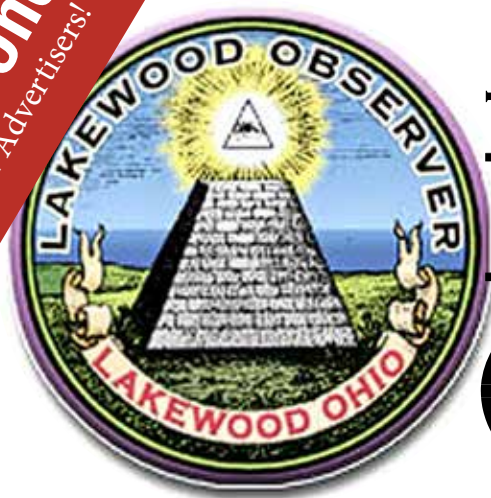


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Volume 18, Issue 14, July 20, 2022

Only 2 Weeks Left In TAEB/LO Tree Contest.
VOTING IS FREE! AND YOU CAN WIN! See page 8

Summertime In Lakewood



Summertime in Lakewood always kicks off with July 4 parades, concerts, parties, events and fire works. Here Lakewood Schools' Lakewood Project play their hearts out on July 4th.

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Parachute into thousands of places in the US and you will be blitzed by a mind numbing sameness of subdivisions, strip malls and chain stores. The causes of this boring homogeneity are varied and complex, but one element—the emergence of the automobile industry—is at the center. Want to escape the dullness? Find a community that developed before the dominance of automobiles.

This is why if you spend the day in Lakewood, especially on July 4th, you will know where you are. We are lacking many things. You won't find subdivisions or cul-de-sacs (save those

continued on page 9

Raising Money To Help Dogs In Need



10 year old Gemma comes from a long line of animal lovers. She especially loves dogs and wanted to help her local shelter. Having a lemonade stand on a State Route in Columbia Station where she lives with her family just wouldn't work. So Grandma Mickey called her lifelong best friend Janet to use her front yard in Lakewood. Gemma and her brother Owen raised over \$90 in a few hours in dog loving Lakewood for the ARF no kill shelter. Great job Gemma! Keep up the good work.

Supplies4Success Drive: Donate Today

from Lakewood Family Collaborative

It's that time of year, Lakewood Friends. School supply donation boxes are out around town. If you are able to pick up an extra item or two or just like shopping for school supplies, Supplies4Success would be happy to receive your donations.

We welcome a few new businesses to our collection sites this year. Jana's Deli, Cleveland Vegan, and The Blue Cafe.

We thank our return-
continued on page 6



Bicycle And Scooter Share Pilot Program

from City Hall

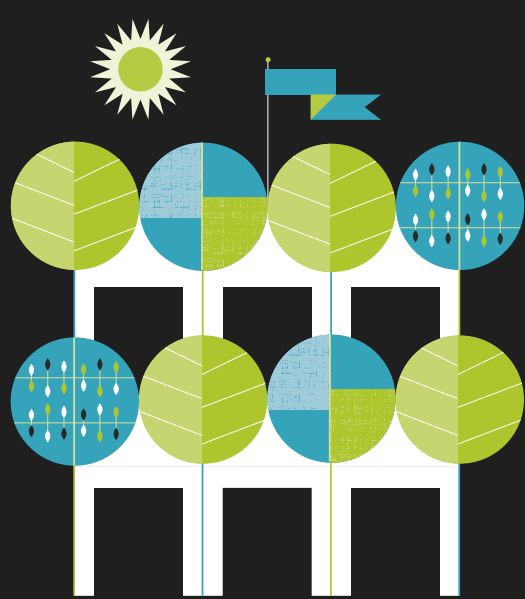
Wondering what these green and white boxes are all about? Starting on July 18th, as part of an expansion of the existing county program, we will be piloting a Bicycle and Scooter

Share System in Lakewood over the next few months. These temporary markings indicate the pilot stations where devices can be found and should be parked whenever possible.

During the last half of 2022, Lakewood will be conducting a Bike & Scooter Share Pilot as part of a broader Cuyahoga County program. This pilot follows study, public survey, and system planning that began in 2019. During the fall of that year, Ordinance 47-19 was enacted to update our traffic code to account for and regulate the operation, parking, and other aspects of the electronic scooters and bicycles provided by the vendors licensed under the County program.

The initial pilot in Lakewood will be limited to 90 devices spread across 12 share stations. The distribution of stations and number of devices has been deliberately set low to introduce – and gauge community demand for – this type of alternative transportation while seeking to avoid the clutter and

continued on page 4



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Reena Bose, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family
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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. 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,” says Dr. Bose.

