LAKEWOOD BSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 8, April <u>17, 2024</u>

TOTALITY IN LAKEWOOD 2024

On April 8, Lakewood experienced a total solar eclipse. Lakewood Observer founder and photographer Jim O'Bryan captured the event. A pull-out souvenir poster is included as a keepsake of this celestial spectacle.

Downtown Lakewood Celebrates The Return Of The Beloved Spring Stroll

by Erin Vokes

The Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance is thrilled to announce the return of the Downtown Lakewood Spring Stroll on Sunday, May 19, 2024, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Following the overwhelming success of last year's event, the Spring Stroll is back to offer a unique blend of culinary delights and artistic exploration, all in support of the vibrant local business community in historic Downtown Lakewood.

"We are absolutely thrilled to bring this event back for another year," shared Nancy Hedberg, RN, MSN, of Lakewood Family Health Center and a lead organizer for the event. "The Spring Stroll is a celebration of everything that makes Downtown Lakewood such a special place our businesses, our artists, and our wonderfully vibrant community."

This year's Spring Stroll invites attendees to embark on a brunch crawl unlike any other,



featuring an expanded lineup of local businesses each offering delectable brunch items paired with engaging arts experiences. Participants will have the opportunity to explore at least 16 stops throughout Downtown Lakewood, from beloved eateries to cultural gems like the Lakewood Public Library.

"We've crafted an event that goes beyond the traditional brunch crawl. The Spring Stroll not only entertains but also fosters a strong

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This One Is For Terry Scavone

Lakewoodites Join The "Big Push"



As it was in the late 1800s, the firefighters would join with the community to push the horse drawn fire truck back into its stall. It is still considered good luck to all that come in contact with the truck.

by Jim O'Bryan

Station Number 3 dedicated their new truck during "The Big Push" to Firefighter Terry Scavone, the past driver of Truck 3, who recently passed away from occupational cancer. Yet another risk firefighters carry everyday for us.

The Big Push - is a custom nearly as old as firefighters! It started when the fire trucks were drawn by horses. When they received a new truck they would have to physically push it back into the firehouse. It has become a good luck/blessing as all new fire trucks are pushed back into the firehouse to protect those that will ride, use and be serviced by that truck.

Mayor Meghan George got things started...

"Good morning. **It's my** pleasure to be here with all of you today to celebrate a

time honored tradition of the "pushing in" of our new Fire Engine.

We are fortunate to have incredibly dedicated people serving in our safety forces in Lakewood, including our fire-fighter paramedics.

These brave men and

women dedicate their lives to serving the residents of our city, and on behalf of our residents, I would like to say thank you for everything you do.

It is imperative for our first responders to have the highest quality equipment and vehicles to ensure that they can do their job well and be ready at a moment's notice to respond to any crisis.

We owe it to our firefighter paramedics and to the people they serve.

This new engine represents not only a vital addition



Ward 3 Councilperson Cindy Strebig kicks the tires on it.

to the fleet, but also a promise of safety and protection for the community it will serve.

It is my honor to now introduce Fire Marshall Ryan Fairbanks to kick off the ceremony."

Ryan Fairbanks: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, As we gather here today to dedicate and 'push in' this fire truck, let us not only celebrate the rich tradition of firefighting but also extend our gratitude to the individual stakeholders who have played a pivotal role in making this moment possible. From the horse-drawn fire engines of the 1800s to the state-of-the-art vehicle behind me, the evolution of firefighting has been a

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Volunteers Needed For LCAC's

Spring Cleaning Supplies Distribution

by Sara Crawford

With warmer weather approaching, people often begin to wash off winter's dirt and grime and start the spring fresh. LCAC, also known as the "food drive people" switches gears every spring to help provide cleaning supplies and hygiene items for Lakewood

families in need, to help with their own "spring cleaning."

LCAC will be hosting a Spring Cleaning Distribution on Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m. at the Masonic Temple, located at 15300 Detroit Road in Lakewood.

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THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Lakewood's Focus: A Pedestrian Friendly Community

by Meghan George Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

I recently shared some updates on Lakewood's holistic approach to overall safety. In this edition, I'd like to delve deeper into Lakewood's ongoing effort to maintain and improve our city's status as one of the most pedestrian-friendly communities in Ohio, if not the nation. Being a truly walkable community where people value the ability to safely walk and meet their daily needs is a key quality-of-life factor and priority for our residents.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month in the U.S., which makes sense with so many more pedestrians out and about walking as weather improves, and because distracted driving is a major cause of injuries to people on foot. This

month also will see Ohio's new restrictions on drivers' use of cellphones in full effect. With very few exceptions, anything that involves using, holding, or supporting a cellphone while driving is now illegal, and repeat violators will be subject to escalating penalties.

I encourage everyone to review this new cellphone law for drivers - you can obtain a helpful fact sheet by visiting the Ohio Department of Transportation website:

https://www.transportation.ohio. gov/wps/portal/gov/odot/phonesdown/ resources/fact-sheet. Here in Lakewood, our officers will be enforcing this law if they observe a violation. We also have been informed that Ohio State Highway

Patrol officers will have a focus on enforcing the law on state and federal routes, a number of which traverse Lakewood.

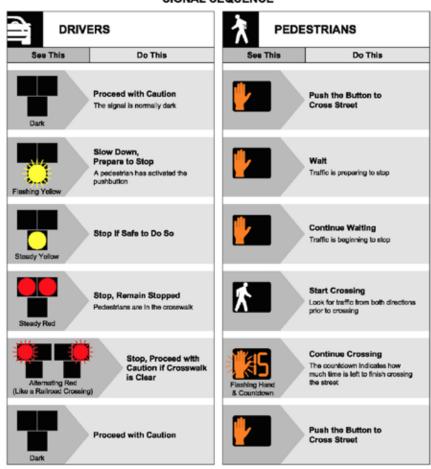
Another way we aim to build on Lakewood's pedestrian nature and protect walkers is by continuing to introduce pedestrian hybrid beacons, also known as HAWKs (High-intensity Activated crossWalK), for pedestrian crossings at key intersections. For those unfamiliar, HAWKs are crosswalks that feature traffic control devices that walkers can use to stop vehicular traffic and cross safely. One has been in place at Manor Park and Detroit and another at Clarence and Madison for several years. Our planning, public works, and police departments all work in partnership to assess where additional HAWKs might be appropriate given high pedestrian usage and other key factors. You can review the fact sheet on HAWK signals on our website for more information on how

they work: https://www.lakewoodoh. gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/ PHB-Handout.png

The HAWKs are another element of Lakewood's work to address concerns with traffic and walkability. As Ohio's most densely populated city and a place that was designed and built for walkers, Lakewood's focus on protecting pedestrians is a high priority and a key element of our holistic approach to safety. This also can be seen in Lakewood's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) and our recently adopted Active Transportation Plan, which focuses on modes of getting around our city without a personal vehicle (walking, cycling, etc.).

Lakewood's status as a highly walkable community remains an important focus for all of us at City Hall, and we are committed to building and maintaining our pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and assets.

PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON / HAWK SIGNAL SEQUENCE







Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood Observer

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

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GOVERNMENT

City Hall Observed

by Theodore Babcock

The Public Safety Committee, Finance Committee and City Council met on Monday, April 15th.

At the Public Safety meeting, Assistant Director - Planning and Development, David Baas presented the latest version of the Active Transportation Plan and accompanying Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Plan. The plan was partially developed around goals from the Community Vision such as:

- Build and maintain infrastructure to support active lifestyles.
- Make transportation decisions that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote wellness.
- Expand the dedicated bicycle network city-wide.
- Improve and maintain the existing transportation infrastructure considering universal design, affordability, and environmental impact.
- Adopt "vision zero" goal to reduce motor-vehicle related deaths to zero. The committee agreed to recommend the plans to the full Council for a vote. The Finance Committee heard a presentation from Finance Director, Peter

Rancatore, regarding 3 proposed pieces of legislation relevant to the collection of taxes. They outline the need and ability to collect taxes as well as receive the funds

Volunteers Needed For LCAC's

Spring Cleaning Supplies Distribution

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Many households need help with spring cleaning as necessary supplies can get expensive and are not covered by WIC. This drive will provide 100 recipients with the supplies they need for cleaning.

