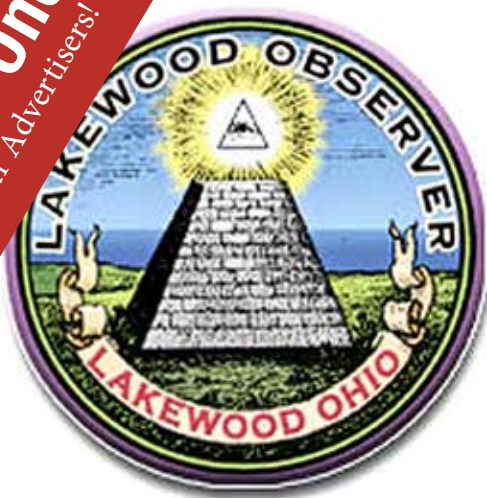


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“The cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be.”- Carl Sagan

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 10, May 22, 2024



photo by Betsy Veinovich

Taken at 1am on Westwood Avenue in Lakewood. Along with many areas in North America, in Lakewood, you could just walk out your front door to share the experience.

Once Again, The Sun Brings Us Back To Earth

by Jim O'Bryan

Two rare amazing celestial events occurring a month apart, sparked magical human results which can give us all hope. Could it be a sign? Only if we truly understand what happened to all of us.

On May 10th Deb and I went out to view the Aurora Borealis, aka the Northern Lights. Rarely do Lakewood-ites get a glimpse of the dancing light show normally viewed in the upper latitudes. Without having to go to Alaska or Iceland, we might have the opportunity to experience a

Level 5 extreme geomagnetic storm taking place. This historic show unleashed by some of the strongest solar flares ever witnessed was supposed to be at its best, 10pm - 2am May 10/11. Claims that the Aurora Borealis would be seen all over the Northern Hemisphere, if skies were clear, made it pretty exciting.

Similar to the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th, the question of where we should go to see the view was paramount. One of the dark sky parks? East or West of the City? Wanting dark skies

continued on page 3

Mary Warren Scholarships Announced



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Left to right: School Board Legend Linda Beebe, League of Women Voters Grand Lady, and seed for these scholarships, Mary Warren, and their younger understudy, Ward 2 Councilperson Cindy Streb, all got together with other members of the Lakewood League of Women Voters to honor Linda, and to announce this year's winners of the Mary Warren Scholarship. More in upcoming issues.

PTA Awards Include Dr. G. As Educator Of The Year

by Christine Gordillo

May in a school district is full of end-of-year awards and recognitions. On May 1, the Lakewood Council of PTAs handed out its annual awards including scholarships for five deserving seniors, Helping Hands and the “T” in PTA Award for the District's educator of the year, Lakewood High's Chuck Greanoff (Dr. G).

Dr. G was nominated for the many ways he supports Lakewood Schools and Lakewood students, from his engaging classrooms where he shares his passion for history to his constant attendance at students' sports, theater and music performances, and so much more.

The PTA Council also honored the overall success of five seniors. Earning \$1,000 scholarships each this year were Reagan Bratko, Turner Gilliland, Edward Horton, Amalija Marich and Evan Miller.

The Helping Hand award goes to a staff member(s) in the school buildings other than a teacher who goes above and beyond in helping students and staff. This year, Civic Manager Corey Farr and Assistant Manager Gibson Burns were co-recipients of the award for their tireless work ensuring that the many



Dr. Chuck Greanoff with PTA Council member Beth McAlvey.

performances at the Civic are successfully executed and that behind-the-scenes production best highlights the performers.

Congratulations to all the

award recipients and to the new slate of officers who will lead the Council of PTAs in the 2024-2025 school year.

City Of Lakewood Achieves Moody's Aa2 Bond Rating

from Mayor George

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 avoid-

continued on page 10

Hike/Bike To School Initiative Promotes Safe Routes For Students



by Christine Gordillo

We caught up with some Horace Mann families as they participated in the pilot Hike & Bike to School initiative! Partnering with the City of Lakewood, Ohio - Municipal Government, Bike Lakewood

and our school PTAs, this initiative aims to promote safe routes to school for our students while encouraging healthy habits that also are good for the environment. Grant and Roosevelt are giving it a go as well!

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Fun In The Sun

Summer is always a wonderful and active time in our beautiful city. This year should be no different, as we expect another summer full of activities, events, and recreation opportunities throughout Lakewood.

The season kicks off on Saturday, June 1st with our annual Meet the Trucks event at Lakewood Park. Sponsored by the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA, this event always provides youngsters and their families with the chance for up-close views and interactions with Lakewood’s police, fire, construction, and maintenance vehicles. The day also features the chance to grab a bite from food vendors and other activities from local organizations.

