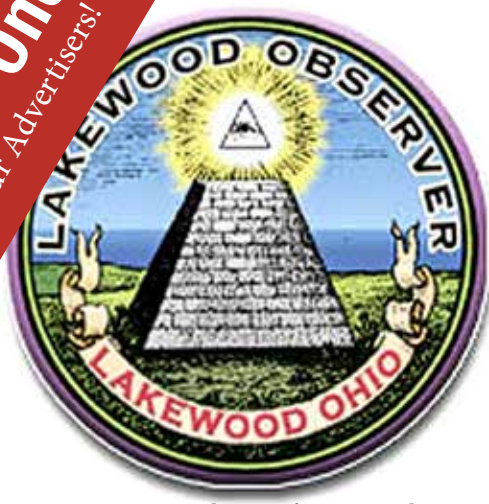


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 3, February 7, 2024

“Great things can happen when you don’t care who gets the credit.” - Mark Twain

LA To Honor Community Leaders With Awards At Loving Lakewood: Greatest Hits

by Ava Olic

The event will take place at The Lakewood Masonic Temple on Saturday, February 24

LakewoodAlive is excited to announce Julie Warren as the 2024 Founders Award recipient, and fellow community members Sandy & Dave Feicht, Galadriel Olsen, Tony Parker, Chuck & Terri Postel, and Despina Sarantopoulou as the 2024 Community Leader Award honorees to be recognized during Loving Lakewood: Greatest Hits on Saturday, February 24.

Each member of this honoree group has made a long-lasting impact on LakewoodAlive and our community. The Founders Award, recognizing one honoree annually, celebrates individuals who exemplify the vision



The 2024 Founders and Community Leader Award winners.

of LakewoodAlive’s founding members to foster and sustain vibrant and welcoming neighborhoods. Community Leader Award recipients represent LakewoodAlive’s most

dedicated volunteers and partners who have supported the organization’s work in the community.



East Palestine Observed One Year Later It's Not Good

by Jim and Deb O'Bryan

When the big train derailment happened in East Palestine just over a year ago, we went down to see what happened. The reason being we have a railroad running through Lakewood that at times carries hazardous and/or troublesome cargos. Did Lakewood have a plan for such an accident, and what would happen to East Palestine?

Well, with all of these types of incidents, at first the press blows it up. This causes others to come in "to help." While some actually want to help, most are there to share in the attention. As the media slows down, in our 24 hour



Signs proclaiming comeback all over town. Only one making money is the sign guy.

news cycle, the story gets pushed aside. Promises made don't roll out as expected, if at all. In the end, all but the ones promised forget about them.

In a highly Republican area, only 12 months ago,

continued on page 8



Even with the busiest office in town, the EPA, this strip is vacant, and for sale.

City Awarded Grant For New Bus For Seniors And Disabled

from City of Lakewood

The City of Lakewood was recently awarded a grant from the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to purchase a new accessible bus for seniors and individuals with disabilities. This bus will be utilized by the Division of Aging to take residents to and from grocery stores, programs and events, Cove Community Center, and elsewhere about the city. The grant allows the City to replace an older bus so that we can continue to provide reliable and consistent transportation.



Lakewood is proud to be one of 18 grant recipients for 2024.

The Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals With Disabilities (Section 5310) program is a federal grant program that funds 80 percent of the cost of chosen applicants' capital projects with a 20 percent local match.

LHS Senior's Art Chosen For Climate Project



by Christine Gordillo

Senior Maggie Lane's artwork on climate change has been selected to be part of the National Climate Assessment's Art x Climate project. Maggie's piece was one of 92 selected from among 800 stu-

dent submissions. In addition, Maggie will be interviewed about her piece on a podcast The National Weather Desk is developing about the Art x Climate project. Maggie's artwork can be viewed along with the other pieces chosen at the link

below. (Maggie's piece is under Maggie L. of Cleveland).



LHS Senior Sets New Indoor Meter Record

Congrats to senior Charlie Payne on setting a school record on February 2nd in the indoor 800 meters! Charlie ran a speedy 1:58.95!

District 24-25 PreK & Kindergarten Registration Open

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools' preschool and kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open! The registration process begins online. Visit the district website and www.lakewoodcityschools.org and click on Enroll at the top of the page. Children must be 5 years old before Sept. 30, 2024 to be eligible for kindergarten. Preschool classes are available for 4- and 5-year-olds at Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann and Lincoln elementaries. For more information on our early childhood education program, visit our website and click on Preschool under the Departments tab at the top of the page. Questions? Call 216-529-4267.

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Help For Our Beautiful Homes

Our city is fortunate to be filled with thousands of beautiful historic homes. These houses have stood the test of time and add to Lakewood’s charm, but as we all know, century homes also demand special care to ensure they are well-maintained and meet modern needs. The people of Lakewood take great pride in the character and quality of our historic homes, and our team at City Hall often hears from homeowners who are looking for help finding ways to keep their properties in top shape.

The City of Lakewood is committed to helping residents who need access to expertise and resources to repair and improve their historic homes. With this in mind, the City will once again partner with the Cleveland Restoration Society to provide access to the Heritage Home Program. Beginning in March, owners of Lakewood homes built over 50 years ago or more will be

able to access professional guidance and low-cost, below-market-rate financing through this valuable program.

For those interested in access to insights, guidance, and expertise, the Heritage Home Program provides free, impartial, and independent technical assistance and advice for home repair and maintenance projects. The Cleveland Restoration Society is a nonprofit that does not sell any products or services to homeowners who take advantage of this program. It also does not charge any fees for using these technical services.

