Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 4, February 21, 2024

Letter To Lakewood City Council:

Updating Cannabis Ordinances

by Council Members Sarah Keppel, Jason Shachner, Cindy Marx, Tristan Rader and Kyle Baker

Dear Colleagues,

On November 7th, 2023 Ohio voters passed Issue 2, a measure to insert language as Chapter 3780 into the Ohio Revised Code(ORC)to allow for the use of and regulation of marijuana like alcohol, and an overwhelming 80% of Lakewood voters who turned out supported the measure.

Chapter 3780 went into



effect on December 7th; however, residents have expressed considerable confusion regarding the legality of adult use marijuana within the City and the State. This communication and the following ordinances are intended to alleviate this confusion and align the Lakewood codified ordinances with the spirit and intention of Issue 2.

One of the factors creating confusion for voters is that Issue 2 enacted language in the ORC (Ohio Revised Code), rather than amending the Ohio Constitution like Issue 1. This means that legislators in the Ohio Senate and Ohio House have the authority to amend the code. Currently there are two significantly different adult-use marijuana bills vying for adoption at the Statehouse, HB 354 and a revised Senate-passed measure HB 86. It is unknown if either of these bills will pass, or what will be included in the final language.

The current language of ORC Chapter 3780 includes:

Allowing for the possession by an adult 21 or over of 2.5 ounces of adult-use cannabis in any form except extract, which is limited to 15 grams.

Allowing for the home growth of 6 plants per adult 21 or over and not more than 12 cannabis plants at a single residence where two or more individuals who are at least 21 reside at anyone time.

Establishment of a Division of Cannabis Control within the Department of industry including licensing of

Commerce to ensure the proper oversight and control of the adult use cannabis

continued on page 3

Kira Krivosh For **Common Pleas Judge**

by Ryan Krivosh

In Lakewood, my family, the Krivosh family is known for our restaurants, but Kira Krivosh is making her own name based on her public service.

Her father- and mother-inlaw, Mickey and Patty Krivosh, founded Around the Corner, a mainstay for good food, drink and entertainment in 1974. The family opened the more upscale Georgetown in 2011 and VOSH, a wedding and event space adjacent to the warehouse in 2013.

Kira's husband, Ryan and his sister Jennifer manage both restaurants.

Kira is running to be a judge on the Court of Common Pleas General Division with the endorsement of the County Democratic Party, Cleveland. com/The Plain Dealer and a slew of unions including North-Shore AFL-CIO and the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council.

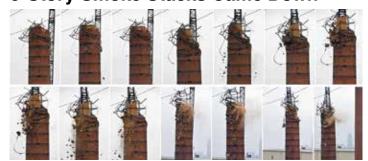
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Coffee With A Cop



A favorite of residents of all ages is Lakewood's Coffee with A Cop. This time they set up at Doughnut Pantry on Madison.

Old Refuse Building's 6-Story Smoke Stacks Came Down



You can see these and other moments in Lakewood for FREE 24/7/365 at lakewoodobserver.com, on the Observation Deck.

Scholarship Opportunity For Women

by Judy Bates

College Club West is scholarships for women over age 25 who are seeking a 4-year degree or a graduate degree in any field. The candidates must be residents of Cuyahoga County or surrounding counties. The scholarships will be offered for the academic year 2024-2025 and will be in the amount of \$2000 or more. Each can-

didate must complete the application process which can be found on the College Club West website at http://www. collegeclubwest.org/scholarships and submit all required documents by March 15, 2024.

Awards are based on the recipient's financial needs, career goals, and academic achievements. These scholarships will be awarded in mid-May 2024.

New from Lakewood Author/Photographer And Renaissance Man, Scott MacGregor "CAPTURED!"

by Scott MacGregor

"Captured!" A World War II Memoir

Before shipping out to European battlefields in the late summer of 1944, a 23 year old Clevelander and Cathedral Latin

graduate named Hugh O'Neill had paid a visit to his mother and extended famwho lived in a large 4-plex on East Blvd near University Circle. By September 1944 he was training near Cherbourg and waiting for his 3rd Army infantry unit under the command of General George S.

Patton to start their march across France. O'Neill subsequently fought, and had survived many consequential battles such as the attack on Metz, the Battle of the Bulge, and the siege of Bastogne.

> While on a counter-reconnaissance mission along the German Siegfried line in January 1945, Sgt. O'Neill and the men with him took shelter from the cold winnight inside what

they thought was an abandoned Nazi bunker. It

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THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Lakewood Securing Our Fair Share

Our team at City Hall aggressively and persistently seeks out resources from federal, regional, and county sources to support public projects, capital needs, and programs. By doing this, our goal is to ensure that Lakewood consistently secures our fair share of public dollars for our city. Lakewood often seems like a quiet small town because you get to know your neighbors and can walk to meet all your daily needs. Because of that, we can forget that our city is actually our state's most densely populated, with the 16th most residents in Ohio. Given this, Lakewood is justified in seeking a meaningful share of public dollars beyond our municipal taxes.