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. 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 team members including dietitians, exercise physiologists and clinical psychologists to help patients with their nutrition, fitness, behavioral health and sleep disorders,” says Dr. Bose.

To schedule an appointment with Reena Bose, MD, staff physician in the Endocrinology & Metabolism Institute at Lakewood Family Health Center please call **216.537.5500**.

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LAKEWOOD CITY HALL

City Council: Lakewood Resources Not To Be Used To Assist In Abortion Investigations-- Statement On Dobbs V. Jackson Women's Health Organization

by Ward 2 Councilperson
Jason Shachner

On June 24th, a right that has existed for nearly half a century was obliterated by radicals on the United State Supreme Court. In holding that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, the Court took a wrecking ball to Americans’ bodily autonomy and put all pregnant persons at risk.

The argument that this decision does not criminalize abortion because now States can decide provides little solace to us in Ohio. A recent poll showed that 53% of registered Ohio voters support abortion rights while only 39% would like to restrict abortion rights. Clear voter support for abortion rights is irrelevant in Ohio where the system is rigged against voters due to gerrymandering. The Republicans on the Ohio Redistricting Commission defied the Ohio Supreme Court and delivered an unconstitutional map that cements their meritless power for the foreseeable future.

Upon motion of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, on June 24th, the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Ohio Western Division dissolved the Preliminary Injunction against Senate Bill 23 of the 133rd general assembly. As a result, providing abortion care after six weeks is now punishable as a felony of the fifth



degree. Additionally, House Bill 598 is currently being debated by the general assembly and would make providing abortion care a more serious offense, a felony of the fourth degree, and promotion of abortion care a misdemeanor of the first degree. The risk to pregnant persons in Lakewood is not abstract; it is here, and it is real.

The risk goes beyond the harm to pregnant persons’ health, economic security, and access to life saving procedures. Any miscarriage could be probable cause that an abortion occurred. This would result in a gross invasion of privacy by the State in the

pursuit of evidence of an abortion which could include trash pulls, accessing your browser history, accessing

your internet search history, accessing data from period tracking applications, and obtaining your medical records. No person should be subject to such egregious examples of State overreach on that basis.

At the July 5th City Council Meeting, Council member Jason Shachner introduced an ordinance that will prohibit any member of the Lakewood Police Department or any person from using resources, assets, or funds of the Lakewood Police Department or the City of Lakewood to investigate or cooperate with any investigation that is related to abortion care. Your tax dollars should not be used to fund the perverse desires of the General Assembly that is unconstitutionally rigged to represent the extremist wing of the Republican Party, not the interests of Ohioans.

Bicycle And Scooter Share Pilot Program

continued from page 1

issues that other municipalities have experienced by allowing a higher number of devices at launch. Our approach is to start small and, if appropriate, grow the share system to meet the observed level of demand. Each station is positioned adjacent to or near existing bicycle infrastructure and routes. Once underway, analysis of device use, parking, and other operational issues will inform a direction that our local bike & scooter share system will take following this initial pilot run.

A few key points:

This pilot is intended to provide both electric scooters (e-scooters) and electric bikes (e-bikes) – although the provision of e-bikes is subject to vendor availability.

These devices are available for rent and can be ridden within Lakewood and Cleveland. Service areas and restricted areas can be viewed via the smartphone app/user account when renting a device.

The operation of these devices is subject to the same traffic laws (Chapter 373) that govern privately-owned bicycles/scooters (see “Ride responsibly...” drop down on right).

The devices should be parked in designated bicycle parking areas or share system stations but can also be parked responsibly on the sidewalk where they do not block pedestrian pathways or vehicular driveways.

When not active, the devices lock to themselves rather than a bike rack or a dock and are activated through the company’s smartphone app and user account. Each user is subject to the rates, restrictions, and requirements outlined by each company.

E-scooters are available for use daily from 5am to 9pm and e-bikes are available 24 hours a day.

The companies that provide the devices for this pilot are required to routinely collect up and “rebalance” the devices back into the 12 share sta-

tions several times per week. Based on size, these stations will be rebalanced with between 5 – 10 devices.

Reporting A Problem

Do you see an e-scooter or e-bike that is blocking the sidewalk? Did you have a ride cut short due to a mechanical or technological issue?

Call the vendor. Each scooter and bike has a vendor logo, 24-hour customer service phone number, and device ID number. Call the phone number on the bike or scooter and report your issue.

