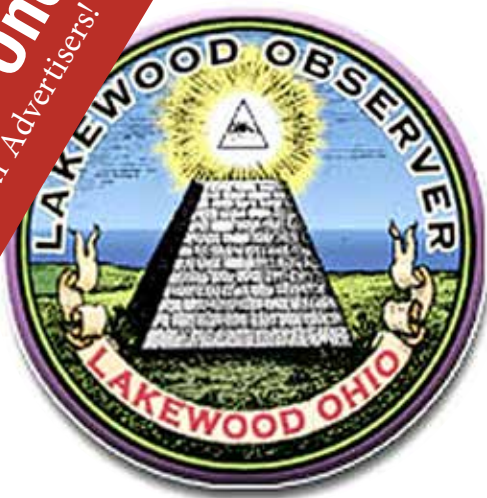


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites
Volume 19, Issue 22, November 22, 2023

December 2 Light Up Lakewood Returns

by Ava Olic

The most joyous of Lakewood traditions is returning to Downtown Lakewood for the 17th annual celebration. The spirit of the season will come to life with holiday cheer when Light Up Lakewood 2023 takes place on Saturday, December 2 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood and presented by LakewoodAlive, Light Up Lakewood celebrates the season and the richness of our city's vibrancy. This free, family-friendly event on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter fireworks, The Round-



The Light Up Lakewood parade is a staple holiday tradition in Lakewood.

stone Beer Garden, Holiday Train, live music, ice carvings, hot chocolate, food trucks, children's games and more.

City Council Adopts ADA Transition Plan



Tracy Marie and Ahmie Polak Yeung surrounded by Mayor Meghan George and City Council.

by Sarah Kepple
VP City Council

At Monday's Council meeting the City of Lakewood, Ohio - Municipal Government adopted an Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan!

Thank you to advocates and Lakewood ADATPTF co-chairs Tracy Marie and Ahmie

Polak Yeung, the other resident volunteers serving on the task force, and the Administration for their dedication to creating this plan and commitment to continuous improvement to make sure that our city facilities and properties are accessible to all in our community.

Construction Update: Hilliard Road Is Open!

Hilliard Road is back open to two-way traffic. In the spring of 2024, the contractor will return to apply permanent pavement markings, as well as bike lanes.

Attendees are invited to stroll Lakewood's downtown district and visit local shops and restaurants while taking in the sights and sounds of one of Northeast Ohio's largest holiday celebrations. Light Up Lakewood serves as a marquee event for the entire region.

Light Up Lakewood represents a long-held holiday celebration of Lakewood's sense of community. Guests will be delighted by the festive atmosphere which includes the twinkle of holiday lights, the cheerful sounds of carolers and the warmth of hot beverages.

Highlights include indoor the Holiday Market; The Roundstone Beer Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance; the ever-popular Holiday Parade sponsored by Shinn Law Firm, which commences at Belle & Detroit Avenues at 5 p.m. and ends at Arthur Avenue; the Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at City Center Park and a can't-miss fireworks show at 7 p.m. over Kauffman Park.

Schedule of Events for Light Up Lakewood 2023:

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Ongoing performances with a surprise visitor

4 p.m. – Festival Kickoff
Holiday Market at the Lakewood Masonic Temple

The Roundstone Beer Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance on Detroit Avenue between Belle and Marlowe Avenues with exclusive beer

continued on page 11



Lakewoodites love to decorate for the holidays and the Lakewood Observer and our advertisers love to give stuff away, while having fun! The Holiday Decorating Contest is ON!

Holiday Fun For All LO's Holiday Decorating Contest 2023

by Jim O'Bryan

This year we will be offering prizes for the 8 best holiday decorated homes that were nominated and voted on by Lakewood residents.

We will also offer 2 prizes for homes whose decorations best exemplify or project a message of PEACE ON EARTH..

The nomination process starts the day after Thanksgiving 11/24/2023 and runs through 12/18/2023.

A person must nominate at least 3 homes each time You can nominate once daily, any more will disqualify your other nominations.

continued on page 3

Correction

The person identified as owner of the winning Halloween House in the last issue was not the owner.

The decorators of the top 5 homes from the Halloween Contest please contact production@lakewoodobserver.com, to claim your prize!

