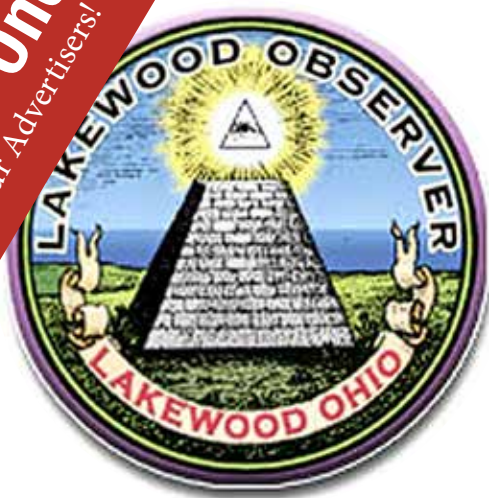


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“It is December, and nobody asked if I was ready.” - Sarah Kay

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 19, Issue 23, December 6, 2023

Lakewood Passes Moratorium In Anticipation Of Changes Marijuana In Lakewood

by Jim O'Bryan

On Monday, December 4, Lakewood City Council passed a temporary moratorium on permits allowing retail dispensaries, cultivators or processors of marijuana within city limits. According to Law Director Vargo it's because the State of Ohio has indicated that they intend to amend the law substantially and Lakewood needs time to get its ducks in a row.

The official stance by Council President John Litten is that they asked for the moratorium to protect commercial interests; they are not interfering with the laws non-commercial use. Because it can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to open a dispensary, to allow it before the State has written the

rules could financially ruin the people operating them. Is it still legal to smoke weed? Yes. There is no moratorium on that.

In researching this article I received some expected news from State Senator and Lakewood resident Nickie Antonio: “Jim, the Republicans are trying to move this quickly to be ready on December 7th. The legislation they are working on has no resemblance to what voters asked for. A few tweaks to the law may be necessary, but too many of the proposed changes are egregious and could thwart the will of the people, who voted decisively in favor of Issue 2. I'm hopeful that we can continue to work together to end up with policy that respects what the people of Ohio voted for.”

Issue 2 passed with 57% voter approval and is set to go into effect on December 7. The original language would legalize adult-use recreational marijuana, create a home grow program, establish dispensaries, and create a tax on cannabis products. Last night I received a copy of the second amended draft, 165 pages, (online at the Observer) with many of the rules unwritten, however what is in there is: Quantities will be slashed. THC Levels lowered possible as low as 30%. Tax rate will be as twice as high as Michigan. No home growing allowed. No smoking in parks, or on the street. Marijuana must be consumed in a

continued on page 10

A Note From Mayor George On Lakewood's Budget

by Meghan George

Dear Residents of Lakewood and Members of Lakewood City Council:

Over the last few years, our world has changed dramatically with a post-COVID economy characterized by rising costs and inflationary pressures unseen in generations. In response, the City of Lakewood has successfully mitigated the effects of the pandemic by closely monitoring our finances and limiting expenses, while also maintaining the level of quality services our residents expect and deserve.

Despite continued challenges of inflation and interest rates along with increased costs associated with purchase of raw materials that dramatically increased our costs for capital projects, we've made considerable capital progress and continue to be wise stewards of taxpayer dollars. We've proactively sought grant funding opportunities and leveraged our American Rescue Plan Act dollars to maintain and improve the City's infrastructure. Recent high-profile effects of our planning have

included multi-generational, life-changing projects and programs that include:

Cove Community Center, a multi-million-dollar multi-generational facility that opened in the spring of 2022, providing a headquarters for our Department of Human Services and a place for community members of all ages to bond with wholesome family activities.

Parks: Foster Pool at Lakewood Park was completely renovated and opened in 2023 with new amenities and activities for residents of all ages. The construction also stopped the maintenance issues the pool was experiencing from severe leakage. Also, Wagar and Kauffman Parks were improved with new playground equipment, lighting, and walking paths.

