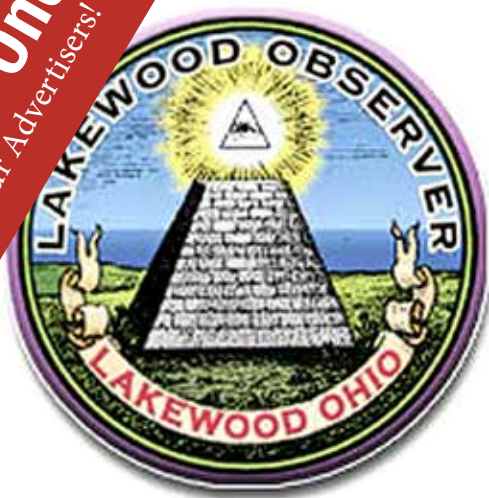


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 19, Issue 14, July 19, 2023

Kevin Fischer: Lakewood's New Police Chief

from City Hall

On July 7, 2023, Kevin Fischer was sworn in as Lakewood's new Chief of Police at a ceremony officiated by Mayor Meghan F. George. Before taking his new position, Chief Fischer was previously serving as a Lieutenant, and has been a member of the Lakewood Police Department (LPD) for over 20 years. He was selected following a civil service examination process that identified multiple qualified candidates for final evaluation.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to continue serv-



ing the people of Lakewood in a new role, and for the chance to lead a dedicated and tal-

ented group of officers," said Chief Fischer. "It is a privilege to help keep our community safe, something I never take for granted. My goal is to build on the strong foundation established by Chief Kaucke and previous chiefs, keep exploring innovative methods and new training to enhance our department, and continue providing the best service possible to our residents and to the public."

"Our Lakewood Police Department has a great culture and a deep pool of talent, and we were happy to have a high

continued on page 11



Cindy Strebig For Lakewood City Council Ward 3

by Cindy Strebig

My name is Cindy Strebig and I am running for Lakewood City Council Ward 3. I have lived in Lakewood for 25 years, including 23 years as a landlady. Originally from N. Ridgeville, I'm proud to call this city my home.

John Litten, our current Ward 3 Council Member and Council President, has decided that this will be his last term. Let me tell you why I feel I am qualified to succeed him in



Ward 3:

I'm an elected Cuyahoga County Democratic Party

Central Committee member and I've served on the Executive Committee for the last five years. A strong advocate for democracy, I volunteer with the Lakewood Democratic Club and the Lakewood chapter of the League of Women Voters.

In addition, I'm on the board of the Lakewood YMCA to help fundraise for those in need, and on the board of the

continued on page 11

Senior Scores Silver In National Baking Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to senior West Shore Career-Tech culinary arts student Sophia Kowalski, who earned a silver medal in the national FCCLA (Family, Career & Community Leaders of America) Baking and Pastry competition held in Denver July 3.

For this competition Sophia was required to bring certain supplies and equipment from her own school kitchen, organize everything in a logistical way, ride on a bus to travel to an off-site kitchen away from the convention center (and her nervous instructors) and produce in an unfamiliar and challenging kitchen, which she did with time to spare! She had

to measure, execute and present carrot muffins, chocolate chip cookies, custard-filled and glazed cream puffs and decorate a cake given specific guidelines and do it all in 2 hours and 45 minute start to finish!

Sophia attended the conference with her family and her instructors, Chefs Devan Corti and Rob McGorray.

Said her instructors: "We are so proud of Sophia and how hard she worked getting ready for the competition after school, sacrificing many of her summer vacation days and free time to make sure West Shore, Lakewood, Lakewood Schools and all involved were well represented!"

Well done, Sophia!

State Issue 1- An Undemocratic Attack On Ohio

by Michael Skindell
State Representative

ATTENTION . . . There is a statewide special election on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, in Ohio. Didn't the Republican gerrymandered legislature pass a law at the end of 2022 to get rid of August special elections due to their expense and low turnout? Yes, legislation was passed to end August elections last December. Despite that 2022 legislation, the Ohio General Assembly reversed course months later and set a special election for August. This special election



is estimated to cost taxpayers \$16-\$20 million. Voter turnout can be as low as 7.9 percent of registered voters.

