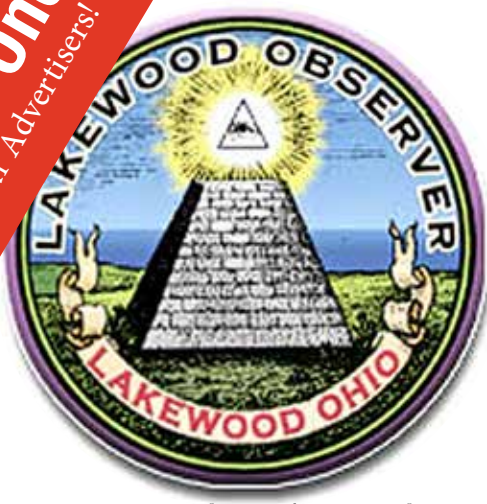


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In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours. - Mark Twain

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 20, Issue 5, March 6, 2024



City Unveils Concept - Waterfront Access For All

by Jim O'Bryan

This past week, the city of Lakewood presented their proposal for more access and amenities at Lakewood Park. The Smith Group made the presentation. To see the entire presentation, follow QR Code on the right.



Jennifer McTernan For Common Pleas Judge

by Jennifer McTernan

Hello fellow Lakewoodites! My name is Jennifer McTernan and I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself since you will be seeing my name on your primary ballots in a couple weeks (or sooner if you requested an absentee ballot). I am a lifelong Cuyahoga County resident and after renting in Lakewood for many years, became a homeowner in your community a little over a year ago. I am now running for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge General Division and was recognized as the highest overall rated candidate in my race by Judge4Yourself.com.



Jennifer McTernan

I am a criminal defense attorney with a decade in practice out of an office in Cleveland's Buckeye neighborhood since graduating from CSU College of Law and being admitted

continued on page 8

Shontel Brown Stops By To Talk With Lakewood Residents

by Theodore Babcock

Congresswoman Shontel Brown visited Lakewood on Wednesday February 21, 2024. The event: "Coffee with Your Congresswoman" took place at Lakewood City Hall and was attended by over 100 of Brown's constituents from Lakewood and surrounding cities. She covered a wide array of issues with prepared statements and off-the-cuff responses to live questions. Lakewood Mayor Meghan George introduced the Congresswoman who represents Ohio's 11th Congressional District.

Brown opened by recognizing Lakewood as the largest female-led city in Ohio, referring to Mayor George, City Council President Sarah Kepple and Presiding Municipal Court Judge Tess Neff. The Congresswoman introduced 7 of her staff members who were also present: Chief of Staff Veleter Mazyck, Esq., Deputy Chief of Staff Kimberly Hodge Edwards, Communications Director Will McDonald, Caseworker and Field Representative Brehon Pittman, Caseworker and Field Representative Hayley Johnson, District Staff Assistant and Congressional Aide Jared Sherman, and Executive Assistant Jasmine Butler.

continued on page 3



Congresswoman Shontel Brown catches up on local news as she prepares for an afternoon answering questions from Lakewoodites.

Fallon Kilbane McNally For Common Pleas Judge

by Sheila Kilbane McNally

Our families and communities often define us. I am a proud graduate of St. Augustine Academy. A lot has changed since then, but the Lakewood community remains a vibrant and happy place to live. The first house my husband and I lived in was on Elbur Avenue. I will always feel a connection to the city and cherish the warm friendships that I made in Lakewood.

My daughter, Fallon Kilbane McNally, is running for Judge for Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. After graduating from Georgetown University, Fallon began her



Fallon Kilbane McNally

career as a registered nurse at the Cleveland Clinic working in Neurology. She was, and still is, passionate about nursing but later decided to go back to school after being on

continued on page 8

H2O's Breakfast With The Bunny

by Emmie Hutchison

H2O is getting ready to invite spring into Cove Community Center! The annual Breakfast with the Bunny event is Saturday, March 23rd and will feature a pancake breakfast, photos with the bunny, and a beautiful assortment of raffle baskets that guests can purchase chances to win. This event is a wonderful showcase for the program, as it is run by high school volunteers serving food, selling raffle tickets, and helping in the kitchen. All proceeds from the event support H2O's service-learning projects. We are grateful for sponsorship from First Federal Lakewood



and for raffle basket donations from Lakewood's generous small business community. This support allows H2O to raise needed funds while hosting an enjoyable and affordable event for families in the area.

