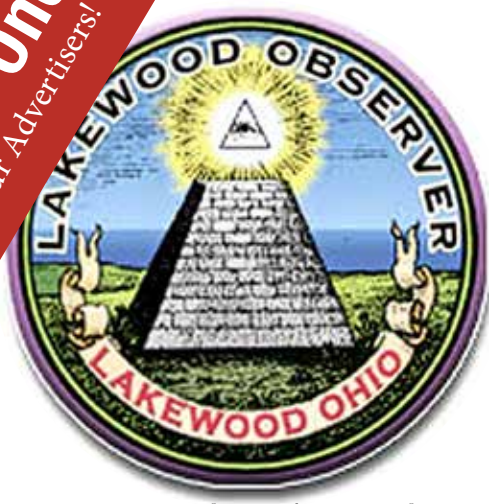


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 20, Issue 13, July 3, 2024

16th Annual Lakewood Summer Meltdown To Heat Up Downtown Lakewood July 20th

by Ava Olic

A little less than a month away, the Lakewood Summer Meltdown is sure to be the event of the season! Sponsored by Melt Bar & Grilled and presented by LakewoodAlive, this beloved summer tradition will return to Downtown Lakewood for its 16th year, on Saturday, July 20, from 4 to 10 p.m.

As one of the region’s most anticipated events, the Lakewood Summer Meltdown brings together nearly 15,000 attendees from across Northeast Ohio for a lively celebration of community spirit. Taking over Detroit Avenue between Marlowe and Arthur Avenues, this free event showcases the vibrant essence of Lakewood with a 5K race, sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, a 1 Mile Family Fun Run & Walk, sponsored by Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department, a street festival, sponsored by Bee My Baby Lakewood, games, food vendors, drinks, live music, and more!



The festivities cater to all ages, featuring activities hosted by local businesses and non-profits. Highlights include the popular "Water Moose" sprinkler park, sponsored by Healthy Lakewood Foundation, interactive fitness demonstrations, and a skateboard park offering thrills for everyone.

Get your running (or walking) shoes on! Registration is open for the 5K race and 1 Mile Family Fun Run & Walk, the proceeds of both benefiting LakewoodAlive. The 1 Mile Family Fun Run & Walk is not just for kids, but for people of all ages, and adults are encouraged to participate. You have the option of running or walk-

ing, making it a great event for those just getting into running, or anyone who wants to get their steps in but isn’t a runner.

You can save money by pre-registering for the 5K race for \$30. Day-of 5K registration is \$35, and the 1 Mile registration is \$15. Registration for both races is at runsignup.com/lakewoodsummermeltdown, where you can also see this year’s 5K race route.

Thirsty? Don’t miss the Gary K. Bish Memorial Beer Garden, sponsored by First Federal Lakewood, offering local craft beers from Immigrant Son Brewery and refreshing canned cocktails. As the sun sets, the Beer Garden Stage, sponsored by Cleveland Property Management will come alive with the sounds of local band Front Porch Lights, creating an unforgettable summer evening in Downtown Lakewood.

In addition to Front Porch Lights, LakewoodAlive is thrilled to announce Jul Big Green will be gracing the Meltdown Stage this year! A genre-blending artist, native to Cleveland, his style is influenced by hip-hop, rock, pop, and jazz. His upbeat, positive, and unique sound adds something new and exciting to our summer-time traditions!

Special thanks to our partners at the City of Lakewood, across multiple departments, who help ensure we can host a fun and safe event for the community. We are also grateful to the more than 75 volunteers who help our staff provide a great experience for everyone attending the event.

For more details about the Lakewood Summer Meltdown, visit lakewoodalive.org/meltdown.

The Lakewood Summer Meltdown is generously supported by the following sponsors: Title Sponsor: Melt Bar & Grilled, 5K Race Sponsor: Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, Beer Garden Stage Sponsor: Cleveland Property Management, Beer Garden Sponsor: First Fed-

eral Lakewood, Beer Sponsor: Immigrant Son Brewery, Gold Medal Sponsors: City of Lakewood, First Federal Lakewood, Raising Cane’s Lakewood, Street Festival Sponsor: Bee My Baby Lakewood, 1 Mile Family Fun Run & Walk Sponsor:

Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department, Water Moose Sponsor: Healthy Lakewood Foundation, T-Shirt Sponsor: Geiger’s, Beer Garden Table Tents Sponsor: Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Lucien Realty.

Lakewood GardenWalk To Be Held July 20

by Jeanine Gergel

The third annual Lakewood GardenWalk will be held on Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., when residents, community organizations and businesses throughout Lakewood will open their gardens and yards for free self-guided tours.

The list of participating gardens and a map will be posted in early July to the GardenWalk Lakewood website at www.gardenwalklakewood.org. The event will be held rain or shine. Gardens of all types will be open for visitors -- vegetable gardens, flower gardens, native plant oases, pollinator gardens, and porches and patios brimming with plants.