Rangers Earn Top Conference Honors

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the Lakewood High School student athletes who have been recognized by the Great Lakes Conference for their outstanding efforts during the fall 2023 season, including soccer Player of the Year, Isaac Craciun and Goalie of the Year, Louis Van Der Kuil! Below are our hard-working and dedicated athletes for their outstanding effort:

1st Team:

Cross Country: Charlie Payne
Football: Avery Holt, Aidan Maxwell
Soccer: Bukuru Bafukamire, Isaac Craciun, Helen Fraunfelder, Louis Van Der Kuil, Quincy Zvomuya
Volleyball: Delaney Garcia
Cheerleading: Kenla Hamilton, Piper Polen

2nd Team:

Cross Country: Josie Kvac
Football: Ed Horton, Donnie Mikuluk
Golf: Aidan Smith
Soccer: Butoto Bafukamire, Riley Forster, Seth Hammersmith, Touko Penttilae
Volleyball: Sophia Zarbo
Honorable Mention:
Cross Country: Anna Daso, Porter Gilliland, Mae Mohar, Quinn Sutliff
Football: Jaylen Chappell, Lukas Quick, Alex Symons
Golf: Logan Ellis, Justin Lacquement
Soccer: Ally Bookman, Carys Crone, Luella Darr, Camden Fegely, Ruby Fraunfelder, Marcos Hueter, Amit Mahat, Sarah McGinley
Volleyball: Audrey McNulty, Layla Smith

Congratulations to all!

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Happy Thanksgiving by Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood

Fall in Lakewood is a truly wonderful experience. On Halloween, it was fantastic to see so many children laughing and running from house to house in their colorful costumes, with their parents tagging along on our sidewalks. I can’t think of a better place to trick-or-treat than our city, with so many homes decked out in spooky fashion for the occasion and even more offering a treat or two to the excited kiddos.

Lakewood is also a special place to enjoy Fall because of our impressive tree canopy and the incredible palette of colors on display as the leaves turn in the Autumn chill. Whether it’s in one of our lovely parks or just walking or riding through our streets, I hope you all take time to soak in the inspiring scenery. I would also be remiss if I did not offer a related word of thanks to our amazing crew in Public Works, who do an excellent job with leaf pickup every fall and are out and about working hard as I write this.



from a photo by Craig Loyjoy

November is also a time of thanks. This of course includes Thanksgiving, but it also includes Veterans Day. I was privileged once again to be able to take part in our City’s annual event to honor the brave and selfless women and men who have served and are currently serving in our armed forces. As we can see from current events, our world is still a place where conflict happens, and we are

all grateful for the women and men who always stand ready to defend America.


Fall also brings with it election season and the opportunity for you as residents to set the course for future leadership of our city. I want to thank all of you who showed up to participate in our democracy this month. Voter turnout in Lakewood was high, showing how involved you all are and how

deeply you care about staying involved in our civic duties.

I also would like to congratulate Councilpersons Kyle Baker, Cindy Marx, and Jason Shachner, who are all returning to continue serving on Lakewood City Council for Wards 1, 2, and 4 respectively. Also, a warm welcome and congratulations goes out to Cindy Strebig, who will join council in January after winning the open seat for Ward 3. I was also honored to be returned to office for another term through this election, and I look forward to working together with council and our team at City Hall to provide our residents with the excellent city services and amenities they expect and deserve.

As we look forward to the upcoming holiday season, I hope that you and your loved ones enjoy these times in happiness and peace. I wish you and your family and friends a happy and healthy Thanksgiving celebration.

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Lakewood Observer

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

Holiday Fun For All LO's Holiday Decorating Contest 2023



Lakewoodites do so much with their yards. Large or small, we love to decorate, have fun and LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD!
continued from page 1

Nomination Process -

On the day after Thanksgiving, November 24th, the Lakewood Observer will post a link to nominate up to 5 homes a day. Once a home is nominated, it's in, there is no reason to renominate daily. You will also be able to nominate through email at: production@lakewoodobserver.com. You can also physically mail them to the Lakewood Observer at: Lakewood Observer, Inc., PO Box 770203, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Only send addresses for homes in Lakewood. Any home that is nominated without an address will not be nominated. Please do not send in, "4th house from the corner on..." All homes will be photographed by the Lakewood Observer. **Do not send photos.**

Two people will be chosen from the nominators to win a prize.

Any nomination that arrives after the 18th will not be included.

Voting Process -

December 18, we will post links to the homes and ask people to vote. You can vote three ways:

- 1) Online at a link that will be provided on December 18.
- 2) You can email your votes to production@lakewoodobserver.com.
- 3) You can snail mail your votes to: Lakewood Observer, PO Box 770203, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

The voting process ends December 25th, any votes after will not be counted.

Votes will be tabulated at midnight on December 30th, and announced on January 1st. The winner will appear on the front page of the print version of the Lakewood Observer. Other homes MAY appear in the paper as well.

During this time of turmoil, political upheaval and social division, let's work together to make this the best possible holiday season for everyone.

Good luck and thank you to all.