There is a broad range of technical assistance you can tap into through the Heritage Home Program. Examples include: site visits to your home to assess projects and provide feed-

back; advice on repair, remodeling, and maintenance as well as compatible additions; help finding contractors and evaluating contractor estimates; impartial product and service reviews; and color consultations for exterior painting and historic color palettes.

For those whose main need is access to affordable funds for home improvement projects, the Heritage Home Program also offers low-interest home equity loans. At fixed-rates as low as 2%, these loans are typically well below market rate, especially given current interest rates being offered these days. The Home Heritage loans are made by local banks and the funds can be used to pay for both interior and exterior improvements.

In March, the Cleveland Restora-

tion Society and the City of Lakewood Planning Department will be hosting multiple meetings to talk more about how you can take advantage of this program. There will be an in-person meeting on March 7th at the Lakewood Library main branch at 15425 Detroit Ave, and a virtual only meeting with held via Zoom on March 27th. Both meetings start at 6pm. You can contact the Restoration Society directly at 216-426-3116 to register for the meetings and ask questions or visit the program website for more information: www.heritagehomeprogram.org.

I encourage anyone interested in improving and maintaining their historic Lakewood home to take a look at using the Heritage Home Program. It can be a fantastic tool to connect to expertise and affordable funds that can help in making your vision for any home improvement projects a reality.

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Lakewood Observer

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

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Jim O’Bryan

PHOTOGRAPHY - Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Deb and Jim O’Bryan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - State Senator Nickie Antonio, Ana Bacho, Nancy Feighan, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Emmie Hutchison, Francesca Jones, Deb and Jim O’Bryan, Ava Olic, Jeffrey Siebert, Eva Starr, Cindy Strebig, John Tyler, and Betsy Voinovich.



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

STATE GOVERNMENT

Ohio’s Senate Democratic Caucus Shares Priorities For 2024

by Nickie Antonio

With 2024 underway, the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus has set our priorities for the upcoming year. Our focus is to continue to support hard-working families in the state and make Ohio a great place to live, work, and raise a family. In order to achieve this goal, we are committed to prioritizing healthy and safe Ohio communities. Some of the key priorities that we will focus on are: access to healthcare, community safety through strategies to reduce gun violence, increasing access to affordable housing and advancing policies that promote job growth and job creation.

Improving access to affordable, quality child care:

We are also focused on improving access to quality child care that is affordable and convenient, extending financial aid to early childhood education programs for children with special needs, and supporting the future of generations to come by setting them up for success. This will alleviate the financial burden currently placed on working families through a lack of child care programs.

Increasing access to affordable housing:

Ohio's housing crisis is worsening,

with a quarter of all renters in Ohio[1] spending at least half their income on housing and a statewide shortage of over a quarter million homes. Our caucus is committed to finding solutions. Some of these are currently being explored by the Senate Select Committee on Housing, whose aim is to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing for everyone in the state. We hope to provide relief from the exponential increases in property taxes for those most in need. Additionally, we are collaborating with housing organizations and interested parties to update property tax laws through the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review.

Maintaining safe and healthy communities:

Our caucus recently introduced a comprehensive package of gun legislation that seeks to reduce gun violence in communities by providing incentives like income tax breaks for safe gun storage and handling, as well as removing the ability of convicted domestic abusers to possess guns and allowing individuals who have expressed suicidal ideation to be able to waive their right to gun ownership. Far too many Ohioans lose their lives to gun violence each year. It drastically affects victims, their families, and our communities, and disrupts and obstructs the safety

and security of Ohioans. We are confident our package of legislative solutions will make our state safer while respecting the rights of law-abiding Ohioans.

Promoting job growth and creation:

Finally, the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus aims to promote job and business opportunities in Ohio through capital and One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund (OTSCIF) projects, including supporting local, female-owned and minority-owned businesses. The Ohio Fairness Act would provide protections for LGBTQ+ workers and also improve Ohio's economy, attracting businesses and investors to the state by providing workplace protections for LGBTQ+ employees, leading to more job creation and the attraction of potential talent and families to Ohio.

These are certainly lofty goals but achievable when we work together. It is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to continuing our service to the state of Ohio through 2024 and working together with you!

[1] <https://cohio.org/state-report-shows-more-ohioans-struggling-to-stay-housed/#:~:text=In%202021%2C%2025%20percent%20of,a%20shortage%20of%20270%2C399%20units.>



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LAKEWOOD SPORTS

Dr G's Ranger Roundup: Basketball

by Dr. Charles Greanoff
February 2: Rangers vs Valley Forge

History was made tonight in the East Gym when Lakewood junior Luke Vannucci made his 82nd 3-pointer of the season (now 85), breaking Wes Gerhard's record of 82. The loud, large and very proud crowd gave Luke a standing ovation, and the Rangers went on to a decisive 65-36 win over Valley Forge. Actually, history was made not so much tonight but through countless hours of practice and an obvious love for the game. Talent alone—and Luke has plenty—does not make records in such a competitive sport. Tonight's magic night was years in the making. Lakewood built a large lead early, and was able to use its bench extensively. Starters Drew Jabolowski (12) Lucas Seguire (4) Dominic Peck (2) and Jack Gowan (2) joined Vannucci (20) to take control early. From there, reserves Riley



Junior, Luke Vannucci (Pictured with AD Mr Rob Slone)

Verderber (4), Luke Bonvissuto (4), Peter Checkett (3), Steven McAuliffe (2), Aidan Smith (2), Mohammed Abuzahriyah (2) and Griffin Starr (2) kept the Patriots at a comfortable distance. A special moment was reserved, however, for senior Luke George, who was able to play for the first time this year. The Ranger student section chanted for "LG" to enter the game, and erupted in

joyous applause when he scored his two baskets. The Sparkle Cheer Squad did their routines fabulously, the Student Section was all that, and the youth basketball players in attendance got to see a display of Lakewood community athletics in all its Purple and Gold glory. The "glory" is not so much in the records and winning—awesome as they are—but in the dedication it takes for Luke and all the players to earn their spot on the stage. The "glory" comes from being all in for one team, for everyone playing and cheering together for a common purpose. The Lakewood Rangers are—and have always been—one team, from one town, that give it everything. Tradition never goes out of style, and we have a great one. Long Live Lakewood.

