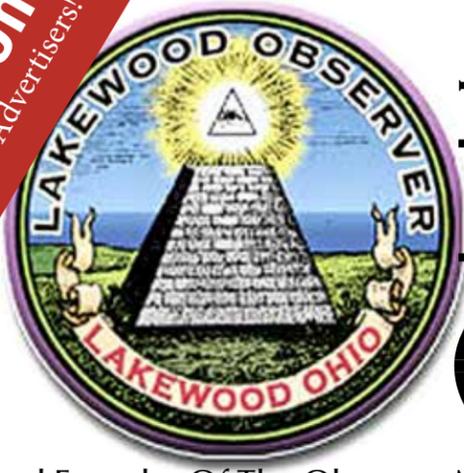


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Volume 18, Issue 15, August 3, 2022

HLF Healthy Lakewood Foundation Awards Over \$250,000 To Advance Health In Lakewood

by Kate Ingersoll

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) Board of Directors awarded \$253,455 in funding for its Community Grants program at its July Board meeting. Twelve area organizations were granted funds to advance programs that address social determinants of health and support populations historically under-resourced in the community.

HLF believes that the economic, structural, and social

conditions of the Lakewood community have a profound impact on the health of its residents. HLF's Board President Khalilah Worley Billy explains that “Through our Community Grants Program, HLF's funding is targeted to address food insecurity, housing and neighborhood conditions, access to high-quality educational programs, and social and community connections.”

continued on page 3



LakewoodAlive threw the party of the year, the Summer Meltdown. The weather was perfect for record attendance. A good time was had by all. Besides throwing a great party and free concerts in the Summer, LakewoodAlive does great community work through their paint and home repair programs. Next up on the calendar is their annual Spooky Pooch Parade. See page 11 for details. For information and to donate, go to www.lakewoodalive.org

August 6, 10 AM-6 PM

Lakewood Arts Festival Real Art, Real Music, Real Food Saturday

by Katherine Isenhardt

For one shimmering summer day, Lakewood closes Detroit Avenue, between Belle and Arthur Avenues, to bring artists of all disciplines together along with 15,000 collectors and art lovers. The juried festival hosts over 160 regional and national artists and makers displaying paintings, prints, photography, art glass, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, fiber and more.

Returning to the festival this year will be Brett Mason,



Drummer Assane M'baye

a Pittsburgh native, who brings evocative landscapes in both oil and watercolor.

“The Lakewood Arts Festival always gets a great crowd who **continued on page 10**



TAEB/LO's winner of the first “Most Distinguished Tree In Lakewood” 2110 Olive Avenue.

TAEB/LO's Most Distinguished Tree 2022

by Deb O'Bryan

Back on Arbor Day we started to receive nominations for the Most Distinguished Tree in Lakewood. The nomination process ended June 30th.

For the entire month of July, the public had a chance to vote on the 25 nominated trees. Congratulations to all who were nominated. They ranged from super old and majestic to perfectly shaped. Some were a

little odd, but that's what made them special. Beauty they say is in the eye of the beholder. After tabulation of hundreds of votes received, here are the WINNERS!

1st place, is the majestic tree at 2110 Olive Avenue.

2nd place, is a beautiful Evergreen at 1317 Chase Avenue, which is fondly called "Sammy the Spruce."

continued on page 6

Fire Station #2 Renovations



Mayor Meghan George, Council President John Litten, with Council members Baker, Shachner, Marx, and Bullock, Fire Chief Tim Dunphy, and members of the Lakewood Fire Department.

On the afternoon of July 22nd, Mayor George, Councilmembers Litten, Baker, Shachner, Marx, & Bullock, Fire Chief Dunphy, and members of the Lakewood Fire Department participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Fire Station #2, 18124 Detroit Ave.

The renovations include a 2800 square foot addition to the apparatus bay, interior updates with some added safety features, and a public art mural.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Refining The Budget by Mayor Meghan George

As we enjoy everything that summer has to offer in Lakewood, this season is also a time of planning, preparation, and prioritization at City Hall. It's when I begin meeting with the directors of our departments to begin working on our city's budget for the upcoming fiscal year, both for our ongoing operations and capital needs and improvements.

My goal continues to be preparing a budget that is fiscally realistic and responsible while also ensuring that Lakewood maintains the excellent level of service that our residents, businesses, and visitors have come to expect and enjoy. Reaching

that goal involves in depth conversations with our directors at City Hall, but also conversations with you – our residents – on what is possible and what is a priority.

This thoughtful budgeting process allows Lakewood to keep top notch services – things like safety, public works, and human services – while also maintaining our core infrastructure and adding or updating assets. With careful planning, we can take on projects that have been completed this year – like the Cove Community Center – or that are now underway or in the bid process – like the major upgrades coming at

Foster Pool and the new Recycling Center and Animal Shelter facility.

As we refine the budget, we will also continue our dialogue with City Council to share the analysis and thinking that drives my administration's recommendations while also understanding council input and priorities. Through this collaborative conversation, the City is able to best position itself for long-term financial health while also moving ahead with our future vision for Lakewood. I look forward to fine tuning the budget and presenting it to Lakewood City Council in the coming months.

As mentioned here, a priority from last year's budget was to construct a new Recycling Center and Animal Shelter facility. This week, I had the pleasure of presenting to Cuyahoga County Council with our

City Engineer, Mark Papke, where we reviewed the project as part of an effort to secure potential funding support from the County.

