Proud Founder Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Written And Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 18, Issue 21, November 2, 2022

Mayor George Stands With Twenty Other Local Mayors To Support Chris Ronayne For County Executive



Last week at Merwin's Wharf 20 Cuyahoga County Mayors gathered with candidate for County Executive Chris Ronyane. Including: Michael R. White, former Mayor of Cleveland; Jane L. Campbell, former Mayor of Cleveland; Justin Bibb, Mayor of Cleveland; Justin Berns, Mayor of Beachwood; Annette Blackwell, Mayor of Maple Heights; Brenda Bodnar, Mayor of Mayfield Village; Michael Booker, Mayor of the Village of Highland Hills; Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor of University Heights; Matt Burke, Mayor of Garfield Heights; Tim DeGeeter, Mayor of Parma; Katie Gallagher, Mayor of Brooklyn; Marie Gallo, Mayor of Parma Heights; Meghan George, Mayor of Lakewood; Ben Holbert, Mayor of Woodmere; Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, Mayor of Euclid; Nicole Dailey Jones, Mayor of North Olmsted; Paul Koomar, Mayor of Bay Village; Edward Kraus, Mayor of Solon; John M. Licastro, Mayor of Bratenahl; Ashlee McLaughlin, Mayor of Linndale; Kathy U. Mulcahy, Mayor of Orange Village; Edward Orcutt, Mayor of Brook Park; Kahlil Seren, Mayor of Cleveland Heights; Kim Thomas, Mayor of Richmond Heights; Gigi Traore, Mayor of Newburgh Heights; David Weiss, Mayor of Shaker Heights, and Georgine Welo, Mayor of South Euclid.

by Jim O'Bryan

On a fall day something happened that rarely happens: elected officials, Mayors at that, giving up time to campaign together in support of Chris Ronayne for County Executive. A Mayor's time is precious, yet twenty mayors came together to show their solidarity in supporting Chris Ronayne for County Executive.

Meet Lakewood's New Law Director, **Ernie Vargo**

from City Hall

Welcome Ernie Vargo, the new Law Director for the City of Lakewood!

Mayor George administered the oath of office to Ernie at the October 18th city council meeting. Ernie comes to the City after a long and successful career at Baker Hostetler, where he spent 37 years in the fields of antitrust and complex commercial litigation with a focused, accountable, and results-oriented approach to every case and client need. He has achieved ranking in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business and in The Best Lawyers in America since 2008. Additionally, he served as the President of the Board of Trustees for the nonprofit organization, Youth Challenge from 2013 to 2015



Ernie Vargo

and he continues to volunteer his time with the organization as an Attorney Volunteer.

Ernie has lived in Lakewood for 19 years with his wife Trisha, three teen-age children, and two cats who keep him busy. He enjoys hiking, reading about World War II, and watching OSU football. Ex-Cleveland Mayors Jane Campbell and Michael P. White took turns at the podium to explain just how effective Chris Ronayne was during their administrations.

Chris might be best known by Lakewoodites for his amazing leadership and management skills with the University Circle Development CDC. Many of the reasons we head to University Circle were conceived or put in place by Chris and his team.

VOTE November 8!

Free Leaf Raking For Lakewood Senior Citizens - November 12

On Saturday, November 12, H2O and St. Edwards students will be volunteering to rake leaves for Lakewood Senior homeowners who are unable to do it themselves. They will rake back, side and front of yard to the tree lawn (no bagging).

Please note: You must be home to sign a waiver, be a Lakewood homeowner and 60 years of age or older.

Call Susan today to register: 216-521-1515



All seven winning households were honored during a reception as part of the Lakewood City Council meeting held on October 17.

2022 Beautiful Home Awards Honorees

by Matt Bixenstine

Keep Lakewood Beautiful proudly announces the winners of our 2022 Beautiful Home Awards Contest, an initiative celebrating Lakewood homes with eye-popping landscaping, well-maintained property, and that extra something that makes it "beautiful"

thing that makes it "beautiful."

Congratulations to the following seven households, representing each of Lakewood's original school districts: Harry & Patricia Johnson (Clarence Avenue), Bertha Young (Clifton Boulevard), Tatlija & Fehim Coralic (Concord Drive), Jon & Kali Portz (Elmwood Avenue), Ronald Manner (Lewis Drive), Leahanna & Libero Puccini (Summit Avenue), and Joseph & Elizabeth Bratko (Wayne Avenue).

All seven winning house-holds were honored during a reception as part of the Lakewood City Council meeting held on October 17. Winners received a plaque to place on their homes. Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, members of Lakewood City Council, and members of the Keep Lakewood Beautiful board partook in the

festivities.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful has orchestrated the Beautiful Home Awards Contest for more than 20 years. A call for public nominations is issued each summer and Keep Lakewood Beautiful received more than 50 nominations.

"We are pleased to once again be able to recognize the very deserving winners of our Beautiful Home Awards Contest," said Melissa Meehan, Keep Lakewood Beautiful Chairperson. "Lakewood has a reputation as a city of beautiful homes, and this year's nominees did not disappoint. It's an honor for our organization to be able to celebrate community members who go above and beyond when it comes to caring for their homes."

The Keep Lakewood Beautiful organization was established in 1982 to promote civic involvement through public interest in the general improvement of the environment of Lakewood. The volunteer board initiates, plans and coordinates programs for litter prevention,

continued on page 2

Crossing Guards Needed

from City Hall

The City of Lakewood is seeking applicants for the part-time position (approximately 2 hours each day) of school crossing guard. Applicants must be at least 18 years old with a high school degree or GED, and complete a physical exam, drug screening and police background check. Applicants should apply online at www. lakewoodoh.gov/human-resources/. Please direct questions to Lt. Robert Minteer with the Lakewood Police Department at 216-529-6781 or robert.minteer@lakewoodoh.net.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Happy Halloween

Earlier this year, the City of Lakewood was excited to announce plans for the redevelopment of the former Lakewood Hospital site. That plan met the goals identified by our residents, including community and economic development; priorities for public space; high quality architectural and environmental design; diverse and affordable housing; historic preservation; active commercial uses; and workforce growth.

