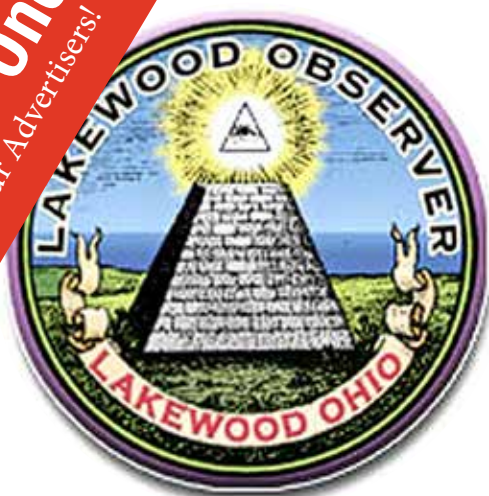


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 19, Issue 21, November 8, 2023

“The weather just went from 80 to 55 like it saw a state trooper.” - Pumpkin Spice

Election 2023 Results

COUNCIL

Ward 1

Kyle Baker - 3,658

Ward 2

Jason Schachner - 3,497

Anthony Mencini - 1,240

Ward 3

Cindy Strebig - 3,280

Ward 4

Cindy Marx - 2,765

SCHOOL BOARD (Top 3)

Colleen Clark-Sutton - 9,586

Michael J. Callahan - 9,481

Lisa M. Dopman - 8,164

Linda Beebe - 3,740

Trish Hendy - 3,376

Martha Woerner - 2,542

Ahmie Yeung - 1,492

Rachael Mathes - 1,440

William D. Cline - 1,401

Ravindra Kulasekere - 1,281

MAYOR

Meghan George - 15,854

William Yeung - 2,672

ISSUE 1 -

YES - 2,186,962

NO - 1,675,728

ISSUE 2

YES - 2,183,734

NO - 1,649,339



This year's winner of the Lakewood Observer Halloween Decorating Contest was 1654/56 Lincoln. This home is always done up for the holidays, and is a favorite of many.

LCAC Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Back In Mid-November

by Sara Crawford

For over 30 years, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. has provided

holiday food baskets for hundreds of Lakewood families and senior citizens. As the weather changes and the holi-

day season approaches, LCAC is getting ready for its Thanksgiving Food Drive to serve Lakewood residents in need. This neighborhood tradition is only possible with the support of the entire community.

The LCAC Thanksgiving Food Drive will take place at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, at 15300 Detroit Ave., over two days.

On Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., non-perishable food donations will be sorted. Later that evening, LCAC members and volunteers will gather from 6-7:30 p.m. to bag non-perishable food.

On Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon, LCAC members and volunteers will bag perishable food and then hand-deliver both non-perishable and perishable bags filled with Thanksgiving fixings to the community.

The event will be held regardless of the weather, so dress accordingly to stay warm and dry.

Volunteers are welcome to join as little or as much as they'd like... better yet, bring friends, family and neighbors!

In addition, make sure to mark the calendar for Dec. 15 and Dec. 16, when LCAC does it all over again at its Christmas Food Drive.

For more information or to make a monetary donation, visit www.LCAC.info. Make sure to follow Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation on Facebook and on Instagram at @lcacfooddrives for updates on the Thanksgiving Food Drive and to keep up-to-date with the organization.



Volunteers participate in Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation's Thanksgiving Food Drive in 2022.

West Shore Career-Tech Awarded 5.7M State Grant

by Christine Gordillo

The West Shore Career-Technical District and Lakewood City Schools are thrilled to announce that West Shore Career-Tech has received a \$5.78 million career-tech expansion grant from the State of Ohio as part of the State's efforts to improve technical education and training across Ohio. The grant will allow West Shore to build facilities to house programs in welding and micro electronic mechanical systems (MEMS), which is the technology behind computer chips, among other applications. These two programs will be housed at Lakewood High School and will be able to serve an additional 96 West Shore Career-Tech students from Lakewood, Bay Village, Rocky River and Westlake.



Dr. Yakoob Badat with Gov. DeWine at the announcement in Kettering on Nov. 3.

West Shore Career-Tech is a consortium comprised of those four school districts.

"We are delighted to hear that we have received the grant funds for two new exciting programs. Advancing educational and career opportunities for our students is our mission," said Lakewood Superintendent **continued on page 8**



During the day the home was equally spectacular. One of many things homes were judged on was best use of space. This allows homes with large or small lots a chance to compete equally. You can see the rest of the top ten homes on page 9. You can see all online.



According to sources trick or treating was down across the city, but so many Lakewood families did take part. Here Ben and Wilson grab the candy while Caitlin and Lillie look on.



Mayor Meghan George stopped by to thank and award Tina and Angelo Skantzios at "The Shore Restaurant" 12009 Detroit Avenue, for their four decades of business and dedication to Lakewood.