The project is an important one for our city. By modernizing our recycling center, we will provide a streamlined facility where residents can drop off both nontraditional waste – from hazardous waste items to tires and construction debris – as well as process recyclables. Our new animal shelter will ensure safe and humane treatment of animals that do not have a home or whose owners can no longer care for them. Both of these needs have been on the City's radar for years. I'd like to thank our area's representative, Councilman Dale Miller, as well as all of County Council, for hosting us and considering our request for support.

What Lakewood Means To You

by Laura Jaissle

In celebration of the opening of Lakewood's Cove Community Center and in partnership with SLA Video Productions the Department of Human Services invites you to create a short video message describing "What Lakewood means to you" inspired by music that bridges the generations. Help us showcase the diversity and commonality contained within our hometown!

Make your own video or stop by Cove Community Center during the month of August for one of four separate opportunities to have your experience professionally captured and your video directly entered into the contest!

Each individual video will be edited into a montage and showcased at a premiere event at Cove Community Center.

One lucky winner will receive a \$250 gift card, and a Motown record box set!

Please join us at Cove Community Center (12525 Lake Ave) to have your Lakewood Experience captured between 10AM - 2PM on any of the following days:

Thursday, August 11th

Tuesday, August 16th

Wednesday, August 24th

Monday, August 29th

Would you like to know more? Please visit the promotional website at <https://digital.umusic.com/umg-lakewood-ugc-sweepstakes> to learn more details and participate. The promotion will go live at 12:00 on August 3rd and run through August 30th.

Laura Jaissle has been a Lakewood resident since 2007 and is current Assistant Director of Human Services for the City of Lakewood.



THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
August 12, 2022	August 17, 2022
September 2, 2022	September 7, 2022

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LAKEWOOD HEALTH

Nation's First Smart-Tech Trial-Basis Apartments For People With Developmental Disabilities

by Lynn B. Johnson, MFA

People with developmental disabilities who are ready to live more independently now have an innovative new housing option in Lakewood from the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

(Cuyahoga DD) and North Coast Community Homes (NCCH).

TryTech at the Cranford Apartments in the heart of Lakewood offers a unique opportunity for people with developmental disabilities (DD) to live in a smart

apartment in an integrated building on a short-term lease, to try tools and technology they might want to use in their future daily home life for mealtimes, entertainment, security, wellbeing and self-care, and more.

This trial housing option provides an immersive independent-living experience for people with DD to gain confidence and determine what technology works best for them as they move toward living as independently as they want.

Nationwide, about 76% of adults with Developmental Disabilities live at home; in a quarter of those homes, the family caregiver is older than 60 (Family Caregiver Alliance). Creative housing options like TryTech are vital as the Boomer generation ages and the lifespan of people with DD increases.

Renters can live in a TryTech apartment for several weeks, during and after which their Cuyahoga DD Support Administrators and Assistive Technology staff will assess their needs and determine next steps for achieving the goal of independent living.

"We are extremely proud to launch the TryTech apartments," said Cuyahoga DD Superintendent

and CEO Kelly Petty. "It is a unique opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to experience independent living in an integrated building. TryTech is another step toward our goal of community inclusion for people with DD."

To adapt the four units into safe and comfortable apartments for people with DD – including one accessible unit – Cuyahoga DD turned to North Coast Community Homes, an organization with decades of experience in fulfilling the housing needs of people with disabilities.

"This project aligned with our organizational goal: to serve people with developmental and other disabilities who want to live independently," said Chris West, CEO of North Coast Community Homes. "We are pleased to have shared our experience developing safe and comfortable housing options for people with disabilities, and we hope that TryTech residents lead lives of even greater dignity, self-expression and connection as a result."

For more about TryTech, visit cuyahogabdd.org.

Lynn B. Johnson, MFA is the Communications Administrator for Cuyahoga DD.



Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) Awards Over \$250,000 To Advance Health In Lakewood

continued from page 1

Moreover, HLF places a priority on programs that support low-income single-parent families, children and youth, older adults, and immigrants and refugees.

Funding included awards to:

Lakewood Community Services Center for its Summer Lunch and Enrichment Program that addresses food insecurity during the summer months and creates socialization, education, and recreational opportunities for children.

Emerald Development & Economic Network, EDEN, Inc. (EDEN), to improve resources for and relationships with Lakewood landlords with the goal of increasing affordable housing options for residents experiencing housing insecurity.

Madison Court Community Coalition (MC3), a newly formed organization in Lakewood seeking to address gun violence, community connections, and increase youth engagement through planned community events.

Lakewood Public Library to reinstate Connecting for Kids programming at the Main and Madison

branches.

Additionally, two previous grantees, **Asian Services In Action (ASIA, Inc.)** and the **Legal Aid Society of Cleveland**, were awarded funding to continue their important work supporting Lakewood residents over the next two years.

"These grants are the result of HLF's first open call for applications as we implement our comprehensive grantmaking strategy in 2022," explains HLF's Executive Director Kate Ingersoll. "We are grateful for the range of high-quality proposals that we received and the commitment of each applicant to advancing health in the Lakewood community. We look forward to assessing the impact of this funding and learning from our grant partners about the challenges and opportunities in providing these supports and services in our community."

See the complete list of grant funding awarded on HLF's website.

HLF's next funding opportunity in the Lakewood community opens on August 15.

Kate Ingersoll is the Executive Director of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation.



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

August Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Meet the Author- "Ten Ohio Disasters"

Book by Neil Zurcher

Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Revisit the devastating Xenia tornado, the statewide Blizzard of '78, and an ill-fated group parachute jump over Lake Erie in "Ten Ohio Disasters." Author Neil Zurcher combines firsthand accounts and local lore to showcase the tragic lessons and inspiring examples of heroism in Ohio history. Neil Zurcher is a retired journalist and original host of One Tank Trips on Fox 8. He has won multiple awards for his travel writing and is the author of nine books.

