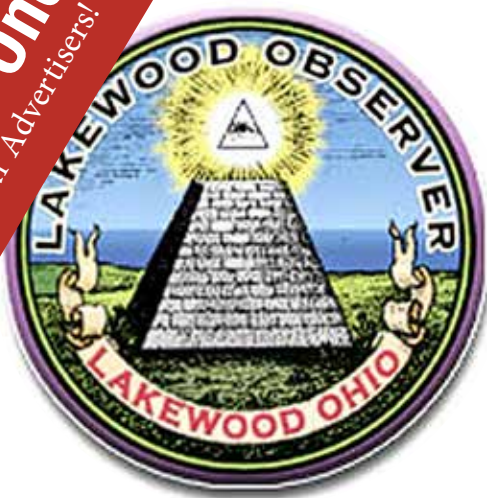


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- Nemo, “Finding Nemo”

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 16, August 21, 2024

The Night The Lights Went Out In Lakewood



Giant Eagle the day after the storm. Running on emergency power, they had already stripped their shelves of perishables. Seventy percent of Lakewood was without power for at least 2 days, most for almost a week. More photos of the damage on page eight.

LakewoodAlive Rolls Out Knowing Your Home Educational Series Schedule For Fall 2024

by Ava Olic

When it comes to your home, there's no better time than now to take proper care of this important investment, and LakewoodAlive is here to help you every step of the way.

LakewoodAlive announces the Fall 2024 schedule for this free educational series intended for homeowners looking to sustain and improve their homes inside and out. This series is designed to help homeowners learn about home maintenance best practices, give them the confidence to tackle necessary repairs and

Date	Workshop	Time	Location
Thur. August 8	Floor Refinishing	7-8:30 p.m.	Gerwitz Wood Floor
Sat. August 24	Plants, Birds & Your Backyard	10-11:30 a.m.	Lakewood Public Library
Thur. September 12	Recycle Right	7-8:30 p.m.	Lakewood Public Library
Thur. September 19	EV at Home	7-8:30 p.m.	Lakewood Public Library
Thur. October 3	Fireplaces & Chimneys	7-8:30 p.m.	The Hearth Shop
Thur. October 10	Pest & Rodent Control	7-8:30 p.m.	Lakewood Public Library
Sat. October 19	Rain Barrel Workshop	10-2 p.m.	The Lakewood Tool Box

improvements, and focus on sustainability.

Open to all homeowners in the greater Cleveland area, not just Lakewood residents, this series is intended for:

- Those considering a home DIY project
- Those planning to hire a contractor
- Those simply interested in better understanding how their home works

The second installment of 2024's home education program features a collection of seven workshops taking place from August through October. Led by industry experts, most of the workshops are in presentation format and those that can be held on location aim to offer a hands-on feel, providing homeowners step-by-step direction on how to complete specific repairs. The goal of this series is helping to remove the guesswork from daunting home repairs and improvement projects, getting the work done correctly the first time, and saving your precious time and money.

The 2024 Fall Series commences with “Floor Refinishing” on Thursday, August 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This kick-off workshop will focus on best practices for repairing and refinishing your hard-

continued on page 11

Look Inside Lakewood House Tour September 8

by Sue Finley

Tour Time '24 – Lakewood House Tour is back!

The Lakewood Historical Society invites you to discover some of the community's finest architecture during the Lakewood House Tour: Look Inside Lakewood, Sunday, September 8, from 1:00pm to 6:00pm.

Eight unique properties – seven homes and a house of worship - provide a glimpse into Lakewood's past. Celebrate some of the community's best examples of Craftsman, Tudor, Mid-century and Colonial architecture, each lovingly preserved and mindfully updated to offer contemporary conveniences. Yours to explore: A side-by-side double cleverly converted into a single family dwelling...a Detroit Avenue church that is home to



Lakewood's oldest continuously worshipping congregation...a Tudor with a twist and more. There's a style for everyone to discover and enjoy.

Touring opens the door to history, where meticulous craftsmanship and quality materials were uncompromising building standards. The featured homes, all of which were chosen by community nominations, were built between 1908 and 1953. Appreciate the seamless blending of old and new, where modern amenities complement and

continued on page 10

Lakewood Dog Park Swim Coming To Becks Pool

by Karen Karp

Got dogs? Got water? Mix the two together and you have the ingredients for a tail-wagging good time. Join Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP) for the 2024 Lakewood Dog Park Swim at Becks Pool, 13201 Madison Avenue, on Monday, August 26, 2024, from 5-7 PM.

You are invited to attend the most anticipated event on Lakewood's canine calendar. Round up the four-legged family members, grab a couple of towels, a leash, and head for the pool.

Cost for admission to the annual fundraiser, now in its nineteenth year, is \$8 for 1 dog and \$7 for each additional dog, cash only. Proceeds will benefit FLDP, the all-volunteer organization that works with the City of Lakewood to care for the Lakewood Dog Park and raises funds for dog park improvements.

All dogs must be licensed and up to date on their vac-



cinations. Owners are responsible for their dog's safety and are expected to clean up after them. FLDP will bring the pick-up bags, please use them.