There are four timed seatings for Breakfast with the Bunny and ticket prices are \$12

for guests who are 12 years and older and \$7 for younger children. Registration links can be found on H2O's page on the City of Lakewood site, www.h2olakewood.org. Please call (216) 529-6045 or email emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.net with questions about Breakfast with the Bunny.

Students Building New City Garage

by Christine Gordillo

One of the many reasons we are fortunate in Lakewood is the partnership between our schools and the city.

On Feb. 26, students in West Shore Career-Tech's Construction Trades program began a project that will become a physical reminder of that collaboration as they began work on a new garage for Cove Community Center.

Can't wait

to watch the progress as these students learn employable and practical skills that will serve them for a lifetime! Stop by Cove and check out the progress. It's going up fast!



THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Moody’s Aa2 Bond Rating
Supports High Quality Of Life For Lakewood Residents

The City of Lakewood recently completed our bond rating process with Moody’s Investors Service, and I am pleased to share that Lakewood was able to achieve a Moody’s Aa2 rating, which is an excellent credit opinion for our city. Maintaining this desirable bond rating is highly beneficial for our residents by allowing the City to pay lower interest when we must borrow funds for high priority capital projects.

My staff understands and appreciates your support of ongoing capital projects through your property taxes, and having low interest costs are a critical factor in avoiding increased tax burdens for you. This is why we champion a culture of fiscal stewardship and excellence as a top priority for our City leadership team. This extends into our bond rating, which

is fundamentally important to Lakewood’s ability to continue providing the high level of service and public assets and amenities our residents expect and deserve.

Each year as we compile the City’s budget, our department directors, my office, and City Council work to identify key capital projects within our 5-year capital plan and determine how to pay for them. With many projects in the multi-million dollar range, the City must spread costs over several years to ensure that we do not increase the tax burden on our residents. Through an annual borrowing process, the City issues note obligations to procure the necessary funding. When the projects

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

are complete, we convert the notes into bonds and obtain the Moody’s rating. Key projects in our most recent bond issuance included Foster Pool, the Refuse & Recycling Center, our annual street improvements, and major improvements to our Water and Sewer system to comply with EPA requirements.

The analysis and commentary contained in the bond rating document provides a positive view of the City of Lakewood’s fiscal health. Moody’s noted the City’s “strong financial position” which was “bolstered by a growing revenue trend and healthy local economy.” The Aa2 rating generally means that the City of Lakewood’s bonds are “judged to

be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.” That puts Lakewood in the “high-grade” tier of Moody’s rating system.

This Moody’s bond rating is consistent with the excellence I see in the team serving you here at City Hall, who all buy into the principle that fiscal stewardship is core to everything we do. That starts with the Finance Department, which has received the highest level of awards from the State of Ohio for four years running. It also extends to all our department directors and their staff, who work diligently to keep their books clean and to stretch your tax dollars. With another excellent bond rating in hand, the City continues to save tax dollars and promote an affordable, high quality of life for our residents in Lakewood.

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Lakewood Observer

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GOVERNMENT

Shontel Brown Stops By To Talk With Lakewood Residents

continued from page 1

The Congresswoman began her report from Capitol Hill by stating that this is a “frustrating time, to say the least, to be in Congress.” She spoke about the “Far-Right Republicans” refusal to pass a long-term budget and how this would impact Lakewoodites, including the delay of \$4,900,000 in federal funding for a new storage basin to help with storm overflow and protection of our local water supply. She emphasized that House Democrats are committed to keeping the government open.

This month, Brown filed legislation on gun safety after attending the funeral of Di'Mesha Wright, a 23-year-old victim of gun violence at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland which is the representative's home church. Additional gunfire broke out in front of the church during Wright's Celebration of Life service where the Congresswoman was in attendance. New legislation passed last year strengthens background checks for people under 21 and domestic abusers, includes funding for community violence prevention programs, and cracks down on gun trafficking and illegal gun purchases. Brown's bill would require the Department of Justice to report on the effectiveness of the new law.

