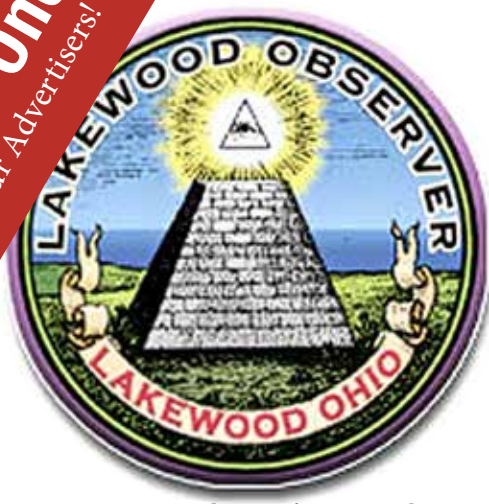


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Volume 19, Issue 13, July 6, 2023



What is a parade without a marching band? Here Lakewood High School Marching Band fills the streets with the sounds of Independence Day.



Lakewood's Beck Center led off the parade as its official Grand Marshal.



Just as the sounds of LHS Band were fading, up stepped St. Edwards Marching Band, once again keeping the sounds of the season at full volume.

City Applies For Grant To Provide Transportation To Elderly And Disabled: Proposals Requested

by **Laura Jaissle**

The City of Lakewood, Department of Human Services, Division of Aging intends to submit a Proposal for a capital grant under the provision of 49 USC Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act to provide transportation service for the elderly and disabled within the 44107-area code.

The grant proposal will request a handicap accessible light transit vehicle. It is projected that approximately 200 seniors will use the service 5 days per week for various activities, including transportation to grocery shopping, day trips, to and from Cove

Community Center, and elsewhere about the City.

The Department of Human Services invites comments during the 7/6 Planning Commission meeting at Lakewood City Hall at 7PM (12650 Detroit Ave) and proposals from all interested public, private, and paratransit operators including taxi operators, for the provision of transportation service to the elderly and disabled within our service area.

Operators who are interested in offering proposals to provide service should contact Chad Berry, Director at the Department of Human

Services (12525 Lake Ave, Lakewood 44107) to obtain full details of the type of transportation service that is needed prior to preparing a proposal. Comments or proposals must be submitted within 30 days to the agency at the above address with a copy to the Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Transit, 1980 West Broad Street, Mail Stop 3110, Columbus, Ohio 43233; Attention: Administrator.

Laura Jaissle has been a Lakewood resident since 2007 and is currently the Assistant Director of Human Services for the City of Lakewood.



Nothing says July 4th like the Grinch on a Harley! See more photos on page 11 and all of our photos online at lakewoodobserver.com

Second Annual Lakewood GardenWalk To Be Held July 15

by **Jeanine Gergel**

The second annual Lakewood GardenWalk will be held on Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., when residents, community organizations and businesses throughout Lakewood will open their gardens and yards for free self-guided tours.

The list of participating gardens and a map will be posted in early July to the GardenWalk Lakewood website at www.gardenwalklakewood.org. The event will be held rain or shine.

"We are grateful for all who have agreed to open their yards, patios and porches for this second annual event," said Claire Campbell, GardenWalk Lakewood's founder. "All types of gardens will be showcased – from small container gardens to raised bed vegetable gardens to elaborate floral displays. We have many more gardens registered this year than we did in our first year and are thrilled

with the growing involvement of so many community members."

GardenWalk Lakewood is an all-volunteer organization that operates with the support of the Lakewood Foundation and the Healthy Lakewood Foundation and through the contributions of individual donors.

About GardenWalk Lakewood – The mission of GardenWalk Lakewood (GWL) is to create beautiful neighborhoods, share knowledge about best gardening practices to improve our local ecosystems and encourage everyone to start their own garden. GWL also aims to encourage and support home gardeners in growing their own food and provide opportunities for residents to get to know each other and build relationships. GWL events include the annual GardenWalk and free plant swaps in the spring and fall at Cove Park.