Public Safety Upgrades included: the renovation and reconstruction of Fire Station 2 completed in the spring of 2022; Public Safety Radio improvements implemented in late 2023; and our Park Ambassador Program, aimed at providing an additional level of safety at our local parks.

Additionally, we're partnering with the Healthy Lakewood Foundation in delivering the services of the Neighborhood Paramedic Program, which provides an additional level of health consciousness and prevention for our residents, especially vulnerable seniors.

Refuse Recycling Facility and Storage Yard: The new recycling facility is under construction and will provide residents with an improved and streamlined process to drop off recyclables, hazardous materials, rubbish, construction debris, and yard waste. The project will provide the space needed to install a combined sewer storage tank of 6.1 million gallons.

As we round out 2023 and plan for 2024 and beyond, we also take note of the less visible but very vital repairs and rehabilitation needed to our Water and Sewer Infrastructure. These repairs display Lakewood's commitment to improving water quality and reliability for both our drinking water system and our sewers and wastewater treatment system. Wastewater continued on page 2



LakewoodAlive's Light Up Lakewood was fabulous. Families lined up early to see the parade, Buddy the Elf, and Santa. They were not disappointed. Massive turnout packs the streets with fun! More photos and winning essay on pages 6-7.

St. Edwards Football 3-Peat OHSA State Championship



by Betsy Voinovich

Lakewood's St. Edward won its 16th consecutive OHSA playoff game, defeating Medina 42-7 to win the Region 1 championship for the third straight year on a rainy Friday night at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton.

An all-running series heavily featuring Brandon White (32 carries, 235 yards) led to a 36-yard field goal and a 24-21 lead with 6:51 left.

Another all-run march down the field secured the win

with another touchdown by White, his third of the game, giving St. Edward its seventh Division I championship in 14 years, its third straight, and its fifth under coach Tom Lombardo who took over the St. Eds Eagles in 2015.

The Eagles (13-1) will play Hilliard Bradley (13-1) in a Division I state semifinal next Friday in Mansfield. The Battling Bees (10-4) are the last team to defeat St. Edward in the postseason, back in 2020.

Antonio Honored With 2023 PCSAO Legislator Of The Year Award

by Nickie Antonio

Recently, I was honored to receive the 2023 Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) Legislator of the Year Award. These awards, as described by PCSAO, “recognize outstanding leadership and action by legislators on issues impacting children and families served by the children's services system.” I was joined in this distinction by Representative Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon).



As a former teacher of children with special needs and the mother of two daughters, protecting the rights of continued on page 11

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Lakewood’s Budget

continued from page 1

Improvements will increase water quality and drastically reduce discharges to the surrounding waterways – Lake Erie and the Rocky River, natural resources that we are blessed to have in our backyard and committed to protecting.

The Interceptor Tunnel Rehabilitation Project that started in 2023 is estimated to cost \$28 million and spans a 3.6-mile artery of sanitary sewer pipe flowing across northern Lakewood before heading south to the City’s wastewater treatment plant while handling 77% of the City’s flow. 2024 will be the 2nd year of a projected 3-year project that cleans, repairs, and “sliplines” the sewer pipe, while also adding access maintenance shafts. This original interceptor was constructed between 1918 and the early 1940’s.

At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, we constructed a high-rate treatment

facility to reduce combined sewer overflows during wet weather events so that discharges to our waterways meet EPA standards. We also installed an energy recovery digester that collects methane gas produced from solid waste and converts it to power for the plant.