LCAC's board members and volunteers will sort and deliver cleaning supplies to Lakewood residences during the event. Volunteers of all ages are always welcome at LCAC events and there is a job for everyone to do as these muchneeded cleaning supplies are sorted and then delivered to Lakewood families.

For more information or to make a monetary donation, visit www.LCAC. info. Make sure to follow Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation on Facebook and/or on Instagram at @lcacfooddrives for any updates on our events. promptly from the county so they can be invested. All three were recommended to the full council.

At the City Council meeting, all recommended legislation from Public Safety and Finance was adopted.

Public Works Director, Chris Gordon presented a plan to receive a \$200,000 grant from the Ohio EPA to purchase and replace 4,630 of the city's oldest recycling toters for residents. Council approved an additional \$50,000 match to complete the transaction.

Fire Chief, Tim Dunphy, presented two grants to council to receive funds from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary. Both were adopted.

Resolutions were also adopted to make April 28th "Workers Memorial Day," and May 4th-5th "Firefighter Memorial Weekend."

Two cyclists spoke in support of the Active Transportation Plan and Safe Streets for All Plan. They also urged all present to implement these plans expeditiously and continue to find ways to make Lakewood more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Many members of council showed support for the 6 cyclists total in attendance and commended their dedication to seeing these plans succeed.

Antonio Condemns Passage Of Anti-Trans Administrative Rules

by Senate Minority Leader Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood)

On April 16th, I condemned the passage of several administrative rules that would unnecessarily ban gender reassignment surgery on minors, even though such surgeries have never taken place in Ohio.

"The passage of these rules is unnecessary, confusing and will drive away young people and businesses from our state," said Antonio. "Ohio cannot truly be a welcoming state while we continue to stigmatize marginalized Ohioans and take away a family's right to make their own health care decisions."

Rules 3701-59-06 and 3701-83-60 would ban the operation of gender reassignment surgery on minors. Gender reassignment surgery has never been completed on a minor in Ohio, meaning this rule will further spread untrue and harmful beliefs about the state of gender-affirming care in Ohio.

Judgmentfree LGBTQ+ healthcare, cancer screenings.



Henry Ng, MD Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center

Cleveland Clinic's Center for LGBTQ+ Care offers healthcare services at the Lakewood Family Health Center.

"LGBTQ+ patients have historically been an underserved community with unmet health needs," says internal medicine and

pediatrics physician Henry Ng, MD, director of the Center.

Along with higher rates of chemical dependency and mental health problems, many of these patients lack social support and are more likely to delay getting needed medical care. They face health disparities for certain types of cancers including those that are HIV and non-HIV-related, cancer of the reproductive organs and breast cancer.

"Not all providers are aware of the screening recommendations for this community of people. We are. We understand their health, their habits, their bodies, and that determines what we recommend for them for care," says Dr. Ng. "Cancer screenings are an important way to identify treatable cancers at an early stage, especially for individuals who face barriers to achieving good health."

Some patients come to the Center for LGBTQ+

ADVERTISEMENT



Care at Lakewood Family Health Center from neighboring states, partly because they are unable to get the type of care they want to receive in their own communities; others have had negative experiences with healthcare providers in the past.

"We provide our patients with a space in which they can voice their concerns and talk about themselves and be heard without fear of retribution, criticism or judgment," says Dr. Ng. "We provide health recommendations and advice and help them incorporate as much of it as they can to address their health needs. Depending on their priorities and resources, they may not be able to do everything, but we try to meet patients where they are."

For an appointment with a caregiver at the Center for LGBTQ+ Care at Lakewood Family Health Center, call **216.237.5500**.

New Ob/Gyn in Lakewood.



Courtney Stephenson, DO
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist
Cleveland Clinic
Lakewood Medical Building
Appointments:
Call 216.444.6601.

Support Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism.

April 15 to 21

In honor of National Autism Acceptance Month, Panera Bread bakery-cafés in Northeast Ohio are donating a portion of the proceeds from each Tulip Shortbread Cookie sold from Monday, April 15, through Sunday, April 21, to Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism.



Tulip Shortbread Cookies can be purchased in the Cleveland-, Akron- and Canton-area Panera Bread bakery-cafés or at panerabread.com.





As Northeast Ohio's locally trusted children's hospital, we're here no matter what care is needed.

 ${\it Cleveland Clinic Childrens.} {\it org}$

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up: Softball And Baseball

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

April 13: SOFTBALL Rangers vs Rocky River

Senior ace Mia Carroll-Greeves struck out 14 on her way to a complete game win over Rocky River. Sister Gaby plated the first run—Madison Comer, who doubled-- for the Rangers with a sharp single to right, and Mia drove in the other with a single to center. Senior short-stop Emily Potoczak made a diving catch of a short fly ball to preserve the lead late in the game (6th inning). The Ranger are now 5-0 in the GLC and 6-3 overall.

April 9: BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL Rangers vs Westlake

When sophomore Cooper Russell walked off Westlake with a lightning bolt to left, he finished a dramatic comeback for the Lakewood Rangers (7-1). Cooper's heroics were only possible due to some great defense and solid pitching that kept Lakewood close until the bats came to life in the 6th. Tonight's was a deeply satisfying team win.

Starter Logan Ellis allowed two runs (one earned) in 5 strong innings, while reliever and winning pitcher Mikey Klasa pitched two scoreless innings, including a dominating 7th. Freshman 3rd baseman Riley Verderber cut down a runner at the plate and made another fine play which held a potential run at third. Left fielder



Leo Soneson on April 1st.

Keegan Schroeder and catcher Leo Soneson also made key defensive plays for the Rangers. Leo sparked the two run game tying rally in the 6th with a single in what was one of the best at-bats of the season, then scored the tying run on a clutch 2-strike, two run RBI single by Drew Jablonowski.

To start the 7th, Logan Ellis blasted a long double to left center, and after Mikey and Petter Checkett reached on a walk and hit by pitch, Cooper worked the count to 3 and 2 before his full contact smash to left field. The softball team also beat Westlake--look for that story a bit later--in what was a great night on the diamonds for the Rang-



Mia Carroll-Greeves on April 6th.

ers. Two community teams competed fiercely today, but happily the Purple and Gold prevailed. Kudos to Coach Graves, his staff and the entire squad. There was all kinds of lightning in the 44107 tonight. Long Live Lakewood.

April 6: SOFTBALL: Rangers vs Valley Forge

The diamonds were shining in Lakewood today, as players from all classes pitched the Softball and Baseball Rangers to victories. North of LHS, sophomore Ella Bower and senior Mia Carroll-Greeves pitched the Softball team to a double header sweep of Valley Forge. Mia's gem was a 5 inning perfect game.

BASEBALL: Rangers vs Fairview

South of LHS, freshman Riley Verderber and junior Peter Checkett pitched well in Lakewood Baseball's 9-3 win over Fairview. Both teams won with contributions from numerous players.

FRESHMAN AND JV BASE-BALL: Rangers vs Bay Village, Rangers vs St. Ignatius

The JV softball squad was idle, but the freshman and JV Baseball teams beat Bay Village and St. Ignatius respectively. That's 5-0 on a brisk Saturday for two community programs that develop their own players. Long Live Lakewood.

April 1:





Mikey Klasa on April 9th.

