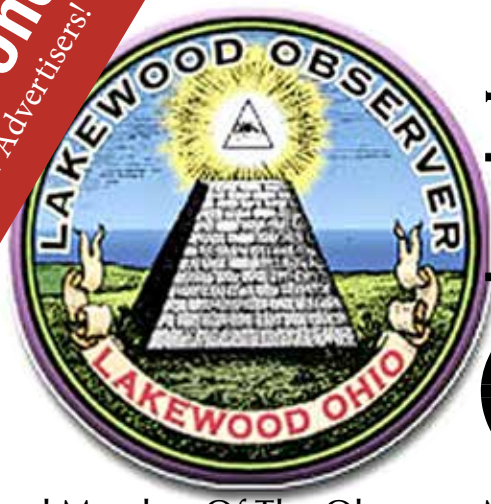


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 18, Issue 13, July 6, 2022

Lakewood Loses A Beautiful Person - Matt Kuhns



Mr. Kuhns goes to Columbus... to testify in favor of Congressional redistricting reform at a statehouse hearing in 2017.

by Matt Kuhns

Matt Kuhns composed his own obituary for the Lakewood Observer.

Matt Kuhns was born July 15, 1978 and passed away June 18, 2022.

He was the son of Joan Husmann and the late John Kuhns; brother of Bret Kuhns.

He was born in Monticello, Iowa, raised in neighboring Anamosa; was a 1996 graduate of Anamosa High School and a 2000 graduate of Iowa State University.

Matt lived in Lakewood, Ohio, since 2008, where he was active in local politics and civic affairs.

Matt's writing appeared in The Lakewood Observer.

Professionally, Matt made his career in graphic design, most recently in independent practice. He was also the author of four books: Brilliant Deduction, Cotton's Library, Hancher vs. Hilton, and Nemesis.

There will be a memorial for Matt Kuhns on August 4, 6 pm at the Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park.

To read some of Matt's incredible writing go to his website: www.mattkuhns.com

I would like there to be a brighter future in which all of you will be safe and well. I wish with all my heart that this will be so. And I wish, in such event, you will think of me with a little kindness, a little forgiveness, if you have it in you."--Matt Kuhns

Less Than A Tank Trips Mid-Ohio: Great Family Fun



photo by Deb O'Bryan

We introduce the first installment of “Less Than A Tank Trips”— Places to go to and get home for less than a of tank of gas. Ohio has so much to offer, let's enjoy it. First up, Mid-Ohio, just 60 minutes from Lakewood, and a world famous venue. . **Go To Page 11**

Lakewood Observer Celebrates Its 17th Anniversary In Print

by Jim O'Bryan

Seventeen years ago, The Lakewood Observer after a two year start online, hit the streets of Lakewood in its printed form.

At the time we had no idea how the city would accept us. A community paper written completely by the citizens of Lakewood, for the citizens of Lakewood? Let's just say the printed newspaper was an instant success.

Now seventeen years later, we are still going strong, and looking forward to the next 7,000+ Lakewoodites who will take the time to share their stories, photos, illustrations and observations with their neighbors in the city of Lakewood.

The fun, excitement and positive actions that have flowed out of this project make me love it more and more every day.

The Lakewood Observer gave birth not just to the print version, but through it many of Lakewood's most loved programs took shape, like the Lakewood Earth And Food Group, Bike Lakewood, Lakewood Is Art (LPL Front Porch Concerts), MAMA, which became Uptown Lakewood and many more.

Through our dedica-



tion to highlight worthwhile endeavors in Lakewood, from Lakewoodites, to digging into the facts and the truth, no one has done a better job than the Observers collectively.

I want to personally thank everyone that has contributed or will. To all of our readers and supporters. To our advertisers who make it all possible and to my wife Deb O'Bryan for keeping the ship headed in the right direction. Thanks and a tip of the hat to our Editors, Betsy Voinovich and Editor Emeritus Margaret Brinich. If you

have a story to tell, photos or illustrations you would like to share with the community, or you would like to explore our ever-growing library of the history of Lakewood, go to: <http://lakewoodobserver.com/members> and sign up today. No cost, no hassles, all fun!



photo by Keith Davey

Juneteenth Celebration at the Barton Center. Patricia Welborn, president of Lakewood Black Caucus and Khlaide Thomas from Americans for Prosperity spoke at the event.

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Happy Fourth Of July by Mayor Meghan George

Summer in Lakewood is a special time. As one the most walkable communities in Ohio, our city really comes alive when the weather is sunny, and we can all get outside and enjoy all Lakewood has to offer. Whether its large summer festivals and events or small backyard gatherings, our city is a community that loves to enjoy this season.

No events capture the feeling of summer in Lakewood more than the Fourth of July Parade and our fantastic fireworks display in Lakewood Park. I was thrilled to see so many of you along the parade route this year, as we were finally able to host this fun, family-friendly gathering again after two difficult years off due to COVID-19. I want to thank all the city staff who make the parade possible and all the community groups and leaders who marched in the parade and showed their Lakewood spirit. I hope to see you all again at Melt-down on July 16th downtown.