If the issue is not addressed within 2 hours after reported to vendor or is causing an immediate safety concern, call the Police non-emergency line (216-521-6773) and report it to the City.

If the scooter or bike is involved in an emergency, such as a crash, call 911.

General questions may be emailed to planning@lakewoodoh.net

Please wear a helmet, ride responsibly, and do not park bikes or scooters where they block sidewalks or other pathways. For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/j5bS50JUOzM>.





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OBSERVATIONS

Lakewood Community Services Center Transfers Community Garden To Friends Of Madison Park

by Matt Bixenstine

An agreement between two Lakewood nonprofit organizations has ensured a prominent local community garden will continue to bloom for years to come.

Friends of Madison Park (FOMP) recently assumed leadership of this Madison Park community garden following an agreement with Lakewood Community Services Center (LCSC), the originator and longtime caretaker of the space. The 5,000 square foot garden is located between Becks Pool and the futsal courts near the front of Madison Park.

LCSC first established this community garden in 2010 using space provided by the City of Lakewood. Garden materials and staff support were made available to LCSC clients in exchange for their active participation. Each client was asked to donate produce to the Center after taking whatever amount they needed for their own families.

When the Pandemic necessitated that LCSC shift its priorities in order to continue maximizing its ability to provide basic needs assistance to community members, the organization began to seek a new caretaker for the space. LCSC found that in FOMP, a volunteer-led group of neighbors committed to providing ongoing stewardship for Madison Park.

“When we realized that managing the community garden was not going to be possible with our significant COVID-related priorities, our first choice to take over this much-loved project was Friends of Madison Park,” according to LCSC Executive Director

Trish Rooney. “They have made such incredible progress in bringing life and light to the park, we knew they would make a great effort to make the garden an even more significant amenity in this community space.”

Since assuming leadership of the garden, FOMP has recruited Lakewood gardeners from all walks of life to oversee plots, while also grandfathering in previous gardeners who wished to remain involved with this project. The park group has strived to prepare the garden – now referred to as the Friends of Madison Park Community Garden – for the 2022 planting season, and FOMP is also exploring ways to continue LCSC’s tradition of donating a portion of produce yield to help those in need.

“Our park group is grateful to Lakewood Community Services Center, the Lakewood Foundation, and the City of Lakewood for providing us this opportunity to manage this community garden,” said Matt Bixenstine, president of Friends of Madison Park. “We appreciate the unique amenities contained within our park and look forward to using this space to promote healthy lifestyles while building an even stronger park community.”

Madison Park is a 17-acre city park located on the edge of Lakewood’s Historic Birdtown Neighborhood. As the second-largest park and one of the most-visited public spaces in Lakewood, Madison Park offers amenities ranging from a city pool and lighted softball field to playgrounds, picnic pavilions and basketball + futsal courts.

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LAKEWOOD EDUCATION

Lakewood Women's Club Awards Scholarship

by Margaret Wetzler

The Lakewood Women’s Club is excited to share that we’ve awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior. Applications were reviewed by a group of Club volunteers, and the student winner was selected based upon her academic achievement, financial need, and other eligibility requirements.

“This year we saw a deep field of scholarship applicants filled with students on their way to doing great things. It was an amazing process to participate on the scholarship review team, and I am grateful to the rest of our volunteers for taking the time to learn about each applicant and make some tough decisions. Each applicant embodied the traits of a student empowered to soar. We are proud to support our winner, Teegan McGann, as she takes the next steps on her education journey.”

—Carla DePhillips, LWC Volunteer
This year’s winner, Teegan McGann, graduated from Lakewood High School



Teegan McGann

with a 4.545 GPA. Teegan plans to major in business at Miami University beginning in the fall. She is leaning toward business economics or analytics, as she has a high aptitude for math and enjoys working with equations and solving problems. Teegan was very active in her four years at Lakewood High School, as

a member of the National Honor Society, the all-girl Symphonic Treble Choir, the Concert Choir, and Help 2 Others. She also ran with the Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track Teams, and was a team captain for all three teams. Outside of school, Teegan found time to participate in parish life at St. Luke’s Church, Young Life, and volunteer with organizations including The Ronald McDonald House, Home Alone and the Lakewood Youth Running program. On top of all of those extra-circulars, Teegan also worked at Ennis Court, and babysat.

Teegan’s personal statement was a compelling element of her application. The volunteers who reviewed her application commented on the maturity and enthusiasm with which she wrote.