Rangers vs Eastlake North

Lakewood is now 4-0 after a 2-0 win over Eastlake North today at the frigid Ranger baseball field. Starter Leo Soneson pitched 6 scoreless innings for the win, with Peter Checkett closing for the save in her first varsity action on the mound. Andrew Krankowski had a hit and an RBI, with runs scored by Cooper Russell and Nick Hart. Both Cooper and Nick made fine defensive plays in the seventh to help snuff out a 7th inning Eastlake rally. Ronan Johnson also had a good play earlier.

Today was once again a fine team effort for the Purple and Gold.

Long Live Lakewood.

a potential run at third. Left fielder Garfield Middle School

Shines At NEOSEF Science Fair

by Christine Gordillo

Exciting news for Garfield Middle School!

We are incredibly proud to announce that four of our talented students competed at the NEOSEF Science Fair this Spring and achieved remarkable success!

KK Saunders placed 2nd in the Physics category. Liam Callahan placed 3rd in Health and Medicine. Elise Moran placed 2nd in Environmental Science, also earning special awards from The American Association of Chemical Engineering, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric

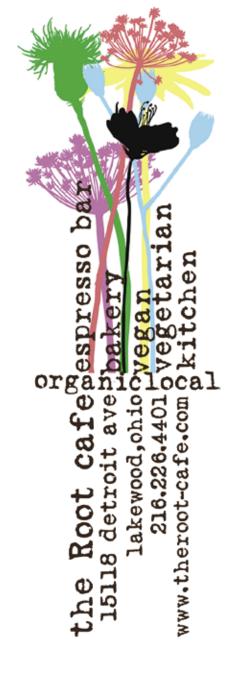
Association, and The National Audubon Society.

Charlaice McDonald placed 2nd in the Earth & Space category, winning special awards from Cleveland State, ASM International, and The Naval & Marine Corp. Science Center.

Not only did they excel in their categories, but Elise and Charlaice also garnered multiple special awards for their exceptional scientific thinking.

A huge congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication! Your achievements truly shine as a testament to your talent and passion for science.





OBSERVER



This One Is For Terry Scavone Lakewoodites Join The "Big Push"

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testament to the collaborative efforts of our community, including our esteemed city council and our mayor.

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to our Mayor, Meghan George, for her leadership and unwavering support of the Lakewood Fire Department. Mayor George, your dedication to the well being and safety of our citizens has been exemplary, and your advocacy for our firefighters has been instrumental in ensuring that they have the resources and support needed to carry out their duties effectively. Your vision for our City's future and your commitment to public service inspire us all.

To our city council members, finance department, and Public Works Department, I want to express my gratitude for your diligent work in allocating resources and ensuring the City of Lakewood remains on the cutting edge of the fire service. Council President Sarah Kepple, Vice President Jason Shachner, Safety Committee Chair Kyle Baker, Councilman Tom Bullock, Councilwoman Cindy Marx, Councilman Tristan Rader, Councilwoman Cindy Strebig, Former Council President John Litten, Finance Director Peter Rancatore, and Fleet Manager James Holman, your efforts have enabled us to maintain a strong and resilient fire department despite budgetary challenges. Your collaboration and cooperation with our firefighters and city leadership has been essential in ensuring that our community remains safe and secure.

To our firefighters, your courage and dedication do not go unnoticed. Your willingness to work with our city leaders and community stakeholders is a testament to your commitment to serving our City with honor and integrity. From the days of bucket brigades to the sophisticated equipment and training of today, firefighters have always been at the forefront of protecting our communities. Their bravery and selflessness in the face of danger are an enduring testament to the noble profession of firefighting. As we push in this fire truck together, let us continue to uphold the values of teamwork and unity that define our firefighting efforts.

And to the citizens of Lakewood, I want to thank you for your consis-

tent support of our firefighters and city leadership. Your partnership is essential in ensuring the success of our firefighting and safety initiatives. Let us continue to work together to build a safer and stronger community for all.

Engine No. 3, a 2024 Sutphen 75' quint capable of pumping 2000 gallons of water per minute, symbolizes our collective commitment to public safety. This truck was designed with Lakewood's uniqueness and our firefighters in mind. May its capabilities empower our firefighters to respond swiftly and effectively to any emergency.

Before we proceed let us take a moment to bless this firetruck and the firefighters who will use it to protect and serve our community. Retired Lakewood Firefighter, Engine 3 driver, and Reverend, James Heffner will now lead us in that blessing."

Reverend Heffner led a prayer.

After the prayer, Fire Marshall Fairbanks continued, "I want to take a moment to honor the memory of Firefighter Terry Scavone, who served as the longtime driver of Engine 3. Terry passed away from occupational cancer, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service to our City. It is fitting that his name is remembered on this new fire truck, a tribute to his years of self-less devotion to protecting the lives and property of our citizens.

In closing, let us push forward with determination and unity, knowing that by working together and recognizing the contributions of all stakeholders, we can overcome any challenge that comes our way. We must always remember the power of collaboration in shaping the future of our community.

Please feel free to stay afterwards to look over our newest asset and ask questions of our firefighters.

Thank you all, and may we always remember and honor the rich history of firefighting in the City of Lakewood. 'Captain Dean please take com-

mand of Engine 3 ...'

Lets push in Truck #3 as is the cus-

tom."

Nice ceremony, and dedication.

You can see all the photos from the event here: https://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs/jim-obryan/fire-station-3-gets-a-new-truck

LHS Students Sweep Rotary Club Speech Contest



by Christine Gordillo

We are thrilled to share that Amy Garritano brought us some fantastic news today. Lakewood High School had yet another sweep at the speech contest sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River, alongside the Beck Center!

> Here are the winners: 1st Place: Elizabeth Schuldt - \$750,

2nd Place: Sophia Lipowski - \$500, 3rd Place: Ava Cuffari - \$300, 4th Place: Lana Collins - \$250.

We are proud to announce that Elizabeth and Sophia will be advancing to represent Lakewood High School at the District Finals on April 6th. Huge congratulations to everyone involved! Let's continue to shine and make Lakewood proud!



Lakewood Public Library Programs

Upcoming Events

Lisa Calfee

Meet The Author -

"The Final Witness: A Kennedy Secret Service Agent Breaks His Silence After Sixty Years" by Paul Landis

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Special Agent Paul Landis was standing on the running boards of the car directly behind JFK's Cadillac on the tragic afternoon of November 22,1963. In "The Final Witness," the author tells his story, the one he could not speak about for over sixty years. Books will be available for sale.

Presentation -

Women, Guitars and Pop Music: A Short History with Diana Chittester Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Diana Chittester takes listeners on a musical journey through the past century to discover the styles of influential, and often overlooked, female guitarists.

Film Matinee -

"Enchanted April" (1991)

Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (98 minutes) in the Main Library Auditorium

Four British women are transformed by a quiet holiday in an Italian castle.

Literary Cleveland Presents:

Write Now: Get Unstuck - Breaking Through Creative Blocks with Jen Jones

Saturdays: May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2024 from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Main Library Multipurpose Room

Dealing with dreaded writer's block? Stuck in a personal or professional rut? This workshop is open to creatives of all genres and experience levels. Registration is required and begins on April 1, 2024. Call (216) 226-8275.

Meet The Author -

"Digital Assassins: Surviving Cyberterrorism and a Digital Assassination Attempt" by Danielle Spencer

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

The author tells her own story, in fictional form, of the havoc that was reaped on her personally and financially after she was labeled a whistleblower. Books will be available for sale.

The Return Of The Beloved Spring Stroll

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sense of community and mutual support among businesses and artists alike," said Stephanie Flask, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones and a lead organizer for the event.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$45, with 100% of the proceeds going to support the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA). Geoff Mathias, Owner of Sauced Taproom & Kitchen and President of the DLBA, highlighted the importance of the event: "Supporting small businesses is at the heart of what we do at the DLBA. The Spring Stroll exemplifies our commitment to not only supporting the Downtown Lakewood business community but also to providing an engaging, enjoyable experience for everyone involved."

