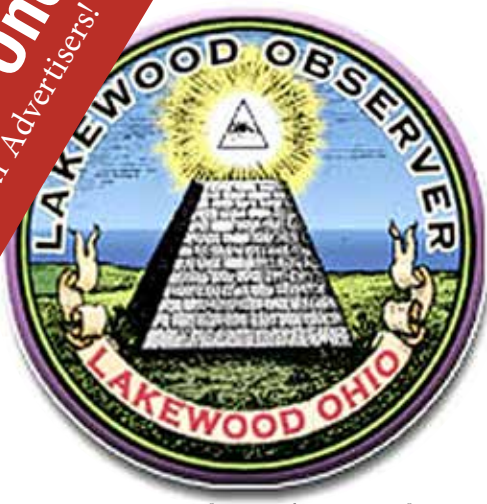


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Alan Barth**

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 19, Issue 17, September 6, 2023

The Lakewood Observer Has Invited All Candidates In Lakewood To Take Part. This issue we highlight another two School Board Candidates.

Vote For Commitment And Experience

by Linda Beebe

My name is Linda Beebe. I am running for re-election to the Board of Education because I believe in public education, and I believe that children deserve the best that public education can offer: quality teachers, a safe, open creative, growth-minded, and diverse environment and programming that meets the needs of all individual students.

I have served the Lakewood



Board of Education for forty years. I have lived in Lakewood for 50 years with my husband Dr. Bruce Beebe and our chil-

dren Meg and Aaron, both of whom graduated from Lakewood City Schools. Prior to going to law school, I taught English and history for 15 years, partly in Lakewood and Scotland. I am now a practicing attorney with an office in Lakewood. I love reading, photography, travel, and anything to do with schools and teaching.

continued on page 6



Lakewood Public Library Wins 2023 Best Library Parent Choice Award

by Elaine Rosenberger

Lakewood Public Library has won the Northeast Ohio Parent 2023 Parent Choice

Award for Best Library. Available both online and in print, Northeast Ohio Parent gath-

continued on page 8

35th Annual Lakewood Community Festival Caps Off Summer



by Karen Karp

Celebrate family, community and cultural heritage at the 35th annual Lakewood Community Festival on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at

Madison Park, 13201 Madison Avenue. The day of fun and activities for the entire family will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., rain or shine.

continued on page 7

September 23rd! Lakewood To Host 36th Annual Marching Band Festival



by Sarah Winters

Lakewood High School hosts our 36th annual marching band festival on September 23 and will feature 9 (!) of the best Cleveland area marching bands. Get your tickets now to see the Beachwood, Cuyahoga Heights, Dover, Fairview, Open Door Christian, Painesville, Westlake, Wickliffe

and Lakewood High School marching bands! We will also welcome the Baldwin Wallace Marching Yellow Jackets as our specials guests. Ticket prices increase the day of the festival, so get your tickets early!

When: September 23, 6:00 PM (Gates open at 5:30PM)

* This year's festival will
continued on page 8

Martha Woerner For Lakewood School Board

by Martha Woerner

I am Martha Woerner, and I'm running for a seat on the Lakewood Board of Education this fall. As a passionate believer in the power of public education to transform lives, I decided to run for a seat for two reasons.

First, I am the parent of two young children (a 2 1/2 year-old and a newborn) who are future Lakewood students, and I believe that our board needs greater representation from this demographic. Parents of young children are in it for the long-haul with the district - my youngest son will



graduate in 2041 - and we have specific needs and perspectives as we navigate preschool and out-of-school time, enroll our children for the first time in school, and set our children up

for long-term academic, professional, and personal success. The decisions that the board makes today are the ones that will affect our children's education for years to come.

Secondly, I have deep experience in public education that I believe would be an asset to the board and district administration. I've dedicated my career to figuring out how to make public education systems work so that each student is positioned for success, which requires educators to be set up to do their best work in classrooms every day. With nearly 15 years of

continued on page 6

Coletta A. Graham Honored



Lakewood lost one of our best when Coletta A. Graham passed away July 22nd. Last night the City of Lakewood honored the Chase Avenue resident and expressed condolences to her family, friends, and the many who have been touched by her determined and passionate spirit. Coletta Graham and her husband of 52 years Ed (holding resolution) were main fixtures in Lakewood for most of those years.

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Extreme Weather

by Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood

It would be an understatement to say that weather in Northeast Ohio has been extreme in recent weeks. With eight tornadoes touching down across nearby communities, multiple earthquakes shaking Lake County, and torrential 30-year thunderstorm events drenching the entire region, we have all been affected. The fallout from this extreme weather has ranged from basement backups from stormwater to trees smashing into homes to power outages at over 140,00 homes (some lasting up to a week).