If you have driven by the site lately, you will have noticed construction vehicles and a team of workers performing site preparation work as the project advances. Last week, the development team from CASTO also had multiple meetings here as they continue to fine tune details of the site plan. Last Monday, they attended Lakewood City Council's meeting, which was held jointly with members of the Lakewood Board of Education, where they engaged in dialogue on details of the development deal and pro forma. CASTO also presented to our local

by Mayor Meghan George

Architectural Board of Review, which provided more feedback and guidance on the latest concepts for the site plan.

Our City Planning and Development team continues to work hand-in-hand with the CASTO development team to incorporate feedback and provide updates and communication to the City administration, council, and relevant boards. My administration is pleased with the progress being made and we know that the final product will meet the high standards for design, materials, and planning for which Lakewood is known. Both our team from City Hall and CASTO are also in consistent conversations with our anchor tenant, Roundstone Insurance, the rapidly-growing local Lakewood business, with over 100 employees today and expectations to add 100 more in the next few years.

In related news, I was also happy to be invited to be part of the grand

18514 Detroit Avenue

Lakewood, Ohio 44107

phone:216.521.7684

fax: 216-521-9518

Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Wednesday 4:00 PM - 2:30 AM

Thursday & Friday

11:30 AM - 2:30 AM

Saturday Sunday 11:00 AM - 2:30 AM 10:00 AM - 2:30 AM

OUR FAMOUS WEEKEND BRUNCH

Saturday 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lakewood's favorite tavern!

A great place to dine and relax with friends

opening of the Fieldhouse at Hird and Detroit. As the cornerstone of phase I of the \$100 million Studio West 117 development that aims to serve Greater Cleveland's LGBTQ+ community, the Fieldhouse will provide a welcoming gathering space for all. The grand opening event was a great opportunity to see the new space and get a taste of the overall vision for this impressive project. Look for more news from City Hall on subsequent phases of the project in the months to come.

Finally, it was a pleasure that so many of you were out and about this Monday with your children trickor-treating on Halloween. I enjoyed seeing so many boys and girls running from door to door with broad smiles on their faces, and so many parents doing their best to keep up! As we handed out candy from the porch, I was reminded of the incredible sense of community we have in Lakewood. It's something I am so grateful for and which I will never take for granted.

2022 Beautiful Home **Awards Honorees**

continued from page 1

solid waste reduction, recycling, and green space beautification. Learn more by visiting lakewoodoh.gov/keeplakewood-beautiful, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Looking to get involved? Contact us at keeplkwdbeautiful@gmail.com.

Matt Bixenstine enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his basset hound through Madison Park.



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

Published twice a month with a current circulation of 10,000+ copies. The paper is made available free of charge and can be found at over 130 business locations within the City of Lakewood and on our website. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff. Copyright 2022 • AGS/The Lakewood Observer, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

Become an Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is a product of citizen journalism, which means it is a completely community-written paper. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators. It doesn't matter if you're a professional or an amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our Member Center at lakewoodobserver.com where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos, cartoons, drawings, etc. No need to register to post online calendar items or classified ads. Questions? Email our Associate Editor at betsy@ lakewoodobserver.com.

Upcoming Submission Deadline November 11, 2022 December 2, 2022

Publish Date November 16, 2022 December 7, 2022

www.lakewoodobserver.com

216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531 PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107



Lakewood Observer

PUBLISHER Debra O'Bryan

Margaret Brinich

EDITOR IN CHIEF ASSOCIATE EDITORS Betsy Voinovich Emily Kompier

ADVERTISING Sales Manager 216.339.2531

ADVISORY BOARD - Heidi Hilty, Jeff Endress, Jim Crawford, Steve Ott, Margaret Brinich, Betsy Voinovich

OBSERVATION DECK BOARD - Jim O'Bryan, Betsy Voinovich,

PHOTOGRAPHY - Matt Bixenstine, Pebbles Brown, Adelaide Crnko, Lynn Donaldson, Christine Gordillo, Jim O'Bryan, Barbara Raymond, Cindy Strebig, and Mark Timieski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Matt Bixenstine, Mary Bodnar, Jean Brinich, Pebbles Brown, Adelaide Crnko, Lynn Donaldson, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Martin Jaffe, Maggie Niedzwiecki, Jim O'Bryan, Barbara Raymond, Tonya Sams, Jeffrey Siebert, Mark Timieski, Patricia Wellborn, Nawar Yared, and William Yeung



The Lakewood Observer is produced by volunteers/residents of Lakewood.

If you'd like to help this history-making 17-year-old project continue to publish the words, stories and images of fellow Lakewoodites follow the QR Code to the Member Center and sign up at www.lakewoodobserver.com/members. If you'd like to advertise with us contact: production@lakewoodobserver.com.

Subscribe to the digital edition by sending a request to thelakewoodobserver.digital@gmail.com with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Isn't it time you joined this effort to report community news while preserving our history?

AROUND TOWN



Studio West aka SW117 Opens -A New Era For Lakewood Begins!

by Debra O'Bryan

Studio West 117 had its grand opening last weekend at the Fieldhouse, Lakewood's newest most progressive development catering to businesses and services for the LGBTQ+ community. Thousands turned out to see phase one unveiled: A housing complex and entertainment venue, sports gymnasium, three restaurants (Muze Gastropub, Trellis, and Eat Me! Pizzeria), a gorgeous rooftop patio, a state of the art teaching/demonstrating kitchen, courtyard and so much more.