The event is for individuals aged 21 and over and will take place rain or shine.

How to Get Tickets:

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting the Eventbrite link on our Facebook event page, or in-person at Lion

and Blue during their normal business hours. For more information and to buy tickets, please visit https://www.facebook.com/events/6661689610599851/.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore Downtown Lakewood, enjoy a variety of brunch items, and experience the arts in a whole new way. Join us in supporting the local businesses and artists that make our community thrive.

Event Details:

Downtown Lakewood Spring Stroll

Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024 **Time:** 11:00 am to 2:00 pm **Location:** Downtown Lakewood, **Tickets:** \$45

Contact:

For further information, please contact Stephanie Flask (stephanie. flask@edwardjones.com) and Nancy Hedberg (hedbern@ccf.org).

Erin Vokes is the Founder and Chief Creative Officer at Vaux, a woman-owned and operated web design and marketing firm.

The Knit & Lit Book Club:

"The Power of One" by Bryce Courtenay

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room.

The Booked for Murder Book Club: "A Deadly Bone to Pick" by Peggy Rothschild Thursday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Children's and Youth Services

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.

April 1- April 25, 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.

Children and their parents will enjoy stories, movement and songs for thirty fun filled minutes. The focus is on early literacy skills. 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 with quiet books, movement, fingerplays and songs. No registration is required.

March 4- April 23, 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.

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



SOUVENIR SOLAR ECLIPSE POSTER

Porch Thoughts

by Jim O'Bryan

Since the last partial eclipse in 2017, the build up to this year's Solar eclipse has been insane. By 2021 the countdown had already started with a warning about being ready to protect our eyes.. By 2023 the Meteorologists were starting to talk about the eclipse and what the weather might be like: who was going to be able to view it and what the path of totality was. This continued to build until every- one was whipped into a feverish pitch, and the meteorologists were all having nervous breakdowns. How could anything live up to this hype? I mean it's just the moon, something we see every day, moving past the sun, something we also see every day. What's the big deal?

Well, one fine point to the big deal was this happens ONLY on planet Earth, and rarely over populated areas, let alone the town you live in. The Moon is 400 times smaller than the Sun, and 400 times closer. So that only in this rare celestial tango, for only a limited time, does this happen. No other planets have the same ratios of their moons. It could be the only place in the galaxy where this extraordinary astronomical event happens. The moon's path blocks the sun and casts a shadow upon the Earth during the day, and it becomes dark as night. This is totality.



Seconds after the eclipse this image shows the cloud cover that didn't matter. And gave us all a chance to think about what we had witnessed.



The sun before the eclipse.

Normally, the sun is too bright to look at without damaging your eyes, so making observations about it is very difficult. All we can

see is a huge, bright, fuzzy ball, or on cloudy/rainy days, the sun itself. The Corona atmosphere around the sun, that projects out millions of miles with solar flares is not visible to the naked eye. The intense energy created by the Solar winds is usually only witnessed by those with telescopes equipped with special lenses to protect the viewer. One of the real observations everyone made is even with 95% of the sun blocked it was daylight. It was only at totality that a very strange darkness enveloped everyone, causing lights to go on, and everyone to stop and think. It was also the only time you could take off your protective lenses and look directly at the sun, and see the corona.

I have to say, it lived up to the hype and more. It was one of the odd-est, calmest, most pleasing moments of my life. Friends, family, passersby on the street, all stopped and looked up, amazed. Even some of the most jaded people I know were not just taken back, but silenced as they looked in awe. A truly magical moment that stirred emotions and was awe-inspiring. You could imagine our ancestors witnessing an event such as this without any buildup or warning and what they could have possibly thought.

On The Eclipse

by Jean Brinich

Finally an event that was shared by all (who were situated near it), free of charge, and attended by every kind of human being regardless of age, gender, color, nationality, ability, religion, clothing, whatever! All were welcome.

I didn't hear of any protests at this event, at least no anti-eclipse ones. This in itself is a cause for celebration. Apparently we often angry peoples can, when there is a cosmic event, put aside all reference to politics and divisiveness.

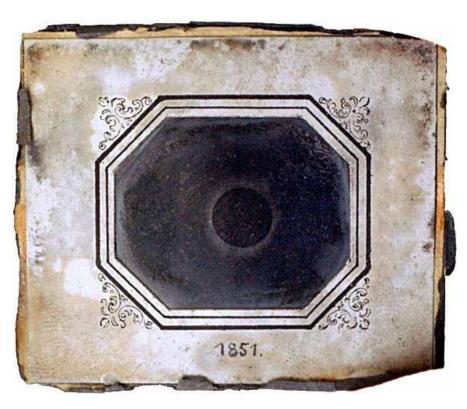
Even those who think science is a conspiracy game didn't question

whether the event would happen. They accepted the science which accurately predicted the timing of the eclipse.

Will the majesty, wonder and spirituality of the total solar eclipse soon be eclipsed by a return to our rancorous dealings with one another?

We, just specks in the universe, should figure out how to live in peace with one another. That is why we are here.

Jean Brinich is a retired family nurse practitioner, returned to Lakewood in 2015 after a 46 year absence.



In 1851, Johann Julius Friedrich Berkowski, a Prussian photographer, was commissioned by the Royal Prussian Observatory to capture the image above. No one had been able to correctly expose the corona (the glowing aura of plasma surrounding the sun). This 84-second exposed image happened just after totality.