Why do we have a special election to amend the Ohio Constitution, known as State Issue 1? Because special interests seeking a power grab want a low voter turnout election to sneak through an amendment of our State Constitution. This power grab is funded mostly by out-of-state billionaires.

If enacted, State Issue 1 would end majority rule in Ohio by allowing 40% of Ohioans to decide the laws we live under, stripping away "one person, one vote." Currently,

continued on page 3

Correction/Reset

by Jim O'Bryan

In the last issue, prior to publication, last minute changes were being made. The absolute final proof was not looked at by our editors, and I accept full blame for the names of our Senior Scholarship Winners being inadvertently wrongfully placed.

Our sincere apologies to James Holland (Jamie) and Alexandra Hodson (Alex) whose excellence deserves only the best recognition.

When we started the Observer we were able to rewrite many of the norms of print media. In a traditional newspaper, if a mistake was made on page one, the correction would be buried on page eleven. Since day one we have run corrections exactly where the error originally appeared. However, these young adults worked too hard for too many years for a simple correction. Page 6 will run again, corrected, as it should have been in the last issue.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

City Introduces New Operator For Winterhurst

by Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood

As you may have heard, The City of Lakewood has decided to engage a new private manager and change the operating model for the Winterhurst ice-skating facility. Since 1931, Winterhurst has been a beloved community asset and key recreation opportunity for the people of Lakewood. The City's overarching goal is for Winterhurst to act as an affordable, inviting, community-focused ice rink that first and foremost serves the needs and priorities of the people of Lakewood. The shift to a new operator and a new model will support that goal.

Earlier this year, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to

potential operators and received eight responses. In developing the RFP and evaluating the responses, the City has engaged an eight-member advisory committee of Lakewood residents and users of Winterhurst – including resident users, Lakewood City Schools, and the primary hockey, figure skating, and speed skating organizations that utilize the facility. This group has been especially helpful in the City's efforts to finetune the model at Winterhurst and ensure that the new model positions the facility to maximize its benefit to our Lakewood community. Commu-

nity involvement is key to this process and we see this as a partnership with our residents and Winterhurst users.

After careful analysis, we determined that Lakewood Community Ice (LCI) presented the proposal that best aligns with the community's future priorities. The LCI group demonstrated a unique mix of experience and capacity. Their team has expertise in ice rink programming, ice arena operations, ice arena construction, and overall business acumen, including marketing and advertising and general operations.

LCI began operating Winterhurst on July 1st and updates to the operation and facility will be phased in over time. The first 90 days of LCI's involvement will include an assessment period and gradual changes. There may be some initial challenges as changes are implemented, so we ask for your patience

– but we also are confident that this move will improve the experience for all of those using Winterhurst. We also will develop a long-term capital plan for maintaining and enhancing Winterhurst's facilities, and will be making short-term improvements that should show immediate results.

As we work with LCI on these long-range plans for Winterhurst, our community advisory committee will continue to have an important role in guiding our thinking and helping to set priorities for the facility. It's important for us to hear and consider the voices of those in Lakewood who use this important community asset. The City is committed to a hands-on effort to enhance this community asset and introduce a management model that allows it to truly serve Lakewood. We will keep you informed in the months to come with updates, and look forward to a bright future for Winterhurst.

Share The Beauty Of Your Neighborhood
Still Time To Nominate
Your Favorite Tree And Win

by Debra O'Bryan

The Tree Advisory and Education Board along with the Lakewood Observer are accepting nominations for the Most Distinguished Tree in Lakewood Contest through August 14th. Residents are encouraged to nominate trees in the following categories:

- Most Magnificent - speaks for itself
- Most Beautiful Conifer - that's evergreen in layman's terms
- Oddest - funky but fabulous
- Perfect Tree for the Perfect Spot - naturally occurring or planted

Nominate your favorites by:

- Emailing the address along with the category and photo to: production@lakewoodobserver.com
- Going to our homepage at: lakewoodobserver.com and answering the Question of the Day by leaving the address category.
- Submitting photos and info by Snail Mail to P.O. Box 770203. If you are unable to photograph your nominated tree, we can go out and take the picture for you.