Through the creative efforts of our Directors and their departmental staff, we have had significant success recently. That includes securing dol-

by Meghan George Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

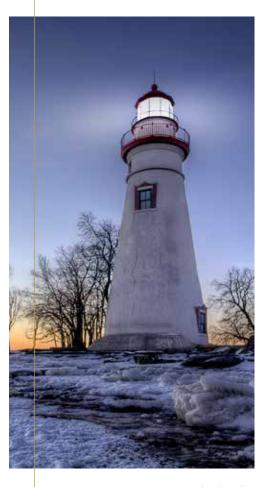
lars for projects big and small and from all levels of government. These can be larger projects like getting the County Public Works Department to prioritize millions of federal dollars and oversee the resurfacing of resurfacing of Hilliard Road in 2023. Or they can be smaller but still highly impactful efforts like successfully advocating to NOACA to provide \$120,000 toward the cost of a new transportation van for our Division of Aging that will connect seniors in need to key services. Other recent examples are working with County Councilman Dale Miller to secure \$1.5 million in ARPA funds and obtaining grants from the Ohio EPA to our combined Refuse and Recycling Center and upcoming Ani-

mal Shelter on Berea Road as well as \$75,000 in combined grants from ODNR and Cuyahoga County for tree planting. This is just a sample of the millions in outside government dollars Lakewood was able to secure or implement last year.

We at City Hall are laser focused on this effort to obtain outside dollars to augment your local tax dollars. This involves getting input from you as taxpayers on public priorities, as well as a vigilant effort of our staff and leadership to stay informed of opportunities. But it also involves proactively reaching out and keeping an open dialogue with our public representatives, building strong relationships with them, and directly communicating to them your public priorities and needs, as well as the rationale for additional dollars to come to Lakewood. It's important work that the City of Lakewood team enjoys doing on your behalf.

As an example, the City of Lakewood is excited to host Congresswoman Shontel Brown this week at City Hall for a "Constituent Coffee" discussion with residents. It's another opportunity for the people of Lakewood to meet their elected officials, ask them questions, and share their priorities for public policy and public dollars. A number of residents have signed up and sent in questions for discussion. I'm grateful to Congresswoman Brown for her efforts to have an open dialogue with Lakewood and her role as a key partner as we work to keep Lakewood on the radar in Washington among other places.

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A third-generation Lakewood local, Ross Lauria excels in showcasing and selling the finest Lake Erie properties. With a portfolio that includes the historic Inselruhe on Put-in-Bay and the Venture Resort on Kelleys Island, Ross demonstrates unmatched expertise in the region's most coveted lakefront locations. His success stories extend to landmark sales like the Firestone Estate in Akron and the Ford Estate in Toledo. Partner with Ross at Sotheby's International Realty for unparalleled marketing and negotiation skills, deep regional knowledge, and a commitment to your success on Lake Erie's prestigious shores.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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CITY GOVERNMENT

Letter To Lakewood City Council:

Updating Cannabis Ordinances

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adult-use dispensaries, processors, and cultivators.

Creation of funds generated by a 10% sales tax on adult use cannabis with 36% to the social equity and jobs fund, 36% to the host municipality, 25% to the substance abuse and addiction fund, and 3% to the division of cannabis control.

Regarding possession and home growth, following this communication is Ordinance 40-2023, which amends the Lakewood criminal code, Codified Ordinances 513.01, 513.02, 513.03, and 513.045 to reflect the current language of Chapter 3780.

Another aspect creating confusion for voters is that the Division of Cannabis Control has a period of nine months after December 7th(Aug 7th) to create the rules, regulations, and safeguards necessary to license adult-use marijuana dispensaries, processors, and cultivators. It is estimated that these regulations will not be finalized until late summer of 2024, with the first state licenses issued no earlier than fall of 2024.

At the request of the Mayor and



Just a sprout, you are allowed to grow up to six at home today. Tomorrow, who knows?

the City of Lakewood Law Department, City Council recently passed Resolution 2023-64 which expresses the City's awareness of these factors, and the intention to wait until the State permitting process is finalized to begin permitting additional marijuana adult-use dispensaries in the City of Lakewood.

It is important to note that Resolution 2023-64 does not speak to nor

impact the currently permitted Medical Marijuana dispensaries within the City of Lakewoodor their ability to dispense adult-use cannabis should it be permitted by the State, nor does it speak to or impact the other elements of Issue 2, including possession or cultivation.

While the State finalizes their rules and regulations, the City of Lakewood can and should use this period to prepare for how we want adult-use businesses to move forward in our community. Following this communication are Ordinance 41-2023, amending the City of Lakewood's permitting process to allow for adult use dispensaries and Ordinance 42-2023 amending Lakewood's zoning code to allow for adult use dispensaries in commercial districts.