This vision is being brought to fruition by developers Daniel Budish and Betsy Figgie. "Lakewood has always been known as a friendly place, we wanted to



The best rooftop in Lakewood could be yours for private parties or events.

make this area the center of gravity for the LGBTQ+ community," said Betsy.

The next phases are the development of the Phantasy Theater, an apartment complex, health and wellness facility and more to be completed by 2025.

> Hird and Detroit Avenue StudioWest117.com



The heart, soul, and brains of SW117, Daniel Budish and Betsy Figgie. Both are eager and working their butts off to transform the East End of Lakewood. I am sure they would give all the credit to their backers and their incredible crew. Much more in the next edition of the Observer!

The amazing Fieldhouse: gym, running track, 3 restaurants and more!



17117 Detroit Ave. • Lakewood, Ohio

216.221.0300

5 Great Reasons To Call Us

- 1. CONVENIENCE...WE'LL SEE YOU IMMEDIATELY AND FIX YOUR PROBLEM.
- 2. PRICE...WE'RE AFFORDABLE AND WE WORK WITH YOUR INSURANCE.
- 3. TIME...WE KNOW YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE, WE DON'T KEEP YOU WAITING.
- 4. FEAR...NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT PAIN, OUR WORK IS DONE COMFORTABLY.
- 5. OUR PROMISE...WE STAND BEHIND ALL THE WORK WE DO.

CALL AND MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!



LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children's And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Dear Ukraine: Ukrainian Folk Tales and Craft

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Main Library Activity Room

For Students in Kindergarten through Second Grade

Do you like stories about animals? Ukrainian folk tales and fairy tales often use animals to show us how we can succeed with the challenges life brings us and encourage us to never give up! Join us October 12 as we read "The Cat and the Rooster" by Ivan Malkovych and create our own piece of Ukrainian art. Registration is required. Register online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

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 Ohio Hauntings

Friday, November 4, 2022 / 4:30pm - 5:30pm Main Library Multipurpose Room

For Teens in Sixth through Twelfth Grade. Hear Stories of Haunted Ohio Places. See a Display of Antique Artifacts. Experience Eerie Ghostly Events. Jim Kleefeld, a master at holding audiences' attention, has produced a spooky program just for teens. Ohio Hauntings is a 60-minute collection of stories and legends taken from non-fiction accounts of ghostly investigations and haunted happenings. Jim tells carefully researched tales like the Boy Who Loved Checkers, The Four Civil War Brothers and more. The audience will see strange antiques, learn about spiritualist powers and hear stories of scary events from the spirit world. Start your Friday entertainment with your friends at this mysterious event. No registration required.

Family Weekend Wonders

Main Library- Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Madison Branch- Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

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.



Rotary Provides Dictionaries To Third Graders

by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River continued its distribution of dictionaries to all third graders in Lakewood and Rocky River this fall, a project that the club began in 2005. A total of 622 dictionaries were distributed to students at 11 different school buildings.

Harlan Radford, project chair, with assistance from club members, stamped each dictionary with the Rotary logo, the Rotary Four-Way Test, and a place for the student's name.

Schools receiving dictionaries were: Rocky River – Kensington Intermediate, Ruffing Montessori, and St. Christopher; Lakewood – Emerson, Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Lakewood Catholic Academy.

The following Rotarians visited the schools to deliver the dictionaries and interact with both students and teachers: David Baas, John Chandler, Steve Clark, Vicki Foster, George Frank, Thom Geist, Chuck Gustafson, Jim Harris, George Hwang, Harlan Radford, and Jay Rounds.

Members were rewarded with smiles on the students' faces as they receive their dictionaries and begin to explore the contents. Both students and teachers are very appreciative of receiving these dictionaries and using them in the curriculum.

Thank-you letters, written by the students, express their gratitude and enjoyment in owning their very own dictionary. They mention the students' favorite section of the dictionary and

how they have begun to use the dictionary in their classrooms.

The dictionary features over 32,000 words with simple, child-friendly definitions, plus pronunciation and parts of speech, and includes additional information about punctuation, the nine parts of speech, weights and measures, Roman numerals, and a map of the United States.

Over 150 pages of supplemental information feature the Constitution of the U.S., the Declaration of Independence, brief biographies of all U.S. presidents, world maps, information about all 50 states, countries of the world, and the planets in our solar system.

It ends with the longest word in the English language.





EDUCATION



Nawar Yared with Mary Warren at the Lakewood High School Celebration of Voters in May 2022.

League of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner Nawar Yared's Winning Essay

by Nawar Yared

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

The federal government should establish minimum, consistent criteria and regulations for social welfare programs and should be in charge of funding programs that help people and families satisfy their fundamental requirements. State and local governments, as well as the private sector, should play a supporting role in funding food, housing, and health promotion programs. The federal government should be the primary funder of income support programs, with state governments taking on secondary responsibilities. There is some criteria for income assistance include: all lowincome people should be eligible for help depending on their financial need. Eligibility should be determined using simple methods such as a declaration of need, which should be spot-checked in the same way that the legality of income tax returns is reviewed. Benefit levels should be sufficient to ensure that goods, enough food, clothes, and housing are available. Minimum income requirements should be changed to account for regional variances in cost of living and updated on a regular basis to reflect changes in the buying power of the dollar. Some states may need to augment federal contributions until a federal welfare program

achieves an acceptable level of benefits. Cash support should be prioritized, but in-kind assistance like food stamps, housing subsidies, and medical assistance should be maintained to ensure that these requirements are addressed. Participants' benefits should not be diminished under a changed scheme. Participants' privacy should be safeguarded. Individuals' rights and dignity should be respected at all times during administrative proceedings. Work should be encouraged: if wages rise, members' overall income should rise as well. The linkages between work programs and income support should include counseling, practical training for genuine jobs, and financial incentives. State and local governments should help by establishing effective agencies to aid, promote, coordinate, and augment federal and private sector housing projects. Housing aid programs must be adequately funded at all levels of government. When families or individuals cannot afford good housing, the government should give financial and/or housing help. State and local governments should adopt and enforce all of the listed above to make sure that we all are doing our best helping.