All entries will be voted on online by the community starting August 15th in their categories for prizes and bragging rights. Nominators are eligible to win as well so don't be anonymous! Prizes provided, but not enclusively, by: Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, West End Tavern, Lakewood Garden Center, Lakewood Hardware, Carabel Beauty Salon & Store, The Root Cafe, Melt Bar and Grilled, and the Lakewood Observer. If you are a Lakewood business and would like to donate a prize, contact us.

The Most Distinguished Tree Contest is in its second year of celebrating our canopy that is Lakewood. The Tree Advisory and Education Board works with the City of Lakewood on urban tree policies and practices, ensuring the planting and growing of our trees throughout the city.



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Lakewood Observer

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August 11, 2023			August 16, 2023

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STATE ISSUES

State Issue 1- An Undemocratic Attack On Ohio

continued from page 1

an amendment to our constitution can be adopted with a majority vote of 50 percent plus 1. Issue 1 would change the threshold to pass an amendment to 60 percent of the vote. For over 110 years, Ohioans have been entrusted with the right to pass ballot initiatives with a simple majority as a way to check an unresponsive state legislature, ensuring the people's voices are heard.

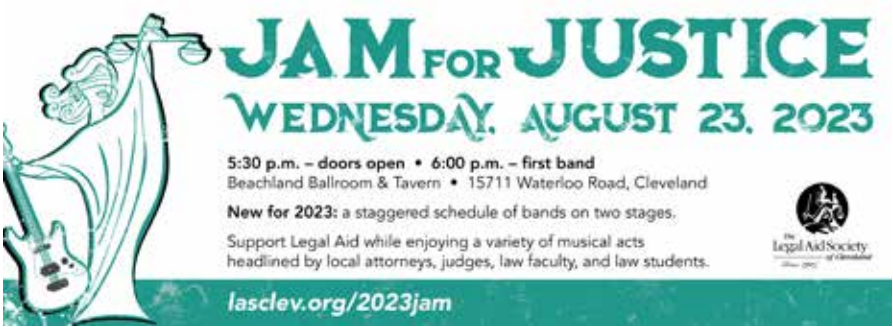
Issue 1 is not only about changing the percentage of the vote to pass an amendment. Passage of Issue 1 would make it nearly impossible for average citizens to propose an amendment. Under the current process, signatures must be collected from voters in at least 44 counties. Issue 1 would increase the requirement for signatures to at least 5% of electors of all 88 counties. In addition, it eliminates the 10-day cure

period to collect additional signatures to place a measure on the ballot.

Direct democracy is the fundamental principle we all stand for. It is clear that the direct democracy provision to amend the Ohio Constitution was founded on the prominent notion of societal input by giving people the freedom to change things in the state, when it was no longer working for them. By limiting the power of citizen-led ballot initiatives and limiting the power of the people, democracy will be limited.

Put simply, Issue 1 is unpopular and undemocratic and is a big government power grab. We cannot stand silently aside and let people who claim that this is about "protecting the constitution" strip our rights away, time after time.

Please join me in voting NO on Issue 1 on August 8th.





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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.

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY/SCHOOLS

Lakewood Public Library Children's And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

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

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

Teen Robotics Camp

For Teens Entering Sixth through Twelfth Grade

You and a partner will build and program LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 robots to conquer challenges using block based coding and ultrasonic, touch and color sensors. No prior coding experience is necessary, but your team will be counting on you, so make sure you can attend all four days! Registration required.

Monday, July 31, 2023 - Thursday, August 3, 2023, 2:00 - 4:00 pm in the Main Library Computer Connections Room

Super Readers! A Cuyahoga READS Program

Join us at Lakewood Public Library's Madison Branch for SUPER READERS! This program is in coordination with the Cuyahoga Reads Initiative. Super Readers will focus on young readers literacy in upper elementary and middle school. What is your super strength? The Super Readers Program is designed to increase vocabulary, fluency, and sight words while using a Marvel and DC comics theme while incorporating art, poetry, creative writing and more!