Our fireworks display continues to be a regional highlight. A big thank



you also must go out to our safety forces and city team who make this a safe and spectacular time of thrilling lights and sounds. One related item I want to highlight is that Lakewood recently enacted an updated fireworks ordinance to opt out of the state’s leg-

islation allowing carte blanche use of fireworks across Ohio. I agreed with the many of you who reached out to me to say that this law was not right for Lakewood, so we crafted legislation

to opt out of the state law and keep the discharge of consumer-grade fireworks out of Lakewood. So please keep this in mind as you have fun this summer.

As I reflect on the joys of the summer season in our fair city, I realize that all of us who make our Lakewood our home here like to think that our city is an amazing place to live. So, it’s nice when a national publication takes notice of Lakewood and gives us an outsider’s appreciation of how unique our city is. You may have heard that last week, Thrillist – a national travel and entertainment media company based in New York City – included Lakewood on its list of the top ten Suburban Neighborhoods to move to in America. Thrillist noted our city’s beauty, natural amenities, affordable housing, culture and diversity, and strong small business community. It’s a nice read that reminds us to appreciate what we have here in Lakewood and inspires us to keep working to make it even better.

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Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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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.

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FROM THE JUDGE’S BENCH

A Glimpse Into My First Months On The Bench

by Tess Neff

Let me begin by saying I absolutely love my new role as Judge of Lakewood Municipal Court. Since being sworn-in on January 1, 2022, it has been a whirlwind. Yet, the court team, the city administration, and the community partners have been extremely supportive. I retained the entire court staff while filling several vacancies, and we are beginning to get to know one another. After close observation and daily experience, I have realized there is much to do to modernize our community court.

I have compiled a long task list of ideas and plans to ensure a user friendly, accessible court, and to create efficiencies in case management flow and court processes. Occasionally staff and others remind me that “Rome was not built in a day,” and that I have a six (6) year term to work towards achieving my goals. We will get there in due time. Highlighted below are some of the improvements I have been able to accomplish in the short term that I believe make us a better court.

One of the first items I addressed was re-opening the Lakewood Probation Department on Fridays. Probation staff and I discussed my concerns with the office being closed on Fridays. The closure often required individuals to make a second trip to the court to meet with their probation officer. This modification increases access to probation services five (5) days per week. Further, it assists with our jail population when an individual is released on a Friday because many are ordered to report to probation immediately after they are released.

Another change is the Lakewood Court entered in a Memorandum of Understanding on March 16, 2022, with the Cleveland Municipal Court to access their Specialized Docket Services. Those specialized dockets include Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Mental Health Court and Human Trafficking Court. All these specialized courts are available for the suburban courts to utilize. The partnership allows us to access the robust support and wrap around services that we may not otherwise have had access to for individuals with high end needs. Please keep in mind many of these individuals are neighbors who live in our community. At all times Lakewood Court maintains full jurisdiction over those who are referred to a specialized court. Further, the Lakewood Probation Officers provide constant oversight and work collectively with the specialized docket staff to monitor Lakewood’s participant’s progress. The collaboration is a significant resource to assist us to meet the needs of the many, many drug addiction and mental health related cases that make their way to Lakewood’s judicial system. Accountability and treatment often go hand in hand.

It has always been my philosophy that when an individual is ordered to complete community work service as a condition of their court supervision and sentencing, they should when feasible complete those hours in the



Lakewood Municipal Judge Tess Neff

community where they committed the offense. Think of it as giving back by volunteering one’s time. I reached out to some of the nonprofit agencies in our city to discuss this option and seek feedback. Those that I met with are very excited to work with the court clients. I am happy to report that the court has established an official process with the Probation Department to expand the number of community work service hours to be completed here in Lakewood.

The court magistrates and I met with representatives from the Legal Aid Society regarding their agency’s desire to represent tenants in eviction cases. Our “City of Homes” is comprised of approximately 50% rental units. This correlates to a lot of tenants residing, working, and contributing to our community. Ideally, no one wants a person to be ordered to vacate their home. However, the rights of landlords are equally important as the tenants’ rights. Most landlords are knowledgeable about the landlord tenant laws, whereas often tenants are unfamiliar about the laws. At no cost to the city or the court, Legal Aid is working with certain tenants to assist them in the eviction and damages hearing phases of the process. This is beneficial to both landlord and tenant because the Legal Aid attorney can assist with settlement and other agreements that are beneficial to the parties.

Very early in my term it was important to me to meet with the various city divisions that intersect with the court as it relates to cases that I will be hearing. Particularly, to learn their processes. I initiated conversations with the Lakewood Police Department administration and detectives to talk about their protocols. I am beyond impressed with our city’s detective bureau, whom I interact with on a regular basis as it pertains to arrest warrants. The detectives are outstanding in their preparedness when providing detailed presentations to me about the facts of criminal cases when they are seeking an arrest warrant. I have become accustomed to being “interrupted” during the day and sometimes on a weekend to meet with a detective so they may diligently

perform their job.