The City of Lakewood has approximately 100 miles of watermains to maintain, the vast majority of which were built before World War II. Our plan is to replace one mile per year to keep all our watermains under 100 years old. Our projects replace watermains, service connections, and address necessary deficiencies in the sewer system. Recent and upcoming watermain projects include:

2020 Watermain Replacement: Idlewood Ave (Clifton – Williamson), Lakeland Ave (Athens – Delaware), and Morrison Ave (Athens – Delaware);

2021 Watermain Replacement: Elbur Ave (Athens – Lakewood Hts),

Lauderdale Ave (Detroit – Madison), and Leedale Ave (Edgewater – Lake);

2022 Watermain Replacement: Andrews Ave (Clifton – Detroit) and Gladys Ave (Clifton – Detroit);

2023 Watermain Replacement: Elmwood Ave (Madison – Athens), Reveley Ave (Madison – Athens), and Parkwood Rd (Detroit – Madison);

2024 Watermain Replacement: Glenbury (Delaware – Hilliard), Marlowe (Madison to Athens), and Mars (Madison to Athens).

Finally, we recognized the need to upgrade programming and modernize amenities at **Winterhurst Ice Rink**. Lakewood exited its agreement with a previous private operator in July of 2023, selecting Lakewood Community Ice as partner in a collaborative approach to maintenance, operations, and programming that will reposition the facility for maximum community benefit. Scheduled improvements include:

Increasing the availability of public skating opportunities

New exterior signage, furniture,

interior improvements, and equipment (new skates!)

New concessions and pro shop operators

Replacement of the ice plant in 2024

Roof and external repairs in 2023

Locker room and spectator stands replacement renovation in 2025.

We prepared a structurally balanced 2024 operating budget while also providing for necessary capital projects. Though the budget is tight and financial challenges remain, know that our directors and the Mayor’s office continue to work as a team to meet community priorities, vision, and values, all while improving our financial reserves and maintaining an excellent Aa2 Moody’s bond rating. I look forward to partnering with City Council to continue providing the superior public services and public amenities that our residents deserve and expect.

Sincerely,
Meghan F. George
Mayor & Safety Director

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The Lakewood Observer is produced by volunteers/residents of Lakewood.

If you’d like to help this history-making 19-year-old project continue to publish the words, stories and images of fellow Lakewoodites follow the QR Code to the Member Center and sign up at www.lakewoodobserver.com/members.

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Isn’t it time you joined this effort to report community news while preserving our history?

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

Lakewood Fire Department Shares Holiday Safety Tips

from City Hall

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. **Ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season by following a few simple tips: Holiday Decorating:**

Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.

Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.

Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.

Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Christmas Tree Safety:

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.

Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting Your Tree:

Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Almost 33% of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems!

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- Neighborhood Officer



Scan QR code for more information or visit [lakewoodohio.gov/police](https://www.lakewoodohio.gov/police) to apply online. The City of Lakewood is an equal opportunity employer.



You Can Become A Lakewood Patrol Officer

from the City

Are you interested in becoming a patrol officer for the City of Lakewood? Here's your opportunity! The Lakewood Civil Service Commission is conducting an exam for Entry-Level Patrol Officers. Learn more & apply today: <https://ow.ly/5tXz50QcXkq>

The City is also accepting applications for Lateral Entry Patrol Officers. Applicants must have been employed as a police officer in the State of Ohio and have been previously hired as part of a competitive civil service examination. For more info, visit <https://ow.ly/R1mg50QcXkr>

City Of Lakewood Receives Awards



Lakewood Finance Department



Pictured is Mayor George, City Planner Amanda Cramer, and Planning and Development Director Shawn Leininger.

from City Hall

The City of Lakewood achieved the prestigious Auditor of State Award with Distinction. To earn this award, a government entity must achieve a "clean" audit report. This is the fourth consecutive year that the City of Lakewood has achieved this award from the Ohio Auditor. Congratulations to the Finance Department and Law Department that lead these efforts.

The City of Lakewood also recently received a Silver Level award for Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. This award recognizes a community's exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship.



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

December Events

by Lisa Calfee
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 well-known and lesser-known behind-the-scenes stories of the 100 most cherished holiday songs of all time and their everlasting impact. What song was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the best-selling single of all time? Which popular Christmas tune was reportedly written to commemorate Thanksgiving? What holiday song led to a special meet-and-greet between the song’s 10-year-old singer and a 700-pound hippopotamus? You’ll find out answers to these questions -- and more! -- in this lively presentation going behind-the-scenes of this festive new book. 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.