All human guests must sign a waiver. You will be in the water faster if you print and fill out the form in advance. On August 26th, turn in the waiver at the desk when you arrive.

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1691759868/lakewoodcityschoolsorg/fkq5vrvurwekoikquoz/dog-swimwaiver.pdf>

Karen Karp is President of Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, Inc.

New Teacher Luncheon



Thank you to the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for another great New Teacher Luncheon on Friday! So wonderful to have the business community embrace and support our new educators every year! It's the Lakewood Way!

Due To Skatepark Construction Lakewood Park Amenities To Close After Labor Day

from City of Lakewood

Due to the construction at the Lakewood Park Skatepark, the following Lakewood Park amenities will be closed shortly after Labor Day:

- Skatepark
 - Tennis Courts
 - Basketball Courts
 - Parking spaces adjacent to basketball courts/skatepark.
- Tennis players seeking an

alternate place to play can visit the tennis courts at Lakewood High School located next to the stadium, Kaufmann Park, Webb Park, and Merl-Bunts Park.

Alternate basketball court options include Madison Park and Wagar Park.

The skatepark construction is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2025.

AROUND TOWN

Church of the Ascension Fourth Annual Car Show

by Susan O'Donnell

Church of the Ascension Fourth Annual Car Show

Sunday, August 25th 10:00am to 2:00 pm

(Rain date Sunday, September 8th, 10:00am-2:00pm)

13216 Detroit Ave., Lakewood

Join us to celebrate our 149-year church history with the beauty of historical and collector cars. Church of the Ascension has served the community of Lakewood since 1875. Last year the car show hosted forty unique and beautiful collector cars! There was something for everyone to enjoy: one-of-a-kind cars, good food, music and raffle baskets.

One of the premier collectors is Jeff Fisher who grew up on Wyandotte in Lakewood, served in the Vietnam War, and was awarded the Purple Heart. Jeff is not a member of the church, but just one of many collectors who joins us each year.

Jeff shows his 1963 Plymouth Savoy Superstock 426 Max Wedge. It is a tribute to a factory racer which in 1963 you could buy from the dealer. His car has won numerous awards including the Mopar National Car Show.

There is a ten-dollar car exhibi-



tor fee. Dash plaques are given at registration. Exhibitor trophies and Fan Favorite trophies are awarded. Guest admission is free. Lunch is available along with Raffle Baskets and a Fifty-Fifty Raffle too. Thank you to our Lakewood community sponsors this year: Angelos Pizza, Bruces Automotive, Georgetown Restaurant, Knapp's Auto, The Melt and Sweet Designs Chocolatier.

We provide three monthly community meals, four community grilled hamburger-hotdog dinners in the front yard, and community Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners as well as six AA meetings weekly. This is our mission at Church of the Ascension. ALL money raised goes directly to the church to support the continuing cost of maintaining our food programs as well as supporting those who are overcoming alcohol and drug addiction.

From Oct 7 thru Oct 21

Finding Lakewood Scavenger Hunt Returns

by Laura Hazen

Participants of last year's hunt had so much fun, we're doing it again. This year's contest will run from October 7 through October 21. Keep an eye on the Lakewood Ohio Division of Aging Facebook page and The Lakewood Observer, and watch for flyers around town for how to sign up. We hope to start taking registrations early in September. Then get ready to scour the city to find the features/ places around town, provided in photos on October 7. Correctly identify all the locations to be entered into a drawing for prizes. All proceeds benefit the Lakewood Division of Aging.



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New Scoreboard

by Christine Gordillo

Crews have been working hard this week installing a new scoreboard at the First Federal Lakewood Stadium!

Get ready for a more electrifying game-day experience as we light up the field with enhanced visuals like live and recorded video clips, real-time scores/stats, animations and graphics.

Stay tuned for pictures of the finished product and make sure to come out to show your Ranger Pride at our upcoming home games for football and soccer.



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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 **Lakewood Observer**

Upcoming Submission Deadline		Publish Date	
Friday, August 30, 2024	Friday, September 13, 2024	Wednesday, September 4, 2024	Wednesday, September 18, 2024

PUBLISHER	EDITOR IN CHIEF	ASSOCIATE EDITORS	ADVERTISING
Debra O'Bryan	Betsy Voinovich	Emily Kompier	Sales Manager 216.339.2531

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Isn't it time you joined this effort to report community news while preserving our history?

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Storm Recovery

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

As we are all well aware, Lakewood recently experienced an extremely difficult week following the touchdown of multiple tornadoes in Northeast Ohio, including one in our immediate neighboring city, Rocky River. With tens of thousands losing power and cellphone service here – some losing services for close to a week – it was a time of extreme hardship for many. But it was also a time when we saw the true spirit of community in Lakewood in action.