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Meet The Author: Noodle Shop Mystery Writer Vivien Chien

by Lisa Calfee

Local author Vivien Chien is a lifelong Clevelander with a national following of cozy mystery lovers.

Her Noodle Shop Mystery series follows heroine Lana Lee as she works at her family’s Ho-Lee Noodle House in Cleveland while attempting to solve the murder cases that seem to follow her wherever she goes.

Vivien Chien will visit Lakewood Public Library on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss "Misfortune Cookie," the ninth and latest installment of the series as part of our Meet the Author program.

The author will also discuss her passion for writing and what it's like to write from the viewpoint of a mixed race protagonist. Get an inside look at creating a sustainable cast of characters, establishing a setting with many working pieces, and what's coming next for Lana Lee.



The program takes place in the Main Library Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue. After questions and answers, books will be available for sale and signing.



Mayor Meghan George, Matt Hagan, and Margaret Rose Hagan, the first family of Lakewood at the parade.



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STATE ISSUES

Let’s Keep One Person One Vote In Ohio: Vote “No” On Issue 1

by Nickie Antonio

On May 10th, Senate Joint Resolution 2 was passed by the House and Senate. This bill proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution, to appear on the ballot at a special election on August 8, 2023.

Issue 1 would:

Require any future constitutional amendment to be approved by at least 60% of the voters.

Require signatures of at least 5% of the electors in each of the 88 counties, instead of 44 counties.

Eliminate the 10-day period to file additional signatures for an initiated constitutional amendment.

This proposed amendment destroys the principle of “One Person, One Vote.” Without a doubt, Issue 1 oppresses the individual rights of all voters.

Don’t be fooled by the drafters’ ruse of falsely titling Issue 1 “elevating the standards to qualify for and to pass any constitutional amendment.” Should Issue 1 pass, the standards would not be “elevated”—instead, they will be utterly eradicated. The current standard for passing consti-



State Senator Nickie Antonio in this year’s Independence Day parade. That is Colleen Clark-Sutton, candidate for School Board, driving.

tutional amendments is by a simple majority (50%+1). This standard has been inscribed into the Ohio Constitution since 1912 and has been the way in which our state has voted for the past 111 years. Ohio is still governed as a democracy. By definition, the word “democracy” means “rule by the people”—this means that our government relies on the participation of the people in the political process in order to function properly. However,

our democracy would be thwarted by the implementation of Issue 1, inasmuch as the approval of Issue 1 would give extremist legislators an almost absolute power to assert their control over Ohioans and the state legislature by passing their own nefarious bills without much penalty while ignoring the demands of voters. Outside groups are bankrolling Issue 1 because if it passes—the not-everyday citizens will be the only ones to be able to bring for-

ward ballot measures.

It’s imperative that Ohioans vote to protect our freedom and are registered to vote by July 10th in order to vote in the August 8th election. It is no surprise, however, that the gerrymandered super-majority has attempted to make it increasingly more difficult to cast a vote in Ohio. In order to vote in person, Ohio law now requires a valid, unexpired photo ID (this includes a driver’s license, state ID card from the BMV, military ID card, or U.S. passport). Voting by mail doesn’t require a photo ID, and you can go to VoteOhio.gov to register for an absentee ballot with your current address.

Protect your rights as Ohio voters. Let’s keep “One Person, One Vote” in Ohio and vote “No” on Issue 1—your vote can and will determine the future of Ohio.

Antonio serves as Highest Ranking Member on the Senate Health, Transportation, and Rules and Reference Committees. Additionally, she is a member of the Ohio House Democratic Women’s Caucus, previously as chair, and is the State Director for the National Women Legislators’ Lobby.

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

VOTE **NO** ON STATE ISSUE 1 AUGUST 8, 2023

Our Ohio Government is trying to take away citizen rights to amend the State Constitution by making it more difficult. For over 100 years our traditional system has worked well. There is no need to change!

