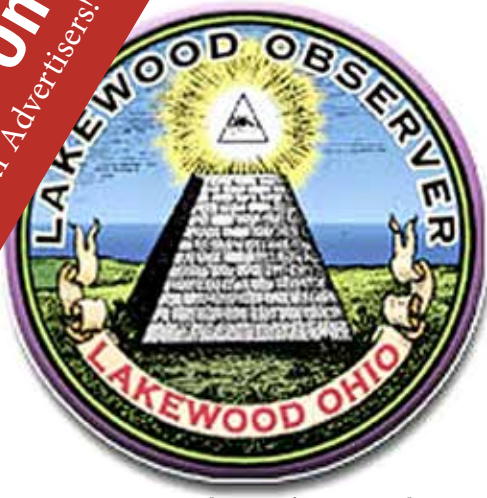


Free – Take One!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” George Santayana

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 19, Issue 11, June 7, 2023

ALL POOLS ARE OPEN!



Lakewood Park's Foster Pool opens June 8th. Madison Park's Becks Pool is already open! See message from Mayor Meghan George on page 2.

Lakewood Foundation And Healthy Lakewood Foundation Present Partnership To Support The Lakewood Community To Be Presented On June 27

by **Kate Ingersoll**

The Lakewood Foundation and the Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) will hold a community presentation on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM at the Cove Community Center (12525 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107). The presentation will allow both organizations to share information about their role in supporting the Lakewood community and how they work together to do so. Community members can learn about how to engage with both organizations

and ask questions of representatives from each.

The Lakewood Foundation is a private, not-for-profit community-based organization that serves as the fiscal sponsor for service groups and Lakewood City Departments. The Healthy Lakewood Foundation is a public charity that provides grant funding to area organizations and groups to advance the health and well-being of Lakewood residents.

This is a great presentation to attend if you are interested in learning more about:

- The background, structure, and decision-making processes of both organizations
 - How to turn a great idea for a community project into a funded project
 - How fiscal sponsorships work and the steps for applying for one through The Lakewood Foundation
 - How HLF structures its grantmaking and how to apply
- Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public, and registration is requested through **continued on page 7**

Block Parties

Lakewoodites Celebrate Lakewood Style



photo by Kelsey Whitcare

Another party on the most neighborly street in Lakewood. I have always described Lakewood to new wash-a-shores as a wonderfully odd little community. The same density as Los Angeles, well Watts, with the same mindset as Mayberry RFD. In the center of Lakewood is a small street, St. Charles, where the neighbors get together daily and most nights. First one trickles into the front yard, then another, then another, and before you know it, a fire-pit and 4-30 chairs.

Friday May 26th, the streets gathered to wish St. Charles' "Mom" a Happy Birthday. As with most summer nights, first one family brought out chairs, then pizza, then more brought cupcakes, and games, and before you know it St. Charles was rocking it, old school. Margaret Hericks, Happy Birthday. To the Whitacres, thanks for the invite and the photo. Send in your block party photos!



Graduated! Alex, Ellie, Ava, Sophie and Julia celebrate after the graduation ceremony. See pages 8-9 for a complete list and photo.

Rangers To Exit Great Lakes Conference

by **Christine Gordillo**

Lakewood City Schools and seven other schools have submitted letters to withdraw from the Great Lakes Conference and form a yet to be named new conference after the 2023-2024 school year. The withdrawals will leave Elyria Catholic as the only school remaining in the Great Lakes Conference, which began play under the Ohio High School Athletic Association with the 2015-16 school year. Lakewood joined the conference in the 2020-2021 school year.

The decision to withdraw from the GLC comes after events impacting the structure of the conference occurred. Parma City Schools closed Parma High

School, and Fairview Park City Schools plans to leave the conference to join the Chagrin Valley Conference, leaving the GLC with only nine participating districts.

Lakewood, along with Westlake, Rocky River, Bay Village, North Olmsted, Buckeye, Normandy and Valley Forge will form an eight-team conference. The eight districts believe this conference configuration will allow for more flexibility in scheduling.

“We enjoyed our time competing in the GLC and look forward to a new alliance with our Northeast Ohio neighbors and continuing our friendly rivalries,” said Athletic Director Rob Slone.

Hi! My Name Is Colleen Clark-Sutton I Am Running For A Seat On Our Lakewood School Board

by **Colleen Clark-Sutton**

My name is Colleen Clark-Sutton, and I am running this fall for the open seat on the Lakewood Board of Education. I want to introduce myself and ask for your vote. I have been an active supporter of our schools for more than 20 years, and now I would like to take a leadership role in helping to maintain the excellent school system that is the backbone of our terrific community.

The Vision of a Lakewood Graduate, released a few years ago, is an initiative that articulates the goals that teachers, administrators, and parents have for our children. The image captures the experience of my children (who graduated in 2015 and 2019), long before there was a cool logo. As a member of the school board, I would work hard to protect



Colleen Clark-Sutton

and sustain these goals, approve policy, and support educators as they nurture and challenge students to become the best versions of themselves.

My husband and I have lived in Lakewood for 33 years. We chose Lakewood for ourselves and our children because of its excellent schools, diversity, parks and pools, and city ser-

continued on page 6

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Foster Pool Open Now For Summer

by Mayor Meghan George

This week, the new and improved Foster Pool will open to the public, just in time for the summer heat. For decades, the pool at the heart of Lakewood Park has been an incredible recreation resource for our citizens, serving thousands every year since it opened in 1953. But over time, it became clear this beloved Lakewood community asset needed major repairs. The City and the greater community realized that this was also a once-in-a-generation opportunity to update the pool to meet the evolving needs of Lakewood's diverse, multi-generational community.

With that in mind, the new Foster Pool has achieved multiple layers of community priorities. Those include: improved accessibility; a new competition and recreation pool; a new water play amenities area; a new splash pad (a first for Lakewood and free to the public); and other general renovations. Our overarching goal was to reposition Foster Pool to serve the needs of its many users – doing everything from helping us provide relaxation for families and welcome those just learning to swim to also providing a top-notch facility for serious athletes and active adults as they

make Lakewood their home for life.

The pool project also solves a longstanding leakage issue that had previously caused the loss of large amounts of chlorinated water annually – a major concern for our City that had to be remedied. Before this year's overhaul, it had been nearly 40 years since the pool was last remodeled – it was showing its age, but with the project complete, this community gem is now shining brightly once again.

It's clear people care deeply about Foster Pool – over 2,000 participated in our visioning process that led us to the new layout and amenities, and it shows in the final product. With the luck of a very mild winter, we were able to complete this project with no interruptions to our hot weather swim season. And we did it within our budget parameters. Hats off to both our Public Works team and our Planning and Development Department for a fantastic job guiding the vision with deep public input and then ensuring the project met its full potential. Now, it's time to dive in!

As we worked on Foster Pool, the

City also realized that there was an opportunity to reconfigure the adjacent parking area and related features to achieve multiple goals. Public Works once again partnered with Planning and Development to plan several improvements.

Currently, Public Works is patching potholes, raising sewer castings, and repainting pavement markings in the lot prior to what we expect to be another season of high demand at Lakewood Park. Following the summer season, additional elements of the plan will be implemented, including:

- realigning and restriping existing spaces to increase stormwater retention and expand available parking by 34 spaces to help address demand;
- burying several power lines and updating nearby lighting to LED to increase visibility and align with our climate action plan; and
- updating traffic patterns and

creating more surrounding pedestrian connections to and through the park to increase walkability and slow traffic.

We feel that these changes will go a long way to improving the park's functionality and allowing for a more user-friendly experience. This next phase of improvements will begin in Fall 2023 after the pool season has ended to avoid any impact on our time of highest demand for park usage. The parking lot improvement project is expected to be completed in Spring 2024.

I also want to mention how great it was to run into so many of you at our annual Meet the Trucks event last Saturday. The weather was ideal, and a fantastic crowd turned out again for one of Lakewood's favorite family-friendly events. As the weather starts to heat up, I plan on being at Foster Pool quite a bit with little Maggie, so I hope to see you all there as well cooling off at one of Lakewood's best summer spots.