December 2 Lakewood Presbyterian Church Presents Stories With St. Nick

by Cindy Dugan

Join us for story time with St. Nick. Santa will visit with children and families at Lakewood Presbyterian Church from 2-4 pm on December 2nd, 2023. During this time, Santa will read a story with each group of children, then your child can take pictures with and tell their Christmas wishes to Mr. Claus. This event is free, but we will be collecting Diapers and Baby shower items for Haven

Home. Treats and refreshments will be available as well as a few simple crafts to commemorate the season. Please register with Sign Up Genius by scanning the QR code or sign up with Aliyah Kennedy atakenney@lakewoodpresbyterian.org. Merry Christmas!

Cindy Dugan has been a Lakewood resident for the past 6 years although she has visited with family and has enjoyed time in the community for 50 years.

December 10 Lakewood Presbyterian's Annual Christmas Pageant

by Cindy Dugan

Lakewood Presbyterian Church will be holding its annual Christmas pageant on December 10th during their 10am worship service. The Wise will search the scriptures and follow the star to find the promised one. Though there may have only been three gifts, all who sought him were wise. Please join us as the youth and children share their talents and gifts this special season.



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

December Events

by Lisa Calfee

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.”

Lakewood Public Cinema- “The Lavender Scare” (2017)

Hosted by Tom Stebel
Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (77 minutes)
Main Library Auditorium
In 1953, President Eisenhower declared gay men and lesbians to be a threat to the security of the country, leading to a forty year campaign to identify and fire all federal employees suspected of being homosexual. Join host Tom Stebel for this screening of “The Lavender Scare” (2017) which tells the inspiring story of Frank Kameny, the first person to fight his dismissal in a court of law.

Meet the Author- “This is Christmas, Song by Song:
The Stories Behind 100 Holiday Hits”

Book by Annie Zaleski
December 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
‘Tis the season! Break out the eggnog, hang the mistletoe, blast those Christmas songs, and settle down in your favorite armchair with this beautifully illustrated volume exploring behind-the-scenes stories of the 100 most cherished holiday songs of all time. Annie Zaleski is an award winning writer of four books along with credits that include Rolling Stone, Billboard and R.E.M.’s liner notes. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.



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Terry Meehan Film Series- “Family Plot” (1976)
Directed by Alfred Hitchcock
Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (120 minutes)
Main Library Auditorium

Children’s And Youth
Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Family Weekend Wonders

Main Library- Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 am
Madison Branch- Fridays at 10:30 am
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.

Adapted Story Time

For You and Your 3-to-7-Year-Old Child
Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.
Main Library Toddler Story Time Room
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.

Homework Help

For Students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade
Monday through Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Main Library Homework Room
and Madison Branch
Students who need a little extra help with homework or just want a cool place to work can come to the Library for Homework Help to get assistance and to use the Library’s resources in a quiet place free of distractions. Students can use their library card to check out a Chrome Book to use in the Library and have access to a variety of school supplies including pencils, pens, crayons, markers, calculators, protractors, and more. In addition, students with Eureka Math™ homework will find grade level Homework Helpers workbooks, companion guides to Eureka Math™. A library staff member is on hand and available to assist with everything from spelling words to solving math problems. No registration is required.

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



Harding Drama Club Delights With "Oz"

by Christine Gordillo

OZ WAS TWISTED AND FABULOUS! Congrats to the Harding crew on an outstanding production of “Oz is Twisted”! And thank you to our students, crew, staff, families, and community for making this happen! We are proud of you!

LHS Model UN Club Earns Honors

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the Lakewood High Model UN team for a successful Fall Conference held Nov. 6 & 7 at the Cleveland Council of World Affairs. Several team members earned honors:

Jack Phillips and Parker Toke won the superior delegation award, representing Vietnam.

Reagan Bratko and Coralie Barcelona won a position paper award, representing Chile.

Shannon Katzenberger won an honorable mention, representing New Zealand.

Great job by all!

Junior Achievement At Roosevelt Elementary

by Christine Gordillo

Exciting morning at Roosevelt Elementary today! The school hosted volunteers from Junior Achievement for its JA in a Day program. The morning was filled with fun and interactive lessons on financial literacy and the different facets of our economy - both locally and nationally.

Each grade level got tailor-made lessons appropriate for their age. Shout out to the JA volunteers, many from US Bank and First Federal Lakewood, for bringing your financial knowledge to our students!



Lakewood City Schools Hosts Holiday Breakfast For Senior Citizens - Dec. 14

by Christine Gordillo

Do you know of an older Lakewood resident that would like to hear about the latest news of the District and enjoy a delicious breakfast? Our senior citizen holiday breakfast is one of our favorite traditions! Call now to RSVP as seats are limited.

Join Lakewood City Schools for a

Holiday Breakfast for our senior citizens on December 14th, 8:45 til 10AM at Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Avenue. Enter the parking lot off of Woodward Ave.