Here in Lakewood, on Wednesday August 23rd we saw more rain in a shorter time than any other city in our county – nearly four inches fell in just a few hours. This storm, along with a similar storm in July, were both measured to be 30 year plus storm events. Unfortunately, that overwhelming amount of precipitation resulted in many residents

experiencing flooded basements and the misery that comes with it. This was not unique to Lakewood as these backups occurred throughout Cuyahoga County and the region.

The overall systems our cities have in place were simply overwhelmed by Mother Nature. Whether it was Bay Village or Gates Mills, homes and businesses were soaked and suffering. The storm was so severe that ODOT completely closed Interstate 90 in both directions through Lakewood, while our Fire Department had to perform swift-water rescues of ten motorists trapped in their cars on the highway and at risk of drowning. This endeavor was a first for our brave firefighters.

Following the storm, our Public Works Department has been working heavy hours to deal with the fallout. That includes helping homeowners assess flooded basements; working

overtime to run extra refuse routes to pick up trash generated from storm damage; and dealing with the damage to trees across the city.

All of this makes us question what the future holds for weather in Lakewood and Northeast Ohio. How often will we be experiencing these types of severe and even scary climate events in the years to come? Is the new norm that we must deal with an ever-increasing frequency of intense storms? Unfortunately, the signs and the science point to an answer of yes.

With this in mind, the City of Lakewood has been taking steps to be proactive in addressing the threats that climate impacts place on our community. In May, the City officially adopted a Climate Action Plan, which has elements dedicated to ensuring that our community is ready and resilient in the face of an evolving climate and more frequent and intense major weather events.

Lakewood’s sewer system is over 100 years old and clearly outdated, so

last year we also dedicated \$25 million in ARPA funding as part of our effort to upgrade the system and continue implementing our Integrated Wet Weather Improvement Plan (IWWIP). The sewer upgrades being implemented include two soon-to-be-constructed sewer overflow basins, one at our sewer plant and another on Lake Avenue, that will provide millions of additional gallons of overflow capacity during major deluges like the ones we have recently experienced. A capital project to upgrade our storm interceptor that runs the length of our city along Edgewater Drive is also currently underway.

The team at City Hall will continue to focus on implementing both our IWWIP and our Climate Action Plan to make Lakewood more climate resilient. While climate change is an issue that affects us all, our city is focused on being a leader in adapting and making sure the impacts to the quality of life for our residents are minimized.

Welcome New
Lakewood Police Officers



On August 25th, 2023 Mayor George administered the oath of office to three new members of the Lakewood Police Department. Congratulations and welcome to Officers Veljko Nikolic, Connor Abt, and Erin Wallace. Thank you for serving our community!

Lakewood Fire Department Car
Seat Safety Check September 10

The Lakewood Fire Department will hold a car seat safety check on Sunday, September 10th from 9 AM-12 PM at Fire Station #1, 14601 Madison. This free event is open to Lakewood families who would like to have their car seats installed or checked for proper setup.

To sign-up, visit:
<https://ow.ly/Nwq250PEVth>. For more info, visit <https://ow.ly/BWsp50PEVtg>



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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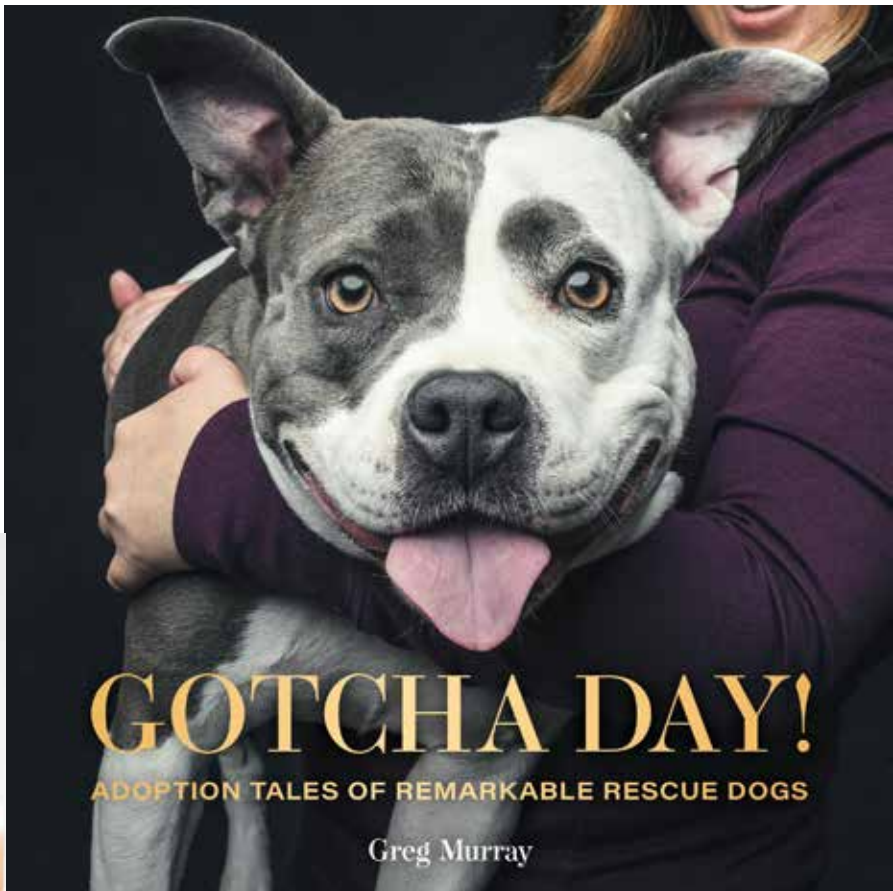
AROUND TOWN