January 27: Rangers vs Buckeye

Down by 15 midway through the 2nd quarter, the Rangers refused to quit, and when the harrowing four minute overtime period ended, Lakewood prevailed at Buckeye, 68-61. From the jump, it was clear that the Bucks intended to take away the three pointer, and they were largely successful. Up stepped Junior Lucas Seguire (34 points), who used his ball skills on drive after drive, scoring twisting layups, hitting two 3 pointers, and scoring from the line. In a great team effort, Lucas led the way—every time it seemed that the Bucks were

about to finish off the Rangers, he made a play, including some late clutch free throws—one of which tied the game with 3 seconds left. Junior guard Luke Vannucci, as usual, handled the ball well, scoring 11, including a key late layup to help send the game to overtime. Senior Drew Jablonowski (8 points) battled a spate of taller players all night, leading the team in rebounds with 9. (Buckeye, like almost all teams, has more size than the Rangers.) Starters Jack Gowan (2 points) and Dominic Peck (3 points) helped the Rangers early, but reserves Luke Bonvisutto (2 points) and Aidan Smith (3 points) provided much needed height, rebounding and defense, and were vital to the Rangers comeback. Aidan hit a clutch late free throw in overtime to help clinch the win.

We showed up in Medina County tonight—students, fans, parents—and brought enthusiasm and energy to match that of the always raucous Buckeye crowd. The Cheer Squad not only brought their usual stellar routines, but were clearly all in for the Rangers. In games like these, the comebacks usually fall short, especially on the road, So much energy is expended climbing the hill. But the Lakewood Rangers dug deep, everyone chipped in, and when it was finally over the faithful were both relieved and elated. Congratulations to Coach Cammock, his entire staff and all the players. The Rangers are one team, from one town that tonight, and every night, never gives up. Long Live Lakewood.

Paint With The Pros Local Legend Foundation And GV Arts And Design Inspire Young Minds

by Franceska Jones

In a heartwarming collaboration, the Local Legend Foundation and GV Arts & Design recently hosted an extraordinary program at Harrison Elementary School. The Legends in Training (L.I.T) program, which took place on January 26, 2024, was a remarkable day of artistic exploration, collaboration, and invaluable life lessons for over 30 enthusiastic 5th graders.

Founded with a mission to inspire the next generation of legends by connecting them with public figures through sports, mentorship programs, and community events. The Local Legend Foundation has been making a positive impact since its inception in 2023. Established by a passionate Lakewood native, the foundation's commitment to fostering creativity and personal development aligns seamlessly with its founder's roots. More information about the foundation's initiatives and projects can be found on their website: www.locallegendfoundation.org.

What made the Legends in Training

program at Harrison Elementary School particularly special was the personal connection between the foundation's founder Shaun Crawford and the school. Mr. Crawford's mother Sabrina Crawford none other than the principal of Harrison Elementary, adding a deeply personal touch to the event. This familial tie underscored the foundation's dedication to making a meaningful impact on the local community, especially in places of personal significance.

Partnering with GV Arts & Design brought the program a wealth of artistic expertise. The artists from GV Arts & Design shared their knowledge of various art forms and imparted valuable life skills. The collaboration aimed to demonstrate that art is a form of self-expression and a medium through which essential life skills such as communication, collaboration, and maintaining a growth mindset can be cultivated.

Students were immersed in various art activities throughout the program, encouraging them to explore differ-

continued on next page



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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

LHS Inducts New National Honor Society Members

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High National Honor Society welcomed 44 new members to its chapter in an induction ceremony at the Civic Auditorium on Jan. 25, 2024. To be inducted into the National Honor Society, students must possess a GPA of at least 3.5. Students are also evaluated based on their

continued from page 4

ent mediums and techniques. From vibrant, colorful pictures to Incorporating discussions on life skills further enriched the program, offering students a holistic learning experience. These conversations centered around effective communication, the significance of collaboration, and the power of embracing a growth mindset. The goal was to equip these young minds with tools that extend beyond the art room, nurturing skills that will serve them well in various aspects of their lives.

The day ended on a heartwarming note with a generous meal from Barrio, a local restaurant known for its community involvement. The students were physically and creatively nourished as they embarked on a day filled with artistic expression and skill-building.

The Local Legend Foundation extends its gratitude to GV Arts & Design, Barrio, and all the dedicated individuals who contributed to the success of this event. Through initiatives like Legends in Training, the foundation continues to sow the seeds of creativity and empowerment, nurturing the legends of tomorrow within the hearts and minds of the young participants at Harrison Elementary School and beyond.

character, which means the nominating committee looks at community involvement, extracurriculars, leadership skills, and other intangibles.

Prior to the induction of new members, NHS President Arabella Spear offered a President's Message, followed by the four remaining NHS officers each speaking on one of the four tenets of the organization: scholarship, leadership, service and character. Vice President Fiona Gjermení spoke on the topic of service; Treasurer Evie Abderrazza spoke on leadership; Secretary Gift Anya spoke on character; and Sergeant at Arms Jana Evans spoke on scholarship. The guest speaker of the evening was Lakewood High English social studies teacher Austin Sparks.

Congratulations to all our new NHS inductees and thank you to the current members for welcoming the newest members!

