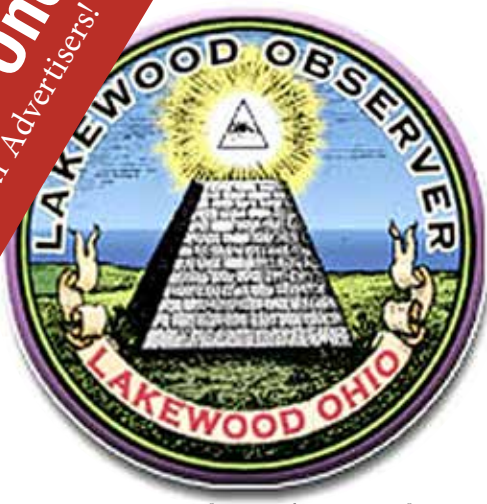


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites
Volume 20, Issue 11, June 5, 2024



Meet the 2024 Kiwanis Scholarship Recipients (from left to right) Hana Schmidt, Zoe Schmidt, William J. Craighead, Jason Haklaz, Edward Norton, Rowan Brown, Hannah Watkins, Mimi Nee, Ava Donaldson, Mary Grace Wirtz, Cameron L. Wereb, Rosemary Cronin, Yasmine A. Elhachdani, Safa Jabarkhil, and Kaileigh M. Burton.

Lakewood Kiwanis Awards 15 Scholarships To Graduating Lakewood Seniors

by Anna Bacho

Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation is proud to announce our 2024 recipients for this year's graduating high school seniors. The following 15 graduates are being awarded thirteen \$10,000 and two \$5000 for vocational schools. Brining the total of scholarships awarded by the Lakewood Kiwanis over the years to more than \$3 million dollars!

We consider their academic, citizenship and leadership abilities. Thank you to all the applicants and their families. This scholarship fund is funded through the efforts of The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood. The Lakewood Kiwanis Hootenanny Dance and legacy donations were just two of our major fundraisers.

The winners of the 2024 Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarships are: Rowan Brown-Lakewood HS, Kaileigh Burton-Lakewood HS, William (Liam) Craighead-St. Ignatius, Rosemary Cronin-Lakewood HS, Ava Donaldson-Lakewood HS, Yasmine

Elhachdani-Lakewood HS, Jason Haklaz-Lakewood HS, Edward Horton-Lakewood HS, Safa Jabarkhil-Lakewood HS, Mimi Née-Lakewood HS, Hannah Schmidt-St Joseph, Zoe Schmidt-St Joseph, Hannah Watkins-Lakewood HS, Cameron Wereb-Lakewood HS, Mary Grace Wirst-Magnificat.

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is the leading service organization in Lakewood and we are celebrating over 100 years of service. Along with our scholarships, we also support Harding Builders Club, K Kids Club's at Horace Mann and Horizon B&A Care at Harrison and Emerson.

We welcome new volunteers and new members to continue giving to our youth. Please consider joining our club. Look over our web page

Www.LakewoodKiwanis or our FB page for more information and contacts.
#KidsNeedKiwanis



Pride Club Students Celebrate Lakewood City Council Resolution

by Sarah Kepple

Students from Lakewood Pride Club attended the May 20th meeting of Lakewood City Council to cheer on Council's unanimous passage of Resolution 2024-34, recognizing LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Lakewood. The Resolution was introduced by Mayor Meghan George, Council President Kepple and Councilwoman Cindy Strebig, Ward 3. With the passage of the resolution, the Pride flag will once again fly in front of City hall for the month of June.

President Sarah Kepple serves all residents as Lakewood City Councilmember at Large. Reach her at sarah.kepple@lakewoodoh.net or 216.200.5050.

Healthy Lakewood Foundation Appoints New Board Member

by Sharon Schuld

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation is excited to announce the appointment of Kim Fennell to its Board of Directors. Kim, a Lakewood resident for the past decade, was appointed at HLF's March Board meeting and brings a strong background in therapeutic recreation and a passion for community engagement and inclusion. Currently, Kim works at Rec2Connect as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, where she not only works with clients in the water as an aquatic therapist, but also implements land-based programs, oversees adult program outreach, and manages volunteers.

Kim graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation from the



Kim Fennell

University of Toledo and is currently working to complete her Master of Nonprofit Administration with Louisiana State University. Her diverse experience spans across various roles, including Recreation Therapy

continued on page 15

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S PAGE

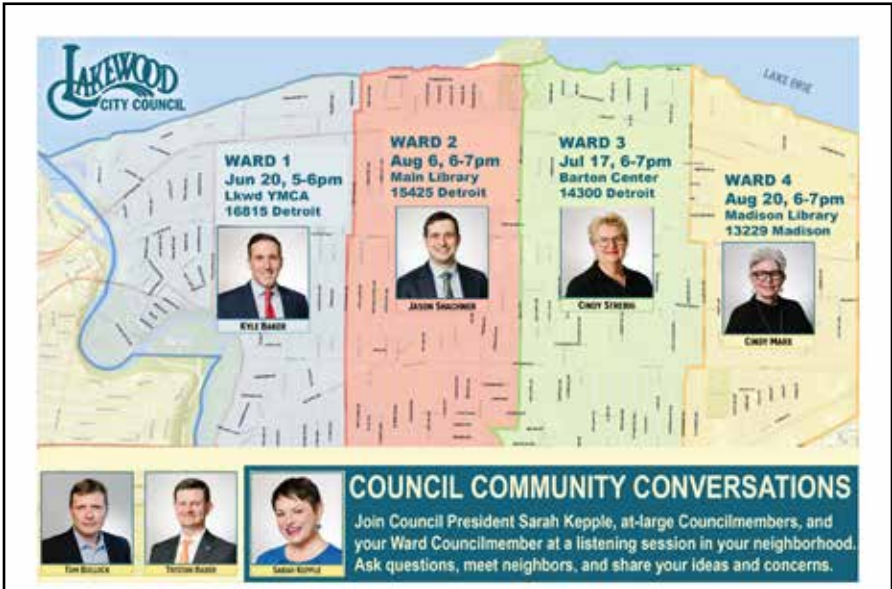
Lakewood City Council Ward Map/Conversation Schedule