Nawar plans to attend Miami University (Oxford) in Fall of 2022 to study Undeclared Business, and then narrow her study to something math related such as economics or analytics.

Worried about alcohol or drug use?

Learn more about what a substance use disorder is and what treatment options are available at adamhscc.org/treatment

Ready for treatment?



Take a free screening

Confidential online substance use screening





LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Middle School Students Write Messages To Ukraine

by Christine Gordillo

Recently, Lakewood middle school students participated in a special learning opportunity made possible through a partnership between Lakewood City Schools, the Lakewood Public Library and the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University.

Kent State Instructor Katie Daley worked with teachers and students to contribute their own poem to "Dear Ukraine," a global project community poem that provides a space for individuals around the world to speak to the unfolding atrocities of the war against Ukraine and its people.

"The 'Dear Ukraine' writing experience was very enjoyable, and taught me a lot about poems in a short amount of time," said Garfield seventh grader Mia Dugan. "It really opened my eyes to the feelings and hardships people are experiencing in Ukraine."

Katie Daley and Lakewood Public Library's manager of Children and Youth Services, Julie Strunk, met with Kevin Spooner's advanced sixth grade language arts classes at Harding and Colleen Gromek's advanced seventh grade language arts classes at Garfield. They started by asking the students to share what they knew about what was happening in Ukraine. Katie Daley then shared the poem "Dear Ukraine" with students in both English and Ukrainian, inviting students to note the rhythm and key phrases.

Students then worked with her as a class to write a group poem and then individual poems using opening lines from the original piece applying what they had learned about word choice, figurative language, and sensory details to their poems. Students could then choose to post their work to the "Dear Ukraine" community poem website. The website provides instantaneous translation of students' work into Russian, Ukrainian, and Polish, so that poems can be easily read and shared around the world.

This experience developed several of the core competencies highlighted in Lakewood City School's Vision of a Lakewood Graduate. Students were



Visiting poet Katie Daley discusses Garfield seventh grader Charlaice McDonald's poem.

invited to empathize with the experiences of Ukrainians, grow in global awareness and understanding of the conflict in Ukraine, and effectively communicate their hopes and wishes.

Leah Roudebush, art teacher at Garfield Middle School, will work with students to create art to accompany the poems selected for display at the Main Branch of the Lakewood Public Library.

A handful of selected students will read their poems at the Main Branch on March 12, 2023 at 2 p.m. at the culminating event, which will also feature poems from local English language learners and traditional Ukrainian folk music.

Those interested in participating or learning more about the project can visit dearukrainepoem.com.

Sample group poem by Garfield's 1st and 2nd period 7th grade advanced language arts class taught by Colleen Gromek:

Dear Ukraine,

I want your wounds to heal.

I dream of your wheat,

like feathers,

intermingling with the ash.

I dream of the ash fading away

I dream of the ash fading awa revealing blue skies,

and the sun beating down on you.

I hope the soldiers leave your land, and let the sunflowers thrive again.



 $Superintendent\ Maggie\ Niedzwiecki\ chats\ with\ students\ about\ their\ project.$

Harding Holds Math In Business Symposium

by Christine Gordillo

Last month Harding Middle School sixth graders held the second annual Math in Business Symposium, which showcased project-based learning using many of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate competencies in an impressive way!

Working in small teams, sixth graders interviewed local business owners about how they incorporate math into building a successful business. Students discovered how Lakewood entrepreneurs use math in measuring, ordering inventory, tracking finances, and so much more!

Students then created graphics and podcasts sharing what they found. The symposium was a chance for families and staff to learn about the projects from the students. Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki and Mayor Meghan George spoke to the students and expressed how impressed they were with their communication and critical and creative thinking skills. Kudos to math teacher Stephen Kerney, who first envisioned the symposium project, and to the rest of the sixth-grade math team, and of course, the students!







The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.

LAKEWOOD CARES



Ron and Lillie Walden,

Kathy Herman,

Linda Genutis

Halloween At **Barton Senior Center**

by Adelaide Crnko

Pizza, pop and bags of candy were treats served at the Barton Senior Center Halloween party October 19. The mid afternoon event saw some residents of the Westerly Senior Apartments arriving in costumes which included cowboy hats, a toga or dressing up as Cruella Deville. Others simply came as themselves. A colorful autumn backdrop installed in the Carr Lounge facilitated creating photo souvenirs. Revelers listened and danced to themed oldies such as "Ghostbusters" and "Witchy Woman." The festivities concluded with best costume prizes being awarded. For those in attendance, it was an opportunity for socialization and fun. It was also a perfect example of how, at any age, Halloween can still bring out the kid in anyone.

Adelaide Crnko is a Lakewood resident.

Letter To The Editor

Jesus Is Not Republican

by Mary Bodnar

Iesus is not a Republican. There are awesome Godly men and women who voted Republican their entire lives (including my husband, until 2016) and many good Republican people in elected office, but now many of those Republicans in the party of Trump are taking great liberties with my Jesus. By showing the cross with a red, white and blue flag on it behind him in the photo, this Ad by Keith Davey upsets me.

