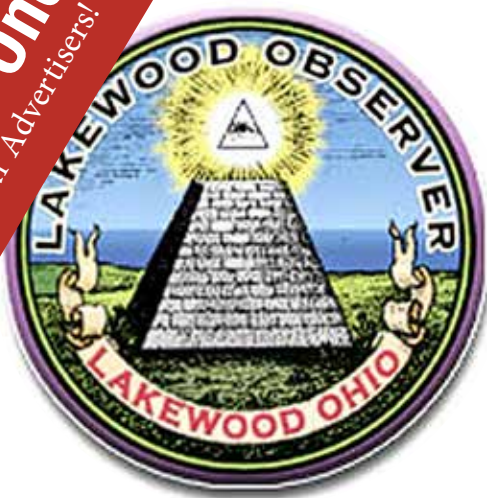


Free – Take One!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



“You’re only here for a short visit. Don’t hurry. Don’t worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way.” - Walter C. Hagen

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites
Volume 19, Issue 5, March 1, 2023

Train Derailment In East Palestine Could It Happen In Lakewood?



A happy town minding its own business, then disaster --not caused by any single person-- that would end up with lives uprooted.

by Jim O'Bryan

Short answer: Yes. 4,000 rail derailments a year. Most are very minor, but nearly 1,000 are serious.

Four weeks ago, a day after the railroad accident in East Palestine, residents of Lakewood asked, “Can it happen here?” At the time no one knew the cause. Today we have been told that it was a wheel bearing axle failure. Which

means, yes it can happen here. So Deb and I took a field trip to East Palestine to speak with the people and see the layout.

News reports had the train going through Cleveland on the way to East Palestine. Also



Checking air quality in a mostly closed bag. reports had the bearing failing and the fire starting as much as an hour before the accident, and video of the train on fire 30 minutes before the accident. This puts the accident starting

continued on page 6



One of many units around town cleaning 10' creeks with 2" hoses!



Worst case scenario evacuation for Lakewood based on East Palestine: a derailment at the trestle with a west to east wind, which is a typical wind pattern.



Fire And Ice Success For Champs Cafe

This past week Lakewood Fire Dept. Local 382 took on Lakewood Rangers in a hockey game to raise funds for Champs Cafe at Horace Mann Elementary School.

The name chosen for this event was Fire and Ice

and I would hope it becomes an annual event, as everyone there and playing had a great time. If you get a chance check out Champs Cafe.

Legislation To Strengthen Ohio's Earned Income Tax Credit

by Caitlin Robertson

On February 15th, State Reps. Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Dani Isaacsohn (D-Cincinnati) introduced legislation to strengthen the State's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), making it partially refundable (Ohio House Bill 39).

The refundable federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the nation's most effective anti-poverty program. The federal EITC in 2018 reduced the burden of poverty for 16.5 million people and lifted nearly 5.6 million people out of poverty, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Ohio implemented a state EITC in 2013 and expanded



State Representative
Michael J. Skindell

the credit in 2019. Low to middle income Ohioans are eligible for the state EITC if they receive the federal credit and have earned income within the set guidelines. Unlike the federal EITC, the state credit is not refundable, making it one of the weakest in the nation. The introduced bill provides

that 10 percent of the tax credit be refundable for state EITC recipients.

“By not offering a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit in Ohio, we are behind most states in the nation”, said Rep. Skindell. “Making the EITC partially refundable would be a significant start to lessening the burden on our working families.”

Making the state EITC refundable would boost family income and assist lower income communities by stimulating local economies.

The legislation was assigned to the Ohio House Ways and Means committee and now awaits a first hearing.

Caitlin Robertson is the Legislative Aide to State Representative Michael J. Skindell.

The Empty Seat

by Bill Snorteland

I would like to spread the word of a national program that quietly brings attention to our service members who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing.

Rolling Thunder, Inc. National POW-MIA Chair of Honor Program is intended to bring daily reminders of the POW-MIA issue to cities and towns all across the nation.

The POW-MIA chair in any location is to remain empty to help people remember and represent those service members who are unable to fill

continued on page 8



The POW-MIA Chair at an event.

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Make Use Of Our Car Seat Fit Stop And Neighborhood Paramedic Program

In Lakewood, public safety is always top of mind. That priority on safety takes many forms, and I’d like to take some time to highlight two important programs that we launched last year to be proactive in protecting some of our most vulnerable Lakewood residents. Those programs are our Car Seat Fit Stop and our Neighborhood Paramedic Program, both provided by our top notch Lakewood Fire Department.

In July, our fire department began offering the Car Seat Fit Stop again, a program that had existed in the past and was brought back to help parents and caregivers ensure that child safety seats are properly installed. Our firefighters perform the installations, engaging in dialogue with program participants while they work to show the best methods to set up the car seats. With so many different models (our fire department are aware of at least 80 models currently in the market), it can be difficult for parents and caregivers to know what to look for to make things as safe as possible. Our firefighters also go over some helpful tips on general child safety while working on the car seats – it’s a great opportunity to talk broadly with residents about how we can all work together to keep kids safe.

Currently, seven fire department members have been certified through the national Child Passenger

Safety Technician training program to provide this vital service. The Fire Department is hosting a Fit Stop event every month, doing so on weekends to make it easier for families to participate. In only a few months of operation, our Lakewood firefighters have helped dozens of families through this fantastic program. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please visit the City website (lakewoodoh.gov/car-seat-fit-stop/) to find out more or sign up for a future Fit Stop session.

Last year, we also launched the Neighborhood Paramedic program to address key health and safety needs across the community, with a focus on proactive, preventative healthcare. Our human services and safety forces had observed a serious gap in Lakewood’s health and wellness environment, where preventable injuries and controllable medical issues were not being addressed. Instead, the first time issues with vulnerable members of the community were coming to light was with a hospital visit or worse, a trip to the emergency room.

The City sees this program as a wise investment that has provided immediate impact and that will have long-term benefits. We were also fortunate (and grateful) to receive a \$70,000

grant from the Healthy Lakewood Foundation to help pay a part of the program’s startup costs.

The Neighborhood Paramedic program kicked off in August with a special focus on home visits with seniors to prevent trip-and-fall situations within residences. This was a strategic choice that we hope has high effect. For context, keep in mind that in 2021 alone, Lakewood EMS responded to over 650 calls for seniors with fall injuries, most of which were serious enough to require transport to a hospital or emergency room.

Since the program began just six months ago, our Neighborhood Paramedic has been in touch with 170 individuals, and our specialized fall prevention/safety focus has led to 40

in-home consultations. That has led to interventions to reduce risks of falling (e.g., things as simple as lowering the height of a bed), but also allowed our paramedic to discover other challenges facing seniors, the disabled, and those on limited incomes, and then connect them to essential health care and other social services. Those interested in learning more about the program or scheduling a home visit should reach out to lfdnp@lakewoodoh.net or call 216-659-0009.