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Grand Re-Opening Of Winterhurst

On November 18th, the City of Lakewood and our operating partner, Lakewood Community Ice (LCI), will be hosting a grand re-opening of the Winterhurst Ice Rink. This event marks the culmination of our initial efforts to reposition this important city facility to maximize its benefit to our Lakewood community. The City’s overarching goal continues to be to make Winterhurst an affordable, inviting, community-focused ice rink that first and foremost serves the needs and priorities of the people of Lakewood. We believe recent updates have moved us toward achieving that goal.

Some of the recent changes in operations and investment to Winterhurst have included both operational changes and capital investments. On the operations side, we are excited that public skating and educational opportunities are now back and seen as a primary function of the facility. This includes

by Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood

programming for Open/Public Skate, Parent-Tot Hockey, Adult Drop-In Hockey, and Adult Skate. We also have excellent new concessions (Zamboni’s of Lakewood) and pro shop (Perani’s

to several areas of the facility. And I’m proud to report that the traditional signage, name, and logo for the “Winterhurst Ice Arena” are back in use and prominently displayed inside and out.

“I hope to see many of you there as we celebrate a bright future for this beloved community asset.”

Mayor Meghan George


Moving forward, the City and LCI will continue with additional elements of the long-term capital plan to ensure the long-term health and maximum community benefit of the facility. In the near term, we expect to see new furniture for all facility spaces, new brighter and more efficient LED lighting, and additional restroom upgrades. Longer term, our plan includes items such

as replacing the ice plant and a much-needed locker room renovation over the next 12 to 24 months.

I want to thank LCI for the new energy they have brought to managing Winterhurst and also thank our community advisory committee who helped us build the vision for the facility moving forward. It’s clear that their efforts are having a major impact for Winterhurst and for its users.

For our grand re-opening on the 18th, we have an exciting lineup of events that includes a ribbon cutting with our key community stakeholders at 6:30pm and a ceremonial puck-dropping at 7:00pm, two high school hockey games (first with the St. Edward Eagles at 4:30pm followed by the Lakewood Rangers at 7pm), and a public open skate at 7pm. I hope to see many of you there as we celebrate a bright future for this beloved community asset.

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PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

Lakewood Observer

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
November 17, 2023 December 1, 2023	November 22, 2023 December 6, 2023

PUBLISHER	EDITOR IN CHIEF	ASSOCIATE EDITORS	ADVERTISING
Debra O’Bryan	Margaret Brinich	Betsy Voinovich Emily Kompier	Sales Manager 216.339.2531

ADVISORY BOARD - Heidi Hilty, Jeff Endress, Jim Crawford, Debra O’Bryan, Steve Ott, Margaret Brinich, Betsy Voinovich

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HEALTHCARE

University Hospitals Announces New Urgent Care Facility Location

by Ansley A. Kelm

UH Urgent Care Lakewood West opened October 23, and is located at 14800 Madison Avenue, in Lakewood on a busy road across from Walgreens in a popular neighborhood. Beginning November 1, all UH Urgent Care facilities, including this new location, will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, with special hours on some holidays. This new convenient location in Lakewood will increase patient access to care.

“Our UH Urgent Care delivery model aims to provide the most convenient and valuable care for our patients,” explained UH Chief Operating Officer Paul Hinchey, MD, MBA. “Having easy access to urgent care locations provide a more affordable option than emergency departments for patients who don’t have a primary care physician but need immediate, non-life-threatening medical attention. By offering more urgent care locations, we can relieve the burden on emergency departments and reduce wait times so our emergency medicine teams can focus on critical cases.”

The new facility will be equipped with advanced medical technology and staffed by experienced healthcare professionals dedicated to providing compassionate, efficient, and personalized care to patients of all ages.

UH Urgent Care President Lee Resnick, MD, looks forward to the expansion. “Our primary goal is to reimagine urgent care for Northeast Ohio by removing obstacles and easing access to care while delivering exceptional patient experiences,” Dr. Resnick said. “The expansion of UH Urgent Care in Northeast Ohio is a significant step towards fulfilling this commitment. By increasing access to urgent care services, we aim to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families throughout the region, providing them with the prompt and effective care they deserve in retail locations where they live, shop and work.

UH Urgent Care is being operated as part of a joint venture with WellStreet Urgent Care. To support our expansion, UH Urgent Care will be bringing hundreds more healthcare jobs to the Northeast Ohio market. We are currently seeking experienced physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other medical professionals looking for consistent, meaningful work, to join the team. For more information about career opportunities with University Hospitals Urgent Care, visit <https://www.wellstreet.com/careers-university-hospitals/>.

University Hospitals is dedicated to improving healthcare accessibility and meeting the evolving needs of the Northeast Ohio community. The expansion of UH Urgent Care locations will contribute to this mission, ensuring residents have easy access to high-quality care when and where they need it.