“Anyone with just enough empathy and heart can change the world – and that anyone is me. I believe that with just enough empathy, there lies just enough motivation and drive to make a change in our world. Given the resource available to me at Miami, I have no doubt that

I can make an impact on the world.”
—Teegan McGann, 2022 LWC Scholarship Winner

The LWC Scholarship is awarded annually to a female Lakewood student graduating from high school, and pursuing additional education, whether college, vocational, technical or community college. The amount awarded varies, and is dependent upon the Club’s fundraising efforts throughout the year. To support the 2023 scholarship fund, please consider attending our 5th Annual Women Honoring Women event, to be held at Vosh on September 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.. For more information on this event, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-honoring-women-tickets-374820918457>

LWC is proud to support Lakewood women as they pursue further education. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank all of the applicants for taking the time to apply for this year’s scholarship award. We wish all of the applicants much success with their college efforts.

Margaret Wetzler is a lifelong Lakewood resident, home owner, good neighbor, avid gardener, and member of The Lakewood Women’s Club.

Supplies4Success Drive

continued from page 1

ing sites for their continued support: Becks/Foster Pools, The Beck Center, Blackbird Baking, Breadsmith, KB Confections, Lakewood Family YMCA, Lakewood Garden Center, Nature’s Oasis, Pet’s General Store, The Root Cafe, and Stem Soaps, as well as the following church’s: Lakewood Congregational, Lakewood Presbyterian and Lakewood United Methodist.

If you know of a location that would like a collection box, please let us know at lkwschoolsupplies@gmail.com.
Thanks, Lakewood!



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- Highlighters
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- Rulers
- Composition Notebooks
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Drop Off Locations: now through Friday, August 19

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| Blackbird Baking Company | The Blue Café |
| Breadsmith | Cleveland Vegan |
| Jana’s Deli | KB Confections |
| Lakewood Family YMCA | Lakewood Garden Center |
| Nature’s Oasis | Pet’s General Store |
| The Root Café | Stem Soaps |
| Lakewood Recreation Dept. | (year round drop off location) |

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Supplies 4 Success is a committee of the Lakewood Family Collaborative and is a 501(c)3, in conjunction with The Lakewood Foundation. Contact us at lkwschoolsupplies@gmail.com for more information.

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

by Jack Weigand

This article is for all US citizens. Since retiring from NASA Glenn Research Center at the end of December, I have become a volunteer at the LGBT Community Center. I am also a member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. The Greater Cleveland League has local chapters like Lakewood and Shaker Heights. All these chapters are under the League of Women Voters Ohio. The League of Women Voters is a national nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democratic republic. The League empowers voters and defends democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels. I invite all US citizens to become members.

My passion is voter registration. Since March I have attended several US citizen naturalization ceremonies in the Federal Courthouse building. These people being naturalized have come from other countries and have decided to

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE



become US citizens. Their backgrounds are as diverse as all of those in Lakewood and other communities. These new US citizens come from many different countries (there were 26 countries represented at one ceremony). As the presiding federal judge at one ceremony said, each new citizen is an integral part of the most diverse

population in the world. Each member of this population, when they reach the age of 18 has the right to vote in each local, state and federal election.

Yes, it is a right that needs to be exercised. There are certain criteria that must be met to vote but these obstacles are minor compared to the enormous satisfaction one gets when they vote. As a voter you have the opportunity to influence gender identity issues, transgender issues, marriage issues and abortion issues to name a few. No matter what your highest priority issue is, by voting you have a chance to dictate what the policy for that issue can be. A democratic republic cannot survive if the eligible voters do not vote.

Once you register to vote, you now need to obtain information about each candidate for every office and each issue on the ballot. That means each candidate and issue on the local level, state level and federal level. The best way to become informed is the go to the League's nonpartisan website-VOTE411. That's VOTE411. You will find personal and issue information on each candidate. Do not rely on biased television ads, candidate websites or political party affiliated websites. Do not let other people dictate what the laws are going to be. Participate by voting and let your views be known.

As an anecdote there are many obstacles if you want to vote while incarcerated. Voting is not high on the list of things to do while in jail, but you CAN vote under certain circumstances. People with misdemeanor charges and those awaiting trial can vote. There is a group called Freedom Bloc that helps individuals in jail vote. If you know of someone who is incarcerated and wants to vote, please contact Freedom Bloc or the League.

Many people who are registered to vote may not realize that if you move, even just down the block, you have to register with your new address. Changing the address where your mail is delivered has nothing to do with voting. You must complete a voter registration form with your new address.