by Sarah Kepple
Connect With Council

Hi Neighbors! One of my goals on Council has been to actively engage folks in their government and present multiple avenues of participation. At our Council Strategic Planning retreat earlier this year, Councilmembers unanimously supported communication with the community as top priority.

Council Community Conversations
While Council meetings provide a formal venue for public comment, and community members are always welcomed and encouraged to contact Councilmembers directly via phone and email, there is also benefit to hearing from our constituents in less formal settings and allowing for more organic conversation. To that end, I am excited to announce that we have scheduled the following listening sessions in each of the four Wards.

All members of the community are invited to come and connect with their Councilmembers, ask questions, meet their neighbors, and share their ideas and concerns. We are grateful to our gracious hosts for opening their doors to Council and the public. Residents may identify their ward here: <https://tinyurl.com/LkwdWards>



Ward 1:
June 20, 5-6 pm - Lakewood Family YMCA, 16815 Detroit Rd.
Ward 3:
July 17, 6-7 pm – Barton Center, 14300 Detroit Ave.
Ward 2:
August 6, 6-7 pm - Main Branch of Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.
Ward 4:
August 20, 6-7 pm - Madison

Branch of Lakewood Public Library, 13229 Madison Ave
Additional Connect with Council Opportunities
Saturday, June 8th 12:00-2:30pm
Come say “hi” to me at the Council

table and enjoy a free cookout with neighbors at Lakewood Alive’s annual Birdtown Picnic at Madison Park. <https://tinyurl.com/BirdtownPicnic24>

Saturday, June 15th 1:00-3:00pm
Join all seven Councilmembers and Bike Lakewood at Madison Park for a guided bike ride and to learn about our recently adopted Active Transportation Plan. <https://tinyurl.com/LkwdBikeCouncil24>

Saturday, June 15th 4:00-6:00pm
After the bike ride, join us at Madison Court Community Coalition’s Juneteenth Celebration with free food, family activities, book giveaway and father-figure/children basketball match up. <https://tinyurl.com/LkwdJuneteenth2024>

Boom! Cleveland Shops Makes Noise

by Myra Orenstein
Gordon Geiger was tired of seeing Amazon trucks roaming his neighborhood. He was concerned when he witnessed the increasing number of big box stores.
As the owner of Geiger's, a family-owned, Lakewood institution, Geiger decided to take things into his own hands.
He created Cleveland Shops, an organization of locally owned, independent retailers who joined together to educate the public about the importance of supporting local retailers.
That was nearly five years and a pandemic ago.
While the concept was welcomed by retailers on both sides of Cleveland, plans to launch were ill-timed. Marketing slated for March, 2020 was postponed because of the Covid outbreak. Momentum was lost. Plans for moving forward were put on hold.
That was then...
Today, Cleveland Shops boasts nearly 40 impressive retailers as members.
On June 1, it will launch its first major marketing promotion, "Boom!"
"Boom! connotes increasing sales at the cash register. It's the surprise that

our members have in store for those on our e-newsletter list and our followers on social media," Geiger explains.
Followers of Cleveland Shops and subscribers to its e-newsletter will gain exclusive access to sales, previews of trunk shows and more.
Boom! exclusives will be announced to this group on the first and third Monday of the month.
Lakewood retailer The Tea Lab, another Lakewood retailer, will launch the promotion on June 1.
Retailers have the option of creating one-day or one-week promotions. One retailer will be featured during each of the promotions.
"We believe this will be an exciting way for Clevelanders to discover our outstanding members as well as a means for other retailers to learn the value of Cleveland Shops. Shopping local is not only beneficial for the retailer, it's important for our economy and the landscape of our cities. Cleveland Shops helps us achieve our goals," Geiger adds.
To register for the Cleveland Shops e-newsletter, visit clevelandshops.org.



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

 **Lakewood Observer**

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Friday, June 28, 2024		Wednesday, July 3, 2024	

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Debra O'Bryan	Betsy Voinovich	Emily Kompier	Sales Manager 216.339.2531

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

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PHOTOGRAPHY - Matt Bixenstine, Christine Gordillo, Sarah Kepple, Tess Neff, Jim O'Bryan, Sharon Schuldt, Dan Shields, and Robert Shimp

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Anna Bacho, Lisa Batkiewicz, Matt Bixenstine, Kirsten Bull, Nancy Feighan, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Martin Jaffe, Sarah Kepple, Kenneth Knabe, Tess Neff, Vincent O'Keefe, Myra Orenstein, Sharon Schuldt, Dan Shields, Robert Shimp, Jeffrey Siebert, Eva Starr, and Patricia Wellborn



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THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Human Services Department Is A Testament To The Spirit Of Lakewood

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

The City of Lakewood provides many highly visible services to our residents, from the public works department who are always out and about improving and maintaining things to our police and fire department who patrol our streets and respond to emergencies in vehicles and uniforms we all readily observe. One department that can fly under the radar but also provides a major benefit for the people of Lakewood is our Human Services Department.