I want to thank and commend so many of you who went out of your way to check on neighbors, offer help and supplies, donate money and goods to our Human Services department, and just generally pitch in during this time of need. The Healthy Lakewood Foundation stepped up with a \$10,000 grant to the City which we used to provide gift cards for those of limited means (mainly seniors) to replace spoiled food and Trish Rooney and Lakewood Community Services Center were instrumental in leading an effort for SNAP recipients to apply for replacement benefits. I also must commend the work done by our various departments to swiftly and continuously provide critical public services over the past week.

Our police and fire emergency responders handled crises across the city in real time, but also took on key additional work such as delivering thousands of bottles of water to high-rises and obtaining emergency oxygen tanks for health challenged residents. Our Public Works team members have been doggedly making repairs and cleaning up the storm fallout. And some of our most important efforts have been performed by our Human Services Department staffers who worked many extra hours to keep Cove Community Center open for those in need of cooling, food and beverages, electricity, and WIFI. Our social

workers also performed daily check-ins for our seniors who live in the multiple high rises and other senior residences across Lakewood. With additional support from a number of local Lakewood businesses, hundreds of meals were provided to those in need. I am so proud of our frontline city workers for rising to the occasion in a time of great need and working many hours to get the job done. They are true public servants.

Outside of Lakewood, I want to give a special thank you to Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne for his leadership in declaring the storm a county-wide emergency and for teaming with State Senator Nickie Antonio and State Representative Mike Skindell in helping to push the State of Ohio to do the same. This was a key effort that succeeded. I also must acknowledge Governor DeWine for his decision to ultimately declare a state emergency for our county and seven others. This was an important designation that will allow Lakewood and our fellow affected communities to defray our costs incurred in responding to the storm fallout. The City will be working to take full advantage of these potential resources to underwrite our costs from the storm.

As we all continue to address the aftereffects of the storm, please consider and consult the list below that may provide you with key information and resources.

Lost Food/SNAP Benefits: Many in our community, especially seniors on a limited income, benefit from SNAP benefits, and lost food during the power outage. You may be eligible to apply for reimbursement, possibly up to a month’s worth of benefits. Our team in Human Services may be able to help with information about the application process. If interested, please call

Human Services at 216.529.5061.

Tree Limbs/Branches: If you are still working to deal with tree branches and limbs that fell from the storm, you can call the Refuse Division (216.252.4322) or Streets/Forestry Division (216.529.6810) for pickup of fallen tree material that you have placed on your treelawn.

Damage to Your Home/Building: The Building and Housing Department (216.529.6270) is performing inspections of damaged homes and can provide city documentation showing the need for repairs. While the city does not provide engineering analysis on structural damage, the paperwork provided by Building and Housing may be useful to homeowners when filing claims with their insurance providers. You can also find a list of contractors, searchable by service type, who are certified to perform work in Lakewood: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/housing-building>.

Beware “Storm Chaser” Scam Artists: After natural disasters, dishonest “storm chasers” and out-of-town contractors may knock on your door or call you to solicit business. These individuals often lack proper licensing, experience, and qualifi-

cations, and take money without delivering on their promises. The City advises you to be cautious with any such aggressive solicitations. You can read more about how to handle “storm chasers” here: <https://www.bbb.org/all/natural-disasters/protect-yourself-from-storm-chasers>

Please Support Local Businesses: Many of our local Lakewood small businesses suffered losses as a result of the storm. The City encourages residents if possible to patronize our local shops and restaurants and help them keep dollars local as they reopen now that power has been restored. The City is also thankful to those businesses that had power who donated food and resources to those in need.

Sign Up for “ReadyNotify” System: In the past year, The City of Lakewood joined the Cuyahoga County Ready-Notify System, which allows us to send important messages to the community on a mass scale. ReadyNotify was extremely helpful in communicating with residents to keep them updated during the past week, and the City encourages everyone to register for this service. You can do so here: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFFD1901E551>.

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August 26, 2024 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM

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Please RSVP to Heather
at (440) 941-3380 by
Aug. 21st.

Registration at 11:45AM
Event at 12:00PM
Tours to follow!



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming Events

by Lisa Calfee

Meet The Author- Playhouse Square and the Cleveland Renaissance

by John Vacha
August 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Shortly after World War I, five theaters were constructed within a two-block radius in downtown Cleveland, which became known collectively as Playhouse Square. By the end of the 1960s, urban decline had darkened four of their marquees with demolition to follow, until a group of like-minded Clevelanders united to save the Square. Its rejuvenation became a catalyst for Cleveland's larger comeback from postindustrial decline. Join John Vacha as he discusses the first book to give a complete account of this history, from the Square's 1921 opening to the triumphant reopening in 2022. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Film- The Postman Always Rings Twice (1946)

Directed by Tay Garnett
Sunday, September 8, 2024
2:00 p.m. (93 minutes)
Main Library Auditorium
Nick Smith (Cecil Kellaway), the middle-aged owner of a roadside diner, hires a drifter, Frank Chambers (John Garfield), to work at his restaurant. Frank quickly begins an affair with Nick's beautiful young wife, Cora (Lana Turner), and the two conspire to kill Nick and seize his assets. When they succeed, local prosecutor Kyle Sackett becomes suspicious but is unable to build a solid case. The couple soon realize, however, that no misdeed goes unpunished.