By associating our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with the Republican party, this outrage has become a huge source of shame for the church and for Christians like me. It is long overdue that the entire church denounce this practice. It

is embarrassing to me as a Christian. I too am conservative, patriotic and a devout Christian - and I don't like this. I don't align myself with Davey as he defines himself with these same words.

Also, Christianity is not nationalism. We are Christians first, Americans second. If politics compromises our allegiance to our King Jesus, then we must reject such practices by politicians. Its leads to such abominations as sayings like "Jesus is my Savior and Trump is my President" when our Capitol was violated. We can't let Christianity or the cross become a tool for political beliefs that go against Jesus' teachings. That is not who we are in Christ.

Lakewood Black Caucus Will Sponsor Its First Allyship Program

by Patricia Wellborn

Patricia Wellborn, president of Lakewood Black Caucus, will present an intensive educational for class program that is open to all individuals who choose to broaden their knowledge of the complex challenges of racism in America, and offer suggestions on how to be an effective force in the struggle for equity and justice.

The program is spread over four consecutive Sundays: November 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. The classes will be held at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 14502 Detroit Avenue which is at the cor-

ner of Marlowe and Detroit, and there is free parking on Detroit and at the rear of the church. The classes begin promptly at 11:20 a.m. and end at 12:05 p.m. The program is free and open to everyone.

I am an African American woman, and I have lived in Lakewood since 2015. I am a senior, and I am active in social justice work. I am the president of the newly formed Lakewood Black Caucus.

Patricia Wellborn is an African American senior who has lived in Lakewood since 2015. She president of the newly formed Lakewood Black Caucus.





Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzon stromboli, subs, pasta, wings, and salads.

Whether carryout or delivery, we provide your family with the freshest of toppings (over 25 to choose from) on our pizza. With dough and sauce made daily from our own recipe and freshly grated blend of mozzarella & provolone cheese, we provide a great pizza for you and your family

- Pizza
- Calzones
 - Stromboli
- Appetizers

Subs

- Salads
- Desserts

Pasta To see our menu or coupons please go to www.romanfountain.com

Or stop by at 15603 Detroit Ave Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633



Trusted Leadership & Experience for Lakewood

Proudly endorsed by













mikeskindell.com 🚮 🔰





Paid for by Friends of Michael J. Skindell, 16800 Delaware Ave., Lakewood OH 44107

OBSERVATIONS

What You Should Know About Student Loan Cancellation

by Tonya Sams

Millions of student loan borrowers breathed a sigh of relief earlier this year when President Biden and the Department of Education cancelled some federal student debt.

To qualify for student loan cancellation, borrowers must have earned an annual income below \$125,000 for individuals or below \$250,000 for couples or heads of households for 2020 or 2021.

If you meet the income qualifications and received a Pell Grant, a maximum of \$20,000 in federal student loan debt will be cancelled. The government will cancel up to \$10,000 in federal student debt if the borrower did not receive a Pell Grant. Most borrowers will need to apply for the cancellation. However, a small number of borrowers will have the debt cancellation applied automatically because they have already submitted their income for 2020 or 2021 as part of their federal student loan application or because they enrolled in an incomedriven repayment plan. If you are not sure if this applies to your student loan

debt, apply for the cancellation.

Student loan cancellation includes:

Federal loans held by the Department of Education

Loans issued directly by the federal government

Both undergraduate and graduate school loans

Parent PLUS loans (loans taken out by a parent for a child or grandchild)

"Almost half of the forty-three million borrowers with federal student loan debt will be eligible to have their entire balances wiped out," said Joshua Rovenger, Senior Attorney at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. "Cancelling this debt is also a significant step towards reducing the racial wealth gap. Student loan debt disproportionately harms black and brown students. Data shows that due to structural and historical barriers, black and brown borrowers have to borrow more federal student loan debt than white counterparts."

"This cancellation is also critical for low-income borrowers. For some, a monthly student loan payment can make it impossible to put food on the table," he said.

Unfortunately, the loan cancellation does not include private student loans or federal loans that are held by a commercial entity. But there is an exception for commercially-held federal loans (called commercially-held "FFEL loans") – if you have applied to consolidate those loans before September 29. Consolidation is the act of combining all federal student loan debts into one loan.

Borrowers in Ohio will not take a hit when it comes to their taxes – the IRS will not tax the cancelled debt for loans that are forgiven between 2021 and 2025. The state of Ohio is following suit and will not tax the cancelled debt.

Applying for loan cancellation is free so beware of any companies that are charging you for cancellation or guaranteeing quick loan cancellation.

The application is available at: https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief/application. It is recommended that you should apply for cancellation by November 15. By applying by this date, it can help you get relief before loan debt repayment resumes on December 31. You can continue to apply for relief after that date until the end of 2023.

For more information on student loan cancellation, visit Legal Aid's website: lasclev.org/StudentLoanfaq.

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

A New Voter's Take On Issue 2

by William Yeung

As we are in October, coming up to November, and the general election, it is easy to get flooded with all the political advertisements from every candidate running that we miss the important issues that we will also be voting on.

I am here today to address issues with Issue 2, and how it will affect Ohio's current voting system. Issue 2 is an amendment to Ohio's state constitution regarding voting requirements, the main part that concerns me, and should also concern you, is the wording, as it would require voters to be 18 years of age at any election. Seems silly, right? seems like it is common sense that you should a full-fledged adult to vote.

Well, yes and no.

Currently, in Ohio, it is possible to be 17 years old and vote in a primary election. This is of course given that you will be turning 18 years of age before the general election. This is an important little loophole, as it serves as a way to introduce high schoolers into the voting process while you can communicate with them en masse at their school. Last year when I was a Senior, the League of Women Voters came to my Highschool and helped make sure everyone had the opportunity and assistance that they needed to register to vote.