In addition, the building department management and I met to discuss how to increase accountability for neglected home repairs and safety issues. Together with the city’s law department, we established a firm protocol. It tightens what was a lengthy process. Lakewood Alive is involved early in the process to offer assistance for owner occupied properties when appropriate. The goal is to work with owner occupied property owners to achieve compliance in a timely manner. The larger concern is investor properties where the owner resides out of state, or the property was purchased by a company. These cases are very challenging in that the owner is typically difficult to locate to obtain service upon the person for violations of the building code. The court must be a watchdog for our housing stock when cases make their way in our system. I am pleased to tell you that the city building department, the law department and the court collectively worked to streamline the hearing process to have constant eyes on properties of concern.

Prior to my being elected as judge, the court had contracted with a company to implement a new case management system to replace the antiquated, decades old system. Seeing this project to fruition is imperative for a litany of reasons, and this will take

at least another 6-7 months, which is optimistic. The new system will modernize the court and eliminate redundancies to create overall more efficient operations. Now much of the work is done manually, including hand signing documents because electronic signatures and digital documents are not available. Currently, we cannot collect valuable data. Upon inquiring with the project team, I was informed the new system will allow us to make specific date queries. We will be able to collect information on cases to determine race, gender, types of and levels of offenses, and recidivism rates. We need to know the who, what and why about cases coming through the court system. This data will assist the court in evaluating success versus failure to determine how we can adjust to better serve the community and the people in the justice system. The evaluation of data is important to collect to protect against implicit bias and ensure all persons are treated consistently equal.

Well, I packed a lot of updates and information in this article because I believe it is important to share what is happening inside the people of Lakewood’s court. Afterall, it is your court. As we progress along this six-year journey, I plan to submit article updates for your review. Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

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Virtual And In-Person Programs-
Children’s And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert
In-Person Family Weekend Wonders

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Saturdays- 10:30 a.m.
Madison Branch- Fridays- 10:30 a.m.
Looking for weekend entertainment for the whole family? Look no further! Drop in to the Library's special weekend story time. Your whole family will enjoy these programs full of enthusiastic stories, engaging activities, entertaining music and clever crafts. Family Weekend Wonders Drop-In Story Time is offered every weekend throughout the year and features a different theme each week to keep things engaging. No registration is required.

Zap’s Pirate and Princess Magic Show
Friday, July 15, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. on the Main Library Front Porch
For the Whole Family

A reading show where books come to life. See Zap's treasure book that contains swashbuckling treasures. Experience the story of the bewitched treasure map and how magic saved the day. All this and more as your readers take a trip around the 7 seas with the opening of a book and the "magic of their imagination". Giggle with Chester the bunny and Zap the magic pirate as you travel the 7 seas. This show will take place on the front porch of the Main Library, weather permitting. The show will move to the Main Library Multipurpose Room if the weather is inclement. No registration is required.



Local author Gabe Goldman donating copies of his new children's book THE LOVING WIND to Cleveland Kids Book Bank.

Author Helps Kids (And Adults!)
Deal With Loss Of Loved One

by Pamela Goldman

Local author Gabe Goldman is on a mission. He wants to make the idea of death less scary for kids. And he’s just come out with a children’s book, called The Loving Wind: A Story About the People in Our Lives Who Must Find Out What’s Beyond the Sky,” which does just that.
“When my own mom died, my kids were young. I wanted them to feel that their grandma was going on to a new and exciting part of her own journey even though they would miss her. I wrote The Loving Wind for them back then – and ever since dreamed of making it into a book that I could send out into the world.”
Now that dream is a reality. And Gabe is introducing the book to the world by donating copies to schools, libraries, grief support agencies, and literacy advocacy agencies. “We’ve given out upwards of a hundred books,” Gabe says, “including to the Cleveland Kids Book Bank, Cornerstone of Hope, Little Free Libraries, and LCSD elementary schools.”
Kids today have a lot to deal with – isolation from the pandemic, fear of gun violence, anxiety over school shootings – in addition to the normal problems

of growing up. The Loving Wind is one tool to help families support kids as they navigate these challenges.
And it turns out the book doesn’t only appeal to kids – people of all ages are reporting that the book lifts their spirits and just makes them feel better. A sixty year old nurse, who recently lost her sister, wrote this to Gabe – “Your book gave me so much comfort. The words of the story expressed just what I was feeling.”
“When I hear something like that,” Gabe says, “it makes me feel really good, like the book is doing what I’d hoped it would. And I just did my first book reading for a group of students ages 7-11. It was great. The book provided a jumping off point for the kids to express their feelings about this big topic which doesn’t get openly discussed nearly enough.”
The Loving Wind is available for \$16.95 at Gabe’s website www.thelovingwind.com or directly from the author at primskills@yahoo.com. It is also starting to appear in local bookstores. Contact Gabe via email to arrange a book reading or author signing event.

Lakewood Native Olivia Nagy
Is A Statistical Champion

by Joe Ginley
One of Lakewood’s own is a statistical national champion.

Olivia Nagy finished as the NCAA Division III statistical champion in both double-doubles (21) and blocks per game (4.54) after an outstanding senior season with John Carroll University Women’s Basketball.
“I’m honored to be a statistical champion in two categories,” said Nagy. “While playing, I tried to focus on making important plays that didn’t just have to do with scoring. Getting rebounds and blocks is just as an important part of the game. I’m glad I could contribute those stats to my team and that it helped us to have a successful season.”