About University Hospitals / Cleveland, Ohio
Founded in 1866, University Hos-



University Hospitals’ Urgent Care Facility at 14800 Madison Ave. is now open.

pitals serves the needs of patients through an integrated network of 21 hospitals (including five joint ventures), more than 50 health centers and outpatient facilities, and over 200 physician offices in 16 counties throughout northern Ohio. The system’s flagship quaternary care, academic medical

center, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, is affiliated with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Oxford University, the Technion Israel Institute of Technology and . National Taiwan University College of Medicine. The main campus

also includes the UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, ranked among the top children’s hospitals in the nation; UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital, Ohio’s only hospital for women; and UH Seidman Cancer Center, part of the NCI-designated Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. UH is home to some of the most prestigious clinical and research programs in the nation, with more than 3,000 active clinical trials and research studies underway. UH Cleveland Medical Center is perennially among the highest performers in national ranking surveys, including “America’s Best Hospitals” from U.S. News & World Report. UH is also home to 19 Clinical Care Delivery and Research Institutes. UH is one of the largest employers in Northeast Ohio with more than 30,000 employees.

Follow UH on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. For more information, visit [UHHospitals.org](https://www.uhhospitals.org).



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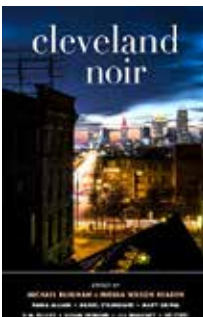
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- Stomach bugs
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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

November Events

by Lisa Calfee
Meet the Author- Cleveland Noir
Presented by Miesha Wilson Headen
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium

Cleveland Noir navigates the dregs of the North Shore, where Eliot Ness hunted for a serial killer and the murder of Marilyn Sheppard made national headlines. Award winning journalist Miesha Wilson Headen along with select contributors present Cleveland Noir, an anthology from renowned local authors edited by Headen with Michael Ruhlman.



Terry Meehan Film Series-
Frenzy (1972), Directed by Alfred Hitchcock
Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (116 minutes)
Main Library Auditorium

Presentation-Route 6, Presented by Gary Hunter
Wednesday, November 15, at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
Come learn about U.S. Route 6 from Gary Hunter, the Executive Director of historic Route 6 for the State of Ohio.

Barbara Steffek-Hill Five-Star Films-
Road House (1948)
Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (95 minutes)
Main Library Auditorium

In Loving Memory Of Julie Strunk: A Champion Of Early Childhood Literacy

by Eve Klodnick
The world lost a remarkable woman with the passing of Julie Strunk, whose dedication to children and passion for literacy left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Julie, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and advocate for early literacy, spent close to twenty-three years of her life at Lakewood Public Library, working to create a brighter future for generations of children.

Julie began her library career at the Madison Branch. It was here that she found her calling to be a children's librarian. Earning her MLIS degree while working full-time, she eventually became the Manager of Children's and Youth Services at Lakewood Public Library. Julie had a deep love for books and a desire to share that love with others. Her friendliness and willingness to help made every visit to the Library a warm and welcoming experience. She worked closely with the Lakewood school system, forging strong partnerships with local educators and students. She organized class visits to the Library, providing an invaluable opportunity for young learners to explore the world of books. She initiated outreach programs, bringing the library experience directly to schools, and helped in securing for teachers and students the resources they needed each school year.

Julie was also a champion of children with disabilities and served on the board of Connecting for Kids, an initiative that provides education and support for families who have concerns about their child's development. Recognizing the community's need and what a valuable resource this organization could be for both parent and child, Julie collaborated with the Healthy Lakewood Foundation to bring Connecting for Kids and adapted programming to Lakewood Public Library.



Julie was a source of encouragement to her colleagues, inspiring and motivating them in their library careers. Her work ethic was hard to match, with one co-worker describing her as "the hardest-working person" she'd ever met. She was a decisive leader who was generous with her time and grateful for her staff. Her impact went beyond the professional sphere; Julie's innate kindness and generosity made her a compassionate listener and a good friend.

Julie was the epitome of class and professionalism. Her wardrobe reflected not just impeccable taste, but a timeless style that she carefully selected each day, drawing inspiration from the colors worn on the Fox 8 morning newscast.

Julie will be greatly missed by both the staff and patrons of Lakewood Public Library. Her life was a testament to the profound impact one person can have on their community. Her passion for libraries and early literacy will serve as an inspiration to us all, reminding us that a love for books can bridge gaps, spark imagination, and change lives.

Donations in memory of Julie Strunk can be made to Connecting for Kids.

An Encore Presentation of Bomb City USA:
The Danny Greene Era
Presented by Dennis Sutcliffe
Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Multipurpose Room
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."