State Issue 1 would:

- INCREASE the votes required from 50% to 60% to pass an amendment.
- A minority of voters, 41%, could defeat the majority!

If State Issue 1 passes it will be almost impossible for citizens to pass a constitutional amendment.

Paid for by concerned Ohio citizens.

JULY LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children’s And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Find Your Voice and Be Heard: From Zero to Hero

For the Whole Family
You will love our Zero to Hero show with Mr. Zap. Learn what traits make a good friend, how to deal with bullies and much more. See real magic as solid rings link together. See how our actions reflect everyone around us as cloths change color before your eyes. See the smallest child turn into a “real life Super Hero.” Laugh and giggle with Zap’s puppet friends and much more. No registration is required.
Friday, July 14, 2023 3:00pm - 4:00pm in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Youthbiz Academy! A Cuyahoga READS Program

Join us at Lakewood Public Library’s Madison Branch for Youthbiz Academy! This program is in coordination with the Cuyahoga Reads Initiative. Youthbiz Academy is designed for students in upper elementary and middle school. This entrepreneurship program is designed to equip youth with the skills needed to do an elevator speech, create and design a business logo, and write a small business plan all while competing for a cash prize! Registration is required.
Check out the website: Cuyahoga Reads
Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 4:00pm - 5:00pm in the Madison Branch Youth Program Room

The Wonderful World of Bubbles

For the Whole Family
This is a laugh out loud comedy show for all ages. See bubbles that change shape and watch bubbles that walk a tight rope. Square bubbles? You bet! See so much more when the “Bubble Lady” performs with bubbles of all sizes! No registration is required.
Friday, July 28, 2023 3:00pm - 4:00pm in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Family Weekend Wonders

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

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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.

Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

Lakewood Public Cinema - Hitchcock on Television

Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
Alfred Hitchcock became a household name after the introduction of his celebrated TV series. Here are two highly regarded episodes from the early 1960s: In “Man from the South,” a shadowy character (Peter Lorre) proposes a macabre wager to an overconfident gambler (Steve McQueen). In “An Unlocked Window,” a serial killer is loose in a neighborhood where two nurses (Dana Wynter & T.C. Jones) are caring for their homebound patient. Terry Meehan continues his series, Hitchcock’s Best (1958-1963), introducing each presentation with an original video followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Meet the Author- Misfortune Cookie Book By Vivien Chien

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
Local author, Vivien Chien, is the creator of the Cleveland-based Noodle Shop mysteries. Her most recent book release is titled, Misfortune Cookie, and is ninth in the series. Vivien will discuss her passion for writing and how being an avid reader at an early age led to her author career, as well as what it’s like to write the viewpoint of a mixed race protagonist. The talk will include an inside look at creating a sustainable cast of characters, establishing a setting with many working pieces, and what’s coming next for the series. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Knit & Lit Book Club

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Meeting Room
Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress.
July 18, 2023 An Elephant in My Kitchen by Francoise Malby Anthony and Katja Willemsen



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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Runners-Up From NY Times 10th Annual Student Editorial Contest

“Young Ladies Sit Still”

by Zoë Pace, age 16,
Lakewood High School

When I was little my nickname was Pokey. It was a name I earned for doing things slowly. When I was left alone to clean up or pick out my clothes, I would get distracted. Sometimes I would just forget that I was ever supposed to do anything. It was the same for homework or anything

like it. And while I never ran around like a crazy person, I could not sit perfectly still. I was finally diagnosed with ADHD at 12. My brother, however, was diagnosed at six.

He was diagnosed before me because he is a boy. My mother only got me tested because he was diagnosed first. This story is not unique to me. Girls with ADHD are underdiagnosed

and under-treated.

Society has created an image of what ADHD looks like. A little boy, who can't sit still, and hates school. This stereotype and the boys who fit it tend to drown out the symptoms little girls experience: day-dreaming, feeling anxious or sad, being silly or ditzy, shy, inattentive, having a hard time maintaining friendships, picking at skin, and being a perfectionist. I fit this description to a T. But for the first 12 years of my life, I didn't have ADHD, I was just Pokey.