Meet the Author - "A Penny's Thoughts: Sometimes All You Need Is A Change of Perspective"

Book by Tommy O'Sionnach

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Program

What would an inanimate object say if it could speak? An American tapestry is woven daily with the circulation of coins, and the penny is the most prolific yet incredibly underappreciated. In "A Penny's Thoughts," a single copper coin inspires a collection of vivid character vignettes. Tommy O'Sionnach is the pseudonym of Tom Fox, who used his childhood in Lakewood as inspiration for this book. Fox is a social studies teacher in Pennsylvania.

Meet the Author- "Lost Civil War"

Book by Laura DeMarco

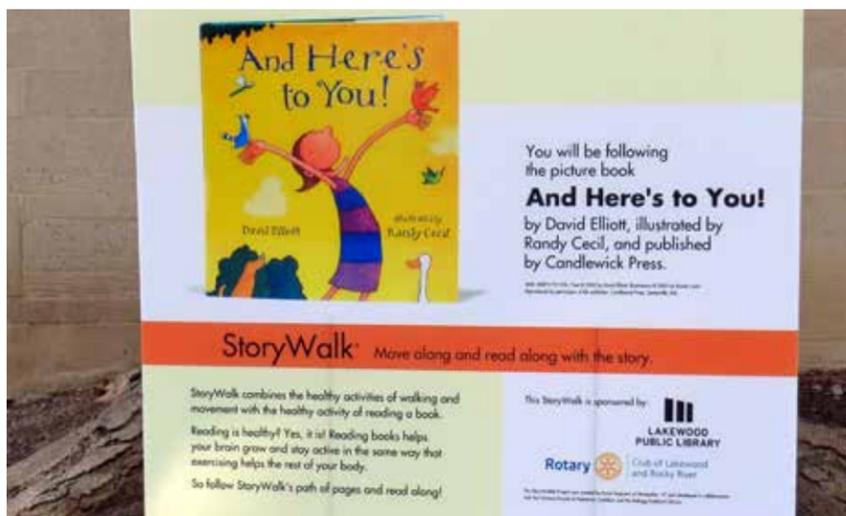
Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

"Lost Civil War" is a unique visual guide to America's war between the states, told through the sites swept aside by development or decay. Local connections including Camp Cleveland are explored as well as the lives of local heroes. This collection is arranged thematically and illustrated with more than 200 vintage photographs. Laura DeMarco is an arts and culture writer and author in Cleveland. She specializes in history, lost landmarks and literature.

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

Rotary Grant Funds Library's StoryWalk



by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River was recognized for awarding Lakewood Public Library a grant for its StoryWalk by Julie Strunk, LPL manager, children's and youth services. The story is located on the west side of the Library on Arthur Avenue.

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Virtual and In-Person Programs - Children's And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert

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.

Main Library- Fridays- 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays- 10:30 a.m.

Madison Branch- Fridays- 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Meet the Authors

Mary Cole Watson Reads Her Book, "Wisdom Warriors"

Cleveland Heights author Mary Cole Watson shares her book, a culmination of more than twenty short stories, to provide wisdom to all who may need it when faced with a crucial conversation. Mary Cole Watson made it her life goal to ensure the next generation of learners understand their designated place in African American heritage.

Jane Gordon Reads Her Book, "The Journey of Max and Midnight"

Based on a true story, Jane Gordon shares the story of two rescued dogs, along with the experience and the love of having a dog. Gordon's story-telling will show the excitement that comes with adopting a dog or cat. She lives in North Olmsted with her two sons.

Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org to view these videos. Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date on library news, programs and events.

Roosevelt Elementary Wins PBIS Recognition Award

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Roosevelt Elementary, which has won an Ohio PBIS Bronze Recognition Award for 2022! PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) refers to a set of ideas and tools that schools use to improve student behavior and school culture. Award winners' PBIS efforts were evaluated in the areas of student expectations, behavior and discipline; teacher expectations; faculty, student and family involvement; and evaluation processes.

Congratulations to the school's PBIS team and the Roosevelt community!

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EDUCATION

Lakewood School District Offers Strong Student Mental Health Support

by Christine Gordillo

As we soon head into another school year, the District wishes to share how over the past several years Lakewood City Schools has worked to grow its existing services that support student mental health and wellness. Access to these supports is available to all our elementary, middle school and high school students.

The passage of the last levy in 2020 has allowed the District to intentionally allocate funds to support student mental health and well being. At the elementary level, the District now has five full-time student wellness specialists that support the social-emotional learning needs of our youngest learners. The District also employs an independent licensed social worker, Tina Karp, to support the mental health needs of students in our district and coordinate services delivered by our community partners. The District also employs an administrator, Dr. Merritt Waters, whose focus is student wellness and who serves as our student wellness coordinator.

All 11 of our schools have school-based mental health services and support through either OhioGuidestone or Bellefaire JCB. The District also has partnerships with Recovery Resources and with the Cleveland Clinic Children's school-based clinic, based at Lakewood High School. Through the LHS clinic, students and families have access to a Cleveland Clinic social worker, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, and a student/patient navigator (partially funded through the Three Arches Foundation).

The navigator helps students and families in crisis, particularly those students transitioning back to school from a mental health hospitalization. Lakewood also partners with the Cleveland Clinic for a mobile unit. The mobile unit team includes a child psychologist and serves the District once a month and travels to various schools.