In Lakewood, we are proud that our concept of providing services also extends to the deep and important work done by our Human Services Department. That includes work at Cove Community Center and in homes across the city. Human Services Director Chad Berry and his team provide an impressive breadth of support to our seniors, youth, families in need, and those living on the edge and facing crisis.

On any day at Cove, you might find a social gathering for Lakewood residents (everything from a Leap Year Dance Party to Breakfast with a



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Bunny); a financial literacy class; or the Human Services team figuring out an emergency plan for a resident whose heat went out or who lacks air conditioning on a sweltering day. That is just the tip of the iceberg, and it would be impossible to list all their efforts and impact in a single column.

In 2023 alone, an average of 150 community members came through the doors of Cove Community Cen-

ter daily to participate in activities and programming. Seniors and family room participants checked in to our Human Services programs close to 29,000 times. Nearly 19,000 home meals were delivered, and over 12,800 congregate meals were served. The work of the Human Services department is a testament to the spirit of Lakewood and how deeply we care for

and lift each other up.

I also want to highlight the efforts that Director Berry and his team make to successfully apply for outside dollars to support our work. In 2023, they obtained funds from NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) that paid for over 80% of the cost of a new senior services transportation van and were also able to increase one of our county grants by over \$125,000. This year, Human Services has already secured a \$45,000 grant from the Healthy Aging Grants program, a state program designed to help provide funds to services aimed at increasing the quality of life for seniors. This consistent work to find additional dollars is a huge help to our quality of services and is critical in limiting costs for our taxpayers.

If you want to learn more about our Human Services Department and all it has to offer, please visit <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/human-services/> or contact the Human Services team directly at 216-529-5061 or HumanServices@lakewoodoh.net.

Wax Museum Is A Hit At Hayes Elementary

by Christine Gordillo

The Hayes 3rd Grade Wax Museum last week was an absolute hit, showcasing our students' incredible talents! After selecting and reading a biography, they delved into research and crafted digital or poster profiles of their chosen famous person. They then transformed into these famous personalities and welcomed families to meet everyone from Albert Einstein to Mae Jemison to Amelia Earhart and beyond! Awesome use of creative and critical thinking, communication and growth mindset.

Join Us For Juneteenth!

by Patricia Wellborn

On Wednesday, June 19th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Lakewood Black Caucus is celebrating its annual Juneteenth celebration at Lakewood Presbyterian, Church: 14502 Detroit and Marlowe. Our event is open to everyone and it is free! Come join us for food, games and live entertainment. There will also be a raffle with wonderful prizes! There is something

for everyone. We will hold the event in Lawther Hall which is at the back entrance of the church. Bring the family, and enjoy the fun!

Patricia Wellborn is an African American woman, who has lived in Lakewood since 2015. She is a senior, and is active in social justice work. She is the president of the newly formed Lakewood Black Caucus.

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

Lakewood Public Library Programs

Upcoming Events In June

by Lisa Calfee

Support local writers and celebrate the creativity of our wonderfully diverse community by attending Lakewood Public Library’s Meet The Author, a platform for Northeast Ohioans to share their latest books and unique perspectives.

Meet The Author: “The Girl from Cleveland City” Series
by **Alexandra Sukhoy**
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Alexandra Sukhoy breaks and blends writing and visual platforms- including screenplays, blogs and photography in The Girl from Cleveland City series. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Presentation - Cleveland’s Olympic History
Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

The Olympics are coming this summer! Come and learn about some of North-east Ohio’s notable Olympians. Presenter Jill Jaracz is the founder and co-host of Keep the Flame Alive, a podcast dedicated to the Olympics and Paralympics.

Literary Cleveland Presents:
Write Now – Poetry Writing Workshop with Instructor Corey Miller
Saturdays: July 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Participants will generate new writing in this free four-week practical workshop that explores a different element and form of poetry each Saturday. Registration is required and begins on June 1, 2024. Visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org or call (216) 226-8275.

Terry Meehan Film Series: “The Graduate” (1967)
Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Dustin Hoffman stars as Benjamin, a college graduate who gets involved with both the wife (Anne Bancroft) and the daughter (Katharine Ross) of his father’s law partner.

Film: “Moneyball” (2011) followed by a Q&A with Cleveland Guardians PA Announcer Bob Tayek from the Cleveland Guardians and Eddy Jansen from the Lake Erie Crushers.
Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Children’s And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert

Adventure Begins at Your Library

For all children and youth from birth up to those entering twelfth grade. Read for fun and rewards. Participants will be entered into weekly drawings for prizes and gift cards. Readers can check online or in person. Finishers receive a certificate of completion and a new book to keep. Registration is required.

Friday, May 10, 2024 through Monday, August 12, 2024 at the Main Library and Madison Branch

Adventure Begins at Your Library Scavenger Hunt

For all ages. Children are invited to participate in the Summer Reading Club scavenger hunt by looking for pictures of road and traffic symbols they might find on their next adventure. The pictures are found throughout the Children’s and Youth Services area of the library. The hunt lasts all summer. When you finish, turn in your scavenger hunt sheet to be entered in a drawing for a prize. No registration is required.

Friday, May 10, 2024 through Monday, August 12, 2024 at the Main Library and Madison Branch

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.

June 10- July 18, 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.

June 10- July 18, 2024



Readers Win



Double your summer-reading fun!

Log your reading for the Cuyahoga Reads Reading Challenge! Scan the QR Code to get started with the Beanstack app today!



CuyahogaReads.org

For children of all ages

CHILDREN’S/TEEN

SUMMER

READING CLUB 2024

May 10, 2024 - August 12, 2024

Start your adventure by signing up. Read for fun and a chance at prizes! Log your reading over the summer and get entered for our weekly drawings. All ages are welcome.