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 | Publish Date |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| June 16, 2023 | June 21, 2023 |
| June 30, 2023 | July 6, 2023 |

| PUBLISHER | EDITOR IN CHIEF | ASSOCIATE EDITORS | ADVERTISING |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Debra O'Bryan | Margaret Brinich | Betsy Voinovich Emily Kompier | Sales Manager 216.339.2531 |

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

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Jim O'Bryan

PHOTOGRAPHY - Pebbles Brown, Jeff Fritz, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Jim O'Bryan, Trish Rooney, Kelsey Whitacre, and Mary Kay Wilson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Matt Bixenstine, Pebbles Brown, Jeff Fritz, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Kate Ingersoll, Martin Jaffe, Joe Lobo, Maggie Niedwiecki, Meg Ostrowski, Trish Rooney, Jeffrey Siebert, Eva Starr, Colleen Clark-Sutton, Kelsey Whitacre, and Mary Kay Wilson



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?

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Safety Message From Mayor George And Superintendent Niedzwiecki: Secure Gun Storage

from City Hall and Lakewood Public Schools

As summer approaches and children and teens may be more often at home alone or visiting friends' homes, Mayor Meghan George and Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki, with the support of the Lakewood Police Department, remind residents of the importance of safe gun storage, noting that secure firearm storage is always an adult responsibility.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teens. Mayor George and Superintendent Niedzwiecki urge parents and caregivers to practice responsible gun storage by securing firearms in their homes and by asking about the presence of guns in the homes of family and friends. Secure gun storage can save children's lives by preventing unintentional shootings and gun suicides. Responsible firearm storage means that guns are stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition.

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month. Mayor George and Superintendent Niedzwiecki remind residents of the following statistics:

Every year across the country, 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, and nearly 77% of those

incidents take place inside the home.¹ More than 700 children die by gun suicide each year. In the overwhelming majority of these incidents, the gun used was one that belonged to someone in their home.²

Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 80 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children

and teens.³

Free gun locks are available for Lakewood residents from the Lakewood Police Department.

This summer, our community leaders encourage all Lakewood adults to help protect Lakewood kids through secure gun storage.

¹ <https://everytownresearch.org/notanaccident/>

² Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using four years of most recent available data: 2018 to 2021. Children aged 0 to 17

³ David C. Grossman et al., "Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Injuries," JAMA 293, no. 6 (2005): 707-14.

The City Of Lakewood Launches Safe Place Initiative

from City Hall

Lakewood Police Department one of the first in Ohio to adopt the innovative program

The City of Lakewood is launching the Safe Place Initiative to provide "safe places" throughout Lakewood for victims and those at risk of hate crimes, harassment, and bullying. The program is led by the Lakewood Police Department, with Lakewood being one of the first cities in Ohio to adopt the program, which was first developed by the Seattle Police Department.

The Safe Place initiative is an innovative, community-based approach to safety and policing that builds relationships to assist victims of crimes that tend to be underreported – such as hate crimes and harassment of dif-

ferent groups. The Safe Place initiative has been adopted by over 300 police departments across the US and beyond.

"The City of Lakewood is always exploring innovative methods to address safety holistically and to be a welcoming community for our residents and visitors," said Mayor Meghan George. "This initiative helps to build relationships between our businesses, community, and police department and to send the message that Lakewood takes these issues seriously and will address them proactively."

Businesses and organizations interested in participating in the initiative can contact the Lakewood Police Department to engage in a brief training and receive a branded Safe Place sticker that will be placed prominently

on the window or door indicating they are a Safe Place.

"When an individual sees a Safe Place sticker, they know that there are people inside who care and that they can come through the door and access help immediately," said Patrol Officer Arianna Zuk, who helped develop Lakewood's program. "We hope the initiative will encourage real-time reporting of these incidents which will enable us to respond quickly and efficiently and make our community a safer place for everyone."

Businesses interested in becoming a Safe Place can visit <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/accordions/safe-place-initiative/> for more information.

Great Rates, Right Here

13-Month CD*

4.84% APY

12-Month MMA**

4.59% APY



Visit [FFL.net/ratespecial](https://www.ffd.net/ratespecial) or a branch to open an account today!

FFL.net [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#) [@](#)

 **First Federal
Lakewood**

 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER • MEMBER FDIC

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is 4.84% for the 13-month certificate; and is accurate as of 03/24/2023. At maturity, the 13-month certificate will automatically renew for a term of 12-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.

**The promotional Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for balances \$0.01-\$24,999=0.35%, \$25,000.00 or more = 4.59% and is accurate as of 03/24/2023. Minimum balance to open is \$25,000. A minimum average daily balance of \$25,000 is required to avoid a \$15 monthly service fee. The promotional APY is locked for 365 days. After 365 days, the variable interest rate is subject to change and will be determined by the interest rate being offered on the Select Money Market Account. The Select Money Market account tiers in effect as of 03/24/2023 are as follows: \$0.01-\$24,999.99 the APY is 0.35%; \$25,000-\$99,999.99 the APY is 0.60%; \$100,000-\$249,999.99 the APY is 0.70%; \$250,000 or more the APY is 0.80%. If the account is closed before the 365 days, a \$50 fee may be assessed. No more than a total of 6 preauthorized, telephone, ACH, check, POS or Internet transactions may be made from this account per month. Fees could reduce earnings on this account. Promotional rates available for new money only. New money is defined as money not currently on deposit with the bank. Other restrictions may apply. Promotional offer subject to change without notice. Contact a branch representative for full details.

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY/SCHOOLS

June Events At Lakewood Public Library

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, June 13- July 18, 2023

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, June 14- July 19, 2023

11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Madison Branch- Thursdays, June 15- July 20, 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, June 14- July 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Thursdays, June 15- July 20, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Learning About

Transitional Justice At LHS

by Joe Lobo

Can a society really make its way back from genocide and other mass atrocities? Is it possible for survivors to once again live as neighbors with the perpetrators who killed their friends and family? Is there a clear roadmap to both justice and true healing?

We do not yet know.

What we do know, however, is what happens when we don't try to create that roadmap. Enduring trauma. Bitterness. Vengeance. An inevitable cycle of violence.

And that is why Cleveland State Sociology professor, Michael Skladany, insists we wrestle with the ideas of transitional justice.

According to Dr. Skladany, Transitional Justice is an "overarching framework that consists of retributive and restorative mechanisms that envisions the traumatized society moving from authoritarianism to democracy." It includes all the initiatives needed to bring a community true justice and true healing. Dr. Skladany, who is also a committee member of Ohio's Holocaust and Genocide Education Network, spent two days with Lakewood High students explaining the possibilities --and the complexities-- of transitional justice.

Lakewood High School's Human Rights and Conflict class has been

studying the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, during which 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu moderates were killed in a span of three months. Dr. Skladany, who teaches Genocide Studies at CSU, knows a lot about how societies become genocidal.

In addition to academic expertise, his real life experiences make him an invaluable resource on Rwanda. Dr. Skladany was living in Rwanda when the genocide began, and when evacuated with the other remaining Americans, had to say goodbye to local friends who were later hunted down and killed by the Interahamwe militias.

"You can tell when someone cares about what they are talking about, and he did," said 11th grader, Jasmine Rose. "He really had my attention when he told us the story of leaving his friend behind, knowing he would never see him again, and how heartbreaking that was for him. The horrible things he has seen really came through in his eyes. It was like you could see what he was seeing."

We are so honored to have had a chance to learn from Dr Skladany. We will continue to explore ways in which we can break the cycle of violence which has ravaged human history.

Joe Lobo is a social studies teacher at Lakewood High School and teaches Human Rights and Conflict and Advanced Placement U.S. History.

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, June 13- July 18, 2023

6:00-6:30 p.m.

Family Weekend Wondershome alone

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.

All Together Now Summer Reading Club For all Children and Youth Up to Those Entering Twelfth Grade

Age appropriate goals include thirty books for our youngest children, ten hours for elementary school students and thirty hours for middle school and high school students, broken down into manageable parts to enable all readers to complete their goal. Readers may participate online and/or in person and must visit the Library to collect rewards. Finishers receive a certificate of completion and a new book to keep. Registration is required.

Friday, May 12, 2023 through Monday, August 14, 2023

Main Library and Madison Branch

To sign up for any program, register online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.