Little girls are subject to more criticism than little boys are. “Boys will be boys” but “young ladies sit still.” In response, little girls learn to mask, they learn to hide their symptoms, but when you hide your symptoms, you don't get diagnosed. Doctors have determined that a late ADHD diagnosis causes devastating mental health problems. Women diagnosed as adults often think that there is something wrong with them. They have poor self-esteem and think of themselves as second-class citizens.

Part of that is the varying academic expectations in adolescence. The expectations for grades K through 5 are naturally lower than those for grades 6 through 12, so a girl with ADHD might

do fine in elementary school, but then falter when she reaches middle school.

In elementary school, there is very little homework, and due dates aren't really a thing. But when middle school approaches, teachers get stricter and projects get bigger. It is very easy for girls with ADHD to get overwhelmed as due dates approach and missing assignments pile up.

It is only until a couple of C's or D's or F's show up on report cards that doctors, parents, and teachers begin to notice. I can see myself in this description, and it took a great toll on my academic record and on my mental health. I can only imagine how my middle school years would have improved if people had realized that being “Pokey” wasn't a choice.

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“How the Gender Gap Leaves Girls and Women Undertreated for ADHD.”CHADD.

Smith, Dana G. “How to Tell the Difference Between Regular Distraction and A.D.H.D.” The New York Times, 19 Nov. 2022.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation Scholarship Winner: Jamie Holland

by Christine Gordillo

To say James (Jamie) Holland is a musical student is an understatement. At LHS, Jamie has been a member of the Lakewood Project, Ranger Marching Band, Chamber Choir, Vive L'Four Quartet, Pit Orchestra, and Jazz Band. He has also taken piano lessons for 11 years.

Early in his high school career, Jamie found that music was a great commitment but also served as a great source of confidence. His participation in everything music related meant that Jamie had to have good time management skills to fit in his part-time job at Mitchell's Ice Cream and be of service to elderly and disabled community members through Lakewood Alive in his free time.

Jamie's excellence doesn't stop there. He was a National Merit Semi-finalist based on his PSAT and SAT scores and earned the AP Scholar award in 2021 and the AP Scholar with Distinction award in 2022. Jamie



Jamie Holland

is considered a gracious leader by his peers and views his courses at LHS as gift from Lakewood to him.

Jamie wants to study sociology, history, and anthropology at Miami University of Ohio. He was awarded the Dr. Lisa Hanson Fine Arts Scholarship.



Alex Hodson, Senior Scholarship Winner

by Christine Gordillo

When reflecting on the past four years, Alexandra gives LHS credit for being a place where she learned and grew into the person she wants to be.

Through activities like the LHS Marching Band, Dance Group, and Barnstormers, she was able to make connections with other students and staff that helped her accept ideas that are different from those she was raised with and to lead mature discussions around those differences. She spent time helping other, specifically younger, students feel comfortable in their surroundings as well. She participated in Fresh Start Freshman Orientation, LHS open houses, and assisted fifth and seventh graders at band concerts.

In addition to school related activities, Alexandra also won the Rotary Club speech contest and works at Aladdin's Eatery in Lakewood.

Alexandra was awarded the LHS

Class of 2017 Scholarship and is attending Cleveland State University to study Political Science. Good luck Alexandra!

ALL POOLS NOW OPEN



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!*

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INFO - Madison Park Becks Pool



Lakewood Park Foster Pool - INFO



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Ohio Non-Profits Awarded 2023 Cox Charities Grants

by Jeff Lavery

On June 28, 2023, Cox Communications recognized leading nonprofit organizations in partnership with local elected officials, including City of Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, as

part of the annual Cox Charities Community Grants program, celebrated at Cox’s Parma offices. The drive to invest in local community partners represents an injection of over \$15,000 into the Ohio nonprofit ecosystem. Since 2001, Cox has invested nearly \$7 million in grants and in-kind support to non-profit organizations providing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) enrichment programs to youth in the company’s Northeast footprint states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Ohio.

