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" I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house." - Nathanial Hawthorne

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 19, Issue 18, September 20, 2023

Spooky Pooch Parade October 14

by Ian Andrews

It's time! That's right! Registration for the beloved Spooky Pooch Parade is now open and we can't wait to see you there!

While free to attend, registration is needed to march in the parade. Pre-registration is $10 per dog and day-of registration is $15 per dog. Multiple dog discounts are available with pre-registration only. For example, if you are registering 3 dogs, please choose the "Pre-Registration for 3 Dogs" option. Humans are free. This community event takes place rain or shine, and proceeds from the parade benefit LakewoodAlive, a community centered non-profit organization.

Rules:

All dogs must remain on a non-retractable leash.

6' max on all leashes. Rabies, PHLLP, and Bordetella vaccines must be current.

All dogs must wear I.D. tags at all times.

No dogs in heat, no aggressive dogs.

No puppies under 4 months old or w/o vaccinations.

Costumes must be safe and comfortable for dogs.

Please be prepared to pick up after your dog.

LakewoodAlive reserves the right to withdraw any individual or group whose costume or actions do not meet the event rules and regulations or conform to standards of reasonable public taste or fit the family friendliness of the event.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

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Visit lakewoodalive.org/spookypooch to learn more!

LHS Boasts 7 National Merit Scholars

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Lakewood High School senior Carter Eardley, who has been named a Semifinalist in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition! This designation recognizes Carter as among the top students in the nation based on junior year PSAT scores. LHS also boasts six Commended Students, seniors Rowan Brown, Jazmin Dunay, Mateo Guajardo, Hutch Reed, Cameron Wereb and Max Winters.

Carter is part of an elite group of 16,000 Semifinalists across the country whose PSAT scores in the 2022-2023 school year put them in the top tier of the more than 1.3 million students who took the PSAT. Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U. S. high school seniors and are the highest scoring entrants in their state. The number of Semifinalists named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors.

Carter is now eligible to continue on in the competition in hopes of being named a Finalist and receiving one of more than 7,100 scholarships worth nearly $28 million to be awarded in the spring. Finalists will be notified of this designation in February.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. Commended Students are among the top 5% of PSAT scorers. Although Rowan, Jazmin, Mateo, Hutch, Cameron and Max do not move on in the scholarship competition, we recognize them as among the best students in the state.

Congratulations to these seven academic standouts!

Lisa Dopman For Lakewood Board Of Education

by Lisa Dopman

Lisa Dopman

My name is Lisa Dopman and I am one of the candidates running for Lakewood Board of Education. My husband, Mike, and I grew up in Lakewood and the schools are a big reason why we chose to stay and raise our family here. I am motivated to run because education is ever evolving. To ensure success, it is important to hear new perspectives and welcome all stakeholders to be a part of the process.

I am uniquely qualified for this position as a parent of three elementary-aged students all in Lakewood City Schools, a teacher, and an active parent volunteer. I had the privilege to teach at Milkovich Middle School in Maple Heights from 2008-2015, where I was able to be active in the teacher's union. Being both an educator and parent allows me to see how the policies being implemented affect children not only as a parent but also as an educator. I will be able to act as a conduit between the administration, school staff, and community utilizing my professional knowledge.

There are a lot of excellent things the school district is doing. We need to protect our excellent curriculum which promotes culturally responsive teaching and a growth mindset. Teaching our students to be empathetic, compassionate, and reflective should always be a priority. As the daughter of a single parent, I would love to explore further how our schools can support working families. There are so many excellent extracurricular programs offered by the district that all students would benefit from.

Collaboration is key. Serving as a member on the Hayes PTO Executive Board, teaching middle school, and having my own children has taught me how to not only work with others, but also communicate effectively. All parts must work well together and actively listening is key.

I invite you to find my campaign on Facebook https://facebook.com/lisaforlakewood to join me for meet and greets so I can answer any questions you may have.

Observer Readers' Candidate Forum

by Betsy Voinovich

It's that time of year again.

The Lakewood Observer is putting together our annual election forum, with candidates from our local elections answering questions from you, Lakewood readers and voters.

This year some readers have started early and already submitted questions. If you'd like to join them, go to www.lakewoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, go to submit new story and enter "Candidate Forum Questions" in the story title box. You can also email them to Betsy@lakewoodobserver.com. Our editing staff will review them and choose the best and most frequently asked to present to the candidates. All candidates receive the same questions and are given an equal amount of space for each answer.

The forum will be published both in print and online before the November election so you may compare answers and make an informed decision. In a city as small as ours, every vote makes a difference--as the kids say--for real.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Tree City USA

by Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood

Lakewood is both dense and developed, but we are also full of natural splendor from the spectacular amount and diversity of trees present here. Trees add so much to our city – making it a more beautiful place, helping to clean our air and make our city cooler on hot days, and playing an important role to limit stormwater as severe weather events increase in the face of climate change. Our city is proud to have held an official Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for over 40 years.

The health of Lakewood's tree canopy continues to be an area of focus for our Planning and Public Works Departments, who work as a seamless team on this and many other efforts across our city. As these departments continue to implement and update our Tree Action Plan, they also have worked with determination to find outside dollars to help support the work, and they have had great success.