Sign up online at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth or in person at Main Library or Madison Branch.



MAIN LIBRARY
15425 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-3829
(216) 226-8275

MADISON BRANCH
13229 Madison Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-4898
(216) 228-7428

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

District Honors
Academic Standouts In
Celebration Of Excellence

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools proudly celebrated the achievements of its brightest students at the 41st annual Celebration of Excellence ceremony on May 16 in the Civic Auditorium. Held to honor the academic dedication and success of its students, 390 medals of excellence were awarded to middle school and high school students who maintained a 4.0 GPA or higher through the first three quarters of the academic year.

The ceremony, a highlight of the school calendar, recognized not only these top academic performers but also celebrated the District's National Merit Finalist and six Commended Scholars, who have demonstrated outstanding academic prowess on a national level.

In addition to the medals of excellence, the ceremony also included the awarding of a range of scholarships to deserving students. Recipients included those honored by the Lakewood Leadership Team, Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, and winners of various Lakewood High scholarships. A notable addition this year was the presentation of the new Governor's Merit Scholarships, aimed at supporting students in their pursuit of higher



education.

Keynote speaker Lisa Bruening, director of student services for the school district and a Lakewood High School graduate, delivered an inspiring address. Her speech emphasized the many ways the Vision of a Lakewood Ranger competencies have helped her succeed in her career and life. The audience and students also enjoyed some beautiful music from the Lakewood High Chamber Choir.

Such a wonderful evening to celebrate our student successes!



Rangers Shine At State Track
And Field Championship

by Christine Gordillo

Exciting news from the Division 1 State Track & Field Championship Meet over the weekend!

Ranger athletes delivered outstanding performances:

Kaydence Doxley soared to 2nd place in the long jump after a nail-biting tie-breaker jump against the eventual winner. She also took 16th in the 200 meters!

Charlie Payne finished strong in 7th place in the 1600 meters!

Charieon Doxley made us proud by competing in the 100 meter hurdles!

The 2x400 relay team of Mckenna Hunt, Sophia Eccher, Kaydence Doxley, and Charieon Doxley also ran against the best in the state!

Congratulations to all our athletes and their amazing coaches for their hard work and dedication.

ADVERTISEMENT

Total ankle
replacement helps
preserve range of
motion and treat
arthritis pain.



Sagar Chawla, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Richard E. Jacobs
Health Center at
Richard E. Jacobs
Campus in Avon and
Lakewood Family
Health Center

If the pain persists, you may consider total ankle replacement – also known as ankle arthroplasty – a type of joint replacement surgery.

“Ankle arthritis occurs after injury to the ankle and results in ankle stiffness and pain. An ankle replacement allows patients to preserve their range of motion while treating the pain,” says Dr. Chawla. “During the surgery, we remove degenerated bone and cartilage and insert new prosthetic pieces which move together, resulting in a fluid range of motion. This flexibility allows you to walk normally, with less pain, and return to a more active lifestyle.”

Total ankle replacement is typically an outpatient procedure. In the early days of recovery, you will need someone to drive you to physical therapy and help with daily tasks. Everyone is different, but most patients recover in three to six months.



Ankle fusion surgery – or arthrodesis - is another procedure. Fusion surgery permanently joins the ankle bones together at the point where the cartilage has worn away. This limits your range of motion, affecting the way you walk or possibly causing arthritis to develop in other joints.

Talk to an orthopaedic surgeon to determine which option may best meet your needs.

Dr. Chawla has clinics at Richard E. Jacobs Health Center at Richard E. Jacobs campus in Avon and Lakewood Family Health Center. He performs surgery at Lutheran Hospital, Fairview Ambulatory Surgery Center and Marymount Ambulatory Surgery Center.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Chawla, call 216.444.2606.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Middle School & LHS Mock Trial Teams Shine In Competition

MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL SHOWCASE

By Lisa Batkiewicz

Garfield and Harding participated in the statewide Middle School Mock Trial Showcase sponsored by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education last month in at the State Courthouse in Columbus and came away with many awards, including Best Attorney and Best Witness.

Garfield's three teams together won three of six possible Best Attorney awards and three of six possible Best Witness awards. Harding's two teams won two Best Attorney awards and one Best Witness award.

Garfield's Best Attorneys winners were Tyler Kemp, Avery Spahr, and Adam Tanina. Harding's Best Attorneys were Julia Thomas and Ingrid Matera. Garfield's Best Witnesses awardees were Cory Clemens, Zsofi Flasher, and Henry Trefethen. Harding's Best Witness was Harper Haney.

Forty-three teams from districts across Ohio competed over three days, and only 16 teams scored in the top tier of three scoring tiers. The Garfield Ranger Team received the highest rating of Superior. Garfield Gold and Purple Teams as well as Harding Team 1 received a rating of Outstanding and Harding Team 2 received a rating of Excellent.

This year the Middle School Mock Trials were based on the book “The Giver” by Lois Lowry in which a teenager in a dystopian society risks his well-being and goes against the rules of his community to save the life of a small child.

Each middle school team subdivides into a prosecution and a defense squad, and prepares for two different trials against other Ohio middle schools. Students take on the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and bailiff/timers. The trials take place in front of real attorneys who act as trial judges and who rate teams on case understanding, professional demeanor, oratory skills, and understanding of trial technique and courtroom procedure.

