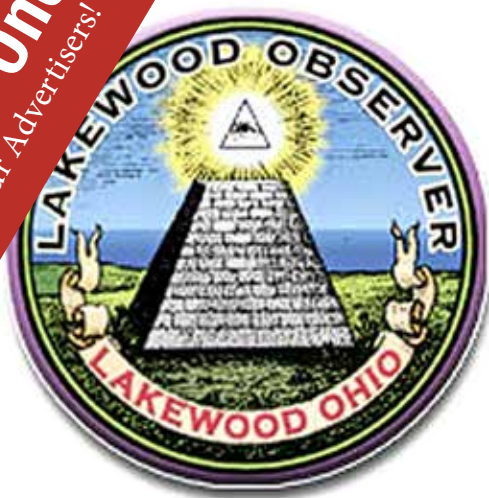


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 19, Issue 6, March 15, 2023

Parents Protest Gutting Of Music And Physical Education Programs In Lakewood Elementary Schools

by Betsy Voinovich

Last Monday a large group of parents gathered at the Lakewood Board of Education meeting to express their surprise, disappointment and anger over proposed changes in what is called the “specials” schedule in Lakewood elementary schools. “Specials” refers to art, music and physical education, subjects that are outside the main courses of study.

Currently Lakewood elementary students have 100 minutes of music instruction a week. The new schedule the Board has decided to put in place will cut that by 60% in order to make room for STEM and something called “digital literacy.” Physical education will be cut by 54%. The new



Board of Education meeting, 03.06, 2023 gets started.

schedule gives equal weight to STEM, phys ed, music education, and digital literacy.

The community has been told that this new schedule represents an improvement for students because it offers “equity” among the different subjects. This presupposes that

there is a group of parents who feel that free-standing STEM classes on an elementary level and “digital literacy” are so important that they must have the same weight as long established classes like music and physical education.

Years of research prove the

importance of music education on developing brains, especially in younger children. Research on the alarming increase in obesity in children proves the necessity of physical fitness and education about its importance for young children. The goal of having children participate in these subjects is not to produce athletes and musicians, but

to promote sound bodies and minds so that they will do better in all of their subjects.

Parents and educators lined up to make their opinions known on all aspects of this decision.

Dr. Charles Greanoff, longtime LHS educator, came

continued on page 5

LHS Finishes First On Academic Challenge

by Christine Gordillo

We finally found out (the students kept the secret) that the Lakewood High School Academic Challenge Team finished first in their appearance on Channel 5's, out scoring Elyria Catholic and Medina Highland. Kudos to Ellie Clark, Sam Thomas and Owen Rumsey for both their fine performance and all the practice hours they logged—it clearly paid off. (All three of them are intellectually curious and solid citizens of LHS—great ambassadors for our school).

Advisors Ms. Alten and Ms. Sabin are dedicated



teachers that give a lot to our school, and are instrumental in the success of this club.

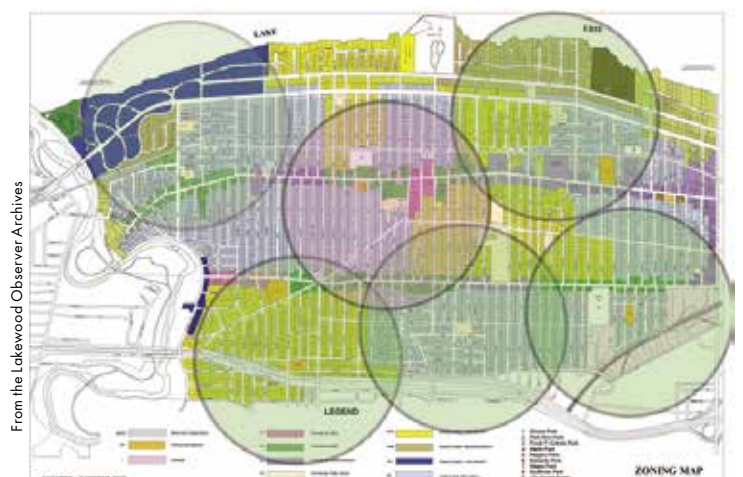
A healthy, vibrant academic/social school ecosystem relies on students and teachers like this, who do the extra things to add energy, purpose and opportunity to our institution. In my opinion, no school exceeds LHS in the breadth of curricular and co-curricular opportunities. (I'm sure my view will be even stronger after I see "Anastasia" tonight). What a privilege it is to work with students and teachers like Ellie, Sam, Owen, Ms. Alten and Ms. Sabin. Long Live Lakewood

Do The Bunny Hop And Hop On Over

by Naomi Schiffrik

There are two opportunities for the families in Lakewood to participate in Easter Egg Hunts. On Saturday April 1, Lakewood Lutheran School, 14560 Madison Avenue will host their Easter Egg Hunt starting at 11 am. Grace Preschool will host their hunt on Saturday April 8 also starting at 11 am. Both events are open to all families for children ages 10 and under. Activities and refreshments are also on the menu at both locations. Keep a keen eye out for the Easter Bunny. You might even get a picture with the bunny! Smile!

Hope you hop on over!



Used at the 50 Year Committee that helped them decide the 6th elementary school should be Grant for many reasons. They decided on 7.

District Begins Facilities Usage Study

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools has secured the services of the architectural firm GPD Group to conduct a facility study to assist in the assessment of the current use of District facilities and explore opportunities to maximize the use of those facilities and resources. The study will include an assessment of existing conditions and use, a review of educational programming needs, a review of enrollment projections, and the facilitation of a Facility Study Task Force to provide feedback and develop recommendations for facility improvements. The task force is comprised of staff, parents and community members.

“As educational leaders, we have a responsibility to care for, protect, and maintain our facilities and buildings,” said Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki. “Additionally, we have the responsibility to

periodically review the use of our facilities and the role each facility plays in helping us achieve our mission in ways that are financially responsible, sustainable, and provide the greatest opportunities for our students' growth.”