Inductees:

Fallon Austin, Caroline Bass, Ronan Barley, Maggie Barmann, Beckett Broadwater, Peter Checkett, Madison Comer, Elma Coralic, Isaac Craciun, Ava Cuffari, Anna Daso, Olivia Demery, Willow Detmar, Elizabeth Doup, Charieon Doxley, Logan Ellis, Camden Fegely, Riley Forster, Helen Fraunfelder, Nora Germaine, Turner Gilliland, Maren Jacobs, Shannon Katzenberger, Josie Kavc, Margot King, Maggie Lane, Piper McElfresh, Madaline Magda-McKinney, Isabella Marzicola, Anna Maurer, Donnie Mikuluk, Evan/Eve Miller, Mae Mohar, Ian Molinski, Brian Moten, Zayna Muntaser, Elizabeth Schuldt, Parker Toms, Sara Viserta, Jane Wagle, Ava Watts, Iris Wright, Delano Yeung, Quincy Zvomuya



Lincoln Third Graders Present Web Designs

by Christine Gordillo

Mrs. Gleason's and Mrs. Bostwick's third-graders at Lincoln proudly presented their very own websites at the class' official website launch party on Tuesday. Students shared with family and staff their website creations, which focused on a topic of their choice that they researched. Students were so proud of the end product after working for months on creating the text, securing photos, and learning how to create the design. What a wonderful project that encompasses so many of our Vision of a Lakewood Ranger competencies!



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Lakewood Public Library

February Events

Children’s And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Just Baby ‘N Me

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

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

January 8- February 29, 2024

Main Library - Mondays- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Thursdays-10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Madison Branch - Thursdays- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pre-school Story Time

For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler.

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

January 9- March 28, 2024

Main Library - Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Madison Branch - Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Pajama Party

For You and Your 2 to 6 Year-Old Child

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

January 8- March 26, 2024

Mondays: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Family Weekend Wonders

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

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

Make a Paper “Palm Leaf” Hat

For Students in First through Fifth Grade.

A leaf hat is made of palm leaves and held on the head by a silk ribbon. These hats are worn by farmers, fishermen and Vietnamese women of all ages. They have many uses including protection from the rain, as a container for water, a fan on hot days and more. Make your own “Palm Leaf” hat out of paper and think of how you could use it. Registration is required.

Madison Branch - Children’s Program Room
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Main Library Activity Room
Thursday, February 22, 2024, 4:00pm - 5:00pm in the

Henna Art

For students in sixth through twelfth grade.

Made from the leaves of the Henna plant, this dye has been used throughout history to color hair, fingernails, fabrics and to create temporary body art. Learn about the significance and traditional designs of Henna body art and get a small (temporary) tattoo. **Registration is required.**

Madison Branch Children’s Program Room
Friday, February 16, 2024, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Let’s Make a Beaded Dragonfly

For Students in Third through Fifth Grade.

Dragonflies, also known as dragons that fly, are a common sight in Vietnam where water lilies are found. Make your own dragonfly from pipe cleaners and beads. **Registration is required.**

Main Library Activity Room - Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Madison Branch Youth Program Room - Wednesday, February 21, 2024

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



Cuyahoga Reads Report

This Valentine’s Day and the days that follow, let’s not forget the timeless joy that books bring into our lives. Whether it’s the sweeping romance of classic novels, the heartwarming tales of friendship, or the empowering narratives of self-love, literature has a unique way of capturing the essence of what it means to love and be loved. This month, consider visiting one of the nine local public libraries in Cuyahoga County. You can also use the Libby app to download an audiobook that you and your family can all listen to together. Which books do you love? Share a pic of a book that is close to your heart with the hashtag #CuyahogaReads.



A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne

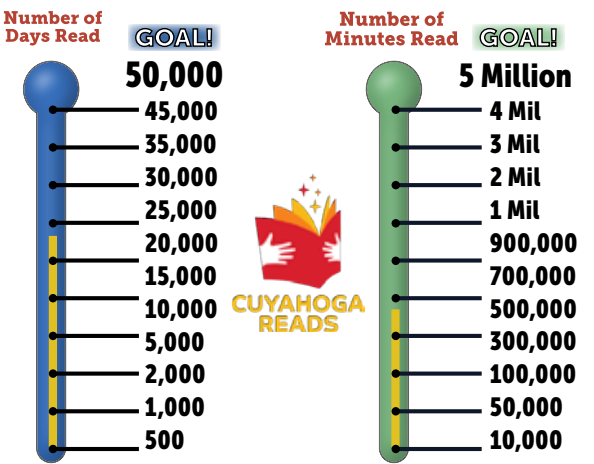
As we embark on our reading journey in February, I encourage you to have some thrilling book adventures. I enjoyed meeting and reading with students at Charles A. Mooney School in Cleveland in January. It was truly an inspiring experience, and I can’t wait to share the video of that visit with you this spring. But there’s still so much more to do. Cuyahoga Reads participants have logged 438,620 minutes, but we can do better. I urge children, teens, and their families in Cuyahoga County to keep reading! Let’s all commit to reading more books this year. Currently, I’m absorbed in *Last Train to Paradise* by Les Standiford. What about you? What book are you reading right now?



Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips

OverDrive

If your child loves watching movies and TV shows, remind them that many of their favorite stories began as books, such as the Harry Potter or the Percy Jackson series. Many books are slated to be turned into movies and TV series in 2024, including several children’s and young adults’ books like *The Tiger’s Apprentice*, *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *It’s Not Summer Without You*, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, *Geek Girl*, and *The Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide*. As a family, read the books ahead of the films’ release and engage children in a conversation later about which version they preferred – the book or the movie/TV series. Remember to post a family picture using the hashtag #CuyahogaReads.