Special thanks to attorney Sarah Cleves, a Lakewood resident and Senior Claims Attorney with ABA Insurance Services, Inc., who acted



LHS Mock Trial team member Delano Yeung won a Best Witness award.

as a legal advisor for Garfield's teams, coached by Mrs. Colleen Gromek. Garfield's seventh-grade participants were Sam Anderson, Mustafa Anwari, Nixon Biasotti, Cory Clemens, William Costello, Dylan Emerson, Zsofi Flasher, Colleen Flynn, Gian Frederick, Brock Hammersmith, Emmy Hansen, Danica Herberger, Rylan Hongosh, Orri Hudson, Tyler Kemp, Ben Knight, Jonah McAlister, Toast Miklowski, Samantha Moran, Mallory Mossman, Norah Murtha, Nick Orefice, Evelyn Quesada, Emaline Reba, Elm Russell, Avery Spahr, Desmond Stevenson, Adam Tanina, Claire Timieski, Meagan Towner-McCormick, Henry Trefethen, and Andy Witwer.

At Harding, Mrs. Batkiewicz, Mr. Avila-John, and Mrs. Murray guided their 7th and 8th grade teams along with help from countless attorneys and judges present during the week of Play-offs which decided Harding's teams.

Harding's 8th grade students participating were: Veronica Allie, Ally Demaline, Luca Eppley, Connor Hibinger, Darwin Hurley, Delia Jablonski, Jack Janko, Julia Myers, Delaney Rodgers, Maddie Sheils, Anthony Smith, Savannah Sullivan, Alden Therrien, and Julia Thomas

Harding's 7th grade students were:
Andrew Babson, Marie Brosky, Deagan
Carney, Ace Griggs, Harper Haney, Tyler
Kinder, Quinn Liderbach, Caroline
Lubas, Ingrid Matera, Marlo Melnick,
Lane Rowland, Autumn Seeley, Amelie
Snipes, and Anna Winchester

Also, a special thanks to the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation for helping fund this project! We

could not have done this without your support!

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL

By Dan Shields

The Lakewood High School Mock Trial Team competed this spring in the 2023-2024 Ohio High School Mock Trial competition, sponsored by the OCLRE (Ohio Center for Law Related Education). Each fall high school teams from around the state prepare a trial based on a case created by a panel of judges, lawyers, and staff. This year's case was *State v. Espinoza*, which dealt with the history and application of the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment. In this case the LHS team looked at excessive fines in the context of the forfeiture of a classic 1967 Chevy Camaro. This case was argued at the historic Old Courthouse in downtown Cleveland.

Violet Gonzalez and Jay Dozier served as the Timekeepers for the Lakewood team, keeping the lawyers on track throughout the proceedings. Luisa Garcia and Abby Emerson participated as backups for the team, working with the lawyers and witnesses to keep them on target. Alessio Matera and Cameron Wereb served as advisors to their peers providing assistance when needed.

The Prosecution team was composed of Mel Diemert and Mikayla Jaisle, while the Defense attorneys were Gwen Hongosh and Maya Trempe. The lawyers prepared the examination and cross examination of all witnesses, using the case materials and evidence provided by OCLRE. They all were diligent in their preparation and executed their roles

skillfully and with determination.

The witnesses were played by Abby Peck as Ash, Ceci Whiteamire as Harley, Delano Yeung as Makani, and Tarik Ibrisagic as Oakley/Presley. They prepared their parts and helped the lawyers present their best case. The judges thoroughly enjoyed the actors in costume, the manner in which each acted their roles, their knowledge of the facts, and a stellar acting performance. This is especially true for Delano Yeung, who won the outstanding witness in his trial, which he earned by being well prepared and showing dedication to his role.

Lakewood's team worked diligently on the case materials as they organized strategy and legal arguments. This tight knit team of students prepared from October through January, on their own, to prepare for the Mock Trial competition. They presented a lively trial and impressed the judges with their preparation, questions, arguments, and appropriate objections.

The team wishes a fond farewell to Cameron Wereb, who recently graduated. However, the good news is that none of the other members of this year's mock trial team will be graduating this spring, which should make for a stronger, more experienced team for next season.

The 2023-2024 Lakewood Team was led by teacher/moderator Mr. Joseph Loboizzo, with assistance from local attorneys Amelia Leonard and Dan Shields. The moderators are especially proud of this year's team, as they organized themselves and prepared their own schedule to work on this year's trial.

The mock trial team is open to all Lakewood High students. The team encourages everyone to join them next year, including those who participated in the Middle School Mock Trial at Harding and Garfield middle schools.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood Police And Fire Departments To Host
Summer Safety Days For Children 3 Through 12



from City Hall

The Lakewood Police Department and Lakewood Fire Department will be hosting a Summer Safety Days Program for children ages 3-12 and their parents at Madison Park. Children participating in this program will gain a better understanding of safety as well as engage in personal interaction with safety forces. The three-hour program will be offered a few times throughout the summer for two different age groups. Each child must be accompanied by an adult to this program.

Pre-registration is required. There is a limit of 25 children per session.

Summer Safety Days will take place on the following dates in 2024:

Wednesday, June 26
Tuesday, July 23
Tuesday, August 13

Each date will feature two sessions:

Morning (10 AM-12 PM) for 3 to 7 year-olds
Afternoon (1 PM – 3 PM) for 8 to 12 year-olds

Children ages 3-7 will interact with officers and firefighters and participate

in age appropriate activities including:

A coloring station with PD coloring books as well other coloring/painting activities provided by Cove Community Center

Button maker station
Water balloon station/toss
Sensory Tables station

Children ages 8-12 will interact with officers and firefighters and participate in age appropriate activities including:

A coloring/painting station
Button maker station
Water balloon station/toss

Madison Park's Becks Pool NOW OPEN!