Please RSVP by December 7 to 216-529-4074 or Christine.Gordillo@LakewoodCitySchools.org.

LHS Pitcher Signs With Valparaiso

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to LHS senior Mia Carroll-Greeves on signing a letter of intent to play Div. 1 softball at Valparaiso University! Mia holds 3 school pitching records with a season yet to go! She is also a Scholar Athlete! Go, Mia! #RangerPride#ResilientRanger



Indoor Track is Open!

Mondays - Fridays: 6 am - 8 am and 4:30 pm - 9 pm
Saturdays: 7am - 6pm - Sundays: 8 am - 6 pm
*Track is closed when Lakewood High School is in session and for any scheduled school event

Indoor Track Facts: 10 laps - 1 mile - 3 full-size lanes
Walkers inside and runners on the outside
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HEALTH AND LIVING

West Shore Meals On Wheels:

50 Years Of Service To West Shore Communities

by John Becker

In 1973, a group of churches got together to create a Meals on Wheels program on the west side. November 20 of that year was the first board meeting, featuring all women -- women with a mission. Originally available to Rocky River, Fairview Park, Bay Village, Westlake and North Olmsted recipients, they modeled the Lakewood Meals on Wheels program, which was already in existence, providing low-cost meals to seniors or those who could not shop or prepare meals for themselves. Some recipients were elderly; others were disabled or recovering from an illness. On Dec. 6, 1973, the organization was

officially incorporated as West Shore Meals on Wheels.

Fairview Baptist Church on Lorain Road originally provided space where the meals were prepared. The first meals were delivered on Jan. 7, 1974. There were 24 signed-on recipients as the first drivers pulled out of the church parking lot, delivering Monday through Friday for \$11 per week - a little over \$2 per meal - with the fresh, homemade meals made by the hands of the kitchen help.

Eventually, Fairview production moved production to City Hall, and the Rocky River Kitchen opened at Good Soil Church on Hilliard. Lakewood

Meals on Wheels merged with West Shore Meals on Wheels in 2017, and moved their daily production needs to the Rocky River Kitchen. Meals are made fresh, home cooked every day, and include lunch and dinner offered 5 days a week.

Today, the two facilities service over 100 recipients, crafting over 700 meals per week with the help of 100+ volunteers.

“That is a lot to people,” states Lynda Kovach, director of West Shore Meals on Wheels. “You have people who don’t get visitors, who maybe don’t go out of their home or their apartment, and they don’t interact with

people. The conversations that happen during delivery are sometimes more important than the meals," Kovach said.

Today's cost is \$4 per meal, with subsidies available for those with low income. The program is not exclusive to seniors and is available to any with need.

The program also benefits from donors of various sizes. “We have donors who give small amounts and some corporate donors give large amounts,” said Kovach. “We have been very blessed in having wonderful donors.”

The organization held a 50th Anniversary party on September 20 at Rocky River Civic Center, comprised of board members, volunteers, and donors to celebrate the many years of valuable service to the community.

West Shore Meals On Wheels is always looking for new volunteers and recipients. For more information, please visit www.westshoremow.org.

John Becker is retired from a career in fresh food manufacturing and is now a volunteer for West Shore Meals on Wheels.

Find Your Fit

by Jim O'Bryan

Many people understand that coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is available to those who don't have access to health insurance through an employer. Typically, these folks include members of the self-employed workforce, people who have no health insurance, and people whose employer doesn't provide health insurance. There have been some changes to the available ACA options for the coming year, says Carl Lishing, a licensed insurance agent with HealthMarkets Insurance Agency.

“New, affordable plans may be available. Plans and prices change every year. Your situation may have changed, too. You may find plans with coverage and features that better meet your needs—especially if you had or expect income or household changes,” he says. “One change, for example, is if a married couple is on one spouse’s insurance plan through an employer but finds the plan cost is too high. The add-on spouse can explore his or her options in the ACA marketplace to determine if there might be a more affordable fit. The primary person carrying the insurance can stay with the employer-provided plan, but the spouse can look at options under the ACA.”

The Open Enrollment Period for the ACA runs from Wednesday,

November 1, to Friday, December 15, which is the deadline to enroll to make sure you have coverage starting January 1, 2024. During that time, people can consider other plans that may be a better fit for their needs or opt to stay with the plan they had last year.

Subsidies May Play a Role:

For some people, a subsidy plays a role in which plan they choose and can provide financial assistance. So, what is a subsidy? A subsidy is essentially a premium tax credit the federal government provides to help lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs for eligible individuals and is based on household income. Individuals may qualify for enhanced subsidies that have been extended with the passing of the Inflation Reduction Act. Schedule a policy review with Carl and he can help you find out if your current subsidy has changed, or if you qualify for an increased subsidy, or if you didn't qualify before but may now. "There is no cost to meet with me for a review of your standing," he says. "Together, we can explore the options so you can choose a plan that makes the most sense for you and your budget."