Nagy, a 2018 Lakewood High School graduate, guided the Blue Streaks to an Ohio Athletic Conference Regular Season Championship as well as a bid to the NCAA Tournament. Along the way, Nagy enjoyed plenty of individual success.

The Lakewood resident won a wide range of accolades for the 2021-22 season, including D3hoops.com and WBCA All-America recognition, the OAC Player of the Year award, First Team All-OAC, and a spot on the OAC All-Tournament Team. Nagy also secured the OAC Defensive Player of the Year award, as she is the only athlete to ever win this honor.



Olivia Nagy tallied 21 double-doubles and 2 triple-doubles for JCU this year.

The former Ranger departs as John Carroll’s all-time leader in blocks (366), rebounds (952), rebounds per game (10.6), field goal percentage (.570), and blocks per game (4.1). Nagy also holds the OAC records for career blocks and blocks in a season (132).

Nagy excelled in the classroom, as well. Nagy obtained a spot on the CoSIDA Academic All-America Second Team. She collected Academic All-OAC honors three times during her career with a cumulative GPA of 3.722 in Accountancy.

After graduating in May, Nagy is now working full-time at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

Joe Ginley is the sports information director at John Carroll, as well as a 4-year Lakewood resident.

Students like these are anxiously awaiting the news of their AFS host family! Contact ckowalski@afsusa.org

<p>Muniza Pakistan - Age 15 Scholarship</p> <p>Muniza is a sociable and fun loving student who is eager to experience American culture. She enjoys chess, classical music and reading. She also enjoys nature and hiking. Muniza is proud of her city and enjoys giving back in the form of volunteering.</p>	<p>Natasya Indonesia - Age 16 Scholarship</p> <p>Natasya, also known as Nata or Tata by her friends, is an imaginative and lively young woman. She comes from a family of five, who live in a small city close to the beach and they share alot of time together. She enjoys chess, poetry and drawing. She looks forward to winter sports.</p>	<p>Liliya Bulgaria - Age 16 Scholarship</p> <p>Liliya is a determined and passionate student. She is proud of her family and is glad they raised her with the ideals they did! With her friends she enjoys going outdoors, painting together, or exploring the library for new books! Liliya is excited to share her culture with her host family.</p>
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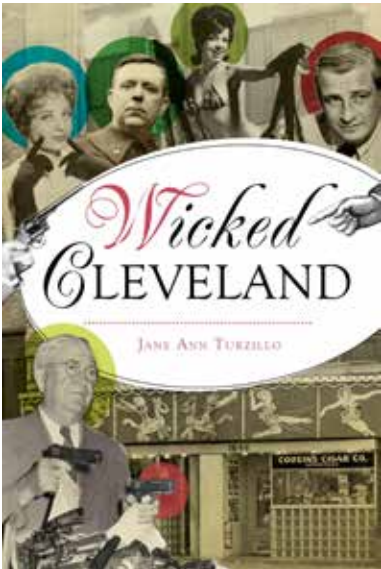
PUBLIC LIBRARY

July Events At
Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee
Meet the Author-
Wicked Cleveland

Book by Jane Ann Turzillo
Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium

Wicked Cleveland presents a look into Cleveland’s rough and rowdy past. From bookies to mobsters to Lakewood’s infamous bank robber Ted Conrad, author Jane Ann Turzillo tells the stories from Cleveland’s underworld. Jane Ann Turzillo is a National Federation of Press Women award winner for her books and journalism. She has been nominated twice for the Agatha Award for her vintage true crime books. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.



Film- Iron Jawed Angels (2004)

Presented by Lakewood League of Women Voters
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (123 minutes)
Main Library Auditorium

Join Lakewood League of Women Voters for a screening of Iron Jawed Angels. American suffragette Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) takes her advocacy to Washington, D.C. to fight for the right to vote. When President Wilson refuses, Paul shows how far she is willing to go for the cause. While challenging the ideology of patriarchy, the film showcases democracy and exhibits white privilege. The film will be followed by a discussion.

Presentation- A History of Piracy on the Great Lakes

Presented by the National Museum of the Great Lakes
Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium

Lake Erie may not have been home to parrots or peg legs, but plenty of pirate lore surrounds the freshwater seas. The Great Lakes were no stranger to thievery, mutiny or unsavory characters, and there are stories to prove it. Join Christopher Gillcrist for a historical and cultural re-examination of piracy and its implications for understanding Great Lakes history. Christopher Gillcrist is the Executive Director of the National Museum of the Great Lakes.

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LAKEWOOD EDUCATION

Lakewood League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner: Sophia Gutierrez's Winning Essay

by Sophia Gutierrez

A large problem with the U.S government is that it tends to be reactionary. Its decision-making process is slow, it often doesn't choose until it absolutely has to. In order for the government to be more effective it needs to learn to prepare for the future, and what better way to prepare for the future then by providing our children--our future--their basic human needs. The best way to provide for our country is to provide children with proper education and nutrition.

