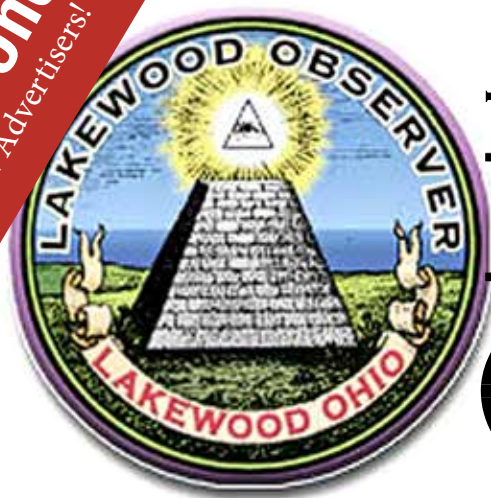


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City Of Lakewood Halloween Trick -or-Treating
October 31st between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 18, Issue 20, October 19, 2022



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Edward Scissorpaws - Catherine Krzywicki, Dogs: Chase and ZsaZsa won Best in Show in this year's Spooky Pooch Parade put on by Lakewood Alive. Look on pages 12 - 13 to see more of our fellow Spooky Pooches, and follow the link to see all the dogs and a video of the parade!

Many Bright Spots In District Report Card

by Christine Gordillo

At the Lakewood Board of Education meeting Monday, Oct. 3, Director of Teaching and Learning Steven Ast shared the District's results on the most recent Ohio Report Card, which was released in mid September and included a new format. Gone are the letter grades and in its place is a five-star rating system.

Ast was proud to report that the District earned five

stars in the Gap Closing category. The Gap Closing component measures how well school districts are meeting performance expectations for their most vulnerable students in English language arts, math and graduation. The District earned four stars in the Achievement and Progress categories, which indicates that

continued on pages 6

Susan's Garden Dedicated At The Lakewood Family YMCA



photo by Jim O'Bryan

by Richard Batyko

The Lakewood Family YMCA is now an even more beautiful location. On September 18, 2022, a group of over 50 family and friends dedicated Susan's Garden at the branch. The garden was

created to honor the memory of Susan Conway Grimberg and her husband, Bill. Susan, who passed away in 2021, was an active member and steadfast volunteer at the Lakewood Y. She was instrumental in raising funds to build the new

Lakewood facility in 2006 and was fondly remembered at the dedication, which was celebrated on what would have been her 73rd birthday.

The new green space will

continued on page 7



Firefighter Recognition Ceremony...

An Amazing Story of Heroism

by Jim O'Bryan

On October 9th the City of Lakewood, Lakewood Fire Department and Lakewood City Schools kicked off Fire Prevention Week. The events include chances for the students and residents to meet and interact with our Fire Department while learning practical fire safety like, "It's time to check your smoke detector's battery," "Fire pit safety," and "What to do in case of a fire."

There is also the awarding of the prestigious title of Lakewood Junior Fire Chief, where students are encouraged to write essays about fire safety. This year's winner, Ainsley Tracey, also read her essay at the annual Firefighter Recognition Ceremony.

This ceremony brings the community together to recognize retirees: Assistant Chief James Bennett, Captain Peter Hempfling, Firefighter Paul Jeske, Firefighter Jeff Kantorak,

Firefighter John Polha, Paramedic Mary Sidell; remember those deceased: Richard Given; meet the new recruits; and hand out promotions; Assistant Chief Nicholas Sambula, Captain Christian Flores, Captain Josh Erdani.

This year's recruits include:

Firefighter/Paramedic Ian Murray, Firefighter/Paramedic Cullen Marvin, Firefighter/Paramedic Kenneth Reeb,

continued on page 8



photos by Jim O'Bryan

Captain Joe Marvin, pinning his son, Firefighter/Paramedic Cullen Marvin



Safety Director Mayor Meghan George awards Jorge A. Ragghianti the first City of Lakewood Public Safety Civilian Act of Valor Award, while Police Chief Kevin Kaucke salutes, and Fire Chief Tim Dunphy looks on.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

A week later, everyone into the fire! Firefighter training continues at the facilities in Parma, all firefighters learning to work together and trust each other. The city of Lakewood Fire Department has been bringing in some great new talent, as we lose some real stars to retirement.

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Tree City U.S.A.

There are many things that make Lakewood special, but one of my personal favorites – and something many of you often talk to me about – is our wonderful tree canopy. For a city as dense and developed as ours, we also have a spectacular amount and diversity of trees within Lakewood. Our trees add beauty and make our city more inviting, but they also keep our air clean, keep Lakewood cooler on hot days, and address stormwater and weather events. They are truly an immense asset to us all.

With this in mind, I have made it a priority at City Hall to focus on the continued health and future growth of Lakewood’s tree canopy. Our Forestry Division has a Tree Action Plan that is regularly updated to allow us to act swiftly to leverage opportunities for new trees while addressing threats to our existing trees. This year, we also strategically staffed the Forestry Division to increase our capacity to care for the more than 13,000 trees in our parks and on our treelawns.

One of our current areas of focus is ensuring that the tree presence in our

parks is maintained and expanded. You can see this at Madison Park, where four mature trees were planted recently. The goal is for these trees to grow to large scale and provide a century or more of value to the community.