LAKEWOOD CARES

The Lakewood League Of Women Voters
**Mary Warren Impact Scholarship
Honors Linda Beebe**

by Cindy Streb

The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters is proud to recognize Linda Beebe as our 2024 honoree. The 4th Annual Mary Warren Impact Scholarship will be given in Linda's name to recognize her 40 years of preserving public education.

A recognized pillar of the Lakewood Chapter, former English teacher in Ireland, and Substitute teacher in Lakewood, Linda's service is unmatched in the history of our city and state. Her commitment to protecting education accessibility for our community is unparalleled.

To honor her value of preservation, Lakewood High School Seniors are invited to apply for the Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Honoring Linda Beebe. Applicants for the scholarship must be continuing their education, demonstrate volunteer service, and write



an essay showing their understanding of democracy. The essay for this year is, "Why is democracy important to preserve?" Applications can be found at: [lwvgreatercleveland.org/Chapters/Lakewood/2024 Scholarship Contest](http://lwvgreatercleveland.org/Chapters/Lakewood/2024%20Scholarship%20Contest).

To contribute to the Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Honoring Linda Beebe, please follow this path: lwvgreatercleveland.org/Chapters/Lakewood/Donate. One hundred percent of donations go to Lakewood High School Seniors. Thank you for honoring Linda Beebe with your donation.

Lakewood Kiwanis

K Kids Awareness Week

by Anna Bacho

February 12-16, 2024 is Kiwanis International recognition week for Kiwanis K Kids. Lakewood Kiwanis is proud to sponsor three K Kids Clubs in our community: Horace Mann Elementary School and Horizon Before And After Care at Harrison and Emerson Elementary Schools.

K Kids is the youngest youth leadership club in the Kiwanis family. Every K Kids club has a school/administrator advisor and Lakewood Kiwanian advisor. Each club has their leadership team of K Kids selected through essays submitted or elected at the beginning of school. After that is in place, the voting of projects by the kids is done for the year. Our K Kids projects include food drives, community trash cleanup in the Spring and local initiatives that they have chosen to do. The kids learn that they have a voice in the club and need to make the commitment to com-

plete their projects. As advisors, we try to have different speakers come in to connect the kids to the community service they complete. Win-win for all. Lakewood Kiwanis also sponsors Builders Club at Harding Junior High.

Our K Kids have been busy this school year. Horace Mann K Kids are planning to have an Alex's Lemonade Stand in March for Pediatric Cancer. The K Kids serve lemonade during lunch and take donations for Pediatric Cancer. Recently, Horizon K Kids at both Harrison and Emerson Elementary made Snowman Soup (hot chocolate mix, marshmallows, a candy cane and a holiday poem) for a homeless ministry in the area. And in December, the K Kids made dog biscuits and blankets for City Dogs in Cleveland.

K Kids motto is to Build Leaders,
and Lakewood K Kids are doing it in
Lakewood.

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At your home. The study consists of approximately three 1-hour home visits over a 2-week time period. The study involves tracking your sleep, gathering some information about your sleep environment, and completing questionnaires.

Compensation:
Teen and parent participants will be compensated for their time.

If you are interested in this study, please contact:
Study Recruiter, Lynda Owens
Phone: 216-368-4128 **Email:** Lynda.owens@case.edu

This study is being conducted at
Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine
by Dr. James Spilsbury, Principal Investigator
email: James.spilsbury@case.edu.

This study has been approved by
Case Western Reserve University Institutional Review Board,
STUDY20201856

WE GO BACK TO EAST PALESTINE



The scene of the accident and the clean-up. It continues on with no end in sight. The public and press cannot get within a block of the clean-up.

East Palestine Observed - One Year Later

continued from page 1

Former President Trump showed up, saying things like, “I am with the people of East Palestine.” Ex-President Trump has not been back, nor kept in contact with anyone. J.D Vance, Sherrod Brown, Gov. DeWine and others lined up with reassurances, and promises, making short stops but not breaking bread, staying for dinner. Biden and Buttigieg are mostly silent. At the one year anniversary, it would seem that almost everyone has stayed far away. Why? Because it has been a failure, and they all know it.

There was a swirl of talk in town about dignitaries visiting for the anniversary. This time the dignitaries it seems were medical students from San Diego taking blood, urine and hair samples of any resident willing to share as long as they were one of the few left in town after the accident. For you see, East Palestine is becoming a ghost town.

Now before we get too deep into the weeds here let me explain. East Palestine was having tough days before the



Another abandoned house with “Buy UR Dioxin” and “We R Sick” painted on it.

train derailment and toxic spill brought focus to the city and its good people. As is the case with many small towns that popped up in the 1800s and early 1900s, people have moved away. The young move away to larger cities like Canton, Belleville, Mansfield, Cleveland, Columbus or nearby Pittsburgh, anywhere but that small town they grew up in. As the young population moves and returns in smaller numbers, the community elders die off, and with them businesses, churches, social groups and yes, even schools.

This is being played out all across the country, not just in East Palestine,

Ohio. It's common, happening everywhere. All towns are putting on brave faces and throwing money into CDCs in an effort to stop the exodus. East Palestine has put on a face as brave and proud as any of them. However, this accident has caused a major shift in the demographics moving out. Instead of it just being the young, it is anyone who can, any way they can. You see, the town has not been cleaned up, but they're “working on it.” Practically the only industry that is left in town is the job of working on the clean-up. The site of the actual derailment remains off limits (by blocks) to all but the railroad and those doing the clean-up. No photos please.

