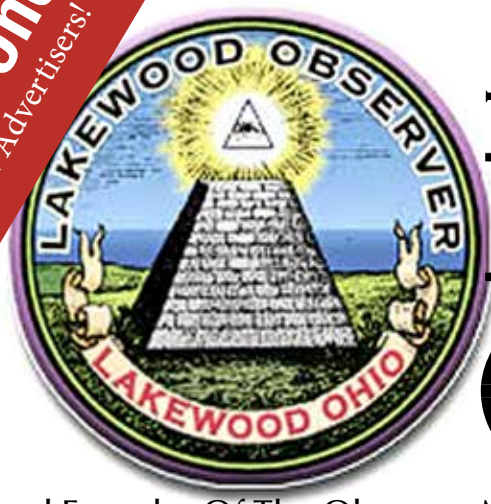


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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 18, Issue 17, September 21, 2022

LO's Halloween House Decorating Contest  
YOU CAN WIN! See Page 4

## Spirit Parade Set For Sept. 30

by Christine Gordillo

The annual Lakewood High School Homecoming Weekend Spirit Parade will take place this year on Friday, September 30. The parade steps off from Lakewood Park at 5:30 pm and winds its way up to the high school via Belle, Clifton and Bunts. Come out and cheer on all our Ranger sports teams and clubs then stay and watch the Homecoming Court announcement and Ranger football game. Kickoff versus Parma is 7 pm. GO RANGERS!

## Lakewood Public Schools District Strategic Plan Unveiled

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools in early 2022 embarked on a process to develop a three-year strategic plan that will be the District's roadmap for the years ahead. In partnership with The Impact Group, the District gathered input from approximately 1,600 stakeholders including Board of Education members, families, students, business leaders, nonprofit leaders and the greater Lakewood community. The input was gathered through virtual and in-person focus groups, one-on-one conversations and an electronic survey.

Through the process of listening to our stakeholders, themes emerged that helped the District focus its plan on seven goals and objectives as

outlined below:

**Academic Achievement and Technology**  
**Climate, Culture and Wellness**  
**Communications**  
**Human Resources and Business Operations**  
**Curriculum & Professional Development**  
**Extracurriculars - Athletics, Arts and more**  
**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

District officials believe these goals reflect the core values of the Lakewood City Schools and are accompanied by actionable objectives that will inform all District decisions moving forward. An administrative director has been assigned to each goal and will be responsible for reporting progress on each

goal monthly. You can view the specific objectives and the overall plan on the District website under the Find It Fast button on the homepage.

Together, with the District's Vision of a Lakewood Graduate and the new strategic plan, Lakewood City Schools will continue to build on its legacy of excellence.

## Karen Lee, Super Volunteer Is Honored By Lakewood City Schools



Recognition to uber volunteer Karen Lee. Karen has spearheaded the Supplies 4 Success drive for more than a decade and in the process has collected tens of thousands of supplies from our community. She has also served on many levy committees, PTAs, the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation Board of Trustees, and much more throughout the community. Karen, we are ever grateful for your work and dedication to the Lakewood City Schools!



First hoses being hooked up.

## “FIRE Showing”

by Jim O'Bryan

The call went out Saturday morning around 9:45 am, “Fire Showing westside of 1480 Warren Road.”

Within minutes Lakewood Fire Department was there, getting people out and hoses

ready and more importantly on the fire.

While the Fire Department was attending the fire in the back, others were getting people out.

continued on page 7

## Lakewood High School Boasts Five National Merit Scholars

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School seniors Tyler DiLoreto, James Holland, and Madeline Oldfield have been named Semifinalists in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition. This designation recognizes Tyler, James, and Madeline as among the top students in the nation. LHS also can boast two Commended Students, seniors Alexander Peterson and Lila Wright.

Lakewood High School seniors Tyler DiLoreto, James Holland, and Madeline Oldfield have been named Semifinalists in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition. This designation recognizes Tyler, James, and Madeline as among the top students in the nation. LHS also can boast two Commended Students, seniors Alexander Peterson and Lila Wright.

Based on their PSAT score from the 2022-2022 school year, Tyler, James, and Madeline join the group of 16,000 Semifinalists across the country. These academic standouts rose to the top of more than 1.6 million students who took the PSAT. Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U.S. high school



From left: Commended Student Lila Wright, Semifinalists Jamie Holland, Maddie Oldfield, Tyler DiLoreto and Commended Student Alex Peterson.

seniors and are the highest scoring entrants in their state. Semifinalists are designated on a state-representational basis. The number of Semifinalists named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors.

Tyler, James, and Madeline are now eligible to continue on in the competition in hopes of being named a Finalist and receiving one of more than 7,500 scholarships worth nearly \$30 million to be awarded in the spring.

More than 15,000 of the 16,000 nationwide Semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. Commended Students are among the top 5% of PSAT scorers. Although Alexander and Lila do not move on in the scholarship competition, we recognize them as among the best students in the state.

Congratulations to these five academic superstars!

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

New Tools For Keeping Our Properties Maintained

by Mayor Meghan George

Lakewood is known for how much effort we put into ensuring that the quality of our homes and buildings are maintained. Our Division of Building and Housing takes the lead on this important work, which is essential to keeping people safe and to keeping our city an attractive place to live. We think proactive action is key in this effort, and we at City Hall are in constant conversation on how to stay one step ahead on ensuring the quality of Lakewood’s buildings.