Of particular importance presently are our efforts at Lakewood Park, where our annual inspection showed that a

number of our mature trees around the Kids Cove playground were damaged years ago during construction and some must be removed. In partnership with our staff and experts, I have made it a priority to replace those trees with mature trees that will grow to the same stature. Our experts tell us that most of the trees around Kids Cove should be able to survive the damage they suffered years ago with the proper care – things like root invigoration treatment and

by Mayor Meghan George

careful pruning of dead limbs. Rest assured, we are making the investment in these remedial measures.

Our tree plan does not just focus on parks or treelawns. We know that our homeowners have a large role to play too, and we have a program in place where you can have a tree (or trees!) professionally planted in your

Division of Forestry at 216-529-6810. Our tree plan aspires to meet (and hopefully exceed) a recommended canopy coverage of 33% in the next 12 years. We need your help to achieve this important goal.

A big thank you also goes out to our Tree Advisory and Education Board. This group is charged with collaborating with City of Lakewood officials regarding urban tree policies and practices, promoting our tree programs and educating residents on responsible tree stewardship and the benefits of tree planting on private property. Their guidance has been invaluable as we continue to update and adjust our tree plan to meet the changing needs of Lakewood’s trees.

Lakewood is proud to have held a Tree City USA designation for over four decades. Working together, let’s keep that moniker and build on our tradition as a city that loves, cares for, and enjoys our beautiful trees.

Lakewood is proud to have held
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for over four decades.

yard each spring by a professional at below market cost. Our contracted professionals use ODNR Division of Forestry and Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association approved methods, and all trees come with a one-year warranty. I encourage any of you interested in this opportunity to reach out to the



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*Carol Barrett is the owner of Carol
Lynn's Salon Plus. Carol is the founding
member of Uptown Lakewood's Busi-
ness Alliance, established in 2007.*

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

November Events At
Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Meet the Author - "In the Heart of it All: An Unvarnished Account of My Life in Public Service"

Book by Richard F. Celeste
Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium
Please join us as former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste visits his hometown of Lakewood for a special Meet the Author program. "In the Heart of It All: An Unvarnished Account of My Life in Public Service," recounts his remarkable journey from humble beginnings in northeast Ohio to Yale, Oxford, Washington DC, India, the Ohio Governor's Residence, and beyond. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.



Former Governor Richard F. Celeste

Knit & Lit Book Club

November 15, 2022
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Meeting Room
Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress.

Booked for Murder Book Club
"The Foundling" by Ann Leary

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Meeting Room
If you share a passion for mystery, join the group each month to discuss your favorites and selections made by group members.

The Spellman Files by Lisa Lutz

Meet the Author - "Twin Seabees in Vietnam"
Book by Gary Romes

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
In 1968, Gary Romes and his twin brother Terry headed off to Vietnam for nine months as part of the Seabees-Naval Construction Battalions. Twin Seabees in Vietnam is their story, captured through pictures, daily diaries and written transcripts. Their post-Vietnam lives are impacted by disability and exposure to Agent Orange as a result of their time in the service. Local author Gary Romes is a retired educator. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Presentation- Civil War Sites of Cleveland
Presentation by Paul Siedel

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
Many sites in Cleveland bear witness to Cleveland's involvement in the Civil War. They range from St. John's Church in Ohio City and Camp Cleveland in

Tremont, to Woodland Cemetery on the East Side. Paul Siedel is a member of three area Civil War Round Tables and serves as a trustee of Woodland Cemetery, the final resting place of many of Cleveland's Civil War figures. This program is presented in partnership with the Lakewood Historical Society.

Meet the Author- "Because I Could Not Stop For Death"
Book by Amanda Flower

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
Emily Dickinson and her housemaid, Willa Noble, realize there is nothing poetic about murder. What begins as tenuous employment turns to friendship as the reclusive poet takes Willa under her wing. Amanda Flower is a USA Today best-selling and Agatha Award-winning author of over thirty-five mystery novels. In addition to being a writer, she was a librarian for fifteen years. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Children's And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Sunflower Garden for Ukraine

Mondays through Thursdays, October 10, 2022 through November 17, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Children's Program Room

For you and your pre-school child. Sunflowers are a Ukrainian symbol of peace. Help the Library grow a paper sunflower garden as a visual tribute to Ukrainian people. Create one sunflower craft for the Library's sunflower garden and one to take home. A different sunflower craft will be offered each week. No registration is required.

Sunflower Scavenger Hunt: For All Ages

October 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022
Main Library and Madison Branch
Sunflowers have long been a beloved symbol of Ukraine and now are a symbol of peace throughout the world. Learn interesting facts about this beautiful flower as you find pictures of sunflowers placed throughout the Main Library and Madison Branch. Submit your completed scavenger hunt form to enter a drawing for a prize. No registration is required.

Jim Kleefeld's Spooky Magic Show

Friday, October 21, 2022 / 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Main Library Multipurpose Room
For the Whole Family This spooky show is fun for all ages and not too scary. Experience lots of comedy and magic. You will see Jim help out a goofy Frankenstein when he loses his head and a skeleton come apart inside a closet. You'll see a funny ghost flit from room to room while Jim tries to find him and another one magically change color from white to green to pink! There's even some helpful Halloween safety tips about not trick-or-treating at strangers' houses and carrying a flashlight for safety. Of course, in typical Jim Kleefeld fashion, the stranger's house and the flashlight both act very magical to add some fun to the message. No registration is required.