The League and the Board of Elections in each county has voter registration forms. It only takes a few minutes to register. But the satisfaction is enormous.

If you are already a registered voter- PLEASE VOTE on August 2nd (primary) and November 8th (general election).

If you are not registered to vote- PLEASE REGISTER by October 8th and VOTE on November 8th.

Jack Weigand has been a Lakewood resident for 51 years. He recently retired from NASA Glenn Research Center and is a volunteer at the LGBT Community Center and the League of Women Voters. He enjoys golf and gardening.

Letter To The Editor

by Terri Kern

Dear Editor In Chief:

This letter aims to acknowledge the divide bogging down our democracy and offer a way to open a dialogue between liberal and conservative Ohioans. Through a grassroots organization called Country First, I believe Ohio can serve as a role model to show Americans in other states that there's hope for healing.

Our district, US OH-9, is consistently gerrymandered and a seat that Marcy Kaptur (D) has held since 1983. Her opponent is J.R. Majewski (R), a Trump-endorsed QAnon election denier who proudly boasts about his involvement in the January 6th insurrection. I'm a conservative Ohioan who believes sending Majewski to the US House of Representatives would be dangerous.

An organization like Country First allows me to express my beliefs and fears to a wide range of people with whom I know my views are valued,

even if they're not the same. Focusing on common ground, I can turn to my team and devise a plan of action to support Kaptur and weed out toxic candidates.

I see Ohio bringing back manufacturing and other industry jobs to a state with laws that help us live the American dream in a way WE define together. I hope we can grow Country First in Ohio as a place where we put our heads together as one big community and position Ohio as the BEST state in which to live no matter who you are.

Ohio's nicknamed "The Mother of Presidents." Let's show the world we're the Mother of Democracy by doing what Ohioans do best - problem solve and lift this great state to her full potential!

Ohioans - get involved. Our government works for us!

Terri Kern is a proud Ohioan and a clinical counselor offering mental health services to all Ohioans!

TAEB/LO Most Distinguished Tree Contest Only Two Weeks Left To Win!

by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewoodites, readers, there are only two weeks left to help Lakewood's Tree Advisory and Education Board, and the Lakewood Observer find "Lakewood's Most Distinguished Tree."

Over the past three months readers have narrowed it down to the top 25 trees as nominated. We are now asking people to go to the Tree Contest Photo Gallery and follow the simple instructions.

Three tree owners will win a prize, one nominating person and two voters will be chosen at random for a prize. Prizes are from: Lakewood Garden Center, Lakewood Hardware, Malley's, Woodstock BBQ, India Garden and the

West End Tavern.

GO TO: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs> and follow the directions. Or follow this QR code



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OBSERVATIONS

How To Address Lead Paint And Other Issues In Rental Properties

by Tonya Sams

When housing conditions are endangering your family, it's easy to become overwhelmed by worry and fear. One common problem is the presence of lead in older homes. Most homes built prior to 1978 used paint that contained lead. Children exposed to lead poisoning may suffer from learning and behavioral issues and may have trouble paying attention. If you are a homeowner concerned about lead, learn about assistance programs by contacting your public health department. If you are a renter and your rental property was built before 1978, contact your landlord to find out if they have ever conducted a lead check. If you notice peeling paint or large areas of bare dirt near your home, or if your child has tested positive for lead poisoning, send a dated letter to your landlord requesting repairs. Keep a copy of that letter for yourself.

If your landlord has not made the repairs within 30 days, you can file a request in housing court to order the landlord to do so as soon as possible. Another option is "rent deposit" or "rent escrow". You cannot legally withhold rent because repairs have not been completed, but rent escrow is a way to put financial pressure on your landlord. This process allows you to pay your rent to the court and protects you from eviction. To use the rent deposit option, you have to be current on your rent. A landlord cannot retaliate against you (for example, by evicting you) if you have properly deposited your rent payments with the court. One important thing to note is that you could lose the right to sue your landlord for damages caused by lead poisoning if you use rent deposit. Once you start to deposit your rent in court, you may continue to do so until an agreement is made between you, your landlord, and the court about when and how the funds can be released. Land-

continued on page 11



The Party's Over

by Jeff Fritz

The party supply store known as "It's A Party +" was a fixture in Lakewood for a number of years. Now all that's left at 14526 Detroit Avenue are fixtures. The store fell victim to the nationwide shortage of helium, which is used to fill the balloons that are a staple of so many parties. The current shortage is the fourth since the Helium Privatization Act of

1996 resulted in the phasing out of the National Helium Reserve. Helium is also used for medical purposes, tech products, and weather forecasting, so party balloons are a low priority. There was no going-out-of-business sale. Everything was donated, mostly to churches, which are now floating ideas about what to do with all those empty balloons.