A helpful tool over time for assessing and improving the quality of housing in Lakewood has been the regular housing survey performed by our city inspectors. The success of this program and our focus on continuous improvement has led us to create a new commercial survey program that the City will pilot this fall and then roll out in full in 2023.

Our building and housing team visually inspects the exterior condition of over 12,000 homes on a three-year rotating basis, but we also have over

1,500 commercial structures within our borders. Prior to this year, there was never a formal survey process to assess the condition of those commercial buildings. In the next 30 days, our inspectors will begin this effort with a limited survey in Lakewood’s downtown district, rating the exterior conditions of buildings on a 1-to-4 point scale. A score of 1 means the building has no exterior code violations, while a 4 is “significant disrepair” with multiple major violations.

Once the external surveys are complete, Building and Housing will follow up with corrections notices for buildings rated 3 or 4, with a time frame for completion included. Buildings with serious violations on the exterior may require interior inspections to ensure safety. Our overarching goals in this effort are to protect the public, maintain the quality of buildings in our city, and help building owners understand

and meet expectations. While there are occasions where more serious action has to take place with building owners, the City’s approach is to be firm in our expectations and to make sure the building code is adhered to, we also do our best to assist and guide our owners, most of whom are high quality Lakewood stakeholders.

So, if you see one of our city team outside a commercial building in the future, it is very likely that they are involved in the survey process. (You will also see them outside your home at least once every three years for the residential survey process). The results of the survey will be uploaded to our online GIS system that shows conditions of properties in Lakewood. This has been a helpful tool in analyzing the

overall state of our buildings over time. Earlier this year, the team at City Hall also developed a new ordinance that requires owners of buildings over four stories tall and more than 30 years old (as well as owners of parking structures) to have a structural engineer regularly issue an expert report on building conditions. This legislation was another proactive effort by the City of Lakewood to make sure commercial buildings are kept in safe condition.


We love our historic character in Lakewood, but we also realize that as buildings age, there is an even greater need to be focused on maintenance. We are excited to leverage both this new legislation and our new commercial building survey to keep our commercial buildings in top shape, our citizens safe, and our city a beautiful place to live, work, and visit.



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Upcoming Submission Deadline

Publish Date

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October 5, 2022

October 14, 2022

October 19, 2022

[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

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# Trampolines can be dangerous: Consider other outdoor activities.



**Ernest Young, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic  
Lakewood Family Health Center, Richard E. Jacobs Health Center and Middleburg Heights Orthopaedics

Trampolines may seem like a fun way to get exercise, but statistics show that nearly 100,000 trampoline injuries occur in children every year.

“Trampolines and children can be a dangerous combination, causing injuries ranging from broken bones and fractures to sprains and strains, head and neck injuries and even concussions,” says Ernest Young, MD, a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, Richard E. Jacobs Health Center at Richard E. Jacobs Campus, and Middleburg Heights Orthopaedics.

Studies show that small children are 14 times more likely to get hurt, and three-quarters of injuries occur when multiple kids are jumping at one time. Botched somersaults and flips often lead to permanent cervical spine injuries.

As a result, the American Academy of Pediatrics suggests trampolines should never be used unless athletes are being supervised in training for a sport like diving or gymnastics.

“Although jumping on a trampoline is physical exercise, there are much safer forms of outdoor activity. Encourage your kids to play catch, take a hike or go on a bike ride – but wear a helmet,” says Dr. Young.

If you already have a trampoline and want to keep using it, Dr. Young suggests following these safety rules:

- Allow only one person to jump at a time.
- Make sure the springs are covered.
- Install a safety net around the perimeter of the trampoline.
- Ensure the trampoline is set on level ground.
- Avoid somersaults or flips.
- Always provide adult supervision.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Young or another Cleveland Clinic pediatric orthopaedic specialist, call **216.444.2606**.

# New pulmonary specialist in Lakewood.



**Sumir Pandit, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic  
Lakewood Family Health Center

Sumir Pandit, MD, is seeing patients at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Pandit, call **216.444.6503**.

## Sleep Health 101

### A Virtual Event

Thursday, Oct. 13  
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Having trouble sleeping, but not sure if there’s a quick fix or it’s a more serious health issue? Specialists from Cleveland Clinic will share their expertise and answer your questions on sleep health, including:

- What happens to your body when you sleep?
- How much sleep do you really need for optimal health?
- Why can sleep apnea cause abnormal heart rhythms?
- Which type of sleep test and treatment for snoring may be right for you?
- Do you have tips for improving sleep hygiene?

To register for this **FREE** virtual event, visit **ClevelandClinic.org/AskTheExperts**.

Questions?  
Email [wellnessevent@ccf.org](mailto:wellnessevent@ccf.org).

## Health With-In Reach: A health and resource fair

Saturday, Oct. 22 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Taussig Cancer Center, 10201 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland

- A variety of health and wellness services will be provided, including:
- Blood pressure screening.
  - Colonoscopy.
  - Eye exams.
  - HPV vaccines.
  - Mammogram screening.
  - Pap/pelvic exams for HPV screening.
  - Prostate cancer screening.
  - Resource information on a variety of topics including healthy cooking/eating and tobacco cessation.
  - More services and vendors on site.

Registration is required for screening exams.  
Call **216.444.7505** to register or ask questions.



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee  
Knit & Lit Book Club

October 18, 2022    The Bee and The Fly by Lorraine Tosiello and Jane Cavolina  
Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress.

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Meeting Room

Booked for Murder Book Club

October 20, 2022    The Company of Demons by Michael Jordan  
If you share a passion for mystery, join the group each month to discuss your favorites and selections made by group members.