Knit & Lit Book Club:

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
September 17, 2024: The Power by Naomi Alderman

Booked For Murder Book Club:

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Multipurpose Room
September 19, 2024: Past Imperfect by Joshua Cohen



photo by Jim Crawford

The library did not escape storm damage, with the main losing two trees.

LETTERS



Blinded By The Light

by Jeff Fritz
Wasn't too thrilled with the decision to move two of the Library Porch Concerts to Madison Park. Even less thrilled to squint into the sun while trying to listen to the music. As I recall, the first Solstice event also had the musicians with their backs to the sun, but someone had the good sense to position them with their backs facing North the next year, and in all succeeding years. Maybe Madison Park can find a solution by next year. Otherwise keep all concerts at the Library.

Robert Dintaman, Etc.

Please require those running for political offices in Lakewood to indicate their party affiliation if the office would be a party associate political office. It is clear that those of us who are concerned with the gerrymandered Republican dominated legislature in Ohio are looking for alternatives to anyone who may continue that dominance.
Many thanks,
Tom Fuller

Compassion Is Not Partisan

by Ronald Slezak
I know this will sound odd. Most people have been comparing this moment in history to LBJ's withdrawal speech in '68 but I couldn't help but think of Richard Nixon's resignation speech in '74. The circumstances couldn't be more different but the personal anguish is the same. I remember reading "Nixon, the Final Days" years ago. I was truly moved reading about Nixon's emotional turmoil and pain when it became clear that his lifelong dream was over. I couldn't imagine what it would be like to have everyone you love and respect telling you it's time to go. Joe Biden, like Nixon before him, realized that it was that time and that he could count on the love of his family to carry him through the moment. The lesson here is that, regardless of your own personal feelings towards someone, we should all be able to feel compassion for anyone suffering a loss and doing what's right, no matter how they arrived at that moment.

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

The Legacy Of Pitcher Mia-Carroll-Greeves

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

“Don’t get bitter, get better.” Those are the exact words that Mia-Carroll-Greeves’ mothers Kelly and Maureen used when her original travel softball team split off and didn’t invite her, and a few others, to come along. “We don’t want you anymore,” were NOT the words spoken to her, but in essence that was the message. Lakewood’s all-time leader in strikeouts and wins, a two-time all-Cuyahoga County pitcher, a Division I signee (Valparaiso), one of the greatest softball players in school history, was in essence left behind. It’s one of the best things that ever happened to her.

Although Mia didn’t need more motivation to work on her game, she got some anyway, using this development to further fuel her desire to become a great pitcher. She ended up on Team Ohio White, a fabulous travel team with a knowledgeable, demanding but supportive coach (Dale Dawson) and hard charging teammates that embraced her. Pardon the cliché, but the slamming of one door did indeed open up a more fitting one, and Mia walked right on through, determined to get better, and without bitterness. It worked.

Those Lakewood High School Records--539 Strikeouts, 1.4 career ERA--didn’t just materialize, but came mostly from the “get better, not bitter” attitude. Mia is not tall, not fast-of-foot (actually, she’s slow) and is not naturally very strong. She made herself stronger through 6 am workouts in North Ridgeville (before Lakewood had its current strength and condition-



ing program) and worked relentlessly on the craft of pitching. The one athletic gift bestowed upon her was excellent coordination. So, when she and some friends from Roosevelt Elementary School came upon softball (specifically pitching) in our 10U Emerald Necklace League--she found her niche.

By the time freshman Mia took the mound for the Lakewood Rangers in 2021, through endless hours of practice and competition, she had developed a changeup, a rise ball, a curveball, a drop and of course a fastball. Lacking height and natural strength, her velocity, while decent, has not yet reached an elite level. She relies on deception—keeping hitters off balance with her vast pitching repertoire—to get her outs. She lost some, won more, and with each passing year got better.

The arrival of Mia at LHS coincided with that of Head Coach Lucas

Yousko, a patient program-builder who has been instrumental in establishing the culture of "Mudita"—celebrating the success of others. The Rangers have fun, are respectful to their opponents, and won more games than they lost over the past four years, after several seasons with fewer than 3 total wins. Mia and Donnie Mikuluk were this years’ NFHS Excellence in Sportsmanship Award winners. Mudita.

This past May, Mia ended her Lakewood Rangers career in style, hurling a 6-0 victory over Brookside, striking out 13, and pacing the offense with a grand-slam. When the final out was recorded—on a grounder to sophomore sister Gaby (on her birthday)—cheers erupted, but were soon

replaced by tears that celebrated, and lamented, Mia’s now concluded high school career.

The LHS softball program is in good hands thanks not only to Mia but also all the coaches, players and parents who have invested in the program. (The Tuleta’s have been mainstays.) Next up on the mound is junior Ella Bower, fiercely dedicated to her sport with a tireless work ethic (Sound familiar?) and ready to build on an already impressive high school career.

