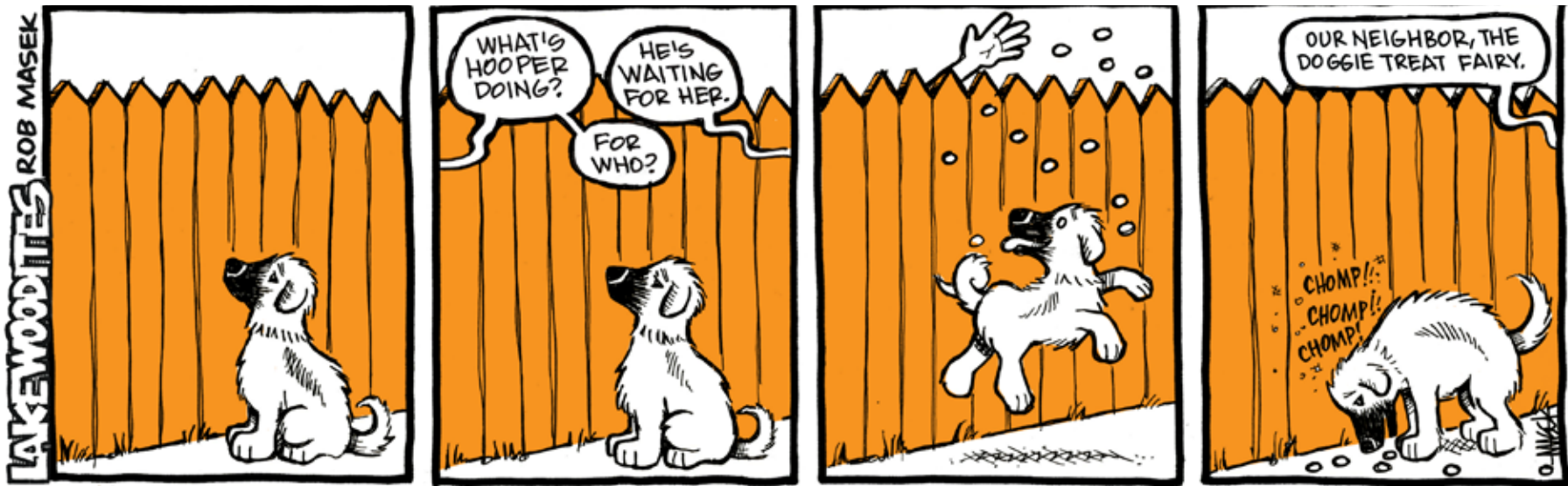
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