“Gotcha Day!” Book Release Party:

Adoption Tales of Remarkable Rescue Dogs

by Debra O'Bryan

Meet Lakewoodite Greg Murray and celebrate his latest book release on Sunday, September 17th from 3pm to 6pm at the Bottlehouse Brewery located at 13368 Madison Ave,nue. This is a free event that is open to the public. The party will also serve as a fundraiser and pet food drive for one of Greg's favorite non-profits, Neighborhood Pets Outreach & Resource Center. Please consider a monetary donation or something from their wish list, such as: new or clean, gently used crates, leashes, collars, and bowls or unopened food and treats. Gift cards and general office supplies are also welcome. There will be raffles and gift baskets worth upwards to \$775, including a photo session and canvas print from Greg. All proceeds from the drawings will go directly to Neighborhood Pets. Visible Voice Books will be at the event selling copies of "Gotcha Day!" which features many Lakewood dogs and their people. Although this event is



equine, and wildlife photographer. Their humans let us in on their inspiring stories, funny quirks, and all the many things that make them special. Enjoy reading about Killian who is obsessed with clothes and just has to find the right outfit each morning; Jet who snores louder than a human; and Roger, who came to his family from a puppy mill and learned that people can be kind and loving.

This is the fourth book by nationally recognized author Greg Murray who was born and raised in Lakewood. After traveling and working around the country in various non-profit fields, Greg pursued his current profession through his love of animals and photography. Greg returned to live in Lakewood, the city he loves with his wife Kristen, his daughters and two rescue dogs. Greg donates his services every year to local shelters by photographing shelter dogs to better help them get adopted. Lakewoodites may remember Greg's photo and advocacy of the infamous "Charlie," who became the poster dog in the fight to end the Pit Bull ban in Lakewood back in 2018. Charlie is featured in one of Greg's previous books titled "Pit Bull Heroes." That book along with "Peanut Butter Puppies" and "Peanut Butter Dogs" are available on Amazon.

all about dogs, it is NOT a dog friendly event. The comfort and safety of humans and dogs are what is most important, so leave your best friends home for this one. "Gotcha Day!" spotlights the adoption tales of over 60 adorable rescue dogs and their new forever home families. The unique personality of each pup shines through the adorable, candid photos by this animal advocate and professional pet,

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Out Of The Shadows

The 2023 Lakewood Rangers Girls Tennis Team

by Chuck Greanoff

High School Tennis exists mostly in the shadows—it is clearly not the most publicized sport. But the underlying elements are the same—students working hard at their craft, aspiring to succeed, and a willingness to risk “failure” or at least losing on center stage. It’s time to meet our Lakewood Rangers.

This year's varsity Lakewood Ranger Girls team, under coach Becky Pope, features seven hard-working players who, according to our coach, “share a love for tennis, lots of laughter, and the desire to improve and to be the best tennis players they can be.” From what I have seen—in both wins and losses—these competitive girls never back down, are enjoying themselves, and get better each time out.

According to Coach Pope, “This season, the Lakewood Varsity tennis team is formed from experience, consisting of three returning varsity players and four former JV players who have advanced through the ranks.” The squad has defeated Valley Forge and Elyria—in a match that came down to three third set tie-breakers and a key doubles win. The Rangers also recorded a solid third place finish in Lakewood Doubles Invitational.

“We have a full schedule heading into September and look to be competitive within the GLC this season.”

The Lakewood Seven are young, determined and fun to watch. Coach Pope had the following to say about her squad.

At Singles are sophomores Maya Trempe, Delaney Starr, and Abriana Heinz.



“Maya is a returning varsity player, her second year on the team. Maya is playing singles this season and never gives up, tracking the ball down and making her opponents play one more shot.”

“Abriana is a returning varsity player (2nd season), bringing experience as she transitions to singles play. She is loving the singles game and the challenge that comes with it.”

“Delaney is a second-year player rising from JV last year. Delaney is enjoying playing varsity singles, loving tennis and the challenge, always thinking about how best to improve her game.”

Doubles Players include seniors Fiona Gjermani and Hosanna Mosay and juniors Anna Moore and Lay Phalt Htoo.