Chris "The Handy Guy"
Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
Whatever your needs as a homeowner are.
Relief, just a phone call away.
(216) 832-3234



PAUSE BEFORE YOU PLAY
THE BEST GAME PLAN FOR EVERY BET.
SET LIMITS RECOGNIZE THE RISKS KNOW WHEN TO STOP
Online betting takes just seconds. But betting too quickly could put you at risk. Learn why you should pause before you bet at PauseBeforeYouPlay.org.
GAMBLING PROBLEM? 1-800-589-9966 PauseBeforeYouPlay.org
ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
recoveryresources Cuyahoga Problem Gambling Coalition

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Lakewood Welcomes Coach Michael Polevacik

by Chuck Greanoff

With the departure of Head Football Coach Thomas Thome to Amherst, the Lakewood Rangers will have new leadership this year as Michael Polevacik comes over from Padua to take the helm. “Coach Polo,” as he is commonly known, looks to build on the progress the Rangers made under Coach Thome. Recently, I talked with our new coach, who will also assume teaching and administrative duties in our district, about his thoughts on coming to Lakewood, and to get a sense of his personality/priorities.

There are many adjectives that come to mind as I reflect on conversation with Coach Polo: optimistic, determined, focused, committed. But the word that coach Polo used more than any other was grateful. Grateful for the opportunity to work with a highly motivated group of players, grateful for all the support from the Athletic Director, Principal and the District Administration, grateful that Coach Thome left a strong foundation, and grateful for the opportunity to work in a community like Lakewood.

What’s the value of playing football, aside from the obvious thrill of intense competition on Friday Night under the lights?



New Coach Michael Polevacik

“Football is not fair,” said Coach Polo, as he explained the broader educational value of playing a rugged sport. “A kid could do everything right, train properly and with commitment, and the guy across the line is simply blessed with greater talent.” The lesson, of course, is not to throw in the towel, but to push through, keep working, and take pride in effort and teamwork.

The plan for the Lakewood Rangers is to train with commitment, give 100%, win lots of games,

live with the results either way--then get better.

Coach Polo full intends for those “results” to be winning seasons, built in the weight room and through the many hours of pre-season preparation it takes to be competitive. “We want the whole community to have pride in our team, both on the field and in the classroom.” As an educator, Coach Polo knows that the value created by playing a “hard sport” transcends the magical but temporary Friday night moments. Teamwork, work ethic, discipline and persistence are at a premium in football—and are all qualities that translate into effective citizenship/employment.

Coach Polo is optimistic about the prospects on the field. In our conversation, he already has a strong working knowledge of the players, both at the high school and middle school levels. His optimism comes from the “hungry” attitude he’s noted among the players, and the dedicated staff he has been able to assemble among coaches coming over from Padua and remaining with Lakewood.

Coach Polevacik brings a record of success to LHS. He was North Coast Coach of the Year at Padua, and also had a successful tenure as Head Coach at Elyria Catholic. He looks

forward to Friday Nights in First Federal Lakewood Stadium—one of the classic high school venues—this time as Head Coach of the Lakewood Rangers. He’s coached and played against Lakewood (he is a graduate of St Edward) and now he’s one of us.

Coach Polo is all in for the Lakewood Rangers. He and his wife and 11-year old daughter live on the west side of Cleveland and are regulars at our restaurants, small businesses and Lakewood Park. He combines a high energy optimism with a seriousness of purpose—any opponent, win or lose, will know they were in a battle. His final words were, “I would like to reiterate how excited I am to be here and get started this year

Coach Polevacik and the 2023 Lakewood Rangers open their season on Friday, August 18th vs John Marshall at the corner of Bunts and Madison. Hope to see you there.

Liquor License For Sale

D-5 Liquor License
Valid until 10/23
in good standing.
No violations,
Cost \$20,000
Call 216-406-6537

ADVERTISEMENT

Adolescent medicine: Care for tweens, teens & young adults.



Veronica Issac, MD
Cleveland Clinic
main campus and
Lakewood and Stephanie
Tubbs Jones family
health centers

Adolescent medicine is a specialty that focuses on care beginning at the start of puberty and continuing into young adulthood, typically for patients between the ages of 10-to-22 years.

“Within these ages, young people experience a lot of significant changes including puberty, the issue of gender identity, early

romantic relationships, growing independence, evolving cognitive abilities and more,” says Veronica Issac, MD, a pediatrician who specializes in adolescent medicine and treats patients at Cleveland Clinic’s main campus and Lakewood and Stephanie Tubbs Jones family health centers.

The diverse and multidisciplinary team of adolescent medicine specialists, psychologists, psychiatrists,

dietitians, social workers and others help coordinate and provide preventive care along with specialized care related to diagnoses ranging from acne, breast disorders and bone health to issues with growth and development, body image, smoking and vaping, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections and more.

Comprehensive programs address all issues of reproductive healthcare; eating disorders; gender understanding, identity and expression; and obesity.

“I see patients individually, working with them to take on responsibility for their own health. But I also see patients with their family members,” says Dr. Issac. “This way, as a parent, you know that we are using all of our resources and knowledge to treat and care for your child at every level whether for well visits, dealing with chronic issues like asthma or weight, or more specialized things like reproductive care, menstrual management, eating disorders and gender identity.”



Adolescent medicine services are offered at Cleveland Clinic main campus, Lakewood Family Health Center, Hillcrest Medical Office Building and Stephanie Tubbs Jones Family Health Center.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Issac or another adolescent medicine specialist, please call **216.444.5437**.

Learn about Weight-loss Surgery

Free Virtual Events

Attend these free virtual events offered by Cleveland Clinic – live in the comfort of your home.

During the 60-minute event, you will hear from clinical experts and have the opportunity to ask them questions directly about treatment options. Learn about:

- Effectiveness of weight-loss surgery for long-term weight loss and health.
- Safety of weight-loss surgery.
- What to expect from the team of multispecialty caregivers at Cleveland Clinic’s Bariatric & Metabolic Institute.
- The story of a patient and her weight-loss journey.

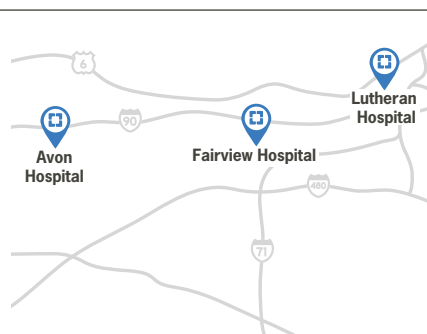
FREE. Registration required; events offered throughout the year. [ClevelandClinic.org/WLSS](https://www.clevelandclinic.org/WLSS)



**Get the care you need,
close to you.**

Here for you with 3 hospitals and more than 30 outpatient locations, from Ohio City to Amherst.

[ClevelandClinic.org/Locations](https://www.clevelandclinic.org/Locations)



LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Scholarship Money Available For Recreation Department Summer Programs

by **Christine Gordillo**

The Lakewood City Schools Recreation & Education Department is pleased to announce that we have been approved as a service provider for the Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account program. The ACE program provides funds to a student's parent or guardian to use on various enrichment and educational activities. The program

is being offered through a contract between Merit International, Inc. and the Ohio Department of Education.

Information on how to apply for up to \$1,000 per child (ages 6-18) to spend on camps, music lessons, enrichment and educational activities can be found on the ACE website at www.aceohio.org. Parents must meet eligibility requirements based on residency, income (extended to 400% of

federal poverty levels), or government social program participation. Once approved by ACE, parents may register for programs through the Community Recreation & Education Department.

Ways to Register:

1. Online - parents pay at the time of registration and submit their receipt to ACE directly for reimbursement.
2. By phone (216-529-4081) or in person at the Lakewood Recreation

Department (located on the LHS campus, corner of Bunts & Franklin, Door 31) and the Rec Department will invoice ACE. Verification of your acceptance from ACE is required for registration.