Why Experience Matters:

"You can certainly go it alone," Carl says. "But as a licensed insur-

ance agent with HealthMarkets, I'm qualified to help you understand your options in an easy-to-digest format. I'll break it down so you can make the best choice for you and your family. And the best part is, my guidance is offered at no cost to you." Within the different ACA coverage levels there are numerous plans to choose from. "Simplify the process by putting my experience to work for you," he suggests. One of the biggest advantages to choosing coverage under the ACA is that you can pick a plan that does not require underwriting. "Preexisting conditions are allowed and there are preventative coverage benefits that may not be available in non-ACA plans," Carl says.

Closing the Gaps:

Carrier access under the Affordable Care Act changes every year. ACA plan options from each carrier can change annually. You may have several options to choose from in your area. Another option is to purchase supplemental coverage, which typically helps with out-of-pocket costs related to a qualified event. You can reach licensed insurance agent Carl Lishing at 216-228-0765. HealthMarkets Insurance Agency is located at 16506 Detroit Avenue, in Lakewood. Office hours currently by appointment. Find out more at ClevelandInsurance.info. HealthMarkets Insurance Agency, Inc. is licensed as an insurance agency in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state. Agents may be compensated based on enrollment. No obligation to enroll. 50370-HM-1123





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SEASON OF GIVING

Legal Aid's Annual Meeting With Panel And Award Honorees

by Tonya Sams

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland had its 118th Annual Meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. The theme was based on the Langston Hughes quote, “Hold fast to dreams” and highlighted hope, extended gratitude, and provided updates on high-impact community partnerships and initiatives.

Legal Aid's Annual Meeting is a chance for philanthropists, community members, nonprofit organizations, and business leaders to gather and reflect on Legal Aid's accomplishments over the past year, as well as learn about new initiatives and plans for the year ahead.

Awards were presented to outstanding employees, volunteers, and community organizations who demonstrate profound support for Legal Aid's mission.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Honorees included:

Staff members Tammy Adams, David King, Emily Murphy, Krystle Rivera, and Michael Russell, each receiving the Claude E. Clarke Award.

Staff member David Johnson, receiving the Leadership Award.

Staff member Penny Gooden, receiving the C. Lyonel Jones Lifetime Achievement Award.

Former Legal Aid Board President
Vanetta Jamison, receiving the Louis
Stokes Paragon Award.

Stephen Hobt (posthumously), receiving the Volunteer Lawyers Program Legacy of Justice Award.

Ellen and Michael Meehan, receiving the Volunteer Lawyers Program Access to Justice Award.

Norman S. Minor Bar Association,

receiving the Volunteer Lawyers Program Community Impact Award.

Founded in 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is the fifth oldest legal aid organization in the United States. Serving residents of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain counties, Legal Aid staff and volunteers secure justice, equity, and access to opportunity for and with people who have low incomes through passionate legal representation and advocacy for systemic change. In 2022, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland handled nearly 8,000 cases, helping more than 21,000 people.

Visit lasclev.org/2023Event for more details.

Do you need assistance with a legal civil matter? Legal Aid may be able to help. Call 888-817-3777 or visit lasclev.org/apply for more information.

Tonya Sams, Development & Communications Manager at Legal Aid.

Bringing Fentanyl Education To Lakewood

by Patricia Neligan Barley

Fentanyl is the #1 cause of death in 18–45 year-olds. Most, if not all, of these deaths are unintentional. Lakewood High School PTA is hoping to help change that.

As a community event, the LHS PTA would like to bring Birdie Light to Lakewood High School for a student assembly during the day and a separate assembly for the parents and any community members in the evening.

The Birdie Light program saves lives by educating young people about the danger of unintentional fentanyl ingestion by empowering them with tools to detect fentanyl before they ingest it.

Birdie Light will come to present to the community, parents, and students about the dangers of fentanyl. The goal is to provide information about where fentanyl can be found and how to avoid it.

Please consider a \$5 donation, or any amount, before Friday, December 15th, so that we can book this vital event in the Spring of 2024. Your donations will help the PTA raise money to cover the cost. <https://app.memberhub.gives/lhsbirdie>

For more information on this program, go to their website:

Thank you for your support!

Patricia Barley is a long-time resi-



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2023 ELECTION WRAP-UP

Message From Linda Beebe

Wednesday morning.
November 8.

Yesterday’s election was bitter-sweet for me. The sweet part is that Issue 1 passed by the sizable majority. This is a big win for women in Ohio. It guarantees a breadth of healthcare that would have been denied to women far beyond those who contemplate an abortion. I believe that it was necessary for Issue 1 to pass to guarantee access to qualified professionals for a wide range of women’s reproductive health care. Not just abortion.