Over the coming months, updates on the progress of this process will be posted regularly on the District website. The District will also be hosting a series of community engagement events and opportunities for feedback later this spring.

“The Lakewood City Schools is fortunate to have a long history of support and partnership with the community,” said Board of Education President Michael J. Callahan. “The community has supported the district's mission of developing responsible citizens who are critical and creative thinkers, committed to lifelong learning, invested

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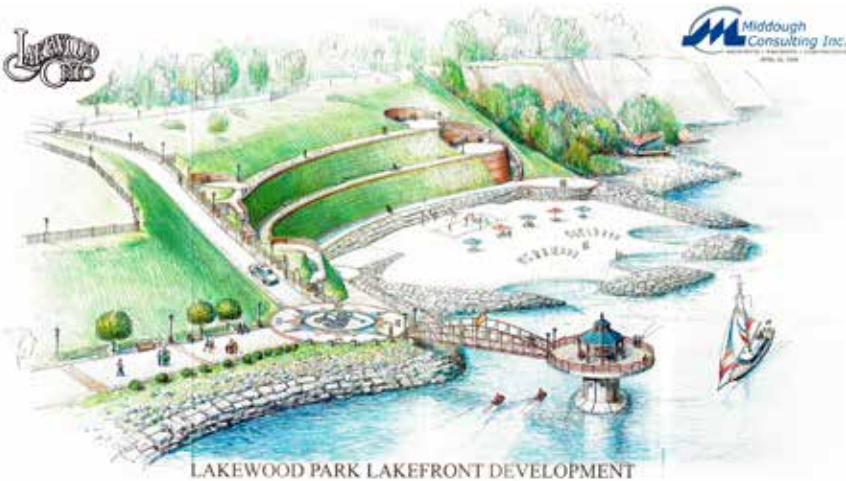
THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Access To Our Waterfront by Mayor Meghan George

We can all agree that our city is truly fortunate to sit on the shores of Lake Erie. Having direct access to our state’s most important public asset provides immense benefits to the people of Lakewood. The team at City Hall is interested in finding ways to offer Lakewood residents more opportunities to enjoy Lake Erie. It’s a shared goal that we have also heard often from many of you, our constituents.

With this in mind, the City is undertaking a Lakewood Park Waterfront Access Feasibility Study. This study is an effort to determine how we can realize more elements of the Lakewood Park Master Plan, which envisioned multiple points of access to the lake. The feasibility study is funded in part by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources through their Coastal Management Assistance Grant.

The Master Plan included some elements that have been completed – including the wonderful Solstice Steps that so many enjoy daily. Other elements are still under consideration, and this process will help us understand not only where the highest



Plans for Lakewood Park developed by the Tom George Administration in 2003. Mayor Meghan George is determined to make the park experience better for all.

priorities and benefits are possible, but also what the costs and public will to realize those items are. One example I often hear is a desire for access to the water somewhere within Lakewood Park, and a pier is one piece of the Master Plan that will be evaluated. Overall, our goal is to consider multiple points of access, and build on the momentum we have at Lakewood Park to continue to make this gem shine.

On March 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm,

our Planning and Development Department will join with our consultant, **The SmithGroup**, to host a **virtual public meeting to kick off the study**. **Lakewood residents are encouraged to join and share your thoughts – we need to hear your input**

to make this process a success. Please go to the Planning and Development page on the City of Lakewood website to register, or click: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/lakewood-park-waterfront-access-feasibility-study/>. You can also contact the Planning & Development Department directly at (216) 529-6630 or via email at planning@lakewoodoh.net.

Related to our work on the Lakewood Park access to Lake Erie, the City also remains in deep conversations with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Department of Public Works, and Executive’s Office on the potential for a public access trail along the Gold Coast. This is another potential gamechanger for adding access to Lake Erie that is being explored in partnership with the owners and residents in the 13 high rise buildings along the coast. We hope to have more updates on this project in the months to come.

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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
March 31, 2023	April 5, 2023 Easter issue
April 14, 2023	April 19, 2023

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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. You and your toddler and preschoolers will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. Registration is required.

Main Library- Tuesdays, April 4- April 25, 2023
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, April 5- April 26, 2023
11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Madison Branch- Thursdays, April 6- April 27, 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. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. Registration is required.

Wednesdays, April 5- April 26, 2023
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Thursdays, April 6- April 27, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Pajama Party: For You and Your 2 to 6 Year-Old Child

Make the Library a part of your bedtime routine with an evening story time. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas and bring their stuffed animal friends to snuggle. Join us as we wind down for the night. This four-week story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. You and your children will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. Registration is required. Register once for all four weeks.

Tuesdays, April 4- April 25, 2023
6:00-6:30 p.m.

Family Weekend Wonders

Looking for weekend entertainment for the whole family? Look no further! Drop in to the Library's special weekend story time. Your whole family will enjoy these programs full of enthusiastic stories, engaging activities, entertaining music and clever crafts. Family Weekend Wonders Drop-In Story Time is offered every weekend throughout the year and features a different theme each week to keep things engaging. No registration is required.

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



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Healthy habits:
3 tips for a heart-healthy lifestyle.



Albert Chan, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family Health Center

As our lives evolve, so do our habits. And, sometimes not positively. With heart disease killing more adults in the U.S than any other disease, it's time to make fresh, positive changes for heart health.

Albert Chan, MD, a cardiologist at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, says that making changes can impact your health greatly.

- Dr. Chan offers three tips to overcome barriers to a heart-healthy lifestyle:
1. **Modify your diet.** Focus on healthy changes, not fad diets. Decrease salt intake, eat more fruits and vegetables and drink plenty of water.
 2. **Get more sleep.** Busy schedules can subtract from our sleep time. Make sure to get at least seven hours a night. Poor sleep can lead to increased blood pressure.
 3. **Take a stand.** More people are working from home, causing a sedentary lifestyle. Sitting for prolonged



periods can have a negative effect on your heart. Break up periods of inactivity and get your blood pumping by taking a five-minute walk at least once an hour.