Recently, the City of Lakewood was again awarded a Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant. This $50,000 award will be combined with city dollars to plant over 400 trees across Lakewood over the next year. I am so proud of the work our staff put in to secure these dollars, and the fact that Lakewood received the highest score of all the tree grant applicants. In addition to the County grant, Lakewood also earned a $25,000 Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grant in 2022 to plant over 150 large-species trees.

All together, these outside dollars will help support the planting of well over 500 trees from more than fifteen (15) different species. This will allow us to hit a new high in terms of number of plantings, and we are excited that the City of Lakewood has planted at least 400 trees annually over the past few years. As Lakewood continues to add new trees, we are also continuing our efforts to keep our current canopy healthy and maintain those trees we have in place. That means the Forestry Division of our Public Works Department is out there overseeing work like root invigoration treatment and careful pruning of dead limbs to maximize the lifespan of our trees.

To keep Lakewood's tree canopy healthy, we need your help as well – the work must extend beyond just tree lawns, parks, and city properties. Our tree plan has resources and capacity in place to help increase the tree presence on private property. Any interested property owner can have trees professionally planted in your yard in the fall and spring by a tree professional at unit cost. Those interested should reach out to the Division of Forestry at 216-529-6810 or visit https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/streets-forestry/.

Our Tree Advisory and Education Board is also a key resource for our work. They collaborate with City of Lakewood officials regarding urban tree policies and practices, promote our tree programs and educate residents on responsible tree stewardship and the benefits of tree planting on private property. I'm grateful for their efforts and the time they volunteer. It's another great example of people across the city giving back and making sure our city continues to be a wonderful place to live for future generations.

Most Distinguished Tree Contest

Still Time To Vote

by Debra O'Bryan

You and your friends can still vote for the trees that have been nominated for the four categories this year. Votes will be counted on October 1st.

Voting process:

1. Go to www.lakewoodobserver.com and click on Photo Galleries on the right hand side of our homepage to view the trees.

2. Write down the number of your top choice from each category.

3. Go back to the homepage and click on Daily Question (directly below photo galleries).

4. *Enter your name, email, then only the four numbers you chose, separated by commas.

*Please, only one submission per resident. Please vote for ALL FOUR CATEGORIES. Multiple insertions will not be counted. Single votes for only one tree will not be counted. Your name and email are used for voting purposes only.

The property winners from each category will receive a certificate from the City of Lakewood, along with a prize from one of our sponsors. The person who nominated the winning tree in each category will also receive a prize. (Multiple nominators of the same tree will win.) The top two runners-up in each category will be identified. The tree with the overall most votes will be designated the top prize winner with the distinction of "Most Distinguished Tree 2023."

Winners will be posted in the October 4th issue of the LO and online. A big thank you to our business sponsors: Carabel Beauty Salon & Store, India Garden, Lakewood Garden Center, Lakewood Hardware, Lakewood Observer, Melt Bar & Grilled, The Root Cafe, West End Tavern, and Woodstock BBQ.

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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www.lakewoodobserver.com

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Lakewood Observer

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AROUND OHIO

Ohio Democratic Leaders Issue Statements On Delayed Ohio Redistricting Commission Hearing

from Nickie Antonio's Office

Senate Minority Leader Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) and House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) released the following statements on September 14 after the GOP's failure to identify their Republican co-chair for the Ohio Redistricting Commission: "It's unfortunate we can't get to work on behalf of the people of Ohio because of Republican infighting," said Leader Antonio. "The Ohio Redistricting Commission is no place to play out a proxy war for the next Republican House speaker. Leader Russo and I continue to stand ready to serve the voters of Ohio to draw fair districts, and certainly hope we can do so as soon as possible."

"The Republican-controlled commission has had more than 16 months to prepare for this. They have no one else to blame but themselves for this needless delay," said Leader Russo. "These are the voters' districts, not pawns in a political game. Let's not shortchange voters or a fair, constitutional process and fall victim to petty political posturing. Ohioans expect their elected officials to get the work of the people done, and if not, then to get out of the way. The Republican-controlled commission was requested by Governor DeWine to have co-chairs announced by 5:00 p.m. Thursday in preparation for the scheduled meeting on Friday, September 15 at 8:00 a.m. ET. Until co-chairs are selected, rules for the commission cannot be set, a timeline for three constitutionally mandated statewide public hearings cannot be held, and maps cannot be introduced.

By issuing his unrealistic timeline, Secretary of State Frank LaRose created a false sense of urgency to do something Republicans intended to do all along - pass maps with hardly any public input, all in order to expand their power grab on Ohio.

Civil Protection Orders Can Help Keep Domestic Violence Survivors Safe

by Tonya Sams

Survivors of domestic violence may need to take extra precautions after leaving their abuser.

Filing a civil protection order (CPO) is one way that you can protect yourself. A CPO can be filed with the Domestic Relations Court or Common Pleas Court. You can do this on your own (called pro se) or with the help of an attorney.