Memories Of My Harbour View Apartment

by Valerie Carmen Martin

Not long ago, I had a very nice apartment at Harbour View on Sloane Avenue in Lakewood. Not only was the apartment nice, it had a feeling of peace I have never experienced in any other apartment. Its best feature was its location. It overlooks the Rocky River, and I was close enough to Lake Erie to see the waves. And, this apartment has balconies all across the building; front and back! Only the back of the building faces the river, but the front still has balconies. No one ever enjoyed living there more than I did! There is a long list of things I enjoyed! First, it's very pleasant to live near the water; it's peaceful and soothing. I was on the fourth floor, so I couldn't hear the river, but I enjoyed watching the ripples, and on windy days, small waves. I also enjoyed the shimmer and reflection of the river. It was especially beautiful at night, with the lights of the buildings across the river, and boat dock lights reflected in the river. Second, its location. It's almost next to the Lakewood side of the Detroit Avenue Bridge that spans the Rocky River into the city of Rocky River. I enjoyed the best of both worlds. Third, the activity I got to watch. There were boats on the river both at their docks, and cruising. There were also kayaks and paddle boards. Watching the kayaks from my balcony inspired me to try it. I kept saying, "That looks like fun! Well, go do it." I said to myself. I discovered that IT IS FUN. And then there is the bridge activity. And trains coming across the trestle; I loved counting the engines. And, the putting-in and the taking-out

of the boat docks. Fourth, walking distance to Rocky River Park. It had a small beach and I would pull a rolling tote with my blanket, towels, and beach umbrella. I'd pound the umbrella in the sand, saw where the shade went, and put down my towel. I sat on my towel a while enjoying the wavy lake. Then I'd go wading. I stepped over a row of mussle shells onto nice soft wavy sand. The water was about mid-calf deep. I'd gather pieces of beach glass along the shore before going back to my towel. One day, I saw something gleaming up at me through the water. I reached down and pulled out a beautiful shell; all intact! I had only found small pieces until then. What a find! It sits on a glass table to this day. Fifth, MY BALCONIES! Oh how I enjoyed my balconies! My apartment was a two-bedroom, two bath, which sounds large, but was only about 650 square feet. But, it gave me three balcony doors. The living room and second bedroom each had a balcony door which went out to a double long balcony. The master bedroom had its own balcony door that went out to a private balcony. That balcony had a partial; not quite to floor, screen that separated my master bedroom balcony from my neighbors. The building has cement separating partitions between the units that provide privacy and wind protection. They do not extend to the railings, so unless you or your neighbor were at the railing, you wouldn't see each other. That too was pleasant. On summer nights, if I woke up at 3 AM, I would just go out onto my master bedroom balcony and sit in my chaise lounge. I'd watch the lights shimmer and reflect in the river, and enjoy the

Summertime In Lakewood

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that dead end into Lake Erie), big box scores are absent, there is an identifiable downtown, and the family-owned business is not a faint memory. Century homes are everywhere, and front porches and sidewalks are the norm. The parade is hometown all the way, led by my favorite element—the Lakewood Ranger Marching Band—followed by a blend of community groups, Military Veterans, politicians, etc. =The Lakewood fireworks are spectacular, but there is nothing particularly unique about them—but a festive, full Lakewood Park is quite the scene, especially when...at 7pm the incomparable Lakewood Project takes the stage. You know immediately that you are experiencing a one off—nothing like it anywhere else. Thirty plus LHS students, who practice hour upon hour as part of an extra-curricular

activity, led by Dr. Hankins and her crew, bang out nearly 3 hours of high energy songs. The eclectic blend of musicians create local magic starting with the National Anthem and ending with Crazy Train. Younger music campers, mentored by high school students, get in on the act, testing their wings and providing some good music along the way. It's a total community effort—parents, teachers students and Lakewood citizens (the most supportive of public schools)—all make this happen. Everyone pitches in, and everyone wins. Several students are in the LRMB and the Lakewood Project. I hope all of our students know how much we appreciate them, how important their efforts and attitudes are to the quality of life that we enjoy. Here's to everything that we lack and all that we have. **Long Live Lakewood.**

soft summer breeze. Eventually, I'd go back to bed. I also enjoyed taking a cup of coffee and a magazine out to my bedroom balcony after breakfast. I had a small stool I used as a table next to my chaise. I would go out onto my main balcony in the afternoon. Since I faced West, I got the afternoon sun. If it wasn't windy, I would put up a beach umbrella, in a stand, to prolong my stay on the balcony. Sometimes I would leave the balcony early to do errands, but I usually stayed out there until chased by the sun. Even my beach days weren't until 3:30 in the afternoon. Sixth, Bird watching! This probably could have been included with "Activity", but I really enjoyed the birds!