Some heart risk factors, like race and family history, aren't modifiable. It's important to address ones that are.

When should you see a cardiologist?

Cardiologists treat many heart health-related issues even before they become a problem. For example, if you have a family history of heart disease, you might see a cardiologist to make sure you're addressing any potential risk factors, such as high cholesterol or high blood pressure.

Talk to a cardiologist if you have any serious, persistent symptoms like chest pain or discomfort, feeling faint, shortness of breath, or swelling in your legs. These could be signs of heart disease or heart failure.

For more information about heart health, visit [ClevelandClinic.org/LoveYourHeart](https://www.clevelandclinic.org/loveyourheart). To schedule an appointment with Dr. Chan or another cardiologist at Cleveland Clinic Lakewood, call **216.237.5500**.



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Cleveland Clinic
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Tips for raising heart-healthy children.



Malek Yaman, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Family Health Center

It's never too soon to start your children on a heart-healthy lifestyle by teaching them about healthy eating and exercise. And if you have a family history of high blood pressure and cholesterol, it's even more important.

Malek Yaman, MD, a Cleveland Clinic Children's pediatric cardiologist who

- treats patients at Lakewood Family Health Center, offers these tips:
- **Eat a balanced diet.** Include fruits, vegetables, whole grains and healthy proteins, and limit fat and sugar. Engage your kids in meal planning; have them help select and prepare foods, and take them to the grocery store so they can learn about healthy food and snack options. Use favorite snacks or a special treat occasionally as a reward for eating well.
 - **Stay physically active and limit screen time.** Whether it's playing outside with friends or participating in school sports, children should get 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise every day. Most schoolwork tends to involve computer time, but once school/homework is done, try to limit personal screen time to 1 – 2 hours.
 - **Annual well visit.** Your child's pediatrician is a key source of knowledge and support, so be sure to schedule annual checkups, and schedule sports physicals prior to the start of the season so any red flags can be addressed before it's time to start playing.

When it comes to eating well and exercising, remember to take "baby steps" with children and practice moderation.

To make an appointment with Dr. Yaman or another pediatric cardiologist at Cleveland Clinic Children's, call **216.445.1010, option 3**.

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Gov. DeWine Awards District \$1M Safety Grant

by Christine Gordillo

Gov. Mike DeWine announced that Lakewood City Schools will receive a \$1 million grant as part of the state’s fourth round of awards from the Ohio School Safety Grants program. Gov. DeWine traveled to Lakewood to make the announcement at a press conference at Lakewood High School.

Gov. DeWine was joined at the press conference by Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki, Board of Education President Michael J. Callahan, Treasurer Kent Zeman, Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, City Council President John Litten and Police Chief Kevin Kauchek.

“Security is a very important thing and it takes time and commitment and we appreciate the work the superintendent has done and that the chief has done.” Gov. DeWine said in announcing the grant for the District, one of 945 in the round of \$68 million overall.



The District plans to use the grant money to upgrade the locks of many of its buildings’ classroom doors, to install ballistic window film on the high school cafeteria windows and to add a signal booster to our radio network to improve communication between our Safety Resource Officers and the City of Lakewood Police Department.

Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki spoke to the urgency of addressing school security in her comments at the press conference: “Without a doubt, the most press-

ing issue in schools today is safety,” Niedzwiecki said. “Not a day goes by that superintendents nationwide aren’t thinking about, planning and prioritizing how they can ensure they are doing enough

to keep their students and staff safe....I hope all schools throughout Ohio will be as fortunate as we are today.”

The upgrades that will be made possible by this grant are on top of other security measures that the District has instituted, including building safety teams, a safety audit, improved visitor monitoring system and added electronic doors, among other moves.

The governor also met with the Lakewood High School First Ring Collaborative Student Leadership Institute group as well as members of the Broadcast Journalism class as part of his visit.

Harding Students' Poems In National Exhibit

by Christine Gordillo

A group poem by some Harding Middle School sixth graders in Kevin Spooner's class is on display at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., as part of the Dear Ukraine global community poem project. Student Leelu Baxter's individual poem also was selected to be in the exhibit. Leelu and other select students read their poems at a Dear Ukraine reception held March 12 at Lakewood Public Library. Read the poems in the national exhibit below:

Advanced Social Studies 5th period poem:

I'm so far from knowing the stomachache
you get every time you scurry from the gunfire.
From the blast of bombs ringing in your ears.
From the ashes of the places you once loved.
May you shower yourself with memories
of all the times you’ve won, with the hope you
won’t forget the shine and warmth of peace.

Leelu Baxter's poem:

I want you to know that through the smoke
and the smog there is a blue sky,
that the scent of gunpowder and fire
will be pushed away by your mother’s Shepherd's pie.
And although your father died at war,
he's watching from above, smiling at you.
And in the rubble of the town square,
there is a flower. Yellow petals blooming. Brightly.
A spark of hope. And you will heal.
And there will be life.

LHS Model UN Club Shines At CWRU

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the Lakewood High School Model UN Club for a stellar performance at this semester's Cleveland Council on World Affairs Conference held at Case Western Reserve University.

Parker Toke and Jack Phillips won an Excellent Delegation. Honorable Mention Awards went to Aribeth Moore-Gucik, Tarik Ibrisagic & Milo Horseman. Good job by advisor Ms Kindstrand and the entire club!

Thanks so much to the Lakewood Ranger Education Foundation, who, through the Margaret Warner Teacher



grants, helps make experiences like this possible, and to Ms Kinstrand, an outstanding advisor that stepped up to fill this volunteer position..