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Meeting Room

Meet the Author

“Celebrating Our Past - Creating Our Future: 90 Years of Creating Arts Experiences at Beck Center for the Arts”

Book by Lucinda Einhouse

As one of the largest performing arts and education centers in Northeast Ohio, Beck Center for the Arts has a rich tradition of arts experiences. Founded in 1933 as the Lakewood Little Theatre, generations of performers have gotten their start at Beck Center. Lucinda (Cindy) Einhouse is the president and CEO of Beck Center for the Arts and has been a member of the Cleveland arts community for over forty years. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Meet the Author

“Pottery Town Blues: Short Stories”

Book by Karen Kotrba

In Pottery Town Blues, life along the Ohio River is told through the perspective of characters who exist at the intersection of Appalachia and the Rust Belt. The citizens struggle to make and remake their lives, experiencing success and loss along the way. Karen Kotrba is a writing instructor at Baldwin-Wallace University and a recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence award for fiction. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Presentation - Getting Students Involved in History

Presentation by Mary Manning, PhD

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Lakewood Observer’s Legendary Halloween House Contest

by Jim O’Bryan

Starting October 1, the LO will be accepting nominations for the best Halloween House in Lakewood. We will be asking people to submit the address of their favorites in our “Question of the Day” section on our website.

We will then sort it all out and go to voting, which will continue up until October 31. The votes will be tabulated, and we will give out some prizes.

As always you can count on our group of advertisers to come up with some great prizes. If you already won an LO contest in the last year, you can still enter. Prizes will be awarded to 2 nominators, 2 voters, and the top five houses.

YOU CAN WIN!

Children’s And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert  
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.

Homework Help

For Students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

Students who need a little extra help with homework or just want a cool place to work can come to the Library for Homework Help to get assistance and to use the Library’s resources in a quiet place free of distractions. Students can use their library card to check out a Chrome Book to use in the Library and have access to a variety of school supplies including pencils, pens, crayons, markers, calculators, protractors, and more. In addition, students with Eureka Math™ homework will find grade level Homework Helpers workbooks, companion guides to Eureka Math™. A library staff member is on hand and available to assist with everything from spelling words to solving math problems. No registration is required.

August – May

Monday through Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Main Library Homework Room and Madison Branch

Adapted Story Time

For You and You and Your 3-to-7-Year Old Child.

In this story time, children with varying learning styles and abilities will learn with their caregivers in a safe, supportive environment, where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged. This thirty-minute story time is designed for children who may not be flourishing in a traditional story time experience. Story time will be followed by a time for socialization. Siblings may also attend. Please register each child who will attend. Registration is required. Register online at <https://connectingforkids.org/library>.

Saturday, September 24, 2022 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Main Library Toddler Story Time Room

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LAKEWOOD SPORTS

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up: Girls Soccer

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

**GIRLS' SOCCER**  
**Lakewood vs Buckeye 9/16/22**  
Just when you thought the Lakewood Girls had maxed out on thrilling victories, they outdid themselves with a come from behind 3-2 win over Buckeye. When Mallory Zavatchen blasted a penalty kick into the upper left corner of the net with six minutes remaining, Lakewood took their first lead, which they refused to give up. The Rangers killed the last 6 minutes with stifling defense and once again sent their faithful home happy and exhilarated. This back and forth battle saw the Bucks lead twice (1-0, 2-1), only to be answered by great individual effort goals by Helen Fraunfelder and Nettie Doren.  
The game was closely contested, although the Rangers had more good chances and possessed the ball in Buckeye territory quite a bit. The strong, physical Buckeye team was not as fast as Lakewood, making for an interesting matchup. Also, Buckeye dominated Lakewood 5-0 last year, which makes this years triumph all the more impressive. In this great team effort, the three goal scorers had strong games, as did a host of other Rangers, including Sarah McGinley, Luella Darr and Riley Forster.



These girls—every one-- played with great heart tonight. Long Live Lakewood.  
**Lakewood vs Fairview 9/14/22**  
For Ranger Soccer fans, a beautiful September night was almost smudged by a determined Fairview squad, but in the end, early 2nd half goals by Annette Doren and Rosie Lipka lifted Lakewood to a 2-1 come from behind victory. After being stifled by a staunch Warrior defense in the 1st half, the Rangers came out with high energy, and tallied 2 goals in the first five minutes. From then on, the solid goaltending of Lauren Barber and strong team defense, led by Clare Morrissey, kept Fairview off the board. In a solid team effort, Ava Carroll, Mallory Zavatchen and Helen Fraunfelder made multiple strong runs and kept up the pressure throughout the second half.  
*Great job by both community based teams tonight. Long Live Lakewood.*

Lakewood Rangers Fall in "Battle of the Bridge"

**by Mike Deneen**  
The Lakewood football team fell 38-12 to Rocky River on Friday night at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. River senior running back Johnny Bebie had three touchdowns to lead the Pirate victory. The Pirates reclaimed the “Battle of the Bridge” trophy after losing it to the Rangers 21-14 in 2021.  
The Pirates used some special teams trickery to get an early lead. Their initial drive stalled at midfield, resulting in a 4th and 7 play. They lined up to punt, but instead senior Mack Massad ran for a first down. Rocky River then drove down the field, scoring its first touchdown on a one yard run by junior quarterback Julian Patti with 7:18 left in the first quarter. Massad’s extra point made the score 7-0 Rocky River.  
After an exchange of interceptions, River extended the lead. Bebie scored on the first play of the second quarter, carrying the ball 15 yards for a rushing touchdown. Massad’s conversion made the score 14-0. Lakewood responded on the next drive, going 68 yards for a touchdown. Junior quarterback Alex Symons completed a key 35 yard pass to sophomore Jaylen Chappell on a third down. Symons capped the drive with a 14 yard TD pass to senior Nick