I’m very thankful for the great team we have at the Lakewood Fire Department, who are always looking for new and innovative ways to keep us all safe, prevent dangerous situations, and encourage health and wellness. The high use of these two new programs is encouraging, and we hope to get more people to benefit from them, so please spread the word.

by Mayor Meghan George



18514 Detroit Avenue

Lakewood, Ohio 44107

phone:216.521.7684

fax: 216-521-9518

Lakewood’s favorite tavern!

A great place to dine and relax with friends

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



THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER

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 2023 • 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.

www.lakewoodobserver.com

216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531

PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

 [Lakewood Observer](#)

Upcoming Submission Deadline

March 10, 2023

March 31, 2023

Publish Date

March 15, 2023

April 5, 2023

PUBLISHER

EDITOR IN CHIEF

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

ADVERTISING

Debra O’Bryan

Margaret Brinich

Betsy Voinovich

Sales Manager

Emily Kompier

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,

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Jim O’Bryan

PHOTOGRAPHY - Matt Bixenstine, Dr. Charles Greanoff, and Jim O’Bryan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Anna Bacho, Matt Bixenstine, Lisa Calfee, Ed Denk, Steve Gannis, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Ralph Hutchison, Buzz Kompier, Jim O’Bryan, Steven Piekutoski, Caitlin Robertson, Tonya Sams, Jeffrey Siebert, Bill Snorteland, and Eva Starr



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

If you’d like to help this history-making 19-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?

Celebrating Over 17 Years of Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Lakewood, Ohio: www.lakewoodobserver.com

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

March Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Booked for Murder Book Club

March 16, 2023 “Daisy Darker” by Alice Feeney
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.

Knit & Lit Book Club

March 21, 2023 “Sankofa” by Chibundu Onuzo
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.

Lakewood Public Library Children’s And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Pre-school Story Time

For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler
This pre-school story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. Registration is required.
Main Library- Tuesdays, March 7- March 28, 2023
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, March 8- March 29, 2023
11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Madison Branch- Thursdays, March 9- March 30, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Just Baby 'N Me

For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby
Just Baby 'N Me is a lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. Registration is required.

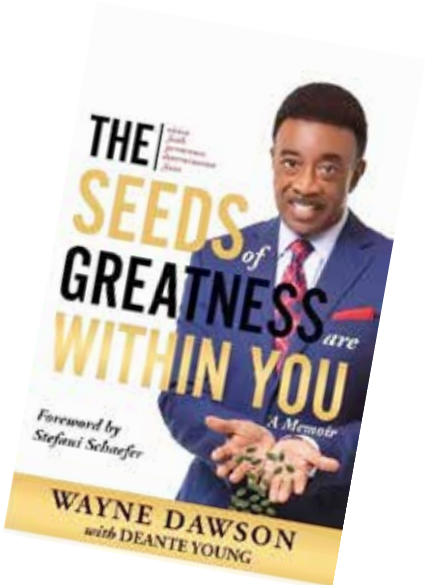
Meet The Author Wayne Dawson At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

One of the most successful broadcasters in Cleveland history is visiting Lakewood Public Library for Meet the Author on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. "The Seeds of Greatness are Within You" is the inspirational memoir of Fox 8 News lead anchor, Wayne Dawson. He is joining us along with co-author Dante Young in a question and answer session describing the challenges of his early life and the positive changes that led him to become one of the most beloved personalities in Northeast Ohio television.

Dawson was born and raised in Cleveland, a child of the 60's. In spite of the turbulence of the era, including the fight for civil rights, the Glenville riots, racism and busing, he survived with a “dreamer’s mindset” inspired first and foremost by his mother. In "The Seeds of Greatness are Within You," the author hopes to encourage everyone to fulfill their own life's purpose with reflections from his own.

Dawson is an 11-time Emmy winner, a member of the Broadcaster’s Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Press Club. The Kent State University alum is the



lead anchor of Fox 8 in the Morning and has been a fixture at its television station for 42 years. He’s been a notable public speaker, community activist, and philanthropist for decades before co-founding the Dawson foundation with his brother, East Cleveland judge William Dawson. Since 2018, he has served as pastor of Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

The Friends of Lakewood Public Library now have regular Booksale hours from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Most books are 50 cents. The sale is located at the Main Library.
Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date on library news, programs and events.

Treat your (future) self.
Big rate. Pick your term.
3-6-9 month CDs @ 3.55% APY*



First Federal
Lakewood

ffl.net/ratespecial



EQUAL HOUSING LENDER • MEMBER FDIC

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is 3.55% for the 3-month certificate, 3.55% for the 6-month certificate, 3.55% the 9-month certificate and is accurate as of 12/2/2022. At maturity, the 3-month certificate automatically renews for a term of 3-months, the 6-month certificate renews for a term of 6-months, the 9-month certificate automatically renews for a term of 9-months. Promotional rates available for new money only. New money is defined as money not currently on deposit with the bank. Funds must remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. A penalty for early withdrawal may apply. Fees could reduce earnings. The minimum to open the certificate of deposit is \$500. This special is available for a limited time and is subject to change without notice.



LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up:
Girls Basketball
OHSAA Tournament

by Dr. Charles Greanoff
February 11, 2023
Lakewood vs. North Royalton

Today at the New East Gym, down 5 points late in the 3rd Quarter, the Lakewood Girls rallied for a nail biting 51-49 victory over North Royalton in OHSAA Tournament play. With 4 seconds left, the Bears were inbound-ing near the basket on the sideline, with nightmares of a 3-point walk-off loss looming. But, in a play that has characterized her Lakewood Rangers career, senior Jacquie Hudak stole the ball (pictured, with Sydney Hampton looking on) to seal the hard fought victory. Today's was a true team effort, as the Bear defense focused on and con-tained junior standout Delaney Garcia, who still managed 11 rebounds and 12 points to lead the Lakewood scor-ing. Jacquie's off the bench efforts (6 points, stout defense) were neces-sary, in part, because twin sister Sam (3 points) was in foul trouble for much of the game and eventually fouled out. Senior guard Sydney Hampton also played an outstanding game, scoring 8 and doing much of the ball handling. (She sat for perhaps 2 total minutes.). Aya McAuffe (3 points), Ally Book-man (4 points) and Sophia Zarbio (2 points) provided valuable minutes off the bench. Senior post Ava Carroll was vital today, scoring eight points, grab-bing 7 rebounds and playing tough defense in the paint. Lakewood's rug-ged team defense was led by senior



Nettie Doran, who contained North Royalton's standout junior Brooklyn Gambino, who still aged to score 12. Nettie scored five, including a crucial momentum swinging three pointer to put the Rangers ahead midway through the 4th quarter. Lakewood did not play its finest basketball today, but this is a fabulous win considering the circum-stances, including a tough opponent. Having lost by 1 point on the road in OT in the GLC Championship game last week, the mental toughness to bounce back is impressive—especially after having an 11 point lead turn into a 5 point deficit over the latter part of the 1st half till midway through the 4th quarter. Long Live Lakewood.