When the CPO petition is filed by the victim of abuse (petitioner), the court will hold a hearing the same day. This first hearing is called an "ex parte," and during this time you will discuss the most recent incidents of abuse. Only the petitioner takes part in this hearing; the abuser is not there. The court then determines if the request for a CPO will be granted.

After the first hearing, another hearing will be scheduled within seven to ten court days. This hearing is called a "full hearing." The abuser will be notified by the court to attend the hearing.

The petitioner (you) must bring all related documentation such as police reports and medical records documenting treatment related to the abuse. You should also bring copies of records of previous domestic violence or violent crime convictions that involve the abuser. Any witnesses to the abuse should also come to the hearing.

If the abuser opposes the CPO or fails to appear for the full hearing, the court will listen to the testimony of those who are present and then determine if a CPO should be granted for a period of up to five years.

If the CPO is granted, you may (and should!) request several certified copies of the CPO from the Clerk of Courts free of charge. It is recommended that you carry a copy of this order with you at all times.

If your abuser violates the order, find a safe place to go and then call the police. Be sure to show the police a certified copy of the CPO. Also, be sure to notify a victim advocate or attorney.

Violating a CPO could result in court supervision, community service, jail time, probation, or counseling. When a CPO is granted, the abuser could lose visitation rights to see their children and may have to pay support to the victim and children. If a vehicle is involved, they may be ordered to give it to the victim to use. They may also be ordered to attend counselling for substance abuse, anger management or batterer's counseling. If they still reside in the same home as the victim, they can be ordered to leave the residence.

More information is available in Legal Aid's "Domestic Violence" brochure. Learn more online: https://lasclev.org/domesticviolence/.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, Legal Aid may be able to help. A Legal Aid attorney can help, Call 888-817-3777 or visit lasclev.org/apply for more information.

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

October Events At LPL

by Lisa Calfee

Presentation- Bomb City USA: The Danny Greene Era

Presentation by Dennis Sutcliffe
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium

After being expelled from Collinwood High School, St. Ignatius and the Boy Scouts during a troubled childhood, Danny Greene went on to become the Irish-American gangster known as "The Irishman." He and John Nardi tried to muscle in on the Cleveland Mob's operations during the 1970's which began a bloody mob war that left Cleveland with the moniker "Bomb City, USA!" Presenter Dennis Sutcliffe is a local author and historian, well-known for his Lost Cleveland Memories program, but his biggest mission has become raising awareness and funds for the rare disorder, ataxia-telangiectasia.

Film- Alfred Hitchcock: Capping a Career

"Marnie" (1964)
Presented by Terry Meehan
Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (130 minutes)
Main Library Auditorium

Marnie Edgar (Tippi Hedren) has a habit of charming her way into responsible positions at firms that have a lot of cash lying around. After a few months on the job, she would arrange to pay herself a large executive bonus and then disappear. Eventually she applies for a position at a publishing company owned by Mark Rutla

Lakewood Public Library Children's And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Pre-school Story Time

For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler. This pre-school story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. You and your toddler and preschoolers will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. No registration is required.

Main Library: Tuesdays: October 10- October 31, 2023
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: October 11- November 1, 2023
11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Madison Branch: Thursdays: October 12- November 2, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Just Baby 'N Me

For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby

Just Baby 'N Me is a lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. Registration is required. Register for each session separately.

Main Library-Mondays- October 9- October 30, 2023
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays- October 11- November 1, 2023
10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Thursdays- October 12- November 2, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Madison Branch - Thursdays- October 12- November 2, 2023
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pajama Party

For You and Your 2 to 6 Year-Old Child

Make the Library a part of your bedtime routine with an evening story time. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas and bring their stuffed animal friends to snuggle. Join us as we wind down for the night. You and your children will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. No registration is required.

Mondays: October 9, 2023- October 30, 2023
6:00-6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: October 10- October 31, 2023
6:00-6:30 p.m.

Adapted Story Time

For You and Your 3-to-7-Year-Old Child

In this story time, children with varying learning styles and abilities will learn with their caregivers together in a safe supportive environment where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged. This thirty-minute story time is designed for children who may not be flourishing in a traditional story time experience. Siblings may also attend but must register separately. Registration is required. Register online at https://www.connectingforkids.org/library, email info@connecting for kids.org or call (440) 570-5908.

Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Time 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.

UV Kid

For Students in First through Fifth Grade. Make creations out of special ultraviolet-sensitive beads and other materials we provide, then use our ultraviolet flashlights to see the sun's effects. Registration is required.

Friday, October 6, 2023 4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Main Library Activity Room

Galaxy Slime

For Students in First through Fifth Grade. Make your own colorful, sparkly galaxy slime using glue, cornstarch, food colors and glitter. Registration is required.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 4:00 p.m.- 4:45 p.m. Main Library Activity Room

Searching for Life

For Students in Fifth through Eighth Grade. How do you define life? Students observe soil samples of different materials and search for different characteristics of life. Registration is required.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:00 p.m.- 4:45 p.m. Main Library Activity Room

Pinwheel Galaxy

For Students in First through Fifth Grade. Hold a little part of our big universe in your hands by making your own paper pinwheel version of this galaxy. Registration is required.