District Begins Facilities Usage Study

continued from page 1

in a diverse society, and prepared for technological and global opportunities through many ways, including the building of excellent educational and athletic facilities for our students and community members.”

The results of the facility study and work of the Facility Study Task Force, which had its first meeting March 8, may result in some recommendations being made by the end of the summer and presented to the Board of Educa-

tion for further consideration. The District is hopeful that the outcomes of this study will provide valuable information and recommendations that can help guide the District in its planning for the future use of its facilities.

“We are committed to continuing our partnership with the community and engaging stakeholders,” remarked Niedzwiecki. “Providing excellent educational opportunities for all students and citizens of Lakewood City Schools remains the heart of our mission.”

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS OBSERVED

Parents Protest Gutting Of Music And Physical Education Programs In Lakewood Elementary Schools

continued from page 1

to the podium to sum up what was wrong with the proposal:

"You spent time honoring your process of coming to this decision, and you believe that it's been a sound process. I wasn't there. But I know that any process is only as good as the premise under which it operates. The premise that there is this need for "equality," like you divide up these things equally and everybody has an equal chance for everything is a flawed premise.

The premise that I believe we should be operating on is what's developmentally appropriate and optimal for the developing brain of children at that age. For cognitive development of children...Brain plasticity is the malleability of the brain and it decreases after age 10, and for music after the age of 7 or 8. This research is from the Journal of Neuroscience in 2013. There's no sensitive period for digital learning, there's a sensitive period for music. Music stirs neuronal activity. There is cause and effect between neural activity and music. It's flawed to say, 'Let's divide things up equally.'

Where is the proof that STEM education and digital literacy have the same importance as music and physical education? parents asked. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. Parent after parent came to the podium to ask that STEM—which is roughly understood as more hands-on learning with an emphasis on problem solving—be incorporated into existing math and science classes, especially because this would subject these lessons to rigorous third and fourth grade state standards. Currently there are no state standards to assess the outcome of STEM learning. There is also no research pointing to STEM being important to the developing brains of young children

As for “digital literacy,” a clear definition has not been forthcoming. It has to do with “online safety” and preparing to use Google classroom.

Parents expressed the idea that this could surely be accomplished in the first few weeks of school and there is absolutely no proof that “Digital Literacy” should receive equal time with music education and physical education. It would be taught by media specialists who are not teachers. They are in a different union and do not receive the same training as classroom teachers. Students practice “digital literacy” in every class in which they use chrome books.

As one of the commentators, Dr. Birch Browning, a music educator at Cleveland State who moved to Lakewood because of the quality of the music education in our schools stated:

“As I understand it the faculty contract is up for negotiation in 2 years, and there may be changes in the ways that the buildings are allocated for elementary schools so I would propose to you that you do a more comprehensive re-evaluation of the curriculum...”

The Board maintains that survey results prove that there is a group of parents who want to sacrifice music and physical education in order to have STEM, but as more parents came to the podium it became clear that there was no such group, only parents who didn't understand that to say they were interested in STEM would also mean that they wanted music and gym classes to be cut.

As Dr. Birch put it: “I’m sorry, but your process was flawed. The survey question was: ‘Do you prefer the current schedule or one that would have related art year round with the potential addition of STEM learning on a rotation?’

The survey didn't mention that there was a chance that music would be reduced by 60 percent along with other changes in the arts and instruction in physical education.

I'm not an expert on survey research design, but I do know enough to tell you that that survey would have failed in an introductory research course. The question was incomplete

and misleading.”

He went on to propose a different approach: “Perhaps a first survey should have asked parents to rank and comment on their priorities for specials instruction. That could have been used as a baseline to start the conversation about changing the schedule.”

The community comment portion concluded with Jane, a Lakewood High School sophomore: "I play oboe in Wind Ensemble," she said. "It really breaks my heart that you are cutting these programs." She started crying and paused before continuing. "I flourished in these music programs. I made friends, I went through the original specials schedule and I loved it, I loved having the opportunity of music and I don't think cutting it is going to help anything, I think it's going to cut students that are going to go into music in middle school and high school and I think that's going to be really awful."

Parents are particularly frustrated that this proposal is being presented as a finished plan that the District will implement in the Fall. They feel that the community has not been consulted on a change that will have a negative impact on their children. The research that shows that young children need

to move their bodies and participate in music not only to stimulate their brains but in order to be able to burn off energy and be more able to focus is something that educators have agreed on for decades. After three committee meetings, the District has decided that they know better and have no plans to engage further with the community on this subject.

At the end of last Monday's meeting, parents, students and teachers were exchanging emails and phone numbers and discussing meetings, a potential petition, and plans for further action to cause the Board to reconsider.

If you are reading this and have more to add to this discussion, please write your ideas down and submit them to the Lakewood Observer at www.lakewoodobserver.com in the Member Center (which is in the lefthand menu on the home page). We will keep this discussion going in this space. If you have any questions, or need help submitting your ideas, email betsy@lakewoodobserver.com.

If you would like to watch last Monday's Board meeting you can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BYMBJoUzkc>



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T-Ball - 5 & 6 year olds - Mon./ Wed./ Sat.

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Rookie (Staff Pitch) 7 & 8 year olds - Mon.-Thurs. and Sat.

\$80 resident/ \$100 non resident, 1-2 games per week

Registration includes Spring Rec Baseball Camp - Dates TBD

Minors - 9 & 10 year olds - Mon./ Wed./ Sat.

Majors - 11 & 12 year olds - Tues./Thurs./Sat.