In terms of basic human needs, food/nutrition is probably the most important. Not only is it something that people need to live, it's also something that affects every other aspect of your life. It's especially important for kids while they are still growing and developing their own eating habits. Sadly, one in six kids in America worry about when they will get their next meal. So many families in this country are struggling to keep up financially and their kids end up having to pay the price. It's important that our state and federal government put more funds into providing proper nutrition for impoverished families in the U.S. Although there have been systems put in place for problems like this, it is clear that it is not a priority for them despite



Sophia Gutierrez and Mary Warren

the continuing issues. As the economy gets worse and more people begin to struggle financially, it's important that the government takes action now before this issue gets out of hand.

One way the government is already doing more to provide food for kids is through our school system. Most people don't see school or education as a "basic human need" but the fact is that it is vital for this country's future. Not

only does school teach important life skills that kids will use as they grow up, it also provides a safe place for children. For many states, it is clear that school

funding is not a priority and public education spending in the U.S overall falls short of global benchmarks. This means that many kids are stuck with cheap, unhealthy lunches, substandard school supplies and limited opportunities. All while the government continues to prioritize military and security even during times of peace. This only makes it harder for children to go on to find good paying jobs to sustain themselves. In order for our country's economic conditions to improve for everyone in the long term it's important that the state and federal government begin to view education as a higher priority.

If the government began to focus more on the problems of the future, it is safe to say that every citizen in the U.S would be better taken care of. If they want to be sure that their citizens are provided with their most basic needs it is best that they begin with providing our children with the education and proper nutrition that they need. It will surely build a better environment for everyone.

Update On Foxx Field And Usher Field Renovations

from Lakewood City Schools

The City of Lakewood has invested heavily in the renovation of both Foxx and Usher fields. As a part of a field rotational schedule, where each field will be touched once every seven years, the Lakewood City Schools is asking the Lakewood community to help protect this investment in a variety of ways:

If you notice that a field is wet, please avoid going on it.

Never ride any kind of bike, scooter, push/pull a wagon or stroller on the field as it will displace dirt and create divots.

Do not dig in the field dirt or allow children to build sandcastles and/or moats as this creates divots as well.

It will take the support and cooperation of the entire community to ensure that our fields stay pristine with the appropriate level of infield mix on them for years to come. It is a community endeavor to keep our fields in top shape to support our community's baseball, T ball and softball needs for many years to come.

Truth And Justice: Fundraiser At Lakewood Park For The Sojourner Truth Project- Akron

by Judy Benson

Sojourner Truth is rightly celebrated for her efforts advocating votes for women as well as racial equality. In 1851 her surprise appearance at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron was memorable for her fierce insistence that women of color be included in the suffrage movement. The Sojourner Truth Project is dedicated to installing a statue of Sojourner in Akron, the site of her historic "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. It is planned as the highlight of a community plaza, standing in tribute to the 19th century activist's achievements and as a reminder of the work still needed to ensure all women are included in the fight for equity.

Together with civic organizations such as Akron's United Way, Akron Community Foundation, Summit Metro Parks and others, including local artist Woodrow Nash, the committee is raising funds to realize this dream. As the proj-

ect evolved, a target of \$1.5 million was set; the effort is halfway to that goal.

Lake Erie Women's Huddle (LEWH) and Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus, are proud to co-sponsor a summer fundraising event in support of this worthy Northeast Ohio project. We invite you to join us at Lakewood Park's Kiwanis Pavilion on Saturday, July 9 (1-3 PM) to learn more about Sojourner Truth, meet members of the steering committee, hear uplifting musical selections from Windsong and be inspired by special guest Sojourner Truth as portrayed by reenactor Inez James. Come enjoy fellowship in the fresh air and know that you are supporting recognition of this great woman by making a freewill contribution to the cause (amounts of any size are welcome and all donations to the statue fund are tax-deductible).

For more information contact Judy Benson at 216-401-4846 or visit our Facebook Event Page

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1530 Parkway



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1537 Lewis



1317 Chase



2183 Eldred



2110 Olive



1450 Lincoln



1299 Cook (Private)



17508 Hilliard



2110 Overbrook



1605 Lewis (Private)



1280 Overlook



2085 Riverside



17313 Riverway



1324 Ethel



2061 Riverside



18718 Clifton Road



Corner of Detroit and Ethel



1246 Webb



2121 Riverside



1214 Hall



1330 Summit

by Jim O'Bryan

Back on Arbor Day Lakewood's TAEB (Tree Advisory Education Board) asked residents to send in nominees for the Most Distinguished Tree In Lakewood Award. They could be the most beautiful, the most imposing, the scariest, the most welcoming,

whatever YOU think makes a tree the most distinguished. Now is the time to choose a winner, and give out some prizes! Prizes from the following Lakewood businesses: \$100 gift certificate for Lakewood Garden Center \$50 gift certificate for

Lakewood Hardware \$50 gift certificate for Malley's Chocolates For those that nominated and or voted: 3 will be chosen. Woodstock BBQ - \$40.00 India Garden - Bruffet for 2 (does not cover liquor) West End Tavern - Weekend Brunch for two (doesn't cover liquor)

If your know of a tree that should have been nominated, remember it next year and nominate it! To see the trees in detail, and vote for your favorite go to: lakewoodobserver.com, and "Photo Gallery." Or follow this QR Code.



LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



Submit your nominations now through July 31st

The Herb Guild Garden Club

by Barbara Armstrong

The July meeting of the Herb Guild Garden Club will be held on July 13 at Westlake Porter Library. Guests are invited, but are encouraged to bring a bagged lunch as the speaker will start at 11:30 and talk while members are eating. The topic of the presentation is "A Living Wildlife Landscape" presented by Marne Titchenell from the OSU Extension. Her areas of expertise are wildlife habitat management, forest wildlife ecology, and non-game species conservation. Marne has been with the OSU Extension since 2007 and has written several publications.

The Herb Guild is a local organization and usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Porter Public Library in Westlake, Ohio (27333 Center Ridge Road) in the Porter Room. New members and guests are always welcome. For further information on the upcoming meeting, call 440-842-5863 or visit our website theherbguild.org. You can also find us on Facebook under The Herb Guild.

Tickets are still available for the upcoming Scholarship Luncheon on August 3. For more information call Kathie Conrad at 215-872-9725.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful's 2022 Beautiful Home Awards Contest Underway

by Matt Bixenstine

Keep Lakewood Beautiful is pleased to announce its 2022 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 & 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. 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!

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LAKEWOOD BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Looking For The Best Sandwich In America

by Jim Cyphert

Orlando Baking Co. launched the ‘Great American Sandwich Search’ Contest on the Fourth of July as part of its 150th Anniversary Celebration

Contest runs through Sept. 30 and encourages Northeast Ohio residents to share their best, most inventive sandwich recipes for a chance to win cash prizes.

Orlando Baking Co., a leading Northeast Ohio bakery that balances Old-World style with New-World innovation, today announced that its “Great American Sandwich Search” contest will kick off Mon., July 4. The contest, which runs through Fri., Sept. 30, gives loyal Orlando Baking Co. fans and all residents of Northeast Ohio an opportunity to share their favorite ways to enjoy Orlando products.

“Without our loyal customers here in Northeast Ohio, we wouldn’t be celebrating 150 years in business,” said John Anthony Orlando, president and CEO of Orlando Baking Co. “The ‘Great American Sandwich Search’ is our way to reach out to them to say thank you and let them show us their culinary creativity. As anyone in this region knows, the best sandwiches always start with Orlando bread, buns, or rolls.”

One grand prize winner will be awarded \$1,500, and five sandwich category winners each will receive a \$150 prize. Sandwich categories include Best Sandwich for Sports Fans, Best Cultur-

ally Inspired Sandwich, Best Grilled Cheese Sandwich with a Twist, Best Plant-Based Sandwich, and Best Breakfast Sandwich.

“We encourage the wonderful people of Northeast Ohio to join in our search for the Great American Sandwich,” said Orlando. “We’re confident that the rich tradition and cultural diversity of this region will result in some pretty amazing sandwich options to choose from. Naturally, if the sandwiches are the best in Northeast Ohio, we think they’re also the best in America.”

Entrants must complete the form at <https://contest.app.do/orlando-baking-s-great-sandwich-search> and submit their contact information, category selection, recipe, and a photo of their sandwich. Each entrant will receive a coupon worth \$1.50 off any Orlando Baking Co. product.

A select panel of five Northeast Ohio celebrity judges will determine the “Great American Sandwich Search” winner. The judges are Derek Ivancic, executive chef at JACK Cleveland Casino; Jen Picciano, WOIO-TV reporter and co-host of the “Mark Nolan Show” on WMJI-105.7 FM; Dillon Stewart, editor of Cleveland Magazine; Bill Wills, a podcaster and radio talk show host of Cleve-

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



Grand Opening Of Plum Hill Creative Studio

by Dora Pruce

On Thursday, June 30, Plum Hill Creative Studio joined Lakewood’s Mayor Meghan George for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of Plum Hill Creative Studio. Plum Hill is a community-focused creative space that aims to connect creatives, entrepreneurs, and business owners who can work together and help grow each other’s businesses, located at 15528 Madison Avenue.

The space offers memberships for content creators who need to rent a studio and/or equipment, community members who want a dedicated space to host meetings and events, and for entrepreneurs looking to join a community to collaborate and grow with.

Owner Ashley Rector is a former attorney who now owns and operates Laura Alexandria Marketing, a digital agency that specializes in a variety of branding and digital marketing services.

“I wanted to create a space that would inspire others in their work

whether it was through meetings or creative efforts. The growth of my business, my clients’ businesses and the small businesses around me due to social media is very apparent. So much so that the need for new and engaging content has risen dramatically, leading me to open up Plum Hill Creative Studio,” Ashley says.

Everything in Plum Hill was designed to look beautiful and feel inspiring, she says, “I mean everything- right down to the color of the floor to the crazy wallpaper. I saw a void - I didn’t want to work in a coffee shop, but I didn’t have a need for a traditional co-working studio. So Plum Hill was born. You can take your meetings, shoot photography, create a TikTok video, whatever is on your daily agenda in something that feels modern, spacious, and in the heart of Lakewood.”

Visit www.plumhillcreative.com to subscribe to Plum Hill’s email list and follow the studio on Instagram at @PlumHillCreativeStudio.