“We are so excited about how this event has grown to include gardens of every type in virtually every corner of Lakewood, said Claire Campbell, GardenWalk Lakewood’s founding board chair. “While of course it’s fun to

view the hard work of the participating gardeners, the real value is in bringing neighbors together and forging relationships across fences, streets and neighborhood blocks. Thanks to all who have opened their gardens to the community for this special day.”

GardenWalk Lakewood is an all-volunteer organization that operates with the support of the Lakewood Foundation and the Healthy Lakewood Foundation and through the contributions of individual donors.

About GardenWalk Lakewood – The mission of GardenWalk Lakewood (GWL) is to build community within and beyond the city by bringing people together through gardens and green spaces. GWL events include the annual GardenWalk and free plant swaps in the spring and fall at Cove Park.

Jeanine Gergel is a member of the board of directors for GardenWalk Lakewood.

New Non-Profit Club Aims To Revitalize Lakewood Football

by Michael Bentley

The Ranger Nation Football Club (RNFC), a newly established non-profit organization, is set to revolutionize youth football in Lakewood. With a mission to foster growth and development from the ground up, RNFC aims to create a supportive and inclusive community that emphasizes leadership, teamwork, and resilience.

The RNFC is dedicated to enhancing the football experience for players at all levels. By providing state-of-the-art equipment, exceptional training opportunities, and spirited Lakewood Purple and Gold gear, the organization hopes to cultivate a strong football identity that extends beyond the field.

“Our mission is to build a winning program that not only improves the experience for our players but also nurtures future leaders and strengthens the bonds within our community,” said Mike Bentley, President of RNFC. “A strong youth football program is essential for assisting Coach Polevacik in building a successful high school program. A vibrant football community, as we had in the past, unites Lakewood and instills a sense of pride and belonging.”

The RNFC’s first major initiative is a fundraiser to purchase professional-grade jerseys for the 5th and 6th-grade football teams. According to Bentley, a well-designed uniform not only

continued on page 6

Welcome To Lakewood



The Lakewood Observer always is happy to see new people join the police, fire, or city services. This time we welcome two new police officers to the Lakewood Police Department. Christopher Tarr and Matthew Nicholson pictured here with Police Chief Kevin Fischer and Mayor Meghan George.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S PAGE

The Patriotism Of Participation

by Sarah Kepple
Lakewood City Council President

Happy Independence Day neighbors!

Two years ago my husband Andy and I visited the National Archives where we saw the immortal words in faded ink on delicate parchment declaring, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” Exactly how such a government would be formed with the consent and input of the governed is laid out in a similarly fragile document in the same room, The Constitution.

Like the Constitution, the Charter of the City of Lakewood sets the foundation of how our local municipal government shall function, defining Council’s legislative role, the executive duties of the Mayor, and the administrative departments and officers. The charter also delineates general governance and recourse measures, as well as the citizen boards and commissions required for oversight. The Charter states that every 10 years, “nine registered voters of the city shall be appointed as members of a charter review commission.” As 2024 is just such a review year, for the past six months the citizen volunteers serving on the commission have been diligently working their way through the Charter, researching, discussing, and debating potential amendments.

At a time when the democratic rule of law envisioned in our nation’s foundational documents sometimes feels as

precarious as the paper on which they are written, it has been heartening to watch these dedicated Lakewoodites contribute their time and talent to our local democracy. City Council expects to receive the formal recommendations of the Charter Review Commission at our July 17th regular Council meeting at 7:30pm at City Hall, and I anticipate that they will be referred to committee for more detailed deliberation. I hope you’ll join us for those conversations, either in person or streaming online. Per the Charter, Council may submit any proposed amendments recommended by the commission to Lakewood voters.

A government by the people and for the people requires more than just the consent of the governed, it requires the active participation of all of us. I’m grateful to residents who patriotically

participate in the boards and commissions required by the Charter, including the Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Building Standards and Building Appeals, Charter Review. I’m equally grateful to the many citizens serving on advisory boards and task forces that help us gain input and expertise from our community.

If you’d like to get more involved, please join us for a Council meeting, reach out to your Councilmember, or join us for one of our upcoming Council Community Conversations, where you can ask questions, meet neighbors, share ideas, and get updates about things happening in your neighborhood. Our next Council Community Conversation is Ward 3 on July 17th from 6-7pm at the Barton Center, 14300 Detroit Ave. Hope to see you there!



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THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Updated Parking Lot In Lakewood Park Achieves Multiple Goals

With summer in full swing and the Fourth of July upon us, Lakewood’s most heavily used public asset – Lakewood Park – continues to experience a high volume of use. Whether it is the Solstice Steps, the Kids Cove playground, our new pickleball courts, Foster Pool, or simply strolling the beautiful park campus, Lakewood Park continues to offer a multitude of opportunities for the people of Lakewood to enjoy the seasons. With the high demand for park access, last year the City took on a project to update the main parking lot at Lakewood Park to achieve multiple goals – from increasing capacity on the existing footprint to enhancing access, walkability, and safety to ensuring better lighting and more environmentally friendly elements were incorporated in the project.