The next portion of the event featured Mayor George reading questions that were submitted in advance. These were vague prompts on non-controversial topics for Congresswoman Brown to give her base confidence that she represents causes that are important to them. She spoke about her support of the LGBTQIA+ community and the Equality Act, of which she is a co-sponsor. This bill would ban discrimination based on “Orientation and Gender Identity.” Brown stated, “You can count

on me to continue that fight from a local level; at the federal level.”

The next question was about Brown's role on the House Committee on Agriculture and the Farm Bill. She stated that the Democrats' goals in this area are to “Reduce hunger, help the small farmers; improve diversity and conservation efforts.” She highlighted the importance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to her District, stating that 82,000 households here rely on this program.

The final question gave the Congresswoman a chance to speak more on what she is doing for Veterans after asking all present Veterans to stand for recognition. Brown reminded us that she campaigned on the goal of making sure that Veterans received the benefits that they earned. She stated that the PACT Act was one of her proudest votes. This was the largest increase to Veterans' benefits since the GI Bill according to Brown. She credited Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown with helping get Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or toxic burn pits their full benefits.

At this point, Congresswoman Brown heard and answered live questions and concerns from attendees.

The first community member to speak asked why Congresswoman Brown has not called for a cease fire in Gaza and expressed frustration that their Community's voice was not being heard after extensive protesting of the humanitarian crisis in the region. Brown began her response after listening intently by saying she would “Push back” on the notion that their voices are not being heard. She stated that she has spoken to leaders from the Palestinian Community and that what she would like to see is the release of hostages. She reminded the room that when given the opportunity to vote on packages includ-

continued on page 9



Here Congresswoman Shontel Brown takes questions on the problems in Gaza, and the genocide that is being committed against the Palestinian people. She was well aware and well versed in the issue, and other issues affecting the residents of Lakewood.

LAKEWOOD DENTAL GROUP

A group of about 12 people, mostly wearing matching brown t-shirts with a graphic, standing in a room with framed pictures on the wall.

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LAKEWOOD SPORTS

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

by Dr. Charles Greanoff
BOYS

February 29: Rangers vs Midview Middies

By the time the final buzzer sounded, the Lakewood Rangers (16-7), using superb individual skills and consistent teamwork, dismantled the Midview Middies of the SWC 75-43. Guards Lucas Seguine (19 points) and Luke Vannucci (16 points) dominated the game with shooting, slashing drives to the hoop, near flawless ball handling, and tenacious defense. Speaking of tenacious, if there is a more relentless player than post Drew Jablonowski (10 points, 14 rebounds) in NE Ohio, I haven't seen them. Never to be out-hustled, senior guard Dominic Peck (11 points) was, per usual, a force at both ends (no one beats him down the floor). Senior Jack Gowen (4 points) was tireless on both ends, with steals, rebounds and assists to set up teammates. Juniors Aidan Smith (7 points) Luke Bonvissuto (2 points) provided valuable minutes off the bench, making sure the Middies would never get back in the game. Seniors Griffin Starr and Like George finished out the scoring



Rangers at Walsh Jesuit: One of the most enjoyable, memorable and improbable wins in the last 50 years.

for the Rangers. The Lakewood Students Section brought numbers and energy, the Cheer Squad has never been better, and there were many teachers, parents, staff and community members rooting on the guys from 44107. Lorain County Schools get better media coverage than those in Cuyahoga County, and today's game was on the radio station. This is

all the more reason I write these stories and am so appreciative of the great support our team gets despite attention from "established" media. Lakewood's next challenge will be this coming Saturday, 7:00pm when Hudson comes to town. Hudson is very tough, so, as always, no result is guaranteed save one: The Lakewood Rangers--one team from one town--will give it their all. Hope to see you there! Long Live Lakewood

GIRLS

February 23: Rangers vs Walsh Jesuit

Down 50-41 with 5 minutes left at Walsh Jesuit—junior "reserve" Elizabeth Doup, in a 4th quarter performance that ranks as one of the best in the long and storied history of Lakewood Rangers Girls Basketball--hit a 3-pointer to give the Rangers the lead, grabbed a key hustling rebound, then coolly hit two free throws to ice the game. She scored 11 (the last 11 of the game) of the 14 points and had two critical steals in those frenzied last minutes. Lakewood 54 Walsh Jesuit 50. This road, upset win against a much higher seed was a quintessential Lakewood team effort, marked by mental toughness and 32 minutes of fierce play.