By requiring that all voters participating in an election be 18 years of age, we would rob many young adults of their first opportunity to vote in a relatively low-stress environment. This is because while Primary elections are in

my opinion one of the most important points of an election cycle, as it is when you vote on who will be representing the party you support, not many older adults participate in this election, preferring to save energy and time for the general election. This means these new voters would have a chance to vote without waiting in the long lines we typically see on election week or feeling pressured by the enormous amount of people voting.

The main purpose of this issue seems to be clarifying voting requirements to cut down on voter fraud. However, voter fraud is not a serious issue here in Ohio, with only about 62 reported potential cases occurring in the past few years, with the Secretary of State reporting only 27 potential cases out of the nearly 6 million people voting in 2020. So I invite you to ask yourself this question before your vote this November, is taking the opportunity to dip their toes into the democratic process from new voters worth a not even guaranteed chance to cut down on an already rarely occurring issue?

I hope that you make the decision that you feel is right on election week.

Lakewood resident William Yeung is a politically minded young adult.







LAKEWOOD OBSERVED





104 Years Inside A Basement Wall: **This Week In History**

by Mark Timieski

The basement walls of my century home are getting some much needed maintenance. I found a section of the mortar that was more like sand than cement. I went at it with an old paint scraper: bits of mortar were released followed by a nearly disintegrated wad of yellowed old newspaper.

Newspaper is certainly an unusual item in masonry. Studying the few legible words of on the bits of paper painted a pretty good story: the hardware stores would again be open on Tuesday Nov. 5th following the closing restrictions due to the Spanish Influenza. Having been in this situation recently I can only assume that a stircrazy homeowner took the opening of the hardware stores as an opportunity to tackle some home maintenance projects. A week old wadded up newspaper would supplement the limited

supplies available. Unmixed cement has a limited shelf life, and the materials probably sat unused at the hardware store for an extended time, which would undermine the life of the mortar joint.

While I wasn't able to find any information on what year shopping restrictions would have ended in the Spanish Influenza, or even much history on this pandemic I did find another bit or story on the paper which both overshadowed the pandemic and fixed the year with certainty: another bit of legible print describes the capture of 300,000 Austrian soldiers by Italians forces in Dalmatia, which is recorded in history books and unquestionably sets the year: 1918. These were the final days of the First World War, with the last armistice signed by Germany and Allied forces just one week from this news story.

HEATED PATIO Warehouse available for parties & fundraisers Best Brunch In Town! Saturdays at 11am & Sunday 9:30am Mondays - Buy One, Get One - Black Angus Burgers Wednesdays - Try our \$5 Menu! 18616 Detroit Avenue 216.521.4413 • www.atccafe.com



A Taste Of Europe

by Pebbles Brown

I recently visited a store called A Taste of Europe, where authentic Eastern European delicacies line the shelves, and a medley of aromas meets you around every corner. Fresh from the kitchen, homemade food fills this humble shop to the brim. Inside, you will find an assortment of meats from various countries, such as Hungary, Croatia, Ukraine, and Russia. The store also

provides a diverse selection of foreign wines, beers, and even water. The best part? Most of the food is made by hand by women in Albania, like the Burek, a delicious spinach pie.

Visiting A Taste of Europe was a voyage of excitement for me. From learning the cultural names of foreign cuisines to tasting and buying unfamiliar foods, I was in my element as a food lover. I even had the pleasure of meeting the owner, Dafina Bedini, originally from Albania. She summarizes her shop's allure in just one sentence: "It makes people feel like they're at home." Since they opened their doors in 2010, many loyal customers have continued to pace the aisles in search of unique flavors, and they find them quite easily. The ingredients and foods used at A Taste of Europe taste so authentic that most of their customers themselves are from overseas! It is truly an experience



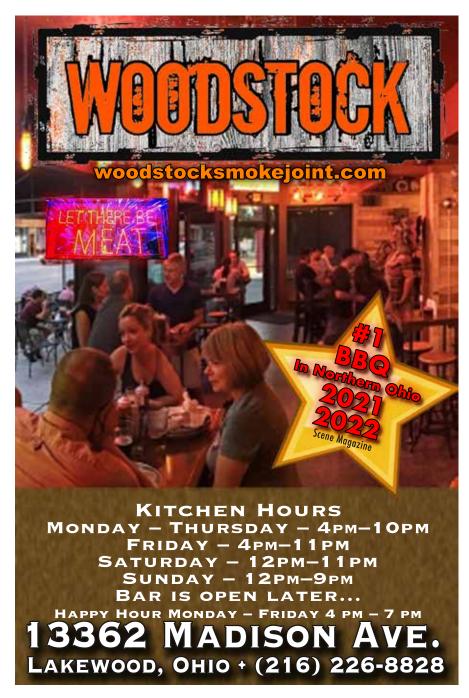
A Taste of Europe is located at 15512 Madison Avenue. 216-538-9899.

like no other in the Lakewood area.

I urge you to visit and load your cart with specialty food items! My favorites while visiting were the Sha Bal, the Hungarian Paprika Salami, and the gourmet smoked cheeses. Everything had such immense flavor and tasted like nothing I'd had before. A Taste of Europe truly transports you overseas to a place where curiously scrumptious and homemade food is the norm!

A Taste of Europe is located at 15512 Madison Aveue.538-9899.

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. All her content is entirely unique to her thoughts and experiences, and she hopes you enjoy what she has to say.



LAKEWOOD SPOTLIGHT

Barbara's Bests

by Barbara Raymond

The best thing about Lakewood? Its people. Over time, I'll highlight some of the men and women who make our city unique.