We respectfully request Ordinance 40-2023 be referred to Public Safety, Ordinance 41-2023 be referred to Housing, Planning, and Development, and Ordinance 42-2023 be referred concurrently to the Planning Commission and to Housing, Planning, and Developmentfor further discussion.

Sincerely,

President Sarah Kepple, Councilmember At Large Jason Shachner,

Councilmember Ward 2 Cindy Marx,

Councilmember Ward 4 Tristan Rader,

Councilmember At Large Kyle Baker

Councilmember, Ward 1





LAKEWOOD SPORTS

Dr. G's Lakewood Ranger Round-Up: **Basketball**

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

GIRLS

February 18: Rangers vs. Twinsburg Tigers

Today, the Lakewood Girls—many of whom were playing in their last ever game at the East Gym-showed physical and mental toughness in a hard earned 46-42 win over Twinsburg. After the Tigers had rallied from 10 points down to tie the game (40-40) in the waning minutes, senior Delaney Garcia (next stop Baldwin Wallace) scored the last two of her game high 20 points, and senior Sophia Zarbo (6 points and stifling defense) drained a put back to give the Rangers a short lived "cushion." The Tigers eventually gained possession down 2 points with 20 seconds left, which is when junior Layla Smith (9 points) took over, fighting for a key rebound—she was strong on the boards all game—and hitting 2 free throws to clinch the win. Freshman Chalerigh Doxley (6 points) was strong at point, dishing out assists and running the offense. Senior Lucy Henrikson (5 points) played well on both ends, hitting a big 3 pointer to stake the Rangers to an early lead. Senior Ally Bookman and junior Elizabeth Doup gave valuable minutes, and contributed without scoring. Lakewood never trailed, but a determined Twinsburg squad kept coming, and seemed to have it all going their way when they tied it on a long 3-pointer with several Ranger starters—Garcia, Doxley and Smith—in foul trouble. Without Lakewood's focus and mental toughness, the Tigers would have won. But the Rangers were determined to win their last (ever for some) home game, and Delaney, Sophia and Layla made sure of it. Congratulations to the Tigers on a strong game, and kudos to the Rangers for prevailing in the end. Long Live Lakewood.

BOYS

February 6: Rangers vs Rocky River

In an intense rivalry game, the Lakewood Rangers got vital help from the bench and prevailed 55-50 over a

very physical Rocky River squad. The Rangers built a 14 point lead early in the 4th quarter that evaporated down to 2 points with one minute left in the game. Lucas Seguine (7 points) then split a pair of free throws, and after the Rangers forced a turnover, reserves Aidan Smith (7 points) and Luke Bonvissuto (11 points) hit two free throws each to clinch the game and send a raucous students section home with smiles all around. Bonvissuto hit three 3 pointers, rebounded well, and played his best game as a Ranger. Lakewood doesn't win this game without the fine play of Bonvissuto and Aidan Smith.

Luke Vannucci led all players in scoring (15 points) adding four more 3 pointers to his school record, and standing up well to an evening of harassing defense. Seguine likewise, as the primary ball handler, set up the Ranger offense and handled on ball pressure very well. Jack Gowan (2 points) and Dominic Peck (3 points) battled hard all night, and contributed on both ends.

The tone of the game centered in large part around Drew Jablonowski (8 points), who fought (not literally, but it was very physical) against a spate of River big men all night, finally fouling out on an unusual double foul in the waning minutes. Drew's stat line is decent (he also had 9 rebounds) but the numbers don't match the intensity and overall production he brought tonight—and brings every night for that matter. He's a relentless Ranger.

The Cheer Squad and Student Section were all in for the team tonight, rooting with a little extra zest against our always tough over-the-bridge rival. It looked for a time like the Pirates might sail into Lakewood and capture a win. The Rangers staggered a bit down the stretch, but steadied the ship and prevailed. Congratulations to Coach Cammock, his staff and all the players on showing both the mental and physical toughness needed to win tonight's exciting game between two community based teams. Long Live Ranger Basketball, and Long Live Lakewood.



Horace Mann Families Give Books To Hospitalized Children

by Christine Gordillo

Big cheers to the amazing Horace Mann students, parents and grandparents who collectively gathered a treasure trove of new books to bring joy to children hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic.

The power of giving was on full display during the Scholastic Book Fair organized by Horace Mann's PTA on Grandperson's Day as many were so generous with their book purchases to donate! Your thoughtfulness is sure to make a positive impact on the young patients.









OBSERVER

Help Plan Merl-Bunts Park Kira Krivosh For February 28

from City Hall

The Lakewood Planning Department will hold a meeting Feb. 28 from 4-6 PM in the Cove Community Center Family Room to discuss Merl-Bunts Park.

If you're unable to attend in-person, you may share your input here: https:// ow.ly/qJZb50QAbmb

The survey is open until March 6.