Ella, like Mia, was chosen to be part of the Student Athlete Leadership Team (SALT), and has visited middle and elementary schools to encourage participation in sports and working hard in school. Going forward, the legacy of Ella, Mia, Emily Potoczak and Maddy Magda (the three graduating seniors) will include not just their play on the field, but their influence on those who follow.

Mia’s high school journey is now over, but all the smiles, high fives, rise balls and words of encouragement that you’ll see and hear at the North Lot are the legacy of Mia and her family, coaches and teammates. Get better, not bitter. Long Live Lakewood

Dr. Charles Greanoff is a 1977 LHS graduate. He teaches APUS History, Native American studies and Psychology at LHS.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Harrison Lands \$13K Grow Ohio Grant

by Christine Gordillo

Harrison Elementary has earned a Grow Ohio Grant that will provide the school \$13,465 to implement a comprehensive program that will educate students about agriculture and food-related career opportunities and give them an opportunity to grow their own food at school.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce grant will allow the Harrison community to engage with several local food producer organizations throughout the year:

Fork Farms - Will provide the school with a curriculum to learn about agriculture and food-related occupations through quarterly school assemblies.

Ohio City Farm run by Source: Cleveland - Over 50 Harrison English language learners will visit this non-profit run by refugees to see refugees in our community engaged in running a fully functional farm only miles from



where they live. Will also explore using Ohio City Farm produce for USDA school lunches.

Rust Belt Riders/Tilthe Soil - Will provide soil for the school's Green Team garden projects.

Cleveland Botanical Gardens - Green Team and EL students will visit and learn about plants and plant-

related occupations.

The grant will also provide the money to buy an indoor hydroponic Flex Farm. The fruits and vegetables grown indoors will be grown specifically for use in the Harrison cafeteria to be served in school lunches, along with the produce grown in the school's outdoor garden. The fruits and vegetables grown at Harrison will also be

used by the culinary program at West Shore Career-Tech for their Ranger Cafe at Lakewood High School. The Harrison Green Team students will have the opportunity to dine at the Ranger Cafe to see how their food was used and have a chance to interact with the chefs, culinary students and the district's dietitian.

Harrison Principal Sabrina Crawford is thrilled for her students.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunities and experiences this grant will bring to our Harrison students. This grant will open the doors for all students to truly be exposed to the world of agriculture, which is the top contributor to Ohio's economy," Crawford said. "The amount of hands-on learning that will come from this program will be carried with them into their adulthood. They will likely gain an appreciation for fresh produce and become empowered to take ownership of their food intake with an understanding of the health benefits!"

Neighborhood Opportunity Grant Cycle Opens August 19

by Sharon Schuld

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation is excited to announce that it is accepting online application requests for Neighborhood Opportunity Grants funding starting on Monday August 19, 2024.

Neighborhood Opportunity Grants support hyperlocal community-based projects and initiatives that increase engagement, creativity, and connection. Funding is for projects in Lakewood that:

Build and support community engagement through activities, events, programming, and/or resource sharing.

Address one or more social determinants of health.

Advance our understanding of the needs of community members through innovative and creative projects.

Neighborhood Opportunity Grants funding ranges between \$1,000 – \$7,500. The grant application, along with additional steps, support and resources, can be found on our website at healthylakewoodfoundation.org.

HLF staff support is also available on our site.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, September 20, 2024, with funding awards announced in November. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit HLF's website.

Additionally, the Systems-Change Grants LOI is currently open until August 30, 2024. This funding seeks to identify, learn, and address upstream conditions that impact health outcomes and create disparities for Lakewood residents. We welcome preliminary conversations for this process and more information can be found on our website.

Annual Dog Swim

Becks Pool August 26th, 5-7 pm
Becks pool (Madison Park) closes on August 25
Foster pool (Lakewood Park) closes September 2



New booklet will be mailed out on August 16th.
Registration for residents starts August 20th
Non resident registration starts September 3rd.





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LAKEWOOD CARES

Service, Community Hallmarks Of H2O Camp

by Christine Gordillo

Since its inception in 1994, Lakewood's H2O (Help to Others) Summer Service Camp has been a beacon of community service and youth empowerment. The camp, part of the broader H2O program established in 1993, offers middle school students a transformative experience focused on volunteer service and community building. Each year, the camp runs four sessions, each spanning eight days, where campers engage in various service activities that include everything from environmental conservation projects to organizing a community-wide Clothing Drive & Super Sale.

The mission of H2O Summer Service Camp is clear: to connect Lakewood youth with opportunities to serve their community, nurture a culture of kindness, and help them develop the skills needed to become engaged citizens. The camp is grounded in the



belief that through service, education, and reflection, young people can grow into individuals who are not only aware of the world around them but are also empowered to make meaningful contributions to it.

Throughout the camp, participants work with local organizations such as the Greater Cleveland Foodbank, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Lakewood Earth and Food. These partnerships allow campers to experience a variety of service sites, where they can learn about and actively contribute to important community efforts. Each day ends with Circle Time, a reflective session where campers and counselors share stories and insights, further reinforcing the camp's theme and mission.