Children's And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert
Girls Who Code Club
For Students in Sixth through Twelfth Grade
Are you interested in learning more about computer science? Join our Girls Who Code Club this fall, 2023. Sign up once for all sessions.
Monday, November 13, 2023: Environmental Public Service Announcements (Scratch) in the Main Library Computer Connections Room
Family Weekend Wonders
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 am
Madison Branch- Fridays at 10:30 am

Music Therapy & More by Connecting for Kids For You and Your Birth to 6-Year-Old Child
This program is designed for children (ages 0-6 years) who have concerns about development. Join us for a hands-on program designed to teach families how to use music to improve their child's academic, motor, communication and social skills as well as behavior. This program is led by a Board-Certified Music Therapist.
Music Therapy & More welcomes children of all abilities. The music therapists can adapt programming for children with limited language skills, motor skills/mobility, or for children who are unable to sit for the entire program.
This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register online at <https://www.connectingforkids.org/music>
Saturday November 18, 2023 from 9:30-10:30 am in the Main Library Toddler Story Time Room
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@connectingforkids.org or call (440) 570-5908.
Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Time Room
To sign up for any program, register online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Student Athlete Leadership Team Has Big Plans

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools' Vision of a Lakewood Ranger does not just apply to the classroom and the work being done by the Student Leadership Athletic Team (S.A.L.T.) is proof positive! Through a series of projects that these student-athletes are spearheading, they are simultaneously displaying our Vision competencies of collaboration, communication, empathy, growth mindset and global citizenship at the highest levels. The aim of the projects is to connect our athletic program across grade levels and to the greater community as well.

At a recent Board of Education meeting, the S.A.L.T. members spoke about the projects each of them is leading. A sampling of projects that S.A.L.T. hopes to accomplish include:

- Hosting military, youth and senior citizen nights for each sport.
- Organizing a community-wide Homecoming 5k with an L-shaped

route through the city.

- Reaching out to elementary students with visits to schools to share the Rec Department opportunities available to them.

- Continuing Ranger Readers program where student-athletes read stories to younger elementary students and share their experiences in youth sports.

S.A.L.T. is comprised of 56 mostly seniors and sophomores, the makeup of which is designed to have the senior leaders mentor the sophomores and help guide them into future leadership roles. Each senior is responsible for heading up an initiative.

Athletic Director Rob Slone, now in his second year with the District, believes S.A.L.T. is key to his mission of creating a culture in Ranger Athletics that embraces the connection between our sports participants across all grade levels. It reinforces the concept that we are all Rangers!



LHS Seniors' Artwork Chosen For College Exhibit

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Lakewood High seniors Turner Gilliland and Ryann Stirling on having their artwork selected for Otterbein University's 5th Annual Juried Art Exhibit! Turner and

Ryann's pieces were two of 65 chosen from more than 250 submissions. The exhibit will take place in December. Turner and Ryann are also eligible now for a \$3,000 scholarship if they choose to attend Otterbein.

District Offering Social Emotional Learning Info Sessions

by Christine Gordillo

During the past several years, social emotional learning in schools has been a hot topic, hasn't it? Here in Lakewood City Schools, we've identified SEL, Diversity, Equity and Belonging as the lenses through which we approach our Vision of a Lakewood Ranger. We believe that parents and caregivers are students' first/most important influences for social emotional development, and we look forward to sharing ideas and insights! Lakewood City Schools administrators are hosting a parent/caregiver session to share foundational information about SEL and then open

the session for an informal dialogue. There will be light refreshments and free child care by Help to Others (H2O) at the in-person session.

In order to reach parents and caregivers with different schedules, the session will be offered twice:

- Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6 - 7:30 pm**
Taft Center for Innovation - 13701 Lake Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107 (enter at Door 8 near the University of Akron)
- Tuesday, November 28, 6-7:30 pm**
Virtual: <https://ohconnect.zoom.us/j/3310455837>

Please RSVP to Merritt Waters at merritt.waters@lakewoodcityschools.org

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FOODWOOD®

Lakewood's Own "Food Network" Served A La Cart

by **Adelaide Crnko**

Attention fans of TV cooking shows! Did you know that Lakewood has its own "food network" of sorts? Well, yes!

A year ago, the Lakewood Community Services Center, headed by Executive Director Trish Rooney, determined that free, live cooking demonstrations would be advantageous to low income seniors receiving emergency food distributions through LCSC. The Cove Community Center (formerly Cove United Methodist Church) was about to open, and it welcomed the idea of hosting the presentations as a way to increase attendance for their new facility. Lakewood's Three Arches Foundation provided funding for the program through grants.

The series title, "A La Cart," is in recognition of the inanimate star of the show, the "Charlie Cart," which makes it logistically possible. The Charlie Cart can best be described as a "kitchen on wheels" and is used to teach basic cooking techniques. And, stationed behind the Charlie Cart each month at Cove is a chef from one of Lakewood's eclectic eateries!

Although devised to assist older adults in the preparation of wholesome meals, A La Cart, as stated in the inaugural demo by Melt Bar and Grilled's Matt Fish, is "geared toward seniors but really geared toward everybody." Now, chef-inspired menu items can become part of your personal repertoire! Observing the process step by step, accompanied by simple directions and tips, makes it easier to try at home.