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

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Aaliyah Aziz

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EXPLORING LAKEWOOD

Walking the Streets Of
Lakewood--From A to Z!

by Vincent O'Keefe

Ever wonder what it would be like to walk down every street in Lakewood? (There are 210 of them!) Well now you can do that vicariously by visiting www.lakewoodatoz.com and following the journey of longtime Lakewood resident Michael Daso. As Michael explains at the site, “I’ve challenged myself to walk every street in Lakewood this year in alphabetical order (one per day) in hopes of raising some money for Lakewood Alive.” Lakewood Alive is a “community-centered nonprofit that

fosters and sustains vibrant and welcoming neighborhoods.”

Michael’s project started with Abbieshire on February 5, 2024, and should finish with Wyandotte around Thanksgiving. He recently reached his halfway point (105 streets), and each entry about a street provides a few paragraphs and photos describing his experience. Highlights so far have included many aspects that make Lakewood streets unique—e.g. stunning and/or historic architecture, Little Libraries (and “Dog-Stick Libraries”),



Michael Daso



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pocket parks, sidewalk drawings, Adopt-a-Spots, secret gardens, hidden gnomes, and, of course, friendly neighbors. (Author’s note: When I learned about Michael’s project, I started to provide historical background about different Lakewood street names for him, some of which also appears on the site.)

It’s not surprising that Michael, a local financial consultant, is civic-minded in his quest. His love of Lakewood is well-reflected in his multiple stints on a variety of local Boards of Directors, including the Beck Center for the Arts, the Lakewood Historical Society, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. Michael and his wife have also raised four children in Lakewood.

Find out what Michael discovers on your street by visiting www.lakewoodatoz.com today! While donations to benefit Lakewood Alive are encouraged, they are not necessary to

read about Michael’s street journeys. At his site, Michael also thanks several Lakewood businesses for their help with his project—Erie Design, RYCO Sports, and CoDesign. If you’d like to reach out to Michael, his website provides the following contact info: E-mail dasolakewood@gmail.com or @dasolakewood on Instagram and X.

Vincent O’Keefe is a local writer and former stay-at-home dad with a PhD in American literature. His writing has appeared at The New York Times and The Washington Post, among other venues. Visit him at www.vincentokeefe.com. Vincent O’Keefe is a local writer and former stay-at-home dad with a PhD in American literature. His writing has appeared at The New York Times and The Washington Post, among other venues. Visit him at www.vincentokeefe.com.

Acoustic Musicians:
Play Your Instrument,
Sing Your Song

by Martin Jaffe

Congito Jaffe, wellknown local singer/songwriter is honored to announce that he will be hosting an innovative monthly summer music series at the Blue Café, 15715 Madison Avenue in Lakewood.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

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Sign-up for a 15 minute slot will begin half an hour before the event begins. Scheduled dates are: Sunday, June 16th, 12pm-2, Sunday July14th, 12pm-2pm, and Sunday, August 18, 12pm-2pm.

I hope to see you there and look forward to meeting you.

COURTS OBSERVED

Lakewood Municipal Court Modernizes With Technology

by Judge Tess Neff

Modernizing the Court is a priority for me because technology brings efficiency and access to the Court. We have successfully implemented several technological advancements and I am excited to inform you about the progress. I am very pleased to announce that the Court recently launched a new website that is freshly improved, updated, and user-friendly. Navigating any website should be easy and rather intuitive, and we strived to do just that. The website contains an abundance of useful information about the types of cases that are processed and heard in the Court, FAQs, making payments online, the various departments that comprise the Court, and much more. I encourage you to take some time to check out the new website, which can be found at www.lakewoodcourtoh.gov.

A much needed improvements were made to the Court's Probation Department. It included implementing a new software program in 2023. The software program is an excellent source to collect data about the types of offenses committed, the Ward where the offense occurred, recidivism information and more. The new system helps the probation staff in countless ways. Probation staff are occupied conducting pre-sentence investigations, collecting information from victims including restitution, all while managing their caseloads. They are tasked with monitoring persons on probation to ensure they are complying with the Court orders issued from their sentencing. All this information, including individuals' case history is easily searchable with the new software. In 2023, there were approximately 200 active probation cases. This is a heavy caseload for three probation staff; however, the new software is an excellent support to the Probation Department.

Another advancement the Court made was the implementation of the Probation Department kiosk in the Court lobby. The easy to use and accessible device has simplified and streamlined the check-in procedure for individuals under the supervision of the Court. The kiosk has eliminated the monotonous paperwork that pre-



viously was required every time a probationer appeared for an appointment with their probation officer. As a result, the probation staff's time is optimized, and they can concentrate on their client. Once a person completes the check-in questions such as contact information updates, the Probation Department staff receive a notification on their computer that the probationer is ready to be seen. Each individual checking-in receives a timestamp with the date and time for efficiency and verification.

Moving along in our efforts to modernize the Court, we engaged in services for scanning the hundreds of thousands of civil paper documents being physically stored by the Court. Records retention rules promulgated by the Ohio Supreme Court preclude courts from ever destroying certain court documents. Other records eligible to be destroyed are subject to timelines. The physical records have outgrown the available space. Scanning the documents preserves them digitally. It also opens the door to removing the scanned documents

from storage to be shredded. Not only does scanning the records free up space within the Court, but it eliminates manual searches for files that are among thousands of documents. The scanning project is an ongoing endeavor that will last several years because it is such a monumental task. The plan for 2024 is to scan years 2012 and 2013. We are hopeful to also squeeze in years 2014 and 2015. The Court was created in 1928 and there are physical records including docket books from 1968 forward!