What sets H2O Summer Service

Camp apart is its inclusive approach—camp activities do not require specific talents or abilities, making the experience accessible to a wide range of students. The camp's focus on teamwork, relationship-building, and community connection ensures that every participant feels valued and capable of making a difference.

The impact of the camp extends beyond the campers themselves. The local community benefits from the

consistent support of enthusiastic volunteers who contribute to various projects. The camp's flagship event, the Clothing Drive & Super Sale, is a highly anticipated community event that draws hundreds of shoppers.

According to H2O Coordinator Emmie Hutchison, the most valuable takeaway for campers is the realization that collaboration and caring for others can lead to meaningful change. They leave the camp not only with new skills and experiences but also with a deeper understanding of their ability to influence the world around them positively.

"I think (camp shows them) there is a way to think about the world that values collaboration and caring for one another and our environment," Hutchison said.

The H2O Summer Service Camp exemplifies how students embody the Vision of a Lakewood Ranger by practicing empathy and collaboration to create lasting, positive change within their community



Tyson And Banana Looking For Forever Homes!

by Kara Vlach-Lasher

Tyson (ID #3482) is still looking for his people! Come on down to Lakewood Animal Shelter and meet this lovable lug, and play with him. You'll see how he just wants to go home with you! How can you resist this face??

Milk Dud (ID #3502) who was featured last week is still at the Shelter.

Banana (ID #3500) is ready to "split" from the Lakewood Animal Shelter, if you know what we're sayin'. She is a very sweet and friendly year-old girl. She loves being affectionate and curious about new visitors! Stop by the Shelter and meet Banana!

Come visit these and other animals at the Lakewood Animal Shelter



Tyson (ID #3482)

and other resources to the Lakewood Animal Shelter for the quality care of abandoned, orphaned, sick and injured animals. In addition, we promote adoptions and advocate for animal welfare through community outreach and education. Visit us at www.cclas.org

CCLAS is building a community where all our companion animals receive appropriate care and are treated with empathy, kindness and respect.

Kara Vlach-Lasher is the President of CCLAS.



Banana (ID #3500)

- 1299 Metropark Drive, just past the Dog Park. (216) 529-5020

Animal Shelter Hours: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Saturday, closed on Sunday.

This message is shared by the Citizens Committee for Lakewood's Animals and Shelter (CCLAS). CCLAS is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization committed to safeguarding and enhancing the lives of Lakewood's companion animals. We provide financial assistance



Milk Dud (ID #3502)

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AUGUST STORM



The storm rolls in, not that different from most of our summer storms.



When it left, 4 tornadoes possibly more, had left Lakewood and much of Cuyahoga County without power.



Not just Lakewood's trees took hits, many telephone poles.



Lakewood, a city of trees, had many large trees near the lake that were taken down by the 85mph winds, and or the tornado skirting the coast.



While the power was out, Lakewood Postal workers sorted the mail in the parking lot.



Massive tree falls on house, on Lake Ave.



Even with the amount of destruction Lakewood took, we were far luckier than many in this storm.

LAKEWOOD’S FINEST TREE CONTEST

Time To Vote For Our Most Distinguished Trees

by Debra O'Bryan

As we were going to press last issue, we had no idea that Lakewood was going to be hit by a tornado(s). We lost power and a great number of our trees to that brief, strong storm on August 6th. Many of our massive trees fell, and many more lost significant limbs. We're grateful no one was hurt. Property can always be repaired and trees can be replanted, and should be. Please consider planting a tree on your property this year!

The Tree Advisory and Educa-

tion Board collaborates with the City of Lakewood on urban tree policies and promotes the City's tree programs. The City of Lakewood is offering discounted pricing for tree planting through their preferred vendor to increase our canopy. To order a tree contact: The Greenleaf Group at 330-441- 6326 or email greenleafgroup@hotmail.com to sign up.

Here are the photos of the nominated trees for 2024. It's time to pick our #1 and the top three runners-up.

To better judge, it's always best to

go see them in person. A couple are in the backyards of private property. Do not trespass. Always view from the public streets and/or sidewalks.

To vote, write down the addresses of your favorite trees from the photos below. Go to our homepage and click on Daily Question. Enter up to four trees by typing in the address associated with the photo. Please leave your email. If no email is provided the vote will not count. Votes will be accepted now through September 2nd. You can follow the QR code to vote or you may

email me your choices at: production@lakewoodobserver.com

The nominators, along with the homeowners of the top four trees with the most votes will win a prize(s). Winners will be announced in the September 4th issue of the Lakewood Observer. We heartily thank our sponsors for providing prizes: India Garden, Lakewood Garden Center, Lakewood Hardware, Carabel Beauty Salon, and Woodstock BBQ.



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13955 Clifton



1188 St. Charles



1466 Waterbury



1276 Brockley



1602 Lewis



1486 Lakewood



1581 Arthur



1504 Grace



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Spooky Pooch Season!

from LakewoodAlive

Registration for the 17th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade is now open! Join us on Saturday, October 12 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Madison Park. Festivities kickoff at 12:30 with the parade stepping off at 2 p.m.