Herb Guild Offers Scholarship **To Westside Seniors**

by Barbara Armstrong

The Herb Guild Garden Club is offering a \$2,000 scholarship to graduating high school seniors, as well as Lorain County Community College and Cuyahoga Community College current freshmen and sophomore students. Applicants must be residents of the State of Ohio and a U.S. citizen (international or foreign exchange students are not eligible). Only students with a proposed academic study in agriculture,

agriscience, botany, culinary arts, environmental science, forestry, greenhouse and nursery management, horticulture, landscaping, and natural resource management are eligible for this scholarship.

To obtain an application, go to the Herb Guild web site: theherbguild.org or call Karol Polkinghorn at 440-554-7755. Deadline for applying is April 3, 2024.

Barbara Armstrong is the Publicity Person for the Herb Guild Garden Club of Westlake.

Sticks And Stones

by Gregory Norris

Many years ago, 56 to be exact, I was in First Grade and was moved to a special education class; they said I was a slow learner. While in that class, mainstreamed sudents called us many names that were not pleasant. When I told my mother, the advice she gave was: "Sticks and Stones will break your bones, but names will never

Not to throw my Mom under the bus, but on this one she was wrong.

Words can tear down or build up a person or relationship and they can hurt, and in some cases be remembered for a lifetime. For example, when your boss compliments you on a job well done, you feel really good. When your significant other tells you the relationship is over, you feel bad. The list goes on and for both uplifting words and those used to put others down in a mean way.

We should make every effort to use words that create a positive result or a positive behavior change.

Gregory Norris is a 30-year Corporate Security Professional and 20-year Golf and Life Skills Coach with First Tee who enjoys writing.

Common Pleas Judge

continued from page 1

Kira's 14 years legal career includes civil and criminal law and experience at the federal, county and municipal court levels, as well as judicial experience as a magistrate. As a magistrate handling complex support enforcement cases for nearly three years, Kira makes highstakes decisions that shape the course of families' lives. She both holds wrongdoers accountable, and sets people up to succeed by connecting them to supportive services. The warrant recall program she assisted with helps people become more productive citizens and gives them a fresh start.

During her eight years as an Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, Kira and her team helped secure \$17.6 million for families and children in Cuyahoga County. She also gained valuable criminal experience during her time with the Garfield Heights Law Department.

Kira stays connected to the community's needs through her volunteer work. She is a former Board member for the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter. She now serves on the Board of Open Doors Academy, an organization devoted to providing afterschool and summer programs and opportunities for underserved children. Kira co-founded the Giving Tree Project with State. Sen. Nickie Antonio to distribute supplies to high-need communities during the height of the Covid pandemic, including in Lakewood.

Kira has the innovative ideas and broad experience Cuyahoga County



Kira and the family!

needs and deserves in a judge. You can support Kira by voting for her starting February 21 and through election day on March 19.

Kira stays connected to the community's needs through her volunteer work. She is a former Board member for the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter. She now serves on the Board of Open Doors Academy, an organization devoted to providing after school and summer programs and opportunities for underserved children. Kira co-founded the Giving Tree Project with State. Sen. Nickie Antonio to distribute supplies to high-need communities during the height of the Covid pandemic, including in Lakewood.

Kira Krivosh has the innovative ideas and broad experience Cuyahoga County needs in a judge. Vote for Kira Krivosh starting February 21 until election day on March 19.



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Bay Village | Fairview Park | Lakewood | Middleburg Heights | North Olmsted | North Ridgeville

Lakewood Public Library

February/March Events

by Lisa Calfee

Vietnamese Art: Its History, Traditions and Modern Flourishing

Presented by Katie Kilory Blaser

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Join Katie Kilroy Blaser of the Cleveland Museum of Art's Asian Art Department for a discussion of the beauty of Vietnamese art from its rich traditions to modern art scene. Learn more about Vietnamese art with a particular focus on blue-and-white ceramics and modern painting.

Vietnam Program-Documentary

Bolinao 52 (2007)

Directed by Duc Nguyen

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

A Vietnamese ship with refugees was stranded in the Pacific Ocean in 1988. During their thirty-seven days at sea, the group encountered violent storms, engine failures and abject hunger and thirst. The fifty-two out of the one-hundred-and-ten boat people who survived were rescued by Filipino fishermen who brought them to Bolinao in the Philippines. English and Vietnamese with English subtitles.

Meet the Authors: A Visit with the Northern Ohio Writers Guild

Hosted by Director James Crawford

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Join us for a special Meet the Author panel featuring seven members of the Northern Ohio Writers Guild. Emilia Rosa, Wendy Fedan, P.J. Grondin, Darlene Kuncytes, Breshea Anglin, R.J. Norgard and Andi Lawrencovna will discuss the books they have written- each from a unique genre. Director James Crawford will lead the conversation.





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.

February 19- March 14, 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.