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

Fake psychic Blanche Tyler (Barbara Harris) and her boyfriend George Lumley (Bruce Dern) are offered \$10,000 to locate the nephew of wealthy dowager Julia Rainbird (Cathleen Nesbitt). The nephew (William Devane) turns out to be a master criminal; he and his partner in crime (Karen Black) make their living by kidnapping the rich and ransoming them for precious gems. In his final film, Hitchcock sets the two couples on a suspenseful (and comical) collision course. Join Terry Meehan for an original video introduction of the film followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.



Lakewood Public Library Children’s And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert
Family Weekend Wonders

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

Looking for weekend entertainment for the whole family? Look no further! Drop in to the Library’s special weekend story time. Your whole family will enjoy these programs full of enthusiastic stories, engaging activities, entertaining music and clever crafts. Family Weekend Wonders Drop-In Story Time is offered every weekend throughout the year and features a different theme each week to keep things engaging. No registration is required.

Homework Help

August – May
Monday through Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Main Library Homework Room and Madison Branch

For Students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. 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. 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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Cuyahoga Reads

Readers Win

CuyahogaReads.org

Cuyahoga Reads Report

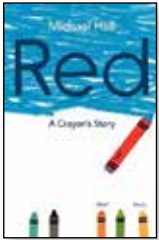
The Cuyahoga Reads initiative is a year-long reading challenge for children in Cuyahoga County. We want children to read, participate in literacy events at their local public library, and most importantly improve their literacy skills. To date, we have offered 70 programs to families in partnership with Making a Difference Consulting. To track reading, find a program, or learn more visit us online at cuyahogareads.org.



A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne



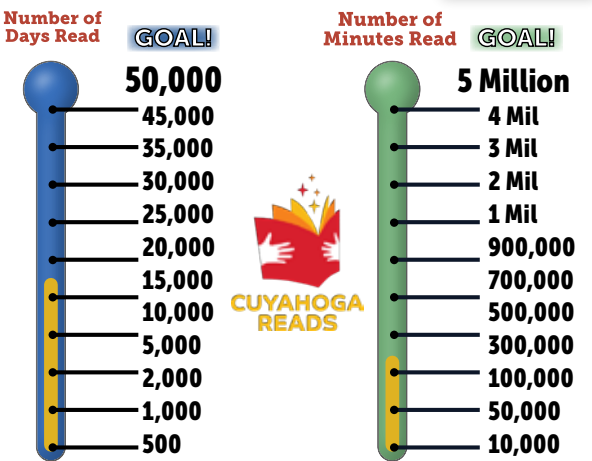
I recently visited a local Cuyahoga County elementary school to read a book with students. While reading “Red: A Crayon’s Story” by Michael Hall to first graders at Caledonia Elementary in East Cleveland, I was reminded that taking just a few minutes out of our busy days to read with a child can make such a meaningful difference! *Red: A Crayon’s Story* is an empowering story about being true to your inner self. During the school visit, the students learned new words, such as brilliance, prediction, and identity. They also created a craft, received a free copy of the book, and were encouraged to keep reading at school, at home, and in the community. Cuyahoga Reads now has 241,360 minutes read and 12,068 days completed. Remember, we want to reach the goal of 5,000,000 minutes read. Your local library has millions of books for you to choose from. Check out a book or download a copy from the Libby app today!



Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips

The winter season can be busy, especially with holiday shopping and special visits with family and friends. Here’s a tip, check out a cookbook! Finding a great recipe, shopping for the meal, and eating together is a great way to reinforce literacy skills.

Together, you can write out or copy the recipe, children can then look for the ingredients at one of our local Cuyahoga County stores, and then they can follow the directions to prepare the meal. While eating, talk about what you learned and take a picture and share it online using the hashtag #CuyahogaReads.



LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up: Girls' Basketball

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

December 2:
Lakewood Rangers vs Bay Rockets
Senior Delaney Garcia, who led all scorers with 16 points, capped a fierce 4th quarter comeback with a tough, double team contested layup, then iced the game with 2 free throws to lead the Lakewood Rangers to a 48-45 win over the Bay Rockets at the New East Gym.
The Rangers had contributions from many players, including freshman point guard Charleigh Doxley, who was near flawless as the primary ball handler, hit several key shots, and played tenacious defense. Senior Ally Bookman not only made a key driving layup dusting the Ranger comeback, but her defense and energy set a great tone for the squad. Junior Layla Smith (4 points) grabbed 9 rebounds and played stout defense. Senior Sophia Zarbo contributed 6 points and solid ball handling from the off guard position. Lakewood also enjoyed solid contributions from Nora Germaine (3 points), Lucy Henrikson (6) and Elizabeth Doup (2).
Congratulations to the hard work-



Senior Delaney Garcia led all scorers.

ing Bay Rockets who, like our Rangers, are a community based team comprised of students who have played together for many years. The hyper local aspects of our teams just adds to the joy of these games, win or lose. On the day of the magical Light Up Lakewood, I'm happy to say that the girls—all from the 44107--won.
Long Live Lakewood.



Grant Elementary's Annual Food Drive

by Christine Gordillo

These members of the Grant Elementary Student Leadership Team are heading up the school's annual food drive. Grant is one of seven of our buildings that are collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. for their Christmas basket deliveries to Lakewood families. We are so proud of the partnership with LCAC and how our students and their families step up every year to help LCAC provide the assistance so many of our families need these days.

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Mondays - Fridays: 6 am - 8 am and 4:30 pm - 9 pm
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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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*Pictured: Four Generations of the O'Neill Family

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LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD



The beginning of the parade.



Roundstone, sponsor of LakewoodAlive's Beer Garden



Lakewood Fire Department handing out candy canes and holiday safety tips.



The Ghostbusters



Lakewood's favorite Christmas Angel, Bonnie Fencil of Carabel Salon.



Lakewood High School Marching Band.



The skaters of Winterhurst clubs.



No snow, no problem as Santa gets a ride in from Lakewood Fire Department. The Bratz family filled the makeshift sleigh. I heard them exclaim as they rode out of sight, "It's who you know! Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."



One of Lakewood's favorite families, Mwale Kakusa family and friends.



LAKEWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Owen Ross, Hayes Fourth Grader, Essay Wins Why I Love Lakewood

Congratulations to Hayes Elementary fourth grader Owen Ross on winning the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's annual "Why I Love Lakewood" contest! Owen's essay was chosen from more than 150 entries. Owen earned the right to join Santa to flip the switch on the city holiday lights at Light Up Lakewood Dec. 2. He will also read his essay at the event. Owen's winning essay is below.

Why I Love Lakewood by Owen Ross

I love Lakewood for many reasons. Some of those reasons are all the events, the awesome pizza shops and the beautiful parks. Everywhere I go in Lakewood everyone is so nice, it is a community of kindness. I love living here and I feel it is the best city ever.

The first reason I love Lakewood is all the events during the year. Some of my favorites are the Lakewood Arts Festival, Lakewood Summer Meltdown and Light Up Lakewood. Lakewood Arts Festival is fun for me because my mom sells her art there and I like going to see her and all the other beautiful artwork for sale by so many talented people. Lakewood Summer Meltdown is fun because there are sprinklers to

play in and lots of good music. I like seeing all my friends there and sometimes I even meet new friends. Finally, I love Light Up Lakewood because there is a parade, beautiful lights, and



I get to see fireworks.

The second reason I love Lakewood is all the restaurants, especially the pizza places. I love eating all kinds of pizza and Lakewood has some of the best pizza places in Cleveland, like Angelo's, Harlow's, Booms, and Tomari's. Those are some of my favorites and I love going to them with my family. Everyone that works there is always so nice and the



Left: Owen Ross, essay contest winner.
Above: Owen taking part in one of those awesome Lakewood events he loves, Light Up Lakewood.

pizza is always delicious. When I grow up I want to open a pizza shop in Lakewood.