Patsouras. The score was 14-6 with 7:59 remaining in the first half.  
Bebie struck again late in the first half, running 23 yards for a touchdown with 3:33 remaining on the clock. That stretched the lead to 21-6 in favor of the Pirates. River added a late Massad field goal to make it 24-6 at the half-time break.  
Lakewood received the second half kickoff and held the ball for six minutes on its opening drive. However, they failed to score and punted back to River. Bebie struck again on the Pirates first offensive play, running 72 yards for his third touchdown. Massad added the extra point to make it 31-6.  
The Pirates added another touchdown in the final minute of the third quarter to make it 38-6. This set the OHSAA “running clock” rule into motion. The Rangers scored on the final play of the game, as Symons ran for a one yard touchdown when the clock expired. That made the final score 38-12.  
Lakewood (2-2 on the season) returns to action next Thursday at Byers Field against Normandy. The Invaders, 3-1 this year, defeated Fairview 42-7 on Thursday night at home. Kickoff is scheduled for 7pm.

LHS Special Olympics Flag Football Team



We are so proud of our Special Olympics flag football team!  
First game of the season! Come see them play at home the morning of Sept. 21.  
#LKWDRocks

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Regional Orchestra qualifiers, front row (l-r): Jill King (alternate for All-State), Lydia Kress (All-State qualifier), Madeline Oldfield, Margot King; back row (l-r): Willow Detmar, Jaden Mills, Jaxson Riley, Bryce Sandoval, Bode Smith. (Eileen Brady was absent.)

# Ten LHS Musicians Earn Regional Orchestra Spot

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the 10 Lakewood High musicians chosen to be part of the Ohio Music Educators Association’s Northeast Ohio Regional Orchestra and an additional congrats to senior violinist Lydia Kress on being selected for the All-State Orchestra! Students must qualify for the Regional Orchestra to be eligible for a spot with the All-State Orchestra. Jill King earned alternate status for the All-State ensemble.

The 10 LHS musicians will perform with the Regional ensemble on Nov. 3 at EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall in Akron. The All-State ensemble performs at the OMEA annual confer-

ence, which will be held in Columbus in early February.

**Northeast Regional Orchestra qualifiers:**

- Eileen Brady - violin
- Willow Detmar - bass
- Jill King - cello
- Margot King - violin
- Lydia Kress - viola
- Jaden Mills - bass
- Madeline Oldfield - viola
- Jaxson Riley - cello
- Bryce Sandoval - cello
- Bode Smith - violin

Congratulations to these talented and dedicated students!

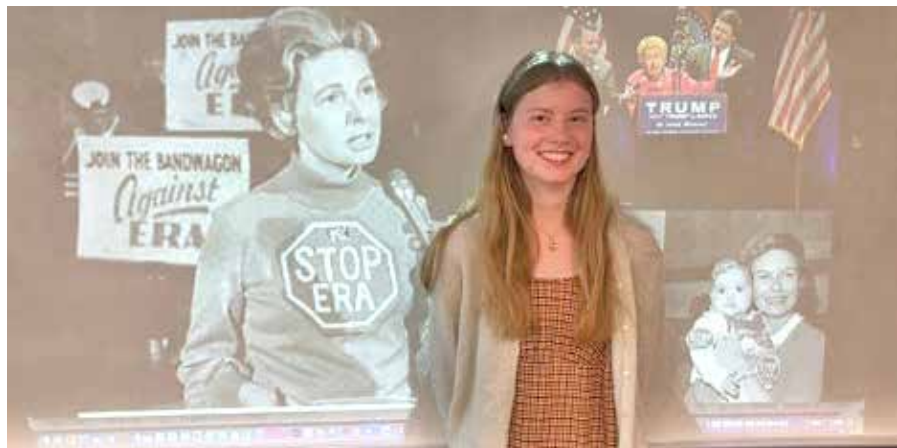
# Baby Bargain Bonanza Set For September 24

Join the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA for Baby Bargain Bonanza on Saturday September 24 at Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave. Shop gently used clothes and toys for kids, handmade goods, coffee and a bake sale. Early Admission is at 8:30 am for \$5. Regular Admission at 9:30 am is only \$1!

Check out our HUGE big item room.

Additional parking is available behind the school.

To learn about volunteer opportunities or to reserve a table please visit: <https://www.lecpta.com/bbb>



# History Club

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

LHS junior Leah Campbell delivered a well researched, highly informative presentation on anti-ERA conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly today. She also baked bread for the occasion.

Our History Club is off to a strong start! Leah did a great job explor-

ing Schlafly's background/education and ideology, as well as the powerful influence she had on the conservative movement. Beyond that, Leah placed Schlafly's ascent and influence within the broader historical context of the 60's and 70's.

We learned a lot from Leah today. Long Live Lakewood.