“Fiona is a returning varsity player (3rd season) and lends experience in varsity doubles. Her volleys are allowing her to start taking control of points and be a force at net. “

“Hosanna is a four-year member of the tennis team, officially joining varsity for the first time. She is steady, knows where to be on the doubles court and is ready for the challenge varsity brings.”

“Anna is a third-year player joining varsity for the first time, also moving up from JV. Anna is a steady player who uses others’ pace well, incorporating it into her doubles game.

Lay Phalt is a first year on varsity player, moving up from JV this season (3rd year season overall). She is a consistent player and tracks many shots down, a valuable component of a doubles team.”

Having had most of these girls in class, and knowing of the others, I can see why Coach Pope has such positive feeling about her squad.

“All of the girls on varsity are positive and supportive of each other and their JV teammates, taking a leadership role on a large squad of twenty-seven girls. Lots of laughter and enjoyment follows these girls. They all share a passion for tennis, and win or lose, are always strategizing what they want to work on and their next goals for themselves. It is going to be a great season.”

While the typical stands at the matches include parents on lawn chairs, the occasional friend and/or teacher, it’s clear that for these racket wielding Rangers, the love of the sport, the thrill of competition, and the camaraderie—carry the day. Long Live Lakewood.

Our Fall Booklet Is Online and Arriving At Homes REGISTRATION IS OPEN



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CANDIDATES

Martha Woerner For Lakewood School Board

continued from page 1

experience working with and within K-12 education systems, I've built an understanding of the opportunities and challenges that schools and districts face. I have worked in research, policy, strategic planning, human resources, finance, and stakeholder engagement,

many of which are key responsibilities of the board. I'd be honored to bring this set of experiences to the board, and as a prospective board member, I have three priorities.

First, we must protect what's great about Lakewood's public schools. I hear from so many parents, students, and graduates how amazing their edu-

cation here has been. They've been challenged in their pursuits, felt supported and welcomed as people and as learners, and have been able to explore multiple pathways and interests - these are the things that I want for my kids and for all kids. This doesn't happen without the tireless work of so many educators, leaders, parents, students, and community members, and I'm

committed to continuing that legacy. We must continue to expand that experience to all students because it's not yet universal. I hear another set of stories about struggling to navigate our schools and their students' needs. I see it in our data as well. For example, the difference in reading proficiency at the end of third grade between our Black and white students is nearly 30 percentage points. We need to continue to work to make sure every student is set up to reach their greatest potential.

Finally, I'd like to focus on community-wide collaboration - how our district, schools, and board partner with students, families, our city government, and the broader community. Together, let's strengthen two-way dialogue, authentic engagement, and deep collaboration in service of our students' education and the strength of our community.

I'd love to hear from you about what's important to you in our schools at martha4lakewoodschools@gmail.com or through my facebook page (<http://bit.ly/martha4lkwdschools>). Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to earn your support and vote on November 7.

Martha Woerner is a passionate believer in the power of public education to transform lives. She's proud to call Lakewood home for her family of four.

Vote For Commitment And Experience

continued from page 1

I do not have children currently enrolled in the district. I believe that my role is to look at a broader picture than that that viewed by those candidates with children in the school. While I believe that it is important to have board members with children in the schools, my commitment is to bring my years of experience and a broader focus to help determine the best practices for all children as well as district-wide issues and concerns.

The school board members I have served with have tried to serve the entire school community and not special interests. They have never imposed their own political agendas on school policy. I hope to ensure that commitment continues. My only agenda is to maintain the high-quality schools for which Lakewood is known.

Lakewood Board of Education has had to make difficult decisions these past four years. The next four will be

focused on making up for losses suffered because of COVID, determining the best use of our facilities in light of the increased need for more pre-school education, alternative educational choices and individualized programming. We will look to maintain the current financial stability of the district and to support and maintain the high-quality leadership team and teachers in the district.

Public schools are the heart of our democracy, and Lakewood Schools are the heart of our community. If re-elected, I will continue to use my experience and passion to serve our schools and our community.

My qualifications for serving on the Board of Education are broad and varied. I am a former teacher. I taught English and history in middle and high school for 12 years - in Pennsylvania, in Scotland and in Lakewood. My children Aaron and Megan went to Lakewood schools; my husband Dr. Bruce Beebe

taught for 30 years in Lakewood High School; I was in the PTA and led a Girl Scout troop. I have been an attorney for 40 years and have been active in community organizations for over 40 years. I was COC Business person of the year in 1998. I have been honored by the Ohio School Boards Association as an outstanding board member. I am a member of the League of Women Voters and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce; I have set as a Trustee of the Lakewood Foundation, Lakewood Senior Citizens Inc. and the Barton Center Board of Trustees. I have served as President of the Lakewood Board of Education four times, and have been closely involved in the past years in the Lakewood school facilities project that culminated in the complete rebuilding of our school buildings - on budget and on time.