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AROUND TOWN



JULY

ARIES: Jupiter is still in the Ram’s sign and in the 1st house. It’s your show, your engines are revved up and you’re ready to go. The Sun is shining on home/family... BBQ is Smokin’ HOT.

TAURUS: Mars is moving into the Bull’s sign of Taurus, behind the scenes. However, with the energy of Mars and the Sun shining its rays in the community, get the *%#^ out of the Bull Pen.

GEMINI: Jupiter is in the Twin’s 11th house of friendships/organizations, mingle with the associations you have and tend to your finances, the spotlight is on the bank, double it up...

CANCER: It’s about to get better Crab, Jupiter has landed in the Career house, and the Sun is brightening things up in the first house of self. All eyes are on you, shine immensely like the Moon.

LEO: It’s time to try another Jungle, maybe across seas, the Lion/Lioness are geared for higher learning and foreign travel this month. Keep your plans close to that lion-heart of yours though...

VIRGO: I’d buy another lotto ticket this month, Jupiter is now adding green-backs to your account, the Sun is shining its good graces on your 11th house of friendships, explore beyond..

LIBRA: Jupiter is blessing your relationships this month, both personal and professional – while the Sun is highlighting your Career with huge Sunbeams, keep things in stride, be gracious.

SCORPIO: Jupiter is all about expansion, and it’s in the Scorpion’s house of health. Watch the waistline and try to keep all things in moderation...the Sun is asking you to travel long-distance.

SAGITTARIUS: With Jupiter in the 5th the Centaurs’ focus is on romance. The Sun is shining on your house of other people’s money...inheritance, winning the lotto or just plain luck is yours.

CAPRICORN: The Goat is more than content to spend this month at home, you’ve got projects to tend to...also jazz up the place - company’s going to be ringing your doorbell soon enough.

AQUARIUS: Jupiter is sending wishing stars to your community, take advantage of opportunities in your neighborhood, but keep an eye on your health, drink plenty of Lake Erie highballs.

PISCES: The Fish is glad to be swimming in his own pond again, where you’ll find your buried treasure...plus a little romance in the creek down yonder, show ‘em those mystical eyes of green.

Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. email: evastarr@evastarr.com website: evastarr.com

Architecturally Significant Lakewood Building In Jeopardy

by John Pyke

The proposed Downtown Development Project at the former Lakewood Hospital site threatens to emasculate the architecturally and historically significant Curtis Block, at the corner of Detroit and Marlowe Avenues.

While the Downtown Development Project plans are still being formulated, the developers’ plans presented to date call for retaining the exterior walls of the Curtis Block facing Detroit and Marlowe, and eliminating the building to make way for a 5-story apartment building. The Curtis Block would be reduced to a sort of architectural mural, with no functions behind the façade.

In early 2016 the Curtis Block was designated as an Historic Property under Lakewood’s historic preservation ordinance, adopted to maintain the distinctive character, history and architecture of Lakewood. At the time of its designation, it was described as “one of the most architecturally significant and intact buildings in the City of Lakewood.” The Curtis Block is also included in the Lakewood Downtown Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Curtis Block is a two-story building comprised of five retail spaces on the first floor and five apartments on the second floor. Constructed in two stages, the three eastern units in 1913 and the two western units in 1925, the building is a product of the streetcar era in Lakewood, when commercial development sprang up along the east-west streetcar routes on Detroit and Madison Avenues, and residential development populated the north-south streets. Lakewood residents would return home on the streetcar from their work in Cleveland, and stop at the Curtis Block to buy a loaf of bread before walking home. The Curtis Block housed a variety of retail businesses; in 1940, for example, it featured a bakery, a delicatessen, a dressmaker and Lakewood Electric. Descendants of the pioneering

Hall family, which owned large sections of Lakewood in the 1800’s including the site of the Curtis Building, lived in an apartment on the second floor as late as the 1980’s.

The Historic Property designation of the Curtis Block requires that any alteration or demolition of the building be approved by the City’s Board of Architectural Review, which must apply the U.S. Secretary of Interior’s Rehabilitation Guidelines in determining whether the alteration or demolition is appropriate. Those Guidelines state that “a property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.” Under these Guidelines, preserving exterior walls would clearly not be appropriate.

How could the Curtis Block fit into the Downtown Development Project? Very simply, rehabilitate the building, as contemplated by the historic preservation ordinance, and lease the unique storefront spaces to local retailers and the apartment spaces to new neighbors. Lakewood is a city of local businesses and low-rise buildings. The rehabbed Curtis Block would lend Lakewood scale and personality to the new high-rise offices and apartment buildings planned for the hospital site. And the apartment dwellers in the Project would enjoy the products and services available from the Curtis Block retailers.

I urge the many supporters of the Curtis Block to communicate their desire to keep the Curtis Block intact and functioning to the City, the Architectural Board of Review (check the Board’s meeting agendas at www.lakewoodoh.gov for Curtis Block reviews and attend the Board’s meetings) and the developers of the Downtown Development Project.

John Pyke is a lifelong resident of Lakewood, was a co-draftsperson of Lakewood’s historic preservation ordinance.