Lincoln Community Raises
\$8400 At Jump Rope For Heart

by Chritine Gordillo
Congratulations to the Lincoln community for raising more than \$8,400 for the American Heart Association during its Jump Rope for Heart campaign! The school celebrated with a joyous assembly with an amazing performance by the Jump Rope Club, led by Mrs. Anderson, and of course the traditional pie-the-teacher-in-the-face event for the top fundraisers! A fun way to celebrate a meaningful achievement!

Westshore Culinary Arts
Student Sophia Kowalski
Receives Gold Medal



Congratulations to @westshorecareertech Culinary Arts student Sophia Kowalski on receiving a Gold Medal rating in Baking & Pastry at the regional FCCLA (Family, Career & Community Leaders) contest on Saturday! Now just waiting to hear in March if Sophia moves on to state competition. Kudos, Sophia!

LHS Spring Musical Set For March 10-12
by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School Barnstormers Drama Club and the George P. Read Performing Arts Department proudly present "Anastasia: The Musical!" Inspired by the beloved film, Anastasia transports the audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of 1920s Paris, as a young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing conman and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love, and family.
Tickets for the musical are available at a presale discount price online of \$8. Tick-ets are \$10 at the door. The Barnstormer spring musicals are always a bargain for such great entertainment! Performances are March 9, 10 and 11 at 7:30 pm in the Civic Auditorium. Go to www.payschoolsevents.com to buy your presale tickets.

AROUND THE

FRIDAY DURING LENT

FISH FRY

HEATED PATIO

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

Book your fundraisers and special events With Us!

EATERY
DRINKERY
FUNNERY

Roman Fountain

Pizza & Subs

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE!

ORDER ONLINE @ ROMANFOUNTAIN.COM

Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzeria in Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzone, 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

At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites:

- Pizza
- Calzones
- Stromboli
- Salads
- Pasta

- Subs
- Wings
- Appetizers
- Desserts
- Dinners

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

Celebrating Over 17 Years of Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Lakewood, Ohio: www.lakewoodobserver.com

FORUM

Hello Lakewood

by Steven Piekutoski

Do you sleep on one side or the other? Do you fall down with precision or messy implications? Do you walk about with a hat or a scarf? Is there a way to know that you are here? (That last bit was, honestly, a typo?)

I have been around the world, is a way to introduce a sentence. But, one does live and duration amounts. So-- do you crave salt or sugar? Do you have a problem with your carpet with having to vacuum it? Do you fall down and get up with precision or does something

else occur? Is there a way to know someone is here for you? (Not a typo.)

I once went climbing down a cliff with no ropes-- quite brave, yes. But, if one is not dead they get to type. So... do you, when asked, consider what you should say? Do you curse your vacuum for pleasure when you have to exchange nozzles for a particular amount of dust when you know this is just average? Do you wish that when you were young that people had not said-- things happen this way?

I have not been around the

world-- not even close. I have been to Denver-- they have mountains at the western outskirts. You have to keep living until you don't-- it shouldn't be annoying but then there are questions. Do you have a moment when you want to leave the house you live within and the street is never a consideration of loss? Do you, when you sink in messy implications, involve everyone or just one, two? Do you eat? (That last bit was, clearly, a rather not question-- which has its value?)

I once went to a mountain and told it-- look, you're up there: okay. Later,

after climbing it-- it told me it was not happy with the cheese, the cheese, it was something about the cheese. I had brought some cheese.

Do you have a friend? Do you have a collar on your shirt? Do you walk? Do you think that if you can get to a final understanding of things you'll win? (You will have facts, of course.) Is there a groundswell you know that actually involves the ground?

I don't want to go around the world. And, I'd rather not say why.

Steven Piekutoski is a citizen living in Bird Town.

Lakewood Law Can Eliminate County Plastic Bag Ban Here

by Steve Gannis

Tell Lakewood City Council and Mayor Megan George to opt out of the foolish and counter-productive extremist plastic bag ban that Cuyahoga County Council arrogantly imposed as a law county-wide. Cleveland, Brooklyn, Strongsville, North Olmsted and Independence wisely opted out. Call me at 216-221-0228 to get organized.

Prohibiting merchants from giving customers a free plastic bag to put their purchase in is stupid. Using paper bags destroys trees, thereby worsening global warming. Paper bags leak and cannot be sealed, for garbage, dog poop, etc... That forces us to buy plastic bags which are expensive and thicker plastic, putting more plastic in the environment. Plastic bags can be recycled into various products.

Lakewood is not polluted with plastic bags. Tote bags become dirty and unsanitary. This un-American bag ban takes away our freedom and is dictatorial big government. Councilpersons and mayors who allow this oppressive bag ban should be replaced. This Lakewood bag ban is a reason to shop in Cleveland, not Lakewood.

WALL TO WALL TRANSFORMATIONS

FULLY INSURED, FREE ESTIMATES



PLASTER REPAIR

Specializing In Plaster And Lathe Restoration

216-255-8529



YOU'RE INVITED



to À La Cart, a series of live cooking demos

WHEN & WHERE

Tues. March 7th @ 2pm
Cove Community Center
12525 Lake Avenue

FEATURING

Kiwi Wongpeng
Chef & Owner of Thai Thai



LAKESIDE DENTAL GROUP



We Accept Most Forms Of Insurance

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!

EAST PALESTINE: LAKEWOOD ASKS

Train Derailment In East Palestine

Could It Happen In Lakewood?

continued from page one

just outside of Cleveland.

I spoke with a guy who has been a railroad electrician for decades, but not on Norfolk and Southern, his thoughts were, “Possibly a failure in a heat box.” Heat boxes are located at random distances of 20-50 miles. They are about the size of a shoebox. They attach to the outside of the rail, measure the heat, and take photos of each wheel, the axle and bearing go over it. If excess heat is detected it sounds an alarm that is sent to the engineer and at the next station they stop the train immediately. He thought only a failure would allow this to happen as the distance was so great. This indicates to me, and the electrician concurs, that bearings and axles are a weak spot for trains. After all, why the expense to monitor? This again underlines the idea that it can happen here.