Planning for the parking lot project began prior to last year, and the main elements of construction began in 2023 after the park’s busy season to ensure access continued throughout. A main goal of the project was to realign and restripe the exiting spaces on site to increase capacity while avoiding having

to drastically expand the paved area in the park. We feel we have achieved this by expanding the number of spaces by 34 on the exiting footprint.

While we were increasing the number of spaces, we used the opportunity to address stormwater runoff from the site. This was achieved by adding water retention design elements that significantly reduce the amount of storm water that pours off the lot and into our storm sewers. This is a great example of layering multiple goals into one project – we helped increase parking lot capacity while addressing elements of the City’s ongoing Integrated Wet Weather Improvement Plan (IWWIP).

Another environmentally friendly element added through this project was the burying of several power lines that previously traversed the parking lot while also updating nearby lighting to LED. Again, this achieved multiple goals – including some from our Climate Action Plan – by helping

to increase visibility at night, reducing overall electricity usage, and eliminating unsightly power lines in our beautiful park.

Finally, the overall traffic patterns and pedestrian access points in the lot have been updated. The flow of vehicles through the lot has been updated to addresses some long-term concerns with how vehicles funneled through the parking lot. We also have added more surrounding pedestrian connections to and through the parking lot. This will be especially helpful to increase walkability, provide access for disabled persons, and increase overall

safety in and around the lot, including by slowing traffic.

Our teams from the Planning & Development Department and the Public Works Department once again did a fantastic job on this project. They took what could have been a very basic parking lot resurfacing project and instead came up with changes that significantly enhance the park’s functionality, allow for a more user-friendly experience, and advance the City’s environmental goals.

Summer in Lakewood continues to be a wonderful time. I hope to see you all tomorrow along the parade route and at our annual Fourth of July extravaganza at Lakewood Park as we celebrate our nation’s birthday.

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

City Hall Observed

by Theodore Babcock

City Council met on Monday, July 1st after a meeting of the Finance Committee.

The beginning of a new month and quarter saw a handful of routine agenda items about moving money around.

This meeting saw the retirement of Finance Director Peter Rancatore who has served the city since March of 2024. Congratulations to Dir. Rancatore on a career of dedicated public service including 7 years in the Ohio Army National Guard. Each member of council except one who was absent and Mayor George thanked the director for his service.

The Civil Service Commission gave a presentation suggesting pay raises for the Mayor and City Council members. This was deferred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

A resident and homeowner on Bunts Rd. gave an impassioned statement encouraging the city to dutifully consider all factors and implications as they move through the phases of the proposed Bunts Rd. rehabilitation. She was concerned with public safety, environmental impacts, sustain-

ability, maintenance and impact on homeowners in the affected area. This resident did not believe that proper due diligence had been done by the city before the announcement of plans. Council President Sarah Kepple replied that there is typically not a response to public statements but that members of the administration or council may respond to her.

Members of council addressed the present public directly 3 times. It was the first time I can remember since I began regularly attending these meetings in January that multiple representatives paused the proceeding to “Break the fourth wall” and narrate the goings on for the public. The community was well represented at this council meeting with at least 7 in attendance.

The next opportunity to see your elected officials in action is on July 15th at 7:30 at the City Hall Auditorium. 12650 Detroit.

Theodore Babcock is a local photographer.

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Lakewood Public Library Programs

by Lisa Calfee

Support local writers and celebrate the creativity of our 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 Long & Winding Phone!”

by Helen Marketti,
Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Julian Lennon, Pete Best and Pattie Boyd are part of a collection of interviews with a Fab Four connection by Helen Marketti in “The Long & Winding Phone!” Join the author for a nostalgic trip into Beatles history from the people who either knew or were deeply affected by the four lads from Liverpool. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Meet the Author- “Gift Me with Flowers While I’m Present”

by LaTonya Fenderson-Warren,
Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.
LaTonya Fenderson-Warren is a soul poetess and author. Her fourth book of poetry, “Gift Me with Flowers While I’m Present” encourages you to live now, love now, and gift flowers to your loved ones while they can enjoy them. Fenderson-Warren’s poetry sheds light on social issues that are normally ignored, hoping to become a voice for those that feel silenced. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Film- Barbara Steffek-Hill’s Five-Star Movie Matinee - “Gilda”(1945)

Sunday, July 7, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (110 minutes) in the Main Library Auditorium
Johnny Farrell (Glenn Ford) is a small-time American gambler, newly arrived in Buenos Aires. When he is caught cheating Farrell manages to talk his way into a job with the casino’s owner, the powerful Ballin Mundson (George Macready). The two form an uneasy partnership until Mundson introduces Farrell to his beautiful new wife, Gilda (Rita Hayworth), who just happens to be Farrell’s ex-lover.