As the heat starts to simmer, Lakewood’s two outdoor pools – Foster at Lakewood Park and Becks at Madison Park – will once again be open to help



photo by Jacob Chabowski

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

everyone stay cool and active. Last year was the first for the revitalized Foster Pool, and we saw record numbers of Lakewood residents take advantage of the upgrades to this beloved recreational asset.

The City will also continue to program and activate Lakewood Park with our popular Concerts in the Park and Friday Night Flicks events and our Summer Solstice Celebration on June 21st. Of course, the pinnacle of our events in the park will be our Fourth of July events, including the parade, and fireworks display. (Work on the parking lot at Lakewood Park is expected to wrap up soon and in time for our busiest season. The project provides more capacity for park users and other safety and environmental benefits without reducing greenspace in the park).

The Department of Human Services continues to sponsor fun and welcoming activities this summer for seniors, youth, and families at Cove

Community Center. One of my favorites is the weekly outdoor bocce ball games happening from June through August on Wednesdays and Thursdays. If you’re interested, call 216-529-5061 for details.

Other outdoor fun includes the Front Porch Concert Series from LakewoodAlive held weekly outside Lakewood Public Library, with two final concerts at Madison Park Pavilion. Lakewood Summer Meltdown will be held again in downtown Lakewood on Saturday, July 20th beginning at 4pm. The 47th annual Lakewood Arts Festival is also set for downtown Lakewood on August 3, 2024 from 10am to 6pm.

With so much going on, it can be hard to choose where to spend your summer days in Lakewood. Wherever the season takes you, I hope to see you out and about enjoying all our wonderful city has to offer in the sun.

Madison Park's Becks Pool Opens June 4th

Lakewood Park's Foster Pool Opens June 11th

Dive in to Lakewood’s public pools this summer. Both Foster and Madison Pools are managed by the Recreation Department and owned by the City of Lakewood. Both pools, and parks offer unique fun experiences for all members of the family! *This summer don't miss out on all the cool fun!*

DAILY ADMISSION		
Age	Resident	Non-Resident
2 & under**	free with paid adult	free with paid adult
3 - 5	\$2	\$5
6 - 17	\$5	\$10
18 - 59	\$7	\$11
60 +	\$2	\$6

SEASON PASSES		
Age	Resident	Non-Resident
2 & under	free with paid adult	free with paid adult
3 - 5	\$10	\$90
60+	\$10	\$90
1 person	\$70	\$130
2 people	\$110	\$200
3 people	\$150	\$270
Family of 4+	\$190	\$340

INFO - Madison Park Becks Pool

Lakewood Park Foster Pool - INFO

14100 Franklin Blvd. OH 44107 • (216) 529-4081
recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org
follow us on facebook.com/lkwdrec • twitter.com/lkwdrec

THE LAKWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood Observer

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Once Again, The Sun Brings Us Back To Earth

continued from page 1

to the North, we left fashionably late a little after 10 pm. Deb and I packed the car and headed down to Lakewood Park, one of the local viewing areas on the lake. Unfortunately, the police had already closed the parking lot, and people were walking in from blocks around, parking spaces nearby were not available, a lot like the 4th of July.

We decided to head west, even though a long drive east would potentially net a darker sky. As we went through Rocky River, every access point to the lake was packed, with more coming. Bay Village was nuts, packed with illegal double parking everywhere near the parks. It was tempting, but not wanting to get blocked in, we continued on. We weren't seeing anything in the sky as we drove. Avon Lake, packed. Sheffield, was packed! It was closing in on 11pm, and we had not found the solitude we so desperately were looking for. However from the car, there was no sign it was happening. Was this just another wild goose chase that the local meteorologists had us on? Meteor showers come to mind.

Pulling into a local convenience store to think this through, we looked up, and even in this parking lot it was obvious, it was going on all around us. Not bright...but you could make out dark burgundy stripes across the dark sky. We went back to the last park we passed in Lorain, pulled in and found a parking spot as someone was leaving. I got out my camera, and realized immediately the battery was dead! DAMN. Seriously, and without a spare. Wouldn't be the first time. So, we resolved to just enjoy the show and not get caught up in photography.

We walked down to the lake.

Hundreds of people were lining the fences, the docks, the piers, all staring out at the northern sky. Looking out, I have to admit it was not what I was hoping for. You could make out some green blurs and purples, but it wasn't like photos I've seen of the Northern Lights, but, hey it's Ohio, good enough, right? Still I saw the rectangle lights all over the park, indicating that phone/cameras were up, and taking photos. So Deb and I picked up our phones and pointed them to the sky, and my mouth fell open.