Friday, October 13, 2023 4:00pm - 4:45pm Main Library Activity Room.

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

LAKEWOOD SPORTS

Dr. G's Ranger Roundup

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Girls Soccer

September 14, Lakewood vs. Fairview

On a perfect cool September night in a perfect place for soccer, the Lakewood Girls cracked open a scoreless game with 20 minutes remaining in the second half and went on to defeat Fairview 2-0. The Warriors bottled up the Rangers in their own end and threw a few punches early in both haves, but steady as ever goalie Riley Forster and a stout defense kept Fairview off the board.

After some agonizingly close calls, junior Luella Darr finally broke through—much to the delight of the throng of youth soccer players and Lakewood loyalists who filled the Garfield stands. A few minutes later, junior Sarah McGinley—who possessed the ball with great skill on many occasions—provided an insurance goal.

Tonight's win was a total team effort--hard fought over a determined opponent—and, for me, a celebration of some of the best our community has to offer. I'm not talking about the shots, the saves, the give and goes or the foot skills—though they were splendid. It's about all generations of Rangers gathering for one purpose—to have fun together while rooting on our hometown team. Long Live Lakewood.

Boys Soccer

September 9, Lakewood vs. Olmsted Falls

A great team victory tonight by the Lakewood Boys Soccer Team (3-1) sparked by two speculator plays by junior thief Isaac Craciun. Isaac picked the pocket of an Olmsted Falls defender at the 30 minute mark of the second half and then beat the goalie for the game's first goal. Several minutes later, using his speed and foot skills, Isaac weaved his way through three defenders and snuck his shot just inside the left post. Junior captain Quincy Zvomuya then scored on a penalty kick and with 20 minutes remaining it seemed the the ranger had this one clinched. The Bulldogs had other ideas, however, scoring a few minutes later and turning up the pressure on the Rangers, who were forced to play shorthanded for the last nine minutes after a Red Card was issued (for a second yellow). Sophomore Louis van der Kull was steady and goal, and the Lakewood ball possessing defense kept the Bulldogs bottled up in there own end much of the time. Kudos to the Lakewood student section, led by Ranger loyalist Owen Gibbons, for their unflagging support of our teams. Great night at beautiful Garfield Stadium in the 44107. Long Live Lakewood.

Lakewood vs. Fairview

Our Fall Booklet Is Online and Arriving At Homes

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Look through the booklet now as classes and activities fill FAST!!! Adult Programs & Athletics, Ranger Youth Football, Fall Cheerleading Camp and so much more.

LAKEWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

14100 Franklin Blvd. Lakewood, OH 44107

(216) 529-4081 • www.lakewoodrecreation.com

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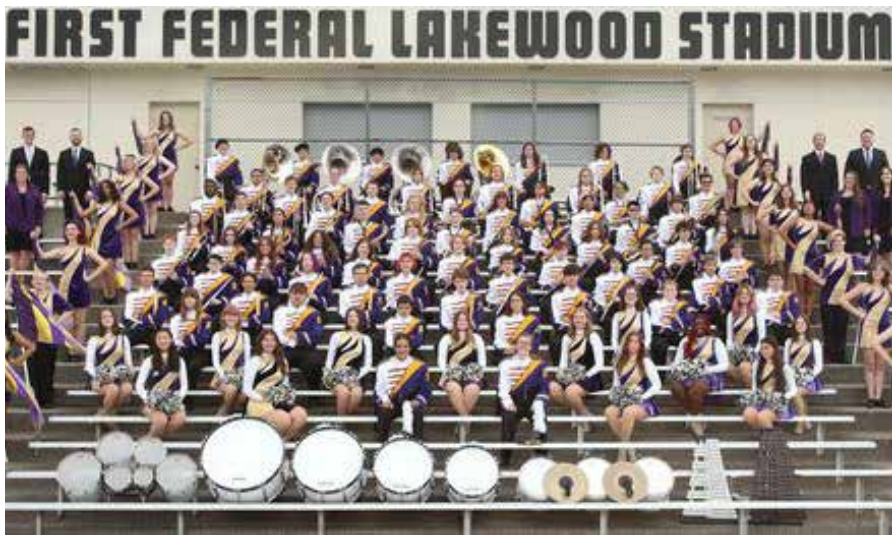

Lakewood High School Marching Band Festival Celebrates 36 Years

from Lakewood Schools

Our 36th annual marching band festival will take place once again on September 23 and 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! In addition, we will welcome the Baldwin Wallace Marching Yellow Jackets as our special 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 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

Following tickets 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)

LHS Event To Showcase School Offerings

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School will host its annual LHS Showcase event on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6-7 pm in the school cafeteria. The event features information tables and hands-on activities from all the academic departments and extracurricular clubs and sports available to Lakewood High students. Coming to the Showcase is a great way to see all the opportunities that make Lakewood High such a rich place to grow and learn! The event is for any family and/or student interested in learning more about Lakewood High, from the advanced course and career-tech offerings to the myriad options for students to explore their passions in the clubs and sports. Come check it out!