Film- Terry Meehan Film Series- “Songcatcher”(2000)

Saturday, July 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. (109 minutes) in the Main Library Auditorium
In 1907 a professor of musicology (Janet McTeer) is denied a promotion at the male-dominated university where she teaches. She impulsively decides to visit her sister (Jane Adams), who runs a struggling rural school in the mountains of Appalachia. There she discovers a surprising collection of English and Scotch-Irish ballads, which have been preserved by the secluded mountain people since the colonial era.

Children’s And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert

Adventure Begins at Your Library

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

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.

Adventure Begins at Your Library Scavenger Hunt

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

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.

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

Main Library:

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Madison Branch: Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

League of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner Leah Campbell's Winning Essay

by Leah Campbell

The Dissolution Of The Weimer Republic: A Cautionary Tale

In 1919, out of the rubble of World War One, the Weimar Republic emerged. Founded on many of the same principles as the United States, the Weimar Constitution held democracy at its core, beginning with, “Political authority emanates from the people.” The Weimar Constitution ensured all of its citizens equality before the law, universal suffrage, and fundamental civil rights. Despite this facade of an ideal democracy, most Americans are more familiar with the Weimar Republic under the name Nazi Germany. What could have transformed a seemingly perfect democracy into one of the most inhumane regimes in human history?

Adolf Hitler knew how to play the political game. Like many young German men at the time, Hitler had a strong sense of national identity in a country that was drowning in disparities, debt, and humiliation in the



aftermath of the war. In his founding of the Nazi party, Hitler harnessed this mass insecurity and promised his followers a remedy to the pathetic condition their country was in. His remedy? Annihilate the Jewish race and culture. With the overarching cause of German disparity being unclear, Hitler pointed a finger at the Jews — a group that had historically been discriminated against. Quickly, it became an us-versus-them battle. Hit-

ler spoke to thousands of reactionary Germans with similar yearnings for the prosperity that they once enjoyed and mobilized them against a chosen victim and the rest is history.

The Weimar Republic is not as different from the United States as it may seem. While there are key differences between the republics and their cultures, all democracies face similar threats. The Weimar Republic ended in tragedy when factions of the population turned against another and dehumanized the enemy. Democracies can only function with a certain level of respect for one’s fellow citizens. We can only enjoy our freedom to choose our leaders when we can respect the opinions, beliefs, and presentation of others. The current political polarization in the United States mobilizes similar “us-versus-them” ideologies that pose great threats to our democracy. While the United States is not yet on a trajectory to execute the next

Holocaust, we as Americans should take heed of the downfall of the Weimar Republic. The Weimar Republic is living proof that democracies need to be consistently maintained and checked in order to be preserved. It is a cautionary tale of what may happen when the fabric of society unravels in the absence of a true democracy.

We need democracy and can’t take it for granted. It is our civic duty to protect and preserve our democracy by engaging in public discourse, informing ourselves on relevant issues, and voting in every election. Most importantly, we all need to encourage others to do the same because democracy requires communal buy-in. Democracy is in everyone’s interest regardless of race, gender, age, or political interest. Democracy is for the common good.

Leah Campbell plans to study environmental or civil engineering with a minor in history at the Ohio State University.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Grant Students Celebrate Summer Olympics

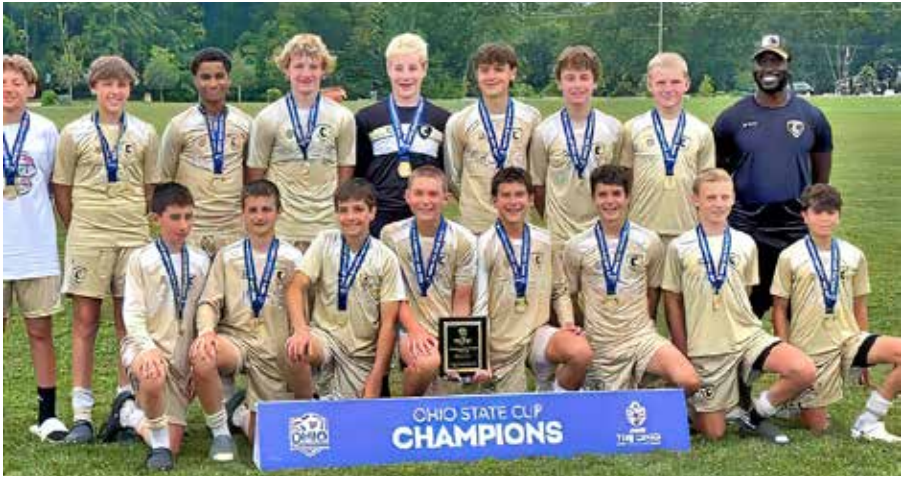
by Christine Gordillo

With the Summer Olympics just around the corner, it was fitting that the end-of-year collaboration research/inquiry project the 3rd and 4th grade GT classes at Grant just completed was to research the last 15 Summer Olympic Games.

They learned about the country, events, and competition results. They

highlighted three athletes and summarized changes and exciting events that took place that year. They also designed an interactive presentation board with flags, mascots and all their newly learned information.