Thursday, August 3, 2023, 12:00pm - 1:00pm in the Madison Branch Youth Program 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.

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

New Harding Assistant Principal Named

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education recently approved Trina Poole, current assistant principal at Findlay High School, as the next assistant principal for Harding Middle School. Poole will replace April Patton, who is taking over as principal at Garfield Middle School for the departing Robin Pettiegrew.

Before serving as an assistant principal for the Findlay City Schools, Poole served as a high school social studies teacher for the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District for 23 years. Poole is a lifelong learner, evidenced by the four higher education degrees she has earned. Poole received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in American politics,



both from the University of Akron, a master's degree in secondary education from Kent State University and a master's degree in educational administration, also from Kent State.



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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Jamie Holland: Winner Of
The Dr. Lisa Hanson Fine
Arts Scholarship



Lakewood High School Senior, Jamie Holland

by Mary Sharpe

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 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.



Lakewood High School Senior, Alex Hodson

Alex Hodson: Winner Of The
LHS Class Of 2017 Scholarship

by Mary Sharpe

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!

Fall Youth Athletic Registrations/Sign-ups

Registration deadline is August 8th



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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

League of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner James A. Holland's Winning Essay

by James A. Holland

Why is Equal Representation Important?

In 1935, Langston Hughes bravely wrote, “I say it plain, America never was America to me, and yet I swear this oath — America will be!” Despite its past, each of us, Hughes included, are taught early on what “America” means. We are told of our nation’s great and honorable ‘fathers,’ we are oriented in the democratic ways and processes of our nation. Young children across the United States, whether they be poor, wealthy, white, or black, are (and have been) taught a founding principle of this country: “All men are created equal.”

Langston Hughes then deserves great admiration for his courageous observation: there are two different Americas. The America of legend and tale, the one of grand revolutionary justice and a penchant for freedom and equality — and conversely, as Hughes put it, “America to me.” The America



Lakewood High School Senior, James “Jamie” Holland

of material and reality is a far cry from the dream of America. To the poor black Harlem poet, to the estranged and excluded Indian, to the occupied Vietnamese family, to the defeated railroad unionist, America has not been equal and just. “There’s never been equality for me, nor freedom in

this ‘homeland of the free.’”
The picture of America that is then painted seems bleak indeed. But Hughes dismisses any creeping sense of pessimism with a critical word: “yet.” For all those who struggle in America — those who struggle for justice and equal representation — struggle spectacularly. The abolitionists and the freedom-fighters, the labor unions and the strikers, the civil rights leaders and the suffragettes: they did not surrender their dream. A bright and inextinguishable optimism burns through the inequality of America — the goal, the knowledge that, eventually, “America will be!” Summarized by the immortalized Dr. King only a few decades later, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” No matter how far we have left to go, there is but one direction: forward.

And so, what is vital in equal rep-

resentation? In it, we find the next step in our arc towards justice. For too long have the voices of the few dominated the voices of the many. The ruling powers that prevail hegemonize our culture — so that the experiences, memories, and struggles of black Americans, native Americans, poor Americans, and non-conforming Americans are left out. If we continue to leave these stories out of our history, then America will be a wound that never heals. But imagine what could come if the stories of all were heard with equal fervor, and equal love. If we represent all of America equally, in our textbooks, our institutions, our voting booths, and our history, then “America will be America again.”
James is planning on attending college in the fall of 2023 to study history, anthropology, or other social sciences.



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Tips To Be A Savvy Consumer And How To Avoid Scams

by Tonya Sams

With so many ways for consumers to spend their money it is easy to become a victim of scams. Eric Zell, a supervising attorney in the Economic Justice group at The Legal Aid of Society of Cleveland, offers a few tips to keep your money safe.

One way to avoid being scammed is to conduct research to find out if the person or company is legitimate. This includes understanding the products and services being offered and

researching to look for any consumer complaints. Consumers should ask around to find out if others are familiar with the reputation of the people or company that they are planning to do business with.

It is also important for consumers to understand how contracts work.