On Lakewood social media this week, where everyone is an expert, while some residents asked for more



Taken going through Lakewood. As was pointed out by one Lakewoodite on social media, Hydrochloric Acid is easy to clean up. While it might be easier to clean up than polyvinyl chloride, cleaning up 14 cars of this coming at your house would ruin your week. Trust me.

oversight and inspections, some actually argued for less. While this smells much like troll farts, all I can ask is, really? Your answer for an accident is less oversight, disband the EPA and the NTSB? Lakewood: too many trolls.

What is not being reported or

addressed by the trolls of Lakewood is the fate of the residents of East Palestine, or here. So let’s take a look: An impoverished county, a nice but shrinking city with the young moving away. Families that have invested everything in a home, schools, libraries just like Lakewood. Now the homes are worth 10% of what they were a month ago. Living paycheck to paycheck, the evacuation, the troubles, the closures have you three checks behind, and the railroad is offering \$1,000 to settle! (This was the actual initial offer.) People’s lives changed and/or ruined forever. Instead of days at their son’s or daughter’s baseball games; days, weeks, months with lawyers, courts, doctors, and meetings.

Having had the pleasure of working at BP America through many of their accidents, I know first hand, they do and pay as little as they are forced to. In the Gulf of Mexico they offered shrimpers \$5,000 for not being able to work their waters. Then \$10,000 after a couple

months. Most had to take it. Those who could afford to wait did so and got settlements in the hundreds of thousands and even millions. But that was the handful that could afford to wait, afford good lawyers, and went to thousands of meetings. I do not see East Palestine or Lakewood in that camp.

As we watch the news on East Palestine, understand the real forces at work there. Realize that these people’s live are ruined or changed forever. They will never be made whole again. Then think what you would do here in Lakewood. Now think of the Lakewood trolls arguing on behalf of the railroad, the chemical companies, and against safety.

But also realize, there is no safer way to transport large quantities of hazardous chemicals and freight. It is nearly impossible to keep all of it from going through communities. Realize that even with nearly one thousand train “derailments” a year, the chances of it happening here are very low, but not ZERO.

As a community we should demand increased safety and maintenance from the railroads in our town and in other towns. We need the railroads, but they must be safer.

Prayers to those in East Palestine.
100 more photos online
at: lakewoodobserver.com



Cars being held by the NTSB for the investigation.



The scene of the accident about two football fields long, and one wide.

HOME ALONE
PET SITTING, INC.

In Home Pet Care
While You Are Away
Experienced
Veterinarian Technician
Bonded & Insured
216-548-1543
djmhokin@gmail.com
homealonepetsittinginc.com

NUNZIO'S
Pizzeria

Fresh Authentic Italian Cuisine
Pizza • Pasta • Sandwiches • Salads • Wings

Visit Sicily Without
Leaving Home

Since 1990 • 32 Years in Business!
Now Serving 4 Locations!
Lakewood, Cleveland, Akron,
and Parma

OPEN:
Monday - Thursday
4pm - 3am
Delivery till 3am
Friday - Saturday
4pm - 3:30
Delivery till 3:15
Sunday
2pm - 1am
Delivery till 1am

PIZZA	Small 6 cut 9"	Medium 8 cut 12"	Large 12 cut 16"	Party Tray Half Sheet
Plain	\$8.25	\$9.75	\$13.25	\$14.25
1 Item	\$9.00	\$10.75	\$14.50	\$16.00
2 Items	\$9.75	\$11.75	\$15.75	\$17.75
3 Items	\$10.50	\$12.75	\$17.00	\$19.50
4 Items	\$11.25	\$13.75	\$18.25	\$21.25
Deluxe	\$12.00	\$14.75	\$19.50	\$25.00
Extra Items	\$.75	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.75
Chicken	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$4.75
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$1.75	\$2.25	\$3.25	\$4.25

AVAILABLE TOPPINGS: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green Peppers, Red Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Meat, Pineapple, Jalapeño Peppers
SPECIAL TOPPINGS: Artichoke Hearts, Tomato, Broccoli, Chicken

17615 Detroit Avenue • 216-228-2900 nunziospizza.net

**Lakewood
Recreation**
offers
Adult Activities & Classes

Tap Dancing
Ballroom /Latin Dancing
for Couples
Belly Dancing
Tennis Clinic
Yoga Basics
Pilates
The Home Buying
Experience
Nuts and Bolts of Trusts
Caregiver Children and
Their Elder Parents
How to Avoid Nursing
Home Poverty
Virtual Classes: Plumbing,
Handyman Skills, and Tiling

(216) 529-4081
14100 Franklin Blvd.
Lakewood, OH 44107
www.lakewoodrecreation.com
On facebook
& On twitter = **lkwdrec**

CAN IT HAPPEN HERE?



What is not being reported is that East Palestine is built on a series of creeks and canals. All have become polluted. Top photo shows a creek running under the house. The lower photo shows the path of the creek continuing under her neighbor's house. This is all through East Palestine.

A Resident's Story

While I was talking with a resident about the entire experience, she showed us the rashes that she and her son have on their skin. She mentioned the headaches and the smell. She lives on one of the many streams running through town, all now polluted. I asked about the evacuation and she said that the first night everyone stayed and watched the fire. The fumes were blowing away from the city. The next day everyone was forced out for the burn and placed in hotels. "Most of us snuck back. We were all afraid the meth-heads and crack-heads would come down into town knowing it was empty. So my fiancé and I took turns sitting in the house with our guns, hoping they didn't come." I mention this because Lakewoodites are worried about speeders and drunks. They have no idea what it is like to hide in your house waiting for drug addicted intruders to come and hoping that you can out-gun and out-shoot them.

From Mayor Meghan George

Per our conversation, I wanted to respond to your inquiry on what the city is doing or has done to prepare for such a disaster. The reporting that continues to come out of this accident is alarming and something that we are working through here in the City of Lakewood. We have been in communication with the Ohio EPA on this matter as it relates to the City of Lakewood, and will continue to monitor the situation. The possibilities of a train derailment with a hazardous materials release in Lakewood has been greatly reduced over the years but more needs to be done. The Federal government needs to create policy that provides additional oversight over the railroads so that accidents like the one that happened in East Palestine do not happen in the future. The antiquated brake system on this train, which is commonly used by the railroads, was designed by Westinghouse going back to 1869. Former top Federal Railroad officials state that the accident could have been lessened if the train had Electronically Controlled Pneumatic (ECP) brakes. A requirement ensuring that trains carrying hazardous materials have these ECP brakes was in place during the Obama administration but was rescinded in 2017. As a member of the United States Conference of Mayors we will continue to advocate for enhanced safety regulations on the railroad. I have provided recent communication from our group and policy statements regarding this situation.