Senior Delaney Garcia had one of the best games in her stellar career, leading all scorers with 19, blocking shots and grabbing many rebounds. Junior Layla Smith had one of her finest all-around games, scoring from inside and outside,

rebounding and urging her teammates on at every turn. Senior Sophia Zarbo (5 points) was her usual bothersome self (to the opposition), handling the ball well, and playing her signature smothering defense. Speaking of smothering, per usual Senior Ally Bookman made all hustle plays—on both ends—and set up her teammates with scoring opportunities. Freshman point guard Charleigh Doxley was strong with the ball and scored 2 key points on free throws during Lakewood's 4th quarter comeback. Senior Lucy Henrikson hit a tone-setting three pointer early and played well on both ends. Senior Nora Germaine played sparingly, but spelled Delaney and played strong defense.

Lakewood won this game with mental and physical toughness. The brutal non-conference schedule that our GLC-East Champions played helped prepare the Rangers for tonight's contest. Having seen more Lakewood athletic events than any living person, I can say unequivocally that this was one of the most enjoyable, memorable and improbable wins in the last 50 years.

Congratulations to coach Julie Work and the entire squad on writing a memorable chapter in the history of the Lakewood Rangers. Our Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town that tonight--and every night—never backs down. Long Live Lakewood



Lakewood Cheerleaders Finish In Top Three In Varsity Division Competition

by Christine Gordillo

Three cheers to the LHS Cheer Squad for finishing in the top three of the varsity division at the Ohio Grand Champs Cheer & Dance Competition in Dublin!

Special mention to Rylie Griffin, who earned an All American medal for her performance!

Love to see the hard work by the team and coaches Stephanie Ricottone and Maura Flynn pay off!

WINTER BOOKLET IS NOW OUT

Youth baseball is open for registration

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS



Orchestra Ensembles Earn Highest Ratings

Congratulations to the Lakewood High School Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Camerata Orchestra for their superior ratings at OMEA Ohio Large Group Orchestra Adjudicated Event! Kudos to all the musicians and Director Beth Hankins!

Garfield Drama Club To Perform "Mean Girls, Jr."

by Christine Gordillo

The Garfield Drama Club will present the musical "Mean Girls Jr." Adapted from the 2004 blockbuster film and the Broadway smash hit, "Mean Girls" is a fearless musical about chasing popularity and being true to yourself. Performances on the Garfield cafeteria stage will be:

- Wed., March 20 at 3:20 pm
- Thurs., March 21 at 7:00 pm
- Fri., March 22 at 7:00 pm

District To Host Sessions On Student Anxiety

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools Student Services Dept. will host sessions for families and caregivers called "Too Much Tension: Strategies to Cope with Anxiety." Presenters will be Cleveland Clinic psychiatrist, Molly Wimbiscus, M.D., and clinical social worker, Ashley Penman, LISW-S, both with a wealth of experience working with Lakewood students and families.

The sessions aim to give a greater

understanding of anxiety and ideas for how to help a student experiencing it. There will be an in-person session March 27 at Lakewood High School from 6-7:30 pm with a Q&A session at the end. A virtual session will be held April 2 from 6-7 pm. To register, please visit the Lakewood City Schools website at www.lakewoodcityschools.org and look for the article under News & Announcements.

Youth Mission Trip June 17-21: Giving Me Life!

by Cindy Dugan

Lakewood Presbyterian Church Youth Group will be joining with Middleburg Heights Community United Church of Christ for their triennial Mission Trip from June 17th-21st, themed: "Giving Me Life!"

We will drive to Lotts Creek Community School (LCCS) www.lottscreek.org in Kentucky, where we will serve those in need. The school was founded in 1933 as a residential settlement school. What started as a small cabin, is now a three-story school with girls' and boys' dormitories. It is now home to Cordia School, a food pantry and thrift shop. They help provide scholarships, medical assistance,

and home repair after hurricanes and major flooding.

The trip won't all be work. Youth will have time to see the local sights, hike, get to know the community, rest, play games, and build bonds and memories to last a lifetime.