Recycling Posters At Lakewood High School

by Leah Campbell

Artwork by Amalija Marich

With recycling codes frequently changing, many Lakewood students (and parents) are unclear about what can and cannot be recycled. Starting for the 2023-24 school year, the LHS halls feature student-created posters that advise students on how to properly recycle in the City of Lakewood. Let's break down some of the slogans that these posters feature.

"When in doubt, throw it out" -- Even though this may seem counter-intuitive, if you are unsure of whether or not an item is recyclable, it's always best to throw it out. If recycling supplies contain too much trash, they become contaminated and are thrown out.

"Not all plastics are recyclable" -- Most of us know that plastic is recyclable but very few of us know which types of plastics are recyclable. In general, bottle-shaped plastics are recyclable while clamshell-shaped plastics are not. A good rule of thumb is that plastic containers that get narrower at the top are recyclable.

"Empty, clean, and dry" -- Always make sure that items are empty, clean, and dry before putting them in the recycling bin! This helps prevent contamination and makes the recyclables easier for the machines to process at the recycling plant.

To learn more about proper recycling in the city of Lakewood, visit https://cuyahogarecycles.org.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winning Essays Continue:

Alexandra Horton's Winning Essay

by Alexandra Horton

As a country, we've all most always been led to believe that everyone living in the United States is equal. However with the current political climate and the increase in movements for equality, one can't help but constantly wonder, "Are we truly equal?" As a young, queer woman, I am constantly questioning whether all of my rights as a human being will be repealed in a blink of an eye, especially considering the overturning of the landmark Supreme Court case, Roe v. Wade. I can't help but have some fear that one day, I could be treated solely as an object and a vessel to grow and carry a fetus for 9 months, and giving birth is my only purpose in life. I'm scared that as a country and society we will continue to take multiple steps backwards after so many people have fought so valiantly for equal rights.

While I fear that my rights may be stripped away from me one day, I also fear for the rights of others in more oppressed minorities. I can only imagine the kind of fear that may go through the heads of so many black, trans women, and what other thoughts may be rumbling around in their heads. This kind of fear shouldn't even exist. Women, queer and trans people, Black, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American citizens shouldn't have to fear for their lives and their rights.

So why is equal representation important anyways? Without equal representation, the United States would regress to where inequality was sky high, essentially destroying all the hard work and effort so many people put into civil rights movements. As the U.S. continues to get older, more immigrants are coming into the country as all of the different cultures and religions continue to mix and mingle with each other. With the increase in diversity, this only continues to justify the need for equal representation. Equal representation would not only act as a way to get every American citizen to be an equal, but it would act as a way to show minorities that the government and all other citizens care about them and their well being.

Alexandra Horton is planning on majoring in psychology and possibly criminology this fall.

Equal representation is a fundamental key to make a society and/or nation that has so many different cultures and religions mingling with each other to work; it acts as a unifying force, bringing the country together. While as a country we pride ourselves on the motto that "everyone is free and equal," we have been failing this for far too long, and need to take more initiative to make this a reality.

Alexandra Horton is planning on majoring in psychology and possibly criminology this fall.

Jay Schmoldt's Winning Essay

by Jay Schmoldt

Why is equal representation important?

America is a country that was originally built under the principle of freedom for all. When the founders came together with a vision for this nation, they wanted it to be fair. To be equal. We were meant to be a place welcome to all. No tyranny. No unfair government regulations and rules. No federal injustice. We were meant to be the most free country in the world. A melting pot of different languages, races, viewpoints, cultures, backgrounds, etc. We were meant to be a place where anyone could feel welcome. Could feel a sense of belonging.

And for our entire existence, we have not been.

America has not been equal. We have not been fair. For most of our history, if you weren't a white European, you were not welcome by a larger portion of our population. You were seen as inferior. Treated as less than human. Yes, over time this has gotten better. And it will continue to get better. But it will never be perfect. It can't be-- it's not possible. At the end of the day, we are all still people. There are good people. And there are bad people. Although the majority of the country wants to strive for equality and strive for equal representation, there are many that do not. They don't want to see people who don't look like them succeed. They want more of the same. More of themselves. It's why striving for equal representation is so important. Because in a country long dictated by one culture in every way, everyone wants to see themselves represented.

It's like in Hollywood, if every single movie ever made was about a kid. The protagonist was a kid. The characters were all kids. They were all just small children. The kids would be happy to see themselves on screen. But the teens? The adults? They would have nobody to relate to. The characters don't look like them. They don't act like them. They don't represent them. Now imagine being a black or brown kid wanting to go see a movie. They look at all the posters, all the trailers. All the brand new superhero or action movies straight out of Hollywood. But when they watch the films, there is nobody that represents them. Nobody that looks like them. Nobody with their background. Their life story, their culture, who they are as a person is not at all present. It wasn't made with them in mind. And it shows. They've been left out of the picture.

Jay Schmoldt plans to attend Capital University in Bexley, Ohio this fall and major in Emerging Media.