Programs approved by ACE:

- Summer day camps
- Music camps & private lessons
- Art courses
- Athletic camps & lessons
- STEM programs
- Gymnastics, martial arts, fencing
- Swim lessons
- Dance lessons

Programs not approved by ACE:

- Athletic teams or leagues
- Cheerleading associated with a league
- Pay to participate fees
- Aquatic special events
- Pool passes
- Foreign language classes (approval pending from ACE)
- Pony Camp
- Skateboard Camp

Hi! My Name Is Colleen Clark-Sutton

I Am Running For A Seat On Our Lakewood School Board

continued from page 1

vices. We have seen caring and creative teachers, a rich and rigorous curriculum, and a can-do positive approach to problem solving demonstrated by the City and School District leadership. We are staying in Lakewood because this continues to be a vibrant and supportive community.

In 2003, I became a member of the 50 Year Committee of the Lakewood City Schools charged with examining the changing building needs of our community to make recommendations

to the School Board about renovating, replacing, or repurposing 15 buildings. By researching and listening, we ultimately recommended to the Board a comprehensive overhaul of our school facilities to support and enhance the academic development of our students. I stayed involved for phases 1, 2 & 3. I was part of the leadership team for multiple levy and bond issue campaigns.

I was a PTA member, a parent co-leader with the Marching Band Festival for three years, and a committee member for the Beck Center's \$6.7 mil-

lion Raise the Roof capital campaign to renovate their spaces and become fully accessible. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I joined the Lakewood Office on Aging volunteers to distribute meals to senior citizens. I served on the City of Lakewood Citizens Advisory Committee, which serves as a recommending body to the City Council for the allocation of federal dollars for community development. I managed several campaigns for Local and State leaders, past and present. Now that there will be an open seat on the Lakewood School Board this fall, I have decided the time is right for me to pursue the opportunity to serve the community in an elected capacity.

Currently, I am an Adjunct Professor at Tri-C. I also taught at Baldwin Wallace University and Kent State University. I taught high school social studies in Garfield Heights.

My B.S. in Political Science and Masters in Education are from John Carroll University. I also pursued advanced studies in diversity, equity, and inclusion through the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Ask for your support and vote in this November's election. Feel free to contact me at colleen.clarksutton@gmail.com

Madison Park's Becks Pool NOW OPEN Lakewood Park's Foster Pool Opens June 8th



Dive in to the newly renovated Foster Pool this summer. Managed by the Recreation Department and owned by the City of Lakewood, Foster Pool features speed and looping slides, lily pads, spray features, a family slide, a diving board, and a 50 meter by 25 yard L-shaped lap pool. *Don't miss out!*

| DAILY ADMISSION | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Age | Resident | Non-Resident |
| 2 & under** | free with paid adult | free with paid adult |
| 3 - 5 | \$2 | \$5 |
| 6 - 17 | \$5 | \$10 |
| 18 - 59 | \$7 | \$11 |
| 60 + | \$2 | \$6 |

| SEASON PASSES | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Age | Resident | Non-Resident |
| 2 & under | free with paid adult | free with paid adult |
| 3 - 5 | \$10 | \$90 |
| 60+ | \$10 | \$90 |
| 1 person | \$70 | \$130 |
| 2 people | \$110 | \$200 |
| 3 people | \$150 | \$270 |
| Family of 4+ | \$190 | \$340 |



← INFO - Madison Park Becks Pool

Lakewood Park Foster Pool - INFO →





14100 Franklin Blvd. Lakewood, OH 44107
(216) 529-4081 • www.lakewoodrecreation.com
follow us on [facebook.com/lkwdrec](https://www.facebook.com/lkwdrec) • twitter.com/lkwdrec

HOME ALONE PET SITTING LLC.



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

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

LAKEWOOD CARES

Jimmy Gallagher's West End Tavern Fundraiser For Lakewood Community Services Center, A Huge Success!

by Trish Rooney

On May 15th, lifelong Lakewood resident Jimmy Gallagher hosted an incredibly successful event at West End Tavern to raise money in support of LCSC's mission to provide emergency food and housing stability to the literally thousands of people in need in our community. Many of Jimmy's legion of friends showed up to support this great effort.

Event goers each paid a \$25 entry donation and enjoyed free beer, wine, pizza, and entertainment generously

provided by local businesses. Thanks go out to West End Tavern for free beer, bar staff, and use of their space, to Angelo's for free slices of their deluxe pizza and for their staff to serve them, to Tremont's Flying Monkey for free wine, and to Dirt McGirt for live entertainment all evening.

Local restaurants donated gift cards that were raffled to raise even more! Participating businesses included Around the Corner, Blackbird Baking Company, Georgetown, Gingham Market, India Garden, Melt



Tess Neff, Judge Lakewood Municipal Court, and event host Jimmy Gallagher.

Lakewood Foundation And Healthy Lakewood Foundation Present Partnership To Support The Lakewood Community To Be Presented On June 27

continued from page 1

the Healthy Lakewood Foundation's website: <https://healthylakewoodfoundation.org/>.

To learn more about The Lakewood Foundation, please visit <https://www.thelakewoodfoundation.org/> or email info@thelakewoodfoundation.org.

To learn more about the Healthy Lakewood Foundation, please visit www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org or email info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org.

Kate Ingersoll is the Executive Director of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation.

O'Neill Healthcare Celebrates 60+ Years Serving The West Side Of Greater Cleveland



The O'Neill ever growing family celebrates O'Neill Healthcare's ever growing business. Now with over 6 locations, offering everything from recuperation and physical therapy services, Single or Double living units, to award winning Assisted Care Living for seniors with special programs and facilities for memory care. The O'Neill's have built a healthcare business for seniors that makes a real difference. John Sr. started in Bay Village 62 years ago, and has built a facility he is not only proud of, but now lives in himself.

Which reminds me of a comment made at the recent party. "We go out of our way to make sure your family is treated every bit as good as our family." The staff and administration are committed to that from day one.

Bar and Grilled, Paisley Monkey Riverwood Café, and Rood. A gift bag of St. Ed's swag was donated by Norm Fox.

Over \$6,000 was raised in only a few hours thanks to the generosity of those who came to support Jimmy and to support Lakewood Community Services Center. "We are so grateful to Jimmy for his idea to host the event and for all the work that went into making this such a great success," said LCSC Executive Director Trish Rooney. "The generosity of our home community never ceases to amaze."

GRACE
PRESCHOOL
Developing the Whole Child

ENROLL NOW 2023-24

FULL DAY & HALF DAY CLASSES AVAILABLE

CALL 216-529-1081 TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

Grace-preschool.net
13030 Madison Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107

LAKEWOOD 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!

NUNZIO'S Pizzeria
Visit Sicily Without Leaving Home

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

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

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

| 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

LAKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations Class Of 2023 Graduates

Ali Abdullah
 Ali Abed
 Gehad Abuauan
 Duniya Abukhalil
 Osied Albadarin
 Muhammed Alhanash
 Mosaw Ali
 Ameer Alkayali
 Mohammad Alrahhal
 Reese Anderson
 Adalyn Andregg
 Gabriella Aquino
 Katherine Arth
 Cassandra Auck
 Bryce Austin
 Cayleigh Austin
 Damon Bailey
 Marlena Baker
 Mackenna Banhidy
 Eric Barber
 Lauren Barber
 Robert Barth
 Jelonie Bartlett
 Mary Bartos
 Jonah Bees
 Charlotte Beno
 Michael Bianco
 Kaitlyn Bitter
 Layla Black
 Grant Bliss
 Simon Bockbrader
 Joshua Bohurjak
 Jack Bonvissuto
 Mitchell Bookman
 Clement Bouvier
 Sophia Boyer
 Ainsley Bronson
 Ava Bruening
 Peyton Buildt
 Isabella Burnett
 Laine Burnett
 Ava Carroll
 Audrey Carson
 Coreen Chambers
 Nathaniel Chism
 Ronald Christy
 James Cisco
 Helinor Clark
 Xavior Clark
 Kevin Coffman
 Alexa Colburn
 Katherine Coleman
 Gabriel Constantine
 Victor Cottrell
 Sophie Craciun
 Rocco Crino
 Colin Cunningham
 Mishela Dajlanaj
 Maxamillian D'Apollo
 Sophie D'Apollo
 Maximus DeLuca
 Jackson Derethik
 Luke Derrick
 Ian Dewille
 Tyler DiLoreto
 Alicia Dinya
 Sebastian Dinya
 Erin Dippel
 Annette Doren
 Antonio Doris Jr.
 Sarah Dorn
 Kamar Dorsey
 Michael Dozier
 Eliza Dreger
 Joshua Drogalis
 Colin Dunne
 Rynne Eisnaugle
 Taha Elmerrahi
 Renollie Emig
 Brandon Erway
 Jonas Evans
 Samantha Facaros
 Reese Fishbaugh
 Sophia Fishbaugh
 Dakota Ford
 Emmett Frantz
 Rebecca Frolo
 Gavin Fulmer
 Casey Funk
 Libby Galarza
 Julian Garcia
 Elisa Gattarello
 Monet Gee
 Nolan Geyer
 Simon Gilchrist
 Edward Gillick
 Kaydence Ginnard
 Jack Gollon
 Sandra Goodell
 Elijah Goodpastor
 Amajiah Gorman
 Sadie Gregg
 Sydney Hampton
 Jacob Hanna
 Robert Hanna
 Myles Harper
 Christopher Harris
 Grace Hart