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SPORTS



Dr. G's Ranger Round Up

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Volleyball

October 4, 2022
Rangers vs Normandy

The Lakewood Ranger Volleyball team wrote a wonderful story tonight, authored by 8 seniors who hit, dug, clawed and scratched their way to a hard fought 4-set win over a stubborn Normandy squad. Tied at 20 in set 4, senior Setter/Captain Sophie Boyer deftly redirected a miss hit over the net and turned a sure Normandy point to one for the Rangers. For all the kills and digs, this was perhaps the most vital play of the match. The Invaders had won set 3 decisively and were riding a wave of momentum. A nerve-racking set five was looming, but Sophie and company finally put an end to that. This story—a tight win over a good opponent-- actually followed the classic senior night script, and it takes no poetic license to say that every senior played a vital role tonight.

Senior Libero Helen Hylton (one of the best in school history) had a fantastic match, even by her lofty standards. Senior Maddie Kratz served up a storm (especially at key rimes) and was solid in the back row. Senior Calyn Smith was, as usual, rock solid in the front row, with numerous blocks and kills. Senior co-captain Jacquie Hudak served well and was likewise strong in the back row. Senior Bella Burnett had numerous kills and brought her strong all-around game to the New East Gym. Senior Elliot Snyder brought energy, athleticism (she made a spectacular play in set 1) and

was a force in the front row. Senior Madelyn Sorge did everything well—serve, kill and dig. And senior Setter Sophie Boyer never left the floor and was the glue that kept it all together. In a night dominated by the class of 2023, others chipped in. Calyn's sister sophomore Layla also played a fine game, as did junior Emily Potoczak. The Ranger student section showed in large numbers, bringing energy and enthusiasm. (School spirit has not been higher in my 16 years as a teacher at LHS). The Lakewood parents were as always on hand to support their students and all of the Rangers. This was a great team win by the players, coaches and parents. The magic that Bella, Sophie, Maddy, Maddie, Jacquie, Calyn, Elliot and Helen produced tonight all started when no one was watching—during summer workouts, conditioning, weight-lifting sessions and in hour after hour of practice. It starred when parents invested time and money, driving their kids to games, tryout and practices—to give their child a chance to pursue a passion, to play a sport they so clearly love. As for me, I get reap the benefits of all this hard work, to see them win with pride and lose with grace. I've had most of them in class, and without exception all have made a positive contribution. The Invaders did their part tonight—nothing came easy for the Rangers. The outcome was favorable and quite welcome, but it was really beside the point. Tonights story was a celebration of 8 fabulous student athletes, their parents, and our community. It was about flow-

ers, memories, loyalty, friendship and love. The Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town, that gives all they have. Long Live Lakewood.

Girls' Soccer

October 11, 2022
Lakewood vs. Midview

On a gorgeous fall evening at our iconic Garfield Stadium--In front of a loud and proud student section--the Lakewood Girls Soccer team delivered for themselves and their many loyal fans a 3-1 come from behind win over a physical Midview squad. After having been bottled up in their own end for much of the first half, Senior Nette

Doren—a great finisher—took a perfect pass from freshman Willow Trapp and converted it into the tying goal with just over 5 minutes remaining.

The second half saw the Rangers turn the tables on the Middies with a dominating performance, and when Doren again beat the Middies goalie, Lakewood took a lead they would never relinquish. It was still in doubt and the tension built as the game winded down, but then senior Rose Lipka put a poetic exclamation point on the game

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

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Class Of 2023 Hosting Community Cup Challenge

by Matt Kocur
Class of 2023 Adviser
Lakewood, come out and watch the first ever Community Challenge! It'll be a fun night on October 22 when two basketball games will be played. All the proceeds of the event will go toward the Class of 2023's prom.

Game 1 is our community team featuring Mayor George and Superintendent Niedzwiecki, along with some other notable community members. The Community Team will take on our high school staff featuring varsity basketball Coach Cammock, athletic director Rob Slone, LHS principal Joy Morgan, and many more. Game 2 features our middle school staff including Harding's Teri Knapp and Matt Kocur

and Garfield's Larry Holmes, Ben Branco and Dan McWilliams playing. The middle school staffers will face off against the elementary team, including principals Brenda Budzar of Lincoln, Eric Fortuna of Hayes and Denice Leddy of Emerson.

Outside of the fun basketball games going on in the LHS gym, the cafeteria will be the host site for a club/community showcase. High school clubs and select businesses will be displaying what their club/business has to offer. Come out and support your team! The doors open at 5pm. The first game tips off at 6pm and the second game will tip off at 7. Get your tickets ahead of time by going to www.payschool-sevents.com/events/details/21961.

Junior's Art Chosen For State Exhibition

by Christine Gordillo
The artwork of Lakewood High junior Olive Diemert has been selected



to hang in the Vern Riffe Center for Government Affairs in Columbus as part of the two-year long Ohio House of Representatives High School Student Art Exhibit.

The exhibit features exemplary visual art created by high school students from across Ohio. One piece of art is selected for each of the Ohio House of Representatives' 99 districts. The exhibit is on display until June 2024. Congratulations to Olive and her teacher, Arline Olear!

Many Bright Spots In District Report Card

continued from page 1

our students are exceeding the state standards in these areas and that they are making more than a year's worth of progress in their learning. In the final two rated components - Early Literacy and Graduation Rate, the District earned three stars. This indicates that the District is meeting the state

standard set for these categories.

It's a fact that the disruption that the pandemic caused in education resulted in learning loss for many students, including Lakewood students. The Report Card results indicate that the many interventions and enrichment programs the District instituted over the last school year and summer have helped it make good progress in

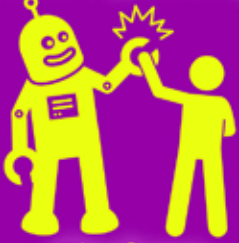
restoring that loss, although numbers are not quite back to pre-pandemic levels of achievement yet.