What were light fuzzy patches with hints of reds, and greens to the naked eye became more vibrant through the phone camera. Instantly the Aurora Borealis, was on full tilt boogie. Well, at least for the latitude that we're at. Soaking it in, we started to walk around.

Then it hit me, just as it hit me a month ago during the eclipse. Everyone was talking, laughing, and sharing the experience. Groups of people taking each other's phones to take photos of the other people or groups, in an act of love, respect and camaraderie. Sadly, something that nowadays only seems to happen during major jaw dropping celestial events.

This is what made it even more special. That everyone, or nearly everyone had a chance to see it, enjoy it and take a photo or two. As people would walk in and look up, you could see a small level of disappointment on their faces, just like us earlier that evening. Deb couldn't help but overhear an 80-year-old who had come down. She was unable to witness anything with her diminished eyesight and her frustration was felt. Deb knelt next to her as she sat on a bench and let her look through her phone camera, her eyes lit up, and she lost 70 years as the awe and beauty over-

came her. Her grandson came over and made sure his Nana was going to have photos and memories of the night.

Walking back to the car after midnight, we experienced the complete chaos of the parking lot. For every car leaving it seemed two more were arriving. People parking everywhere. But at the same time, there was a calmness about all of it. A calm chaos? Yes. No horns, no yelling, no rage. Every vehicle and person, being mindful of the other, watching out for each other and their children. A beautiful display of humanity. For the first time in a long time life felt normal, and very much like a community. It was odd for this day and age.

On the way home, we reflected on the Lights of Love, and how cool and overwhelming it all was. Another cosmic event, brought on by our favorite star, the sun, had made us all feel small and close to one another once again. We were grateful for the experience. It was during the solar eclipse that I first

noticed this calmness with large shared experiences. Our front yard filled with people, some I had never met, to view the total eclipse. Neighbors, dog walkers, police, firemen, and total strangers stopped, looked up, and took it all in. So many conversations about what we had just seen and shared. It gave me hope. It gave Deb hope. Hope that mutual love and understanding is possible and can and does happen between humans on our little blue planet.

If you want to see more photos of the Northern Lights, follow the QR Code below.



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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS OBSERVED

Observations On The District:

The Good, The Better And The What The Heck: Part 3

by Trish Hendy

The Good:

There is one term that you will hear at every board meeting. "Adjournment to go to Executive Session." Sometimes the session is held before the meeting so the president will say that they are returning from Executive Session. Board Policy 0166 explains how the Board can enter into an executive session. "The Board, as well as its designees, committees, and sub-committees, may hold an executive session only after a majority of a quorum of the Board (or its designees, committees, or sub-committees as applicable) determines, by a roll call vote, to hold an executive session and only at a regular or special meeting for the sole purpose of the consideration of any of the matters set forth in R.C. 121.22(G)." "If a public body holds an executive session to consider any of the matters listed in divisions (G)(2) to (8) of this section, the motion and vote to hold that executive session shall state which one or more of the approved matters listed in those divisions are to be considered at the executive session." (<https://tinyurl.com/4eknra7h>)

The article “FIVE FACTS ON OHIO’S SUNSHINE LAW” gives us a good review if you don’t want to read all of R.C. 121.22G (.<https://tinyurl.com/msuyvcmn>)

Only certain matters may be discussed in executive session. A board may only discuss the following six topics in executive session:

- the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of an employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against an employee, official, licensee or student, unless the employee, official, licensee or student requests a public hearing;
- the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of property at competitive bidding;
- conferences with the board's attorney to discuss matters which are

the subject of pending or imminent court action;

- preparing for, conducting or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees;
- matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes;
- specialized details of security arrangements.

Executive sessions are for the purpose of deliberations only. No action may be taken during an executive session.

Executive Sessions are all held in a cloak of silence. As a matter of fact, if someone reveals information they are violating rules. Why aren't residents, the voters, the public, allowed to know the thinking of the board on the deliberations held behind closed doors? It's understandable during negotiations, but when the decisions have been made on the criteria and how the board is planning to vote--normally 5 yays, no nays-- why are we, the public and voters, not permitted to have the information that would allow us to understand and maybe support these choices?

The Better:

Graduation time for the class of 2024: This group has seen Covid, the cancelation of school for weeks at a time, virtual learning, masks, social distancing, Homecoming, Prom, fire drills, class assemblies, loud pep rallies and crowded hallways. Add active shooter training to all of that. All the best for what will be an amazing future for this class. The class of 2024 should all get the Resilient Rangers title, along with all the teaching and support staff who helped all of LCSD students through a historic time. The Lakewood community is the best of the best!

The What the Heck:

Start with Policy #1200, Administrator Ethics.