"Grow" Your Own Paper Lotus

For Students in Kindergarten through Second Grade

The lotus can be found throughout Vietnam floating in ponds and blooming along deltas. Every part of the blossom is used either as medicine or food. Create your own beautiful lotus to take home. Registration is required.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Main Library Activity Room Thursday, March 7, 2024 from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Madison Branch Children's Program Room

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



LAKEWOOD CARES

Entrepreneurship May Be Obtainable With Help From Legal Aid

by Tonya Sams

Many people dream of owning a business but are unable to get it off the ground because of several barriers. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland may be able to help with its Legal Center for Entrepreneurs with Low-Income.

The Center was started in 2019 in the hopes of creating an avenue out of poverty for those with low-income. The Center focuses on addressing the issues that make it difficult to achieve entrepreneurship including:

Providing legal check-ups and legal services to income-eligible business owners

Partnering with business

development incubators to connect entrepreneurs with mentoring and other supports

Providing education on common legal issues for entrepreneurs and self-employed people

"Entrepreneurship and employment provide powerful pathways out of poverty. Not just for the business owner, but for their communities too. Small businesses are more likely to use local vendors and contractors and reinvest in their communities," said Catherine Donnelly, a Senior Attorney in the Community Engagement group at Legal Aid. "A successful small business can therefore



have a ripple effect into their communities. Unfortunately, for those with low income, starting a business poses many challenges."

One of the first cases that The Center handled was one involving a single mother who wanted to expand her business.

"I worked with the business owner to create standard agreements for both the business's customers and for independent contractors taking on deliveries and projects," Catherine recalls. "The business was able to expand during the pandemic and provide work for others in the community, while giving the business owner the flexibility she needed to be with her

Those who are interested can apply for help 24/7 by going to lasclev. org/apply-for-free-legal-aid/. If the application is accepted, the applicant will be interviewed by Legal Aid Staff to learn more about the business and to determine if they are ready to receive legal services.

If it is determined that the business may need additional help, Legal Aid has a number of resources including referring entrepreneurs to business development partners. These partners will help mentor the entrepreneur and help them develop a business plan. Legal Aid may also offer discreet legal representation including for those being sued in court.

Legal Aid can also offer brief advice by phone, virtually or in person at our Brief Advice Clinics. Brief Advice Clinics allows individuals and families an opportunity to sit with attorneys and volunteers to obtain legal advice in a number of areas including entrepreneurship. These clinics are held in libraries, community centers, and other places in the community. To find out if a Brief Clinic will be in your neighborhood, go to lasclev.org, click "Events," then click "Clinics."

For more information on The Legal Center for Entrepreneurs with Low-Income go to lasclev.org/get-help/ community-initiatives/lowincomeentrepreneurs/.

Tonya Sams is Development & Communications Manager at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.



Cuyahoga Board Of Developmental Disabilities **Helps In Many Ways**

by Lynn B. Johnson, MFA

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Do you know about the local board that assists county residents with DD?

The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Cuyahoga DD) supports and empowers people with DD to live, learn, work and play in our community.

When applying for eligibility, you might talk to different people depending on your age. Services for children ages 0-3 are administrated by Bright Beginnings: call 216-698-7500. Services for people age three through adulthood should call Cuyahoga DD Eligibility at 216-736-2673. In any case, your needs will be assessed, and you will learn if you qualify for services.

Cuyahoga DD supports people in many ways, based on your age and what you need to live a full life. Sometimes, Cuyahoga DD provides the services, which can range from helping people navigate public transit or

prepare for their BMV temps exam, to recommending adaptive technology for greater independence, or helping people living at home cover expenses for specific items or services. Other times, you'll be referred or introduced to other partners or caregivers who can help you achieve your goals.

Community groups and businesses can request presentations from the Cuyahoga DD Good Life Ambassadors: adults with DD who share their perspective and lived experiences to help create disability acceptance and inclusion. Search "Request a Presentation" at CuyahogaBDD.org.

No matter your requirements, Cuyahoga DD wants to help! Learn more online at www.CuyahogaBDD. org. If you or someone you know wants to apply for services, call our Eligibility line at 216-736-2673.

Lynn B. Johnson, MFA, APR is the Communications Administrator for Cuyahoga DD.





Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzeria in Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzone, stromboli, subs, pasta, wings, and salads.

Whether carryout or delivery, we provide your family with the freshest of toppings (over 25 to choose from) on our pizza. With dough and sauce made daily from our own recipe and freshly grated blend of mozzarella & provolone cheese, we provide a great pizza for you and your family

At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites:

- Pizza
- Calzones
- Stromboli

- Salads
- Subs
 - Wings
- Appetizers Desserts
- Pasta
- Dinners

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LAKEWOOD BUSINESS

Community Survey:

The City Of Lakewood Wants To Hear From You!

by Mary Kennedy Attention Lakewood Residents!

You are invited to complete and share our second biennial Lakewood Community Survey, which will help the City of Lakewood to better understand what is on the mind of our community, what our residents appreciate about our city, as well as some of the challenges that we may face. This survey is anonymous and the results will be shared with Lakewood leadership, presented to City Council, and with the broader Lakewood community!