While the state Report Card data helps give the schools a clearer picture of where students stand in relation to meeting state standards, the data is just one piece of a larger picture that Lakewood City Schools is striving to achieve. The District believes that its Vision of a Lakewood Graduate and its Vision of a Lakewood Educator are the best guidepost for providing students what they need to develop into successful and engaged citizens.

Lakewood Community Recreation And Education Department

Youth Classes Starting in Early November









Adult Classes

Caregiver Children & Their Elder Parents – \$15 November 8th

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How to Avoid Nursing Home Poverty – \$15 November 29th

Introduction to Reiki – \$40 November 30th

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood Women's Club:
2022 Women Honoring Women

by Torey Worron

Art + Music was the theme for this year's Lakewood Women's Club's "Women Honoring Women" Celebration that took place at Vosh on September 22nd. We were so pleased with the pieces of art, photography, jewelry, arts & crafts, as well as art experiences that were donated by a number of women artists from within the Lakewood community for our auction.

All money raised from the silent auction and raffle will go towards our 2023 scholarship program awarded annually to a female student graduating from high school and pursuing additional education.

A special shout out to the artists that contributed to our celebration: Christal Keener from Crystal Moon Designs, Barbara Balogh from Women Who Roared, Amy Sedlak, Autumn Sabin, Arline Olear from Lakewood City Schools Art Department, Kristin



Women Honoring Women Honorees & Nominees. Left to Right: Sarah Rintamaki, Emily Christescu, Casey Lewis, Nichole Dzurko, Lizz Maxwell, Julie Warren, Sara Kass, Laura Webb, Sarah Kepple. Not pictured: Maureen Koopman.

Cliffel Ceramics, Carla DePhillips from Carlannichole designs by babe, Ashley Callahan from Ashley in Avon Photography, Ranin Abdelrazel from Magical Designs, Liz Maugans from The Yards Project, Grace Fayen: Artist, Linda Nincheff: Art Therapist, Amy Schnupp from Beth Bags, Bonnie O App from Bonoappart, Mickey Mencin from Idea-

marks Art, Mary Breiner: Photography, Jessica Hofffa from Gemi Creations, Nina Ripich: Artist & Joanne Burns from Weaving Supply & Studio.

In addition, we were pleased to have Lakewood's own Tracy Marie as our MC and musical talent. Tracy is a singer songwriter and veteran of the Cleveland music scene.

Our gratitude goes out to Michael Dolatowski, owner of Lion and Blue who has created the beautiful signature Butterfly pins for our award recipients over the last 4 years.

And last but not least a high five to The Lakewood Garden Center for supplying the flowers for our centerpieces.

As they say, it takes a village and that's certainly what we have in our community of Lakewood.

In attendance and part of the cer-

emonial celebration was State Senator Nickie J. Antonio who represents District 23, which includes Lakewood and Mayor Meghan George, a third generation Lakewood resident and Heidi Murray, our 2019 Community Leader honoree.

Our celebration and fundraiser recognizes a Women Community Leader and a Women Business Leader. Our selection committee is composed of current members, past presidents, and community leaders. As they reviewed the nominees, they realized that Community Leaders may be running a Business and a Business Leader is deeply involved in the Community. So even though we had 2 categories for this year's event it needs to be highlighted how much all of these women are contributing to this community on so many different levels. We thank

The Community Leader nominee is a woman that has demonstrated excellence in leadership through her deep local understanding and outstanding initiative. She consistently advances community-driven, innovative, and sustainable solutions to the region's most pressing challenges, and service to either one organization or a variety of volunteer activities.

The Community Leader nominees were: Emily Christescu Secretary of Lakewood Animal Safety and Advisory

continued on page 14

Susan's Garden Dedication



continued from page 1

be utilized for YMCA programming such as yoga, youth development classes, and family engagement. Susan's family hopes to see an active garden that enables members to enjoy the peaceful setting and energize spirit, mind, and body. "We are grateful to the Conway and Grimberg families and all donors for their support of Susan's Garden and the YMCA of Greater Cleveland," said Joe Cerny, VP of Branch Operations who oversees the Lakewood branch. "We are thrilled to continue Susan and Bill's legacy through this wonderful gift."



Sue and Bill Grimberg, thank you for everything, you are missed and loved.

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FIREFIGHTER RECOGNITION 2022



You could hear a pin drop as Lakewood’s Junior Fire Chief 2022 read her essay.



Asst Chief Nick Sambula



Captain Christian Flores



Captain John Catani



Captain Josh Erdani



Firefighter/Paramedic Ian Murray



Firefighter/Paramedic Cullen Marvin



Firefighter/Paramedic Kenneth Reeb



Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Kovacs



Firefighter/Paramedic Cameron Green



Firefighter/Paramedic Jared Yocabet



Firefighter/Paramedic Michael O’Connell



Fire Chief Dunphy thanks Jorge Ragghianti.

continued from page 1

Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Kovacs, Firefighter/Paramedic Cameron Green, Firefighter/Paramedic Jared Yocabet, Firefighter/Paramedic Michael O’Connell

The Mertitorious Service Award went to Captain Josh Erdani.

This year the City of Lakewood, Lakewood Police and Fire introduced The Division of Public Safety Civilian Act of Valour Award. This year’s winner was Jorge A. Ragghianti .