You may have seen Beth Keenan behind the counter at Nature's Oasis, a coffee shop, café, gift shop and market she describes as a "connector space where people can hang out and enjoy Lakewood." The city, as she sees it, is "a melting pot of cultures and humanity," and the average Lakewoodite is kind. As general manager, she looks for that trait when interviewing prospec-

tive employees – "I hire people that are good people, and if they have experience that's a plus."

Kindness, of course, is not unique to citizens working at Nature's Oasis. This became particularly obvious when Covid hit, and the restaurant Salt, for example, provided dinners for people in the service industry who were temporarily unemployed. The coffee shop and restaurant The Root began helping the community by becoming part of a project called Community Fridge, which enables people to donate or pick up food as needed.



Unsurprisingly, since Lakewood has a distinct artsy, boho vibe, half of Nature Oasis's staff are musicians or artists. Beth herself is an artist, as is her mom, with whom she's collaborated for 25 years, focusing on home decor and working in all kinds of media: wood, glass, metal, ceramic and polymer. The two have a store called Functini. It's located in one of seven small metal-roofed huts in a new space called City Goods, located on Detroit and W. 28th Street.

Lakewood inspires her work, some of which can be found at Nature's Oasis, such as the detailed wood burning map of the city which hangs in the newly-expanded second room. That it's the largest piece of art hanging in the shop is fitting. "I have a love affair with Lakewood," Beth says.

Barbara Raymond is a Lakewood resident and author of the nonfiction book, "The Baby Thief: The Untold Story of Georgia Tann, the Baby Seller Who Corrupted Adoption."



Beth Keenan

Of Shifting **Standards And Contesting Contests**

by Jean Brinich

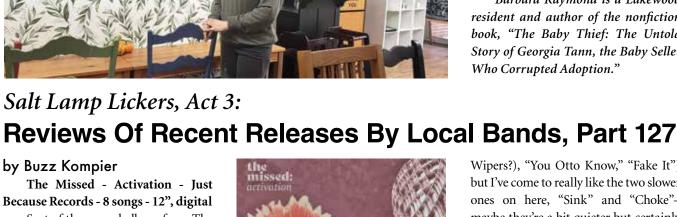
It seems there's been A shift In thinking in this country.... The idea, fairly recent, Of some contestants (politicians) Deciding before a contest That they have already won! They are ready to contest The contest's results, (if not in their favor), Before it even happens! So why bother with elections?

Don't take part in something you regard As flawed to begin with! At least have the decency to protest By staying out of it! Did you not learn by third grade That losing happens? And when you lose, you need to

Step aside? So disturbing that minds have again been corralled

> To think the unthinkable. It has happened before With horrific results.

Jean Brinich is a retired family nurse practitioner and a Lakewood returnee.



Because Records - 8 songs - 12", digital

Sort of the second album from The Missed-"sort of" because I don't know if they consider their demo tape an album (I do) and also because 8 songs is a bit short for a punk album but it doesn't feel that short listening to it, so I guess it evens out. The songs here are more like their 7" from a couple years ago than those first recordings, though the main thing is the same: hooky pop-punk. Mickey Mocnik not only has an immediately identifiable voice but a quite recognizable guitar playing style too (clearly Greg Sage influenced but very much her own



thing) and Sebastian Wagner and Kent Sliney make up a very capable rhythm section. Obviously this band is great at the punk rippers (see "Over The Ledge" (did I already say something about the Wipers?), "You Otto Know," "Fake It") but I've come to really like the two slower ones on here, "Sink" and "Choke"maybe they're a bit quieter but certainly no less intense, and the latter has a great fast part at the end. "Listen Close" was another favorite- cool drum fill in there and a great guitar solo. This is one that grew on me with multiple listens and seems to just keep getting better. 4/5

(justbecauserecords.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.



NOVEMBER

ARIES: Your luck is coming from behind the scenes Ram, be careful it doesn't expand into something too big to handle; on a positive note, money comes to you from others, hmmm.

TAURUS: The Sun is shining in the Bull Pen's relationship sector, and luck appears when you come out from under that rock & make the rounds with your friendships & organizations.

GEMINI: The Twins are getting a double dose of pleasure this month; your health seems to benefit from the golden beams of the Sun highlighting your 6th house & Jupiter on your Career.

CANCER: The Crab needs to dig

itself out of the sand & come out of its shell; romance is waiting, luck & love could come to you from a faraway land or a foreigner, l'amore e'qui.

LEO: The Lion/Lioness is right at home this month in the Jungle; good fortune comes to you from others, all that generosity has paid off; be grateful, share the wealth & it shall multiply.

VIRGO: It's time to do a little networking around the neighborhood. Are there turkeys that need to be given away? Spending time in the community might bring a significant other your way.

LIBRA: The Sun is shining on your finances; your only dilemma is where to spread the green; Jupiter is making

a blessed visit to the house of health; remember moderation is the key...

SCORPIO: It's about the Scorpion this month; count your blessings; you've got a few eyes taking an interest in you, don't give away all your secrets; take your time to smell the roses.

SAGITTARIUS: It's time for the Centaur to do some major soul-searching with the Sun making a stay in your house of self-reflection & secrets; Jupiter lands in your place of home & family.

CAPRICORN: The Goat is ramping up its community networking & expanding its associations, Jupiter is making benefic connections for you, and friendships abound everywhere, say Grazie.

AQUARIUS: Your career sector of the month is blazing with Jupiter's golden touch & your finances are receiving a boost from the Sun's rays; find innovative ways to spread the blessings.

PISCES: Jupiter's entry back into Pisces is giving the fish something to swim home about; while the Sun is shining on foreign waters, it wouldn't hurt to see how the other ponds live.