Savanna Hepp
 Hannah Hernandez
 Grace Hildebrandt
 Ava Hitter
 Alexandra Hodson
 Liam Holian
 James Holland
 Milo Horseman
 Alexandra Horton
 Abigail Houska
 Nathan Howell
 Paw Say Htoo
 Thaw Thee Htoo
 Jacqueline Hudak
 Samantha Hudak
 Gavin Huntington
 Helen Hylton
 Mason Ivinskas
 Benjamin Jablonowski
 Lucas Jablonowski
 Cory James
 Corey Johnson
 Jude Johnson
 Keysonyz Johnson
 Kai Jones
 Michael Jones Jr.
 Ryedan Jones
 Ellie Justus
 Ella Kalinowski
 Gaebrial Kane
 Rory Kane
 Justin Kieres
 Ty Kimble
 Jill King
 Logan Kissel
 Julia Kompier
 Jackson Koster
 Ashley Kovanitz
 Madeline Kratz
 Lydia Kress
 Elijah LaDue
 Grace Lamparyk
 Gledisa Laska
 Kenijha Lawshea
 Genesis Lazu Acosta
 Nicol Lazu Acosta
 Kylie Lenzer
 Atreyu Leonard
 Richard Levesque
 Luke Levitsky
 Donald Lewis III
 Alexander Lindsay

Alexis Lindsay
 Rose Lipka
 Charlie Loboza
 Madison Long
 Olivia Long
 Kayla Lorion
 Fiona Loudermilk
 Matthew Mannion
 Ahmed Mansour
 Jacob Mariani
 Nicholas Mariani
 Aaron Markham
 Abigail Marsh
 Tyler Marvin
 Taysir Marzouk
 Sham Masalmeh
 Sophia Masek
 Luke Mason
 Sara Massimiani
 Cadence Mattson
 Aya McAuliffe
 Colin McCrone
 Kai McFarland
 Maggie McGann
 Clare McKay
 Gavin McKay
 Brigid McKenna
 Ethnee McKissick
 Kayden Melicant
 Seldion Mellaraj
 Lilly Metzger
 Cecelia Miller
 Emma Miller
 Conner Millsaps
 Brooke Miltner
 Javon Mitterholzer
 Lily Monahan
 Sophia Monteiro
 Hsar Mya Moo
 Say K-Pyu Moo
 Wah Ler Moo
 Zahara Moreno
 Zahir Moreno
 Clare Morrissey
 Colin Mossburg
 Layla Mustafa
 Michael Muzychenko
 Berenice Nekinga Jr.
 Benjamin Nelson
 Samuel Nelson
 Alejandro Nieves Bucey
 Ash Nix

Griffin Norris
 Rory O'Brien
 Sophia Odetallah
 Madeline Oldfield
 Isabel Orlando
 Aidan Parch
 Johnathon Parker
 Nicholas Patsouras
 Avery Paynter-Mullen
 Remy Pearl
 Kali Pedley
 Olivia Pedley
 Viviana Perez
 Alexander Peria
 Emma Perry
 Alexander Peterson
 Olivia Pickens
 Felix Piotrowski
 Jack Pollock
 Jackson Provost
 Calvin Quintana
 Aniko Raffai
 April Rahrig
 Isabelle Reay
 Gabriel Reichel
 Christian Reyes
 Morgan Rice
 Rhiannon Riker
 Jaxon Riley
 Garrett Ritchie
 Aidan Ritley
 Liam Ritley
 Kaleigh Rivera
 Cameron Robertson
 Helen Roche
 Alexiah Rodriguez
 Bailey Rohrs
 Jordan Rossen
 Madeleine Rybak
 Neeah Sailes
 Connor Salata
 Arafat Saleh
 Joice Salloum
 Muimayn Salti
 William Schmoltd
 Luke Schuldt
 Garrett Schweter
 Sawyer Sherepita
 Anderson Shoaff
 Carter Shupp
 Lorna Skrtic
 Calyn Smith
 Gabriela Smith
 Isabella Smith
 Sean Smith
 Elliott Snyder
 Madalynne Sorge
 Abigail Stack
 Alliyah Stamper
 Ryan Stein
 Maya Stewart
 Nathan Stillman
 Sullivan Stois
 Vayda Strnad
 Ozjan Suleymanov
 Ahmed Sulieman
 Nadeem Syed
 Tahoorah Syed
 Aniya Symons
 Byron Tamunday
 Hunter Tate
 Isaiah A Taylor
 Amani Taylor Blevins
 Akeno Terry
 Ah Klugh Thaw
 Sam Thomas
 Sophia Thomas
 Tyler Thompson
 Bonnie Tischler
 Lydianna Trudel
 Yoanna Tsokantas
 Quinton Turpin
 Marshall Vargas
 Owen Vogelgesang
 Brayden Volcansek
 Baby Wah
 Sha Eh Bliu Wah
 Emilie Walkush
 Scarlett Wankowski
 Lydia Watkins
 Kegan Weber
 Evan Wesner
 Meredith Wheeler
 Shahijah White
 Nolan Wickmark
 Maurice Williams III
 Sophia Wilmot
 Megan Winters
 Charlotte Woolfolk
 Lila Wright
 Ayah Yassen
 Alyssa Yontosh
 Graci Yost
 Mallory Zavatchen
 Margaret Zingale
 Edan Zmijewski
 Isaac Zuby

LAKEWOOD CARES

20 Years Of Spiritual Exploration Celebrated By Centering Space's Growing Community

by Syndie Eardly

Historically, we learned about religion and developed our spiritual life in church. Today, we have much broader access to spiritual literature, retreat centers, spiritual communities, and information about how others believe and express the tenets of their faith.

This reality has made people curious and far more open to exploring various aspects of their spirituality. Centering Space in Lakewood, which is celebrating 20 years of serving the spiritual needs of people throughout

Greater Cleveland, offers just such an environment.

"I think some people come here because they are struggling," said Betsy Nero, Centering Space's co-director. "Sometimes they feel like they are falling through the cracks. Here, they enter into community in a way that allows their spirituality and faith to grow because of the offerings we have here. They know it is a safe space. They are accepted, wherever they are in their journey."

The Pew Research Center has

reported that "the religious composition of the United States finds the religiously unaffiliated share of the public is 6% higher than it was five years ago and 10% higher than a decade ago."

While more people have stepped away from attending church, it does not mean that people are less spiritual. Barna Group, a research organization focused on the intersection of faith and culture, reported that more than 60% of unchurched people consider themselves Christian. More than one-third describe themselves as deeply spiritual. More than 40% say their religious faith is very important to them.

Independent retreat houses, prayer centers and intentional communities like Centering Space provide an alternative source for those seeking spiritual development, as well as an environment that supports those who do attend church to help them enhance their spirituality in a broader way.

The Beginning and the Mission

Founded in 2003 by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the original team asked themselves a few fundamental questions: how do people identify and address their spiritual needs and how do those in discernment learn to listen to the leading of their inner spiritual voice.

The team initially contemplated

creating a house of discernment for religious vocations, but quickly shifted to the idea of opening the house up to lay people.