Once visitors are seated within the Cove Center, the featured guest prepares a dish from their establishment right before your eyes. The action is simultaneously filmed, and a screen above the demo offers a bird's eye view of what's happening directly below (via Akron Drone Services). Questions from the audience are welcomed, and recipe cards are handed out (also to keep) so you can follow along. Soon you will experience enticing aromas and observe as mouth watering dishes come into being. At the conclusion, samples are offered.

What if you are not available once a month on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm? No problem. This is where Lakewood's "food network" comes into play. The episodes are taped and broadcast on Cox Community Channel 45. Not a subscriber? Go online to GenerationStationTV.com and search for A La Cart. The venue is locally based and produced by SLA Video Productions, airing not only the A La Cart series, but a whole host of viewing options. You can select from a variety of individual features or talk show style interviews showcasing mostly Northeast Ohio based citizens and organizations. If you choose the latter option, you can watch A La Cart on demand from whatever personal device suits you, as often as you like.

Aside from the food preparation aspect of the A La Cart series, chefs sometimes share backstories about their careers or businesses. It is a way to learn about our local professionals, such as Ross Keller from Italian Creations (primarily catering). He does parties representing "every aspect of life" and has had pro sports figures as clients. Ben Bebenroth (Spice Hospitality Group, including Boom's Pizza) grows produce on a farm that has engaged several student volunteers. For them, planting rows of garlic became a math lesson, and they're also learning the importance of healthy eating. Ben revealed, "this really is my life's calling. I am determined to change how people interact with the Earth."

Here's some of what this cornucopia of culinary talent has brought to the table so far:

Gregg Korney of Georgetown prepared "Chicken Veggie Rice Bowl." He declared, "cooking is fun so just make

this as fun as you want!" "Sesame oil rocks!" was the reaction from one audience member.

Emily Kichler from The Root Cafe concocted a "Vegan Taco Salad," which used nuts in place of meat and cheddar. She acknowledged that this recipe reflected the work of Root's former staffer Nicole Rheinberger who studied raw foods.

International flavors are included too. Beyond making "Chicken Tikka Masala," Sanjeev (Sonny) Sharma of India Garden fielded inquiries about where to locate ingredients found in Indian cuisine. Another culture was represented by Kiwi Wongpeng of Thai Thai. Kiwi shared her own dumpling recipe which she also makes at home with her kids.

Ruth Kostadinov prepared risotto emphasizing the virtues of using leftovers. She owns Gingham Market which sells a variety of artisanal and gourmet foods. Takeout items are also prepared on site at adjacent Gatherings Kitchen where themed cooking classes are taught.

With autumn now upon us, Pumpkin Gnocchi, which may sound complicated, was made to look relatively simple by Rachelle Murphy formerly of Rood Food & Pie. She described that blending and working all the ingredients for the gnocchi, and rolling it out, was like "going back to Play-Doh days." If you love bacon, see what is done with it on the sidelines!

Clearly there's something for everyone. What's noteworthy is that those participating in these demos donate their time, expertise and food. Matt Fish of Melt was influential in the evolution of the partnerships between these restaurateurs (and LCSC) during past Lakewood End Hunger events.

The audience couldn't help but chuckle when Matt was "busted" while sharing how to make his "Roasted Garlic Tomato Soup." In response to an astute observer, he confessed, "You caught me! I should have taken that

bay leaf out before I pureed it."

How many suburbs can boast having their own "food network" which not only refers to the informative, viewable segments but also represents the intersection and collaboration of multiple individuals and entities. By combining their vision and desire to serve others, they created the A La Cart Nutritional Chefs Series. These menu items are now accessible to everyone, and the demos show us that healthy eating doesn't have to be boring or that hard to do.

Ruth Kostadinov later shared that the live experience was a "great forum for reaching the community." Hopefully this unique exposure will result in continued support for these individuals. Plus, if those beyond the 44107 zip code watch A La Cart via available media options, it may motivate them to visit Lakewood to appreciate its considerable food scene first hand.

Reservations are not required for the next A La Cart presentation scheduled for November 14 at 2pm. Once again, it will feature Matt Fish from Melt. He will be preparing homemade peanut butter and peanut sesame dressing. To mark the one year anniversary of the series, a complimentary collection of the recipes from featured chefs will be available to attendees.

Why not be part of the fun? As Emily Kichler teased in her promo, if you don't come in person, "you'll miss the taste test!" So, join in or tune in. Bon Appetit!

If you are a chef that would like to be considered for a future A La Cart segment, email Trish Rooney at trish@lcsclakewood.org. To learn about future demos, go online to the Lakewood Division of Aging Newsletter, Facebook posts on LCSC's site or ads in "The Lakewood Observer."

Cove Community Center is at 12525 Lake Avenue (at Cove). Parking lot is in the back along Clifton.

Adelaide Crnko is a Lakewood resident who loves all kinds of food!