If you have a 6th-12th grader who would like to participate we are asking for a \$25 deposit by March 31st, the full price is expected to be \$75 unless we can raise all of the funds needed.

Please contact akeneddy@jcu.edu for more information or to receive the permission forms. Deposits or donations can be made out to Lakewood Presbyterian Church with a note that it is for the Youth Mission Trip.

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Lakewood Public Library

March Events

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.

Session 1: March 4- March 28, 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 -1 0:00 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.

March 4- April 25, 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.

March 4- April 25, 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.

The Story of Tam and Cam: A Vietnamese Cinderella Story and Craft

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Do you know that the story of Cinderella is told all over the world and each country tells it a little differently? Listen to the Cinderella story the way it is told to children in Vietnam and make a Cinderella craft to take home. Registration is required.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:00- 5:00 pm in the Main Library Activity Room

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



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 - Choose “Yes” to enter your pre-existing Beanstack username and password.
- 3 Once signed in to your account, choose the Cuyahoga Reads Reading Challenge
- 4 See your library’s staff for help or more information.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Movie Review: There's No Story Here:
"The Zone Of Interest" And
The Deglorification Of Violence

by Casey Chanter

A serious discussion on the nature of violence in film, with specific reference to its glorification for the purposes of entertainment, has, I believe, never been more necessary than it is today. After all, violence is omnipresent on the silver screen, taking many different forms, be it in the form of action films, in which we are meant to follow a protagonist as they kill dozens of adversaries in a hailstorm of bullets and impressive choreography, or the immensely popular superhero film, in which we are unceasingly barraged with scenes of destruction as a nondescript metropolitan landscape is leveled in a battle between a group of ostensibly virtuous superheroes and the so-called villains, with no thought given to the massive scale of violence perpetrated on the city and its inhabitants. These flippant depictions of violence have the potential to be extremely harmful, as they encourage a sort of numbing effect to violence both on film and in the real world.

Some films are thankfully not as brazen in their depictions of violence: the brutality of war, for instance, and the unspeakable atrocities committed during wartime are often captured with the intention of impressing upon the audience the destructive and horrific nature of war. However, I would argue that the very act of framing the horrific events that take

place during wartime in conventional cinematic narratives unintentionally glorifies the violence that took place.

That's why no film I've ever seen has managed to make me think about the nature of violence, both cinematically and historically, as *The Zone of Interest* has. Jonathan Glazer's latest film, in which we follow the lives of the commandant of Auschwitz and his family, was, like other films of its ilk, researched meticulously: Glazer and company spent several years researching the central figures involved in collaboration with the Auschwitz Museum and other organizations. However, it differs from other films of its nature, films depicting the atrocities committed during the Holocaust, precisely in the way in which it depicts said atrocities.

Films such as *Schindler's List* and *The Pianist*, for instance, have captured the horrors of the Holocaust in graphic, excruciating detail, albeit within a traditional cinematic narrative. By contrast, no single act of overt violence is ever witnessed on screen in *The Zone of Interest*, nor are the subjects of the film presented in any menacing or even meaningful way. Rudolf Höss, one of the most notorious figures in the Nazi Party, is portrayed not as a hulking figure of unfathomable evil but a generally even-tempered, almost feeble man, not unlike a mid-level bureaucrat

continued on page 10



Chamber Of Commerce

Another great small business seminar put on by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at the Lakewood Public Library Main. This one was presented by Cathy Craig from Savvy Shopkeeper. She spoke on the need to update Google Business listings and make sure you send out email, even if you think it is bothersome to others. "They signed up for your email newsletter, so make sure you always send it out."

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POLITICS

Fallon Kilbane McNally For Common Pleas Judge

continued from page 1

jury duty. She worked many night and weekend shifts as a registered nurse to put herself through law school at Case Western Reserve University.

Upon graduating from Case Western School of Law, Fallon became a Judicial Staff Attorney to Judge Brian J. Corrigan where she handled his civil docket. She gained valuable experience in civil law and continued her work as a registered nurse at the Cleveland Clinic as needed. Like many health care workers, Fallon picked up extra shifts as a nurse to help with staffing shortages during Covid while working full time as a lawyer.