On September 18, 2022, Jorge notice smoke coming from a car parked behind Rise Dispensary on Madison. As he walked over to check

it out, the car erupted in flames. It was at this time Jorge became aware that a child was in the car. He tried to get him out and couldn’t, the doors were locked. He then ran to his car and got his tire iron. Running back to the car, now engulfed in flames, he broke out the window and got a boy out. He then became aware of a second child in the

car and went to the other side, breaking out the window and pulling the second child to safety. At that point he made sure they were safely away, then collapsed. As Fire Chief Dunphy said to me after the event. “I love my guys and the tremendous job they do for the city. But if Jorge had not been there, those kids would be dead today.”

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Junior Fire Chief 2022 - Ainsley Tracey

Each year to kick off Fire Prevention Week, the Lakewood Fire Department asks Lakewood students to submit an essay on fire safety. The prize? Becoming Junior Fire Chief, and a ride around Lakewood in a fire truck.

This year Ainsley Tracey, a 5th grader at Horace Mann Middle School won the award, trophy, title and ride!

Here is Ainsley's Winning Essay...

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. Oh no! It's time to go! Do you have a plan? You should. Since fire safety week is here and you don't want to be the only one without a plan because "FIRE WON'T WAIT. PLAN YOUR ESCAPE". There is no time to cut corners so you should be ready for anything that could happen because who knows what could come up. You should always be pre-



Getting picked up at home for her ride around the city in a fire truck.

pared. Well, don't fret because I have a few Tips and Tricks up my sleeve to help you. Remember you don't want to be the person with a house that is signaling fire to come over and then making no defense. I have 3 things to help. Make a plan, Check equipment, And what to do if you or someone you know has a disability. So I hope you are all fired up for fire safety week because I am!

When it comes to a life-or-death situation, you need a good plan. You might have only 2 minutes to escape safely when the smoke alarm starts and when it is in the middle of the night and you add heat, confusion, fear, and smoke, every second counts so you should be prepared. The first thing you should do to make your plan is to make a drawing or a blueprint of your home. When it comes to your exits you should ensure at least 2 ways out of every room and a way to get out safely so maybe an emergency ladder. If all your exits are blocked and there is no way to get out you should close your door, and to help the fire stay out you can put a wet towel under your door to keep fire out. You should have a way to signal by yelling or waving something around preferably something bright so someone can see and come help you. If you can get out you should stay low because you could



From left to right: Fire Marshall Ryan Fairbanks, Firefighter/EMT Matt Kopack, Captain Joe Schmook, Junior Fire Chief Ainsley Tracey, firefighter Dave Dunne.

get overwhelmed by the smoke and heat and it is much easier to get out when you are low. You should also have roles like one person collects family members and someone calls 911. Making roles ahead of time will keep you from getting confused. The last critical thing you should have is a meeting spot. Somewhere that you and your family can go and meet up at to ensure you all have escaped safely. You should also memorize your emergency number, (911) and plan to use your phone or a neighbor's phone to call the fire department.

You should also make sure you're not doing things that could cause the fire.



Junior Fire Chief Ainsley Tracey climbs out of the fire truck.

You always want to be safe and one way to help you steer clear of fires is to have the right equipment and make sure your equipment is safe. I can give some tips and tools but you can do the rest. One important thing to do is to put matches and other tools like lighters away from kids because they could get them. You also need to remember to turn off hot

surfaces like stoves and ovens. Studies show that 78% of fires start in the kitchen. You should also check the expiration and repair tag on your fire extinguishers if you have them so you know that they are usable. Another important thing is fire alarms and smoke detectors. You should have at least one in every room or outside of every room. The fire department says you should check them every month or so. And when it has been a year you should replace the batteries but you should test them first to make sure. If you hear a CHIRP CHIRP, it's time for a change. If you hear a BEEP BEEP... BEEP, you're good to go. You always want to make sure you have good-sounding fire alarms and ones that work well because they are the only thing that will alert you and especially in the middle of the night, how will you wake up and be alerted when it's time to get out? But don't be scared, just change your smoke alarm every ten years or so and you'll be fine and by the end of this, you won't be scared of fire at all because you will know what to do.

More than 48 million people have disabilities so you should be prepared and ready to adjust your plan to work with the disabilities. Fire safety should count for everyone no matter what your case is. So that means it counts for people who might have sensory or physical disabilities. So that's why you should help because you should care for everyone when it comes to fire safety. You might need to make some modifications like changing some things about your plan. You might need to mold your plan around your disability. One thing is changing some exit ideas. If you are in a wheelchair or you have some other walking issue you might need to change

some things like making the exits accessible by testing them and making sure you can escape quickly through them. Although you have the choice to live wherever you should live on maybe a bottom floor or by a possible exit so that you can get out quickly if you have a wheelchair or some other disability that might hold you back. You should make any necessary changes to your plan like installing a ramp or having a special exit made. Don't isolate yourself.