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner Charlotte Beno's Winning Essay

by Charlotte Beno

This past summer (2022), the Supreme Court overturned the landmark case Roe v. Wade. The Dobbs decision, as it revoked a precedent set almost fifty years prior, stripped away women's bodily autonomy across the country. Despite the fact that a majority of the country did not support the overturning of Roe, the court went ahead with the decision, even after resistance. At the time of the decision, three of the nine justices were women.

Lakewood High School proudly teaches AP African American Studies. That same class has been banned in the state of Florida. Governor DeSantis argues that the class lacks educational value and pushes a political agenda. This continues the erasure of Black history from the public school curriculum. Seventeen percent of Florida's population is Black.

On February 13, a mass shooting occurred at Michigan State University. Three students lost their lives and others were injured. One of the students on campus that day was a survivor of the Sandy Hook Shooting, eleven years prior. In the United States, there are young adults who have lived through multiple mass shootings. Meanwhile, politicians are wearing assault rifle pins on the floor of Congress.

Issues like these are why equal representation matters. Politics in America has become increasingly divided in



Charlotte Beno plans to attend Ohio State University this fall and begin an Exploration Program.

recent years, and this has come at the expense of the people. The wants of the people are not being represented in government. We can see evidence of this when we look at our current legislature and court. Despite this being the most diverse Congress in history, it is still not an accurate picture of the nation. Women only make up 28% of Congress, and racial minorities only make up about a quarter. Our government does not mirror the makeup of the population. And because of this, we are seeing legislation (and lack there of) that does not reflect the beliefs of the people. This has become glaringly apparent with the election of Donald Trump and what fol-

lowed. Young people have demonstrated their desire for change. Our government has to look different than it has for our entire history.

A government full of one type of person only functions and works for that type of person. The men who are making decisions about women's bodies are not representative of women's choices. The white men making choices about if Black history is "educational" are not representative of the Black population. The Congress with an average

age of roughly sixty that refuses to pass protective gun regulations is not representative of the families in America. For centuries, minorities have had to fight to have their voices heard in government. It took until 1870 for a Black man to be elected into the federal government, and until 1917 (before women could even vote) for a woman to achieve that. If America promises to be a country that is governed by the people, we must actually be governed by our people. That means having a government that reflects the population and its beliefs.

Charlotte Beno is attending Ohio State University.

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OHIO NEWS

Ending The Death Penalty

by Nickie Antonio

This General Assembly, Senator Steve Huffman and I have once again jointly introduced legislation to end the use of the death penalty in the state of Ohio, replacing it with a sentence of life in prison without parole for capital cases. Senate Bill 101 is historic for several reasons.

Death penalty repeal bills have been introduced in Ohio many times over the last decade. While it might be tempting to think that we still haven't arrived at the right moment, we speak

to our colleagues in the Statehouse every day, and the momentum for ending the death penalty is palpable.

Though there has always been bipartisan support for abolishing the death penalty, this General Assembly's bill has brought together the strongest bipartisan and bicameral effort yet. The bill is sponsored by over one third of the Senate, including five Republicans and seven Democrats. The House also has a bipartisan companion bill, House Bill 259, which has already received multiple hearings this year.

These benchmarks are unsurprising. For many legislators, abolishing the death penalty has been described as a commonsense policy. Not only is the death penalty at odds with moral, religious and pro-life stances, but capital punishment is an enormous drain on our state's financial resources. In Ohio,

the cost of prosecuting a capital case is ten times more expensive than that of a non-capital case, even before accounting for years of appeals that may follow

You can read the rest of this article online at <http://lakewoodobserver.com>

West Shore Career-Tech Awarded 5.7M State Grant

continued from page 1

Maggie Niedzwiecki. "Each of these additions accelerates our students' abilities to gain employment in high-

demand jobs when they graduate."

Dr. Yakoob Badat, educational coordinator of West Shore, added: "The acquisition of \$5.7 million in funding will empower us to establish cutting-edge welding and MEMS labs. This significant grant is an investment that will drive innovation and create new opportunities for our students. Thank you to the state leadership for supporting career technical education and workforce development."

Administration projects that the earliest the career-tech programs may open is fall 2026. The welding facility is slated to be housed behind the high school north of the D building, where auto-tech currently is taught. The MEMS program will be located on the first floor of the high school, replacing some current classrooms. Both programs' footprint will include lab and classroom space.

The grants received are part of a \$200 million career-tech expansion grant program that was included in the most recent biennium budget.





2023 HALLOWEEN WINNERS

by Jim O'Bryan

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to decorate their homes for the Halloween season. I would also like to thank the observers who took the time to notice and send in nominations for their favorite houses, or to just call out a friend and neighbor and say thank you.

This year we have some amazing displays: some huge, some funny, some small, but all done well enough to be called out. I always want to stress that if you do not see your home, or a home you liked, it probably wasn't nominated. As with all of our contests, take the time to nominate, even your own house. The sooner the better.