The District continues to work to grow its multi-tiered systems of support for social-emotional learning (SEL) and wellness. This coming school year, the District student wellness specialists will be trying out a new SEL curriculum at the elementary level. The District continues to train staff in mindfulness practices and offer opportunities for students to engage in restorative practices when they have caused harm to a relationship with a peer or staff member. Available reset options include helping students to develop self regulation skills and tools so they can handle stressful situations in a proactive manner and be more successful in the academic setting. Whether it be general instruction and supports that are available to all students, small group support available for those needing extra help in this area, or the most intensive support services offered, the District is working to ensure that social-emotional learning and wellness are a part of the student experience in Lakewood City Schools. If your child is in need of help this school year, please contact your child's building administrator to learn more about what support may be available.

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GOVERNMENT

Senator Nickie Antonio Joins President Biden In Cleveland For Historic Announcement

by Nickie Antonio

On July 6, I was honored to meet President Biden during his visit to Max S. Hayes High School in the 23rd Senate District. President Biden came to announce the final step in implementing the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance program, which will protect union workers facing cuts to their benefits in multiemployer pension plans.

Before the American Rescue Plan, multiemployer pension plan insolvencies were expected to impact millions of hardworking Americans and their families. Now, with the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance Program, pension plans can apply for assistance to remain solvent through 2051. Not only will this protect workers facing a reduction in benefits, but it will also fully restore pension cuts for more than 80,000 retirees in 18 multi-employer plans across the country.

We were joined at the announcement by U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Representatives Shontel M. Brown and Marcy Kaptur, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, State Representative Michael Skindell, Executive Secretary of the North Shore AFL-CIO Dan O'Malley, Lakewood City Councilmember Tristan Rader, Lakewood Mayor



Meghan George, Judge Terri Jamison, as well as hundreds of union workers and retirees to celebrate this historic success.

During our conversation, I also urged the President to continue fighting to protect America's retirement:

Social Security. I am proud to stand with President Biden as we work to ensure retirement security for generations of American workers to come. America is built by the middle class, and the middle class is built by union workers.



"Sammy the Spruce."

TAEB/LO's Most Distinguished Tree 2022

continued from page 1

3rd place, goes to 2367 Woodward Avenue, another magnificent old shade tree.

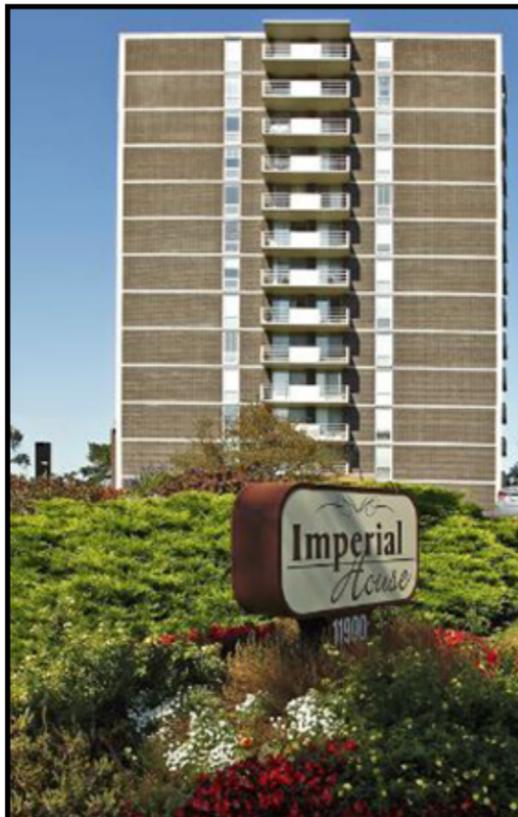
The three randomly selected nominators/voters are:

Sharon Gazdick, Jim Dickens, Marcia Abbadini

Property owners of the winning trees, along with the voting/nominating winners should contact the Lakewood Observer @ 216-339-2531 to claim your prize and arrange a time to drop off.

Thank you to our Sponsors: The Tree Advisory Education Board, Lakewood Garden Center, Lakewood Hardware, Sweet Designs Chocolatiers, Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, and the West End Tavern

A big thank you to all who participated. Keep your eyes up and start thinking about next year's nominees.



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Skills:

- Proven experience as a maintenance technician, high rise building experience preferred
- Basic understanding of electrical, construction, and painting trades
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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS/LIBRARY

LHS History Club Celebrates Its Founder And Members

by Dr. Charles Geanoff

Student community builders are invaluable to any school, and Lakewood High School has many great leaders, classmates, organizers and teammates. They work to learn, get good grades and for other individual achievements, of course, but also think of ways to elevate the educational atmosphere of the school.

An exemplary community builder, the founder of our History Club, Alex Manaa ('18) graduated from Northwestern in June and will be in the Graduate Theatre Writing Program at NYU this fall.

Alex has a legacy that keeps growing: 21-22 was a fabulous year thanks to the energy, creativity and engagement of our students. Upon their initiative, they tackled issues from the cute and light (Dogs vs Cats) to deadly serious (The Ukraine-Russia Conflict). We were hyper local (the "Suburban Experiment") and International (the History of Bangladesh).

Very grateful to all those students who created and delivered powerful presentations for the benefit of our school community—outgoing Presidents Emma Hart and Joshua Mika (pictured), Audrey Carson, Meg Winters, Leah Campbell, Edie Barcelona, Stella Rosen, Rodshi Rahman, Zoey Serna, Beckett Broadwater, Finley Thompson, Anna Maurer and Eva Wischhusen.



Alex Manaa

We are looking forward to another fabulous year. Our mission, crafted mostly by Alex, is as follows: —"The LHS History Club aspires to engage students, staff and the citizens of Lakewood in dialogue about the history of our town, region, nation and world. All presentations are created and delivered collaboratively by teachers and students."