Next, I love Lakewood for the parks. Lakewood has so many parks for playing and hiking. I love going down sit on the solstice steps to look at the lake and walking down the path to see the Cleveland skyline. I spend a lot of time in the summer at the Lakewood pool with my friends, the new water slides are my favorite. There are also so many different playgrounds in the parks that I can go to a different

one every day of the week. How cool is that?!

Finally I love Lakewood for all the kind and helpful people. Everyone you meet in shops, in your neighborhood or even walking down the street is always so friendly and I love how diverse our city is. The people make Lakewood so special and that is a big reason I love Lakewood.

In conclusion, Lakewood is the best city full of awesome events, great pizza shops, great parks and, of course, great people. I love it here in Lakewood and I hope to live here for a long time.

Scavenger Hunt Winners Had Fun Finding Lakewood!

by Laura Hazen

Prizes were awarded to ten participants from among all those who completed the Photo Scavenger Hunt successfully!

Pictured is Hannah Kasamias. Some of our other winners included: Linda Rocchi & Suzanne Bednarchik, Deborah Kuhn, Kirk Lintern and Janice Snyder. (Winners not pictured: Linda O'Malley, Virginia Coughlin, Jillian Piteo, Jackie Smith)

Prizes were donated by 43 generous Lakewood businesses, making for some very nice gift packages.

Keep an eye out next fall for another Scavenger Hunt. Proceeds



Hannah Kasamias

benefit the Division of Aging, but all ages can join the hunt!

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LAKEWOOD CARES

LCAC Wraps Up Thanksgiving Food Drive, Prepares For Needed Christmas Food Drive

by Sara Crawford

With the help of dozens of Lakewood community members, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation was able to deliver non-perishable and perishable bags filled with Thanksgiving fixings to 300 Lakewood residences.

This was part of LCAC's Thanksgiving Food Drive, which took place

over the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Nov. 17, volunteers came in the morning to sort all the non-perishable food within an hour. Later that night, more volunteers came to bag the non-perishable food into 300 bags, taking less than an hour.

Nov. 18, volunteers came to bag all of the perishable foods like turkeys and pies and were off to deliver to resi-

dences within the hour.

With the Thanksgiving Food Drive over, LCAC is already back in full swing to prepare for its Christmas Food Drive which will take place at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, at 15300 Detroit Ave., over two days.

Dec. 15 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.

Dec. 16 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 food fixings to the community.

LCAC will need volunteers of all

ages to sort food items, bag over 300 bags of food and deliver them to the community.

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

With the success of the Thanksgiving Food Drive and the number of volunteers that came to help, LCAC members hope for a similar success at its upcoming Christmas Food Drive over Dec. 15-16.

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

Help Brighten The Holidays With The Giving Tree

from City Hall

Spread holiday joy with the Department of Human Services Giving Tree program at the Cove Community Center. Here you will find a Giving Tree with gift tags listing items for our senior neighbors in need.

Select a tag, purchase the listed items like clothing, treats, or household goods, and bring them back to the Cove Community Center by Monday, December 18, 2023. Your kindness will make a senior neighbor's holiday season extra special.



The Giving Tree at Lakewood's Cove Community Center at: 12525 Lake Road. Open daily until 4:30pm.



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2 Items	\$9.75	\$11.75	\$15.75	\$17.75
3 Items	\$10.50	\$12.75	\$17.00	\$19.50
4 Items	\$11.25	\$13.75	\$18.25	\$21.25
Deluxe	\$12.00	\$14.75	\$19.50	\$25.00
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

AVAILABLE TOPPINGS: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green Peppers, Red Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Meat, Pineapple, Jalapeño Peppers
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LAKEWOOD CARES

Healthy Lakewood Foundation Awards Over \$140,000 In Support Of Community-Based Projects

by Sharon Schuldt

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) Board of Directors awarded \$140,820 in grants at its November Board meeting.