Fallon now works as a criminal trial attorney. My daughter combines both her legal and clinical nursing skills on a daily basis when handling cases on the Court's mental health docket. She works hard on these cases knowing that



the mental health docket assists defendants with resources but also protects the community by decreasing rates of recidivism amongst offenders.

My daughter has a direct impact on people's lives as a lawyer while working on cases in the Court's mental health docket and as a nurse at the Cleveland Clinic. Fallon Kilbane McNally would be a wonderful judge for Cuyahoga County given her legal and medical experience handling the Court's mental health docket.

Jennifer McTernan For Common Pleas Judge

continued from page 1

to the Ohio bar in 2013. Since then, I have also been admitted to the Sixth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, and both the Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio. I have my own solo practice handling cases for both retained client and assigned clients - those that are indigent and do not have the financial ability to hire an attorney. For the past decade, I have been in courtrooms throughout Northeast Ohio almost daily, handling a wide variety of cases ranging from low level misdemeanors to high level felonies to juvenile cases to appeals. In particular, the majority of my work for the past decade has been in Common Pleas courts at the Justice Center where I seek to be judge.

Practicing criminal defense litigation further means that I have had the opportunity to not just briefly interact

with those that would appear in front of me, but actually get to know them at length throughout my representation of them, making me more mindful of the significance and impact of any judicial decision on the parties involved - whether handing down sentences or even just making every day decisions like whether to continue a court date. Through my practice, I have frequently been a part of discussions with other attorneys, prosecutors, and judges to find creative and innovative solutions to adequately address the needs of a particular case in order to best achieve fairness and justice on a case by case basis. In other situations, however, I have observed missed opportunities that I would hope to address differently from the bench.

I am also trained and qualified to handle criminal cases on Cuyahoga County's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities specialty docket, and frequently note the importance of getting clients access to mental health and developmental disability services often in combination with addiction or other services, not just in the resolution of their cases but in their everyday lives. Through this work, I already have extensive hands on experience working with my clients, mental health professionals, mental health agency liaisons, mental health judges, etc. to find the plan/services that best address an individual client's needs on a case by case basis. I understand that perhaps the most effective deterrent to someone ending up back in court with a future case, is addressing the underlying causes and getting them access to services. Too often in my current practice, I encounter clients with obvious mental health and/or developmental disability issues that would likely benefit from services, but unfortunately have never previously been assessed or diagnosed, despite having previously been through the system. As such, I recognize just how important and necessary it is for both attorneys and judges to be able to identify and adequately address these issues, and would continue to advocate for increased awareness of these issues from the bench.

Every day in my practice, I see firsthand the direct impact of these local judicial elections. Judges have so much power over those that appear in front of them and the decisions they make impact so many. When it comes to judges, experience and qualifications matter, and so I humbly ask for your consideration and vote on (or before) March 19.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Shontel Brown Stops By To Talk With Lakewood Residents

continued from page 3

ing money going to the Middle East, she has voted “No” when Humanitarian Aid was not included.

The second community member thanked Brown for coming and for her support of community health centers while encouraging the Representative to rally her colleagues around the cause.

The third community member was concerned with affordable housing and asked how Congress could help. Brown expressed a desire to work with her predecessor in Congress, United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge. The Congresswoman referenced Fudge’s success in getting renters credit for good rent payment history. Brown stated that she learned today that Lakewood is the densest city in Ohio and that most of our houses here are “pretty old.” Brown hopes to facilitate an “Affordable Housing Symposium” in a few months with Secretary Fudge.

Fourth, a community member expressed concern with the number of mass shootings taking place around the country and asked what can be done. Brown responded by saying, “To change the laws we need to change the lawmakers.” She recognized that lawmakers in Ohio have made it easier to get guns and let us know that she is licensed to carry a gun. She said that many of her colleagues in Congress are resigned to the mentality that nothing can be done. She said she

does not believe that we need assault or military-style weapons on the streets.

The Congresswoman then explained how hard it is in on Capitol Hill to get things done. She said when she was on a city council she only needed to get three people to agree with her and now she needs to get 217. She also stated that since she took office in November of 2021, 82 seats in the House have changed, illustrating how many relationships she needs to establish and develop.