Lakewood Community Recreation And Education Department

Basketball registration for boys and girls grades 1-6

High school intramural league

Winter sports registration begins October 3rd

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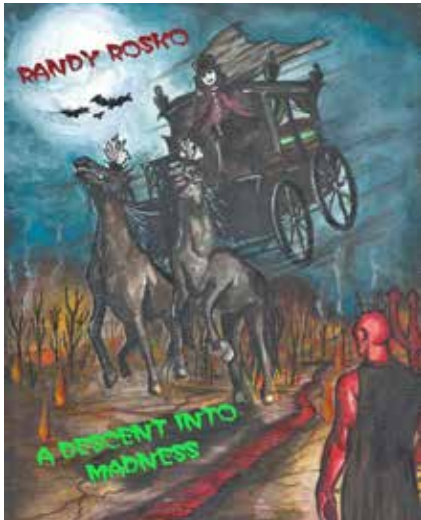
OBSERVATIONS

Review Of R. Rosko’s  
“A Descent Into Madness”

by Wayne Covert

A Descent into Madness is a new book by Randy Rosko. Rosko, also known as The Goth God, was a fixture on Lakewood’s 1990s Goth Scene. He used The Chamber nightclub as one of the filming locations for his 2009-award winning movie, "Revival of Darkness."

Mr. Rosko’s book really does live up to its name: "A Descent into Madness." As I read it, I felt as if I was a prisoner in this insane and help-less little realm which the author has so cleverly created. Some of Rosko’s thoughts and ideas are just so bizarre and twisted that the work is truly frightening and downright disturbing ... until you pinch yourself and realize that it is not real ... Or is it? In a way, the story reminded me of Dante’s



"Inferno" and long, tortuous journeys through the abyss. That is where similarities end. Rosko’s journey is more unsettling. For one, in this tale, the reader is lost; this is the most fearsome state of all. Also, unlike "Inferno," Rosko’s story abounds with sick humor.

Mr. Rosko has a unique gift for describing to his readers his inner demons, fears, frustrations, hopes and loves. Most importantly, Rosko has a need for his dear reader’s friendship. For me the big question is why Mr. Rosko is so obsessed with that magical red liquid that is the very essence of the life force. No, he couldn’t be one of those!

Like the great Mark Twain, Rosko dislikes the human race and blames it for the world’s problems, woes and miseries. Furthermore Rosko would like nothing more than to see the human race self-destruct. Words of wisdom my man! Is this guy a genius or what?!

Lastly, I really liked Rosko’s dark and diabolical sense of humor. He has invented something called blood art. In this creative endeavor, grade school kids fingerpaint in blood. Then their parents proudly hang their progeny’s art on the refrigerator with a magnet! Rosko takes it even further: with blood sports! (I thought they already had that in Ancient Rome.) And the prize? Well, all the blood the winner can drink ... of course! Isn’t this guy a hoot!? I’ll say it again: No he couldn’t be! Shhh!

Wayne Covert is a historic car enthusiast who has always called Northeast Ohio home. He also likes music of the 1960s.



“FIRE Showing”

continued from page 1

At one point two 11-year-olds called saying they were stuck there. The LFD took them off the balcony.

Before leaving, the girls placed a towel against the bottom of the door. Because of that, they were reunited with their pets. Others in the building were not as lucky.

Only three people were taken to the hospital, all for not life-threatening injuries.

As you can see by the photo, it could have been much worse. But fast thinking from all involved, and fast action from Lakewood Fire and Police Departments, made a bad day better.



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Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$4.00

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

# LAKEWOOD CARES



## City of Lakewood H2O "Help to Others" Volunteering With Love

**by Emmie Hutchison**

H2O students and staff were eager to start the new school year with service. So it was with gratitude that we received a request from Lakewood volunteer and fierce advocate for the homeless, Bob Shores. His young neighbors had assembled bags of personal necessities to donate to people living unhoused. Bob has a deep care and respect for every person and wanted the donations to be delivered with personal messages. So, H2O assembled a great crew of high school volunteers!

The volunteers created the cards by putting a pre-printed message on the front and adding a hand-written sentiment on the inside. We suggested simple messages, something to convey care and compassion. What they created, however, were powerful and compassionate pieces of writing. They had really thought about the people who would receive the cards and made heartfelt connections.

**Here are some examples:**

"I'm writing this note to express some love and positivity to you and hopefully make your day a little brighter! Please enjoy this bag and note and remember that there will always be someone out there who loves and cares for you!"

"I hope that you find the kind of home where your heart beats happily and receive the help that you deserve. Many have struggled to feel comfort within our homes, neighborhoods, and cities...Know that you aren't alone."

"I hope you're having a blessed day! Never give up and be you! Just know you always have a meaning on

this earth and you are not alone. I hope this card brings light to your day or even everyday."

"We hope you have a great day! We send kindness, love, and peace to you. We send blessings to you as well. Remember to never give up. You are important!"

Bob shared with H2O participants stories about his volunteer experience, working with various organizations doing direct outreach to people experiencing homelessness. He told them that the personal care kits are more than a practical donation; they are a way to build trust and connection and to open conversations. They can lead to understanding the barriers to finding shelter, such as mental health issues, trauma, and addiction. Seen in that light, the high school volunteers recognized that they were part of a chain of outreach, a larger effort to connect with and support some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

We really appreciate Bob Shores for bridging H2O volunteers to the care and advocacy for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. We met Bob when he joined our Summer Service Camp pool of volunteers, helping campers prepare Clothing Drive the past couple of years. He has enriched our volunteers' experiences and been a valuable part of providing service learning for youth in Lakewood.

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

## Putting Down Roots And Thriving In Lakewood: The Life Story Of Sammy The Spruce

**by David Parsons**

Sammy the Spruce was born in Canada, but he's spent most of his life here in Lakewood as a legal permanent resident.