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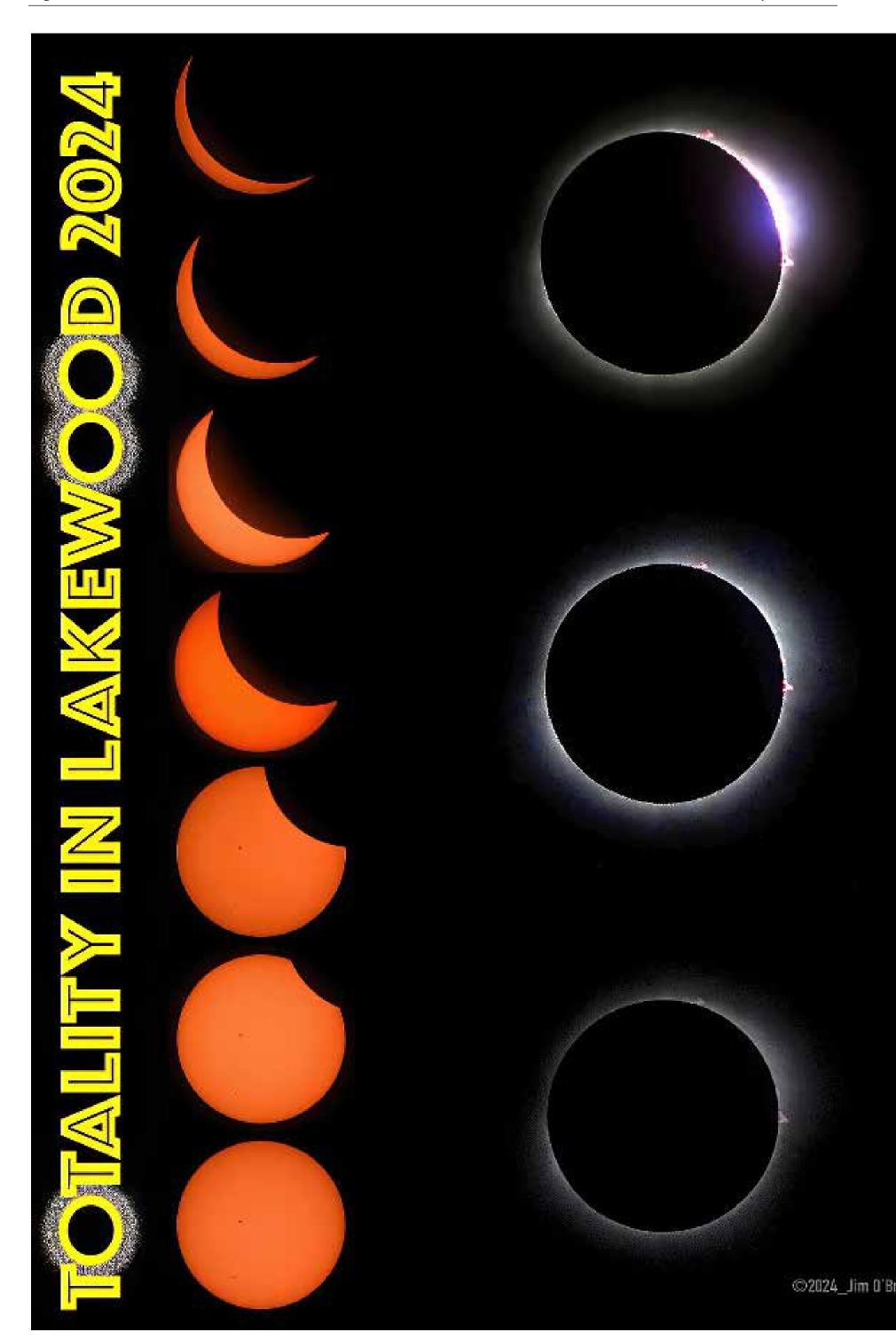
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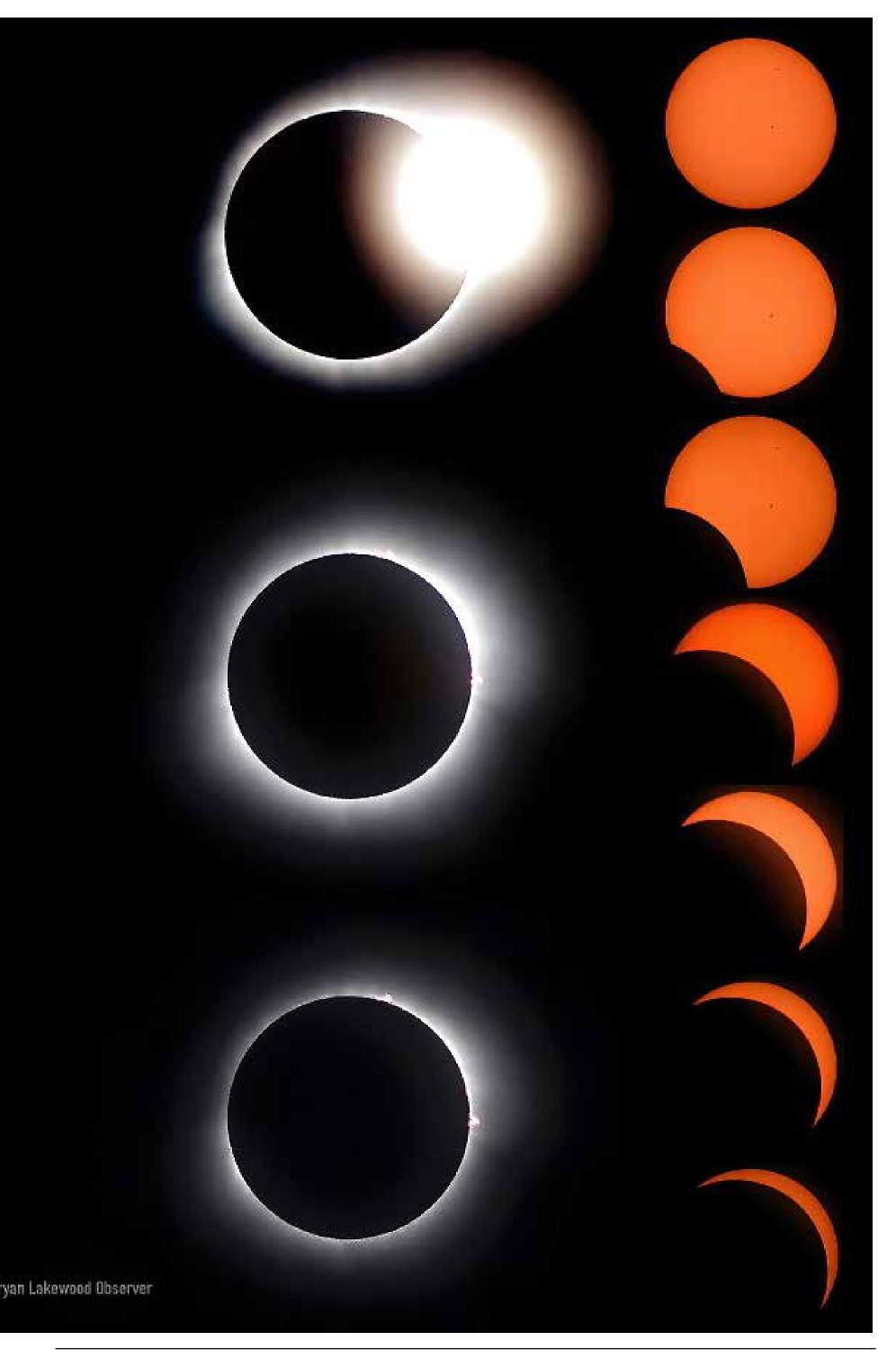
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SOUVENIR SOLAR ECLIPSE POSTER

Lakewood Observer's 2024 Pull Out Eclipse Poster A Glossary Of Astronomical Eclipse Terms

A Solar Eclipse Glossary, so that we know what we saw, and in case we ever see it again! Here are terms used to describe the sun during an eclipse. All are illustrated in our poster of the solar eclipse over Lakewood, Ohio on April 8, 2024.

Annular Eclipse: An eclipse where the diameter of the Moon is too small to completely coverup the Sun. At mideclipse, the Sun appears as a bright ring, often called a "Ring of Fire," encircling the Moon.

Annularity: The phase of an eclipse, when the Moon's entire disk is seen silhouetted by the Sun. Annularity happens between second and third contact. It can last from a second to a maximum of slightly over 12 minutes.

Antumbra: The Moon's shadow beyond the umbra. The Sun appears larger than the Moon, which is visible in silhouette. Observers standing in the antumbra sees an annular eclipse.

Baily's Beads: This is cased by shafts of sunlight shining through deep valleys on the lunar limb (edge), they look like a series of brilliant beads Baily's Beads occur just prior to second contact and just after third contact at total solar eclipses. Named after the English astronomer Francis Baily, in 1836.

Chromosphere: A very thin, red-colored layer of solar atmosphere just above the photosphere. Briefly visible immediately after second contact and prior to third contact at a total solar eclipse.

Corona: The Sun's upper atmosphere. This is visible as a pearly glow around the eclipsed Sun during totality. The shape changes as it is determined by the Sun's magnetic field, linked to the sunspot cycle.

Diamond Ring: Shining like a brilliant diamond set into a pale ring created by the pearly white corona. The signal that totality is about to start (second contact) or has ended (third contact).

Duration: Time between second and third contact during a total or annular solar eclipse.

Eclipse Magnitude: The fraction of the Sun's diameter covered by the Moon. It is a ratio of Sun/Moon diameters and should not be confused with eclipse obscuration (see next item). When the eclipse magnitude is 50% (that is, when 50% of the Sun's diameter is covered), only about 40% of the solar surface area is obscured.

Eclipse Obscuration: The fraction of the Sun's surface area covered by the Moon. Do not confuse it with eclipse magnitude . When 50% of the solar surface area is obscured, the eclipse magnitude is roughly 60%.

Eclipse Season: 35 days when the Sun is close enough to the Moon's orbit (that is, the two points when the Moon's orbit crosses the plane of Earth's orbit around the Sun.