The Lakewood Community Survey is sponsored by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC). LCRAC is a group of volunteer residents serving in an advisory capacity for the purpose of educating, informing, and making recommendations to City officials on matters related to community relations in an effort to advance respect for diversity, equality, and bonds of mutuality. You can visit our page on the city website for more information about LCRAC.

Please take a moment to fill out and share our community-wide survey and help our city better serve you!

You can fill out the survey digitally by scanning the QR Code. In addition, paper copies and a drop box for completed submissions are available at both



the Madison and Main branch of the Lakewood Public Library. The deadline to complete the survey is March 15th, 2024.

Thank you so much for contributing and helping to ensure that we live in a community that values and considers all of our residents!

Mary Kennedy has been a proud Birdtown resident since 2010. She is an active participant in several grassroots community initiatives, a member of the Lakewood Tree Advisory and Education Board and the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission, and an enthusiastic Lakewood parent. She has been a public high school science educator for the past 10 years in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. She enjoys the outdoors, karoake, live music, and crafting.

Coffee Pot Reopens To Rave Reviews



Yes, it is true. After almost a year of sitting quiet, The Coffee Pot at 12415 Madison Avenue has reopened to rave reviews with a new crew. Tracy and Chef Roosevelt, pictured above, have taken over the day-to-day operations, and the whole city is talking. It's one of a handful of great old-style breakfast/lunch places in Lakewood. Good Luck!





Lakewood Clock Repair

by Yoshitaka Anchi

Do you have a treasured clock in need of professional attention?

Look no farther than Lakewood Clock Repair. Located in the Lakewood Uptown neighborhood you will find Lakewood Clock Repair, at 15725 Madison Avenue. The shop was quietly opened this past January by longtime Lakewood resident, Alan Rue. Along Alan's side you will also find Andrew Bracken, who joined Lakewood Clock Repair this past month. The duo bring 50 years of combined clock repair experience to the Lakewood/Cleveland area.

As you look in the storefront window, you will see a number of clocks on prominent display. Each clock comes with its own story.

Inside, visitors find a well-equipped workshop with various dedicated work stations. The bright yellow and orange walls not only show the owner's personality; they also brighten the shop, while showcasing the various clocks that are in for repair. The pool table green flooring provides a comfortable yet professional feel. The color was very specifically chosen to ensure any errant part that may find its way to the floor is quickly and easily found.

Beyond the visual experience, Lakewood Clock Repair is also an auditory experience. The passage of time is counted by the ticking of various clocks in the shop for repair. Then, at regular intervals, the ticking sounds are interrupted by the announcement of the current time. The announcment is always changing with various combinations of striking, gonging, dinging, and melodies. The most imersive experience is at the top of the hour.

The shop does keep regular hours on Tue, Wed, Thur, from 9am-11:30am & 12:30pm-4pm. To accommodate patrons with a typical 9-5 work schedule, Lakewood Clock Repair will schedule after-hours appointments.

Lakewood Clock Repair has the skill to service most modern and antique clocks. Bring your clock by for an evaluation. If you need a floor/Grandfather clock serviced, call or stop by to schedule an in-home appointment.

While many repair shops avoid/ turn away "torsion clocks," Lakewood Clock Repair will assess and repair 400-day, 1000-day, Anniversary, and Jeager-LeCoultre™ Atmos Clocks.

While the business name is "Lakewood Clock Repair," the shop also services some pocket watches, replaces watch batteries, and adjusts watchbands.

For additional information stop by the shop, visit www.LakewoodClock-Repair.com, or call 216-421-4201.

Yoshitaka Anchi is the Graphic Designer for Lakewood Clock Repair.



LAKEWOOD AUTHORS

"Captured!" A World War II Memoir

continued from page 1

turned out to be a ruse. The Germans returned and attacked the bunker so savagely that 20 Americans lay dead within it. Sgt. O'Neill, himself wounded, was dragged unconscious from the bunker, but alive! This is where his story begins.

The details of O'Neill's ordeal at the hands of the Germans were unknown and untold until a personal and unpublished manuscript he'd written his POW experience in the early 50's was discovered after his death in 2001. Now, for the first





Sgt. Hugh A. O'Neill, Jr, Home from the War (1945)

time, his story has been preserved in a new book titled: "Captured! A World War II Memoir." This same story has also found a permanent home in the Library of Congress-Veterans History Project.

What makes O'Neill's POW story stand apart from other WWII POW stories is the nature of his captivity. Rather than being summarily executed or placed in a POW camp (which were overflowing by then), O'Neill and hundreds of other Allied prisoners were forced on a 4-month long "death" march across the roads

of southern Germany without proper clothing, food, or shelter. Meanwhile, Germany's armies, its infrastructure, and its civilians were being destroyed all around them.

The result is an utterly unique backstory from World War II, told well in O'Neill's own skilled prose. In peacetime, O'Neill was a poet and worked for 30 years as a reporter and editor for several West Coast and Hawainewspapers. As an added feature, some of the story's most compelling moments have been illuminated

with over 25+ illustrations by Cleveland artist, Gary Dumm. The book has been edited and formatted for print by O'Neill's own nephew, Lakewood writer, Scott MacGregor.