Linda G. Beebe is a member of and candidate for re-election to the Lakewood Board of education.

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District Completes Summer Capital Projects

by Christine Gordillo

When June rolls around and our buildings are no longer filled with the sounds of classrooms and hallways full of students, our Operations Department gets to work making the major repairs and upgrades needed to have our buildings in top shape for the next school year. This summer was no different, and in fact, was probably one of the busiest summers in recent years thanks to some major projects.

With less pedestrian and vehicle traffic going in and out of our buildings and parking lots, summer is an optimal

lot improvements and tree trimming, which are some of the typical summer jobs our Operations Department manages. Emerson, Garfield, Harding, Horace Mann and Lakewood High all saw pavement improvements this summer. Tree trimming and removing took place at Franklin School of Opportunity, Grant, Horace Mann and Lakewood High.

Some larger projects (\$700,000+) were also on tap this summer: roof system replacement at Hayes Elementary and a new turf for the Lakewood High baseball field. The Hayes job was needed to correct a ventilation flaw in the roof when it was installed in 2007. The baseball turf was last upgraded in 2004. Additionally, a contractor will soon begin installing secondary door locks on all of the doors in the District for added protection in our classrooms.

Besides the ball field turf, other surfacing projects include refinishing the Harding gymnasium floor, the work bay for Auto Tech in the high school's D Building and installing a rubber-surface path in the wood chip playground at Horace Mann that will make it easier for our students with mobility assistive equipment to navigate the area.

Finally, the Lakewood High natatorium is receiving an upgrade to the HVAC system. As it is related to air

quality, this project will be paid for from federal Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief funds received following the pandemic.

Lakewood City Schools is grateful that the community's amazing sup-

port of the district has afforded it the opportunity to make these improvements. Maintaining and improving our facilities is part of providing a learning environment that offers students the best chance at success.

35th Annual Lakewood Community Festival Caps Off Summer

continued from page 1

The festival is known for a variety of delicious nationality foods including pierogis, potato pancakes, kielbasa and sauerkraut, stuffed cabbage and more. There will be pizza, of course, and other selections as well. Save room for traditional ethnic pastries, plus ice cream and other desserts.

For the kiddos, the festivities will include costumed characters, crafts,

games, bubbles, balloon animals, and a giant inflatable obstacle course.

Throughout the day, musical entertainment will be provided by 2 Guys/12 Strings (11 a.m.), The Bird Town Boys (noon), The Newcomers (1 p.m.), The Polka Pirates (2 p.m.), Flanagan & Riley (3 p.m.) and The Jobs (4 p.m.).

The festival is traditionally the last event of the summer. The event is sponsored by the Lakewood Community Festival, Inc. and the City of Lakewood.

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Cleveland Clinic urologist Alp Tuna Beksac, MD, at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital, explains the innovations that are making a positive difference.

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Screenings include a digital rectal exam, a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test, and in select patients a specialized diagnostic test – called IsoPSA® – that Cleveland Clinic helped develop. IsoPSA® detects changes in PSA molecules instead of just measuring PSA levels and can help inform patients and their urologists on the need for a prostate biopsy.

More effective monitoring. In patients with low-risk, slow-growing tumors, active surveillance, which involves regular monitoring to make sure the cancer is staying small, can help delay or even avoid treatments like surgery and radiation.

Better biopsies. Cleveland Clinic now offers a new technique, transperineal biopsy. This technique goes through the skin (instead of the rectum) and can be done in office under local anesthesia, resulting in a lower risk of infection and better cancer detection for some tumors.

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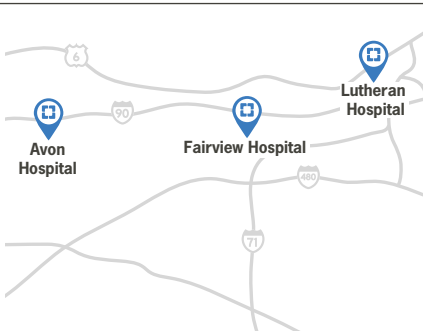
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LAKEWOOD CARES



Lakewood League Of Women Voters Candidates Forum

by Andree Kinnee

The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidates Forum on Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00pm at Lakewood City Hall Auditorium. This is an opportunity to hear from candidates running in the

November election.

Lakewood City Hall Auditorium
12650 Detroit Avenue
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Free. No RSVP required.

Andree Kinnee has been a Lakewood resident since 2010. She was born in Toledo and loves living near Lake Erie.

Sixth Grader's Resilience Leads To Dream Come True

by Christine Gordillo

The last few years as a student at Harrison Elementary, Mia Santiago - now at sixth grader at Garfield Middle School - faced coping with two devastating family member losses for her and her family. Despite the two tragedies, Mia excelled at school and was a model student who demonstrated empathy and compassion with her peers. She was also active participant in school activities such as the basketball team.