“Read the contract and make sure that you understand what you’re agreeing to,” Zell said. He suggests that if it is hard to understand to find someone who can help you understand the lan-

guage.

“Any person or company that you are interacting with who is offering you a contract should allow you some time to review it,” he said. “It is not a good sign if someone is pressuring you to sign a contract right then and there. You should have an opportunity to understand what’s in it and review it, making sure that you understand what you will have to do going forward.”

After signing a contract, always keep a copy for your records. This

includes keeping copies of documents that are exchanged after the contract has been signed, like payments and receipts. This will be helpful if you have any problems later and need to provide documentation.

This tip also applies when purchasing a vehicle.

“Car dealers may try to hide information from you. They will not necessarily tell you everything up front, so you need to review the paperwork thoroughly to understand what your monthly obligations are going to be,” Zell said. “You need to understand whether there are additional fees or services added.”

Zell said that it is also important not to be fooled by low-cost or free offers.

Always read the fine print so you know what you’re agreeing to. If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.

“People can be scammed when they think they are signing up for a free offer, but their credit information is still collected,” Zell said. “Then down the road they are charged for other services or fees.”

Keeping your personal information safe is also important. If a company is contacting you, make sure they are who they claim to be. Zell said that financial institutions or government entities like the social security administration or IRS will never reach out to people by phone or email out of the blue. If you have doubts, hang up the phone and call the number that you know is correct to reach them directly.

Legal Aid offers a number of online resources on consumer issues, bankruptcy and other money-related issues. Visit lasclev.org, click on the “Services & Resources” tab, click “Legal Resources,” and then select “Money.”

Do you have questions regarding money-related issues? Legal Aid may be able to help! Call Legal Aid at 888-817-3777 during normal business hours or apply online 24/7at lasclev.org/apply.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don’t Forget To Vote

by Jeff Fritz

Special interests are responsible for the twenty-million-dollar cost to

taxpayers of the August 8th election to determine if it will continue to be possible for Ohio voters to amend the

Ohio constitution.

Enough YES votes will make amendments virtually impossible.

Why is this special interest group urging people to vote YES? Because it wants to thwart the will of the majority of Ohioans who want an amendment to the Ohio constitution to guarantee reproductive freedom.

A Lakewood church has entered the fray by putting misleading signs on their lawn, apparently violating the IRS rules about getting involved in politics.

I’m pretty sure it purports to be a Christian church, but aren’t Christians supposed to be honest and to obey the law?

Lost Rings, Please Help

Two rings were lost at the Marc's Plaza parking lot in Winter 2023.

The first is a priceless yellow gold wedding set, soldered together with one central diamond and seven smaller diamonds above and seven below. This ring just marked its 40th wedding anniversary and is dearly missed.

The second missing ring is a white gold band with seven diamonds.

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LAKEWOOD WOMEN’S CLUB

Lakewood Women’s Club Honors Charlotte Beno With Our 2023 Scholarship

by Torey Via Worron

Each year, the Lakewood Women’s Club (LWC) awards a scholarship to a young woman graduating high school who plans to continue on to a higher education institution.

This year we are proud to announce that Charlotte Beno is our 2023 scholarship honoree. Charlotte states that she is “currently undecided and will be entering Ohio State's Exploration program. I hope to take classes in psychology, political science, and writing as I attempt to decide on a major. I want to take advantage of all the possible majors that OSU has to offer, and I think that it's a perfect way to learn as much as I can while studying subjects that I'm interested in pursuing. I have also taken a number of AP classes, which will help me fulfill my general requirements, so I can fully take advantage of the exploration opportunities.”

The Lakewood Women’s Club is a philanthropic organization that hosts a fundraiser each year entitled “Women Honoring Women,” with proceeds going to the Scholarship Program. The more we raise during our celebration that honors and awards business and community women leaders, the more we are able to pay forward to our scholarship honoree. It's a wonderful way to continuously support and recognize the young women just starting out and the more established women in Lakewood.

The Scholarship Program was created many years ago and is one of the pride and joys of the club. Each year a committee of members join together to review the applications that have been submitted. For those members who have been part of the committee, as I have in the past, it is always a highlight of the year to review the applications. It's simply amazing how talented and driven our applicants are; we are proud of the education that young women are receiving in our community.