The event is free to attend, but registration is required to march in the parade. Save money and pre-register online today! Pre-registration is \$15 per dog and day-of registration is \$20 per dog. Multiple dog discounts are available with pre-registration only (Hoomans are free!)

Thank you to our generous Spooky Pooch Parade sponsors, whose support makes it all possible!

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Legal Aid Can Help With Employment-Related Legal Issues

by **Tonya Sams**

Millions of people report to work every day and have no idea what rights they have as employees. If their rights are violated, they may have to find an attorney. Employment Law attorneys focus on many work-related issues such as discrimination, wage theft, workers' compensation, expungements, unsafe working environments

and more.

"Employees have the right to be treated fairly without being discriminated against. That's the most important right," said Matt Alden, a Senior Attorney in Legal Aid's Economic Justice Practice Group. "If they're a member of a union, they might have additional rights over and above what nonunion members have."

Employment discrimination occurs when the employer makes some type of decision about a person's employment by using unlawful criteria. This could be based on race, sex, religious beliefs, age or disability. It also includes discrimination against veterans and those who have filed for bankruptcy or unemployment.

Workers who have been discriminated against or have even faced retaliation for speaking out, have options on how they should address it. If an employee is part of a union, they should contact their union representative to determine if a grievance can be filed. They should also look in the employee handbook to learn what the company states about discrimination complaints. An employee, whether union or nonunion, can also file a charge of discrimination on their own with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

There are other things that employees can do to protect themselves if they believe that their rights have been violated. They should keep track of the dates that the incidents occurred and keep all paperwork, texts or emails from their employer.

"This will help you later because sometimes you may not realize that you have a case. Your lawyer will ask you about incidents that may have happened six months or a year ago. And

if you've written it down, it's a lot easier to go back and remember the full details," said Matt.

Matt suggests that even if you don't believe that you have enough evidence to prove your case, that you should still get an attorney. Depending on the type of employment case it is, especially in wage theft cases, many attorneys will do it on a contingency fee basis. This means that it will not cost the employee anything to have a consultation and have an attorney handle their case. In some cases, the law provides a provision that, if the employee's case is successful, the employer has to pay the attorney.

"Two lawyers can look at the same case and sometimes come up with two different opinions on how strong it is, so it's always worth it to get another opinion. You may have claims that you don't even know about," he said. "Another lawyer might think that you've got a viable claim that's very strong and you may not. You just never know, especially if you're not a lawyer. You're not trained to know what to look for."

If you are experiencing employment related issues, Legal Aid may be able to help! To apply for assistance, call 888-817-3777, or complete an online intake 24/7 at lasclv.org.

Tonya Sams is the Development & Communications Manager at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Ohio Cyclist Laws + Protecting Yourself After A Bike Crash With P.H.O.N.E.



by **Kenneth Knabe**

Nobody, whether cyclist OR motorist, likes to think about being involved in a bike crash. As cyclists, it's best to have a plan for coping with a bike crash caused by a careless driver. And one thing is for certain for us cyclists – the at-fault driver's insurance company is NOT on our side!

I created the acronym P.H.O.N.E. to outline important steps to take if you are unfortunately in a bike crash:

P is for POLICE: Call the police and INSIST on a report! NO exceptions! The police report is your "official record" of what happened and where. Always demand a police report!

H is for HEALTH: Seek immediate medical attention if injured. Take pictures of your cuts, abrasions, and

injuries.

O is for OBSERVE: Get driver's and witness's info/insurance/license plate and where on the road the crash occurred.

N is for NOTIFY: Call an experienced personal injury lawyer, preferably one who also specializes in bike cases; adjusters are insurance pros – hire a pro for yourself! Do not talk with the driver's insurance adjuster. If the adjuster calls you (usually within 48 hours of a crash), simply obtain the adjuster's name, company, and claim number and then refer them to your attorney without providing any other information.

E is for EVIDENCE: Photograph the scene and the driver's license plate along with ALL bodily/bike component/accessory damage – KEEP these items and don't wash anything OR fix your bike until your separate property damage claim is settled.

As detailed in my book "Cycling Rights: Second Edition" (available at Lakewood Library and on Bike Cleveland's website), complimentary laminated bike cards with the above information plus favorable bike laws are available at Knabe Law Firm. Feel free to stop in or give us a call and we'll get one of these "Cycling Arsenal" cards out in the mail to you.

Enjoy your summer by riding safely and legally!

Ken Knabe is Greater Cleveland's Bike Attorney, promoting cycling safety and representing cyclists injured by careless drivers. 14222 Madison Avenue Lakewood, OH 44107 (216) 228-7200

Look Inside Lakewood House Tour September 8

continued from page 1

honor architectural integrity, making these residences true showcases.

Can't wait to tour? You can start the House Tour weekend a day early at the Patron Party, Saturday, September 7th. The party will be hosted in a home not featured on Sunday's tour – a Mid-century property with commanding lake views so it's a great opportunity to visit yet another lovely Lakewood residence. Enjoy fine food while you mingle with friends and plan your next day's exploration.

Tickets for the Patron Party are \$100 and include Sunday House Tour

tickets.