In terms of our preparedness, the City of Lakewood's Department of Public Safety (Police, Fire and Building) prepare for multiple emergencies on a regular basis. The Fire Department operates under Standard Operating Guidelines that we are constantly reviewing and regularly performs scenario-based training exercises. Prior to the derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, the Lakewood Fire Department hosted a table-top exercise with multiple government agencies from the Cuyahoga County area. The exercise was based on an incident very similar to the situation in East Palestine, Ohio. It was a train derailment in the middle of Lakewood.

The City will handle a derailment with a release of toxic chemicals based on a number of factors, including but not limited to: chemicals involved, weather conditions, physical state of the chemical, and following the standard operating guidelines listed in the Department of Transportation's ERG. (Emergency Response Guidebook)

Follow QR code or go to
<http://phmsa.dot.gov/>



“Recovery is a lifelong journey.”

Addiction treatment works, people recover.

Connect with treatment today.
Call **216-623-6888** or **988**



Tanya in recovery since July 25, 2007

Learn about recovery.



FOODWOOD

The Place To Be
Where The Elite Meet...
... To Eat



On the left is your writer Ed Denk, surrounded by the staff he loves.

by Ed Denk

Do you know or remember in the 40's, 50's and possibly into the 60's, when family entertainment was gathering around the huge, floor model Philco Radio? We would be listening to Burns and Allen, Mr. and Mrs. North, the crime mystery detectives, and The Lone Ranger when suddenly a phone would ring through the radio's speakers!

A male voice answered with, "Duffy's Tavern, where the elite meet to eat. Archie the manager speakin'. Duffy ain't here... Oh. Hello Duffy." And then the laughter began!

Well, you might like to know that Lakewood has a place where the elite meet to eat as well and it's "The Place to Be" on Warren at Detroit Avenue. I like to refer to it as Lakewood's "Souper Bowl" as Chef George makes outstanding soups-- so good, that many patrons take orders home with them. Different every day, some of my favorites are classics like Manhattan style Clam Chowder, Tomato Basil, Broccoli Cheddar, and homemade Vegetable. Then

there are unique soups known only to TPTB, like George's unique Stuffed Green Pepper soup, and the Creamy Lobster and Shrimp soup. So good.

Sometimes, I'll even order soup with my breakfast, which is great as well. The list of omelets are all worth trying. Don't overlook the "Greek" or "Crazy" omelets. You can request to "add color" green for spinach or white for onions. The staff is accommodating and the service is outstanding!

As you enter The Place To Be, Maria will greet and seat you. Christine, Faye or Poppi will take your order and engage in pleasant conversation before turning your order in to Chris, Jimmy, Gus, and "Souperman" George for perfect preparation.

Try it, you'll like it. The food, the conversation, and the laughs.

*Your neighbor,
Ed Denk*

The Place To Be
1391 Warren Road
216.226.8783
7 AM – 3 PM DAILY

CityMusic Cleveland Returns To Lakewood
Congregational Church For Upcoming Concert
by Michelle Gehrmann

Mark your calendar for Friday, March 17 for a concert you won't want to miss! CityMusic Cleveland returns to Lakewood Congregational Church as klezmer and classical melodies swirl together in Osvaldo Golijov's epic work, "The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind." This virtuous piece will be performed by CityMusic Cleveland principal clarinetist Daniel Gilbert and conducted by Joel Smirnoff. Also on the program is Beethoven's "'Kreutzer' Sonata Op. 47," in a rare arrangement for string orchestra.

CityMusic Cleveland is a professional chamber orchestra dedicated to making classical music accessible through free concerts and innovative programming throughout Northeast Ohio. This concert will take place Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Lakewood Congregational Church at 1375 W Clifton Blvd. Admission is free.

For more information and to make a donation, visit citymusiccleveland.org.

The Empty Seat

continued from page 1

Every city in America should have one.

With Memorial Day approaching before you know it, it would be nice to have these chairs in place at the First Federal Stadium at Lakewood High, Progressive Field, First Energy Stadium, Rocket Mortgage Field House and the Wolstein Center in Cleveland. For more information on how to purchase/secure a Chair of Honor contact: Paul Rader, National POW-MIA Chair of Honor, Email: praderny@gmail.com

As a Lakewood resident and veteran of the Vietnam War, Bill Snorteland looks forward to attending dedication ceremonies in the near future.

Communities have jumped on board with this and I am surprised that in 2023, Cleveland and Lakewood have not yet.

Every city in America should have one.

With Memorial Day approaching before you know it, it would be nice to have these chairs in place at the First Federal Stadium at Lakewood High, Progressive Field, First Energy Stadium, Rocket Mortgage Field House and the Wolstein Center in Cleveland. For more information on how to purchase/secure a Chair of Honor contact: Paul Rader, National POW-MIA Chair of Honor, Email: praderny@gmail.com

As a Lakewood resident and veteran of the Vietnam War, Bill Snorteland looks forward to attending dedication ceremonies in the near future.

We missed you...

Welcome back to India Garden!



ONLY \$14.95

We will be serving Best Indian Cuisine Lunch Buffet.

OPEN DAILY

Mon – Fri 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat – Sun 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Spice your week with us!

Reservation Highly Recommended: 216.221.0676

18405 Detroit Road

www.IndiaGardenCleveland.com



WOODSTOCK

woodstocksmokejoint.com

#1 BBQ In Northern Ohio 2021 2022

LAKE ERIE PERCH FRIDAY!

We are serving up 3 breaded seasoned perch fillets, french fries, house slaw, tarter and a lemon wedge for \$15.00 Dine in, carryout or delivery.

***** Available until sold out. *****

KITCHEN HOURS

MONDAY – THURSDAY – 4PM–10PM
FRI. – 4PM–11PM + SAT. – 12PM–11PM
SUNDAY – 12PM–9PM
BAR IS OPEN LATER...

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY – FRIDAY 4 PM – 7 PM

13362 MADISON AVE.

LAKEWOOD, OHIO • (216) 226-8828

LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood Kiwanis Is Calling All Graduating High School Seniors...

by Anna Bacho

--who live in Lakewood. We have scholarships to award.

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is proud to be offering its 2023 scholarship program to graduating high school seniors. The club's foundation increased the awards to FOURTEEN \$10,000 scholarships, \$2500 per year for 4 years each.

Edward Hadaway, Kiwanis scholarship committee chairman said, "Eligible applicants can be students at any accredited high school, but must be a resident of Lakewood and a citizen of the United States. They must demonstrate academic success in high school and must have applied to one or more specific college or university. Winners will be chosen based on need for financial

assistance; community involvement and service; with qualities of leadership, honesty, loyalty, diligence and participation in extracurricular activities."

Applications and contact information is online at www.kiwanisfoundation.com. Please submit by April 1, 2023.