"Lay people need discernment, too, especially in times of transition, triggered by the grief of losing a loved one, a career change, a failing relationship, or a major life passage," said Sr. Carol Kandiko, CSA, co-director and one of the original team who created Centering Space. "They need a place where they can come, listen to their own heart and get in touch with their own discerning powers with God, the world and each other."

The original team set up an unusual organizational structure. Instead of putting one person in charge, they created a core circle in which each had equal responsibility and handled the duties interchangeably. The concept of the circle remains today, where the work of the house, though overseen by Nero, Kandiko, and a board of directors, includes members of the community who attend prayer and programs at the house. Eight prayer leaders rotate weekly prayer leads and dozens of local spiritual leaders and educators present a variety of programs.

This concept of the circle has

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

Devastating Fire At Camp "because I said I would"



On June 4, 2023, the nonprofit 'because I said I would' founded by Lakewood resident, Alex Sheen, suffered a total loss of their newly acquired Headquarters and Event Venue at Camp because I said I would due to fire. No one was hurt. The cause is under investigation. This was much more than just four walls; it held 10 years of supporters' Promise Cards, irreplaceable keepsakes, and memories. This facility also housed the most critical resources and tools used to operate the charity. If you believe in the importance of promises made and kept for the betterment of humanity and would like to help with the relief and recovery effort, please email camp@becauseisaidiwould.org. Donations can be accepted at becauseisaidiwould.org/donate OR [facebook.com/donate/274658944968789/](https://www.facebook.com/donate/274658944968789/)



woodstocksmokejoint.com

#1
BBQ
In Northern Ohio
2021
2022
Scene Magazine

KITCHEN HOURS
MONDAY – THURSDAY – 4PM–10PM
FRIDAY – 4PM–11PM
SATURDAY – 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

AROUND THE CORNER

HEATED PATIO

Book your fundraisers and special events With Us!

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

EATERY
DRINKERY
FUNNERY

LAKWOOD WRITES IN

A Penny For Your Thoughts

by Jeff Fritz

*"A penny for your thoughts" has been a popular phrase for hundreds of years. Despite inflation a penny is still the going rate. And about how much most thoughts are worth. Just adding my two cents.

*Had my annual physical last week. The doctor said I could look forward to forty good years and one bad day.

*If you remove your jacket they say you are in "shirtsleeves." How does that make sense? You are in an entire shirt.

*People who have memorized all the state capitals are admired. Why?

*QUESTION: What do you call a cremated movie star? ANSWER: Burnt Reynolds. Too soon?

*I write jokes. Some of them are funny.

*Prices are now "price points." Free is "zero dollars." Someone is screwing with our language!



*ANSWER: Seinfeld. QUESTION: What do you say when a billboard tips over?

*Is bragging allowed at Humble Wine Bar?

*Now that newspaper obituaries

contain pictures of the deceased I wonder why everyone is smiling. They just died, for God's sake!

*Every week I hike from my Lakewood home to one of the Great Lakes. So far it keeps being Lake Erie.

*"Chock-full-o-Nuts" is a terrible name for a coffee that contains no nuts. It would, however, be a pretty good name for our current House Of Representatives.

*Is there anything less necessary than golf scholarships?

*A Pennsylvania steakhouse chef was injured in a kitchen fire. His condition is listed as "Medium Well."

*I'm just like everyone else. I put my glasses on one eye at a time.

*Sidewalks in downtown

Lakewood are too narrow. Or maybe it's just that pedestrians, dogs, walkers, rollators, parking meters, bicycles, scooters, shopping carts, benches, utility poles, signs, fire hydrants, bike racks, skate boards, trash cans, wheelchairs, hoverboards, strollers, newspaper machines, and flower boxes are too wide.

*If this article hadn't been published in this issue of the Lakewood Observer, would there be a big blank space?

*Describe Lakewood, Ohio in two words: "Almost Perfect."

Jeff Fritz enjoys exercise, politics, economics, writing jokes and songs, and reading non-fiction.

Board Approves New LHS House Principal

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education at its June 5 meeting approved current Avon Lake Schools Athletic Director Brent Schremp as a house principal for Lakewood High School for the 2023-2024 school year.

Schremp comes to Lakewood with a varied educational career that includes 10 years of administrative experience. He began his education career as a Social Studies teacher with the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake School District, where he also served as the district's head varsity basketball coach. Schremp remained in these roles until he became assistant principal for the Sheffield middle school and high school in 2013. In 2015 he became principal at Sheffield's Brookside middle school and high school, serving grades 7-12. In 2018, Schremp, a former college basketball player, shifted gears to

become athletic director for the Avon Lake City Schools.

Prior to entering the education field, Schremp served as a general probation officer and a juvenile Intensive probation officer for Lorain County.

Schremp is eager to begin his work in Lakewood and get to know the students: "I'm very excited to be coming

back into a high school and to work with young adults and helping them set a firm foundation for their future," he said at the Board meeting.

Schremp earned a bachelor's of science degree in sociology from Slippery Rock University and his teaching and administrative degrees from Ashland University.

Birthday Tribute Concert By Congito Jaffe For Lyricist/Poet Lady Ives

by Martin Jaffe

Congito Jaffe, noted local singer/songwriter returns to the stage at the Blue Cafe, 15715 Madison Avenue in Lakewood on Saturday, June 24th at 7pm, for a FREE concert celebrating the lyrical poetic work of Lady Ives and the vocal and guitar contributions of Congito.

Congito has been at the ele-

gant Blue Cafe several times for well-reviewed concerts and this current tour supporting his current CD. As a reviewer recently noted, "the expressive lyrics, mellow guitar, and rich vocal styling transport the listener to a warm espresso-scented environment reminiscent of a 1971 coffeehouse vibe on a beach in paradise."

Lakewood's #1 choice for interior and exterior 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 at O'Neill Healthcare



O'Neill Healthcare
LAKWOOD

1381 Bunts Rd | O'NeillHC.com

Nestled within a 5 star CMS rated Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Community!

- Independent Living available
- Hospice Care
- Full calendar of social event and activities year round
- Delicious, home cooked meals
- Individual care plans designed for senior safety

Please contact Halle at (216) 912-0800 or aldir.lw@oneillhc.com

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

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER FOODWOOD

Fried Banana With Easy No-Churn Vanilla Ice Cream

by Pebbles Brown

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 10 minutes Freezing time: 4-6 hours

Try this delicious fried banana and 3-ingredient no-churn ice cream. The ice cream can be whipped up a day in advance, leaving the simple job of making the batter and frying the bananas.

The caramelized and fried banana is crisp on the outside and soft and creamy in the center. The dreamy vanilla ice cream contrasts beautifully with the warm, rich banana.

Ingredients

For the Fried Banana:

4 portions

- 4 ripe bananas
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch of salt
- Avocado oil, for frying (or your choice of oil)

For the No-Churn Ice Cream:

10 portions

- 2 cups heavy cream, chilled
- 1 can (14 ounces) of sweetened condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

Prepare the No-Churn Ice Cream:

1. Whip the chilled heavy cream in a large mixing bowl using an elec-

tric mixer until stiff peaks form. The cream can also be whipped by hand.