Tickets to the House Tour are \$30. You can also purchase online at lakewoodhistory.org and at Geiger's (cash or check only) or at the Historical Society's Haber Center (Monday through Friday from 9:00am-1:00pm)

The House Tour committee would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support including: Avenue Home, Lucien Realty/Berkshire Hathaway agents Chris Bergin and Eric Lowrey, Cleveland Home Title, First Federal Lakewood, Geiger's, Troy Bratz/Keller Williams Elevate, Rozi's, and Slife Heating and Cooling.

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Deluxe	\$12.50	\$15.25	\$20.00	\$23.50
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Chicken	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$4.75
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$2.00	2.50	3.50	4.50

Available items: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Green & Red Bell Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Beef, Pineapple, Jalapeño Peppers Special Toppings: Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Tomato, Broccoli, and *Chicken

LAKEWOODALIVE

LakewoodAlive Rolls Out

Knowing Your Home Educational Series Schedule For Fall 2024

continued from page 1

wood floors, covering each step of the process, as well as discussing wood flooring installation. Join us at Gerwitz Wood Floor, located at 12226 Triskett Rd.

Following the first workshop is “Plants, Birds & Your Backyard,” on Saturday, August 24, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Avenue). Join Cleveland Metroparks naturalist Beth Whiteley from Rocky River Nature Center to learn about making mindful and envi-

ronmentally friendly choices for your garden and attracting more birds to your yard.

“Recycle Right” is third in the series, taking place on Thursday, September 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library. Join Carin Miller, Education Specialist from Cuyahoga Recycles, to learn the dos and don’ts for recycling right in Cuyahoga County and what you can do to make a meaningful difference in your community. Get answers to questions about what can and can’t be recycled as well as how to recycle cer-

tain household items.

Continuing the series, “EV at Home” will be on Thursday, September 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library. Join Electric Vehicle enthusiasts from Drive Electric Northeast Ohio, to learn all about EV’s and their benefits. You’ll explore the world of electric cars, chargers, and equipment, as well as myth busting, requirements, and helpful safety tips.

Next up is “Fireplaces & Chimneys” at The Hearth Shop in Westlake (27303 Center Ridge Road) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 3. Experts from The Hearth Shop will share their knowledge on fireplace and chimney maintenance and repairs. This workshop will cover topics such as tuck pointing, flashing, and chimney repairs. Additionally, you will learn about how to reopen a blocked off chimney flue, how modern products can make older fireplaces functional again, and more.

The season rolls on with “Pest & Rodent Control” on Thursday, October 10 at Lakewood Public Library from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Shawn Payne, owner of Lakewood Exterminating, will be sharing his tips and tricks for dealing with common household pests. He will discuss how to identify pests in and

around your home as well as protecting your home from critters.

Finally, the “Rain Barrel Workshop”—led by LakewoodAlive’s Tool Box Coordinator Matt Clark—will wrap up our Knowing Your Home series on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The only workshop this fall that is not free, the \$60 fee provides attendees with a rain barrel and installation kit which they will take home with them, as well as in-person step-by-step instructions for set up. Hosted at the Lakewood Tool Box (located at 13000 Athens Avenue, behind the Screw Factory Building off of Halstead Avenue) there are only 10 spots available so sign up before they’re gone!

Visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome or call (216) 521-0655 to learn more and reserve your spot at any of these workshops.

Now in its eleventh year, LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home” series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Our workshop series is generously supported by: City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company, First Federal Lakewood, and Lakewood Public Library.

Ava Olic is Communications & Design Coordinator at Lakewood Alive.



Meet Me At Cove:

Susan Hijjawi,

Manager Of Senior Services

by Nancy Feighan

Susan Hijjawi (pronounced Hih-zhow-ee) is the Senior Services Manager for the Department of Human Services, Division of Aging, at Cove Community Center. With 45 years in social work, Susan, a Michigan native, began her career before formal social work degrees were common. She studied sociology at Western Michigan University, with minors in psychology and gerontology. Susan then pursued a master’s degree in counseling and human services at John Carroll University, further solidifying

her commitment to helping others.

Susan has extensive experience in mental health and working with the senior population. Before joining Lakewood’s Department of Human Services, her career was focused on serving a variety of populations. She began her career as the director of social services with a HEAD Start program in three rural Michigan counties.

Today, at Cove, Susan is inspired daily by the energy and enthusiasm of Lakewood’s older adults. “Older adults want to stay active, in-the-know, and out and about in the community,” she says with a smile. This sense of vitality is what makes Cove such a special place—a place where seniors come together to learn, socialize, and thrive.

Looking ahead, Susan and the Department of Human Services staff are excited about the upcoming Luau at Cove, set for Thursday, September 12th. This event promises to be a night of fun, with dinner, a DJ to get everyone dancing, and plenty of opportunities to connect. Tickets are \$15, and with a total of 80 available, it’s sure to be a sell-out event. Keep an eye out for more information as the date approaches!

Susan’s leadership ensures that Cove remains a lively, welcoming place where Lakewood’s seniors can thrive.

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

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