Several students dressed as mascots to pose with the younger Grant students who came to check out the showcase!



Lakewood Middle Schoolers Win State Soccer Title

by Christine Gordillo

We wanted to give a shout out to two of our middle school students who competed in the Ohio State Cup Soccer tournament last weekend and won the state title for the 14U division! Congratulations to Garfield's Dante Warren and and Harding's Donovan Demery!

New Non-Profit Club Aims To Revitalize Lakewood Football

continued from page 1

instills pride but also fosters team spirit and unity among young players.

Lakewood High School Football Coach Mike Polevacik echoes Bentley's sentiments. He believes a comprehensive strategy that supports athletes from youth through high school is vital for sustained success.

"A comprehensive strategy means all our coaches use the same playbook terminology and techniques, ensuring consistency and safety in the way the game is played," Polevacik stated. "By focusing on development at every level, we ensure our athletes receive consistent training and support. I'm grateful to Mike Bentley, the RNFC team, and the district administration for their support. We are all dedicated to reigniting the passion Lakewood has towards football, and this

is a major step in that direction."

The RNFC invites the Lakewood community to join their mission by becoming members.

Membership benefits include exclusive access to information, special events, and Lakewood Football

merchandise.

For more information, visit their Facebook and Instagram pages at @rangernationfc



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OBSERVER FORUM

Strong ‘Complete Streets Ordinance’ Needed To Keep Lakewood’s Streets Safe

by Kyle Baker
Councilman Ward 1

As someone who grew up in Lakewood and is raising my children here today, one of the driving reasons in my decision to run for City Council was to do everything I could to make Lakewood’s streets safer for users of all ages and abilities, not just cars. Distracted driving, speeding cars in neighborhoods, lack of safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and aggressive driving hurts our neighborhoods and residents. I was proud when City Council recently adopted the Active Transportation Plan which called for the adoption of Complete Streets legislation to ensure accountability measures for its implementation. Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining streets that enables safe access for all people who need to use them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Complete Streets Ordinance
On June 17, my colleagues – Council President Sarah Kepple and Ward 3 Councilperson Cindy Strebis – and I proposed an Ordinance to enact Complete Streets in Lakewood. The Complete Streets Ordinance seeks to address the livability and safety needs of Lakewood by building upon efforts to promote an equitable multimodal transportation system. It sets up an accountability structure and pub-

lic engagement process to ensure that Lakewood is meeting the goals and infrastructure improvements called for in the Active Transportation Plan.

A Walking School District – Caregiver Decisions to Allow Walking/Biking to School

Lakewood and our School District are unique in that we do not provide buses to bring students to school because we have neighborhood schools where most elementary and middle school students live within walking and/or biking distance to their respective school. We proudly call it a “Walking School District.” I love walking or biking with my children to school each day. However, the Active Transportation Plan found that the key issues impacting caregiver decisions to let a child walk or bike to school included “safety of intersections and crossings” at 61 percent, “speed of traffic along route” at 45 percent, and “convenience of driving” at only 13 percent. As such, the safety of our streets – not the convenience of driving – is impacting those decisions. Moreover, 67 percent of fatal or serious injury pedestrian crashes and 40 percent of fatal or serious injury bicycle crashes happened within ¼ miles of schools and over 83 percent and 90 percent occurred within a ½ mile of schools. Those are jarring numbers.

We owe it to the most vulnerable among us to do all we can to implement the safety infrastructure improvements outlined in the Active

Transportation Plan. Planning Commission’s Charter-Bound Role Over Changes to Streets

While many communities that enact a Complete Streets Ordinance often create a new volunteer committee or task force to oversee its implementation, Lakewood already has a qualified body in the Planning Commission to take on the work. Lakewood’s Charter creates and provides structure to the Planning Commission, which is comprised of five talented volunteers with two appointed by City Council and three appointed by the Mayor. The City Engineer serves as a non-voting member. The Planning Commission is entrusted with many responsibilities under Section 7.2(g) of the Charter that require “mandatory referral” to the Planning Commission. That section outlines that “nor shall any street be opened, widened, narrowed, relocated or vacated, or its use changed for any purpose whatsoever ... unless it has first been submitted to [Planning Commission] for report and recommendation.” Considering the Planning Commission’s Charter-bound duty to be consulted on any changes to our streets and the goals of the Complete Streets Ordinance, they are well-suited and positioned to fill this advisory role. In addition to their expertise, the Planning Commission also has the capacity as they have gone from a high of 85 agenda items in 2017 to only have 37 in 2022 and 25 in 2023.

The Complete Streets Ordinance seeks to have Lakewood, before embarking on any transportation project, publicly come before the Planning Commission and show that the treatments called for in the Active Transportation Plan are in the planned improvements. If those treatments are not feasible, then the City must explain why to the Planning Commission. This process will provide structure and process to what the Charter already requires of the Planning Commission, increase public participation, safety, and ensure that Lakewood meets the goals outlined in the Active Transportation Plan. While this proposal creates a process to formalize what the Charter requires, it was not traditionally included in the City’s process of embarking on transportation projects. It will require established protocols to be modified to accommodate the public input and accountability structure of the Active Transportation Plan, but we could think of no better reason than the safety of our most vul-

nerable users of our streets to endeavor to make those changes.