You should talk about your plan and practice it with family members or friends. You can contact your local emergency line and discuss your needs so they can be prepared to help. They can also give suggestions to help you. Smoke alarms with a vibrating pan or a flashing light are available for people who are blind or hard of hearing. You should always be safe no matter what your case is so don't be afraid to ask about and practice your plan. Fire safety is a big part of life and sadly I don't think it will change so that's why you should be prepared. I hope these tips and tricks help you a lot and get you ready. So go home and tell your family because making a plan can be fun and with these tricks, it might save your life or someone you love. Because remember FIRE WON'T WAIT. PLAN YOUR ESCAPE! I hope you are confident about this idea now and are ready to help. You can help everyone you know feel safe by sharing these tips. We are fortunate that we live in this great place with amazing first responders to help us but you can make it easier by pitching in. I hope you are geared up for fire safety week because I don't know how you can't be after this

You can see all of the photos from this at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs/jim-obryan/lakewood-junior-fire-chief-2022>

And you can see Junior Fire Chief Ainsley Tracey, and all the photos from the Firefighter Recognition Ceremony at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs/jim-obryan/fire-fighter-recognition-ceremony-2022>



While Junior Fire Chief Tracey was out checking out the city from her front seat in the fire truck, Fire Marshall Fairbanks assembled her classmates to welcome her.

OBSERVATIONS

Why Vote?

by Nickie Antonio

Access to reproductive healthcare. The right to choose. Our children’s education. Freedom to learn and think. Safe, healthy communities.

These are not just buzzwords. These issues are all on the ballot this November.

After the overturning of Roe v. Wade in June, we have seen attacks on reproductive rights and abortion access like never before. Ohio Republicans have made it clear that they intend to insert themselves into the private healthcare decisions of women, pregnant people and their families by banning abortion in our state. In Kansas, we saw voters answer these attacks with a resounding no. It’s our turn to do the same here in Ohio.

But the attacks don’t end there. Both around the country and in Ohio, some GOP politicians have introduced bills to prohibit the teaching of “divisive concepts,” which they define as anything from slavery and racism to LGBTQ+ issues. These bills would silence and censor our teachers and our children. As our kids grow, I believe it is important to nurture their curiosity and assist them in becoming intelligent, critical-thinking adults - not stifle their education and ban books in their schools. Access to a comprehensive public education for our children is on the ballot.

More than that: our children’s future is on the ballot in the state of Ohio.

This year alone, Republicans in the Statehouse passed dangerous legislation to allow individuals to carry concealed firearms without a permit



From left to right: Mia Barnes, Senator Antonio, Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Chair Cindy Demsey at the Lakewood Community Festival

and to arm teachers in the classroom with no minimum training requirement, which will only worsen the gun violence epidemic in our state. We Democrats support commonsense gun safety reforms like increased background checks, red flag laws and raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm, measures that we believe would make Ohio safer for families and children.

Our democracy and our personal freedoms are on the ballot this November 8th. Freedom to think and to learn. Freedom to make decisions about if and when to have a family. Freedom to live and raise our children in a society without gun violence. I hope those of you, part of our beloved community, will decide to be proactive. Make a plan for how and when you are going to

vote. Find your polling location ahead of time at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location>, and bring five of your friends or family members with you.

We are charting the course of our democracy this November. It’s up to all of us to decide which path we take.

Nickie Antonio is recognized as a leader who reaches across the aisle to get things done. As a result, she championed Ohio’s historic adoption open records law (S.B. 23/H.B. 61) and step therapy reform law (S.B. 265/H.B. 72). Last General Assembly, Antonio passed legislation to abolish the shackling of pregnant inmates (S.B. 18/H.B. 1) and to require pharmacist education for dispensing life-saving naloxone (S.B. 59/H.B. 341). During her tenure in the Ohio legislature, Antonio has introduced the Ohio Fairness Act, which would provide civil rights protections for members of the LGBTQ community. She continues to work to remedy and end Ohio’s use of the death penalty, as well as on an array of other bills focused on improving the lives of all Ohioans. Antonio continues to be an established expert in health policy in the General Assembly.

Judge O'Sullivan Receives Proclamation From Representative Michael Skindell



(L to R) Pierre Bejjani (President of CAMEO the Cleveland American Middle East Organization), Judge O'Sullivan, and Congressman Skindell.

by Norm Weber

County Court of Appeals Judge Cornelius O’Sullivan has just received a proclamation from Ohio House Representative Michael Skindell for his long tenure as a volunteer servant leader for Lakewood Flock Community Meals.

Ohio Congressman Skindell said, “Your name has become synonymous with vision and vitality.”

Judge O’Sullivan is a lifelong Lakewood resident and third generation Lakewoodite.

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3 Items	\$9.00	\$11.25	\$15.00	\$17.50
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
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SPOOKY POOCH 2022



A good day for a parade brought out a huge crowd.



#1 Best Pooch and Adult, Top Gun - JP Siemborski - Dog: Gizmo

by Jacqueline Bon
Best in Show

- 1. Edward Scissorpaws - Catherine Krzywicki, Dogs: Chase & ZsaZsa
- 2. Starbuck's Barista - Brian & Christine Gallowan, Dog: Kimchi
- 3. Fairy Garden - Elayna Mathiellis, Dog: Mocha

Best Pooch & Child

- 1. Rock & Roll, Techno Pegasus - Amelia Ketter, Dog: Frankie
- 2. Little Miss Muffet & her Spider - McKenzie Clemens, Dog: Katie
- 3. Special Delivery - Norah McKay - Dog: Bailey

Best Pooch & Adult

- 1. Top Gun - JP Siemborski, Dog: Gizmo
- 2. The Mandalorian - Amy Mansky, Dog: Ruby
- 3. Scooby Doo - Marlena & Dan Stoner, Dog: Briggsby

Best Pooch & Group

- 1. Bee Keeper and Gnomes - John & Kari, Dogs: Ranger and Ashton
- 2. Goldilocks and the Three Bears - Lara, Jon and infant Theo Bobel, Dog: Huey
- 3. This is Spinal Yap - Tara and Neilly Funk, Dogs: Boo & Eevie