Also, the Court is close to opening our Check-In/Self Help kiosk for public use and for court appearances. The hard wiring is almost complete, and the kiosk will be ready to make its debut within a few weeks. Users will be able to view FAQs, search what court forms are required for driving privileges, get assistance in filing small claims cases etc. The check-in process for court appearances will be smooth and timely. Like the Probation kiosk process, individuals checking-in will be placed in order of time of arrival and the information will be transmitted to the court staff computers. Again, this will save a lot of valuable time for staff who currently sit in the lobby to receive individuals. Once the kiosk is functional, staff can then take care of other tasks while the

kiosk takes over the check-in process.

On a final note, you may recall a previous article I wrote regarding a \$425,000 grant award the Court received in 2022. At the end of this year that two year grant will close. We were able to utilize the funds for very important purposes such as to purchase the Check-In/Self Help kiosk and cover the cost of installation, desk scanners for staff in the Clerk of Court department, cover payment for the Public Defender to represent indigent defendants, laptops, and defray some of the cost for the new Court case management system. We remain grateful for the grant opportunity which greatly assisted the Court on many levels, and it is our hope to apply for future grants.

I look forward to keeping you apprised about all the good work the Court is producing and future accomplishments. You as a taxpayer should be proud of the court staff who work hard daily to serve our community. I know I am.

Tess Neff is a 36-year Lakewood resident. She and her husband Richard chose to raise their three children in this community. She is honored to serve as the Lakewood Municipal Court Judge.

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Keep Lakewood Beautiful Launches 2024 Beautiful Home Awards



by Matt Bixenstine

Keep Lakewood Beautiful is pleased to announce its 2024 Beautiful Home Awards! Now through July 15th is the time to submit your nominations for the Lakewood home(s) you think showcase eye-popping landscaping, well-maintained features, and that extra something that makes it “beautiful.”

Nominations can be made quickly & easily by visiting the City of Lakewood’s website (lakewoodoh.gov/keep-lakewood-beautiful) or by calling the City of Lakewood at 216-529-5061.

Typically 50 to 100 Lakewood homes are nominated each year.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful has been orchestrating the Beautiful Home Awards for more than 10 years. One home from each of the original seven school districts is chosen from nominations submitted by community members. Winners will receive an award and be recognized during a City Council meeting this fall.

Thank you for helping Keep Lakewood Beautiful to properly honor this city of beautiful homes!



Lakewood Historical Society 2024 Sale On The Grounds: June 20 Through 23

by Robert Shimp

It is time for the Lakewood Historical Society’s annual Sale on the Grounds! The sale will be held at the Nicholson House and its grounds from Thursday June 20 to Sunday June 23. Times for the sale will be 9 AM to 3 PM Thursday-Saturday and Noon to 3 PM on Sunday.

The Sale on the Grounds has something for everyone including furniture, sets of dishes, glasses, pots, pans, kitchen utensils, linens, toys, games, puzzles, artwork, frames, small appliances, tools, collectibles, and much more. Cash, checks, and charges are accepted. It is a sale that you should not miss, and all proceeds go to the benefit the work and operations of the Historical Society. For more information, call the office at 216-221-7343.



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Where To Learn About Water Quality This Beach Season

by Kirsten Bull

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District monitors beach water quality at several Lake Erie Beaches to help beachgoers know what to expect when they visit Edgewater and Villa Angela beaches.

Based on morning predictions observed at the beach and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District data collection, the Great Lakes Nowcast system predicts beach water quality.

These predictions account for recent weather patterns, rainfall, wind direction, and other factors, that can affect bacteria levels in recreational beach water. Bacteria levels can also be affected by nature. Large

concentrations of gulls and other shorebirds means larger concentrations of bird poop at the beach. Dog waste in areas near our shores is another contributor of bacteria, which is why it is important to Pick Up Poop.

Advisories related to recreation may or may not be related to water quality. Factors beyond water quality such as wave conditions, rip currents, debris, or other issues can also affect beach recreation.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) can affect water quality. When heavy rains produce large volumes of surface runoff, combined sewers may not be able to handle the increase. For this reason, rather than having sewage back up into homes or treatment plants, relief points were designed in the system to release the combined flow to the environment. Those points are called Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

Project Clean Lake is NEORSD's 25-year program that will reduce pollution in Lake Erie by 4 billion gallons per year. Work completed for Project Clean Lake has already led to the elimination of 1.7 billion gallons of overflow from discharging into the environment annually.

There are several ways to access water quality information. You may notice signage on the beach related to water quality. A green sign indicates good water quality, and a red



sign indicates poor water quality. You can visit our website at neorsd.org/beaches for more information.

Kirsten Bull is Communications Coordinator, Communications and Community Relations Department for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

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BIKE LAKEWOOD

Lakewood Cycling News

by Kenneth Knabe

I've been a proud Lakewood business owner for years and a homeowner here since 2017. As such it's great to see Bike Lakewood – a resident-led advocacy group and chapter of Bike Cleveland - increasing its activities in recent months!

Lakewood currently has the highest marks in Ohio from Walk Score, a company that helps people find walk/bike/transit-friendly areas. (Bike Scores are determined by bike lanes, hills, destinations/road connectivity, and bike commuting/mode share.) Currently Bike Lakewood is spotlighting the City of Lakewood's Bunts Road rehabilitation project. Starting in 2026, Phase One will cover Lakewood Heights Boulevard to Franklin Boulevard and in 2027,



Kenneth Knabe

Phase Two will encompass Franklin to Clifton Boulevard.