Difference Between a Complete Streets Ordinance and a Complete Streets Policy

The Administration put forth a Resolution to implement a Complete Streets Policy after my colleagues and I introduced the Complete Streets Ordinance. City Council and the Administration agree on the goals of Complete Streets. However, there are notable advantages of seeking to accomplish the goals of Complete Streets through an ordinance as opposed to a policy. A policy does not have the accountability structure of a public meeting and, notably, does not allow for the Planning Commission to perform its Charter-bound duty to review all changes to our streets. Moreover, City Council acts through the Lakewood Codified Ordinances and not through policies. The Administration has indicated that the Complete Streets Ordinance would halt Lakewood’s progress on public works projects or usurp the expertise of dedicated and skilled employees of Lakewood. That is simply not true, not intended, and a misreading of the proposed Complete Streets Ordinance. Having one public meeting before the Planning Commission to allow for public input and a Planning Commission report and recommendation would not halt progress or usurp participation of skilled employees, it would create better and safer projects. That said, I look forward to working with the Administration, our colleagues, and the public on the Complete Streets Ordinance to reasonably refine the proposed process to create a safer and more equitable Lakewood.

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Rep. Skindell Announces Passage Of Capital Budget, Securing Transformative Investments In Cuyahoga County

by Joshua Meek

State Rep. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) today announced the passage of House Bill (HB) 2, the state's biennial state capital budget, in both the Ohio House of Representatives & Senate. The record-setting \$6.2B investment makes appropriations for state-owned infrastructure, colleges, universities, and school districts as well as other community projects.

In addition to the \$3.51B in traditional capital funds and a \$1.98B appropriation for ongoing projects, HB 2 includes an additional \$700M in state funds that will be directly invested into transformative community projects designed to generate further development & economic opportunity across the state. These state funds were able to be set aside due to the influx of federal relief dollars that helped to supplement the state's balance sheet during the most recent state operating budget.

Rep. Skindell helped secure \$17.5M in traditional capital budget funding for Cuyahoga County, as well as \$83M in one-time strategic funds.

"These historic investments in Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio thanks to the one-time Strategic Community Investment Fund are unprecedented," said Rep. Skindell. "These state dollars will be benefiting countless nonprofits, schools, parks,

and art initiatives. By investing in our local communities, we are ensuring that Ohio is the best place to do business or raise and grow a family."

Some of the over \$100M of funds will be distributed to several local entities, including:

\$2M to Irishtown Bend Park

\$1.5M to Cleveland Christian Home – Child Wellness Campus
\$800K to Saint Edwards High School
\$750K to Winterhurst Ice Arena
\$507.5K to Cleveland Habitat Building Project
\$400K to May Dugan Center
\$250K to Beck Center for the Arts

Additionally, HB 2 includes approximately \$1.6B of capital budget funding for the following state entities: \$600M to provide funding for K-12 school classroom facility projects overseen by OFCC.

continued on page 11

Lakewood Family Room Turns 30!

by Jessica Parker

The Lakewood Family Room has been a beacon of support and strength for families across our city and beyond for three decades. Originating from modest roots within a school cafeteria, evolving to establish its first dedicated space at St. James Child Care Center, then finding a nurturing haven at Lakewood United Methodist, and finally culminating in our cherished new permanent residence at Cove Community Center, our dedication to fostering an environment where families flourish has remained unwavering.

This year we will celebrate our mission and the individuals who shaped it with a gala celebration and fundraiser on Saturday, August 17th at 7 o'clock in the evening at Cove Community Center. TIMELESS TALES: Celebrating 30 years of the Lakewood Family Room will bring together friends, alumni,

and supporters for an evening of food, drinks, games, and auctions to raise funds for the Lakewood Family Room. This unique theme was chosen as a way to symbolize the timeless essence of the stories and memories created within the Lakewood Family Room over the past 30 years. Just as classic children's tales hold a special place in our hearts, so too do the experiences shared and bonds formed within our community.

We are seeking sponsors for the event, donations for the silent auction, and (most importantly) your personal stories of the impact the Lakewood Family Room had on your life. Please contact Program Manager, Jessica Parker at 216.529.5018 or jessica.parker@lakewoodoh.gov to contribute or for more information. Look for tickets to go on sale next month!

Jungle Adventure

by Naomi Schiffrik

Can you see a howler monkey screeching? Do you see a sloth hanging from a tree? Is that the aroma of tropical flowers wafting through the air? Do you feel soft grass under your feet? Join us on our Great Jungle Journey and use your imagination to see and feel all this and more.