Spookiest Pooch

- 1. Three Headed Dog - Nicole Welms, Dog: Gunner
- 2. Nightmare Before Christmas - Natalie, Sean, Carsten Craver, Dog: Luna
- 3. German Shepherd Spider - Joe Marker and Sue Church, Dog: Tank



Follow the QR Code to see all 300 photos and video of the entire parade!
Or go to:

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=26567>



#1 Best in Show, Edward Scissorpaws - Catherine Krzywicki, Dogs: Chase & ZsaZsa



2 Best Pooch In A Group, Goldilocks and the Three Bears - Lara, Jon and infant Theo Bobel, Dog: Huey



SPOOKY POOCH 2022



Everyone’s favorite gardener Paul Bilyk of Lakewood Garden Center led off the parade with his daughter.



#2 Best in Show, Starbucks Barista - Brian & Christine Gallowan, Dog: Kimchi



#3 Best Pooch and Adult - Scooby Doo - Marlena & Dan Stoner, Dog: Briggsby



2 Best Pooch with Child, Little Miss Muffet & her Spider - McKenzie Clemens, Dog: Katie



1 Spookiest Pooch, Three Headed Dog - Nicole Welms, Dog: Gunner



#1 Best Pooch and Group, Bee Keeper and Gnomes - John & Kari, Dogs: Ranger and Ashton



3 Spookiest Pooch, German Shepherd Spider - Joe Marker and Sue Church, Dog: Tank



#3 Best Pooch and Group, This is Spinal Yap - Tara and Neilly Funk, Dogs: Boo & Eevie

LAKEWOOD SPOTLIGHT

Lakewood League Of Women Voters 100th Anniversary 100 Pillars Spotlight:

Chitra Walker

by Carol Thum,
Secretary of the
Lakewood League of Women Voters

Chitra Walker could consider herself an expert on prejudice and discrimination. After all, they have followed her across three continents. Yet the phrase she uses most often to describe herself and her life is "I have been blessed."

Born into a middle-class family in Bangalore, India, Chitra got her undergraduate degree in history and economics at the University of Delhi, where she met and later married Nuruddin Farah, a Somali Muslim, against her parent's wishes. Racial prejudice and religious discrimination played a large part in her parent's objections to the marriage. Soon after their marriage, the young couple returned to Somalia, only to encounter similar racial animus, this time directed against her for being Indian and a Christian. "You see," she says quietly, "there is prejudice all over the world." Nonetheless, she settled in with her Somali family who showed her understanding and care despite themselves being subject to rejection by family and friends because of Chitra's Christian faith and Indian ethnicity.

Shortly after giving birth to her first son, Chitra learned that her father in India was ill. A sister living in the



Chitra Walker at the League of Women Voters Afternoon Tea October 8, 2022.

States sent her the funds to visit India, and she gratefully left to visit her Indian family for three weeks, fully expecting to return to her almost year-old son and life in Somalia. But, while in Bangalore, her father received a letter from her husband, Nuruddin, decreeing that he had divorced Chitra under Sharia law. Chitra was unable to go back to Somalia. To this day, she has never heard why this happened, nor why no one in Somalia responded to her pleas to return and take back her child! It would be nearly two decades before she saw her son again. Divorce in India is rare and highly stigmatizing especially for women. Chitra realized she suddenly had no future in India. Her family agreed that it would be best for her if she could immigrate

to the United States and start life again anonymously in another country.

An American student who had befriended Chitra's family, and who witnessed Chitra's struggle, wanted to help. He asked his father in the States to sponsor her, which he agreed to do, and arranged a visitor visa for Chitra. Once in the States, Chitra, again with help from her new friends, was able to obtain a student visa for admission into the graduate program in art history at the University of Kansas. The head of the Art History department, a Chinese immigrant himself, understood Chitra's situation perfectly and told her classes would begin in August. While waiting for term to begin, Chitra stayed with friends in Denver, Colorado. One day, while visiting the Denver Art Museum, she fell into conversation with a woman who turned out to be a wealthy donor of Indian art at the museum. After listening to her story and learning she was looking for a job to pay for school, the woman offered Chitra a job as her housekeeper from February to August at \$90.00 a month plus room and board. Even in 1972, this was certainly a lucky break! Chitra realized that if she was careful, she would have enough by the end of summer for her first semester's tuition.

At school, Chitra worked full-time at two part-time jobs, while also taking classes full-time earning her master's degree. She then secured a scholarship into the doctoral program at the University of Michigan in Indian art history. She did not complete that degree because she fell in love again and married her second husband, Richard Walker. The couple had hoped to return to India, where Richard had served in the Peace Corps, to live and raise their family. However, India, at the time, did not offer opportunities for non-citizens to work and live permanently. So, the couple ultimately settled in Northeast Ohio, where they raised their three children. Chitra's marriage was, unfortunately, not a happy one, and after twenty years together, the couple divorced.

Chitra has worked in healthcare most of her life here in Northeast Ohio, starting at the Cleveland Clinic in 1989. While married to Richard and working at the Clinic, Chitra had gotten an MBA in healthcare administration at CSU. She also volunteered at the Greater Cleveland Free Clinic (now known as Circle Health), testing and educating people on HIV, and at Hospice of the Western Reserve and the Visiting Nurse Association, giving

spiritual support to those who were at the end of their lives.