Lakewood Kiwanis serves Lakewood youth. We celebrated our Centennial year in 2021.

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Anna Bacho is a member of Lakewood Kiwanis.

Lakewood Kiwanis' Harding Builder's Club Builds Leaders

by Anna Bacho

March 20th thru the 24th, 2023 is Kiwanis International recognition week for Kiwanis Builders. The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is proud to sponsor a Builder's Club at Harding Junior High.

Builder's is a youth leadership club in the Kiwanis family for middle school. Each Builder's club has a school/administrator advisor and Lakewood Kiwanian advisor. The club officers are elected at the beginning of the school year and installed by a Kiwanian officer.

After that is in place, the voting of projects by the kids is done for the year. Our Builder's projects include food drives, dog blankets for The Alaskan Iditarod Race, and fundraising efforts for world projects, such as World Wildlife Association. The kids learn that they have a voice in the club and need to make the commitment to complete their projects.

Leadership in school and community is supported by both the school faculty advisor and Lakewood Kiwanis.

Kiwanis International Builder's motto is "Building Leaders" and Harding School Builders are doing that today.

Go Harding Builders! Lakewood Kiwanis is proud of you.

Legal Aid Can Help With Federal Income Tax Issues

by Tonya Sams

If you are having tax issues, you don't have to navigate it alone - Legal Aid is here to help! Legal Aid's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) is a free legal service that helps to resolve taxpayer disputes with the IRS regarding federal income tax matters.

Legal Aid attorneys can help taxpayers avoid going to court because of unresolved tax issues in a number of ways including negotiating with the IRS to accept less to settle a debt than the full amount owed, and lowering or eliminating taxable income from debts that were forgiven from banks and credit card companies.

Legal Aid attorneys can also help prevent the IRS from taking property, wages and social security benefits; help with identity theft and tax preparer fraud; help obtain income tax records; protect against spousal abuses in connection with tax returns; advise taxpayers on their rights and obli-

gations regarding the health care marketplace; and more.

Legal Aid was able to help Joel (name changed to protect privacy) with his tax issues. Joel received a letter from the IRS saying he owed a significant amount. Joel lives with his long-time girlfriend and her three young grandchildren. He claimed all of them as dependents on his taxes, but the IRS letter informed him that this was against the rules because he was not related to them and did not have custody.

Joel was referred to Legal Aid. With Legal Aid's help, Joel was able to demonstrate his eligibility for the child tax credits, avoid trial, and negotiate a settlement with the IRS.

If you need help resolving a tax issue, call Legal Aid at 888-817-3777 or seek help 24/7 at lasclev.org.

Free resources are available to help Northeast Ohio residents with tax preparation. Contact 2-1-1 or find

resources at lasclev.org/taxhelp.

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

Memorandum Calculo

by Ralph Hutchison

A stone is a gear,
is fixed, has teeth
and tongue and groove
and lips. A stone
is a gear fixed
to move exactly
as Earth moves.

Ralph Hutchison is a baker at the Root Cafe whose mission is to reduce and avoid the harmful effects of poverty in North East Ohio. Their tagline is "Modern algorithms running on the vintage acoustic media."

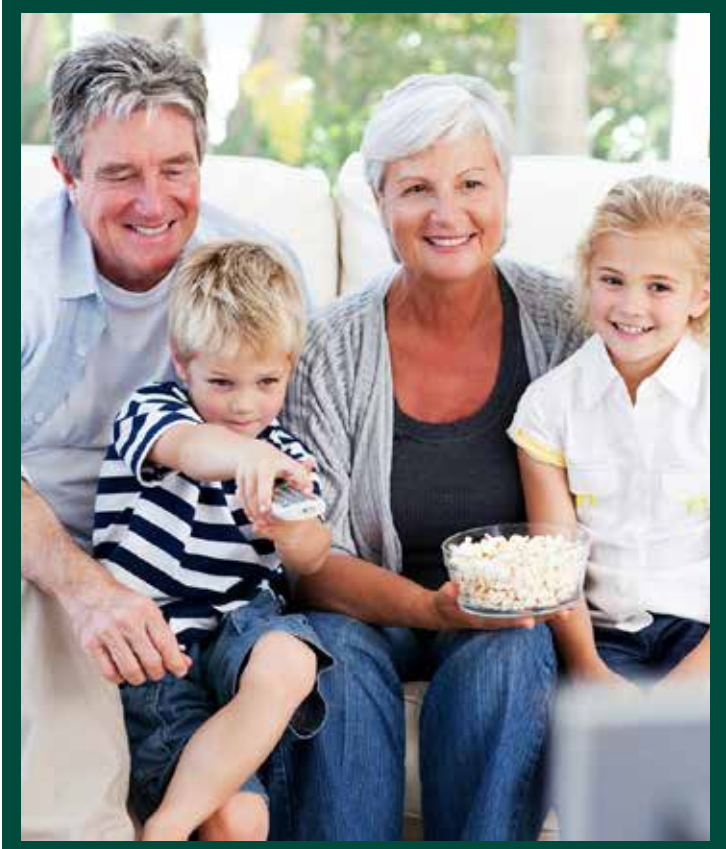
Lakewood's #1 choice
for interior and exterior
painting

**Neubert
PAINTING**

Serving Northeast
Ohio Homeowners
since 1975

Quality Painting.
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at
216-529-0360
for a Free Consultation!
neubertpainting.com



Assisted Living Move-in Special Enjoy a free 65" TV

Plus Premium streaming service and a waived community fee, a \$3,000 value!

Call Anne Murphy at (216) 386-6687
or visit ONeillHC.com to schedule a tour!

Exclusions apply, limited time offer, only available until 4/1/23

Keep your physician, or utilize an
O'Neill Healthcare physician partner.



Skilled Nursing - Assisted Living - Independent Living - Rehabilitative Therapies - Memory Support - Hospice Care - Dialysis

Bay Village | Fairview Park | Lakewood | Middleburg Heights | North Olmsted | North Ridgeville