And this applies to all aspects of life. From school boards to business executives to coaches. If you are not represented, you are being distanced from the goal. You have nobody who is expressing a life experience anywhere near yours. You are being forgotten about. That's why equal representation is so important. The goal isn't to meet some status quo. The goal isn't to check a box. The goal is to make sure that everyone in this world has someone who expresses who they are. The goal is to make people feel included. The goal is for everyone to be welcome.

Jay Schmoldt plans to attend Capital University in Bexley, Ohio this fall and major in Emerging Media.

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LHS Lands Regional/State Orchestra Qualifiers

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the five Lakewood High musicians chosen to be part of the Ohio Music Educators Association's Northeast Ohio Regional Orchestra and extra applause to senior bassist Willow Detmar on being selected for the All-State Orchestra! Students must qualify for the Regional Orchestra to be eligible for a spot with the All-State ensemble.

The five LHS musicians will perform with the Regional ensemble Nov. 5 at 2 pm at the EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall in Akron. The concert is free! The All-State ensemble performs at the OMEA annual conference, which will be held in Columbus in early February.

From left: Abby Kovach, Margot King, Bryce Sandoval, Anna Maurer and Willow Detmar.

In addition to Willow, our Northeast Regional Orchestra qualifiers are:

- **Margot King** - violin
- **Abby Kovach** - bass
- **Anna Maurer** - viola
- **Bryce Sandoval** - cello

Congratulations to these talented and dedicated students!

LAKEWOOD CARES

Barton Center Rebranded

by Erin Vokes

Barton Communities, a leading provider of affordable housing and resident engagement services for older adults, announces a significant milestone in its commitment to the Lakewood community and beyond. After careful consideration and strategic planning, the organizations have embarked on a comprehensive rename and rebranding effort that will revolutionize its approach to fulfilling its mission.

The new name, "Barton Communities," marks the beginning of an exciting chapter for the organization, symbolizing its unwavering dedication to innovation, inclusivity, and the delivery of exceptional services. This rebranding initiative goes beyond a mere cosmetic change; it epitomizes Barton Communities' continued focus on meeting the diverse needs of older adults and fostering a thriving, empowered community.

"This effort is a strategic move that aligns with our commitment to growth and adaptation," said Donnald Heckelmoser, Jr., President and CEO of Barton Communities. "We will be better positioned to tackle the emerging challenges and opportunities in our field, enabling us to provide even higher levels of service to the older adults in our community."

Over the past sixty years, Barton Communities has been at the forefront of creating safe, secure, and affordable housing options for older adults, alongside a comprehensive range of services, activities, and programs designed to promote resident independence and enhance their quality of life. However, in anticipation of future needs, the organization recognizes the imperative for growth and adaptation to continue meeting its mission effectively.

The renaming and rebranding initiative to Barton Communities reflects a significant milestone in the organization's journey, representing its commitment to positioning itself for continued growth and enhancing its ability to serve the community. The organization welcomes the community to join in celebrating this pivotal step, embracing the optimism and enthusiasm that accompanies this transformative change.

Barton Communities' residents

"We invite all members of the Lakewood community to celebrate this momentous occasion with us," says Donnald Heckelmoser, Jr. "Together, we are forging a path towards a future where older adults can thrive, receiving the exceptional housing and services they truly deserve." Barton Communities will be celebrating the 60-year anniversary of the Barton Center, now named the Barton Communities Activity Center, on November 11, 2023, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at our local Rozi's Wine House. Tickets are available on the Barton Communities website at bartoncommunities.org/barton-center.

Barton Communities expresses its gratitude to the community for its continued trust and engagement. The organization is excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and the positive impact it will make in the lives of older adults in Lakewood and beyond.

About Barton Communities:

Barton Communities is a leading provider of services to organizations catering to the social, economic, and physical needs of older adults. With a commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and exceptional service, Barton Communities creates safe, secure, and affordable housing options, along with a comprehensive range of services, activities, and programs that promote the independence and quality of life of older adults. Through its ongoing efforts, Barton Communities strives to foster a thriving, empowered community where older adults can flourish.

Erin Vokes is the Founder and Chief Creative Officer at Vaux, a woman-owned and operated web design and marketing firm. She connects her clients to unique, custom brands through strategic thinking, clear messaging, and effective design.

Lakewood Kiwanis And 'Sleep In Heavenly Peace' Say Thank You To Lakewood Community

Susie Asadorian, SHP Chapter Pres, Lakewood Kiwanis President Matt Rawlings, Dawn Boyle, SHP and Lakewood Kiwanian DeDe Gold

by Anna Bacho

On Sept 5th in the parking lot of St Clement's church, Lakewood Kiwanis, the Near West Theatre, Ms Young, the Policard family, Christine and Ian Brown (Cleveland Elite VB) and Lakewood residents donated new pillows, sheets, blankets and comforters to SHP (#Sleep in Heavenly Peace). This organization's motto is "No child sleeps on the floor in our town." The linens collected Sept. 5th will be donated to the nationwide Bunks Across America Bed Build on September 9th. SHP is hoping to build 90-100 beds in the Lowe's parking lot in Rocky River. Kiwanis collection will supply bedding for over 25 of the beds being built.

Lakewood Kiwanis' tag is #KidsNeedKiwanis and this collection was just another opportunity for the Lakewood organization to partner with kids.