"As chair of the 2023 scholarship committee, I applaud all of our applicants. The breadth and depth of



Lakewood High School Senior, Charlotte Beno

their studies, extra curricular activities, leadership roles both in school and our community were impressive. Each applicant had a unique story to tell, making the decision to select just one winner difficult. Congratulations to Charlotte, we are excited for her to continue to grow, learn and excel at The Ohio State University,” said Margaret Wetzler, this year’s committee chair.

According to Charlotte, “Something that I appreciate about my high school experience was the educational opportunities that were offered. I was able to take a variety of AP courses and felt as if there was never a shortage of topics to learn about. I think the academic standard at Lakewood has prepared me very well for the next chapter. It's made me feel confident going into my first year of real college classes. I'm proud of what I've done academically to this point, which makes me excited when looking forward.”

Everyone in our club as well as our scholarship honorees are at different stages in their personal and professional life. But what we all have in common is that we support each other along the

way. That’s why the LWC looks forward to keeping in touch with Charlotte and seeing all of the wonderful successes and challenges she will be experiencing in her life as she moves into adulthood after high school.

Charlottes says: “I think it’s incredibly difficult to think about your future in high school. At this point,

you only know a small fraction of the world and you’ve only met a small percentage of the people that you’re going to meet. The next steps are truly going to define who you are. What you decide to do after high school — college, traveling, work, whatever it may be — will play a huge role in determining the rest of your life. Not that I believe you can’t ever change your mind, but laying a strong foundation for yourself is critical. I want to lay a foundation based on independence and passion. I think a college education will help me get there because it will force me to think for myself about what’s important to me and what’s important in the world.”

As moms, sisters, friends, and members of our community we hope all of the young women in Lakewood are striving to take themselves to the next level of life. We certainly all benefit from their successes. Congratulations Charlotte! The Lakewood Women’s Club wishes you all the best.

Torey Via Worron is Lakewood Women's Club WHW Chairperson. She is Mom to Tully Worron who is a student at Temple University and business owner/partner of Trikeable Treats with Jeff Worron.

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4 Items	\$11.25	\$13.75	\$18.25	\$21.25
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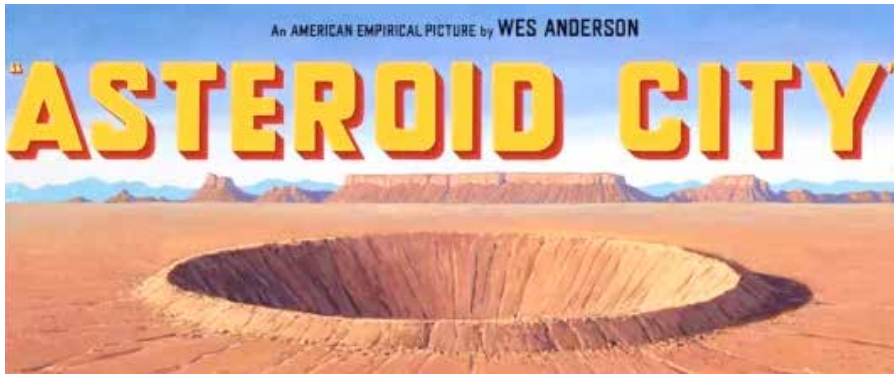
Movie Critique: Asteroid City

by Jena Blaylock

The feeling is the same for every Wes Anderson movie I see. I kick my feet up and breathe a deep sigh of relief as I wait for the warm and playful colors to wash over me. I sat down to Asteroid City as with any other Wes Anderson movie. The thing about Anderson’s movies is you don’t really show up for the plot. You show up to be taken away from reality in rolling shades of yellow by his hodgepodge cast of static characters. In all honesty I had not even known of the coming release from Anderson, nor did I watch any of the trailers in anticipation. However I was aware of some mixed reviews, I was about to find out why.