The HLF Board awarded Neighborhood Opportunity Grants for a total of \$125,820 in funding to local organizations for community-based projects that support community building through innovation and learning. These projects address social determinants of health – the environmental, social, and economic conditions of our community – through local programs and initiatives.

Awarded Neighborhood Opportunity Grants include:

\$2,000 to Lakewood Historical Society for free historical walking tours with the purpose of educating about Lakewood’s built environment.

\$5,000 to Beck Center for the Arts in support of the Super Saturdays programming.

\$6,895 to the Recreation and Education Department with the Lakewood City School District for adaptive swim lessons for youth with a disability/disabilities.

\$7,000 to Lakewood Public Library for their partnership with Connecting for Kids, to provide library-based programming for families at both the main branch and the Madison branch.

\$7,500 to Haus of Transcendent for support of their pilot program to identify and meet emergency needs of LGBTQ+ community in Lakewood.

\$7,500 to Lakewood Black Caucus for their support of Black Lakewood residents, an allyship program for white residents, and a new Mutual Aid supply program.

\$7,500 to Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC) for mentorship and safety offered at Lakewood Park and Madison Park outdoor basketball courts, especially impacting BIPOC youth.

Additionally, the HLF Board awarded a **\$10,000 System-Level Grant to Lakewood Area Collaborative**, a program of the City of Lakewood’s Department of Human Services, for training of all Lakewood Area Collaborative staff in evidence-based case management to provide effective wraparound services to those served.

A \$5,000 grant was also awarded to the Coordinated Care Project with the Lakewood City School District for school resource coordinators and guidance counselors to help families bridge short-term gaps in monetary and material resources.

HLF Executive Director, Kate Ingersoll, said, “The HLF Board has funded a range of programs to advance the health of our community. We believe the awarded Neighborhood Opportunity Grants will increase community connections and engagement, provide needed care, and initiate new ideas and leaders in Lakewood. We are so excited to support these new and continued grantees and learn from and with them in the year ahead.”

For a complete list of the grant awards, please visit HLF’s website: <https://healthylakewood-foundation.org/grantmaking/recent-grants/>. HLF’s funding opportunities will open again in Spring 2024 and information will be available soon on our website.

Sharon Schuldt is HLF’s Foundation and Grants Coordinator.



Take time for yourself this holiday season, and reduce stress by planning ahead and asking for help when you need it. If you, your child or loved one is struggling with substance use, mental illness or is having suicidal thoughts, help is available by calling: **216-623-6888**

For more tips and to download your free copy of *Coping With the Holidays*, visit adamhscc.org or scan the QR code.



LAKEWOOD IS ART



December

ARIES: The Ram is going to have himself a merry little Xmas, with Jupiter (the Santa Claus of the Zodiac) in your finances; & the Sun in your house of long-distance travel; go somewhere hot.

TAURUS: It's all about you, Bull. This Xmas, look for money from outside sources, then take yourself & loved ones to a spa day; it's the most wonderful time of the year for the Bull. Enjoy.

GEMINI: Something is brewing behind the scenes for our Twin; your relationships are highlighted this Season of Joy; someone may have seen mommy kissing Santa Claus...

CANCER: The Crab will not be at a loss of friends visiting your abode this Holiday Season; enjoy your home; there will be quite a bit of Rockin' around the Xmas Tree; make some goodies.

LEO: Jupiter is bringing opportunities to your professional world, & the

Lion/Lioness is thinking, all I want for Xmas is you, make room, Jungle.

VIRGO: Opportunities abound for higher learning & foreign affairs; while the Sun is shining on the home front, it's time to spruce up the abode, spread some cheer & Deck the Halls, fa la la.

LIBRA: Other's resources are bringing gifts to you this Holiday, & the Sun is shining on your community & siblings. It looks like Santa Claus is coming to town for our Libras, so go for it.

SCORPIO: Relationships are bringing Joy to the Scorpion this Holiday season; come out of your cave; the Sun is shining on your money house, so let's roast some chestnuts on an open fire.