The bitter part was my loss of a seat on the Lakewood Board of Education.



photos by Jim O'Bryan

Linda stopping in front of the Board of Education sign on the old Grant School.

I have been so privileged to serve this community on the Board of Education for the past 40 years and had hoped to continue serving another four years. It has been a remarkable experience and an important part of my life.

I have served with and gotten to know some remarkable people: school board members like Chas Geiger, Eleanor Chapman, Charles Day, Tom Einhouse, Betsy Shaughnessy, and Ed Favre. And remarkable superinten-

dents like Richard Boyd, Joe Madak, and our current superintendent, Maggie Niedzwicki. I can’t thank these people enough for what they have given me and what they have taught me.

Serving on the Lakewood Board of Education is indeed a privilege. And Lakewood is privileged this year to have elected three excellent new board members. Mike Callahan isn’t new, of course. He’s the current president and has been a true leader this past year,

and is also a good listener and liaison with the community and a good team player when necessary.

Colleen Clark Sutton has a breadth of knowledge of this community, and of education, and is very capable of working with people and problem-solving. She will be a tremendous addition to the board.

Lisa Dopman brings the qualifications to the board that I was hoping the person who sat in my seat would have. She’s a teacher and a union member and will make a unique contribution to discussions ongoing. I am confident that these new board members will carry on the tradition of thoughtful policysetting, personal agendas to better the education of all children, and a commitment to working together, rather than for self-aggrandizement.

I have other thoughts that I want to share with you over the next two months as I look forward to where I’m going next and look back at where I’ve been. But mostly today I wanted to use this platform to say thank you to my friends and supporters. You have been so kind and so helpful.

Public schools are the heart of our democracy, and Lakewood Schools are the heart of our community. I am so grateful I have been to serve our schools and our community.



Grabbing a brick from the old Madison School.

Thank You, Ward 2

by Anthony Mencini

This is Anthony Mencini, former candidate for city council. I want to take

this opportunity to thank you for your support and provide hope for the future.

The 1,240 of you who voted for me on November 7th have been wanting something different in Lakewood for some time, and I was poised to provide change given the opportunity.

I was deeply moved by all the support through phone calls, texts, emails, front porch conversations, and donations, but alas, it just wasn’t our year...

However, there’s great hope to be had for the future. Change is inevitable be it in the

form of a candidate like myself or a shift in the heart of someone currently in office. It happens all the time. Whatever form change takes, you can always expect it to be right on time.

So, for now, keep your spirits high, vote your conscience, and continue to stay in touch with your representatives. They need to hear from you whether they want to or not!

I believe this amazing community will do what’s right for each other, and I will be there every step of the way to do my part in any way I can.

As I had said many times during my campaign, I want to get to know you—my fellow neighbor. So, feel free to reach out to me at any time. My personal phone number is 216.644.3503.



In front of the rebuilt Garfield School.

Thank You Voters

www.lakewoodcityschools.org
LakewoodCitySchools

The School Board regularly convenes on the first and third Mondays of each month, the public is encouraged to attend.



Colleen Clark-Sutton

Lakewood School Board member elect

Contact me at 216-402-7999 or
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LAKEWOOD CARES

25 Local Nonprofits Receive \$2 Million To Improve Equitable Access To Care - Three Arches Foundation Announces 2023 Annual Grants

submitted on behalf of
Kristin Broadbent

Three Arches Foundation, a community-focused grant making foundation, announced \$2 million in annual funding toward one-year and multi-year grants to twenty-five local nonprofit organizations working to transform people’s health in Lakewood and surrounding communities. Each grant reflects the Foundation’s priority of equitable access to care, specifically the advancement of solutions to remove barriers and improve behavioral and physical health.

This year’s grants will help expand existing programs and services, fund new initiatives, and support general operations. “Nineteen of the nonprofit organizations receiving grants this year are nonprofits the Foundation has supported in the past, and six are new recipients,” shared Kristin Broadbent, president and CEO of the Foundation. “This represents a deliberate strategy to both build long-term relationships and expand our reach with new grant partners who are aligned with our focus of addressing equitable access to meet diverse health care needs.”

The Foundation adopted trust-based philanthropy practices in order to deepen relationships and impact with its grant partners. This grantee-centric view fosters continuous learning, balanced power, and transparency that puts nonprofit organizations at the core of the relationship. “Our approach – informed through a racial and health equity lens – helps us learn firsthand where there are barriers to access for under-resourced communities and populations most impacted by health disparities,” comments Mary Anne Crampton, board chair of the Foundation. “It’s not about guessing where funding should be directed, but rather getting grant funding where it’s most needed.”