Which brings us to the corporate/government plan for these kinds of clean ups. As the Rolling Stone song proclaims... “TIME IS ON THEIR SIDE, Oh yes it is.” You see, in any kind of major disaster like this, every second they can put off the inevitable, is another day for the issue to disappear. Disappear? Yes, the entire massive nightmare slowly disappears. Limit discussion until there is none. Downplay the findings. The real problem is the toxins. Every day they sink deeper into the ground, moving farther downstream, getting diluted to “acceptable levels” and then it's branded cleaned up. Wherever there has been a toxic spill, this is how corporations deal with it, and governments and courts let



What you are seeing here is the shadow of the solvents in the water. To see the video, follow the QR Code.



them. I know very good EPA/Environmental lawyers and most of their cases are measured in decades, not years. And just like the pollution, slowly the litigants(people) start to disappear, being forced to take small settlements that were desperately needed at the time, just plain getting out of the area, and/or dying. All of this is figured into the legal side of all of it. Heartless? You bet. Rarely, if ever, have corporations and their lawyers shown heart in disastrous accidents. Doing the least possible to rectify the situation in the public eye is the main concern, often/usually as cheaply as possible unless forced to do better.

Well, back to the story. Last year, we stopped by a house on the creek that housed a family of three, a local

continued on next page



You can see the creek still flowing under the property. This is common throughout East Palestine.

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WE GO BACK TO EAST PALESTINE

East Palestine Observed - One Year Later

continued from page 8

bartender, her fiance, and her teenage son. Sulphur Run Creek actually flows under her house and backyard, as it does with many homes and businesses throughout East Palestine. The town was built in the 1800s when all needed access to water to power water wheels. So channels were dug and routed all over the city. It's actually a beautiful town with water running everywhere.

The teenage son who lived in the house had been covered in a nasty rash from the big burn off from the spill, which lasted days. They all had severe headaches and were worried about their health, their pets and chickens. The mom was afraid of staying, but also afraid of leaving, for both legal and safety reasons. This past weekend, I stopped and knocked at her door, and found the house empty. It looked vacated, all the chicken coops were gone, there was no garden planted in the once fertile soil, where it had been before.

A neighbor walked out and asked me what I wanted. I explained how I met the woman and her family last year, and wanted to touch base and see how they were. "She got out of here. Everyone that can is getting out of here. It's a mess."

I asked him what was going on and he mentioned that first off, all the settlement offers on homes and businesses adjacent to the spill were not based on any real numbers. He said it seemed more like how low they could get you. No one trusts the government, especially locally. "It's bad, you know." "The government came and handed out Christmas checks to everyone who had children for Christmas presents for the kids, but it didn't go to the kids, people used the money to leave." "There's absolutely no help for renters; my girlfriend is a renter who can't get out of her lease." At the same time, City Hall got new fire trucks, police cars and safety equipment along with money, but very little of it makes it to or helps the residents. Lastly, he reiterated that "None of us trust the local water system, or the new system, so we have to buy and bring in bottled water." "I won't even use the city water to wash my clothes." "I fish, well, I used to." He went on to explain that the



Hundreds of containers of contaminated soil sit in massive lots all around the site.

creeks used to be filled with minnows, and wildlife flourished. "Now, you don't see any life...look around...we don't even have birds or stray cats anymore, no raccoons, nothing." "I won't let my dog run in that creek." Deb and I only remember seeing one bird the whole day we were there, and it was flying high above.

The new system he referred to are two million gallon cisterns right next to the tracks holding fresh water that has been brought in and then distributed around the immediate area with above ground pipes. The pipes only go so far and only to certain areas nearby.

We walked over to the creek and looked down. In the sunlight you could see globules of something, who knew what it was, but it sure looked like an oily solvent. It would show up as ameoba-like shapes that change as they flowed but would eventually pull back into a circle. Around the edges you could see rainbows. When you looked at the creek on an angle, it seemed cloudy white, not just muddy or dirty. Same color/effect as dirty glasses. What was it? I have no idea, but it was creepy. Nothing moving in the water but the globules.

Today many homes and businesses have air quality sensors in them, and are still getting nasty readings. Most are told they believe the air is okay. Today, a day later my throat itches, and Deb woke up coughing her head off. Coincidence? All in our heads? Probably...Maybe, maybe not.

Which brings me to the psychological damage inflicted on these people daily: Weekly testing of the soil, the air, their blood and urine, even hair samples, collected by many agencies for many reasons. One year later it all still tests positive, and they know it. Every time they try to drink, they know it, every time they go outside they know it. Every time they go downtown and see 85% of the stores empty and for sale they know it, and every time they go home and see their neighbors' homes empty, for sale or just abandoned for personal safety, they know it.

And if that is not enough, about every 20 minutes another train goes through the center of town carrying whatever. Horns blaring, rumbling through, disrupting the calm sound of the creek water trickling. It's crazy.

It is an f'n nightmare. Sorry, but how else do you explain it?

Take the small check and leave, if you were among the few who received them-- or live in hell. Who cares what you had yesterday.

This was not brought on by the people who lived in the town, but by the failure of the railroad and government --on all levels-- to do the right thing before disaster happened, and then the failure to act responsibly afterward.

Protect the people who vote. Protect those who cannot as well. The job of politicians seems simple enough, but on both sides they always seem to fall way short. Good luck, East Palestine. Our hearts are with you. We know it can

happen here--well--almost anywhere. We wrote this story not to sensationalize any part of it, but to help all of us understand. If you have a railroad near your city, or like in East Palestine and Lakewood — running right through the center of it—this could happen to you, here, or anywhere. We desperately need railroad safety and a plan for accountability.