LAKEWOOD IS ART.®

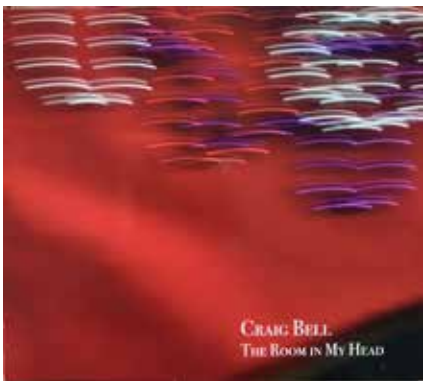
Lots Of Water:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 132

by Buzz Kompier

Craig Bell - The Room In My Head
- Gustav Records - 11 songs - CD, digital

Believe it or not, this is Craig Bell's first ever solo album (there are two experimental digital-only albums, but those are by craigbell, not Craig Bell so they don't count and they also weren't released physically as far as I can tell and that actually is important— and "aka Darwin Layne" is a compilation so it also doesn't count). Anyway. There's a nice mix of stuff on here— some punk (like "Real To Me," which sounds a lot like the Bizarros and has a hurdy-gurdy part— you don't hear that every day! -- and "2101" which I'm not sure what the significance is as a number but Craig makes it sound really cool), a psychedelic meditation ("Be Here Now"), two very different types of experimental music (the ominous "Who's Watching The Watchers," where Craig delivers a great vocal performance and "Careful With That Axe, Body Spray," where he's joined by fellow X__X members John Morton and Andrew Klimeyk for a true no wave freakout— is the title a little dumb? Maybe— I can't really tell what he's talking about), some genuinely great '60s throwback garage ("Out Of My Mind" and "Move Along," both with some great keyboard; I especially like the former's "everybody wants to



be 007" bridge— if not for the modern production, you could tell me it was a song from "Nuggets" and I'd believe you), and some more straightforwardly pop material like "A Little Bird" and "Goodbye." A lot of really good material to be found here. I think Craig sometimes gets overlooked amidst flashier or more out-there contemporaries/bandmates like David Thomas or John Morton, but hopefully people will hear this record. 4/5
(craigbell.bandcamp.com)

Jenny Mae - What's Wrong With Me?
- Don Giovanni Records / Any-way Records - 14 songs - LP, digital

This is a compilation of singles and unreleased tracks by the late Jenny Mae. If you read Bela Koe-Krompecher's "Love, Death & Photosynthesis," you know how interesting and tragic

the Jenny Mae story is and if you haven't, you should really read the book because it's very good. Anyway (no pun intended)— I think this might be the best place to get into Jenny Mae. It's a solid representation of her whole career and the various types of sounds she did. The first four tracks here are her earliest recordings and they immediately set the tone. "He Don't Care About You" is a pretty solo keyboard ballad and the other three add drum machine. The keyboard hook on "Big Scary Face" will be stuck in your head, as will bits and pieces of most of these songs— Jenny Mae knew how to write a catchy melody. After that, there are a few tracks that were meant for her never-finished third album; "Green Jello Eyes," an ode to a former love left behind in Ohio, is a really moving track, as is the downright painful tribute "Jim Shepard (I'm Going To Stay Alive)." It's a great song, don't get me wrong, but it certainly pulls no emotional punches. "Not Another Bad Year" from 2015, somewhat ironically Jenny's final recording, finishes up the first side. She was in rough shape at this point by all accounts, and it's true that her voice sounds a bit worn out, but the songwriting talent and the charm was definitely still there. Side B has three tracks from her early '90s band Vibralux and they're all excellent— "Junk" and

"A Face Like You" are both very catchy and semi-upbeat indie rock, but my favorite is the slow ballad "Hercules." "Ho Bitch" is not technically a single or an unreleased track, but it deserves to be on here— it's a meditation on her own mental illness, opening with the line "what's wrong with me?" that gives this record its title and, like "Jim Shepard" earlier, does not let up from there. The final two tracks are also from the planned third album in two different stages— "Spit On Your Hand" is nearly finished, while "Disco Song" is more of a rough demo. Both very good songs— a dancey vibe is present in both of them, with the latter in most of the musical elements (I would assume intentionally, given that it's called "Disco Song") and with the former mostly in the thumping drum machine, which provides an interesting contrast with almost everything else about the song. This is a very good collection of songs here and certainly worth checking out if you're into the '90s indie thing. 4/5
(anyway-records.com or don-giovannirecords.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.



MARCH

ARIES: The Ram is torn between being seen & taking care of business behind the scenes this St. Patty's Day... with Jupiter in the 1st house of the physical self, take it easy on the Irish Beer.

TAURUS: The Bull will certainly feel like coming out of the Bull Pen & partying since the Sun is shining on its house of friendships, but you have Jupiter exposing the hidden pot o' gold.

GEMINI: The Twins will probably start their Irish Jig from the office where

the Shamrocks are lighting the place up; Jupiter invites all your friends & associates, Oh Danny Boy, lookout.

CANCER: The Crab may be sipping an Irish Coffee in a Castle in Ireland, the Sun is shining on foreign lands, & Jupiter is bringing the rainbow to your professional arena, may the road rise.

LEO: The Lion/Lioness can't hide his Blarney from the Jungle, the Sun is shining on his house of secrets & his/her good luck has landed in a Jungle

overseas, top o' the morning to ya...

VIRGO: Virgo has the Irish Luck this month; Jupiter, the giver of blessings, has landed in your house of other people's money & the Sun in your partnership house. Be sure to share the green.

LIBRA: Libras, you'll have to decide between the corned beef at your favorite taphouse or being with your Cailin; if you value your health, you'll take the Lassie to the Pub & enjoy both of 'em.

SCORPIO: The Scorpion has the Irish Luck smiling on its house of romance while Jupiter is sitting in the place of health, a bit of Irish wisdom for ya; easy does it on the beer & the Lassies.

SAGITTARIUS: The Centaur's bow & arrow is pointed toward the gaff; put some corned beef & cabbage in the crockpot & entertain the wee little ones with some old-fashioned Irish Karaoke.

CAPRICORN: The Goat can take the office with him; by taking himself out in the community to reveal a bit of the craic at the neighborhood pub, sharing a Guinness with his co-workers...

AQUARIUS: Aquarians have the luck of the Euro in their pockets, with the wind at their back this St. Patty's Day, with the Sun shining its golden beams on your house of finances, draiocht.

PISCES: Rainbows abound across the Fish's Brooke this St. Patty's Day... Jupiter is sending its blessings with extra Euros; look for the Leprechaun sitting with the Pot o' Gold by the Shamrock.

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

TROY BRATZ

Real Estate Agent

Residential / Commercial

Lakewood Resident

216.702.2196

TroyBratz@KW.com

@TroyBratzKW

KW

ELEVATE

KELLERWILLIAMS.

SOLD

SELL now for top dollar

BUY for your future

INVEST in the community

BENTLEY

WEALTH MANAGEMENT OF

RAYMOND JAMES®

MICHAEL A. BENTLEY

Vice President, Investments

Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James

159 Crocker Park Blvd, Suite 390 // Westlake, OH 44145

O 440.801.1629 // C 216.513.0933 // F 440.801.1636

www.bentleywealthmanagement.com // michael.bentley@raymondjames.com

© 2016 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange / SIPC. Raymond James® and LIFE WELL PLANNED® are registered trademarks of Raymond James Financial, Inc. 16-BR3AP-0073 TA 04/16

H2O IS LAKEWOOD

H2O “Help to Others” Celebrates 30 Years With Memorable Tributary Bash

by Matt Bixenstine

They came from near and far to honor Lakewood’s incredible young people, and to partake in a celebration that was 30 years in the making.