In addition to the 2023 annual grant recipients, seven nonprofit partners will begin year two of their multi-year grant awarded last year. These include B. Riley Sober House, Building Hope in the City, Eliza Jennings, May Dugan Center, OhioGu-



idestone, Renee Jones Empowerment Center, and The Refugee Response.

Highlights of 2023 grants approved by the Foundation’s board of directors include:

BellefaireJCB - \$214,834 to expand access to vital behavioral health consultation and critical trauma-informed prevention services in Lakewood City Schools through Bellefaire’s School-Based Counseling program.

Canopy Child Advocacy Center - \$78,709 to maintain the onsite, dedicated family resource manager role ensuring children and families have access to all necessary resources and services required to reduce trauma after a child abuse crisis.

Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation for Brain Health - \$42,380 operating support to maintain current programs and expansion of services for care partners and family members, as well as identify opportunities to reach marginalized communities affected by dementia. With a shared interest in supporting brain health and cognitive function in older adults, this grant is funded through the generosity of Three Arches Foundation’s Harold C. Schott Foundation Endowment Fund.

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center - \$80,000 for the Access to Care program that provides support and information to survivors of rape, sexual abuse, and human trafficking through the crisis hotline and in-person advocacy support during hospital exams and police station interactions.

Colors+ - \$134,000 (over two years) operating support to continue free mental health prevention programs for LGBTQ+ youth, families, guardians, and allies in a safe and validating environment.

GiGi’s Playhouse Cleveland - \$85,000 to fund the GiGiFIT and Amina Grace Speech & Language

research-driven programs designed to support and improve the lives of people with Down syndrome who are born with low muscle tone (hypotonia).

Hispanic UMADAOP - \$30,000 general operating support of culturally sensitive treatment services for the Residential, Intensive Outpatient, Outpatient, and Re-entry programs available to all adults, regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, and cultural background.

Hospice of the Western Reserve - \$75,000 to expand outreach and address racial disparity in utilization of in-home, pre-hospice palliative care for patients with advanced serious and progressive illness.

In Harmony Therapeutic Services - \$70,980 (over two years) for the pilot launch of trauma-informed music therapy services to support the mental health needs of students in the Fairview Park City School District free of charge.

Lakewood Community Services Center - \$88,785 to continue the

well-established Senior Health Self-Management Program that helps guide and empower low-income seniors to take control of their health and well-being through experiential learning opportunities.

LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland - \$134,318 continued support for the evolution of Trans+ programming to address access to physical and mental health care services for the local transgender and gender diverse populations.

LifeAct - \$50,000 (over two years) to deliver LifeAct’s suicide prevention and mental health wellness programs for middle and high school students in Lakewood and surrounding communities, and develop and launch a new student-athlete stress management pilot program.

Medworks - \$25,000 to provide funding in support of next year’s annual large-scale, two-day oral health and dental care clinic for underinsured and uninsured adults and children.

Neighborhood Family Practice - \$120,000 operating support of NFP’s work to remove barriers that hinder access to health care for historically marginalized populations through funding for primary care, behavioral health, midwifery, dental, HIV, and

continued on page 11

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LAKEWOOD IS ART

More Vincent:
Reviews Of Recent Releases
By Local Bands, Pt. 137

by Buzz Kompier

Les Vincent and MZ7 - *It's Hardly Ever Just Black & White* - Banana Records - 8 songs - CD, digital

Les Vincent, from what I could dig up online, has been in the Banana Records camp for quite some time, but this is his first solo release (research revealed the existence of a band called Les Vincent & The Tree Toads, but they don't seem to have put anything out during their existence). Maybe it's just the knowledge that Les is part of the Butterfield camp that's immediately calling to mind the recent Butterfield 8 material, but there is a strong similarity— and how could there not be, given that Jim Butterfield and Paul Nickels are the other “main” members of MZ7 here and since it is, after all, a Handsome Production. I'm not saying this sounds entirely the same as the Butterfield stuff, it just operates within the same genre and has a similar sort of homemade charm. “The Girl You Want” is a strong power pop opener and the melody at the end of the chorus (and in other places, but especially here) is very Beatle-y. Les gives us a cover of The Leisure Set classic “There's No Tear-drops” (by the way, in researching this, I found out that the first Leisure Set single is actually basically two different bands



who released one collective single under the same name— that's a wild move that I'm not sure has been done since). No disrespect at all to that version of The Leisure Set, but I might prefer the version here (and Bob Burford, its original writer, sings the backing vocals on this version so it's all kept within the family, as it were). “Walk” slows the pace down a bit and has a good keyboard solo; it's followed by “Run” which is a pretty funny track listing move. The two are similar musically but I think I prefer “Run,” which has the same kind of stuttering drums and ever-so-slightly off timing that I've loved on the past few Banana releases. I do wish there were lyrics for this somewhere because I keep picking up phrases that sound interesting— on this one, I think he says, “you got a fucking muzzle 'cause they couldn't solve the puzzle” but I missed the context of the line. Les does a nice job with “This Is Where I Belong”— he doesn't radically shake up the Kinks' arrangement or anything, but it's clearly a heartfelt version (and I like the keyboard violin thing he's got on the chorus). “Traci B” is the most “rocking” of the set and also probably my least favorite— it's not bad, it just doesn't work for me, especially as the final track— but it does add some more variety to the sounds here. A fun listen and a worthy addition to the Banana roster. 3.3/5