Mission accomplished, but we have great plans for 22-23, including resuming Lakewood Public Library Presentations after a 2-year Covid Hiatus.

Long live Lakewood.

Books, Buses And The Unexpected – Tips For The New School Year

by Tonya Sams

August is here and we will soon hear the ringing of school bells. But preparing for the new year is more than just buying clothes and supplies – it is also about preparing for new situations and challenges students may face at school.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland provides legal help that ensures kids' school success, and wants to offer a few helpful tips:

SPECIAL EDUCATION

If you are concerned that your child is not keeping up with peers, you can ask your school to test your child for special education needs. Make the request in writing and keep a dated copy for yourself. It doesn't matter if the school year is well underway; you can request a special education evaluation at any time.

If it is determined that your child qualifies for special education services, they will receive what is called an individualized education program, or IEP. IEPs outline goals and accommodations that can help your child succeed.

If you and the school disagree regarding your child's placement in special education, you can contact the

Ohio Department of Education to file a complaint or request a mediation to resolve the issue.

TROUBLE IN SCHOOL

If your child is constantly getting into trouble in school, find out if they are having problems with a teacher or other students, or talk to them about trauma that may cause them to act out. You may find that the school can provide resources such as a mental health counselor for your child. You can also request that your child is tested for special education or a functional behavior assessment (FBA). Talk to school officials about these issues.

If your child has been disciplined by suspension, expulsion, or other measures, request documentation from the school.

BULLYING

According to Ohio law, bullying is any repeated, intentional act (either physical, verbal, electronic or written) that causes a student physical or mental harm and creates a hostile, threatening environment.

continued on page 9

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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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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

LaLa Custom Cake Celebrates 6 Years In Lakewood!



by Leah Gourlie

I am excited that LaLa Custom Cake has been creating scratch-made cakes and cupcakes in Lakewood for 6 years! We opened our doors in August of 2016 as a local cake shop known for creating custom flavors and of course as our name suggests, custom cakes. We at LaLa Custom Cake are a scratch shop, meaning just about everything including, batters, buttercream, compotes and fillings are all made in house using some of the techniques I learned in culinary school long ago.

I graduated from Johnson and Wales University in 2003 where I studied Culinary Arts, and specialized in fine dining savory foods. After working in several fine dining restaurants in Cleveland, OH and Santa Barbara, CA, I wanted to leave the fast paced restaurant life for a slower pace but still with a food focus. In an unexpected twist, my career brought me to The Sisters of Saint Joseph convent in Cleveland where I cooked and baked for the sisters there for several years. I used this time to hone baking skills that I didn't use as much in the savory food industry and develop a passion for cakes and desserts. Fast forward a few years, I started LaLa Custom Cake in my home kitchen. During those first months, I would bake and create decadent cupcakes for local farmers markets and elegant cakes for local wedding clients.

After taking a leap of faith, I opened our first brick and mortar shop, LaLa Custom Cake in 2016. Six years later the shop is going strong with a full staff of dedicated, passionate cake lovers who aim to make not only the most delicious cake but to celebrate our clients along the way. Our mission is to celebrate individuals through service, high quality



desserts and artistic designs as they celebrate all of life's ordinary and extraordinary events. We have the privilege of partnering with our clients for their most important life events and we couldn't have picked a better city to start our shop in! LaLa Custom Cake is located on Madison Avenue in a deliciously sweet stretch of Lakewood that includes; Fear's Confections, Malley's Chocolate, Tommy's Pastries and Elmwood Bakery.

I want to give a big thank you to all our wonderful clients throughout the years for allowing us to be a part of celebrating all of your most special events! We hope to continue to be a part of your lives in the years to come.

To celebrate our 6th birthday we will be hosting a "FLAM-azing" party. Our Flamingo themed party will include special deals on cupcakes and cakes, giveaways, a balloon artist, snacks for kids of all ages and of course lots of CAKE! The event will be held Saturday August 13 from 11-3pm.



AUGUST

ARIES:

It's all about you Ram, with Jupiter still in Aries, & in your 1st house, strut your stuff, the Sun is in your 5th house or Romance, light up your fire at the Arts Festival...hmmm.

TAURUS:

Jupiter is in the Bull's 12th, behind the scenes, but the Sun is shining its rays on home/family...whatever you've got cooking, you're keeping your lips zipped, a new recipe?

GEMINI:

The Twins are living their dream, Jupiter in your 11th of social organizations, Sun in the 3rd of your community, time for you to be the social butterfly, & head to the arts festival.

CANCER:

Lady Venus is in the Crab's sign, Jupiter in the 10th of career, & the Sun in the 2nd house of money, keep climbing that ladder of success Crab, look for love on the way up, wink.

LEO:

Lion you are King/Queen this birthday month, Sun/Mercury in Leo, you are shining on all fronts, intellect & personality, share some of your generosity in the area of foreign affairs, travel.

VIRGO:

If you didn't hit that lotto last month, keep trying, Jupiter is still in your 9th house of other's money & the Sun is in the 12th, behind the scenes, keep it a secret, then buy an herb store.

LIBRA:

The Sun's shining on your groups & associations, Jupiter is still bringing lucky stars to your relationships, all you must do now is find the balance between the two, go to the festival.

SCORPIO:

The Sun is in the Scorpion's house of career, Jupiter is still holding out in your house of health, keep all things in moderation, hydrate more, come out of the dark into the Sun.

SAGITTARIUS:

The Sun is shining in your 9th, of higher education & travel, Jupiter is still holding camp in the romance department, head to the arts fest, for a taste of culture, food & art.