Cox Charities programs are funded entirely by employee giving and business partner support, with grant applications reviewed by a panel comprised of local community, business, and Cox leaders. In 2023, Cox provided over \$136,000 in grant support to organizations across its Northeast footprint. The recipients were recognized in a ceremony at Cox’s offices attended by members of their organizations as well as other representatives of Ohio’s non-profit community. The 2023 Cox Charities Grant recipients include:

- Old Brook Parma
- Lakewood City Schools
- Lakewood Public Library

“This year, we chose to award Cox Charities grants to two schools and a library, places where kids and their families gather to celebrate achievements and explore the possibilities of a brighter tomorrow,” said Robert Brill, market vice president, Cox Communications. “We are thrilled to present these grants to organizations such as these that are unflinching in their commitment to Ohio’s future, and willing to always go the extra mile

for a child that has the resolve to keep pushing higher.”
For more information on Cox

Charities, visit: <https://www.coxcharitiesne.org/>



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Rotary Awards Scholarships To Five High School Seniors

by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River has awarded college scholarships to five area graduating seniors.

Recipients include Matthew Esdon of Rocky River High School, Maggie McGann of Lakewood High School, Bert Wirtz, Jr. of St. Ignatius High School, and Lindsay Farrall and Kate Seeley of Magnificat High School. Each will receive \$3,000 Donald W. Strang, Jr. Scholarship awards from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation. This \$15,000 scholarship program is part of nearly \$70,000 that the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Club donates to community programs each year.

In addition to demonstrating academic achievement and potential, these five Rotary scholarship winners were chosen for their character, as well as extracurricular and community involvement.

Maggie McGann's extracurricular activities included Lakewood High School's Help to Others service club, especially its program offering training for younger students on how to be safe when they have to be "Home Alone" for a while until their parents get home from work. Maggie was also involved in track and field and volleyball. One of her teachers commended Maggie for her "genuine and deep capacity for



Receiving scholarships from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River are (from left) Matthew Esdon, Lindsay Farrall, Maggie McGann, Kate Seeley, and Bert Wirtz.

empathy." Maggie is excited to go to Xavier University prepare for a career as a teacher.

Matthew Esdon is a young man with a strong sense of direction and purpose, as evidenced by his attainment of the Order of the Arrow in the Boy Scouts of America. He was a varsity swimmer, recognized for his leadership with the Triple Impact Competitor Award. Matthew was a member of symphonic and marching bands. His peers look to him for inspiration. Matthew will attend Miami University to study business.

Lindsay Farrall's extracurricular activities at Magnificat included the rowing team and working behind-the-scenes on stage crew for her school's outstanding theatrical productions. She has been a competitive ice skater, and teaches skating to young children to help them learn skills for the ice and skills for life. Before her senior

year she took full advantage of a three-week internship to explore the field of marketing, and discovered that she was fascinated by the field, which she will study at Michigan State University.

Kate Seeley was a member of Magnificat High School's Student Council, Ambassador's Club, and Outreach Service Club. During her junior year she learned about the issue of food insecurity, volunteering at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to learn more, then organized a food drive at her school to benefit the Lakewood Food Pantry. On top of her studies and extracurricular involvements, Kate has carried a full schedule of after-school work in area businesses. At John Carroll University she plans to study political science to learn how institutions can work to help the most marginalized groups of society.

Bert Wirtz, Jr. is a triathlete – the

special kind of competitor who swims a mile, then rides a bike for 25 miles, then runs a six-mile foot race. He was a varsity swimmer for all four years at St. Ignatius, where he also participated in the Model United Nations Club and the St. Ignatius Pallbearers Ministry, providing dignity and comfort at funerals where there may few if any mourners present. Bert also volunteers with the school's ministry providing food and essentials to Cleveland's homeless population. Bert will apply his endurance to his studies in mechanical engineering at Marquette University.