(bananarecords.net)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Kent State University Seeks
Participants For Greater Cleveland
LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment

by Kim Cook

Earlier this year, the Kent State University College of Public Health launched the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment. With input from over 120 community organizations and in partnership with the LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, the Kent State team designed a comprehensive assessment that will investigate the region's strengths and deficits regarding resources and services available to the LGBTQ+ community.

A community needs assessment is a valuable tool for determining the health and wellness needs of specific populations. The Kent State project includes a variety of assessment methods, including an online community survey, focus groups, and stakeholder interviews. Critical topics to be addressed include health and wellness; religion and spirituality; education and literacy; housing, food, and basic needs; business, employment, and commerce; safety and law enforcement; and recreation and leisure.

Once the assessment is complete, the information gathered will be compiled into a summary and then presented to the public. Healthcare providers, researchers, faith organizations, and community agencies will be able to use this information to help focus future efforts to best serve the

LGBTQ+ community.

A large, diverse group of participants helps ensure that the needs assessment addresses all of the most significant issues. LGBTQ+ community members in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, and Geauga counties are invited to help with this important effort!

For more information and to complete a survey, please visit lgbtqohio.org.

Kim Cook is a graduate student in the Kent State University College of Public Health.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Three Arches Foundation Announces
2023 Annual Grants
continued from page 9

pharmacy initiatives.

Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center - \$60,000 (over two years) to pilot an HIV prevention and testing program designed to target hard-to-reach and underserved populations on Cleveland's west side.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio - \$60,000 to help provide stable and affordable access to all FDA-approved forms of contraception for patients with low incomes who benefit from this care at the Rocky River health center.

Recovery Resources - \$120,000 unrestricted funding that supports work to break down barriers for people struggling with mental health and substance use disorders through innovative care and treatment solutions enhanced by a commitment towards continuous improvement.

Signature Health - \$30,994 to support patient navigation and transportation services for high-risk patients in Lakewood and surrounding communities.

Smart Development - \$50,000 to continue funding of the full-time Health and Community Case Manager dedicated to helping refugees and immigrants understand and navigate the local health system by bridging a gap in cultural and language barriers.

The Centers - \$120,000 operating funds to support The Centers' integrated, whole family approach to providing services in a way that addresses foundational health and wellness needs and connects individuals and families to a full continuum of offerings.

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation - \$120,000 to expand the reach of youth mental health navigation services and sustain the well-established Mental Health Navigator position that assists K-12 students across the Lakewood City School District obtain access to behavioral health resources, including mental health assessment, care coordination, and caregiver support.

The Edna House for Women - \$45,000 to support the development of a formalized grant seeking strategy intended to secure philanthropic resources necessary to increase capacity and optimize operations.

The Gathering Place - \$50,000 to address disparities in access to cancer support services and programming faced by vulnerable populations in Cleveland's westside neighborhoods who typically have a higher cancer burden and face greater obstacles to prevention, detection, treatment, and

read all of this article online
at: lakewoodobserver.com

December 2
Light Up Lakewood Returns
continued from page 1

sponsor Immigrant Son Brewery.

Food Trucks
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DJs spinning festive tunes

4-8 p.m. – Santa visits in front of Lakewood Public Library

5 p.m. – Holiday Parade starting at Belle and Detroit Avenues, headed westbound on Detroit Avenue

5:30-8 p.m. – Live music at the City Center Main Stage

6:30 p.m. – Lighting Ceremony at Main Stage at City Center Park (in front of the Marc's Plaza)

7 p.m. – Fireworks Show sponsored by First Federal Lakewood over Kauffman Park

7:45 p.m. – Final Pour at The Roundstone Beer Garden

"We are excited to once again welcome our neighbors and visitors from across the region for Light Up Lakewood, our signature community event," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. "Whether you're feeling the spirit of the holiday season or simply wish to enjoy a festive, family-friendly community atmosphere, no event better showcases our city's vibrancy than this long-standing Lakewood tradition."

For more information and continued updates, please visit the event on our Facebook page.

Light Up Lakewood is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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