The first line of the policy is: "The proper performance of school business and administration of an effective

educational program requires the services of individuals of integrity, high ideals, and human understanding.” That sounds pretty good, but what is the path that the policy takes to help that statement happen? If you ever have contact with an administrator, keep that line in your mind during the encounter. I bet that 95% of the time the contact is extremely positive as the Lakewood City Schools has an amazing set of administrators. But then there is the other 5%. The administrators on the front lines in each of our buildings are dedicated to the school community. There are a number of other administrators in the district that the chances of ever bumping into is slim. This group is housed in the board offices now called Taft Centre for Innovation.

Continuing with the ethics policy: "...recognize basic dignities of all individuals with whom they interact in the performance of duties", "exercise due care to protect the mental and physical safety of students, colleagues, and subordinates", "principle of due process and protecting the civil and human rights of all individuals..."

In addition, the Board believes that each administrator should maintain standards of exemplary professional conduct by “making the well-being of students the fundamental value of all decision making and actions”, “fulfilling professional responsibilities with honesty and integrity”, “supporting the principle of due process and protecting the civil and human rights of all individuals...”

The policy also includes things like not taking bribes or gifts. Maintaining credentials. Obeying laws.

What's missing from the policy is who enforces the administrative ethics. I asked this once and was told that the administration polices itself. Kind of like introducing the fox to the hen house with the key to the door. All of the above sounds so nice and makes everyone feel warm and fuzzy.

But enforcement is difficult: How can you prove that an admin-

istrator didn't honor your basic dignities or make the wellbeing of students fundamental for decisions. Only administrators are in the room making those decisions. Should we all be more diligent in monitoring the administration based on 1200 and how can we do that? Transparency is not part of 1200. If a challenge to 1200 is made, it is the administration that will investigate it, which creates quite a bias. Can we ask for the records of all complaints about the administration and the outcomes? The answer is yes, do a public records search (will cover that next time). What would be the percentage of the administration taking responsibility for the complaint to rejecting what a member of the community is reporting? Again-- hard to prove. What is the honesty and integrity scale and how can a case be made?

Before I write this column I email the Superintendent... and tell her the topics I plan to cover. She has spent quite a bit of time with me so I can report things accurately. This column did not include any responses from the superintendent and I chalk that up to it being a very busy time of year for her.

Just a reminder. Board meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. You can live stream the meetings on Youtube by searching "Brent Kallay." This is also where you will find past meetings and many school activities.



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LAKEWOOD SPORTS

Dr G's Ranger Roundup:
Track, Softball And Baseball

by Dr. Charles Greanoff
TRACK -
DISTRICT Championship
May 17

The Lakewood Girls Track Team had one of their best district performances this century, qualifying for the Regional in 7 events. The boys also competed well, with school record holder Charlie Payne winning the District Championship in the 1600.

Kaydence Doxley turned in a dominant performance--she is the 2024 Amherst District Champion in the 200 and the Long Jump. She also anchored two second place relays--the 4x200 (with sister Charieon, Sophia Eccher and McKenna Hunt) and the 4x200 (with Charieon, McKenna and Aniya Johnson). Charieon also had an outstanding meet, placing second and third in the 100 and 300 hurdles respectively. McKenna placed third in the 400.

It's on to the Port Clinton Regional for Kaydence, Charieon, Sophia, McKenna, Aniya and Charlie. Last year, Kaydence and Charlie qualified for the State Meet, and Rangers have high hopes to add to that this season.

Kudos to all the coaches and athletes who endure the aches and pains, the long nights, and the unpredictable and often miserable spring sport weather (Same to the parents!). We have a good thin going in 44107. Long Live Lakewood.

SOFTBALL
May 15
Rangers vs Brookside

Senior Mia Carroll-Greeves signed off her Lakewood Rangers career amidst cheers and tears in great style today, blasting a grand slam and hurling a 3-hit, 14 strikeout complete game shutout win over Brookside. The cheers celebrated one the best games of a stellar 4 year varsity career which features many school records. The tears were for the teammate, daughter, friend and mentor to younger players that has led through example and engagement--tears for a player who has fully embraced the "Mudita" ethic which celebrates the success of others.

Everything was fitting today, an unscripted game that came together like a novel. Sister Gaby Carroll-Greeves drove in the first run with a triple, scoring a hustling at Madison Comer. Gaby also fielded the last out at second in the 7th. The shutout was saved in the 5th when freshman Carys Crone made a running, lunging catch in right and fired a strike to catcher Emily Gillick--who played a fine game behind the plate--to double up the runner. The whole team erupted in joy, mobbing Carys as she came off the field. Everyone was happy for Carys and wanted Mia to get the shutout. Mudita.