CAPRICORN:

The conservative Goat still has lucky beams of Jupiter in your 4th home & family...the Sun has moved into your 8th of other's money, take a chance, buy a lotto ticket.

AQUARIUS:

Jupiter's visiting your 3rd house of community, the Sun is shining on the 8th of others money & transformation, get thee to the festival, mingle & check out the innovative.

PISCES:

The Fish's finances are growing with Jupiter in the 2nd house of money, the Sun is shining on your 6th house of Health, share the wealth, move to a bigger pond, & swim baby swim.

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

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OBSERVATIONS/LETTERS

Where Is The Progressive Commitment To End Homelessness in Lakewood?

by Mike Francis

Many progressive minded communities enjoy patting themselves on the back for holding the correct political views. There is a certain, dare I say, smug, satisfaction in some quarters over the abundance of rainbow flags, Black Lives Matters posters, and other progressive decorations in this city. I have no objection. Having lived in the southern suburbs, I am used to such open and proud displays of political affiliation. In North Royalton and Brunswick, for instance, there is no shortage of blue and red porch lights, blue line flags, MAGA yard signs, and other conservative emblems. However, as a relative newcomer to Lakewood, I must confess that I find most of this self-conscious progressivism to be quite shallow. But it doesn't have to be

that way. People are free to live up to their rhetoric, if they so choose. If Lakewood's progressivism is to amount to more than an exercise in vanity, it must protect human dignity, not surrender it to misery.

Anyone who actually bothers to walk along Detroit Avenue and West 117th Street can't help but notice the increasing numbers of homeless persons. Many, if not most, of these destitute unhoused individuals are African American. Few are the helping hands or acts of compassion extended toward these men and women, many of whom must pass the time on benches or in bus shelters in the intense heat and unforgiving sun of July and August. Yet Black lives are supposed to matter, right?

It's no coincidence that quite a few

businesses have posted "no public restrooms" notices. The Lakewood Public Library prohibits sleeping and bringing in blankets and changes of clothes, according to its patron handbook. As there is no homeless shelter or drop-in center in Lakewood or the western edge of Cleveland, such policies of exclusion have resulted not only in the unavoidable sight of unwashed uncomfortable people (unavoidable yet easily ignored by passers by), but in noxious odors not easily ignored in various spots where the poorest of the poor must relieve themselves. Situations like this don't exactly proclaim social justice.

Yes, there are social services available in Lakewood and Cleveland. Non-profit organizations, however, are usually a last resort, after job loss, eviction, trauma, or family dysfunction have finally beaten down an unfortunate person. Those totally without resources or support may find themselves sleeping on a sidewalk or on church steps. Others with cash will check in to an unpleasant residential hotel. And let's not pretend that "rooming houses" (to put it politely) don't exist in this city. Because they do. I won't mention any names. But those properties are increasing, some under the label of alleged vacation rental services.

Simply put, Lakewood lacks a comprehensive compassionate plan for dealing with homelessness and poverty. Waiting for a heroic politician or elite body of experts to sweep in and solve these problems is pointless, as well as an insult to human dignity. Concerned people must step forward to begin offering help in a comprehensive way. And those institutions already helping must do more.

Residents and visitors may choose to ignore human tragedies, for the time being, but if these problems are left to fester, they won't be ignored economically. Where decency and compassion fall, raw economic self-interest will rise. Middle-class homeowners and major retailers and banks won't remain in neighborhoods or suburbs where socio-economic decay becomes a constant.

If you believe you are a progressive, ask yourself toward what is Lakewood progressing. If you're a conservative, what is this community trying to conserve? Human life and quality of life matter. This is a question of common sense, as well as brotherly love. All the BLM and rainbow decals don't help youth or older people struggling against poverty, insecurity, and uncertainty. It's a hostile world out there. Genuine positive change requires concrete action, not slogans or self-congratulatory symbolism.

Tens Of Thousands Line Up For Rare Whiff Of Death

by Jim O'Bryan

According to the Cleveland's Zoo release the "Corpse Flower" would bloom July 28th, and the fragrance would be like that of death, or a rotting corpse.

The Corpse Flower, *Amorphophallus titanum*, grows to be about 5ft tall with a bulb weighing nearly 100lbs.

It is native to Sumatra where it grows on the jungle floor. For 3-6 years of its life it sprouts one branch-like leaf which is about 20' tall with as many as a hundred off-shoots looking like little leaves in a 16' canopy. They completely fall off each year.

Every 3-6 years the plant grows a single tightly wrapped leaf, about 5 feet tall. For a very short 24-36 hour period, it smells like rotting carcass in an effort to attract flies. At the base is the bulb which also sends up hundreds of male and female flowers. The flies come in and pollinate the flowers which then can create up to 40,000 seed pods. Birds love the juicy seeds, eat them and pass them



It is so wild, it didn't look real. It was like looking at Audrey in the movie "Little Shop of Horrors."

through their system all over the jungle.

Thanks to the Cleveland Zoo, Metro Parks and all the volunteers, you make every visit special.

Books, Buses And The Unexpected – Tips For The New School Year

continued from page 7

Schools are required to allow people to report bullying anonymously. Schools also must protect students from bullying and discipline those students that are bullying others.

You have the right to report bullying to the school and to request an investigation. If an investigation is conducted, you have a right to see the results of that investigation. You can also obtain a lawyer or contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

HOUSING INSECURITY

If you and your child are homeless, federal law states that your child can not be denied their education. Your child has the right to continue

to attend the same school they went to before they became homeless and to receive transportation. They also have the right to transfer to a school that may be closer, enroll in school even if they do not have the proper documentation such as a birth certificate, and a right to continue to receive special education if needed.