2. Gradually pour in the sweetened condensed milk and vanilla extract.

3. Gently fold the mixture together until well combined and smooth.

4. Transfer the mixture into a lidded container or a loaf pan.

5. Cover and freeze for 4-6 hours or until firm.

Prepare the Fried Banana:

1. Combine the all-purpose flour, corn starch, granulated sugar, ground cinnamon, and salt in a shallow bowl.

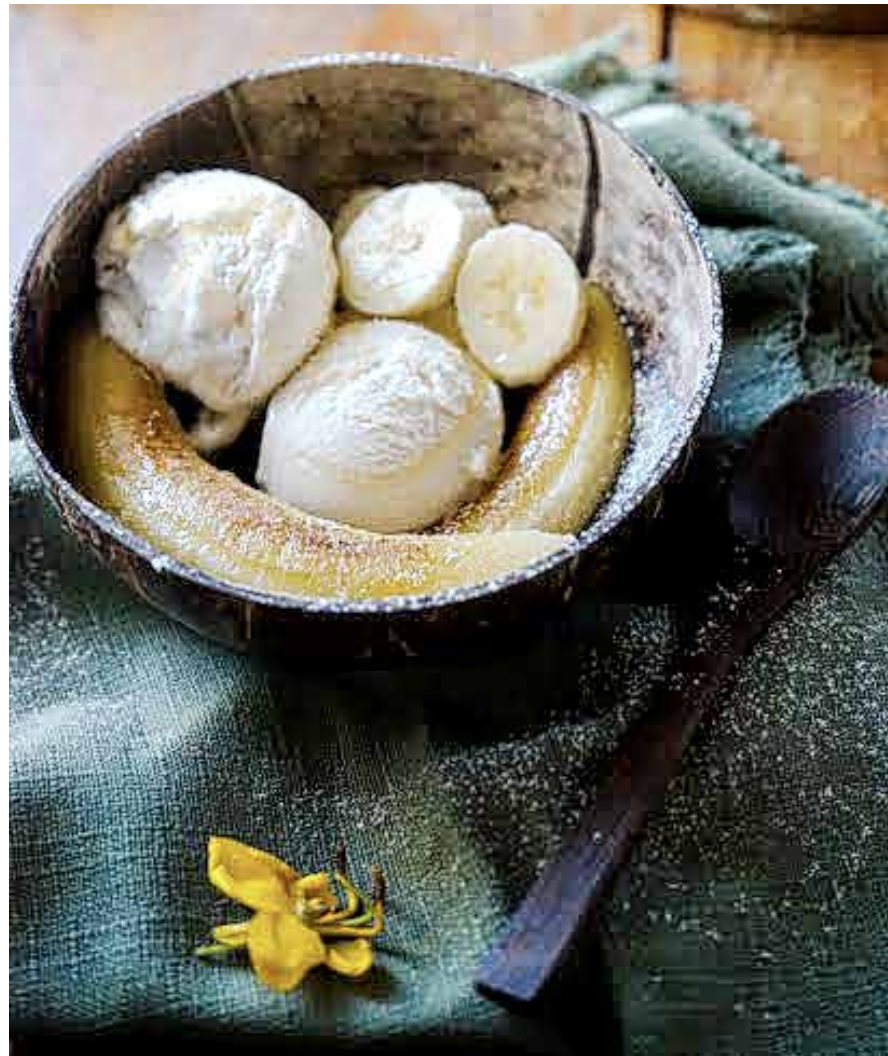
2. Peel the bananas and slice them lengthways in half.

3. Heat avocado oil in a skillet over medium heat.

4. Dip each banana slice into the flour mixture, ensuring they are evenly coated.

5. Carefully place the coated banana slices into the hot oil and fry until golden brown on both sides, approximately 2-3 minutes per side.

6. Remove the fried bananas from the oil and transfer them to a plate lined with paper towels to absorb any excess oil.



To Serve:

1. Arrange the fried banana slices on individual serving plates.

2. Remove the no-churn ice cream from the freezer and scoop a generous amount onto each plate alongside the fried bananas.

3. Serve and enjoy!

Pro Tips and Recipe Notes

- For a super smooth ice cream texture, whip with the electric mixer halfway through its freezing process. This will break down the crystals but may extend the overall freezing time.

- To make this recipe gluten-free use gluten-free flour instead of regular all-purpose flour.

- Why not Serve your fried banana and ice cream combo with a sauce – chocolate, caramel, lemon curd, or a simple syrup for some extra indulgence.

Experiment with alternatives to vanilla; here are some ideas:

Lemon curd – add 3 tablespoons of lemon curd (homemade or store-bought are both great). Take 2 tablespoons of cream out in this case.

Almond essence – add some toasted crushed almonds to the mixture too.

Coffee – add 2 tablespoons of chilled espresso coffee to the cream. Take 2 tablespoons of cream out in this case.

Lavender – add 1 tablespoon of fresh lavender flowers to the cream, gently simmer, and turn off the heat. Allow it to infuse overnight in the fridge. In the morning, strain the flowers out and follow the recipe.

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 my 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.

TROY BRATZ

Real Estate Agent
Residential/Commercial
Lakewood Resident

Let's find you a new home or business!

@TroyBratzKW

Follow me on social media for tips on navigating the buying & selling process.

KW GREATER CLEVELAND
SOUTHWEST
KELLERWILLIAMS.



TroyBratz@KW.com
TroyBratz.KW.com
216.702.2196

Neighborhood Leadership Development Program
A Connection for Community Change

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

NLDP COHORT XVI RECRUITMENT IS OPEN!

A unique leadership program designed for YOU as a neighborhood leader.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M THE RIGHT FIT?

Are you leading efforts, big or small, to improve your neighborhood? Do you push forward, refusing to take no for an answer? Would you benefit from leadership training focused on building and connecting leaders in Cleveland's neighborhoods? Then you should apply for NLDP Cohort XVI!

Contact us for more information & to apply today!

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

www.nldpcleveland.com | info@nldpcleveland.com | 216.776.6170

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE

Apply Today!

**APPLICATIONS FOR
COHORT XVI ARE DUE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH.**

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



Local Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter Awarded Honorary Partner Status In The Vietnam War Commemoration

by Mary Kay Wilson

On April 20th several members of Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter Daughter of the American Revolution joined the Vietnam Veterans of America Bay Village/Lakewood Chapter for their April meeting. The DAR members presented the VVA chapter with a Vietnam War Commemoration flag and stand and a certificate of appreciation signed by the Secretary of Defense.

This is what the certificate said: "The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, Department of Defense, recognizes Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 249 as an Honorary

Partner. This distinction is reserved for and conferred upon organizations consisting solely of those who "bore the battle" or "bore the loss" of the Vietnam War. A grateful Nation honors your collective service and untold sacrifices. Welcome home! Done this 8th day of March 2023. Signed Lloyd J. Austin, Secretary of Defense."

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) is a national 50th anniversary commemoration, authorized by Congress, established under the secretary of defense, and launched by President Barack Obama in 2012. Its primary objective is to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation. That includes all military member who served from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. No distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve, none could self-determine where they were stationed, and all were seen in the same way by a country that could not separate the war from the warrior, as we do today.

One of the symbols of this thanks is a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin. The pin features an eagle's head: representing courage, honor and dedicated service;

stripes: representing our Nation's flag; and six stars: representing the United States and its five allies who served and sacrificed alongside one another; all encircled by a ring of blue, drawn from the canton of our national flag and signifying vigilance, perseverance and justice. The phrase "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the reverse side, along with the Commemoration's name.

At the meeting, DAR members presented commemoration pins to 11 Vietnam veterans and thanked them all for their service. If you are a Vietnam veteran, or the widow/widower of one, and would like to be honored and receive your Vietnam Veteran Lapel

Pin, or surviving spouse pin, please contact Mary Kay Wilson MKW50@gmail.com.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are 7 million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad, along with more than 10 million families of those who served in the Vietnam War era.

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

Mary Kay Wilson is the Media Chair for the Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) - who sometimes have events that Lakewood residents might want to know about.

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

organic espresso bar
baker
vegan
vegetarian
local kitchen

Roman Fountain
Pizza & Subs

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

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE!

WALL TO WALL TRANSFORMATIONS
FULLY INSURED, FREE ESTIMATES

PLASTER REPAIR
Specializing In Plaster And
Lathe Restoration

216-255-8529

Lakewood Clock Repair

info@LakewoodClockRepair.com
www.LakewoodClockRepair.com

(216) 421-4201

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



SCORPIO:

The sun is heating the Scorpion’s house of transformation, other people’s resources, and all things passionate; Jupiter is ready to hop on a plane to a foreign destination.

SAGITTARIUS:

The Centaur’s focus is on your personal/business partnerships...& Jupiter, the “Santa Claus of the Zodiac,” has landed in your 8th house of transformation; take heed.

CAPRICORN:

The Sun is shining its beams in the Goat’s house of health this month; enjoy the extra vitality...& Jupiter is blessing your house of relationships, both personal & business, yeah!

AQUARIUS:

The Sun is visiting your 5th house of children & lovers; enjoy both...while Jupiter is in your place of health, keeping everything in moderation is the key to success.

PISCES:

The Sun is shimmering its bright beams on the Fish’s lake this month, while Jupiter’s “good fortune” has landed near the romantic shores of your habitat; lucky fish, enjoy the love.