Call and or write our state representatives today. What is happening in East Palestine and elsewhere is not right, and not the way innocent people and fellow Ohioans should be treated. <https://ohio.gov/government>

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SPECIAL TOPPINGS: Artichoke Hearts, Tomato, Broccoli, Chicken

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY

Hello There - "Returns"

by John Tyler
This is a love letter. I write to my wife each night I am away from her. This is one of those letters ...

"Returns"
Hi Honey,
I am at the returns counter at Kohl's doing a return that sister Ann has directed me to do here. I am second in line and patiently await my turn. There is only one man in front of me, currently at the counter.
The returns manager is a mature woman with white hair stylishly done in the way of women's retail clothing stores. My read on her is that she is hard-bitten from years of customer excuses for returns. I will not trifle with this woman. She is on the phone repeating back a 12 or 15 digit sequence to some unknown individual, " .. 243 .. 300 .. 622 ..", she bites off the numbers. I am sure the person on the other

end of the line is being oh-so-precise so that this communication is accurate .. and as short as possible.
Banging the receiver down, the manager marches back to the register, punches a few keys, and takes the emitted receipt and card over to the man.
"Okay," she says to him, "I'm giving you this much back on your Kohl's card and that much on store credit. I can't give you cash. Your wife must have done the transaction in this way because this is the only way I can do the return. She'll know when she sees the receipt."
"Thanks, much appreciated," he says carefully, gingerly. He slides the store credit in his wallet and goes to put the receipt in his pocket. He stops and somewhat ruefully looks at the document. He shrugs, completes the action and, turning away, half apologizes to the lady.
"Unfortunately," he says, "I'm going to lose this receipt in 15 minutes."

Instantly aware, my complacency shifts and we are comrades. I understand the man perfectly. What do you do with small pieces of paper?
Here...here's a personal take on this: At a golf course, one of my biggest stress points is getting the receipt from the clubhouse to the starter's shack. I know if I put it in my pocket, it won't be there when I get to the starter. I'll go through six pockets of a four pocket pair of pants searching for the thing. The starter will look at me like I'm a moron – no comments please, especially from family. It's even worse if I keep it tightly clenched in my fingers .. because I fear that something will sing a Siren's Song on my way. In my passion for...15 extra yards on my drive... or a putter that will always ring true... all of a sudden I won't have the foggiest of where I put the receipt down.
So...I hand my receipt to my son –

because his green fee is on there, too.
Now being the only one in the department, the lady scrutinizes me over her glasses. I softly place my bag on the counter and smile benignly.
"Sorry, I don't know much about this. Was just instructed to return this. Understand the receipt is in the bag."
"Already got it," she says. The item is out of the bag and onto the counter, receipt in her hand, before I finish my sentence. Typing up the transaction, she says, "So you're just the gofer, huh?"
Startlingly, she has hit it exactly. In stores like this, I gofer (one word) something. If it is there, I getit (one word). If it is not, I getout. She hands me the completed returns receipt.
"I had me a gofer once," she tells me over folded arms. "My husband was 12 years older than me. He died riding a Harley. Stopped the bike, got off, looked at me, and was gone. Said he wanted to go out one of three ways. One was in his garden, face down in the dirt. He had a huge garden," she laid it out in front of me with her hands. "After he died I counted 135 tomato plants in it!" She pointed to the rows in the garden and then waved her hands. "He'd give away tomatoes and produce to everybody: friends, family, food banks. Or he wanted to go out on that bike, which he did."
She stopped.
I canted my head, waiting...
And, suddenly as vulnerable as a schoolgirl, she murmured, "Or in my arms."

After a pause, still a schoolgirl, she said, "I bet you didn't want to hear all of that."
"Nothing could be further from the truth," I softly returned. "I just have to tell my wife...that I've found one more thing for my wish list."
I love you, Honey.
John



FEBRUARY
ARIES: The Ram's got Jupiter in his financial house; take some of that cold cash & spice it up for Valentine's Day. The hotter the better. Wear something red & think of something daring.
TAURUS: The Bulls got the Sun shining on your career for Valentine's. Get away from the water cooler & take that hottie home: wine, dark chocolate & a cozy fire with a bear rug.
GEMINI: The Twins have double the luck this Valentine's Day - behind the scenes. You're the intellectual romantic. Shut down that computer, close the doors & play some double jeopardy.
CANCER: Crab, get out of the house this Valentine's Day. You've got some extra resources coming in. Get out & mingle with friends & spread that love around; the more, the merrier.
LEO: Lion, your partnerships, both business & personal, are highlighted this Valentine's Day. Take that Roar & mix business with pleasure. You're the King/Queen; call the shots your way.
VIRGO: If you've been traveling overseas, you might want to ensure your health is top-notch. Looks like the Love Bug is sending hearts your way from across the oceans; ditch the gloves.
LIBRA: Romance is knocking on Libra's door. Don't wait too long before

deciding to answer; you're getting extra financial help from an outside source. Splurge on some roses with chocolate.
SCORPIO: Love is stinging the Scorpion right in the home this Holiday. Clean that cave up; Lady Luck is getting intense in your relationship arena. The kitchen is about to get hot & steamy.
SAGITTARIUS: This Valentine's Day finds the Centaur aiming Cupid's bow & arrow in the community. Check out the local wineries & the chocolate shops. Moderation is vital; Jupiter's in the health house.
CAPRICORN: Hello, Goat; the Sun is shining in your financial sector, & Jupiter has landed in your house of romance & speculation. It sounds like a Royal Flush Valentine's Day; enjoy!
AQUARIUS: It's all about your birthday. Valentine's Day is blessing you on the Homefront this month. Get crazy with all your eccentric ideas & throw a heart cookie decorating party with bubbly.
PISCES: The Sun has its spotlight on the Fish behind the scenes this Valentine's Day. There's magic & mystery in the air. Invite that Mermaid over for a Moonlight dip in the backyard Jacuzzi.
Eva Starr, the local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. You can reach Starr at evastarr@evastarr.com & website evastarr.com.