Ecliptic: Plane of Earth's orbit around the Sun or, equivalently, the plane of the Sun's apparent motion around the sky throughout the year. It gets its name from the fact that only when both the Sun and Moon are on (or, in the Moon's case, near) the ecliptic can an eclipse occur.

First Contact: When the Moon takes its first tiny nibble out of the solar disk — the beginning of the partial phase of an eclipse.

Fourth or Last Contact: When the Moon no longer covers any part of the solar disk. This signals the conclusion of the partial phase of an eclipse.

New Moon: The lunar phase when the Moon is located in the same direction in the sky as the Sun. New Moon is the only lunar phase during which an eclipse of the Sun can occur.

Partial Eclipse: An eclipse where the Moon covers only a portion of the Sun. A partial eclipse precedes and follows totality or annularity, but a partial can also occur by itself. A partial solar eclipse is visible over a wider swath of Earth than is



totality or annularity.

Penumbra: The portion of the Moon's shadow in which only part of the Sun is covered. Observers standing in the penumbra see a partial solar eclipse.

Photosphere: The visible surface of the Sun, which consists of a gas layer at a temperature of roughly 5,500° Celsius (10,000° Fahrenheit).

Prominence: Hot gas hanging just above the solar surface, usually appearing as a red-colored arc or filament hovering in the lower part of the corona. Prominences are quickly covered by the Moon after second contact and revealed just prior to third contact at a total solar eclipse.

Saros: An eclipse cycle with a period of 6,585.32 days (18 years 11 days or 18 years 10 days, depending on how many leap years intervene). When two eclipses are separated by a period of one Saros, the Sun, Earth, and Moon return to approximately the same relative geometry, and a nearly identical eclipse will occur (though the eclipse path will be shifted west by eight hours — one-third of Earth's rotation).

Second Contact: The instant when the total or annular phase of an eclipse begins. For a total eclipse, this is synonymous with the disappearance of the first diamond ring. At second contact during a total solar eclipse, darkness suddenly falls (but only to the level of deep twilight).

Shadow Bands: Very faint, shimmering ripples of dark and light moving across the ground, walls, or clouds. These hard-to-see bands result from atmospheric "twinkling" of the thin solar crescent just before second contact and/or just after third contact. When they occur at all (they're not reported at every total eclipse), they're best seen against a white background.

Third Contact: The instant when the total or annular phase of a solar eclipse ends. For a total eclipse, this is synonymous with the appearance of the second diamond ring. At third contact during a total solar eclipse, daylight suddenly returns.

Total Eclipse: A solar eclipse where the apparent diameter of the Moon is large enough to completely cover the Sun's photosphere (even if only momentarily) and reveal the faint solar corona.

Totality: The maximum phase of a total solar eclipse, during which the Moon's disk completely covers the Sun's bright face. Totality occurs between second and third contact. It can last from a fraction of a second to a maximum of 7 minutes 31 seconds.

Umbra: The darkest part of the Moon's shadow, within which the entirety of the Sun's bright face is blocked. Within the umbra, the Moon appears larger than the Sun. An observer standing in the umbra sees a total solar eclipse.

Umbraphile: A solar-eclipse aficionado; a person who will do almost anything, and travel almost anywhere, to see totality. Another term for an umbraphile is "eclipse chaser."



LAKEWOOD CARES

Church Of The Ascension

Flea Market, Bike Rodeo, And Lakewood Bike Registration

by Keira Dodd

Church of the Ascension Flea Market, Bike Rodeo, and Lakewood Bike Registration. Partnering with Bike Lakewood and The Lakewood Police Department

Saturday, May 18th, 11 am to 5 pm, 13216 Detroit Ave.

Are your closets full? Have your children outgrown their toys? Are there too many purses hanging in your closet? Are you ready to declutter or downsize? Are you a crafter? Are your children hankering to ride about town on their bikes? Do you have a bike that needs to be checked for safety or needs general repairs? Do you have kids and want to join Bike Lakewood for a bike safety course?

You need to come to Church of the Ascension from 11 am until 5 pm on Saturday May 18th. Enjoy a spring day outside on our beautiful idyllic grounds with activities for all ages.

*Bring your treasures and crafts to sell on the large front grounds at Church of the Ascension, right on Detroit Ave., with lots of Lakewood foot traffic. Reserve your table today! Call 216-521-8727 or email secretary@ascension-lakewood. org to make your reservation. Arrive at 10:30 am to set up. A free will offering (\$20 suggested) is appreciated but not required. In case of rain the sale will proceed from inside our church hall.

*Bring your Bikes!! Start your family's summer in bikeable Lakewood with bike safety. Bike Lakewood will host a bike rodeo in one of our three parking lots to teach safety skills. The Bike Rodeo will run from 1 – 2:30 pm. Lakewood Police Safety Officers will be

there to register bikes. Free bicycle swag for your children (grades 1-6). A bike safety check and simple repair for all will be available through church and community volunteers from 11 to 3pm.

*Arts and Crafts for children in our playground behind the church.

*An inexpensive grilled lunch also will be available.

Join us on our beautiful front lawn and huge property to sell your treasures, teach your children bike safety, meet and register your bikes with the Lakewood Police Officers. Come and enjoy the Lakewood Community, and even check out the Heirloom Plant Sale from 2 - 5 pm at the Lakewood Garden Center next door.

Church of the Ascension is an Episcopal Church at 13216 Detroit Ave. Lakewood Phone: 216-521-8727

"God Loves You. No Exceptions."

Keira Dodd is an English teacher, a mother of two girls who attend Lakewood City Schools, and a member of the vestry at Church of the Ascension in Lakewood.

Legal Aid Has New Tool To Protect Residents, Neighborhoods From Blight

by Tonya Sams

As properties change hands frequently, there are more out-of-state buyers purchasing homes to be used as rental properties. Absentee owners can easily neglect the buildings, allowing them to fall further into disrepair. To combat this, the City of Cleveland passed a set of ordinances in February, called the Residents First Legislative Package. The new ordinances will hold owners of rental and vacant properties more accountable for the maintenance of their properties.

"It's easy to buy properties remotely if you are an out-of-town investor," said Barbara Reitzloff, Supervising Attorney in The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's Housing Practice Group. "If the owner is in another city or country, they can buy properties sight-unseen and collect the rent by Cash App. They may never visit the property and try to manage it from a distance. This is bad for the tenants and for the neighborhood near those buildings."

The new ordinances require owners of rental properties to register the property with the city. The owner must name a Local Agent in Charge (LAIC). If the owner is a person living in Cuyahoga or a neighboring county, the owner may be the LAIC. Otherwise, the LAIC must be a person who lives in Cuyahoga County. This agent is responsible for the maintenance and management of the property.

After registering the property, the owner of residential rental property must apply for a Certificate Approving Rental Occupancy. To be approved the property must be lead-safe, have no serious violations, be current on property taxes, and meet other requirements. If the city grants the Certificate, the property can be rented. If not, it is illegal to rent

the property. If the property becomes non-compliant, the city can revoke the certification. The registration and certification must be done annually.

The ordinance also includes a Vacant Property Registry. Owners of vacant properties must register the property yearly, appoint a LAIC, and have the property inspected by the city's Building and Housing Department. The owner must keep the building secure and the property free from eyesores like graffiti. The owners must let the city know what their plans are for the property. The city can require the owner to pay a bond in case the city needs to secure the property or perform other maintenance.

There are penalties for violating the ordinances.