The improvements will benefit

ALL road users: motorists, cyclists, micro-mobility device users, and pedestrians. Everything from surface drainage to pavement, curbs, and sidewalks to long pedestrian crossing distances to streetlights to updating signage to Clean Water Lakewood to sewer improvement to bicycle lanes will be addressed. Southbound traffic will be maintained, northbound traffic will detour to Warren Road. A small price to pay for such a huge list of safety improvements in our community!

PLEASE NOTE: Bike Lakewood supports Alternative 1, which will get us a 10-foot-wide separated shared use path (reducing accidents/injuries) and curb bump outs for greater connectivity and safety for all. More trees, less impact on traffic and the environment, plus Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and Safe Streets for All (SS4A) progress. Alternative 2 would mean on-street bike

lanes on both sides of Bunts Road. The City welcomes public comments no later than June 9, 2024 on the project website. Here's where you can weigh in on the future of bike safety in Lakewood:

www.lakewoodoh.gov/bunts-rehab

Local business SHOUTOUT: Bike shop Beat Cycles recently hosted its first 2024 Kidical Mass (a play on Critical Mass) ride for families on May 26. They had 60 people participate with more than 30 of them kids! After buzzing around Birdtown, the riders enjoyed story time with Emily and everyone's favorite treat – doughnuts.

With many thanks to Bike Lakewood, our local businesses, and the City for all they do to make Lakewood an amazing place to live, work, and play.

Enjoy your summer by riding safely and legally!

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JUNE

ARIES: The lucky duo, Sun/Jupiter are in the same house again this month for all signs. The Ram has the rays beaming in your neighborhood, siblings, short visits & travel, go visit Dad.

TAURUS: June has the Bull bringing in plenty of greenbacks. Take Dad out to dinner, you can afford it. If he's passed on, bring a six-pack & flowers to his grave.

GEMINI: The Twins, it's all about you, for quite some time now. Jupiter just entered the sign of Gemini, & will hang out there until June 9th, 2025. Take advantage of the next year, double your pleasure.

CANCER: Hey Crab, you've got a lot of action going on behind the scenes this month. Hold your cards close to your chest. Keep your eyes & ears open, & your lips zipped.

LEO: The Lion/Lioness has no trouble finding friends to fill its Jungle. The Sun is shining on your house of friends, & acquaintances. Keep the party going, & get out there & network.

VIRGO: If you've been thinking about changing jobs, getting a promotion, or looking for a job, this is the month to hit the pavement. Don't just sit there thinking about it, just do it.

LIBRA: It's been a while since you've traveled abroad, take that trip you've only dreamt about, & make it happen. He who hesitates is lost. Can you taste the pasta & gelato?

SCORPIO: June is right up the Scorpion's alley. It's time to put on your Sherlock Holmes hat, grab the magnifying glass, come out of your cave and figure out the mystery.

SAGITTARIUS: The Centaur's bow & arrow is pointing straight at Cupid's heart. It's all about relationships this month. Enjoy the adventure, dream big, & shoot for the Moon.

CAPRICORN: Looks like the Goat's daily routine & health is top-notch. Keep up the good work, you may even turn a few heads. Climb that mountain, with perseverance.

AQUARIUS: Romance, creativity, & children are the theme for June for our eccentric, innovative Aquarian. Have fun, invent, play games, & conjure something up for Dad.

PISCES: The Fish is hanging around the homestead waters this June, invite Dad. That's where the action is, there's no place like home, take a hint from Dorothy.

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

COVE COMMUNITY CENTER



Bocce! Bocce! At Cove

by Nancy Feighan

On Wednesday, May 29th, we had a great “meet and greet” for the nighttime bocce league. Players gathered to see the court and lawn, watch live demos on how to play bocce ball, and check out the competition before the action kicks off officially on Wednesday, June 5th.

Got some free time on any of the next eight Wednesdays between 5:30

and 8:45 PM? Drop by Cove (12525 Lake Avenue) to say hi and cheer on these teams: Sunset Spockers, The Rat Pack, Ball Me Maybe, Joanie Loves Bocce, Irish Rovers, Fun-tastic Four, Rolling Rockers, Resilience, Bo-cheese Quesadillas, Jolly Ballers, The Misfits, Hot Shots, Khal’s Krew, The Bocce bHalers, Rookie Rollers, and We Speak Bocce. We hope to see you there!

Healthy Lakewood Foundation Appoints New Board Member

continued from page 1

Coordinator at Clear Vista Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit and as the Center Director of the Lakeshore Rose Center for Aging Well. Kim is also a dedicated volunteer, notably at GiGi’s Playhouse and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Melissa Federman, HLF’s Board Secretary and Chair of the Governance

Committee, notes, “Kim is an enthusiastic Lakewood resident who is eager to contribute to the Healthy Lakewood Foundation’s mission. She brings experience as a recreation therapist in both non-profit and health care settings, in building community partnerships, and a dedication to equity and inclusion. Kim’s experience makes her a valuable asset to the foundation’s board.” Join us in welcoming Kim to HLF’s board!

Meet Me At Cove



by Nancy Feighan
William “Pete” Jennings

In August, William “Pete” Jennings celebrates three years as a bus driver for the Division of Aging. After retiring from 31 years of driving students for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, he took a break before discovering the opportunity to be a bus driver for the City. Pete enjoys

helping people get around and spending time with seniors. He’s known for his involvement in growing the unofficial tabletop bowling league at Cove, increasing its membership from 8 to 20. Outside of work, he takes care of his 90-year-old father, “Pops,” and enjoys quiet moments with his girlfriend and their furry children: Charlie, the chocolate lab, and Beep, the cat.



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