The local Rotary club is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs (known as Rotarians) provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Clubs are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. As signified by the motto "Service Above Self," Rotary's main objective is service – in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. To learn more, visit www.rotary.org.

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LAKEWOOD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner Sophie Cracium’s Winning Essay

by Sophie Cracium

Why is Equal Representation Important?

Government is a tipping scale with weights on each side. Unlike the fragile system some citizens deem it to be, it is balanced properly, able to simultaneously protect and rule over the United States with firm vigor and zeal. This government, however, was not created until the 1700s, and even then, Equal Representation was nonexistent. Only today do we see some semblance of proportional and Equal Representation, and even still, there are many cracks and flaws in our revered system.

In order to prevent violence or distrust and maintain a fairly peaceful existence, the people must feel that they are being equally represented within their own states and districts. To combat an uprising, the government is split into a bicameral legislature with a House of Representatives and a Senate. Each state is provided with 2 senators, while the number of House Members is determined by population. Despite this seemingly solid establishment, when it comes time for voting,



Sophie Elisabeth Cracium with her League of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Certificate.

it is still possible to "cheat." Every state is required to redistrict (or draw new legislative boundaries that influence the number of seats in the House of Representatives) every 10 years. Unfortunately, some political groups have



Mary Warren with all the recipients of the Mary Warren Scholarship / League of Women Voters Scholarship.

found that it is possible to sway the results of the election by gerrymandering — manipulating the boundaries of the congressional districts. Because of this and the Electoral College System, which makes it possible for the popular election victor to still lose the general election, many citizens feel that their votes don't matter.

To truly have Equal Representation, it is important that the people — who keep the equally weighted sides of Government from crashing to the ground — feel that they are living under representatives who would make the same choices that they make. Having a diverse group of government officials that resemble the actual population is the solution. The government is slowly becoming more diverse, two examples of this being Barack Obama, the first black president, and Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first black female supreme court justice. Additionally, in 2021, just over a quarter of the members of congress were female — a record-breaking number that continues to increase. It's crucial that minorities continue to get the representation that they deserve, and that equality continues to climb in the right direction.

Equal Representation is important because it maintains the balance in the

Government. A century ago, the 19th Amendment signifying a Woman's right to vote was passed, and less than a century ago, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 came into existence. So why didn't this change happen sooner? While nobody could right centuries of oppression, Equal Representation is a step in the right direction to make sure that nothing like that will ever happen again.

Sophie plans to attend a university in the fall and major in political science and oboe performance.



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Reparations Now, Reparations Here

by Daniel Shields

As we head into the hazy, lazy days of summer, and celebrate our nation's birthday, I can't help thinking about what is past and what is to come. There is much to honor about America, our laws and spirit and ingenuity and passion for justice. We can all celebrate our shared positive attributes each and every day. And yet, there is no question that we as a nation have fallen short in our quest to include everyone in the American dream. I would like to comment about one aspect of our history, and submit a modest proposal to our

city leaders.

The last several years have brought a reckoning, and much review and discussion, regarding America's relationship to America's black community. Even the most casual observer of race relations would know that we have not fulfilled our promise of full inclusivity into American life. From slavery to Reconstruction to Jim Crow to the Civil Rights movement to the present, America must still address this key issue.

As Martin Luther King Jr noted at the beginning of his speech given

at the Lincoln Memorial, by creating the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the founding fathers were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

However, as he noted,

"It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds."

So, is it possible for our Lakewood community to help cash that check? Yes, and the way to accomplish that is quite simple. We have a large hole in the ground that is just waiting for construction. Whether you believe that closing and demolishing Lakewood Hospital was necessary, or whether you think that that whole situation was the result of hustlers and con men playing Lakewood for millions of dollars, with nothing to show for it, the deal is done. Wherever you stand on the issue of the Lakewood Hospital, this city has been left with the empty socket of a large tooth that was pulled but never filled.

My humble suggestion: It's time to get something in there. So, what is the template? Again, simple. A casual trip to Chicago or Washington, D.C. will show exactly what needs to be done. Drive around those cities and you will see dozens of developments of this size, done with creativity and style.