Harrison's Family Resource Coordinator Adrienne Parker shared all this information in a nomination for the Believe in Dreams program, which honors students who show resilience and personal growth in the face of adversity by fulfilling their dreams. Last Friday,



Believe in Dreams representatives presented Mia with a bike, Cedar Point gift certificates and a lifetime membership to Rosetta Stone (one of Mia's dreams was to learn a foreign language - great growth mindset!) We are so proud of Mia, who is one #ResilientRanger!

Lakewood Public Libray Wins 2023 Best Library Parent Choice Award

continued from page 1

ers the opinions of local parents to find family-friendly places and events in Northeast Ohio. Readers and online followers can vote for their favorite places and services.

Lakewood Public Library was praised for its wide variety of unique extended learning opportunities, as the Library offers story times, camps, literacy

programs, book clubs, tutoring, homework help, and special family-friendly performances. Lakewood Public Library also partners with Connecting for Kids, which provides education, resources and support to families.

Stop in at the Main Library, 15425 Detroit Ave., or the beautifully-renovated Madison Branch, 13229 Madison Ave, to see what makes our library uniquely wonderful.

September 23rd! 36th Annual Marching Band Festival

continued from page 1

be online sales only. NO cash will be accepted at the gates for tickets or programs. Concessions and 50/50 raffle will accept cash. *

Tickets Prices:

The following tickets are on sale until midnight of September 22, 2023:

Presale Adults - \$8.00 (\$10 day of)
Presale Seniors, 55+- \$6.00 (\$8 day of)
Presale Students - \$3 (\$5 day of)

Presale Programs on sale until September 11- sales reopen online on September 23rd.

Full Color Festival Program - \$6 before September 11 (\$8 day of - limited quantities available)

This is an important fundraiser for our band program and wwwe appreciate your support. We'll see you at the First Federal of Lakewood Stadium on the 23rd!

Sarah Winters is a parent and a member of Lakewood Music Boosters.

LREF Awards \$18K In Teaching Grants



The Garfield & Harding 2022 Mock Trial teams.

by Christine Gordillo

At the 2023-2024 school year opening Convocation for all Lakewood City Schools staff, the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF) awarded nearly \$18,000 in teaching grants for staff. The grants will be used to fund 20 unique and innovative learning experiences created by the District's amazing teachers.

The grants are made possible through a number of dedicated funding sources such as the Margaret B. Warner fund and the Meinke Creative Teaching Grant fund as well as LREF's general fund. Some of the grant requests funded include:

Garfield Middle School Yoga Club

Garfield and Harding Middle Schools' Mock Trial

Grant Elementary Recess Club

Harding Middle School Gardening Club

Hayes Elementary Earning & Learning financial literacy program

Horace Mann Elementary's Diverse Universe social justice club

Lakewood High School Stock Market Club

Unfortunately, LREF receives more requests than it can fund. If you would like to help LREF award grants to fill all teacher requests they receive, please consider making a donation at lakewoodrangers.com/donate.

Healthy Lakewood Foundation's Fifth Annual Community Meeting – September 20th

by Sharon Schuldt

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) invites the Lakewood community to an in-person public meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Cove Community Center at 12525 Lake Avenue in Lakewood.

This is the organization's fifth community meeting and offers an opportunity to community members to learn about HLF's grantmaking, collaborations, and community engagement work over the past year.

HLF Board members will offer reports on the work of HLF committees and the foundation's grantmaking over the past year. Additionally, a panel of HLF grantee partners will share information about their important work in Lakewood and Northeast Ohio.

Updates about the City-led Community Health Needs Assessment will also be discussed, with opportunities for questions.

Khalilah Worley Billy, HLF's Board President, explains, "Over the last year, HLF had the opportunity to activate several grantmaking strategies for community engagement and support. We are excited to share our progress and what we've learned throughout the process."

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Pre-registration is appreciated on HLF's website at www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org. With questions, please contact HLF at info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org.

Sharon Schuldt is the Healthy Lakewood Foundation - Foundation and Grants Coordinator.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood Adventure Guides Kicks Off Its New Year!

by Ann Bischof-Bockbrader

The Lakewood YMCA Adventure Guides, formerly known as Lake Trail Nation, is a group of families from Lakewood and the surrounding communities with kids from ages 5-14. We provide opportunities for adult caregivers and their kids to spend enjoyable, constructive time together, fostering companionship and an understanding for a foundation to lifelong friendship. Our activities also allow children and their adults to meet new friends too! Our motto is "Friends Forever!"