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



LAKEWOOD ALIVE



Light Up Lakewood 2022 To Spread Holiday Cheer On December 3

by Jacqueline Bon

The most joyous of Lakewood traditions is returning to Downtown Lakewood for the 16th annual celebration. The spirit of the season will come to life with holiday cheer when Light Up Lakewood 2022 takes place on Saturday, December 3 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood and presented by Lakewood Alive, Light Up Lakewood celebrates the season and the richness of our city's vibrancy. This free, family-friendly event on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter fireworks, The Roundstone Beer Garden, Holiday Train, live music, ice carvings, hot chocolate, food trucks, children's games and more.

Attendees are invited to stroll Lakewood's downtown district and visit local shops and restaurants while taking in the sights and sounds of one of Northeast Ohio's largest holiday celebrations. Light Up Lakewood serves as a marquee event for the entire region.

Light Up Lakewood represents a long-held holiday celebration of Lakewood's sense of community. Guests will be delighted by the festive atmosphere which includes the twinkle of holiday lights, the cheerful sounds of carolers and the warmth of hot beverages.

Highlights include indoor a Holiday Market; The Roundstone Beer Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance; the ever-popular Holiday Parade sponsored by Lindsay Perrico State Farm, which commences at Belle & Detroit Avenues at 5 p.m. and ends at Arthur Avenue; the Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at City Center Park and a can't-miss fireworks show at 7 p.m. over Kauffman Park.

Schedule of Events for Light Up Lakewood 2022:

- 11 a.m. 4 p.m. Ongoing performances at Lakewood Baptist Church with a surprise visitor
- **3 p.m.** Royalty Scholarship Ceremony at Avenue Home
 - 4 p.m. Festival Kickoff
- Holiday Market at the Lakewood Masonic Temple
- The Roundstone Beer Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance on Detroit Avenue between Belle and

Marlowe Avenues

- Food Trucks
- Outdoor Vendors
- DJs spinning festive tunes
- 4-8 p.m. Santa visits in front of Lakewood Public Library
- 5 p.m. Holiday Parade starting at Belle and Detroit Avenues, headed westbound on Detroit Avenue
- 5:30-8 p.m. Live music by The Sellouts at City Center Main Stage
- **6:30 p.m.** Lighting Ceremony at Main Stage at City Center Park (in front of the Marc's Plaza)
- 7 p.m. Fireworks Show sponsored by First Federal Lakewood over Kauffman Park
- **7:45 p.m.** Final Pour at The Roundstone Beer Garden

"We are excited to once again welcome our neighbors and visitors from across the region for Light Up Lakewood, our signature community event," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "Whether you're feeling the spirit of the holiday season or simply wish to enjoy a festive, family-friendly community atmosphere, no event better showcases our city's vibrancy than this long-standing Lakewood tradition."

Light Up Lakewood Festival Royalty Scholarship Application

As part of our commitment to fostering and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods, LakewoodAlive partners with David Stein, owner of Avenue Home to provide two \$500 scholarships to Lakewood residents who are high school juniors in the 2022-23 school year. This scholarship celebrates community service, pride in Lakewood, and a commitment to further strengthening the community. Finalists will be selected to be interviewed; ultimately, two Royalty will be chosen by the selection committee as the scholarship recipients. View the scholarship application, which is due via email or postmarked November 11, 2022.

For more information and continued updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood.



Make no payments until 2023 when you finance a new Lennox® system for as little as

\$132 A MONTH*



RECEIVE UP TO

\$1,200 IN REBATES

on a complete Ultimate Comfort System.**



216-220-5710 slifehvac@sbcglobal.net

> 13729 Madison Avenue Lakewood, OH 44107

Office repires December 2, 2022. **Office repires December 2, 2022. Offer based on a retail price of \$10,000. Requires purchase of qualifying Lennox system. Financing available to Well-qualified buyers on approved credit. No down payment required. Financing requires 120 equal monthly payments of \$132 a month of principal and interest after the first 6 months. Normal late charges apply. Financing can combine with any eligible rebate. Minimum and maximum amount financed of \$3,000 and \$100.000, respectively our appropriate your account at any time without penalty. Financing is subject to recribe the quirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. See fruth in Lending disclosures available from lender for more information. "Fleshed requires purchase of qualifying items must be installed by December 9, 2022. Belable claims must be submitted with prior of or purchase to www. lennoxconsumerrebates. com no later than December 23, 2022. Relabate is paid in the form of a Lennox Visa* Prepaid Card is subject to terms and conditions found or referenced on card and expires 12 months after issuance. Conditions apply, See www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions for complete terms and conditions. © 2022 Lentox Industries Inc. Lennox Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.

The Back Page



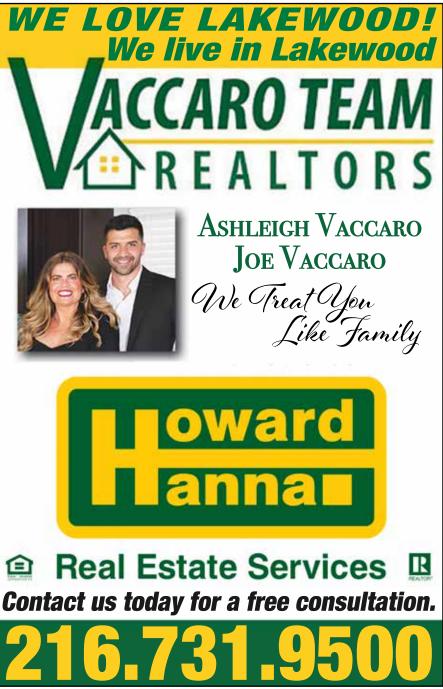














Are you facing a legal problem that impacts Health? Housing? Family? Money? Employment?

Contact Legal Aid!

Browse legal information or apply for help 24/7 online: www.lasclev.org
Or, call 888.817.3777 during most business hours.