Excel - 13-15 year olds - Monday - Saturdays

\$80 resident/ \$100 non-resident, 1-2 games per week

All participants must have a birth certificate and current physical on file at the time of registration and for the duration of the season. Players will be placed on teams based on the Team Formation Policy at www.lakewoodrecreation.com

For questions please contact: recball@lkwdbaseball.org

LAKEWOOD HISTORY APPRECIATED

A Restoration Appreciation: The Warriors Club And Tournament Time

by Matthew K. Weiland

Progress has little sentimentality, and it's sometimes surprising how easy it is for the brain to forget and adapt, especially to that which is no longer seen. In the hamlet of Lakewood, churches have become CVS. The Detroit Theater a McDonald's. Miller's Dining Room an Auto Zone. And Lakewood Hospital...there was one?

Tides turn. Cliffs crumble. Youth eventually ellipses and dissolves...

Then, on a thick, gray Tuesday morning in February, while traveling on Detroit onto Granger then a left on Northwood, you happen by an old haunt, the grade school through middle in which much of life's template was created and unfolded, friendships made, dreams un-spooling and drifting toward the some day. And on this February day, the lights are on in your classrooms. Those warm long ago nooks. There's something going on in all those lighted squares. Even after all these years.

It brings a smile. And quiet thanks, volleyed toward whomever felt that this place was worth preserving, worth providing a new life for. You don't often see such.

As many may know by now, commercial redevelopment and repurposing partners, Jesse Oster and Sean Nugent, have restored and revital-



ized the Saint James School building, retaining the integrity of the original brick and mortar craftsmanship itself while creating a business oasis for solo contractors, needing day-to-day energy and space for their own work, as well as teams that now call it home.

“Oster Services has a long history of rehabbing older homes and commercial buildings while keeping aspects that define the character of the original building,” Sean Nugent told Cleveland.com in an overview last fall. Oster Services, calling Lakewood home for nearly a decade, has created a mission niche for itself involving historic renovation in both residential and institutional settings. In the process, they have likewise restored that little wisp of a smile for my youth, stoking a little sentimentality, whether intentionally or not.

Perhaps for some most notably - on a few early spring weekends - the St. James Gym, which reportedly has been ordained the Warriors' Club.

A little context...

At eleven, you're nearly old enough to hang out, yet with really nowhere to go. If you have a paper route, you can maybe go collecting, but generally you're mainly on a neighborhood roam until you arrive some two hours hence back home, especially in the dormant hibernation of the winter months.

But then, a crocus appears. The pastel evening stays a little longer, and the sounds of snow piles melting into curb gutters into sewers along your strolling streets beckon and gradually then suddenly...

It's Tournament Time.

Long before March Madness, there

scendo of cheers; a referee's whistle; an old buzzer clock signaling time-outs and substitutions; the sneaker cadence of defense, the chatter and cheers, the syncopation of competition.

By the time you enter the gym, there is the popcorn, and the hot-dogs, and squares of plain pizza, sold alongside Dixie cups of Seven-Ups and Cokes, beside the donuts. And the Bub's Daddy's, and Marathon Bars. They are comforting. For, standing alone in the foyer could be about as daunting and intimidating as anything might ever be...especially in your initial tween years of rookie adolescence. The comfort of tournament foods: You buy a Coke and a pizza square, you own something. You might look like you belong.

Familiar parish family faces emerge



Photos courtesy of Icon Workspaces, and Oster Services

was, on early Saturday and Sunday afternoons in late February through mid- March, the St. James Tournament. A confluence of Catholic middle-school basketball teams traveling from across the vast west side expanse to see who was better, and then who was best.

Then, one false spring day, when the sun is right and the confidence is cresting, you solo toward the gym, not sure if anyone will even recognize you outside of the classroom. Everyone's already probably sitting with someone else. Nevertheless.

Somewhere near Spring Garden and Detroit, you maybe hear a cre-

into focus, blended with scores of strangers comprised of opposing teams, and their parents and their boosters and coaches and cheerleaders, from exotic parishes across town: Mount Carmel, St. Rocco, Our Lady of Fatima... Teams you haven't seen before. Many of them taller. Faster. Likely tougher? All line up across from the further west, west-side teams from beyond Lakewood's inner suburb, themselves hailing from throughout the hulking West Suburban Parochial League.

You find a place to squeeze in

continued on page 7

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LAKEWOOD HISTORY | FORUM

A Restoration Appreciation: The Warriors Club And Tournament Time

continued from page 6

somewhere. Chow a dog and gulp a coke. And somewhere during the next quarter, gradually, suddenly, you're a part of it all. You're a resident.

In that space, that gymnasium, you sometimes grew, for better and worse, into the early and forever you. That once home-court cracker box that sported old-school radiators - two along either baseline in the corner-shot spot, home-cooking variables that only winter nights of trial and practice and error, diving for loose balls going strong for layups while avoiding crushing your back on the grills... You learned how to make use of the radiators. Home-court advantage. And when the home team was on high, and the clock ticking down, and the crowd – maybe a hundred that sounded like thousands – nearly raising the roof... And the promise of Yes.



And thus Tournament Time early spring brings in a the new, first level of adventure, the glimpse of possibility. The first whiff of what-if...
And that bit of that, the feel through dimensions to what has been and what is new and how the future may unfold. All of it could have simply been torn down. Been bulldozed and demolished, left to memory and rubble.
And these guys. These guys chose otherwise.
It's a story that's nice to hear. One that feels maybe worth sharing.
Icon Workspaces <https://www.iconcowork.com/workspaces-4>
Oster Services <https://osterservices.net/about>

Can It Happen Here? Update

It was pointed out to me by Ex-Fire Chief Scott Gilman, that Lakewood actually has two sets of tracks running through it and the ones on the south side are trains carrying mostly cargo, which do, at times, contain hazardous materials.