Grace Lutheran Church, 13030 Madison Avenue, will be hosting a VBS camp week from Monday July 29 through Friday August 2. Each day we begin our adventure at 9 am in the chapel. After that our groups of green parrots, dart frogs, gorillas, toucans and butterflies will move from center

to center to hear a Bible story, learn some science, make a craft, have a snack, sing some songs and play some games. Parents can pick up their children at noon back in the chapel where we will have our closing devotions.

Vacation Bible School is open to 3 year olds through children having completed 4th grade. It is free and open to all. Please call 216-221-4959 or email nrschiffrik@yahoo.com to pre-register your child by July 15 so we are sure to have enough supplies for everyone.

What did the parrot say to the waitress after he ordered his food? "Just put it on my bill" Hope to see you soon!

Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church Community Service Center Update

By Pastor Quentin Purvis

The Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist Church thanks the community for their decades of support, providing clothing and household goods for our community service center.

We will be restructuring our cen-

ter, so we can partner with the city and other service organizations.

Effective July 3, 2024 our center will be closed. We are not accepting donations at this time.

We will post updates at an appropriate time. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

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Starr Gazer

with EVA STARR

July

ARIES: The Sun is shining on Ram's Mountain of home & family, the Ram can spread the word in a heart-beat, throw an impromptu party. Lady Jupiter is gracing your neighborhood with Luck, enjoy!

TAURUS: The Bull just hit the jackpot, it's time to come out of that Bullpen & celebrate, share the wealth with your siblings, & spread it throughout your community, be generous.

GEMINI: Lady Luck is sitting pretty in the Twin's sense of self. It's time to double up & share the green-backs with the less fortunate. What you give out comes back ten-fold!

CANCER: Jupiter is spreading some good luck behind the scenes this month for the Crab. However, it's your month to shine birthday girl/guy. Soak up the Sunshine and smile for the camera.

LEO: The Sun is working behind the scenes in the Lion/Lioness Jungle this month. However, Lady Luck is lighting up your house of friends like the 4 th of July. Mingle.

VIRGO: If you've been thinking about finding some work to bring in extra cash, there's no place like your friendship circle. Get thee to the neighborhood events & ask around.

LIBRA: The Sun is shining on Libra's house of Career, while Lady Luck is lighting up your 9th house of foreign affairs. Do I hear a trip overseas in the works? Say "Si."

SCORPIO: The Scorpion is all about transformation, this month extra moola may come from outside resources. The Sun is lighting up your house of foreign affairs, buy a ticket.

SAGITTARIUS: Aim that bow & arrow straight to the heart of a significant other this month Centaur. The Lucky stars are headed in that direction, transformation first though!

CAPRICORN: Jupiter is shining on the Goat's 6 th house of health. Enjoy the upswing! Meanwhile Lady Jupiter is putting the spotlight on your business/romantic relationships. Yahoo!

AQUARIUS: The Sun is shining on the unconventional Aquarian's fitness routine. Who said working out has to be boring? Lady Jupiter is making a visit to the house of romance.

PISCES: The Fish has all the luck in the world this month right at home in the pond. However, the Sun is working overtime to set the sky ablaze with its romantic sunsets. Solstice steps perhaps?

Eva Starr, the local astrologer. You can reach Starr at evastarr@evastarr.com

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COVE COMMUNITY CENTER



Save the Date: Annual Summer Resource Fair At Cove Community Center!

by Nancy Feighan

We're thrilled to invite you to the Lakewood Area Collaborative's FREE annual summer Resource Fair, generously sponsored by the Healthy Lakewood Foundation and The Warthogs M.C. Mark your calendars for:

Saturday, August 10, 2024
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Cove Community Center
12500 Lake Avenue
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Join us for a day of community connection and support! Discover local resources and services that can benefit you and your family. Plus, don't miss

out on FREE school supplies and lunch (while supplies last)!

This event is open to all members of the community. Whether you're looking for educational resources, health services, or simply want to connect with your neighbors, this fair is for you.

Spread the word and bring your friends and family along! Together, let's build a stronger, more connected community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact: lakewoodarea-collab@lakewoodoh.net

Meet Me At Cove: Bill McCarthy, Neighborhood Police Officer

by Nancy Feighan

For 22 years, Bill McCarthy has been a dedicated member of the City of Lakewood Police Department. Since January 2022, he has embraced the role of Neighborhood Police Officer, bringing his vast experience and warm personality to the community.

A U.S. Army veteran, Officer McCarthy joined Lakewood PD in 2000 and has served in many capacities. We like to think his current role at Cove Community Center is the most rewarding. His favorite part of

being at Cove is the daily interaction with community members of all ages, from infants to seniors. Known for his humor and friendly demeanor, Officer McCarthy has a knack for brightening anyone's day with just a greeting.

When off duty, Officer McCarthy loves the great outdoors, especially fishing. Next time you're at Cove, be sure to say hello to Officer Bill McCarthy!

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



Neighborhood Officer Bill McCarthy has a knack for brightening anyone's day with just a greeting.

Rep. Skindell Passes State Budget

continued from page 9

\$575M for the Public Works Commission to issue grants and loans to local governments for road and bridge projects, fresh water treatment and distribution systems, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, storm sewer systems, and solid waste disposal facilities.