A sellout crowd of 270 community members attended "H2O Tributary Bash: A Seat at the Table" on February 4th at Cove Community Center, enjoying a memorable night of festivities, philanthropy and fun. This 30th anniversary party and fundraising event served as a unique opportunity to celebrate an innovative program that has become part of the fabric of our community through empowering generations of young Lakewoodites to better the world around them.

"H2O Tributary Bash: A Seat at the Table" featured refreshments from Karen King Catering, live and silent auctions, a paddle raise, a wine pull, raffle prizes and games. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of attendees, sponsors and alumni donors, the event generated approximately \$59,000 to help fund H2O’s ongoing programming.

"For 30 years, H2O has been an integral part of the Lakewood community, a one-of-a-kind program that cultivates volunteerism and civic engagement among young people to enrich our city and its neighborhoods," said H2O Coordinator Emmie Hutchison. "We’re truly grateful for the support we receive from our community, as well as from our extremely loyal alumni base, and this year’s Tributary Bash provided a shining example of that support in action. On behalf of everyone associated with H2O, thank



Attendees (from left to right) Rebecca and David Baas, Toni Gelsomino and Kate Ingersoll partake in "H2O Tributary Bash: A Seat at the Table" on February 4th. (Photo by Nancy Feighan)

you to the many volunteers, donors, sponsors and guests who made this remarkable occasion possible."

The program portion of the event saw volunteer emcees Nick Aylward and Nate Kelly lead a variety of festivities. State Senator Nickie J. Antonio offered a senatorial citation recognizing the 30-year milestone, and current and past H2O staff members were honored, including founder Celia Dorsch, who shared that she was married in this same building back when it was Cove United Methodist Church. "This place and this program are both very special to me," said Dorsch.

A tribute video produced by current H2O participant Sean Miller was played for the crowd, and several alumni shared memories of the program. Volunteer auctioneer Chris Fornadel oversaw the live auction, which featured a Key West vacation (donated by Joyce and Wally Senney), a New York cabin getaway (donated by Cate and Mike Weber), a personalized quilt crafted by Suzanne Bednarchik, owner of The Quilting Bee, and a private four-course dinner prepared by Cleveland chef Adam Bostwick, winner of Food Network’s Chopped.

While the main level of Cove Community Center hosted the program, the basement level was transformed into a series of themed rooms: a wine room, a sports pub and a lounge. Lakewood High School’s talented jazz ensemble entertained attendees with a performance in the lounge.

"This was one of the first major community events to be held within Cove, which opened to the public last year, and many guests were introduced to the facility for the first time," said Hutchinson. "We were pleased to be able to help showcase this fabulous venue."

H2O was founded in 1993 with 10 students and an initial project involving a grassroots effort to recycle telephone books. Today, nearly 30 years later, this service organization has seen thousands of middle and high school students contribute more than 100,000 hours of volunteer work on projects ranging from youth mentoring to clothing and book drives to community beautification.

H2O thanks the following business

ger’s, Lakewood Community Services Center, Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, Laskey Costello, Lion and Blue, Palomaki Charitable Fund and Pinnacle Gardens Foundation.

Additionally, H2O thanks the following members of the Tributary Bash Committee for their tireless efforts in helping to make this event possible: Brittany O’Connor (Co-Chair), Celia Dorsch (Co-Chair), Debbie Baker, Matt Bixenstine, Traci Burke, Kristyn Callahan, Rachel Donaldson, Cathy Frantz, Kristen Humphreys, Brandon Jablonski, Nora Katzenberger, Karen Lee, Heidi Murray, Susan Wagner and Kris Williams.

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

sponsors for their generous support: The Castele Family Foundation, Citizens Bank, Friends of Nickie J. Antonio, Gei-



Attendees (from left to right) Heidi Murray, Mary Carol Lucic, Bob Shores and Mary Breiner enjoy the festivities during "H2O Tributary Bash: A Seat at the Table" on February 4th. (Photo by Nancy Feighan)

Recovery is a personal journey of healing and transformation.

- * Drop-In Center
- * Peer Support Group
- * Arts and Crafts Program

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

a non-profit peer wellness center

Phone: 216-251-8265

On Facebook @ [futuredirectionscos](#)
futuredirections@ameritech.net

2070 West 117th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

the Root cafe
15118 detroit ave
lakewood, ohio 44111
216.226.4401
www.theroot-cafe.com

The Back Page

LAKWOODITES

ROB MASEK

WELCOME TO PLANK ROAD TRIVIA NIGHT! I'M MATT AND TONIGHT'S CATEGORIES ARE INDIGENOUS AMERICA, WORLD WAR II FIGHTER PLANES, AND FUN WITH DEAD LANGUAGES!

THIS IS LIKE A BAD DREAM...

I FEEL LIKE I ARRIVED AT SCHOOL AND FOUND OUT THERE'S AN EXAM I DIDN'T STUDY FOR.

OH WELL. I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN THE NO PANTS NIGHTMARE.

ACTUALLY...

Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Full Service Salon For Females Of ALL Ages

Leader in fun green accessories.
Fascinators, emerald tiaras,
eyelashes, nail polish,
bows, and party wigs.

10% off on Seniors Tuesdays
and Wednesdays

f

Follow Us On Facebook
To See Accessories
and New Ideas!

Call for an appointment for best service.
Free Private Parking. Check with Id or cash

15309 MADISON AVENUE • 216.226.8616

WE LOVE LAKEWOOD!
We live in Lakewood

exp
REALTY

TM



ASHLEIGH VACCARO
JOE VACCARO
*We Treat You
Like Family*

Contact us today for a free consultation.
Ashleigh@vaccaroteam.com • joe@vaccaroteam.com

216.731.9500

health
markets

The Smarter Way to Shop...

- Health
- Medicare
- Small Group
- Life Insurance
- Supplemental
- Long-Term Care
- Retirement

Call today for your FREE QUOTE!
216-228-0765
www.clevelandinsurance.info
16506 Detroit Rd. Lakewood, OH 44107

Carl Lishing Licensed Insurance Agent

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency is the d/b/a, or assumed name, of Insphere Insurance Solutions, Inc. which is licensed as an insurance agency in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state HMIA000589

Skettle Automotive

15501 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH

NOW OPEN ON SATURDAY

Tim Skettle Owner, Technician

Formerly at Steve Barry Buick
For an appointment CALL

216.226.5993



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.



Legal Aid thanks the
Healthy Lakewood Foundation
for its outreach support!