There were "Airshow Birds", which are really Chimney Swifts, but they put on quite an air show. They fly fast and chirp as they fly. They fly in different directions, and sometimes a group of them will fly one way, and a single bird will fly through their formation. They are fun to watch. Seagulls are also fun to watch. Since the building is not right next to another building, and a river below, they fly low enough to see them easily. They would fly down and land on the river, sometimes to look for fish, sometimes just to float on the water. The HAWK BALLET was another

Read the rest of this article online at: lakewoodobserver.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Lakewood League Of Women Voters 100th Anniversary, 100 Pillars Spotlight: **Cindy Marx**

by Carol Thums

Cindy Marx has been a pillar of the Lakewood community since she and her husband, Jake, moved here in 1985. Born in Cleveland and raised in West Park and North Royalton, Cindy lived in a variety of area towns and suburbs. After a brief sojourn in Texas, she and Jake returned to Ohio and chose Lakewood as their permanent home. “We loved the feeling of community, the diversity, and the walkability of the city.”

A longtime supporter of the Democratic Party, in 2012 she became the Ward 4 Neighborhood Team Leader of Barack Obama for President. “I was introduced to the intricacies of running for office and met some wonderful people: Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, Joe Biden, and Madeline Albright. Along the way, I realized I wanted to know more. My husband, long an advocate of women’s issues, suggested I join the League of Women Voters. Mary Louise Madigan, Mary Osborn and Pam Smith all helped me to look at the issues in new ways”

In 2013 Cindy decided to run for Lakewood City Council at Large and won her seat. Among her accomplishments she helped write and pass the Lakewood



Cindy Marx, Ward 4 Councilperson

Human Rights Ordinance, expanding the city’s nondiscrimination policies for LGBTQ+ citizens, and wrote and introduced legislation that allows citizens to keep chickens in their backyards. But her four years on City Council were a contentious time for the city involving the closure of Lakewood Hospital. She lost her bid for reelection by just a few votes. “This triggered an automatic recount for which I was present. Two things stand out: every vote counts! And the Board of Elections makes sure that every vote is counted. They even used a magnifying glass to check smeary post marks on absentee ballots. And did you know

that if you have mobility issues and have trouble accessing your polling place, the Board will send a Democrat and a Republican with your ballot to your car so you can vote. The same is true if you are in the hospital and want to vote.”

After leaving City Council, Cindy continued her work with the Lakewood Democratic Club, the League of Women Voters, the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats, and served as a Vice-Chair to the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party under Shontel Brown. She is a board member of Cleveland Public Theater and the Lakewood Arts Festival, and participates in Beck Center for the Arts Community Engagement Committee. In June, City Council appointed Cindy Ward 4 representative replacing former City Council President Dan O’Malley who resigned this spring.

“It’s very different being Ward 4 representative as opposed to being At Large. I love the diversity in Ward 4. Ward 4 encompasses neighborhoods from the Gold Coast to Birdtown. I know we need more parking on the Gold Coast. I’d like to see us do more with recycling, and we need more affordable

mixed use and senior housing. I’m very enthusiastic about the Studio West 117 project for the LGBTQ+ community with its renovated Phantasy Night Club, a sports complex, restaurants and arts center. I know that the League registers a lot of voters, but not all of them get to the polls. Why? I suspect that some of it has to do with being unfamiliar with the experience of voting. I’d like to see the League or Board of Elections place practice voting booths in libraries, so voters know what to expect when they show up at their precinct to vote. I have no plans to seek higher office. I just want to fairly represent this diverse and unique community as a council representative.”

The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland will be at The 45th Annual Lakewood Arts Festival on August 6th to register voters, check registration, help create voting plans for the November 8th General Election and practice voting in our ‘imitation voting booths.’ Please stop by to say hello.

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

Looking For Photos Of Lemonade Stands And Block Parties In Lakewood

by Jim O’Bryan

One of the wonderful things about a small town paper is the ability to cover the diverse but generally homey feel of Lakewood.