Some of the activities we are planning for this upcoming year are: Induction with optional tent camping in the Metroparks, tent camping twice a year at different Ohio State Parks (including a Halloween campout and trick-or-treating at East Harbor State Park), Moon Rock Bowling, a holiday party, family (board)game night, pinewood derby, cabin camping at YMCA Camp Fitch, hiking and community service projects. We gather at least monthly for an activity during the school year. We plan to add other activities for smaller groups as selected by members, including such possibilities as pumpkin carving, going to museums, biking, skiing, ice skating/sledding, kayaking/canoeing and laser tag. There are no uniforms, no badges to complete, no weekly meetings and no attendance requirements. The more

you participate, the more you get out of Adventure Guides!

We are starting our 2023-24 year in September and welcome you to join us! Check us out online at laketrailnation.com or meet us in person at our table at the Lakewood Community Festival on September 9th at Madison Park. Our first event of the year, our induction ceremony with dinner and optional overnight camping, will be held on September 16. Membership from September, 2023-August, 2024 is \$75 per family with \$40 of that going back to the YMCA for facility usage and insurance.

Our programs launch adults and their children on a journey of discovery, with the child as the explorer and the adult as the guide. Adventure Guides encourages adult caregivers to get to know your kids through shared experiences while your kids are still young and still want to spend time with you! The one-on-one time in a fun, special environment builds important bonds through shared experiences. Whether it is mother, father, grandparent, or guardian with sons, daughters or both, ALL are welcome to Lakewood Adventure Guides to create great memories together. It is our belief that the best thing you can spend on your child is YOUR time.

Ann Bischof-Bockbrader is a long time Lakewood Resident, a graduate of Lakewood High and has a child in the Lakewood City Schools.

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MUNICIPAL NEWS

Keeping Lakewood In The Lakewood Municipal Court

by Tess Neff
Lakewood Municipal Judge

Unfortunately, summer is winding down, and we at the Lakewood Municipal Court must say goodbye to our amazing and steadfast college summer interns. Joshua Ferry and Nicholas Sinatra will be terribly missed. They demonstrated an impressive work ethic, and both are young promising individuals. Josh is a lifelong Lakewood resident and still lives in Lakewood today with his family. This was Josh’s second summer working for the court. He is embarking on his third year at Cleveland State University. We wish him and Nick a successful collegiate year with a little fun thrown in. Although Nick is not a Lakewood resident he meshed very well with the staff. Like Josh, his opportunities were abundant. Both worked with our criminal, civil, and probation divisions. Plus, with the assistance of the Lakewood Police Department, Nick received a tour of the jail and a ride along with the Lakewood Police Officers. Nick is



Josh Ferry, Judge Neff, and Emily Heidinger on Josh's last day of work. (Nick Sinatra was unavailable for the photo)

a third year student at my alma mater, Bowling Green State University! Together, Josh and Nick helped with several big projects and provided support to the Clerk’s Office. Thousands of case files were stored in an orderly way and relocated to a secure

area outside the court building. Many are on a schedule to be scanned into electronic files. Their work helped to create a small room once packed with files from floor to ceiling, into a comfortable break room and lunch area for the staff. It is the first time staff have had a place onsite outside of their work stations to enjoy their lunch. The break/lunchroom would not have come to fruition without the summer interns’ assistance. We hope Josh and Nick can rejoin the court during their winter college break. The work will be here!

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize Emily Heidinger who served as the court’s legal intern. She is in her third year of law school at Cleveland State University of Law. Emily is simply amazing on all levels. She is a lifelong Lakewood resident (Bonus!) who has chosen to continue living in Lakewood with her husband. Emily is a wonderful asset to the magistrates, bailiffs, court administrator, and me. She is a whiz at legal research, remarkably efficient with producing a work product, and possesses a professional demeanor. The court staff truly appreciate Emily’s assistance and positive energy.

Emily surpassed my expectations when I tasked her with a few administrative projects for the court. She speedily and thoroughly organized the information after researching similar courts. I was able to cross off some items from my very long “To Do List” which saved me a lot of time. With the help from Emily, I was able to focus on the court’s caseload and other important projects. We are elated that Emily will continue her employment with the court during the law school year.

Ohio Traffic Safety Office Awards Westshore Enforcement Bureau Funding For Teen Driver Education Scholarships

by Noreen Kyle
Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) announces the availability of teen driver education scholarships courtesy of funding from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO). The grant will help teenager’s in low income and/or families that are struggling financially to get access to free driver training. Attendance at one of the Westshore High Schools in Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake is required. Financially eligible families with students (15 ½ to 17 yr. old) with a valid temporary permit can be referred through their schools guidance office for an application.

Students who receive the OTSO “Drive to Succeed” scholarship will be able to select driver education training taught by 911 Driving School or Professional Driving School. The OTSO Drive to Succeed scholarship will cover the entire class fee (less \$25.00 deposit).

Young drivers under age 24 are involved in 31% of all crashes in Ohio, but only make up about 13% of licensed Ohio drivers. With the proper education and training, 16-year-old license applicants perform best of all those licensed under age 25 on the on-road test, with a 78% pass rate – compared to a 63% pass rate at age 18.