SAGITTARIUS: Centaur, Jupiter visits your health house, sending lucky vibes. Be careful of overdoing it; the Sun is shining on your physical self; get outdoors & go for a Sleigh Ride.

CAPRICORN: There's some behind-the-scenes stuff the Goat is pondering over; while Jupiter is bringing love vibes into your romance house, the Angels we have heard on high have spoken.

AQUARIUS: Home & family is where you'll find the Joy of Xmas; while the Sun is lighting up your house of organizations, make it a Midnight celebration Xmas Eve, O Holy Night.

PISCES: While the Fish is enjoying a yuletide greeting from the other schools of fish in the community pond, the Sun's shining on your career; light up the office with some Jingle Bell Rock.

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

Winter Concerts Start With Sounds Of The Season Dec 8

by Christine Gordillo

The Sounds of the Season concert in the Civic Auditorium on Dec. 8 is the first of many winter concerts this month by our middle school and high school instrumental and vocal groups. For more information on dates/times for the various December concerts, visit our Performing Arts page on our website. All performances begin at 7 pm in the Civic. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.payschoolsevents.com/events/home>.

Here's the schedule for the rest of the season. For more information and tickets go to <https://www.lakewoodcityschools.org/prospective-families/performing-arts>

Dec 8 2023 Sounds of the Season Concert
Dec 11 2023 7th Grade Winter Concert
Dec 12 2023 Silver & Gold Concert
Dec 14 2023 LHS & 8th Grade Choir Concert

All Concerts are at 7pm at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Blvd.

Lakewood Passes Moratorium In Anticipation Of Changes Marijuana In Lakewood

continued from page 1

home, and the way I read the current writing, in a home that has no children, and is more than 1,000 feet from ANY SCHOOL, public or private. This would make it nearly impossible to smoke pot in Lakewood, even at home.

Meanwhile the regulations seem to favor big business, and cronyism. As the law sits, 250 dispensaries will be allowed at first. That will be based on population and usage. Then the state will stop, evaluate, and allow more if

they deem them needed, and only based on population. This means Lakewood's current RISE monopoly might be all we have for years to come. This matters for many reasons, the biggest is prices. Currently there is a price war in Adrian MI with prices at 1980 levels! Winners for business licenses will be chosen at the state level. They are also taking out any taxes going to the cities, which will make local enforcement a nightmare.

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Antonio Honored With 2023 PCS-AO Legislator Of The Year Award

continued from page 1

women, children and families has always been at the heart of my work as a legislator. My legislative priorities throughout Ohio’s biennium operating budget reflect these values and my commitment to improved quality of life for all of our families.

In the budget that passed in July, House Bill 33, we were able to achieve:

- Increased funding for infant vitality and health
- Expanded access and greater support for childcare
- \$3 million in support for behavioral healthcare for children
- Removal of barriers to access to SNAP
- \$50 million in support for vulnerable multi-system youth

There is still much work to do to uplift our children and families. However, I will continue to advocate for Ohio to be the best state in which to live, work and raise a family. This includes allowing Ohioans to fully embrace who they are and live life as their authentic selves. That is why I continue to introduce the Ohio Fairness Act, which would provide civil rights protections for members of the LGBTQ+ community. This important family-centered legislation would help move our state forward to be as inclusive and welcoming as possible.

As I continue to serve as your state Senator, I am determined to continue to pass legislation with an unwavering dedication to children, families, workers, health and human rights, but most of all, for a brighter future for the state of Ohio.

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children, stable families and supportive communities.

State Senator Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) is honored to be serving in the Ohio Senate, representing District 23, and in leadership as the Minority Leader. Antonio, who was elected to the Senate in 2018, previously spent eight years in the Ohio House of Representatives, where she served District 13 and was also a member of leadership. Antonio has served as a Lakewood City Councilmember, Executive Director of an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program for women, Adjunct Professor, and a teacher for children with special needs.

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