Thank you to our community. Please join us for our next service project.

www.LakewoodKiwanis

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1	$18,954	1,580	790	729	365	$26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519
2	$25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493	$36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702
3	$32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622	$45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885
4	$39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750	$55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068
5	$45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879	$65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251
6	$52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007	$74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434
7	$59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136	$84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616
8	$65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264	$93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Competitive Bidding Is Good For Cities

Don't Tamper With It!

by Edward Graham

Lakewood's Mayor and Council President want City Council to increase the amount that the administrative branch of our City's government can spend without Council approval. At present, for the City to legally spend more than $7,500 on public improvement contracts there must be approval by Council. The Mayor and Council President asked Council, in a letter put on Council's docket, to increase the amount when purchasing is allowed without public bidding from $7,500 to $75,000. That's a 1,000% increase, and the way the legislation is worded, also requires a 3% increase each year !

Current spending law now limits non-bid contracts for professional services such as consultant fees and attorney fees to $5,000. The proposed legislation would allow contracts with consultants and lawyers for as much as $75,000 without council approval, or even knowledge!

The Mayor and Council President's letter to Council says that they "respectfully ask for your approval to update our nearly 40-year-old municipal ordinances and its low threshold limits to mirror the language of Ohio Revised Code § 9.17, which currently permits a threshold limit of $75,000." In truth, they are not asking Council "to update our nearly 40-year-old municipal ordinances." The "40-year-old ordinances" have already been updated; some as recently as June 18, 2018 when the now Mayor and Council President were Members of Council. That's only 5 years ago!

Lakewood is a charter city. It has the right and duty to make laws that are right for Lakewood. As recently as five years ago, Council found $7,500 to still be a proper limit for discretionary spending of City resources without prior Council approval, just as it did 40 years ago.

It's not so long since a former Lakewood finance director went to prison for skirting public bidding laws. Public bidding laws are necessary for protecting the city's resources. They should not be tampered with. There is no good reason now to increase the limit on unbid-spending 1,000%, or at all for that matter! The proposed legislation is not needed and should not be adopted!

Edward Graham is a former member of Lakewood City Council.

Let The Rabbits Have It

by Clare Feorene

Nothing can get two Lakewood natives into heated debate faster than mentioning the old hospital. I'm not here to discuss that. I am here to discuss the city block that's been kept behind fencing and off limits for longer than my memory goes. You know, that massive pit in the center of our Downtown. Where the hospital used to be.

My proposal is radical. I know I'm screaming into the wind, or perhaps a tornado these days. But doing something always feels better than doing nothing.

I want to let the rabbits have the lot.

I spend a lot of time near this pit because, well I live in Lakewood. It's a walkable city. That's like, the whole point. And I have noticed the amount of LIFE coming from this pit. Rabbits seem to find the area particularly appealing. I've seen them in numbers I haven't seen before in my 23 years living in this city.

"Pit" is such an ugly word, and the grass is growing in beautifully, so perhaps I'll call it a field. Or an opportunity?

In the age of endings, of unyielding crisis and unfathomable climate catastrophe, I propose we do the unthinkable. Radical threats require radical responses. Let's say no to the concrete, no to the steel and the welding, no to the profitized assault on our earth, no to empty promises that fall short of themselves. Don't sell this field to the highest bidder.

I dare you Lakewood.

Let the rabbits have it.

Story Update

Order Restored On The Old Toll Road

Raggedy Ann back at Hixson's after some much needed selective surgery. Smiling out on Downtown Lakewood from her perch at 14125 Detroit Ave.

by Jim O'Bryan

For many of us, a walk, bike ride, even cruising Lakewood is a weekly if not daily ritual. It is both fun and rewarding to keep up on changes, along our favorite paths of health and relaxation. On Detroit Avenue, aka "The Old Toll Road" changes out number things staying the same. The business lanes of Lakewood are always ripe with change. Businesses and restaurants coming and going, many going before you even had a chance to try them!

So for me a Lakewood old timer, it brought a sense of ordered restored, when Raggedy Ann returned from her seventh face lift. Back in the middle of the front window at Hixson's where she had been for more than 5 decades brought a sense of norm back to my ritual of living in Lakewood. In the middle of a city that is changing even faster than healthcare :wink: , Raggedy Ann and Hixson's provides a nice pivot point back to the memories locked within our brains.

Even if you have never been inside, which would be a crime, it provides a sense of calm, in a world anything but calm. It provides a portal not just to your past, but the past of all. If you walk through the doors, you will instantly remember why places like Hixson's need to exist.

Thanks again to everyone at Hixson's for doing what you do, and continuing not just the memory of Bill, but the memories of all of us.

.

LIFE OBSERVED

Diving Back Into Life

by C.J. Sheppard

Fay Porter dives into each day with a vigor that belies her 94 years and a major heart valve repair. Like many seniors, she thought it was the normal course of aging to become unexpectedly out of breath at times. Despite macular degeneration that affected her eyesight, she maintained adaily swimming regimen and an active social life.