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LAKEWOOD CARES



Fire And Ice Presents The Big Check

On March 23, Lakewood Fire Local 382 held their second annual Fire and Ice Hockey Game between Lakewood Firefighters and Lakewood High School Players including LHS Alumni. The first year it proved to be fun and a great way to raise money. So they did it again! The photo above is Seth and Nicole Andregg along with Fire Fighters Jeff Stokus and Ben Fitchwell, teachers Jess Davis and Christa Holt and LHS Hockey Mom Megan Biesel presenting the students a check for \$2,908 to the Lakewood High MILES (Moving to Independent Learning for Employment & Success) unit. Many of the students helped with the event including working the door and concession stands. What a great event by some of Lakewood's best!

Celebrating The Week Of The Young Child In Lakewood

by Tricia Wisneski

As many families in our community know, Lakewood Child Care Center (LCCC) has been caring for children – from newborns to school-agers – for more than 30 years at its 1450 Belle Avenue address. Many of our Center's earliest children are now grown adults with families of their own.

From April 8-12, LCCC celebrated the Week of the Young Child® with activities, music, art and visits from local elected officials.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association. Established more than 50 years ago, the Week of the Young Child® is a week to spotlight public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

"The Center is grateful to call Lakewood home and appreciates the long-standing partnership with the local community," said Holle Brambrick, director of the 5-Star "Step Up To Quality"-rated Lakewood Child



From left to right: Mayor Meghan George, Councilman Tom Bullock, Council President Sarah Kepple, and Ward One Councilman Kyle Baker spend some quality time reading to children in Pre-K classes.

Care Center. "On behalf of our staff, children, and families, I want to extend a thank you to Mayor Meghan George, City Council President Sarah Kepple, and City Council Members Tom Bullock and Kyle Baker who visited the Center during the Week of the Young Child to celebrate and read a favorite book with our children."

According to the National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs, high-quality early childhood programs can yield a \$4 – \$9 dollar return per \$1 invested. Everyone from children and parents to state and local government,

taxpayers, and society at large benefit from early childhood programs.

"Preschool-aged children's brains grow very quickly and are about 90 percent of the size of an adult's brain by age 6, according to the CDC and Neuropsychology Review," said Brambrick. "That's why we are focused on providing the best care beginning with our infants all the way to pre-kindergarten, as children prepare for the transition to elementary school."

The staff at Lakewood Child Care Center works to foster each child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development, knowing how critical it is for their future success.

"In honor of the Week of the Young Child, Lakewood Child Care Center joins other advocates in continuing to elevate the importance and value of high-quality early childhood education in our community," said Brambrick. "We look forward to our next 30 years of serving families in Lakewood and beyond."

Tricia Wisneski is Chair of the Lakewood Childcare Center Board.



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

LakewoodAlive Has

Another Fantastic Year Of Events Ahead Of Them!

by Ava Olic

Join us in celebrating 20 years of LakewoodAlive at all our beloved

Exciting News: Get ready for a year of unforgettable fun in Lakewood! LakewoodAlive—which is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year—reveals their lineup of 2024 community events, featuring five must-attend occasions spanning early summer to the holiday season. Join us and experience the unique vibrancy of Lakewood for

Family friendly, community building, and diverse, the events include the Front Porch Concert Series, Lakewood Summer Meltdown, Spooky Pooch Parade, Lakewood Chocolate Walk, and Light Up Lakewood. Each event promises something special for everyone, providing the perfect opportunity to connect with neighbors, support local businesses, and immerse yourself in the charm of our city.

First up, the Front Porch Concert Series, presented by Johnson Bentley Wealth Partners of Raymond James, kicks off on Friday, June 7. With a total of eight free shows taking place every Friday evening in June and July, the first six will take place on the front steps of the Lakewood Public Library, with the last two shows hosted at Madison Park Pavilion. Bring your family, friends, snacks, blankets, and chairs for a delightful summer evening in the fresh air.

Returning for its 16th year, Lakewood Summer Meltdown, sponsored by Melt Bar & Grilled, promises endless summer fun on Saturday, July 20. From a 5K Race to the 1 Mile Family Fun Run & Walk, a water moose, the Gary Bish Memorial Beer Garden, delicious food, live music, and the opportunity to explore downtown Lakewood, there is truly something for everyone. You won't want to miss out on the biggest block party of the year.

Who let the dogs out? On Saturday, October 12, Spooky Pooch Parade will be back at Madison Park, with the dogs dominating Birdtown. Sponsored by Ken Ganley Subaru, our annual costume contest for doggos and their loyal owners who love to dress up and parade around Madison Ave. Fun for the whole family, with a DJ, entertainment, games, and local vendors for pooch related wares, and more. With multiple awards available for the best dressed attendees and their four-legged companions, the grand prize winner will receive a year's supply of dog food.

Indulge in an evening of decadence at the Lakewood Chocolate Walk on Thursday, October 24. This 21+ event allows you to satisfy your sweet tooth and enjoy a night of "adult trickor-treat" with chocolate themed treats from more than 20 different stops. Presented by LakewoodAlive and Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, proceeds from the event support both organizations.

Finally, make the season merry and bright with us at Light Up Lakewood on Saturday, December 7. The street festival will begin at 4 p.m. in the heart of Downtown Lakewood, with the parade kicking off at 5 p.m., and tree lighting and fireworks to follow. Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood, it is a tradition that welcomes the whole family, and awakens all the warm and fuzzy feelings of togetherness that only the winter holidays can bring.

Don't miss out on these incredible opportunities to celebrate the magic of Lakewood and the amazing past two decades of LakewoodAlive!

LakewoodAlive 2024 Schedule of **Community Events**

Front Porch Concert Series

June 7 – July 26 (Fridays)

Lakewood Public Library & Madison Park Pavilion

Lakewood Summer Meltdown

July 20

Downtown Lakewood

Spooky Pooch Parade

October 12

Madison Park

Lakewood Chocolate Walk

October 24

Downtown Lakewood

Light Up Lakewood

December 7

Downtown Lakewood

Ava Olic is Communications and Design Coordinator at LakewoodAlive.

Coal Bailouts, Fracked Parks & Solar Bans:

Happy Earth Month From Ohio

by Tristan Rader

As we observe Earth Month, a time dedicated to celebrating and nurturing our planet, it's increasingly important to scrutinize the actions and policies that impact our environmental future, especially at the state level. Recent developments in Ohio paint a concerning picture of environmental policy that prioritizes fossil fuel interests over the preservation of natural resources and public health.

Ohio now allows fracking in state parks and wildlife areas, a decision that has sparked significant controversy and concern among environmentalists and Ohio communities. The passage of House Bill 507 in December 2021 mandates state agencies to allow fracking on Ohio public lands, fundamentally altering the stewardship of lands that include state parks, forests, wildlife areas, historical sites, and more. Late last year, drilling operations were approved at Salt Fork State Park, Valley Run Wildlife Area, and Zepernick Wildlife Area, allowing for oil and gas development underneath these precious resources.

These actions come amidst a backdrop of legislative decisions that have not only subsidized aging coal and nuclear plants via House Bill 6 but



Digital art from Tristan Rader



Tristan Rader

have also imposed restrictive laws on wind and solar energy development, effectively stifling Ohio's potential for a cleaner energy future. The juxtaposition of subsidizing outdated coal energy while imposing barriers to renewable energy, coupled with opening public lands to fracking, underscores a stark contradiction in Ohio's approach to energy and environmental policy.

The implications of allowing fracking in public parks and promoting natural gas as a "green" energy source are multifaceted. While natural gas is often touted for its lower carbon emissions compared to coal, the environmental impacts of fracking "such as potential water contamination, air pollution, and contribution to climate change"raise significant concerns that our leaders have completely ignored. These concerns are amplified when such activities are permitted on public lands designated for conservation and recreation.

The Ohio state legislature is directly responsible for this regressive approach to energy policy. Its decisions reflect a disregard for economic opportunity, environmental protection, and community health.

This Earth Month, as we contemplate our collective responsibility to protect and preserve our planet, it becomes clear that Ohio needs better leadership committed to reversing these detrimental policies. For the state to reclaim its place as an innovator and leader in the energy sector, urgent legislative reform is required to remove barriers to renewable energy development and to reassess the state's energy subsidies.