Since 1975, WEB has provided drug and alcohol prevention services through a broad range of community programs being heralded as a model Ohio Drug Task Force. The Westshore Young Leaders Network (WYLN) is comprised of middle and high school students from its six service communities. WYLN meets monthly during the school year to support young leaders and promote healthy, safe and substance-free lifestyle choices.

Noreen Kyle is a School Prevention and Education Specialist for the Westshore Enforcement Bureau.

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by Stephanie Schmelzer

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Clockwise from top: Heather, Eli, the Dachshund/Jack Russell mix, and Robin is in the blue. L to R, Heather, myself, and Robin.



SEPTEMBER

ARIES: Cash is rolling in for the Ram; Jupiter has landed in your money house, looking good...keep up the exercise routines; the Sun is shining on your health; cooking out Vegan?

TAURUS: The Bull is getting a bit of attention & excitement on the way, romance is on the horizon, & Uranus has gone retrograde in your sign; look back to Aug 2022-Jan 2023 for clues.

GEMINI: Twins focus on home/family; while you're roasting hotdogs, something is brewing behind the scenes. Although you're unaware, it could be your ace in the hole, so be patient.

CANCER: Crab, pick up the pen & microphone & get on the horn. Start getting back to your social & networking skills you've let fall by the wayside; you've got friends in high places...

LEO: The Lion should be smiling all the way to the bank, the Sun is shining on your finances & assets, also Jupiter is beaming a generous amount of blessings your way, involving your career.

VIRGO: It's all about you this month, Virgo; the traveling bug has bitten you; get yourself on the road, or at least to a travel agent. Make hay while the Sun shines on you.

LIBRA: Libra, you've got your hands in something behind the scenes; the Sun is there shining the way, it'll be revealed when it's time; other's resources are also bringing huge benefits to you.

SCORPIO: The Scorpion is not one to stand in the limelight. However, it's your turn to get out & mingle with your friends/groups & your business/personal relationships; start now; do it.

SAGITTARIUS: The Centaur focuses on career; you've waited long enough, get a game plan...Jupiter has landed in your house of health; moderation is the key to longevity; seek truth.

CAPRICORN: Foreign travel & romance are on the Goat's mind this month; put your affairs in order. The Goat likes to be prepared, trod forward with an air of success & accomplishment.

AQUARIUS: Transformation is occurring for the Aquarian this month; other resources play a hand in this development; blessings are knocking on the doors of the home & hearth; open it!

PISCES: Business & personal relationships are swimming around the Fish this month; mix & match at the cookout on the Lake, invite the community & neighbors. That's where you'll excel.

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

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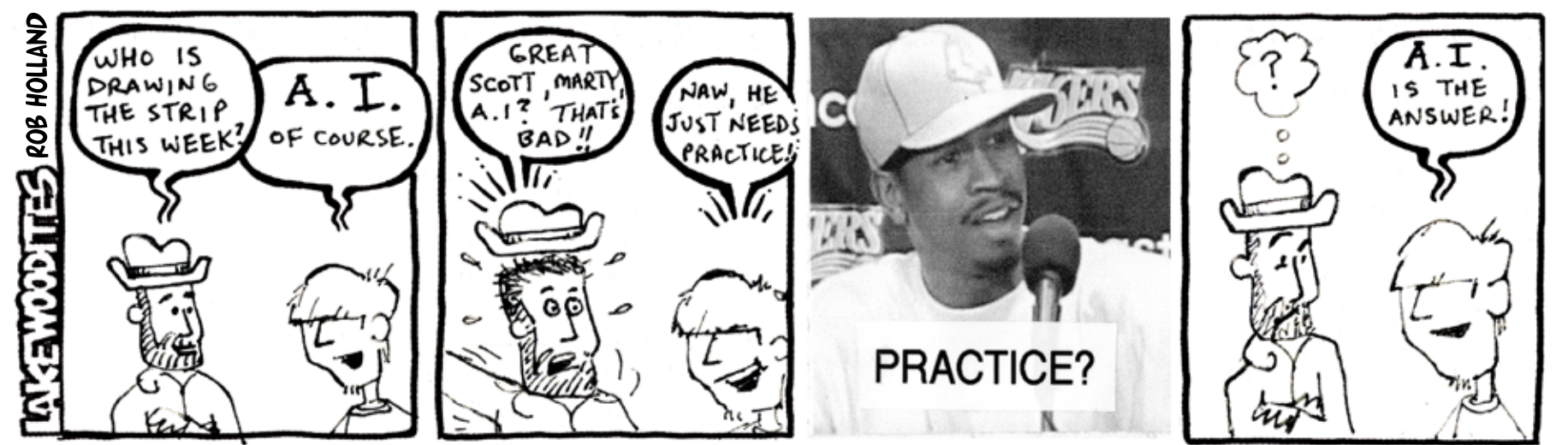
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