Letters To The Editor

East Palestine Thoughts

Dear Readers,
How safe are you if you live; say 20 ft. from the railroad tracks? Well, pretty safe if the trains have emergency braking systems. Not at all safe if they do not!
When a train car stops because it blew a brake or for any other reason, the whole train stops. Then the engineer walks the entire length of the train till he finds the problem. In East Palestine, the train did not stop when the cab stopped. So, don't we need to know if the trains that go through Lakewood next to a school, Giant Eagle, and lots of homes have an emergency braking system? Just a thought.
A concerned Lakewood citizen, Pat Cichowicz

Free Plastic Bags Are Expensive

FREE plastic bags are an illusion. The merchants pay for them and then pass the cost onto their customers through higher pices. If a grocer wants to buy my good will, I'd much prefer a discount on eggs. FREE plastic bags take away consumers' actual freedom. They force us to subsidize the plastics industry whether we want to or not.
Lakewood is definitely polluted with plastic bags. I have several hundred tucked away in my house alone. Although I reuse them for garbage and such, common sense dictates that the volume of my garbage is less than the volume of my original purchases. There is no realistic market out there to recycle the excess.
If you're concerned about sanitation, tote bags can be washed. You have the freedom of control. How do you know that "pristine" plastic bag didn't come out of a store room contaminated with cockroaches and mouse pee? (I don't really think this is a problem, but people keep bringing it up...)
Of course, bags are a necessary evil. People need to organize their purchases. I agree that an all-out ban on plastic bags may have been over-kill, but why should they ever be free? People will conserve when it is in their interest to do so.
Donna Childs, Lakewood Resident

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FOODWOOD®

Rood Food And Pie

by Pebbles Brown

This was my first time making restaurant reservations; it was a real crowd-pleaser! Everyone we invited to Rood enjoyed it.

Rood has a fairly unique menu, but we were thrilled when we saw it. While the offerings were different from what we'd usually go for, everything sounded amazing. Both the food and the cocktails were incredibly enticing and, honestly, I wish I could have tried one of each item.

The server was very kind and patient and even recommended her favorite dishes and drinks. She definitely made the experience even better. Good ser-



each getting individual entrées, but next time I'd love to order the Cajun shrimp and grits!

I also decided to be bold and order a cocktail. I ordered the caramel turtle chocolate whisky and coffee with whipped cream from the "Coffee Cocktails" menu. The whipped cream tasted amazing and the waitress informed me that it was made from scratch in-house. I love that extra homemade touch.

While sipping on my drink, I sat and took in the simple beauty of the restaurant, from the brick walls and grass paneling to the soft but vibrant hues of neon lights. The bar area was hidden behind the body of a trailer. Even though it was starting to get busy, it was still fairly quiet and peaceful.

Our food arrived quickly with plenty of extra plates so that we could share. The food tasted incredible! Each platter was hot, fresh, and had a homemade taste. The dishes were all as unique as they seemed on the menu, and they were all delicious. The dishes were incredibly filling despite being appetizers.

Pleased with our meals, we decided to stay for dessert. Again, I asked the server what she suggested. She recommended salt and honey custard with a side of whipped cream. This was a savory dish that had a very unique flavor, but it was delicious. It even came with a small bottle of bee pollen which I sprinkled on the pie. This tiny detail really elevated the already incredible dish.

Be sure to go online and make reservations for Rood. You will not be disappointed.



Charred Octopus

vice is a major plus and it was fantastic being served by someone who seemed so knowledgeable about the menu.

After reviewing the menu, I decided to order based on the server's recommendations. She recommended Arancini, crisp mozzarella-stuffed risotto resting on a delicious arrabbiata sauce, sweet corn crab cakes placed on top of velvety grits, charred octopus (tasted like grilled pork ribs), and focaccia.

These were all appetizers. We decided that getting a sampler of appetizers to share would be more fun than



Pebbles Brown is a foodie. She 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 of her content is entirely unique to her thoughts and experiences, and she hopes you enjoy what she has to say.

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LAKEWOOD LIVES

Seeing Lakewood From The Air Lakewoodite Spends 74th Birthday With Her Favorite Pastime

by Valerie Carmen Martin

On my 74th birthday, in 2018, I rented a single engine Cessna 172 airplane and a Certified Flight Instructor. I hadn't flown since 1975, so I was not Current, which is why I took a Flight Instructor. My grandmother DIED at 74; I FLEW at 74! You could say that I GOT HIGH ON MY BIRTHDAY!

I flew from Zone Aviation at Burke Lakefront Airport. I got my Flight Training from Freedom Field Airport in Medina, Ohio, back in the 1970's. It was my dream to become a C.F.I. I used personal loans for my training, and got as far as my Commercial Pilot License, but was not financially able to take out additional loans since I had to get an apartment. I never lost my love of flying. An airplane is so not a car!

It's so nice having Burke Lakefront Airport right downtown. A church friend drove me to the airport. That day was really covered in prayer! I can still see the Divine in the photos I took. The color of the sky and the lake was beauti-

ful. And, the air was as smooth as glass. It is usually bumpy in a small plane.

I just love the Cessna 172. It is a four seat airplane, and the Cessna has a high wing design and a back window! My Flight Instructor was a young woman who was eight and a half months pregnant. She walked around the plane with me, refreshing my memory of Preflight.

We got into the airplane, me in the left seat; the Pilot in the Command seat. My instructor handed me a headset. In my day, we used a hand held microphone and had to shout to the person sitting next to us! I turned the key and started the engine. Ah! Music to my ears; AIRPLANE ENGINE NOISE! I love the way an airplane roars to life and vibrates all over in anticipation of FLYING! I also enjoy the use of rudder pedals while taxiing on the ground. Again, so not a car!

I did the run-up, checking the instruments and setting the Directional Gyro to the Magnetic Compass head-



ing. We got clearance for take-off. I gave the plane full power and started down the runway. I was very rusty! I wobbled some as the plane picked up speed. Some gentle back pressure at flying speed, and we were FLYING! My favorite part of flying is feeling the wheels leave the ground at take-off! We go from a ground vehicle to the freedom of flight! I also love looking at everything in miniature.