Then the Lakewood woman learned through a chance conversation with a healthcare professional that Alan Markowitz, MD, a renowned cardiac surgeon specializing in minimally invasive valve repairs, was not averse to operating on active older patients under the right circumstances.

Dr. Markowitz found Fay was the perfect candidate for a repair of her tricuspid valve and of a defect in her atrial septum, which he noted was a relatively unusual case given those were her only cardiac issues at 89. "Because she was so active and robust, despite her macular degeneration, we proceeded with surgical repair, which normally carries a very high mortality rate because usually tricuspid valve regurgitation is a marker for many other problems in the heart," said Dr. Markowitz, Cardiac Surgical Director of UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute at UH Ahuja Medical Center and the Marcella "Dolly" Haugh Chair in Valvular Surgery. "She tolerated her surgery quite well, and continues to have that joie de vivre that has seen her through her fifth anniversary."

Fay Porter poolside.

Grateful for the gift of reinvigorated life, Fay reached out to Dr. Markowitz on her surgical anniversary to thank him for his skillful surgical care. She said Dr. Markowitz's work to fix a faulty valve and a hole in her heart were "a very delightful experience." Doris Seymour, a senior provider administrative assistant in Dr. Markowitz's office, scheduled Fay's testing and procedure. She always found her upbeat and positive, and grateful for the clinical excellence as well as the compassionate care of the team. Doris was touched that the patient would even call occasionally just to see how she and the doctor were doing. "She expressed her thanks and sincere gratitude to Dr. Markowitz for giving her this additional time in life via surgery, and for my listening ear," said Doris. "I would remind her that Dr.Markowitz's job was made so much easier because she was such a willing spirit."

At 94, she seems to be as spry as ever. Of course, she probably could run circles around us all! "Thank God for patients like Ms. Porter who we strive to serve and give a better quality of life through our care." Ten laps of backstroke in her pool are, once again, simply a breeze for Fay.

"I am kind of spry for my age," Fay admits with a chuckle. "I've got a new swimsuit, and I'm looking forward to using it. The heart's still perking away real good."

Red Foxes In Lakewood

from City Hall

The Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board would like to remind residents that red foxes may visit your backyard and are no cause for alarm. They are excellent vermin hunters and can keep rats, mice, voles, and large bugs from damaging your property. Foxes are generally not a threat to people or most pets. If you see a fox in your neighborhood or on your property, often the best thing to do is leave them alone. For more information on what to do about foxes, please visit https://ow.ly/UgUq50PCnRH

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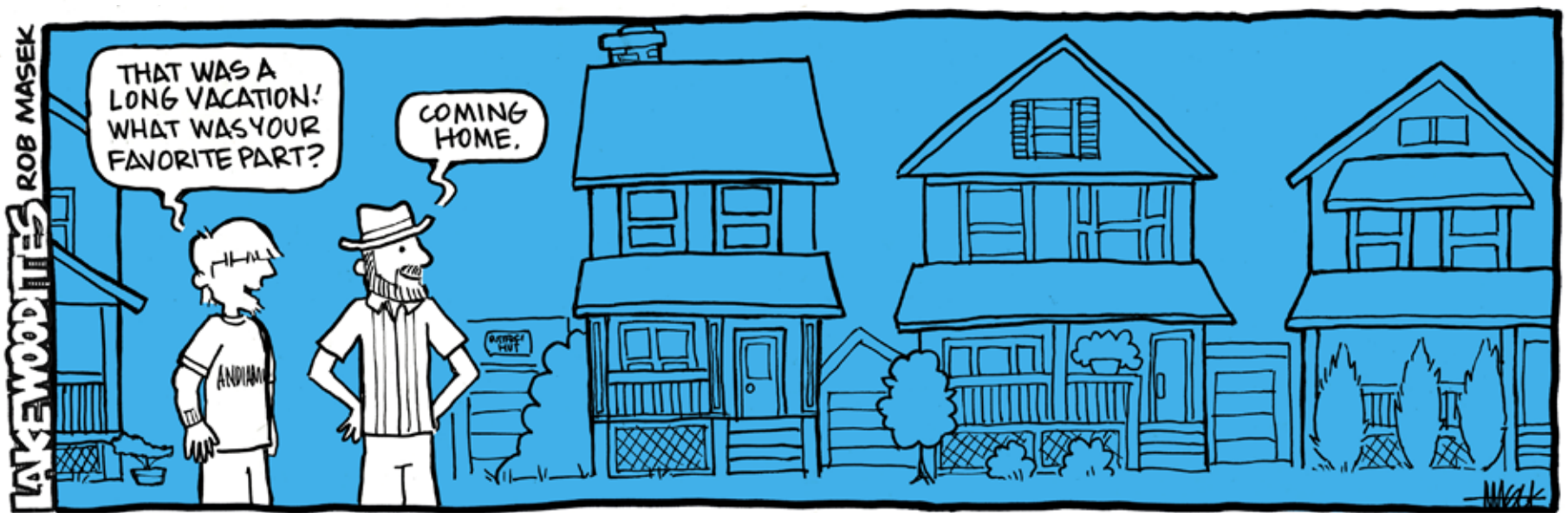

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