To that end, we are looking for photos/stories about your block party, your children’s lemonade stand and whatever else you are doing for fun this summer,

We will pick the top three for special prizes. So keep your eye out and send in those photos.

Send to: production@lakewood-observer.com.

Let’s have fun this summer!



Observer contributor and candidate Keith Davey sent in this one!

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H2O LAKEWOOD YOUTH

Reduce, Reuse, REVAMP!
City of Lakewood H2O "Help to Others"

by Elliot Olsen,
H2O "Help to Others"
high school volunteer

Elliot Olsen, H2O "Help to Others" high school volunteer, is offering examples on how to minimize the environmental impact of clothing production AND have fun with fashion. She is walking proof that second-hand purchases can be an inexpensive gateway to self-expression, and it's something that is also deeply meaningful to her:

"Did you know that the fashion industry alone releases more carbon emissions than all global flights and maritime combined? All around the world, energy and resources are being used up to mass-produce cheap clothing in response to trending fashion. It takes 3,000 liters of water to produce a single cotton shirt. Not only that, but when the current trends are replaced by new ones, many people won't think twice about throwing out their old clothes and buying newer, trendy clothing, thus repeating the cycle. That's a lot of waste, and it's taking a toll on our planet. So what can we do to try and offset that?

Many people fail to see the potential that second-hand and thrifted clothing has. Instead of sitting in a landfill, this clothing is being given a second chance. It's an opportunity



Magic Tank (after)

to save money and the environment—but it's also a great way to get creative. There are tons of ways you can take an old t-shirt and turn it into something cool and fashionable. While it may seem like just an old shirt and not really something you think could fit your individual style, try to look at the shirt in a new way. By painting, dyeing, sewing, or cutting the shirt, you can turn it into a one-of-a-kind piece of art that you can wear!

Maybe you're thinking, 'I'm not

and more creative than fast fashion, so instead of throwing out your old clothes and buying a fresh batch of mass-produced clothing, consider donating those clothes, or revamping them to give them new life in your closet! Even if you can't use them, someone else can—just like you can discover your new favorite outfit from a thrift store or garage sale. Sustainable fashion is how we can all help save our planet."

Elliot Olson is a 17-year-old artist living in Lakewood. She has had a mix of formal art education and self-taught learning, though much of her passion for art comes from her art-centered upbringing and long time exposure to all different mediums of art.

Much of her artistic inspiration comes from being raised around comics and monsters. She draws a lot of inspiration from horror and fantasy themes. Her favorite mediums are drawing and customizing clothing. She's particularly passionate about sustainable fashion and enjoys expressing her style with wearable art. In addition, she also likes to read, watch horror movies, and roller skate. In the future, she plans to pursue

a career in graphic design.

The items she customized were all taken from H2O "Help to Others" Clothing Drive. There are THOUSANDS and thousands of items for sale on July 23rd, 9:00-3:00, with a half hour break at noon for reorganization. The sale is at Garfield Middle School and each item is just FIFTY CENTS! Please call 216-529-6045 with questions.



Patch pants

How To Address Lead Paint
And Other Issues In Rental
Properties

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lords can request the funds be released to them if their tenant did not tell them repairs were needed OR if the landlord was not given enough time to complete the repairs.

Once the landlord files an application to release the funds, the application becomes a complaint, which starts the process of a civil lawsuit against the tenant. The landlord is required to send a copy of the complaint to the tenant.

If a civil lawsuit has been filed against you, you can file an "answer and counterclaim" against the landlord. An "answer and counterclaim" is your response to the landlord's civil lawsuit. You have 28 days after the landlord filed the complaint to respond.

Within 60 days of the initial fil-

ing of the landlord's civil lawsuit, both parties must appear in court for trial. The court will then decide what happens to the funds.

More information is available in Legal Aid's "Lead Poisoning: Know Your Rights, Remedies & Resources" and "How to Rent Deposit when Housing Conditions are a Problems" brochures at www.lasclev.org: go to the "Get Help" tab, then click on "Legal Information and Resources." From here, click on "Housing" and then "Repairs."

Legal Aid may be able to help you if you are facing unsafe housing conditions or have questions about rent deposit. Call 888-817-3777 or visit lasclev.org/contact for more information.

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

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Garden long-sleeve painted shirt.

much of an artist.' You don't need to be a trained professional to customize clothing; you don't even have to have any experience with art. There are so many ways to make a piece of clothing your own, even novices can create something really cool. Plus, you can help inspire others to do the same when they ask, 'Where'd you get that amazing shirt?' Reusing old clothing is more sustainable, more cost-effective,

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