Ohio's future prosperity, environmental health, and position in the clean energy economy depend on it.

Tristan Rader is a Lakewood City Councilman and Ohio Director for Solar United Neighbors. He is currently the Democratic Nominee for State Representative in House District 13. He is a Kent State grad and holds a Master's of Public Administration from Cleveland State. He lives on St. Charles Ave. with his wife, Caitlin.



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OBSERVER FORUM

Hello There - The Story Of The Post Cards

by John Tyler

Mom & Dad were children of the Depression. Being so, finances were a primary consideration in almost all of their decisions. Even though Dad had a very good job and they were economically comfortable, this never left them.

My favorite story of their parsimony was that, until the end of their lives, they saved their mealtime paper napkins - smoothing them out, folding them carefully, and sliding them under their placemats. This was too much for My Bride and me. One of the first things we would do, upon arriving at their home in Fort Myers, was make a beeline for the breakfast table in the lanai, and then to the dinner table in the nook, reach under the placemats and THROW AWAY all those used napkins. Well, actually many times it was a paper towel scrap - because paper towels were less costly than napkins and somewhat as soft. I think you have to stretch the concept of "somewhat as soft" because the paper towel brand of choice was of the cheapest sort and very rough to my sensitive (I guess) finger touch. When I mentioned this to Dad, all he did was swipe the back of his hand across his lips and say, "You don't got to use it long, do you."

Now I ask you: How do you answer something like that?!!!

Another example was that Mom never took photos on our vacations. Think of it, she would say, you have to pay to buy film; then you have to pay to

recipe and freshly grated blend of mozzarella

& provolone cheese, we provide a great pizza

for you and your family



have them developed. And how many of them are good? Maybe one or two out of a whole roll .. Ooo, you're right there .. Instead, she would buy post cards. All the pictures are good, aren't they? Otherwise they wouldn't have made post cards out of them ...Well, sure... And if you don't like the picture, you don't have to buy it ...Ok, Mom... So she bought post cards. (She especially liked the ones from the motel desk drawer – because those were free!)

Fast forward 50 years.

When I was closing up the house, I found a stack about 8" high of those old post cards. Sat down and laughed – and dabbed my eyes – as I re-lived all those glorious vacations of youth: Seattle in the early 60's with only the Space Needle, the Grand Canyon, Boston, Denver when all the metropolis was only a few square blocks; it fit on

the post card. There was a Travelodge post card – a freebee with its photo of the typical two story, two dozen room motel – that boasted "Five minutes from Downtown Atlanta!" Have to wonder what's there now (and how high). And on and on.

A bunch were of Cleveland: the Terminal Tower, the Art Museum, the Car Museum. These were from back when the printer's address had a zone instead of a zip code (pre 1963). Such treasures; such time capsules.

Sent one or two of them to my sisters. Found it was fun so sent a couple more. Sent a few to friends; even received a post card in return. People said they really enjoyed them. So I kept it up. That's how it started ... it just kept rolling on from there.

So I send post cards. What are they – 5 or 6 sentences? Sometimes not

even that. They're such a joy to write. It's also a little challenging to tell a complete story – Introduction (which could be the picture on the front), Movement, and Finishing Touch – in that short of time. Post card haiku, sort of...

Try it for yourself. It's fun. I think you'll find that, as you're writing, you get to spend a few moments with that person – with your memories of them, past or present.

Here, write one to your Mom: "Dear Mom, Love you. Send money." ...Even if you no longer know her address – as I no longer know mine – well, I'll bet you can think of someone to reach out to. They'll be delighted to receive it. Guaranteed.







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COVE COMMUNITY CENTER

City of Lakewood H2O "Help to Others"

H2O Summer Service Camp

by Emmie Hutchison

The years of middle school are characterized by growing independence, emerging individual identity, social exploration, and CHANGE. One critical experience that kids can have to support this time of profound growth, to help them internalize compassionate thoughts and actions, and develop positive social connections is volunteering. Research supports the notion that the opportunity to serve others, and in turn to be valued within a community, is critical to youth development.

And we have just the experience! H2O Summer Service Camp has a 30-year tradition in Lakewood of enriching the lives of middle school students, providing memories that last a lifetime. We offer four sessions, which we hope accommodates scheduling around other summer plans. Each session brings together campers from across Lakewood, regardless of where they attend school. They are placed into groups of six with a counselor, and this is the foundation of their experience. The camp staff are a team of compassionate and talented



leaders who dedicate their summer to providing the most fun and enriching experiences possible.

The service sites are planned to connect kids to their interests and passions, and to demonstrate how agencies across the region work to address community needs. H2O summer service partners include the Greater Cleveland

Foodbank, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cleveland Kids' Book Bank, Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services, LakewoodAlive, Cove Community Center/Department of Human Services, local daycares, Lakewood Earth and Food, the Lakewood Arts Festival, and more. Plus, we host our own massive Clothing Drive and Super Sale. In addition to amazing volunteer experiences with these agencies, we also feature speakers from groups affecting positive change in our world, and a theme (to be revealed when camp starts!)

The feedback from parents and campers alike is overwhelmingly positive. Last year, a camper wrote in her letter to a camp sponsor: "H2O has made me a changed person and will forever light the path for others. Ever since I made the decision to join H2O 3 years ago my heart has grown 100x the size. I don't think anything has ever opened my eyes as much as H2O." -Indigo, 2024.

Speaking of camp sponsors... thanks to generous community support and our organization's fundraising events, the camp fees are just \$80 with financial assistance available. Registration information and other camp details are available on H2O's page on the City of Lakewood website, accessible through www.h2olakewood. org. Questions about Summer Service Camp or about H2O's year-round high school volunteer programming can be sent to emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.net. Sign up now, as this camp fills every year!

H2O "Help to Others" is a youth volunteer program sponsored by the City of Lakewood's Division of Youth Office. H2O receives tremendous support from the Lakewood City Schools, the Lakewood Foundation, generous donors and a dedicated group of adult volunteers.

Emmie Hutchison is the coordinator of H20.

Meet Me At Cove:

Sean Collins

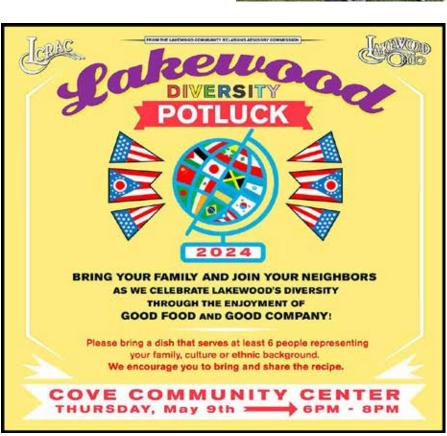
by Nancy Feighan

Swinging through life's challenges for 56 years, Sean Collins is a force on the Disabled Golf Tour with the US Adaptive Golf Association since 2019. Ranked 2nd in the US Senior Seated Division, he's teed off his passion since learning from his dad as a kid.

On May 10th, one day after his 67th birthday, watch Sean knock it out of the park throwing the first pitch at the Lake Erie Crushers game!

Mark your calendars for his moves in Cleveland at the Ohio Adaptive Open in August, after his victorious run at the Michigan Adaptive Open in 2023!





Bocce! Bocce! At Cove Community Center

by Nancy Feighan

Dive into summer with Bocce! Bocce! at Cove Community Center! Whether you're a seasoned pro or firsttimer, join us Wednesdays for night games or Thursdays for daytime fun. Bring friends or come solo, we'll find a team for you! For details or to sign up, call 216-529-5061 or email nancy.feighan@lakewoodoh.gov.

Let's make this summer memorable with Bocce! Bocce! at Cove!

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



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