Mia's fellow seniors Emily Potoczak, who was Mia's tee ball teammate, and Maddy Magda were also, fittingly, instrumental in today's game. Maddy



The Lakewood Girls Track Team had one of their best district performances this century, qualifying for the Regional in 7 events.

knocked in the second run and Emily, as has been the case all year, was rock solid at shortstop.

So, today proved once again that sadness and happiness need not always be opposites. The tears that flowed at the North Lot at 6:58 tonight emerged from multiple sentiments--the finality of three outstanding high school careers, gratitude for these students and their contributions, missing them already, and of course high hopes for their futures. Kudos to Coach Lucas Yousco and his staff for building a program grounded in hard work and a team first attitude. Long Live Ranger Softball, and Long Live Lakewood.

BASEBALL
May 14
Rangers vs North Ridgeville

The now 19-4 Lakewood Rangers used their familiar formula-strong pitching, solid defense and timely hitting--to defeat North Ridgeville 2-1 today at Lakewood Stadium. 19-4 means a GLC-East Championship (11-2 GLC record), solid play in all phases, and contributions from many players. North Ridgeville finished second in the rugged SWC--another quality win for the Rangers. Senior Drew Jablonowski pitched three scoreless innings for the win, which was saved by freshman Riley Verderber. (The Rangers have a blend of older and younger players.) Starter Leo Soneson gave Lakewood 2 and 2/3 scoreless innings and sophomore Nick Hart pitched 1 1/3 allowing one run. The Ranger runs were knocked in by Nick Hart, who doubled in sophomore Cooper Russell (3 hits) and Logan Ellis on a fielder choice. Brady Long turned in a strong game at second, as did Keegan Schroder in center and Nick Hart at first. After a 1st round bye, Lakewood hosts traditional powerhouse St Ignatius Thursday at 6 pm. The Lakewood Rangers are one team, from one town that never quits. Long Live Lakewood. May 10 Rangers vs Shaker Heights On a perfect Senior Night spring evening for baseball at the best venue in Northeast Ohio, the Lakewood seniors--with a bit of help from their team mates--delivered an exciting 2-1 victory over Shaker Heights. Senior

Andrew Krankowski (more on him later) singled in the Rangers first run in the 4th, scoring Cooper Russell who had singled to start the rally. Set up by sophomore Nick Hart's double, Senior Griffin Star drove in the 2nd run with a fielders choice, and also made several solid plays at 3rd. Senior Mikey Klasa started and gave the Rangers four scoreless innings, followed by a scoreless frame from Krankowski. "Krank" and catcher Leo Soneson made the play of the game in the 5th. With a runner on third, Krank turfed a pitch that hit the backstop and popped in the air. Leo scrambled back, grabbed the ball

and backhand flipped it to Kank who, in a tangled pile at home plate, tagged out the runner. Senior Rowan Brown started at second and made a nice play on a pop fly to start and a double play. Senior outfielder Keegan Schroeder executed a perfect bunt that resulted in a single and a great scoring opportunity that the Rangers couldn't quite cash in. Senior Drew Jablonowski was rock solid in center. Due to injury, senior and future Mount Union football player Aidan Maxwell was unable to play, but as always he showed up for his teammates. Junior Logan Ellis pitched the final two innings allowing one run and recording a save. Sophomore Cooper Russell made numerous sparkling plays at short to help keep the Raiders from rallying. Although the game was terrific, it was the pregame that stole the show. As parents and siblings joined their sons and brothers at home plate, the circle was closed. All the spirited play on the field--the line drive, the diving catches--would never happen without those parents that do so much when no one is looking. Congratulations to Coach Graves and the entire Lakewood Ranger Baseball family, and thanks for a magical evening. Long Live Lakewood

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes.
They don't wear capes or special suits, and their badge of honor is the bandage that shows they gave the gift of life.



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BIKE LAKEWOOD

Bike Safety For All

by Robert Toth and
Kenneth Knabe

Last week we got a series of questions on bike laws, rules and preferred behavior from reader Robert Toth. We took those questions to Lakewood’s Bike and Bike Law Authority Attorney Kenneth Knabe. Here are the questions and answers.

QUESTION:

School’s letting out for the Summer, as are many bicycles, scooters and baby strollers on the sidewalks.

With a large elderly population, among others using the sidewalks, can you please print City of Lakewood’s “Rules of the Road” ?

ANSWER:

FROM CITY OF LAKEWOOD’S WEBSITE:

Lakewood Bicycle Laws 101
Every person riding a bicycle upon a street shall follow all laws applicable to the driver of a vehicle.
Every person riding a bicycle upon



a sidewalk shall be granted all of the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian.