Anderson continues his interest in theater from The French Dispatch. Asteroid City follows a writer (Edward Norton) writing a play about a group of brainiac kids in the desert of Nevada there for an esteemed youth science convention; here lies the first gripe among audiences. Traversing back and forth between the plot of the writer and the action of the play can be difficult to follow, but more so feels ill-timed and awkward at most junctions. To provide clarity when jumping from the playwright to the action of the play itself Anderson decides to shoot in black and white for the coverage of the playwright and narration, while the play itself is shot in Anderson’s familiar eye-popping color schemes. The twist: all the scenes from the play are filmed in the open air of the Nevada desert, while all the playwright’s scenes take place on theater sets. In theory the idea is captivating, but jumping back and forth from black and white to color, then being smacked into an ostensibly different plot seems to be giving audiences whiplash.

Once the narration is established we head into the barren landscape of the southwestern United States. Right



Now streaming

away it seems that something is off. This isn’t the Wes Anderson movie we are all used to. The plot is extremely slow to start and offers almost no information about where it’s heading. More than once I winced at how predictable and obvious the plot was becoming by Anderson’s standards. I enjoyed the scenery as always, but throughout the first half of the movie I was struck with a deep sadness. The story felt tired and stressed out. It was like watching a scarf unravel before your eyes. Anderson’s always quirky and seemingly unbothered characters began to emote a certain apathy or dread that is almost unheard of in the director’s repertoire. Royal Tenenbaums was one of the only Wes Anderson films that looked past the director’s traditionally stone faced characters to address some sort of inner emotional turmoil, but Asteroid City far surpasses this, breaking composure completely.

Asteroid City reaches for an emotional depth never before attempted by the director; addressing themes of existentialism, family loss, narcissism, suicide, and self validation. It’s hard to say whether the writing was so heavy handed that it made these themes tacky or if the characters themselves were so self absorbed it soured the whole plot.

The story begins to pick up speed when the science convention is held and the brainiac kids show their wit. Here

we begin to unpack some of the neurosis driving these characters. Leading man Jason Schwartzman plays a photographer and emotionally removed father who has just lost his wife, offering little in his responses other than the occasional, “Huh?” Scarlett Johansson, a famous actress with the emotional reservation of the 1950’s, is a seemingly put together and supportive mother, outwardly uninterested in

her actress status, but as her romance with Jason Schwartzman begins to unfold through their respective bungalow windows we see she is completely absorbed in her own reflection, repeatedly asking Schwartzman in the wake of utter disaster if the pictures he took of her, “turned out,” to which he replies, “They always do.” What all these characters have in common: everyone sees themselves as reserved and inconspicuous, but underneath falls into the exact character tropes they try to disguise.

Their worlds are shaken when an extraterrestrial being visits their conference to take back the asteroid for which the city is named. The charming and respectful claymation alien hardly invades the lives of this gathering, except for the world shattering impli-

You can read the rest of this movie critique online at: lakewoodobserver.com

Suleman Dawood

by Jean Brinich

Suleman Dawood*
Not to be forgotten, Suleman,
But what about the thousands
Drowned trying to find a better way?
Your name is in the paper
And that of your father
You look(ed) alike
So smiling warm happy
An adventure with dad
Your mom must be grieving so
Like the legions of relatives of the others
I don’t know the names of those thousands
They deserve to be remembered too
They were seeking a life
Not excitement
Now you are all together in the watery depths
Our brothers and sisters all.
*19 year old who died, along with his father Shahzada, and 3 other men, in the implosion of the Titan submersible
Jean Brinich is a retired family nurse practitioner, returned to Lakewood in 2015 after 46 year absence.



JULY

ARIES: The Ram likes it hot, the July heat is music to your horns, your finances are heating up also; spend some of that hot cash around the home, then treat the family to some hot fun in the Sun.

TAURUS: Jupiter is making a stop in the Bull Pen, don’t overdo the cookouts & the roasted marshmallows; Jupiter expands what it touches; the Sun is shining in the community, get out & walk.

GEMINI: The Twins have something cooking behind the scenes, & I’m not talking BBQ; it’s about blessing you, so keep your ears open; your money is also doubling, give back to others

CANCER: July is sending help your way from organizations, & the Sun is shining on the Crab’s first house of personality; I know you want to hide in your shell but shine for the world to see.