The final member of the community to speak publicly asked Brown to speak on two Urban Farming bills that she has introduced and her values in that area. She stated a goal of leveling the playing field between larger and smaller scale farmers in terms of access to resources and removing red tape. She also spoke about her desire to get schools more active with small farms and encouraging entrepreneurship among students.

After speaking publicly for 30 minutes, the Congresswoman thanked Mayor George for hosting the event and welcomed anyone to approach her directly for a 1-on-1 conversation. I was second in line behind a group of eight wearing the black and white Palestinian Keffiyah. This group spoke to the Representative for over 10 minutes. The Group was speaking very passionately regarding the treatment of Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Two members of the group were holding up their phones to record Congresswoman Brown throughout their conversation. Brown heard them out and let them speak at length despite efforts of her staff to move things along. Brown made it clear that she wanted to hear what this group had to say.

I had a chance to give our Representative a copy of the Lakewood Observer with which she was happy to pose for a photo. I took the opportunity to ask her if she was concerned about the lack of regulation in the railroad industry. She displayed good knowledge of the issues that had led to the derailment in East Palestine and assured me that my elected officials are working on ways to prevent a similar disaster in Lakewood and across the country.

Theodore Babcock is a freelance writer/photographer that loves covering Lakewood.



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SPECIAL TOPPINGS: Artichoke Hearts, Tomato, Broccoli, Chicken

LAKEWOOD IS ART

Movie Review: There's No Story Here:
"The Zone Of Interest" And The Deglorification Of Violence

continued from page 7

of some sort: on screen, he is only briefly glimpsed inside the walls of Auschwitz and is never depicted participating in acts of direct violence. Instead, he is mostly seen attending meetings, spending time with his children, completing mundane tasks around the house, and otherwise being a nondescript human being. Christian Friedel's performance as Höss can hardly be described as villainous: he's too unremarkable for that distinction. This is in stark contrast to Schindler's List's portrayal of Amon Göth: the character, as portrayed by Ralph Fiennes in an Oscar-nominated performance, is often lauded as one of the greatest villains in cinematic history.

Höss's family are likewise a mostly unremarkable portrait of domesticity, albeit one that is slightly askew: the concrete walls of the camp are present in many exterior shots of the Höss home and a constant bombardment of train horns, gunshots, and screams can be heard just beyond them in incredible and utterly bone-chilling sound design work. Nevertheless, the film is made up almost exclusively of unremarkable events in the lives of this family: outings at the river, visits from the in-laws, worries about being transferred, and the like. This is again in sharp contrast to a film such as The Pianist, in which horrific scenes such as the state of Warsaw during German occupa-

tion are depicted in graphic detail.

This portrayal of the Höss family is not one that is concerned with plot or narrative momentum. Few things actually happen, in any conventional narrative sense: there's no rising action, climax, or any other traditional narrative function. This and the lack of any depiction of overt violence on screen, I believe, serves an extremely important purpose, one that I believe is fundamental to the thesis of the film: it is intent upon deconstructing the narrative constructed unintentionally or otherwise by other films of similar subject matter. By stubbornly refusing to adhere to any form of traditional narrative and not allowing the audience a glimpse of the atrocities occurring within the walls of Auschwitz, instead showing almost exclusively mundane, routine snippets of these peoples' lives, the filmmakers are allowing the true nature of these atrocities to come through. In other words, there's no story here: the lack of any traditional narrative asserts that these events should not be framed in conventional cinematic narrative constructs for entertainment purposes.

This will undeniably be a divisive film: it already runs the risk of dividing audiences by choosing to depict such unsavory individuals and subjecting moviegoers to a largely plotless hour and forty-five minutes, but it will undoubtedly stump those who were perhaps expect-

ing a more traditional depiction of evil. However, I firmly believe that The Zone of Interest's depiction of evil should be the gold standard for films of its nature going forward. After all, it would be a disservice to history and the victims of such systematic atrocities as the Holocaust or one of the many genocides occurring throughout the world at this very moment to portray those who carry them out as something as feeble as a traditional movie villain: they

should be portrayed for the people they really were. Furthermore, filmmakers should strive to make moviegoers think about the nature of violence on screen in the way that Glazer and company did for me with The Zone of Interest: given the climate of real-life violence we find ourselves immersed in today, I believe it's more important than ever to consider the effects of its depiction in cinema and take steps toward its deglorification.