If you have issues in any of these areas, Legal Aid may be able to help. Call 888-817-3777 or visit laslev.org/contact for more information. Also, Legal Aid offers free legal clinics in neighborhoods throughout Northeast Ohio. Check Legal Aid's website for an event calendar and visit a clinic with your questions!

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



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner Emma Hart's Winning Essay

by Emma Hart

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

The earth, the climate, the environment, the place every living creature calls their home is in peril. Our seven oceans, coral reefs, land, ozone layer, and our way of life is in jeopardy. We as humans have yet to heed the warnings that the earth has been sending us. The ozone layer has been depleting for years. The oceans have been trashed and are unrecognizable and aren't comparable to what most of us believe them to be. They are no longer iridescent blue pools full of beautiful life and are instead aquatic landfills full of the leftovers of human consumption and waste. These landfills are full of materialistic aspects of life that are no longer housed on dry land in order to let individuals forget this unavoidable problem. The climate crisis is the single most important issue facing all young individuals on this planet today and it



Emma Hart and Mary Warren

is still not being addressed by politicians as it should be.

I propose that Congresspeople that receive contributions or have connections to the fossil fuel indus-

try should be barred from voting on any issues regarding the climate crisis. Yes, this is an extreme solution. An extreme solution, however, is necessary for such a perilous situation that all young people will be facing in fifty years. American politicians are greedier than ever before and this is seen in how many representatives frivolously

vote on climate-related issues. The irresponsibility and overall disregard for younger Americans are blatant when so many politicians refuse to vote for the extreme and drastic measures that are needed to save our planet. By 2070, more than 3 billion people are expected to live in extreme heat which will cost many lives. We need a drastic change. We need young people more than ever before to be able to control their future and this will be done by only allowing unbiased congresspeople to vote on climate-related legislation instead of leaving it to older representatives who will not be on this earth to face the consequences of climate change.

There are many proposed solutions to climate change: walk more, go vegan, don't buy fast fashion, recycle, use a reusable water bottle. Yes, these are all great things the consumer can do to mitigate their carbon footprint, but they fail to do one important thing — put pressure on politicians. If we truly want to save our earth, our oceans, and our coral reefs and, most importantly, save the many lives that will be lost, we must put pressure on those who can make the necessary change that is needed.

Look Inside Lakewood At The 2022 Lakewood House Tour



Look Inside Lakewood At The 2022 Lakewood House Tour

by Sue Finley

Too much time spent looking at your own four walls? The Lakewood Historical Society invites you to discover some of the community's finest architecture during the Lakewood House Tour: Look Inside Lakewood, Sunday, September 11, from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. The eagerly-anticipated event is back after a four-year hiatus.

Eight historic homes provide a glimpse into Lakewood's past with a contemporary twist. These beautiful residences include a one-of-a-kind home in a converted bank building, a property with commanding views of Lake Erie, plus Tudor, Victorian, and Colonial gems. These are the homes you've driven past and wondered what they look like on the inside; now's your chance to find out.

Touring gives you a glimpse into history, where meticulous craftsmanship and quality materials were uncompromising building standards. The featured homes, all of which were chosen by community nominations, were built between 1894 to 1965. While some have had recent additions and

refinements, the owners have maintained their dwellings' architectural integrity, making these residences true showcases of yesteryear.

Can't wait to tour? You can start the House Tour weekend a day early at the Patron Party, Saturday, September 10th. The party will be hosted in a home not featured on Sunday's tour so it's a great opportunity to visit yet another lovely Lakewood residence. Enjoy fine food while you mingle with friends and plan your next day's exploration.

Tickets for the Patron Party are \$85 and include Sunday House Tour tickets.

Tickets to the House Tour are \$30, with sales starting this Saturday at the Lakewood Arts Festival, online at lakewoodhistory.org and at the following Lakewood retailers.

STEM
Avenue Home
Geiger's
Stella & Shay Beauty Bar
The Lakewood Historical Society's
Haber Center (Monday through Friday
from 11:00am-4:00pm)

August 6, 10 AM-6 PM Lakewood Arts Festival Real Art, Real Music, Real Food Saturday

continued from page 1

are really receptive and supportive of my work. For this, I make it one of my very few shows out of Pittsburgh." Additional fine artists include prints by Michael Brabant, paintings by Paul Fletcher and ceramics by Mark Yasenchak. Phillippe Laine from Palm Beach, Florida, a festival favorite, offers one-of-a-kind hand-painted silk fabric. Posch and Gulyas, fine jewelers, hand fabricate original designs from sterling silver sheet and wire, often featuring gemstones, gold, and enamel for color.

Originally founded in 1978 to bring artists to the city for a street festival, in 1981 the Board of the non-profit decided to fund an annual scholarship for Lakewood seniors continuing to art school. After the Festival, the Board will present \$4,000 to the 2022 recipient, Inga Wilhelmy, who will attend the Rhode Island School of Design this fall.

The event also funds grants for arts education and programming in the city. Recent awardees include the

The House Tour committee would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support including: Avenue Home and Cotton, select agents from Lucien Realty/Berkshire Hathaway, Cleveland Home Title, First Federal Lakewood, Geiger's, select agents from Howard Hanna, Troy Bratz/Keller Williams, Rozi's, and Slife Heating and Cooling.



Lakewood High School Photography Club, The Barton Center (senior arts activities), The Beck Center for the Arts (Saturday programs) and Lakewood High School Art, Theater and Photography programs.

Live performance is another aspect of original art to appreciate at this year's fest. Ten performers on two stages include music at the ANDREWS STAGE and CENTER CITY PARK featuring Senegalese drummer Assane M'baye, Luca Mundaca, Chris Allen, Liz Bullock and more. In addition, The Beck Center offers unique arts-based performances and activities for children and adults.