Let's get moving, and let us consider the issue of reparations. Why not

do something here and now to address systemic inequality. If not Lakewood, who? If not now, when? I submit that Lakewood should make a mixed-use development, storefronts facing Detroit, and apartments and condos, and possibly homes, back towards the existing homes on Belle and Marlowe. Part of this development can be specifically set aside for African American individuals (or families), at a better than market price deal. One model to accomplish this would be to grant a favorable, 15-year tax abatement to encourage black residents to remain. But who wouldn't want to, with our great city, schools, and amenities? This may not be the best solution, but anyone who works in real estate development knows, and the mayor, council, and administration officials surely know, that there are many creative avenues to accomplish any development deal.

Is this a too simple solution to address the problem of systemic racism and discrimination? Maybe. But, so what? Why not start here? I challenge Lakewood city and community leaders to work to make it happen. It would be the symbol of what can be done, here in Lakewood, at this time and place, that sends a message to African-Americans that 'you are included,' 'you are valued,' 'you are welcome here,' and 'we want you to join us in living the American dream.'

It is time to write a check to members of the black community, and to make sure that they can cash it with sufficient funds.

Community Talent Invitation

by Donna Walton

The Donna Walton Gospel Network, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization of the arts that gives local and national independent recording artists outlets through our television, radio, newsletters, and live performances. DWGN provides a promotional platform for artists who wish to express their abilities but may not have the resources for mainstream broadcasting. Supporters enable DWGN to pay for service costs and spread awareness of a wide range of artists both locally and nationally.

Our network recognizes and appreciates the value of local assistance. We cooperate with the neighborhood and participate in neighborhood events because of this. The community benefits from these local acts, which also uplifts the attendees' morale.

Additionally, DWGN schedules nationwide shows that provide performers the chance to tour the nation and engage a wider audience. The Donna Walton Gospel Network is engaged in a number of great projects! One of them is taping the upcoming

2nd Season of The Donna Walton Gospel TV Show. We offer the opportunity for local musicians to promote their talent on this upcoming syndicated TV show. Feel free to visit our website for more information at www.dwgntv.info.

Community Talent invitation:

Attention Musicians. If you would like to debut your music on The Donna Walton Gospel TV Show's Community Talent Spotlight or be booked as a guest on The Donna Walton Gospel Show, Email Donna Walton for review at dwalton39212@gmail.com. "Community Talent" should be your topic line. You must submit your entry by August 12th. As a guest, you must be a nonprofit organization, community leader, Artist of other forms, or a positive person with a great story.

The Donna Walton Gospel Network is a 501c3 Organization of the Arts that provides platforms for Independent Music Artists. Visit their website at www.dwgntv.info

The image shows the top section of a flyer. On the left, the text "West Shore Express" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. To its right, the phone number "440-990-4250" is displayed in a bold, black sans-serif font. Below these, the phrase "Need a lift? We can help." is centered in a bold, black serif font. Underneath this phrase, there are two columns of text. The left column is headed by the underlined text "Airport Transfer" in a bold, black serif font, followed by the text "Safe & Reliable Transportation to Cleveland Hopkins Airport and Cleveland's West Shore communities." in a black serif font. The right column is headed by the underlined text "Senior Transportation" in a bold, black serif font, followed by the text "Specializing in meeting the transportation needs of older adults for medical appointments & shopping." in a black serif font. At the bottom center, the website "www.westshoreexpress.com" is written in a black serif font.



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood Black Caucus Attacks RBF In The Black Room

by Patricia Wellborn

What is RBF or Racial Battle Fatigue? In general, Racial Battle Fatigue explains how the social environment such as institutions, policies, practices, traditions, groups and individuals, perpetuate race related stressors that adversely affect the health and mental health of People of Color, but especially African Americans. Black people are chronically having race related stress responses in historically white institutions and environments that consume valuable time and energy.