Years ago, when our whole family was in Canada, our daughter came home one day with a moist twig in a plastic baggie, with long skinny roots growing out of it. It was Earth Day, and she planned to get it started as her contribution toward saving the planet. He was named Sammy the Spruce. We put him into a small flowerpot full of dirt, the roots took hold and he hasn't stopped growing since, moving into larger pots as the years went by.

There came a time when we decided to move, and start a new life in the USA. We had some family ties in the Cleveland area, and when we looked around, the peaceful tree-lined streets of Lakewood looked welcoming and wonderful. We packed most of our possessions in a gigantic rental truck. My best friend and I did our best to cram everything in efficiently, but according to my wife, the inside of the truck looked like the inside of our garage does now: tightly packed and very disorganized.

My friend had volunteered to drive our car, and Sammy sat in a little clay pot on the back seat. I still bless the border guard who asked me a few questions and sent me on my way. I think I'd probably still be there in the parking lot if he had demanded that I lift up the door and unpack the truck. He



also looked into the car.. and noticed Sammy, trying hard to look innocent. "That's a houseplant, right?" "Yeah!" I said in a squeaky voice, and we were free to go.

We rented for our first years in Lakewood, and Sammy had no choice but to stay potted. But we eventually found our dream home on Chase Avenue, and we didn't feel any concern about planting him permanently, his traveling days were over.

Twenty six years after our move here, we have all put down roots, and we have been thriving in this wonderful community.

*Thanks to everyone who voted for Sammy.*

## Expanding The Scooter Program from New Release

Cuyahoga County, in coordination with the City of Cleveland, NOACA, Bike Cleveland, and a number of partner cities throughout the region, is looking to expand the existing network of public bicycles and scooters to reach a broader community of users. As part of this effort, the county & partners have identified locations for bike and scooter "rebalancing hubs" (or parking locations) that are intended to host & organize scooters and e-bikes when not in use.

This month, the county is seeking public comment. Residents can use an interactive map to explore existing

and proposed locations for rebalancing stations and provide feedback and comments. Residents can zoom in to find locations of interest to them, click on a location to access additional information, then click "provide feedback" to share feedback on a specific location. Residents can also provide general feedback directly on the website. Public comment will be open until Friday, September 30th. Locations and recommendations will then be reviewed by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) prior to final consideration for implementation in 2023. *For more info, visit <http://ow.ly/BxgR50KJaRy>.*

## Letter To The Editor

### Invasion Of The Electric Scooters

I always enjoy Rob Masek's comics in The Lakewood Observer, but the recent one (Vol. 18, Issue 15) was especially apropos.

Those electric scooters and bikes are left everywhere and have become "eye pollution." They certainly are not used properly but left in the sidewalk, on people's yards and have become useless clutter. If the idea was to save using a motor vehicle to cut gasoline exhaust, they have instead created an unsightly mess, not to mention they are a hazard to traffic when used on the street. The scooters start out in a nicely designed parking spot. Who will pick them up when left around town? Perhaps someone will conduct a survey to validate their use against the cost of cleaning up unnecessary "eye" pollution and clutter on our Lakewood streets. --

Susan Althea Jarzen

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Friends Of Madison Park  
Launches Sporting Goods Library

by Matt Bixenstine

Friends of Madison Park proudly announces the opening of the Madison Park Little Free Locker Room. This community resource, inspired by our city’s numerous Little Free Libraries, is intended to offer any park visitor the opportunity to borrow or contribute sporting goods equipment while enjoying recreation within Madison Park.

The Madison Park Little Free Locker Room features a selection of sporting goods available for use by any park visitor on a first-come, first-served basis. Current items available in the Locker Room include sports balls (soccer, basketball, volleyball and football), frisbees, wiffle ball supplies, sidewalk chalk and more. An air pump for balls and bikes is also available onsite.

This sporting goods library is located in the center of our park along the eastern fence of the futsal courts near the historic skate house. It will remain open through the end of November, then resume operation next spring.



Friends of Madison Park's 'Little Free Locker Room' is now open for public use.

“We are excited to offer the Madison Park Little Free Locker Room as a unique amenity to improve access to recreational opportunities in our park,” said Matt Bixenstine, president of Friends of Madison Park. “Madison

Park is beloved by countless members of our community and serves a population from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. It’s our hope the Locker Room will enhance opportunities for play and enjoyment for any and all

park-goers. This project has been in the works since last winter, and we are grateful for support from our partners at the City of Lakewood and The Lakewood Foundation for helping us to bring this vision to fruition.”

Park visitors are encouraged to make use of items from the Locker Room and return them once done. Donations of new or gently-used sporting goods can also be left onsite by community members. Friends of Madison Park will monitor the Locker Room and replenish inventory as needed. A ‘rules for use’ sign is posted on the fence next to the Locker Room.

Friends of Madison Park thanks our board members and the following individuals for helping to make the Locker Room a reality: Matt Clark, JP Ptacek, Sam Paynter, Steve Evanko, Michael Purdy, Roman Ducu and Kurt Matej.

*Matt Bixenstine enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his bas-set hound through Madison Park.*

Letter To The Editor:  
It's Past Time For Lakewood To Partially Mitigate  
Its Error In Tearing Down Lakewood Hospital

by Edward Graham

In 2015 Lakewood citizens had the benefit of an excellent full-service hospital operating in the area of Lakewood often referred to by government officials as Lakewood’s downtown. In those days, if a person had a serious accident, or a heart attack, or a stroke, our excellent EMS could bring that patient to our city’s hospital for emergency medical care in a very few minutes, with no need for further transporting.