LEO: The Lion’s Jungle is getting noticed; you’re making quite the career splash...however, you’ve got something brewing behind closed doors; keep it there until it’s time, you’ll know.

VIRGO: Jupiter is sending blessings to your 9th house of foreign travel. Didn’t you want to study international cuisine, join the Peace Corps? You have an opportunity to travel with a group of people.

LIBRA: Libra, the peace-lover, has a rainbow of blessings shining on its 8th house of other people’s resources; use your charm in the public arena to bring that golden egg to your front door.

SCORPIO: Aw, my dear mighty Scorpion, you have the most amazing transformative powers of all; your house of personal/business relationships is getting the golden buzzer, outside your fence.

SAGITTARIUS The Centaur needs to take a long look at its house of health;

it appears that bow & arrow is headed in the wrong place; others are willing to help, KNOCK & the door shall open.

CAPRICORN: Jupiter is sending the Goat to its house of romance; & the Sun is simultaneously shining on your house of partnership. Do you need a billboard? Get on it! Now! Why you waiting?

AQUARIUS: The rebel in you is larger than life on the home front this month, which could go either way; if you’ve been letting your health slide, NOW is the time to return to nature...

PISCES: The Fish needs to communicate hugely to others in its pool of fish; you’ve got the green light to go ahead; there’s a mermaid or a sailor out there that has an eye on you, hint!

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

SPILLED INK

Cindy Strebig For Lakewood City Council Ward 3

continued from page 1

Cleveland Stonewall Democrats, where I interview and educate candidates and inform voters about them. As an activist and member of GRR and the Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus, I promote equity and equality for all.

I believe that joining and participating in local organizations helps maintain and support our democratic society. If you aren't volunteering for democracy, please consider joining and supporting a local group. We need your help.

On City Council, I will be a strong voice for women, seniors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. I am concerned about housing; mental, emotional and physical health; and safety for all Lakewood residents. To



get to know me better and voice your own concerns, please visit cindystrebigforlakewood.com.

Like many of you, I am disturbed by the direction the Republican party is charting for us, in Ohio and nationally. Our gerrymandered state and invasive laws restricting our personal freedoms are offensive. We must pay attention, evaluate news sources and exercise our right to vote in every election, two or three times each year. Voting must be our priority, our employers' priority and our government's priority to preserve a democracy of, by and for the people.

Now, we Ohioans are being asked to vote against democracy and majority rule. For more than 100 years, we have been able to pass citizen-proposed constitutional amendments with a simple majority. This is our power and we cannot lose it. But Republicans in state government want to raise that bar for approval to 60%, increase signature requirements from 44 counties to all 88 counties, and eliminate the 10 day 'fix period.' This will make citizen-led constitutional amendments practically impossible to get on the ballot.

I hope you'll vote "no" with me on August 8 and vote for me on November 7. Thank you for your consideration. Peace.

Kevin Fischer: Lakewood's New Police Chief

continued from page 1

caliber candidate like Chief Fischer waiting in the wings to take on this critically important role," said Mayor George, who also serves as Lakewood's Safety Director. "Chief Fischer is an excellent leader who has dedicated his entire career to keeping Lakewood safe, and we look forward to having him in this new role."

Since joining the force in 1999, Chief Fischer has held multiple positions with LPD, first in patrol, then in leadership roles since 2011, first as sergeant and then lieutenant. He has served as the head of the Training Division and of the Narcotics and Vice Unit, as a Neighborhood Officer and a Motorcycle Officer. Chief Fischer was the first member of LPD to receive formal training and certification as a Crisis Intervention Officer, and has been a leader in integrating crisis intervention methods to the department. His ties to the local community also run deep – he grew up in Lakewood, is a proud 1995 graduate of Lakewood High School, and also a current resident.

Chief Fischer succeeds Chief

Kevin Kauchek, who recently retired following a 30-plus year career in law enforcement, all with the Lakewood Police Department, including his final three as chief. Fischer and Kauchek worked jointly in the weeks leading up to the transition to ensure a seamless process in handing over leadership of the department.

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