No person shall operate a bicycle on a sidewalk at a speed greater than an ordinary walk.

Cyclists yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before passing.

Persons riding bicycles upon a

roadway shall ride not more than two abreast in a single lane.

Every bicycle from sunset to sunrise shall be equipped with:

A white flashing or steady light mounted on the front of the bicycle.

A red flashing light and a red reflector on the rear of the bicycle.

Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street.

Whenever any minor under the age of eighteen years operates a bicycle or motorized bicycle in violation, the bicycle may be seized by any member of the Police Department and impounded.

No person under the age of eighteen shall operate a bicycle within the City unless the person is wearing a protective helmet on their head, with the chin strap fastened under the chin.

QUESTION:

How does a rider make the pedestrian aware they’re approaching? A whistle? A “coming up on your right/left”? A bell? If available, how do bicycle riders use the designated bicycle lane?

ANSWER:

Pedestrians in Lakewood using the sidewalks always have the right of way over cyclists! Scooters should not even be on the sidewalk.

Cyclists passing pedestrians on the sidewalk are required to give a signal be it verbal or a bell. Whistles and sirens are prohibited in Lakewood and in the entire state of Ohio!

A cyclist can ride on the sidewalk unless it’s “congested” with pedestrian traffic. If congested, the cyclist has to walk the bike on the sidewalk.

The bike lanes are available for cyclists to ride their bikes but cyclists have to follow the flow and rules of traffic. I see many cyclists riding the wrong way in the bike lane!

Finally, from sundown to sunrise, cyclists must have an activated white front light and an activated red rear light. You must only have white lights in the front of your bike and red lights in the rear. For instance, if you had lights on your helmet, the front should be white and the rear should be red.

Enjoy your summer by riding safely and legally.

Ken Knabe is an avid cyclist and Bike Injury & Safety Attorney. His office is on Madison Avenue right here in Lakewood. Ken supports many local bike clubs and organizations and received Bike Cleveland’s Guardian of Sustainable Transportation Award for his work promoting biking to work and schools. He is the author of two books on cycling and Ohio law, and is always open to questions from the community in which he lives and works. He is on the Boards of the Ohio to Erie Trail, and the Columbus based Ohio Bike Federation. He also co- publishes “Bikes and the Law” on the Bike Cleveland’s website.

Are You Part Of A Group Working To Improve Your Lives And Your Community?

by Cindy Dugan

Are you a member of a group of low-income people who are looking for money to help support a project that will improve your lives and your community?

Get more information and sign up at: [preswesres.org/sdop](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop) or by calling Josh at 216-273-6881. The application is online. You don’t have to be Presbyterian or affiliated with any church to qualify. The link to the application is: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/for-synods-and-presbyteries/#tab-1>

An info session & action clinic to support you and your application will be held Saturday, June 15th & will begin at 10am. We’ll plan to be there from 10-12 noon. The meeting will be at the Hough branch of the Cleveland Public

Library in Community Space 1, 6530 Lexington Avenue in Cleveland OH.

Get an explanation of the grant process and pick up materials to help you get started writing your grant. The action clinic provides time to help you with your grant application. This grant is different from many because YOU and your team of at least 5 people need to benefit from your project.

The grant application deadline is Sunday, September 8th, so you have plenty of time to complete the application. Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Cindy Dugan 815-758-1563 or dugancindy@hotmail.com, Self Development of People committee member.

Cindy Dugan is a member of Lakewood Presbyterian Church.

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LAKEWOOD CARES



West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student Award recipients honored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River on April 22 were joined by administrators (from left) Robert Hoon, director secondary education, Bay Village City Schools; Rob Woods, principal, Westlake High School; Ramsey Inman, assistant principal, Bay High School; Dr. Christine Palumbo, assistant superintendent, Lakewood City Schools; Maggie Niedzwiecki, superintendent, Lakewood City Schools; and Mrs. Joy Morgan, principal, Lakewood High School.

Rotary Honors Outstanding West Shore Career-Tech Students

by Lynn Donaldson

On April 22, the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River hosted the 26th annual West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student Awards at its weekly luncheon, at which 16 recipients were honored for their dedication, leadership, and accomplishments in their career-technical programs.

Each award recipient is automatically nominated for the “Career-Technical Student of the Year” award, which will be announced later in the school year at the annual Career Passport Assembly.

The 2023-24 Outstanding Stu-

dent Award recipients are: Katherine Anderson, community based training, O’Neill Health Center; Caroline Baas, health careers; Reagan Bratko, media art and design; Rowan Brown, Project Lead the Way; Eric Bumm, electronic engineering technology; Kaileigh Burton, culinary arts; John Chase, community based program, Gordon Food Service;

Matthew Dilello, community based program, Wyndham Cleveland Airport; Dominic Dupay, construction trades; Jana Evans, theatre arts; Arlinda Ismaili, business management; Alexa Masten, medical office manage-

ment; Rita Moran, sports and exercise science; Charlie Quinn, networking with cybersecurity; Tristen Sabo, auto technology; and Shen Da Say, early childhood education.