"Captured! A World War II Memoir" is available NOW as a hardcover or an Ebook through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. We highly recommend that you purchase or order "Captured!" from your local independent booksellers! Let's help keep these folks in business!





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LAKEWOOD IS ART

Sedated?:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 137

by Buzz Kompier
Butterfield 8 - Broken People
- Banana Records - 10 songs CD, digital

Back once again with their third album in as many years (or maybe fewer? Two might've come out in the same year consult the Bananarchives), it's Butterfield 8! "Broken People" continues with the band's Beatle-y brand of power pop with some occasional other moods thrown in there. It's maybe the darkest album of the three— I mean, besides the title, there's a higher number of sad songs on here than I recall there being on the other two. Maybe I'm reading too much into it, but I hope all is well, Jim. "My Best September" kicks things off here on a nostalgic note: catchy power pop with a neat guitar riff and some cool countermelody backing vocals on the chorus. The slow sad ballad "It's Not Fair" follows it— this one's got a mandolin and I think an accordion and is not a bad track. I really don't know what to make of "Instigators." It sounds like it really wants to be a rocker but never quite hits its stride in that regard; also there's some weird lines about people indoctrinating your children and being "programmed to prey on your minds," but let's not delve into that. "Point Of No Return" is another

'sad' one and one of my favorites here, a good jangly one. The backing vocals on the bridge sound like they were recorded through a telephone which is a nice touch; perhaps it represents the distance between the subjects of the song—can you tell I'm an English major? Nice solo at the end from Rick Christyson as well. We get an acoustic one for "Rings Of Saturn" (sad again!) and it's very catchy but I can't help but notice how much the melody of the chorus sounds like the "love's such an old-fashioned word" part of "Under Pressure." Maybe that was on purpose. "Merry-Go-Round" is a good uptempo one with a great line in the chorus about "you can bail me out from the lost and found" (two tracks later he has another lyric about getting bailed out, now that I think about it). There's something about "Inside Your Dream" that feels both '60s and '80s at the same time— maybe Squeeze is the comparison I'm looking for here. "Epic Fail" is the other one that mentions bail; it's not my favorite but I do enjoy that there's a song called "Epic Fail" on here. One that is a favorite is "There Goes The Bride," which as you'd probably imagine is about a serial runaway bride—several great lyrics in here including "perhaps she even posed a future risk

of flight" and especially "something about her struck me as obsolete / like landlines, cursive, 8-track tapes, head-over-feet." "I Think" is a good closing track and I really like the guitar solo Jim does here. Overall, there's not a whole lot different about this album from the previous two, but that's not a bad thing. The production is a little less quirky which is almost a shame but it does retain the kind of homemade charm. Jim's voice is still an odd midwestern drawl that for whatever reason works really well with the material and he still gets some good lines and catchy melodies in. This is apparently the final installment of the "Comeback Trilogy" for Butterfield 8, but I'm hoping we get more soon. 3.5/5 (butterfield81.bandcamp.com)

The Frans - Ride The Bus - self-released - 2 songs - digital

My first question upon receiving this single in my email was whether this was the '90s Cleveland band The Frans—they're still around? They've become public transit-themed? Were they always and I just never noticed? But no, turns out this is a completely different Frans. And yeah, you didn't misread that: they "sing for the bus drivers and rail riders," as per their Bandcamp bio. That's cool—I'm with Jonathan Richman and these Frans on this matter, more people should ride the bus. I'm not sure how much mileage (ha ha ha) you can get out of the concept as a band, especially since the first track

here, "Ride The Bus," makes pretty much their entire case in one song, but hey. It's an upbeat punk tune, kinda dumb but generally fun and again, I do like their message. The other song (the B side, I guess) is...not good. "Bus Beach Party (Dracula)" is what it's called and you can tell how confused the concept is just from that title. Cheesy garage rock beach party dance songs are already not my zone; songs where people sing in a Dracula voice are not my zone; the combination is definitely not my zone (not my stop?). The bus concept isn't entirely lost here: Dracula has a magic bus. It's mentioned in one verse and repeatedly in the chorus, but has almost nothing to do with the rest of the song. They do use the word "falsities" in here though and that's really my favorite part of the song. I have no idea what kind of rating to give this so I'm going to refrain entirely from doing so. The A-side is fun if you want some classic Ramones-style punk (or, as a bus aficionado, have been looking for a personal anthem); I'd avoid the other song, but you can do whatever you want if you have a higher tolerance for that sort of thing.

(thefrans.bandcamp.com)

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

Anniversary Concert By Congito Jaffe at Blue Cafe

by Martin Jaffe

Noted singer/songwriter Congito Jaffe will present a performance of his mellow, melodic, original folk/Americana music 6:30 pm Saturday, March 2, at the Blue Cafe, 15715 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio---this event will mark two years since the first Blue Cafe concert by Congito on March 10,2022.