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A photograph showing several Indian dishes served on white plates. There is a bowl of white rice, a bowl of red tomato-based soup or curry, and a plate of what looks like a vegetable or meat dish. A yellow starburst graphic with the text 'ONLY \$14.95' is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

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This past weekend I took the 57 minute trip to Mid-Ohio—a track I have been going to since the late 60s, watching the over-the-top one thousand horsepower CanAm cars, to 6 hour races for LeMans style cars. I first became aware of Mid-Ohio when track owner Les Griebling walked into Lakewood's Lossman Motors and tried to sell Bob Lossman a



The stars of the Indy 500 and racing, here going nearly as fast, just 60 minutes from home.

share in the track. Ohioan Jim Truman, who started Red Roof Inns, bought the track and started the improvements, all for the spectators, and free once inside the track. Jim was better known for running Bobby Rahal in Can-Am and IndyCar. Recently the track was bought by another IndyCar team owner, Kim Green.

This weekend it was the NTT IndyCar race, and I went down Friday through Sunday to reacquaint myself with the track. It has only gotten better. The absolute best value in racing is always on Friday, and that is true at Mid-Ohio. On Friday you have the 2.258 mile 13 turn track to yourself. No crowds, no lines, no pressure. By Sunday, the place is packed, but that is because the racing is that good.

Mid-Ohio is one of the most family oriented tracks in America, and one of the most beautiful. Tons for kids



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This coming weekend they are hosting NASCAR Trucks, and on July 22nd, Vintage Motorcycle Racing.

Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Steam Corner Road, Lexington Ohio. (419) 884-4000

<https://midohio.com/>



Nine-year-old Asher Farris interviews 2022 Indy 500 Winner and Ex-F1 Driver Marcus Ericsson. Asher is a motor racing phenom on his own. Check out ashersracingchannel.com.



Mid-Ohio paddock allows fans, drivers, race cars and mechanics to mix it up and talk and meet.



and families to do together, and many excellent free viewing hills where spectators can spread their blankets, pull out their picnic lunches and enjoy the day. So even with a half tank of gas, and the cost to get in it becomes an affordable day or weekend with the family or friends. You can spend hundreds of dollars with seats, hospitality, paddock passes, golf carts, and more. Or tens of dollars— bring your lunch and beverages and relax. All kids love race cars,



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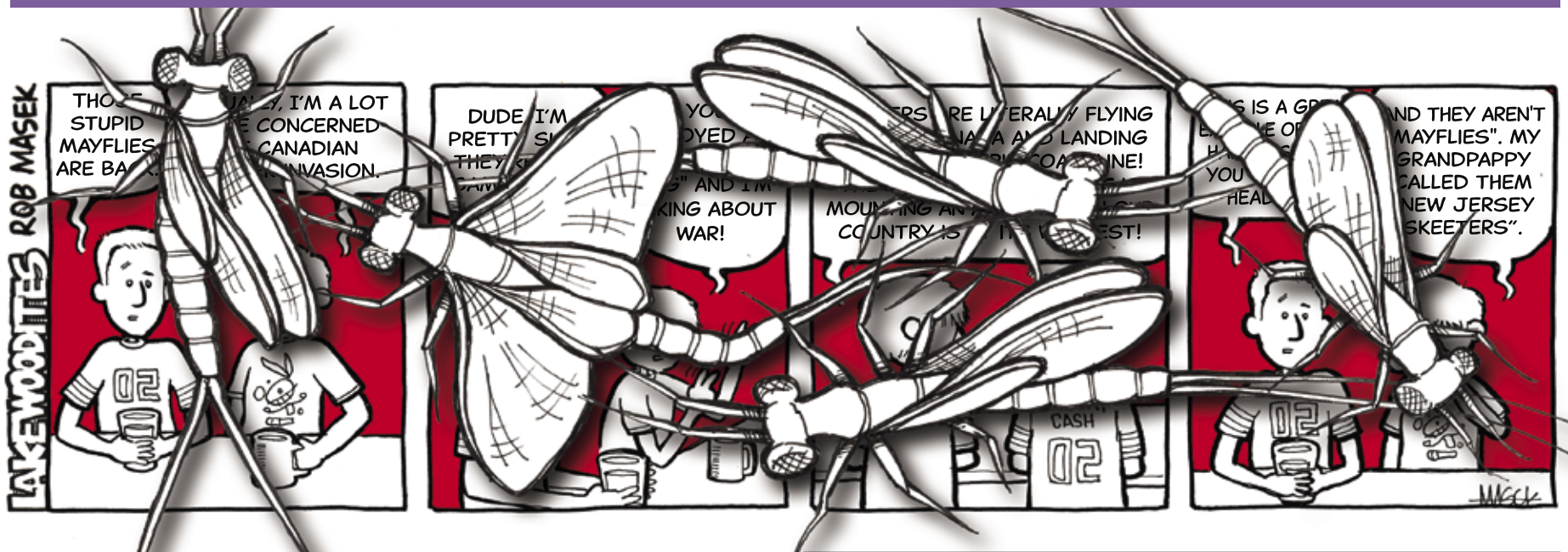
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A logo for the Root cafe. It features a stylized plant with green leaves and a black fork. The text "the Root cafe" is written in a serif font, and "espresso bar", "bakery", "vegan", "vegetarian", and "kitchen" are written in a sans-serif font.

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