EAT ON THE STREET food court is located in front of Lakewood Library on Detroit and will offer a selection of the region's best food trucks.

LAKEWOOD ALIVE

LakewoodAlive Announces Return Of Spooky Pooch Parade On October 15

by Jacqueline Bon

Get ready for a doggone good time! Spooky Pooch Parade will bring the bark to Madison Park once again. LakewoodAlive's 15th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade takes place on Saturday, October 15, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Madison Park in Lakewood's Birdtown neighborhood.

LakewoodAlive's family-friendly Spooky Pooch Parade consists of a free-to-attend festival at Madison Park, a parade along Madison Avenue and surrounding streets and an awards presentation. A favorite autumn tradition for Northeast Ohio dog lovers, this community festival represents a one-of-a-kind event within the region, providing a tail-wagging good time for canine and human guests alike.

Registration for the parade will open on Wednesday, August 24. Pre-registration is \$10 per dog and day-of registration is \$15 per dog. Multiple dog discounts are available with pre-registration only. Humans are free. This community event takes place rain or shine, and proceeds from the parade benefit LakewoodAlive, a community centered nonprofit organization.



Festivities get underway with the Spooky Pooch Festival beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Madison Park, during which attendees can enjoy entertainment, children's games and dog-related vendors.

The dog parade commences at 2 p.m. Dogs of all shapes and sizes dressed in their finest Halloween fash-

ions will strut their stuff as judges will award prizes including Best Pooch & Child, Best Pooch & Adult, Best Pooch & Group, Spookiest Pooch and Best in Show. Contestants must register and participate in the parade in order to be eligible to win a prize.

"The Spooky Pooch Parade is an autumn tradition in Lakewood that

so many of our neighbors look forward to every year," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "We are thrilled to gather once again at Madison Park for a celebration of canines, costumes and community."

For more information, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/SpookyPooch.

The following sponsors generously support the 15th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade:

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

Back On The Streets Of Lakewood After Pandemic Pause

by Jeremy Wise

Jehovah's Witnesses Resume Public Ministry Two Years After Going Virtual

If you happen to be walking through City Center Park in Lakewood, OH, you may notice that a pre-pandemic fixture is back on the sidewalks: smiling faces standing next to colorful carts featuring a positive message and free Bible-based literature.

Thousands of these carts will be rolling down the streets of communities like Lakewood across the world as Jehovah's Witnesses recommence their global public preaching work some 24 months after putting it on pause due to the pandemic.

Public Information – Jehovah's Witnesses 1 For more information, call (718) 560-5600

"We are so happy to be back in our Public Ministry!" said Brad Parsons, local spokesperson for Ohio. "While we never stopped reaching out to people through phone calls and letters, nothing compares to seeing and talking to people



in person. That's the reason it has been our hallmark for more than 100 years."

While the organization is not yet back to knocking on doors, local congregations have also resumed free in-person Bible studies along with personal visits to those who have invited them back to their homes.

"While we understand that the pandemic is not over, we are entering into a phase of learning to live with COVID," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses. "We are sensitive to the risks that still face our communities and our volun-

teers, which is why we will not resume door-to-door ministry at this time."

Mobile displays of Bible-based literature have been part of Jehovah's Witnesses' public ministry in the U.S. since 2011. While "cart witnessing" began in large metropolitan areas around the world, the practice quickly spread to the tens of thousands of smaller communities, becoming a fixture in rail and bus stations, airports, harbors and main streets.

To learn more about Jehovah's Witnesses, their history, beliefs and activities, visit their official website jw.org, featuring content in more than 1,000 languages.

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The Back Page

LAKEWOODITES ROB MASEK

THEY ARRIVED LATE AT NIGHT,
WHEN LAKEWOOD LEAST
SUSPECTED THE INVASION.

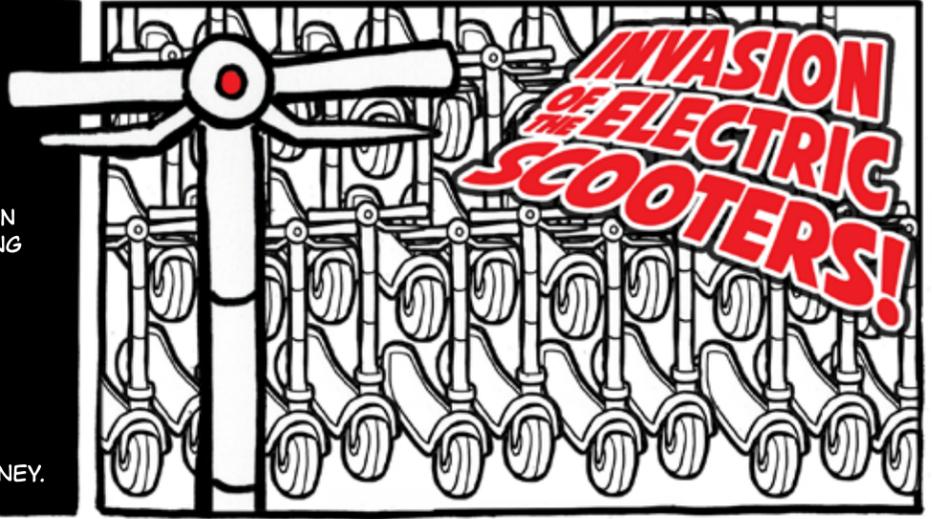
ONE DAY THEY
WEREN'T THERE.

THE NEXT DAY THEY
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WAITING TO
TAKE THEIR MONEY.



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