My instructor told me to stay over the lake, but I told her I wanted to fly over Lakewood, especially the West End. We headed West, still over the lake. The coastline is really pretty from the air. The green trees that make Lakewood Lakewood look like broccoli from high above. I recognized the Soltice Steps as we headed towards Rocky River.

We flew over the Cleveland Yacht Club and the Rocky River. Beautiful! I flew over the Westlake Condominiums at an Altitude of 2500 feet above sea level. My instructor took the controls while I took a picture of the Harbor View Apartments, the pink building on the Lakewood side of the Rocky River. I got the Detroit Avenue Bridge in the photo as well. We couldn't go any farther South due to the controlled air space from Cleveland Hopkins International

Airport, so we headed back out over the lake. When we got back to Burke Lakefront Airport, I let my instructor do the landing as it had been a very long time since I landed an airplane.

All too soon, we were back on the ground at the Terminal. My FLYDAY was over. But, it sure felt good to be at the controls of an airplane again! The memories will stay with me the rest of my life. I wish everyday was FLYDAY!



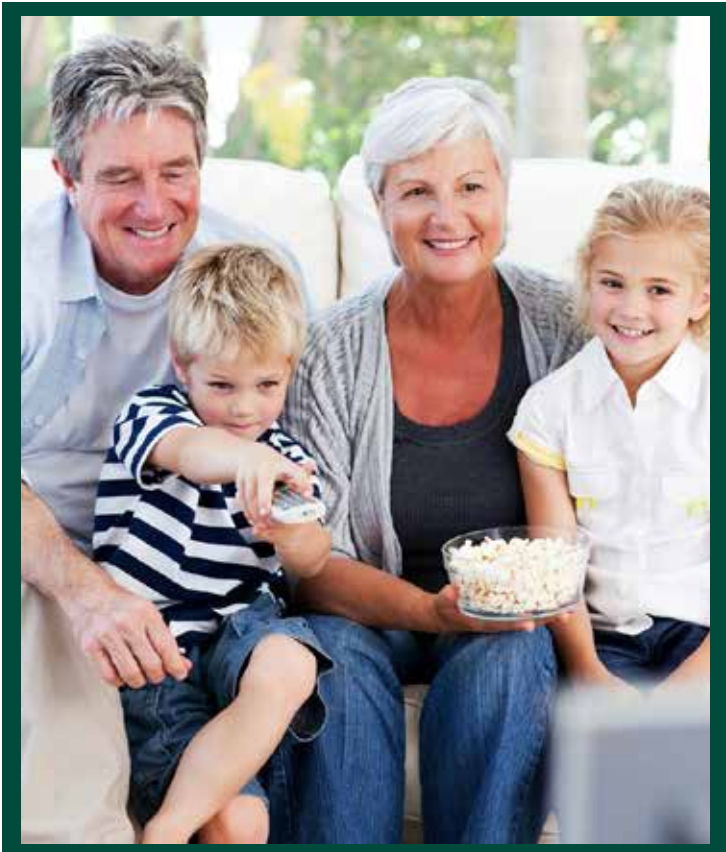
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Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 133

by Buzz Kompier

Spike In Vain - Jesus Was Born In A Mobile Home - Scat Records - ?? songs - LP, digital, cassette

Note: I'm reviewing the LP here, which contains the entirety of the cassette (with an alternate version of one song inserted in its place), but with bonus material and in a rear-ranged order (for an experience truer to the original, I guess just pick up the tape). This finally completes the Spike In Vain trilogy (unless there's more unknown stuff lurking somewhere, I suppose): this was the band's second release, following up the classic "Disease Is Relative" LP. Sort of an in-between release with some live stuff scattered in, closer to "Disease" than to the later "Death Drives A Cadillac" material. Right off the bat, this is the least essential of the three records, but it's still definitely worth hearing. For the most part, the best stuff is what was on the original tape— it's pretty undeniable that "Little Voice That Betrays" and "Ugly And Damaged" and "Helga At The Square Dance" are among the best Spike In Vain songs (also I'd like to mention "Love Isn't Hollow," the final track on the tape, which was recorded in 1981 and I think is therefore the earliest released Spike In Vain recording— it's a great



track). However, while a lot of the live stuff on here is decent but kind of too lo-fi to really stick (though with titles like "Killing Frame Of Mind" and "Michael Landon Pukes On Your TV" there's still something there), there's an equal amount of great bonus stuff. The alternate recording of "Rejected By No. 12" is classic Spike In Vain; an extended live version of "Opus" is incredible and makes me wish they'd done this full thing for the "Disease Is Relative" album (though the version that is on there is still very good); "Swamp Baby Blues" points towards the more Gun Club-influenced sound of "Death Drives..."; the live version of "E.K.G." here has an absolutely insane vocal performance; and "Strangeland County," origi-

nally released on the excellent "They Pelted Us With Rocks and Garbage" comp, might be my favorite Spike In Vain song ever— who else sounds like this? This band is hardcore, goth, death rock, no wave, art rock, blues— and somehow it all works. While this may be the Spike In Vain record to get once you're already into

the band, it's still definitely a record to get. 4/5

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.

Upcoming H2O Events

by Emmie Hutchison

The City of Lakewood's H2O "Help to Others" youth volunteer program has a busy season coming up! The H2O HOME ALONE youth safety and independence course, designed by high school leaders, is offered twice - on Wednesday, March 29th and Thursday, April 6th. This course conveys important safety information to 9-12-year-old students through engaging presentations.

The youth in attendance rotate with an assigned group through six interactive lessons. The topics covered include Mental Health and Wellness, Internet Safety, First Aid, Emergencies (including making emergency calls), Tricky People and Street Smarts (covering safety concerns encountered to and from home), and Routines and Siblings (conflict mediation, establishing healthy routines, and family communication).