\$415.7M for state-supported higher education institutions to con-

duct construction of new facilities, major renovations of existing facilities, or basic renovations at public universities and their regional campuses and community colleges.

HB 2 now heads to the governor's desk for his signature.

Joshua Meek is a Legislative Aide for Ohio State Representative Michael Skindell of Ohio House District 13.



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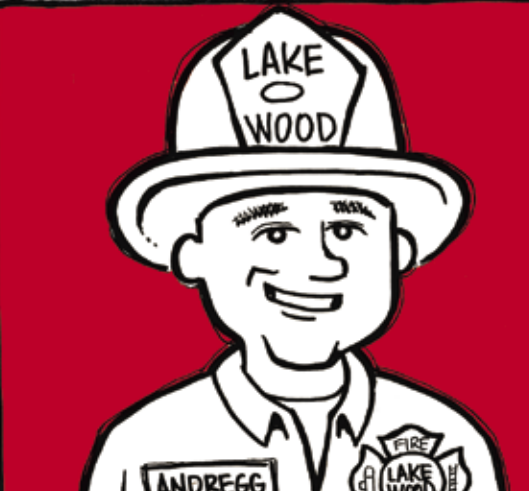
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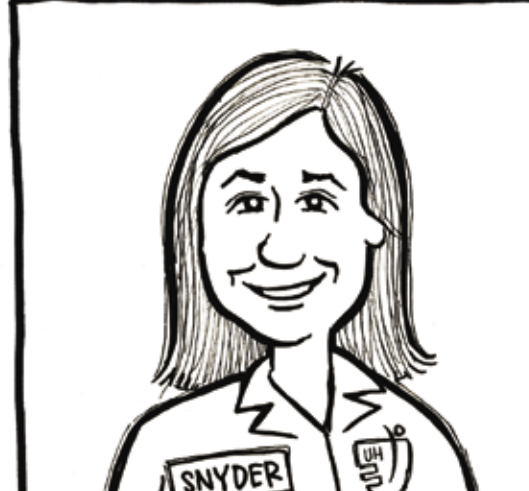
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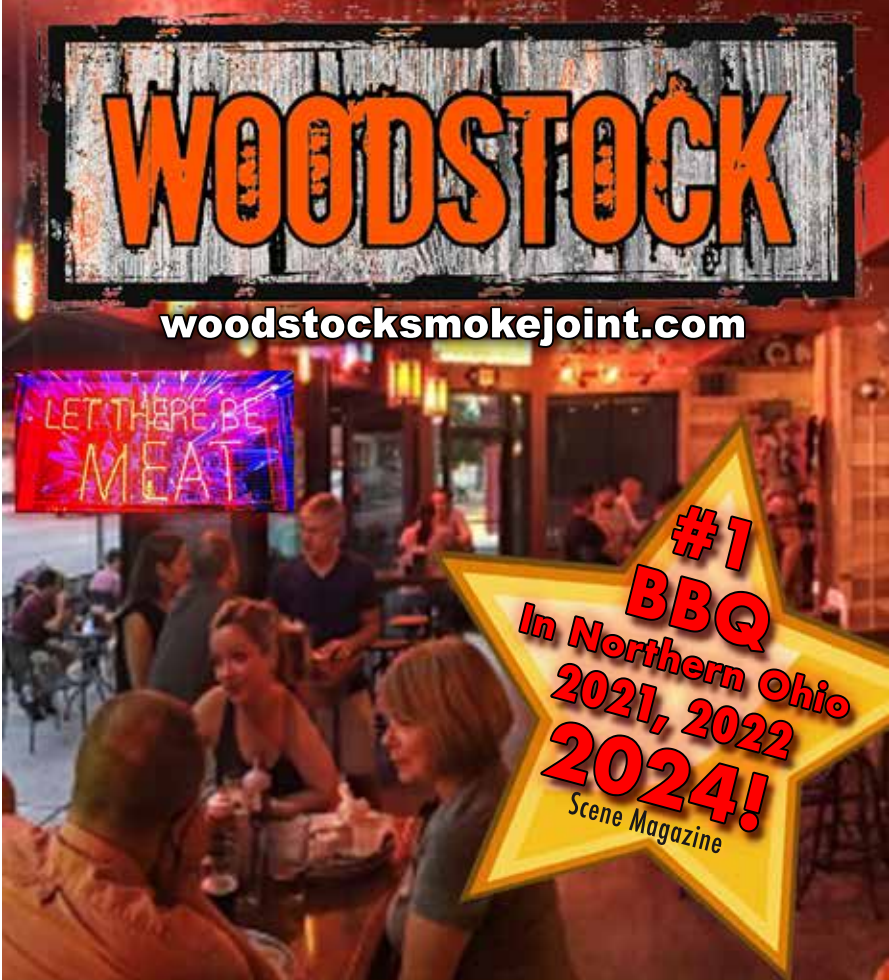
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