MARCH

ARIES: The Ram, not known to be shy, is brewing up some Guinness behind the scenes; the Luck of the Irish has deposited the Pot o' Gold in your House of Finances; share the wealth.

TAURUS: It is time for the Bull to come out of its Bullpen and trade the red cape in for a green one; the Sun is shining on your friends & associations; get thee to the Irish pub for corned beef.

GEMINI: The Luck of the Irish is gathering moss behind the scenes for the Twins, while the leprechauns are doubling your pleasure in your career sector along with the Euros at the office.

CANCER: The Sun is shining on the Crab's foreign travel; maybe it is time to take a trip overseas; it's also blessing your house of friendships, bringing the lads & lassies to the land.

LEO: Top o' the mornin' to the Lion/Lioness, the Irish luck is shining in your house of other people's resources, & the Pot of Gold is shining brightly in your career sector; early refund?

VIRGO: Virgos are making decisions regarding their relationships this month, while Jupiter (bearer of gifts) is bestowing its rainbows in the land of foreign travel; grab a leprechaun & fly.

LIBRA: The Sun is shining on the Libran house of health this month, while Jupiter is visiting your house of

other's resources, the Pot o' Gold is coming from others; dance an Irish jig.

SCORPIO: The Scorpion is doubly blessed in the relationship sector, put the stinger away for St. Patty's Day, enjoy a bit of the craic, grab a lassie, pour a Guinness & sing a little Moondance.

SAGITTARIUS: Home & family is where the Centaur is pointing his bow & arrow this St. Patty's Day – Jupiter's in the health house, so be careful of overdoing too much of a smashing thing.

CAPRICORN: The Sun is shining its Luck on the Goat's community sector; get out of the office; the lucky shamrock has landed in the romance field. May the wind be at your back.

AQUARIUS: The Sun is bringing its Luck o' the Irish in your house of gold & green, & the lucky shamrock is making a visit at the gaff; get out the Karaoke, & sing O' Danny Boy with the clan.

PISCES: It's all about you, Fish; the Sun, Saturn, Mercury & Neptune are all in Pisces to start the month; the Luck of the Irish is shining over your pond; look for the multitude of rainbows.

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

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Bringing Meals To Neighbors In Need

by Barry Wemyss

For those of us with reliable transportation and the physical ability to prepare our own food, taking care of our meal needs becomes almost an afterthought. However, for many of our neighbors, providing for those basic needs can be a huge challenge. The challenges homebound seniors face include getting food into the house, preparing meals, and handling the cleanup afterwards. Thankfully, many of our neighbors have made the commitment to stand up and help meet the needs of those most vulnerable neighbors in our community.

The Lakewood Division of Aging is looking for volunteers to deliver nutri-

tious meals to homebound Lakewood seniors. We send out lunches Monday through Friday, between 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM. The time commitment is manageable, taking about one hour to complete. Our volunteers typically serve one day a week. This is a great service opportunity to do together with a friend, co-worker or a significant other. If you have reliable transportation, we will get you started. If this sounds like something that you would like more information on, then we would like to speak with you. Please call our Volunteer Services Office at 216-529-5005, or send an email to barry.wemyss@lakewoodoh.net.

Barry Wemyss is Volunteer Services Supervisor.



Oh, What A Night!

by Nancy Feighan

"Time to Dance: A Leap Day Dance Party" was a tremendous success! Guests, both familiar faces and first-timers, flaunted their style with sequins, gowns, beautiful dresses, sweaters, and even a 59-year-old prom dress (still rocking the fit!) a fancy tux, dinner jackets, ties, and matching shirts.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal by Karen King Catering. Tasty treats from Despina's Bakery, Tommy's Pastries, KB Confections, Sweet Designs Chocolatier, and a beautifully decorated cake from Giant Eagle added to

the sweetness of the occasion.

The H2O kids snapped photos in our trendy photo booth, stealing the spotlight and then some, while Michael on the Mic kept everyone dancing all night.

Big thanks to Michael on The Mic, kids from H2O - Help To Others, our sponsors Haven at Lakewood, Eliza Jennings, O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood, and everyone who helped transform Cove into magical dance hall!

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

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