West Shore Career-Technical District encompasses Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River, and Westlake. Each year, WSCT serves over 400 students in its workforce development programs.



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LakewoodAlive's Front Porch Concert Series To Return For Its 14th Year

by Ava Olic

Ushering in the summer season with the 14th Annual Front Porch Concert Series, sponsored by Bentley Wealth Management of Raymond James, LakewoodAlive is pleased to officially announce our talented 2024 Comprised of 8 gifted and unique musical groups and performers, everyone is sure to find something that speaks to their musical taste. Spanning many genres, each week's concert remains family-friendly while delving into a variety of different sounds. See the schedule below, with shows taking place every Friday evening (7 p.m.) from June June 7 to July 12 on the front steps of Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Avenue) followed by concerts at Madison Park Pavilion (13201 Madison Avenue) on July 19 and 26.

Kicking off the series on June 7, is Jacob Johnson, a versatile vocalist who works in a range of genres including R&B, Jazz, Gospel and Opera. Based out of Cleveland, he is a multi-hyphenate musical talent, as well as an accomplished jazz pianist, percussionist, music director/arranger, vocal coach, and minister of music.

Breathing new life into traditional Italian folk music, Alla Boara Quartet captivates audiences with their modern arrangements of their musical roots. On June 14, you can travel through Italy as you listen to the playful, tender,



and bewitching repertoire they have in store. Each song sung exclusively in Italian will be an exciting new adventure whether the language is familiar or not.

Liz Bullock, local singer-songwriter, who is a Cleveland native as well as a Board Certified Music Therapist, will grace our front porch stage on June 21. With powerful vocals and thoughtful lyrics she is heavily influenced by folk, blues, and soul. She works both as a solo act and with multiple blues and jazz groups in the Greater Cleveland area.

With a Syrian heart and Midwest soul, Bassel & The Supernaturals tells the story of Bassel Almadani's experience as a first generation Syrian-American, backed by a sound inspired

by soul, funk, jazz, and rock. Exploring love, loss, otherness, and the war in Syria through honest and heartfelt lyrics, the local band will be performing June 28.

Lead by front man Justin Gorski (aka DJ Kishka), Big Hoke is an Americana, Folk Rock revivalist local ensemble. Performing July 5, their warm, upbeat, and rustic sound will make you want to stomp and holler down Detroit Avenue.

A family affair, The Labra Brothers, with a mix of Latin rock, mariachi, and funk, will be performing on July 12. With songs in English and Spanish, their unique musical style and positive lyrics are a testament to how well this mix of brothers and friends jive

together to share their musical skills with audiences.

Cats on Holiday is a Cleveland based Swamp Pop band with 20+ years of sharing their special blend of Louisiana inspired style. Mixing rock, roots, and zydeco they have been a local staple for years and we are thrilled to welcome them back to our Front Porch series on July 19 at Madison Park Pavilion.

S. Y. S. (which stands for Save Your Self) is a female trio of Cleveland based musicians. Melding neo-soul, reggae, and house music, they cultivate a distinctive and fresh sound that represents their unique musical identities. They will be closing the series for the season, at Madison Park Pavilion on July 26.

For more information regarding the 2024 Front Porch Concert Series, please visit: LakewoodAlive.org/FrontPorchConcerts.

The following sponsors generously support the Front Porch Concert Series

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City Of Lakewood Achieves Moody's Aa2 Bond Rating

continued from page 1

ing 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 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 their 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.

An advertisement for "Pause Before You Play" featuring a basketball player in a white jersey with the number 24, jumping to shoot a basketball. The background is a mix of orange and purple with various symbols like a plus sign, a percentage sign, and a target. The text "PAUSE BEFORE YOU PLAY" is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below it, it says "THE BEST GAME PLAN FOR EVERY BET." and lists three points: "SET LIMITS", "RECOGNIZE THE RISKS", and "KNOW WHEN TO STOP". At the bottom, it provides a website URL and a phone number for gambling problems.