Unfortunately, in 2015, the then mayor Michael Summers and the then city council members Mary Louise Madigan,

Thomas Bullock, Ryan Nowlin, Cindy Marx, David Anderson, Sam O’Leary and Shawn Juris wrongfully entered into an agreement terminating the City’s contract with the Cleveland Clinic requiring the Clinic to operate that hospital until 2026 as a full-service facility.

Part of Mayor Summers’ bogus claims to justify closing an excellent full-service hospital a decade before its contract with the Clinic was over was his claim that citizens would still have an emergency department at the same location.

While the medical office build-

ing the Cleveland Clinic constructed at Belle and Detroit has a sign saying Emergency, too many people seeking emergency care there are told that they can’t be taken care of at that facility and that they needed to go to a hospital that can actually provide the required care.

When ambulances bring patients to the Belle Avenue “Emergency” facility, they don’t wait to see if the patient might need to go to a hospital. They simply deliver the patient and leave. Some patients who arrive expecting to be treated at that “Emergency” facility wind up getting instructed by medical

personnel that that facility doesn’t have what is needed to provide required care and that they should take an ambulance and go to a hospital. Being told by medical personnel that they can’t be helped at the “Emergency” facility to which they were taken does not help the trauma being experienced by the patient.

More trauma is experienced when patients get the bill for the second ambulances. Some ambulances

Read the rest of this article online at:  
**LakewoodObserver.vom**

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# LAKEWOOD CARES



## The Tastiest Coffee And Crepes In Lakewood

by Pebbles Brown

I always appreciate a good coffee shop. The strong coffee smell, tasty desserts, and the cozy atmosphere always make it an excellent place to unwind and enjoy your day. I recently found a cute little coffee shop called Brewella's and it serves the best coffee and crepes in town. The enchanting vintage space (or should this say eclectic aesthetic space) and delicious coffee make Brewella's the place to go!

### Coffee and Snacks

There is nothing better than sipping on your coffee while enjoying a soft, authentic French crepe. At Brewella's, they serve plenty of unique coffees that fit the seasons. For instance, they have Merry Maple Latte during the winter, which is flavored with maple, and cinnamon. I had iced coffee with vanilla syrup, a second one with hazelnut, and since fall is near I decided to try the pumpkin pie crepe and the iced Jack-o-latte drink with oat milk. With just one sip, you can appreciate the whimsical autumn vibes in these seasonal menu items.

### Atmosphere

When it comes to coffee shops,

the atmosphere is a major part of the experience. It sets the tone for how relaxed you are and how long you will stay. Brewella's Coffee, Crepes, and Collectables has a wonderfully inviting atmosphere that makes you want to cozy up on the sofa and enjoy the day. The antique store vibes give it a sense of familiarity that can be comforting. The shop also always works diligently to remain seasonally relevant, and the decorations often reflect the upcoming holidays.

### Overall Impression

All in all, Brewella's is a great place for coffee lovers, readers, writers, and anyone with a sweet tooth. You can stop by for a quick coffee or spend a few hours getting inspiration from the décor and enjoying the atmosphere. I give it 5 stars!

*Pebbles Brown is a foodie who is excited to share the things that interest her the most: Culture and Food. She hopes that as you follow along with her journey, she will spark your excitement and help you nurture your own passions and projects, whether that be food and culture, or something else.*

## Portrait Quilts On Display At The Quilting Bee

by Suzanne Bednarchik

The Quilting Bee's windows are decorated with one-of-a-kind portrait quilts by fiber artist Joanna Ellis. Joanna's quilts have been featured in numerous publications, including the most recent edition of Quilting Arts Magazine. Her creations have been displayed at several quilt shows, including the prestigious Houston International Quilt show. Two of her recent pieces – "Fascination" and "First Bite of Summer" - will be exhibited in Houston this November.

Joanna, a member of the Lakewood High School Class of '67, currently resides in Parma. Her fiber art journey began with needle and bobbin lace, weaving, and spinning. She discovered art quilts

after creating her first quilt – a tumbling block pattern – in 2015. Her art quilt subjects include people and animals.

You can meet the artist on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 10 a.m. at The Quilting Bee, 15709 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. Joanna will discuss her creative process, share some additional art pieces, and answer your questions. Call 216-712-6579 to reserve a spot – space is limited. Please consider a donation at the door – which will be given to Turtle Survival Alliance, one of Joanna's favorite charities.

Joanna's quilts will be on display in The Quilting Bee's windows until September 30, 2022.

*Suzanne Bednarchik is the owner of The Quilting Bee and a Lakewood resident.*



## Letter to the Editor: Every Vote Counts!

Every vote counts! In the August Observer, Jack Weigand wrote, VOTE, VOTE, VOTE. Terri Kern wisely warned in her Letter to the Editor in Chief not to rely on biased TV ads and candidate and political party websites dictating what laws are going to be. Cindy Marx in her article spoke of the integrity of the Board of Elections making sure of an honest vote and tally and the valor of the League of Women Voters who set up "imitation voting booths" at the Lakewood Arts Festival to educate non-voters how to vote.

My immigrant parents instilled in me the importance of voting. I've voted in every election since I turned 18 including the 61 years living in Lakewood. I served as Executive Secretary of the Young Dems when John F. Kennedy ran for president and later organized the Democratic Women's Council with activists Jane Spock and Shirley Stokes. For years, I served as precinct committee woman and continue my membership in the Lakewood Democratic Club.