After the divorce, she moved to Lakewood, first renting an apartment on the Gold Coast, then owning two condos, renting one, and living in the other. In Lakewood now, and alone again, she began making friends in her new community. They introduced her to a couple of local groups and to working on local political campaigns.

Then came the 2007 recession. Chitra lost everything, her homes, her job, her health care. With the help of her core community of friends, she began rebuilding her life. She also became a member of the Lakewood Democratic Club, and the Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters. Her interest in local politics gave her the opportunity to work on President Obama's campaign in 2008 and 2012, and on a friend's successful campaign for a seat on Lakewood City Council. She is now a board member of Healthy Lakewood Foundation, established as part of the settlement following the closure of Lakewood Hospital. Though retired now, Chitra continues to volunteer, and is also deeply involved with supporting families who have or have lost family members who suffer from substance use disorders. As a part of that effort, Chitra has taken training to support such families through "peer coaching."

A recipient herself of the genuine kindness and generosity of ordinary American citizens, Chitra is adamant every citizen knows and becomes involved in their own community. "We have a responsibility to our community to be involved, to register, to vote. Our democracy is in peril. This is my country now. I am an immigrant who remade herself in a new country. I have been very blessed. I could not have done that without friends who helped and taught me to get involved."

Despite having herself fled her own country because of prejudice and discrimination, she says, "We all need to hear each other, and to understand each other through real conversation and involvement. This is the only way we come to understand ourselves."

Lakewood Women's Club: 2022 Women Honoring Women

continued from page 7

Board, Lizz Maxwell Site Director of GiGi's Playhouse, Laura Webb Founder of VeloFemme, Sara Kass Owner of Cyrano's Place, Sarah Kepple Co-founder of Action Together Lakewood and Sarah Rintamaki Founder of Connecting for Kids.

The honoree that was chosen and awarded is Lizz Maxwell from GiGi's Playhouse. Congratulations!

The Business Leader nominee is a woman who reflects quality and dedication in the operation of a small business in Lakewood; or, who plays a key role in establishing and implementing an economic development vision in Lakewood. She serves as a role model and participates in community affairs and activities contributing time, effort, and resources. She is an agent for change who shows creativity in business decisions or in development of specific products or services, and who will continue progress.

The Business Leader nominees were: Casey Lewis Owner of The Willow Beauty Collective, Julie Warren Co-owner of Erie Design, Nichole Dzurko owner of Revival Today Care and Maureen Koopman Owner of CoLab Lakewood.

The honoree that was chosen and awarded is Julie Warren from Erie Design. Congratulations!

We are so blessed to have so many talented women here in the community of Lakewood and we look forward

to next year's event.

"Thank you again for extending the invitation, it was a beautiful event! There are a lot of talented women in our community, and it was nice to be a part of celebrating them. Nice job to you and all involved in putting together such a wonderful event!"

Thanks.

Meghan F. George

Mayor, City of Lakewood, Ohio

"Thank you, it was a privilege to participate!" Sarah Rintamaki

For those of you who aren't familiar with our organization...

The Lakewood Women's Club was formerly known as the Junior Women's Club of Lakewood. It is a nonprofit organization made up of emerging women leaders, from all ages and backgrounds, who are dedicated to building a healthier community through philanthropy and volunteerism.

Our members forge leadership skills - build camaraderie - and master the art of having fun. Every spring, our club accepts scholarship applications from current Lakewood female residents who are also high school seniors.

Look for us at our next social/meeting in November on our Facebook Page/Instagram/Twitter or on our website: Lakewoodwomensclub.org. We also can be reached at lakewood-womensclub@gmail.com

Torey Via Worron is the Chairperson & Founder of "Women Honoring Women."

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LAKEWOOD IS ART

Hi Bob, Act 2: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Part 126

by Buzz Kompier

SMF - the mysteries ep - self-released - 6 songs - digital

It's been a while since we checked in with our old pals SMF, which means we've missed around ten albums and EPs. My bad, guys. They haven't changed their sound much in that time, though there are a couple here that weren't what I expected. We've got a few acoustic guitar-based indie rock tracks, "One More Trip" and "Mysteries" that bring to mind some forgotten Bob Pollard track (more on Bob later); two that are somewhat intense with blown out production (of course) and I guess an overall more electric feel, "Whip The Whale" and what may be my favorite track here, the dramatic "Lover" (or as dramatic as a song under two minutes can be); an opening instrumental with lo-fi electronic drums and some eerie keyboard which is mysteriously credited as being written by "SMF and Star Bather," so we get a new character in the SMF universe— this one doesn't really go anywhere and for some reason is the longest song on the whole thing (an epic two minutes, one second); and the weirdest one, "Return Of El Corazon," which combines the "Mysteries" and "Lover" styles but bafflingly features some operatic vocals— I can't really tell what he's saying (and I wonder which member of the band it is— I wonder a lot of things about this band) but I'm assuming it makes some kind of sense somehow. Anyway, there are definitely some interesting ideas here and good songs in the mix but, like Bob Pollard at times (I told you he'd be back), this band puts out so much it can sometimes be hard to figure out where the best stuff is amongst the sea of oddities and experiments. In a way, though, I don't wanna know anything about the way they work— I don't even like knowing that they have four members and apparently communicate via smoke signal (and yet always get ahold of me via email). It's more fun to just imagine and ponder for oneself what might be happening. That's the real mystery here. 3/5

(stinkymonkeyfinger.bandcamp.com)



Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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The Back Page

LAKWOODITES ROB MASEK

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REALLY?

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COUGH!!

GASP!!

COUGH!!

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