This year the judges made it to all nominated houses in person. Most homes were listed during the day and at night. The homes were judged on a variety of categories, 1.0 - 10.0. All scores were then added together and the final totals represent the final scoring.

I always like seeing the scoring as well as the homes. I find it fascinating what people like, and what people are moved by. This year it would seem that people liked concepts, balance, and a full yard, though some simple displays scored well with humor. Some of my favorites didn't score as high this year as in the past. At the end of the day, it is all personal taste, and getting nominated.

I would like to thank Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, Root Cafe, and Carabel Salon for stepping up with the prizes.



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Inspiring Home Chefs One Recipe at a Time À La Cart Celebrates Its First Anniversary!



We launched À La Cart on November 22nd, 2022, with Matt Fish as our first celebrity chef. It's very fitting that he will host our **first anniversary celebration cooking demonstration on November 14th**.

Cove Community Center has been a perfect venue for these interactive events presented by some of Lakewood's most talented and generous chefs. We are grateful to the City of Lakewood Human Services Department for collaborating with us by opening their doors to this vibrant space.

Everyone who comes to the November 14th event will receive a free À La Cart cookbook featuring a recipe from each of our participating chefs:

- Matt Fish**, Chef & Owner, Melt Bar and Grilled
- Ben Bebenroth**, Chef & Owner, Boom's/Spice Hospitality Group
- Gregg Korney**, Executive Chef, Georgetown
- Ruth Kostadinov**, Chef & Owner, Gingham Market/Gatherings Kitchen
- Rachelle Murphy**, Culinary Director Seasoned Brands (former Executive Chef Rood)
- Kiwi Wongpeng**, Chef & Owner, Thai Thai
- Ross Keller**, Chef & Owner, Italian Creations
- Sanjeev Sharma**, Chef & Owner, India Garden
- Emily Kichler**, Chef, The Root Café

We are especially grateful to the Three Arches Foundation for partnering with us in supporting the development of this new program!

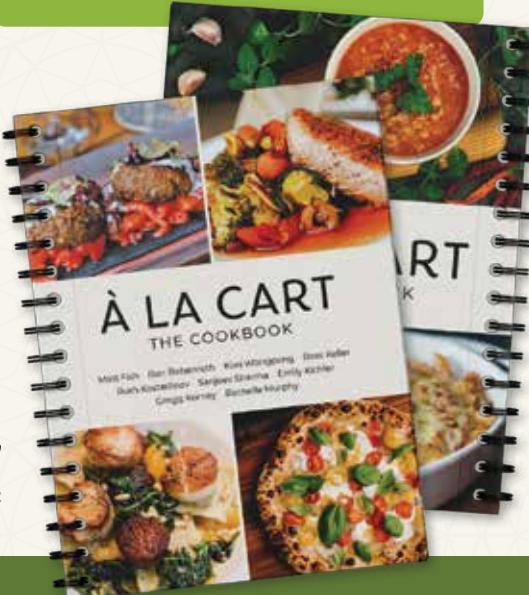


You are invited!

WHEN
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NOVEMBER

ARIES: Looks like the Ram’s financial stars are continuing, the Sun is shining on other people’s resources, & Jupiter has landed in your house of money/assets – be thankful for your blessings.

TAURUS: The Bull’s relationship pen is lighting up, along with your self-esteem; strut yourself out of that Bullpen & have all your significant peeps over for a slice of the pumpkin pie.

GEMINI: The Twins have double to be thankful for this Holiday season; your health is looking up, with an added ace up your sleeve in your behind-the-scenes arena, keep your eyes/ears open.

CANCER: The Crab’s house of romance is lighting up like the Sun. Your friendships have Jupiter sending generous blessings your way; carve that Turkey with joy & glee in your heart.

LEO: The Sun shines on the Lion/

Lioness Jungle this Thanksgiving... Jupiter has landed in your career house; give a Roar. You have a lot to be grateful for, so be sure to spread the wealth.

VIRGO: It’s time to help the community; find a shelter to give your time on Thanksgiving. Jupiter is in your 9th house of higher learning & foreign affairs; hit the books or hit the air flying.

LIBRA: Balance is key this Holiday season; your house of money is shining, and Jupiter has landed in your house of resources (other people’s money) – grab opportunities & be grateful.

SCORPIO: It’s the Scorpion’s season; your self-esteem is high. Come out of your cave, enjoy your time in the limelight, benefits come from your relationships, enjoy & count your blessings.

SAGITTARIUS: The Sun shines in the Centaur’s 12th, behind the scenes, while Jupiter has landed in your house of health. It could go either way; beware of expansion; easy on the turkey.

CAPRICORN: The Goat’s house of friendships is highlighted; accept that Thanksgiving invitation, & Jupiter is making an appearance in the romantic arena; smile, it’s your turn.