Congito will present some new works featuring the poetic lyricism of Rocky River poet Lady Ives and the mesmerizing vocals and guitar innovations of Congito, songs of seasonal change, love lost and found, life in all the changes, challenges, and beauty of a complex world.

A recent commentator after a Congito performance at a Lorain, Ohio coffeehouse noted that, "Congito immerses the listener in an espresso bathed melodic rich world that transports the listener to a warm folk music inspired vibe of 1971." This event is FREE and family friendly.





LAKEWOOD CARES

Save The Date:

LWC's Women Honoring Women "A Fun Fashion Thrift Show"

by Torey Worron

The Lakewood Women's Club Presents - Women Honoring Women 2024;

A FUN Fashion Thrift Show.

The Lakewood Women's Club is once again hosting its annual Women Honoring Women Celebration (WHW) event to be held at Vosh on April 11th at 6:00 PM where we will be serving appetizers & drinks that are included with the cost of admission.

The event showcases women who exemplify charitable service and economic enrichment in the Lakewood community and recognizes women for a variety of accomplishments ranging from both career, volunteer and philanthropic endeavors. This annual fundraiser helps fund our scholarship program that is awarded each year to a female Lakewood resident who is pursuing a higher education.

This years scholarship will be in honor of Patty Ryan, Past President & CEO of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce who was one of the Community Leaders that helped us review our nominees every year for WHW.

Our theme this year is a "FUN Fashion Thrift Show" where we will be featuring & modeling local thrift store fashions currently available in their stores. We will also be featuring donated fashion items from our own LWC members collection available to

purchase via silent auction.

In addition to inviting all of the current and past honorees and nominees, friends and family as well as members of the Lakewood community are encourgaed to attend. Come help us celebrate and recognize all of their accomplishments over the years. Doors open at 6 pm and drinks and food are included in the ticket price. Come be part of a truly inspirational, exhilarating, and bonding evening!

Register Today!

Tickets can be purchased at either our website www.lakewoodwomen-sclub.org,or on

Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-honoring-women-2024-tickets-809731036327

About the Lakewood Women's Club

The Lakewood Women's Club (formerly known as Junior Women's Club of Lakewood) was founded in 1962, with roots going back to the early 1920's. It has provided, and continues to provide, a philanthropic organization for women who are interested in serving their community while enjoying a program geared to fun and friendship.

Torey Via Worron is President & Women Honoring Women Co-Chairperson for The Lakewood Women's Club.

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Gluten In Beauty Products

by Bonnie Fencl

In our salon a client told me of her extreme sensitivity to gluten. I looked up "What is gluten?" having known it was in food, but why beauty products? Gluten is a protein, oil or extract from grains. It may cause skin reactions such as itchiness and rashes.

If your sensitivity is mild, you can use products with gluten. Just make sure to wash your hands and keep it away from your eyes.

If you are allergic or intolerant, we have some gluten free products: Paul Mitchell, All Nutrient, Hempzall shampoos, lotions, and hair styling products. Knowing there are gluten free products available, there are no worries if you feel you'd be better without it. I was glad the client let me know so that we could pick out the right things for her.

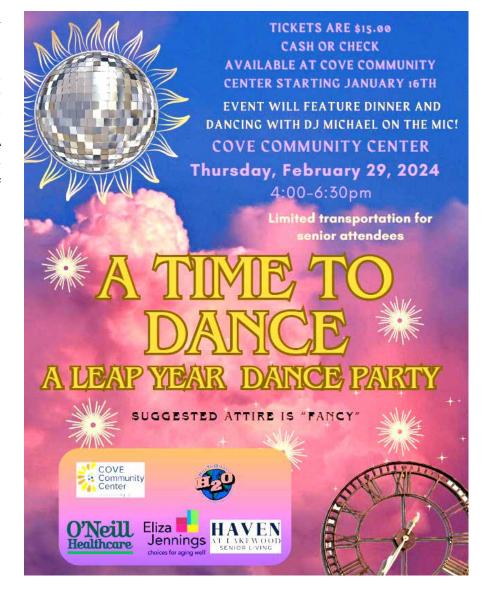
A small place with people with product knowledge can save a person trying to read that very small print on



A sampling of some of our gluten free products.

bottles. At our customers' request we have now added even more products to our store within our salon.

Bonnie Fencl is the owner of Carabel Beauty Salon & Store located at 15309 Madison Avenue. A full service salon for females of all ages. 216-226-8616







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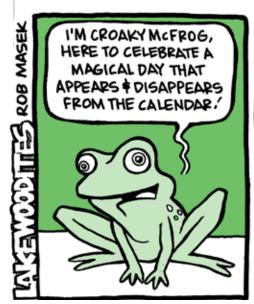
New Center hours: Tuesday mornings 10:30 am - Noon Thursday evenings 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

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Cuyahoga Problem Gambling Coalition

The Back Page





















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