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COVE COMMUNITY CENTER

City of Lakewood H2O “Help to Others” H2O's Home Alone Program

by Emmie Hutchison

What do kids need to know to stay safe when they are not directly supervised by adults? What do parents and guardians need to consider when making decisions about their child's independence? These questions are the foundation of H2O's HOME ALONE program. This innovative class teaches kids ages 9-12 critical safety skills, including how to make healthy choices. High school volunteers create engaging presentations using demonstrations, videos, visual aids, and handouts. Parents confirm after attending HOME ALONE that the youth leaders act as role models to which children are more

likely to attentively listen. At the same time, parents hear from community safety experts about current best practices for safety. They discuss ways to assess child readiness for being home alone and how to build toward and prepare for that independence. The next HOME ALONE is Wednesday, March 6th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Cove Community Center, 12525 Lake Ave. Registration is required and will open on February 14th. The link to register through Eventbrite will be available at h2olakewood.org on the City of Lakewood website. There is a requested fee to attend but can be waived upon request. The goal in designing this

program is to make it accessible to the community, regardless of ability to pay. In a post-event survey, a parent said, “My child and I left with a feeling of love for our community and a sense of security with the information gathered.” We hope that Lakewood families who have children ages 9-12 will consider registering for this session of HOME ALONE. The last one was filled to capacity, and we do not plan to offer

another session until fall of 2024. If you have any questions, please contact emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.net. H2O is a youth volunteer program sponsored by the City of Lakewood's Division of Youth Office. H2O receives tremendous support from the Lakewood City Schools, the Lakewood Foundation, generous donors and a dedicated group of adult volunteers.

Seniors' Leap Year Dance Party At CCC

by Nancy Feighan

Get ready to groove because the Senior Dance Party is back in Lakewood! Save the date for Thursday, February 29th, as we celebrate “A Time to Dance” at the splendidly decorated Cove Community Center. This year, we're teaming up with the Division of Aging and H2O (Help to Others) high school students to create an unforgettable evening that bridges generations. Thanks to our sponsors—O'Neill Healthcare, Eliza Jennings, and Haven at Lakewood Senior Living—we're bringing you a night of dancing in style. Enjoy dinner catered by Karen King Catering, dance to the beats of DJ Michael, and savor sweet treats donated by Despina's Bakery, Giant Eagle, Gray House Pies, KB Confections, and Sweet Designs Chocolatier. If you're 60 years and above, don't miss out on the fun! Limited seating is available, so buy your tickets now by calling 216-529-5061. Let's

dance the night away together! Nancy Feighan is Project Specialist II, Department of Human Services, City of Lakewood.

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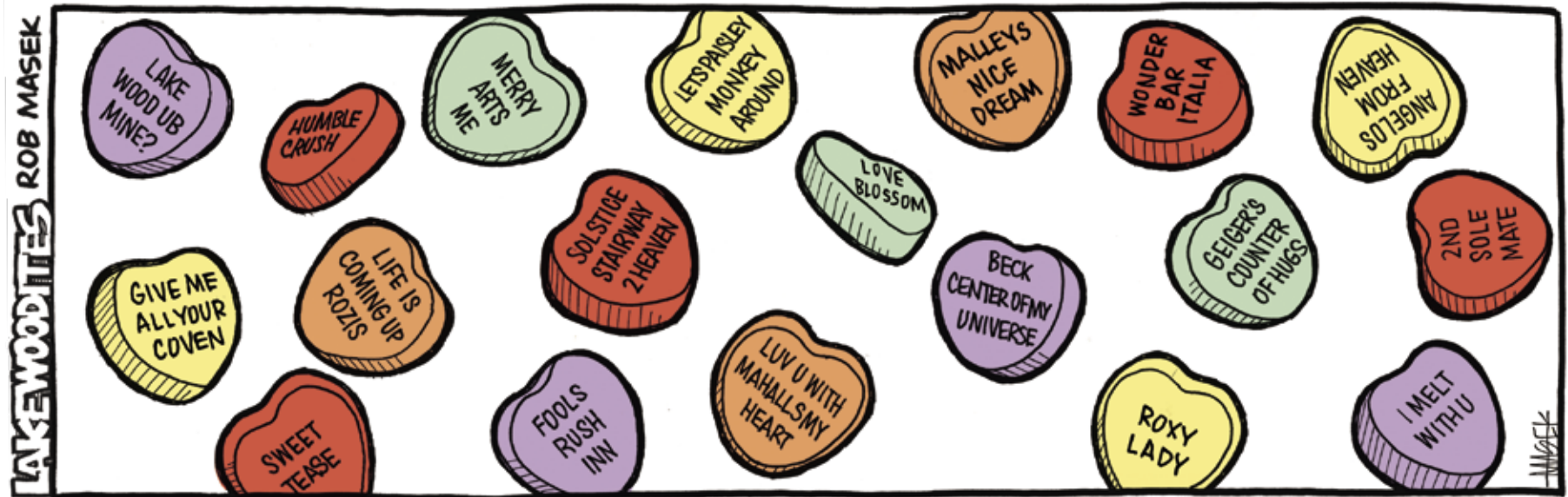
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Are you facing a legal problem that impacts Health? Housing? Family? Money? Employment?

Contact Legal Aid!

Browse legal information or apply for help 24/7 online: www.lasclev.org

Or, call 888.817.3777 during most business hours.



Legal Aid thanks the Healthy Lakewood Foundation for its outreach support!