A parent or guardian is required to attend, and they learn updated safety information from professionals as well. This course is a wonderful foundation for families to start discussing independence and to extend those conversations throughout adolescence. Parents who attended past sessions have said, "You will learn things you didn't already know or think about," "a great way to empower our kids and each other," and "It's a must! Attend multiple years."

If you have a child ages 9-12, don't miss out on this opportunity! Thanks to a grant from the Healthy Lakewood Foundation, this program is offered with enhancements (including a first aid kit for each attending family). Registration is required, limited to Lakewood residents, and can

be found at <https://H2OHOMEOALONEMarch29.eventbrite.com> or <https://H2OHOMEOALONEApril6.eventbrite.com> (Guests need to register for their choice of date, not both).

On April 1st, the annual spring tradition, Breakfast with the Bunny, returns to Lakewood! This year, the exciting twist is that the four seatings of breakfast are hosted at Cove Community Center. Like previous years, the event includes a pancake breakfast, raffle baskets, and photo opportunities with the bunny. Registration is not limited to Lakewood residents and is currently available at: <https://BreakfastWiththeBunny2023.eventbrite.com>

Finally, it is almost time to sign up for H2O Summer Service Camp. Eligible campers must be Lakewood residents who will be in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade in the fall of 2023. We have four sessions to choose from (campers may attend one) and each is packed with service, friends, speakers, philanthropy, fun, and learning. Registration opens on March 20th and we anticipate that it will fill up. More information and registration can be found here: <https://H2OSummerServiceCamp2023.eventbrite.com>

For links to these events, or more information about the City of Lakewood's H2O program, visit our page on the City of Lakewood's site at www.h2olakewood.org, email Emmie Hutchison at emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.net or call 216-529-6045.

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

Rotary Foundation Offering Five Scholarships

by Lynn Donaldson

The Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Foundation is offering high school seniors grants for study at any accredited post-high school educational institution. Five grants of \$3,000 will be awarded toward the cost of one year's tuition.

Applicants must be a member of the 2023 graduating class of any accredited high school; be a resident of the Lakewood or Rocky River school district; show a record of academic success in his/her high school career; have applied to a specific college, university,

community or junior college, or trade or professional school; and have no direct relationship to a current or honorary Rotarian.

Applications must be received by 3 p.m. Monday, April 3. The awards will be presented on June 5.

Required information must be submitted on the application form that can be downloaded at <https://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org>.

Guidelines for submitting the application, as well as other criteria, are included.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Cove Community Center
Partners with Colors+

by Jessica Parker

In partnership with Colors+, an LGBTQ+ Youth Center in Fairview Park, the Cove Community Center is hosting two regular programs for families in the Lakewood community.

Connections Drop-In is an open afterschool space where youth from ages 11-19 can enjoy connecting with one another while focusing on emotional, social, and mental wellness skills in a judgement free environment. Connections Drop-in is held at the Cove Community Center on Mondays from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Parent Connections provides an environment for parents/caregivers



to gather in discussion to support one another and learn how to support a child who has come out as trans, gender expansive, or when a child is beginning to question their LGBTQ+ identity. This group meets on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information about these programs please contact Jessica Parker at jessica.parker@lakewoodoh.net or 216-529-5018.



Park Ambassadors Program

from the City of Lakewood

The City of Lakewood is working with new partner, Block by Block for the Parks Ambassador Program this spring and we are looking for individuals to serve as park ambassadors to staff city parks during the warm weather months. These ambassadors, titled Neighborhood Safety Specialists, will add safety services outside of traditional uniformed officers which helps to achieve a holistic approach to public safety.

“Ambassador programs with elements of safety work have been implemented across the U.S. by cities, neighborhoods, and community groups, including at least a half dozen locally in Cuyahoga County,” explained Mayor George. “The model will use trained personnel to provide a stable, friendly presence in our parks, interacting in a positive way with the public while also helping to identify and report potential safety issues before they arise or escalate.” The Mayor noted that the ambassadors

will wear easily identifiable uniforms and ride bicycles to traverse the parks and provide a visible presence.

Neighborhood Safety Specialists will patrol 5 Lakewood parks (Lakewood, Madison, Cove, Kauffman, Wagar) on foot and bike to provide a stable, friendly, presence. Part of their duties will involve being on the lookout for and serving as a deterrent to unwanted behavior and activity to identify and report potential issues before they arise or escalate.

Ambassadors will be in our community parks on a seasonal basis and will be active seven days a week from 1:30pm-10:00pm.

Want to learn more and apply for the position?

Visit blockbyblock.com, click on the green “apply” icon in the top right corner of the page, go to the “where” search bar and type in Lakewood, Oh and this will bring up “Neighborhood Safety Specialist” for Lakewood (job req is #BBB-1604) then simply apply.

The Opening Of Its 2021-22 Season
WordStage Literary Concerts

by Tim Tavcar

WordStage Literary Concerts opens its 2023 Season with “A Salon for Mr. Lincoln” in the Wright Chapel of the Lakewood Presbyterian Church – 14502 Detroit Ave. in Downtown Lakewood on Saturday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln was a great lover of music. His eclectic taste spanned everything from Grand Opera to Musical Hall ditties to stirring Hymns and Patriotic Anthems. Our program is based upon the many musical evenings he and Mary Todd Lincoln hosted during their residency at the White House, sharing their love of convivial conversation and memorable music, as well as Lincoln’s incognito visits to various Music Halls

just to relax and be entertained.

The program will be performed by WordStage core company members, as well as guest artists Laura Van Dale and Abraham Roos, and accompanied on violin and piano by Carol Ruzicka and Patrick Wickliffe. Tickets may be reserved by calling 440-857-0717 or purchased via cash or check only at the door prior to the performance. For further information on this and other WordStage programs, please visit our website at www.wordstageohio.org.

Tim Tavcar is the Producing/Artistic Director of WordStage Literary Concerts in residence at the Wright Chapel in the Lakewood Presbyterian Church.

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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

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