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COVE COMMUNITY CENTER

Meet Me At Cove



by **Nancy Feighan**
Brenda Nakonecznyj (pronounced Nock-oh-nez-nee)
Volunteer, Lakewood Family Room / Queen of Mah Jong at Cove
Brenda is a dedicated volunteer at Lakewood Family Room and the Mah Jong Queen of Cove. Brenda's jour-

ney with the Family Room began at St. James Church, where she started as a facilitator and now devotes her time to engaging little ones and preschoolers and their caregivers with creative curriculum and activities. When asked about her passion for volunteering, Brenda states that it brings joy and opportunities to connect with others. She particularly loves Cove for its warm and welcoming atmosphere.
In addition to her work with children, Brenda introduced Mah Jong to Cove on Wednesday afternoons, gathering a group of friends to play. What started with just four people has grown into a community of twenty, fostering friendships and even inspiring two to take a trip to Europe.
Brenda's generosity extends beyond the walls of Cove, as she also volunteers for the Division of Aging to deliver meals to homebound residents. Her commitment to service is truly remarkable. Whether you're a parent to little ones or simply looking to connect, stop by Cove and say hello to Brenda. Her infectious smile is sure to brighten your day.



A La Cart Returns To Cove With Delicious Culinary Demonstrations

by **Nancy Feighan**
A La Cart, a program organized by Lakewood Community Services Center as part of its senior self-determination of health initiative, has made a delightful return to Cove. The program is made possible through generous funding from the Three Arches Foundation.
The event featured Kiwi Wong-peng, chef and owner of Thai Thai Lakewood, who captivated attendees with a live cooking demonstration of Mango Sticky Rice. Be sure to stay tuned for future cooking demos to enjoy more culinary delights!
Nancy Feighan is Project Specialist II, Department of Human Services, City of Lakewood.

Cove Garden Club Kicks Off Planting Season

by **Nancy Feighan**
The Cove Garden Club (CGC) hosted a delightful and educational afternoon this week. Members got their hands dirty with compost and began the planting season by sowing the first vegetables.
Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a novice, the CGC welcomes you to join in the fun. Volunteers are needed for watering and weeding, so if you're interested in lending a hand, come by Cove to sign up. The water is ready, and we would love to have your help!



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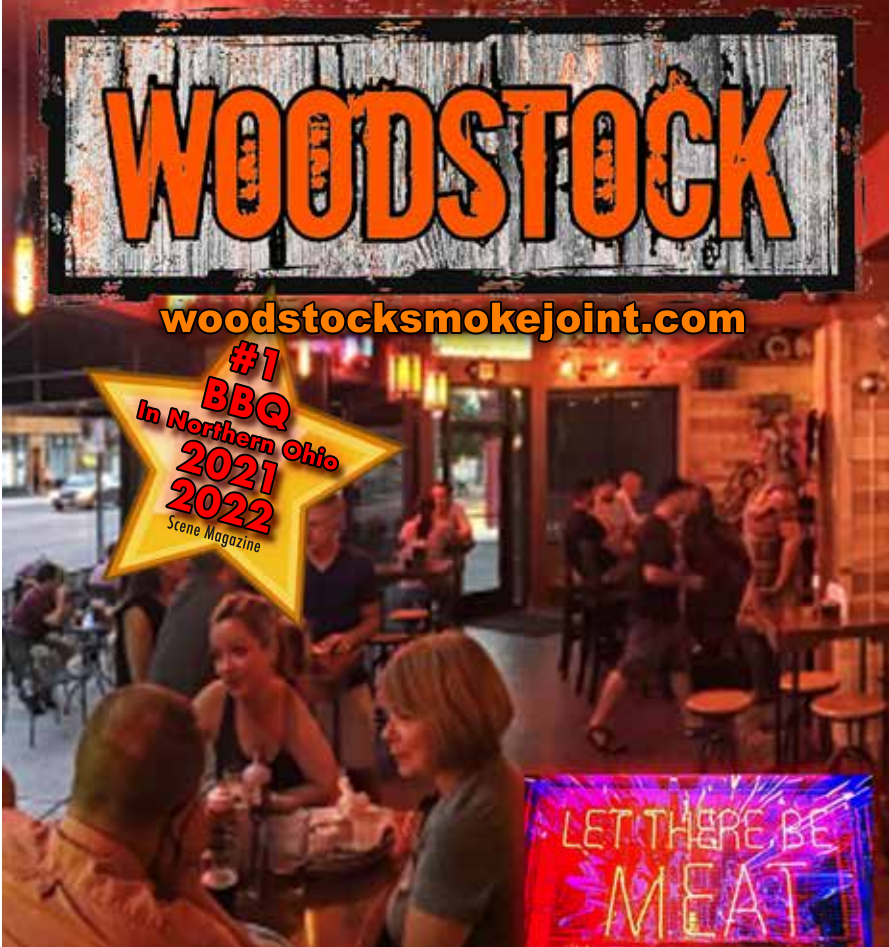
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Legal Aid thanks the Healthy Lakewood Foundation for its outreach support!