One of the tools used to fight RBF is the Black Room. The Black Room is an environment that allows Black people to de-stress and relax. Also, it allows people to speak freely and express how they feel without fear of judgment.

Lakewood Black Caucus has initiated a program that allows Black people in Lakewood a safe space for education, expression and relaxation. While LBC provides several programs for the general public to enjoy each year, this particular program focuses on helping Black people in our community.

Lakewood does not have Black neighborhoods, and LBC would like to provide a neighborhood feel which is missing in our daily lives.

The program is free for the entire family. We meet on the third Saturday of every month. For the month of July, it will be Saturday, July 15th from 12 to 3pm. Bring your favorite board games or cards! The program will be held at Lakewood Presbyterian Church 14502 Detroit Ave. on the corner of Detroit and Marlowe. Park and enter at the rear of the building on the ground floor. The Black Room will be in Lawther Hall.

For more information, email Patricia Wellborn: queenmistress@yahoo.com

Patricia Wellborn is an African American woman, who has lived in Lakewood since 2015. She is a senior, and is active in social justice work. She is the president of the newly formed Lakewood Black Caucus.

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<http://lakewoodobserver.com>



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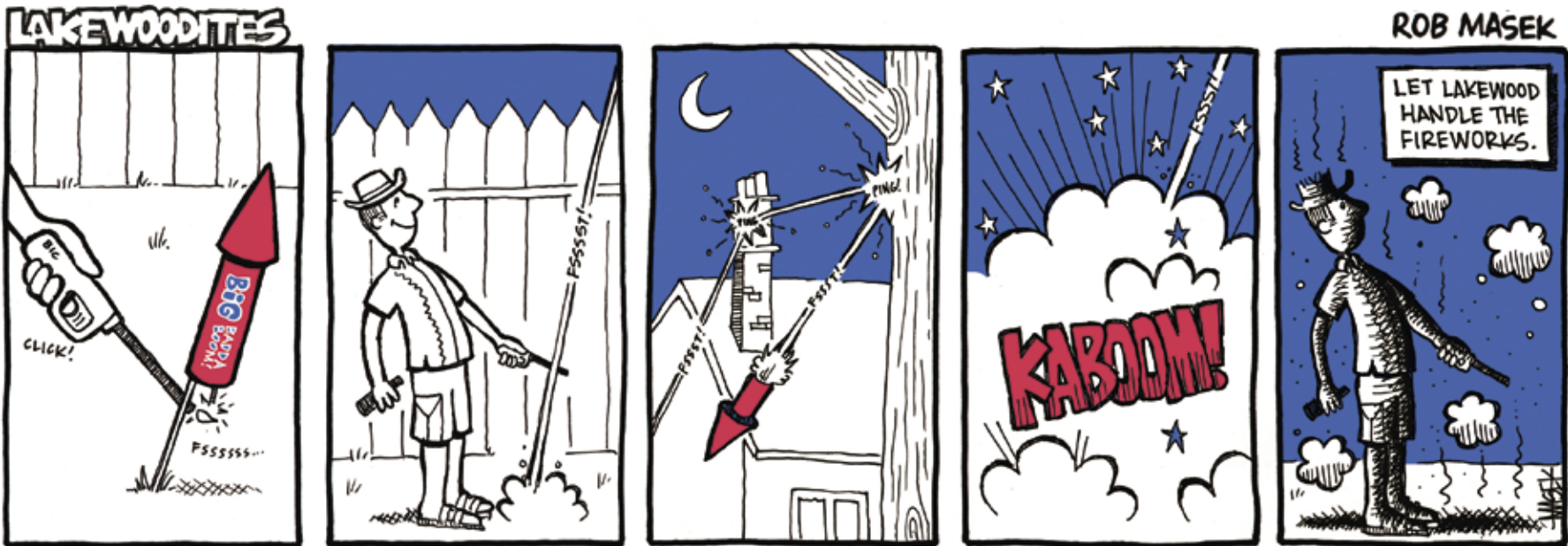
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