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

JUNE

ARIES:

The Ram is spreading itself thin between being the social butterfly of the neighborhood and having blessings fall from above in the area of home & family, enjoy the good times...

TAURUS:

The Bull’s finances are highlighted in a good way this month, so you’re going to need to come out of that Bull Pen of yours & get yourself moving around the neighborhood.

GEMINI:

The Twins, it’s all about you, it’s Gemini season, and Jupiter has landed in your house of finances; it’s Christmas in June for the Twins, double up that fun & be generous.

CANCER:

The Sun is shining behind the scenes for our hide-in-its-shell Crab; that’s OK because those behind-the-scenes benefits are going to shine in your personality this month.

LEO:

The Leo is shining strong in that Jungle; you’ve got all the animals in your corner cheering you on; and Lady Jupiter is dropping a few extra surprises in your hidden fortress.

VIRGO:

Virgos, the Sun is shining in your 10th house of career; if you’ve been waiting for a higher-up to notice you, now’s your time; there’s luck to be found among your associations.

LIBRA:

Libra, the Sun is shining overseas, book a flight; now’s the time to travel abroad; Jupiter is sprinkling its bountiful blessings in your professional arena, time to take a vacation.

Suicide Prevention, Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Services are available for children and adults in Cuyahoga County

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Morning | Noon |
| and Night | |

Connect with services by calling
216-623-6888 or 988

Learn more about
Crisis Services in
Cuyahoga County at
adamhsc.org/crisis

ADAMHS
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

A team rooted in over 60 years of experience

At Johnson | Bentley Wealth Partners, we believe a workplace should reflect its culture. That’s why we’re proud to announce our partnership.

REACH OUT TO MEET OUR TEAM.

MICHAEL A. BENTLEY, *Vice President, Investments*
Johnson | Bentley Wealth Partners of Raymond James
159 Crocker Park Blvd, Suite 390 // Westlake, OH 44145
440.801.1629 // michael.bentley@raymondjames.com
johnsonbentley.com

© 2021 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC. 20-XXXX-XXXX 00/21

LAKEWOOD

2023 Beautiful Home Awards



Presented by Keep Lakewood Beautiful

Submit your nominations, now through July 31st.

by Matt Bixenstine

Keep Lakewood Beautiful is pleased to announce its 2023 Beautiful Home Awards Contest! Now through July 31st is the time to submit your nominations for the Lakewood home(s) you think showcase eye-popping landscaping, well-maintained property, and that extra something that makes it "beautiful."

Nominations can be made quickly and easily by visiting the City of Lakewood's website (lakewoodoh.gov/keep-lakewood-beautiful) or by calling the Mayor's Office at 216-529-6601. Typically fifty to a hundred Lakewood

homes are nominated each year.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful has been orchestrating the Beautiful Home Awards Contest for more than 10 years. One home from each of the original seven school districts is chosen from nominations submitted by community members. Winners will receive an award and be recognized during a City Council meeting this fall.

Thank you for helping Keep Lakewood Beautiful to properly honor this city of beautiful homes!

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/futuredirectionscos)
futuredirections@ameritech.net

2070 West 117th Street
 Cleveland, Ohio 44111



Air is life. Make it perfect.™

The perfect pair for your air.

RECEIVE UP TO
\$1,900
IN REBATES
 on a complete Ultimate Comfort System™*

OR

Qualified buyers make no payments, incur
NO INTEREST
FOR 6 MONTHS
 when financing a new Lennox system**



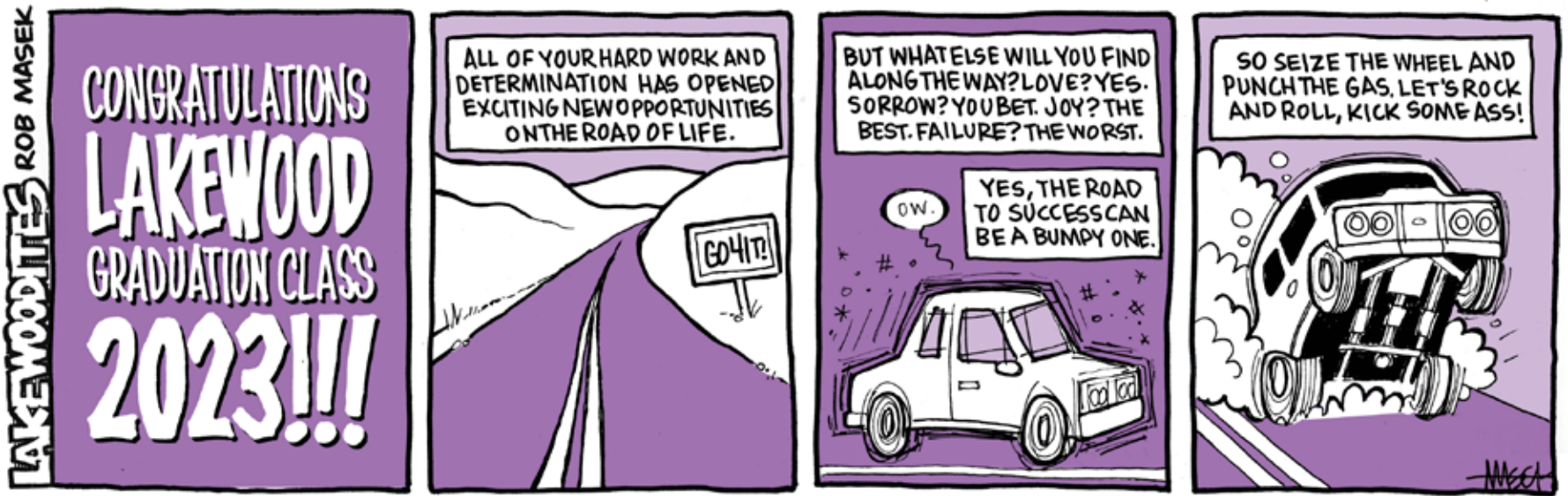
216-220-5710

slifehvac@sbcglobal.net

13729 Madison Avenue
 Lakewood, OH 44107

OH Lic #16431
 Offer expires June 16, 2023.
 *Rebate requires purchase of qualifying items between March 13, 2023 to June 16, 2023 from a participating Lennox® dealer. Contact your local participating Lennox® dealer for promotion details. Qualifying items must be installed by June 23, 2023. This offer applies to residential installations only. Rebate claims must be submitted (with proof of purchase) to www.lennoxconsumerrebates.com no later than July 7, 2023 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Rebate is paid in the form of a Lennox Visa® Prepaid Card. Prepaid card is governed by the Cardholder Agreement, and some fees may apply. Please note that prepaid cards are subject to expiration, so pay close attention to the expiration date of the card. Conditions apply. See www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions for complete terms and conditions. **Offer available March 13, 2023 to June 16, 2023. All applications are subject to credit review and approval. Not all applicants will qualify. Requires purchase of qualifying Lennox® system and credit approval. No down payment required. If you qualify for this promotion ("Promotion") and elect to participate, Finance Charges (interest) will not accrue for the first six months (Promotional Period), and you will not be required to make payments during the Promotional Period. If you pay the entire amount financed on or before the last day of the Promotional Period (Promotional Expiration Date), you will not have to pay any Finance Charges. However, if you qualify and elect to participate in the Promotion and do not pay the entire amount financed on or before the Promotion Expiration Date, you will be charged Finance Charges starting the first day after the Promotion Expiration Date at an annual percentage rate (APR) of 8.99%, and the balance will be payable in 120 scheduled monthly payments of \$12.00 per \$1,000 of the amount financed. No prepayment penalties. Minimum and maximum amount financed of \$3,000 and \$100,000, respectively. Late charges may apply. Complete terms and conditions and Truth in Lending disclosures will be set forth in the Retail Installment Contract which you should review carefully.
 ©2023 Lennox. Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.

The Back Page



Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Full Service Salon For Females Of ALL Ages

Red, White, & Blue Hair Accessories and Nail polish

Festival Flowers & Styles

Summer hair cuts, color, treatments

10% off on Seniors Tuesdays and Wednesdays



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



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 HMI000589

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!