AQUARIUS: Career & family are highlighted this Thanksgiving; you’ll have to flip the coin: you’re innovative, your creativity will come up with an ingenious idea, it’s a win-win for everyone.

PISCES: The Fish has its eye on bigger fish to fry; hook that ticket to an ocean that’s greater than the one you’ve been swimming around in, your community school of fish will understand.

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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Holiday Cookie Walk And More At Church Of The Ascension, Dec 9

by Susan O'Donnell

Come and purchase your holiday baked goods along with crafts and fresh festive greens at Church of the Ascension on Saturday, December 9th at the Church of the Ascension Cookie Walk. Members of the congregation bake their family’s favorite cookie recipes as well as heirloom recipes that have been passed down through generations. Preparing homemade cookie trays for your holiday parties has never been easier than shopping at the Ascension Cookie Walk.

Homemade jams, jellies, pickles and pies will be available too.

Amish trail bologna and Swiss

cheese from Trail Ohio will be available for purchase. To pre-order your sausage and cheese call Church of the Ascension at 216-973-8077.

Brighten your tables and gift giving with festive cookies and delights homemade at Church of the Ascension.

We hope to see you there.

Saturday, December 9th from 9am to 2pm. at Church of the Ascension 13216 Detroit Ave. Lakewood

Susan O'Donnell is Senior Warden at Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit. She is an LHS graduate and a lifelong resident of Lakewood, Ohio.

Halloween Celebration At Cove



by Nancy Feighan

The Lakewood Department of Human Services threw an amazing Halloween celebration at Cove that surpassed all expectations. It included an impressive show of lions, witches, superheroes, and princesses, showcasing an abundance of creativity. We want to thank all the participants, both young and young at heart, for making this event an unforgettable experience.

Nancy Feighan is a Project Specialist II, Department of Human Services, City of Lakewood.



You can see more than 50 great photos of this and other events online at: <http://lakewoodobserver.com>

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YMCA First Annual Bowl-A-Thon Needs Your Support

by Cindy Strebisg

The board of your Lakewood Family YMCA is hosting the First Annual Bowl-A-Thon to raise funds for our Annual Campaign. The donations raised here, stay here in Lakewood, to help seniors, children, and others attend camps and activities regardless of their ability to pay.

The event will take place at Mahall's on Friday, November 17 from 6-8pm. Ten teams will compete in 3 competitions: bowling, fundraising and fashion. If you enjoy competition, value connection, and like to laugh, we are looking for a few more teams. Please contact Leighann at the Lakewood YMCA 216-521-8400 for direction.

Not a bowler? No fashion sense? You are welcome to attend! Buy a ticket to watch the bowling, have a snack and drink, and participate in the gift baskets drawings. <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/lakewoodbowl2023/>

Can't attend? Consider helping a bowling team with a generous donation. Darcy's Pure Strength Strikers is a strength training class for women to stay strong and stay connected. You can see the teams and make a donation of support to the YMCA by visiting <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/lakewoodbowl2023/>

Whatever you decide, I hope you'll

support this important, local institution that continually gives back to Lakewood with your gift. I truly hope to see you at the Bowl-A-Thon on Friday, November 17 for some laughs and connections. Peace.

Cindy Stebisg is Ward 3 Councilperson-elect, a community activist and concerned citizen.

WordStage Presents
A Tribute To Ohio Author, Illustrator And Humorist, James Thurber

by Tim Tavcar

WordStage concludes its 2023 Season with "A Calvacade of Thurber" – a tribute to Ohio author, illustrator and humorist, James Thurber.

The program begins with an excerpt from an interview Thurber did for The Paris Review, conducted by George Plimpton and Max Steele. In it, Thurber recounts amusing anecdotes of everything from his writing process to incidents from his own life that shaped his signature amusing and idiosyncratic literary and artistic output to often wry and acerbic observations about various writers, friends and colleagues with whom he worked and associated.

The second part of the program will consist of readings of some of his most famous and frolicsome fables, including "The Little Girl and the Wolf," "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" and "The Unicorn in the Garden." These will be accompanied by a selection of manic melodies that underscore the quirkiness of Thurber's delightfully skewed stories.

The program will be presented in the Wright Chapel of the Lakewood Presbyterian Church – 14502 Detroit Ave, in Lakewood, on Saturday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. For more information and reservations, please visit our website at www.wordstageohio.org and/or call Artistic Director Tim Tavcar at 440-857-0717.

Tim Tavcar is a Lakewood resident, who spends much of his time as the Producing/Artistic Director of WordStage Literary Concerts - in residence at the Wright Chapel in the Lakewood Presbyterian Church. WordStage's productions have been seen across Vermont and at venues throughout Northeast Ohio and Summit County. WordStage is especially honored to have created many programs that have been generously commissioned by the Lakewood Public Library.

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Extra Items	\$.75	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.75
Chicken	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$4.75
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$1.75	\$2.25	\$3.25	\$4.25

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