VOTE, it's your BREAD and Butter. Unfortunately our civics classes have failed to instill our youths with the truth that our freedoms depend on those we elect to office. Leadership in Columbus with restricted rights against the freedom of women to choose has made us partners with South Carolina and Alabama. Polling of Ohioans shows that the public does not agree with these restricted laws. Your VOTE will agree or disagree. It's also an obligation to speak your voice.

Before you cast your vote, however, educate yourself by reading both the Democratic and Republican platforms on the internet. The candidate you choose represents the party principals. Then, VOTE as Jack, Terri, Cindy urge. I also urge that you CONSIDER RUNNING FOR OFFICE. Start locally as I did. Run for precinct committee person and commit yourself to responsible citizenship. Then expand to others your enthusiasm to be a voter.

*Stephanie Gordon is a Dyslexia Specialist and diagnostician and Owner of Dyslexia Services in the INA Building 1973-2020. She has been a Lakewood resident since 1961.*

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LAKEWOODALIVE

# 13th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk To Delight Taste Buds On October 27

by Jacqueline Bon

Get ready to rejoice, chocolate lovers! A delectable evening awaits when the 13th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk takes place on Thursday, October 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. in Downtown Lakewood.

The Chocolate Walk – hosted by LakewoodAlive and the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA) – represents a popular autumn tradition with a devout following of chocolate fans from all over Northeast Ohio. Participants visit 25 shops and eateries in Downtown Lakewood that are Sweet Stops on the Chocolate Walk. Chocolate is the happiness you can eat and each Sweet Stop provides visitors a unique chocolate treat. Limited to 350 attendees, this much-anticipated event will sell out very quickly.

**Ticket Sales:**  
When: Tuesday, October 4 at 10 a.m.  
**Where:** LakewoodAlive.org/ChocolateWalk

**What:** 50 VIP tickets will be sold for \$75 each and 300 General Admission tickets will be sold for \$40 each during the ticket sale starting at 10 a.m. on October 4. Please note that there is a purchasing limit of four tickets per person, and that the Chocolate Walk is for adults, ages 21 and older.

The VIP ticket option exists for those seeking to elevate the joy of this chocolate experience. Hosted at Rozi's Wine House, the Pre-Walk VIP Reception – limited to only 50 lucky attendees – takes place from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at Rozi's Winehouse in Downtown Lakewood (14900 Detroit Avenue), where guests will sample decadent treats, as well as appetizers, wine and beer. VIP tickets will only be available for purchase online starting at 10



a.m. on October 4.

“After a yearlong hiatus, we are excited to be back in-person for this popular Lakewood event,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “We hope you can join us for a memorable evening that showcases Lakewood’s amazing small

businesses with proceeds supporting the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance and LakewoodAlive.”

Thank you to our title sponsor, First Federal Lakewood for their support and helping to make this event a huge success. We will be releasing more information regarding the Lakewood Chocolate Walk taking place October 27 in the coming weeks. For updates, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/ChocolateWalk](http://LakewoodAlive.org/ChocolateWalk).

**Title Sponsor:**  
First Federal Lakewood

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

## Civil Protection Orders Can Help Keep Domestic Violence Survivors Safe

by Tonya Sams

Survivors of domestic violence may need to take extra precautions after leaving their abuser.

Filing a civil protection order (CPO) is one way that you can protect yourself. A CPO can be filed with the Domestic Relations Court or Common Pleas Court. You can do this on your own (called pro se) or with the help of an attorney.

When the CPO petition is filed by the victim of abuse (petitioner), the court will hold a hearing the same day. This first hearing is called an “ex parte,” and during this time you will discuss the most recent incidents of abuse. Only the petitioner takes part in this hearing; the abuser is not there. The court then determines if the request for a CPO will be granted.

After the first hearing, another

hearing will be scheduled within seven to ten court days. This hearing is called a “full hearing.” The abuser will be notified by the court to attend the hearing.

The petitioner (you) must bring all related documentation such as police reports and medical records documenting treatment related to the abuse. You should also bring copies of records of previous domestic violence or violent crime convictions that involve the abuser. Any witnesses to the abuse should also come to the hearing.

If the abuser opposes the CPO or fails to appear for the full hearing, the court will listen to the testimony of those who are present and then determine if a CPO should be granted for a period of up to five years.

If the CPO is granted, you may (and should!) request several certified copies of the CPO from the Clerk of Courts free of charge. It is recommended that you carry a copy of this order with you at all times.

If your abuser violates the order, find a safe place to go and then call the police. Be sure to show the police a certified copy of the CPO. Also, be sure to notify a victim advocate or attorney.

Violating a CPO could result in court supervision, community service, jail time, probation, or counseling. When a CPO is granted, the abuser could lose visitation rights to see their children and may have to pay support to the victim and children. If a vehicle is involved, they may be ordered to give it to the victim to use. They may also be ordered to attend counselling for substance abuse, anger management or batterer’s counseling. If they still reside in the same home as the victim, they can be ordered to leave the residence.

More information is available in Legal Aid’s “Domestic Violence” brochure. The brochure is available at: Domestic Violence – Legal Aid Society of Cleveland ([laslev.org](http://laslev.org))

If you are a victim of domestic violence, Legal Aid may be able to help. A Legal Aid attorney can help people file civil protection orders against their abusers as well as direct them to community resources to help them escape those abusive relationships. Call 888-817-3777 or visit [laslev.org](http://laslev.org) for contact for more information.

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

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