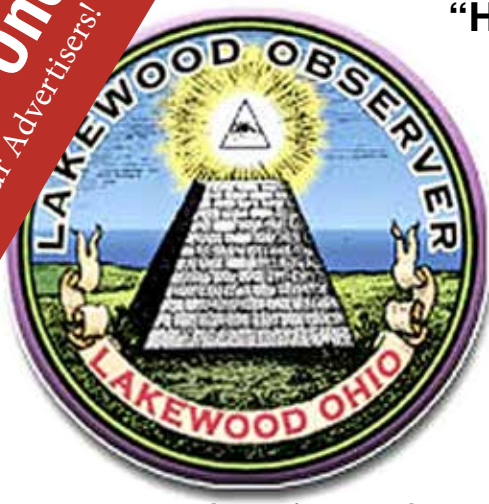


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“He that plants trees, loves others beside himself.” - Thomas Fuller

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 17, September 4, 2024



Only Glen Mittler knows the secret bubble formula.

At Madison Park

36th Annual Lakewood Community Festival

by Karen Karp

Celebrate family, community and cultural heritage at the 36th Annual Lakewood Community Festival on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at Madison Park, 13201 Madison Avenue. The day of fun and activities for the entire family will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

The festival is known for a delicious array of national-ity foods including pierogis, potato pancakes, stuffed cabbage and more. There will be

pizza, of course, and other selections as well. You will want to save room for traditional ethnic pastries, ice cream and other desserts.

The family friendly event includes numerous activities for children, including an inflatable obstacle course, crafts and games. Keith “Magic Man” Heidenreich will be creating balloon magic and Glen Mittler will be on hand with his formula for giant bubbles.

Keep a look out for the **continued on page 11**

2024 Winners

Distinguished Tree Contest



by Debra O'Bryan

The people have voted and the #1 Most Distinguished Tree in Lakewood for 2024 is ... drumroll...

1466 Waterbury Road, a magnificent native oak nominated by Carla Kowalski. This tree had an overwhelming amount of votes cast to win top tree.

2nd place went to 1581 Arthur Avenue, an odd little

tree nominated by Sandi Camp.

3rd place went to 1276 Brockley Avenue, a gorgeous Cherry nominated by Kathy Tomazic.

And finally, in **4th place**, **17301 Riverway Drive**, a beautiful Blue Noble Fir, nominated by Sheila Newton.

Thank you to all who nominated and voted in this year's contest. Thank you to the Tree

LakewoodAlive's Community Engagement Specialist Mark McNamara Wins Benjamin Rose Golden Achievement Award

by Ava Olic

LakewoodAlive is proud to celebrate Mark McNamara, our Community Engagement Specialist, winning the 2024 Golden Achievement Award presented by Benjamin Rose. The Golden Achievement Award honors individuals 60 years of age or older who have achieved distinction in their professional field of expertise and/or community leadership. Nominees' commitment to rethinking aging and defying stereotypes serves as a model for others.

Having spent the majority of his career working for the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, Mark was a social worker who handled child abuse, neglect, and adoption cases. After retiring from his initial career, he returned to the workforce, joining LakewoodAlive in 2015 as a part-time Community Engager. Rather than slowing down over the years, Mark expanded his responsibilities by transitioning to full time employment as Community Engagement Specialist, allowing him to connect with more residents, particularly in the Birdtown and Scenic Park neighborhoods.

Working primarily with low-to-moderate-income and senior residents, Mark helps fellow seniors age in place safely by conducting assessments of their



Mark McNamara

daily routines and providing recommendations to improve their homes. This allows Mark to build relationships with fel-

low residents and helps grant them access to other programs such as weatherization, exterior paint, and more.

As a social worker, Mark helped many families throughout the community and connected them to resources. He was a volunteer youth baseball coach for 15+ years, long after his own children aged out of the program. He values how sports can bring a community together and help folks

continued on page 11

September 18th

Healthy Lakewood Foundation's Annual Community Meeting

by Sharon Schuldt

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) invites the Lakewood community to an in-person public meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Cove Community Center at 12525 Lake Avenue in Lakewood.

HLF's annual community meeting offers an opportunity to community members to learn about HLF's grantmaking, collaborations, and community engagement work over the past year. Childcare is available onsite with advanced registration.

This year's community meeting guest speaker is April

Walker, Founder of Philanthropy for the People. HLF recently worked with April on an equitable grantmaking framework that will direct HLF's future work.

At the Community Meeting, April will discuss the intersection of equity and philanthropy and provide insights into the resources and support the non-profit sector needs to serve those most impacted by systemic “isms.”

There will be time for discussion and questions. There is no charge to attend the meeting. For more information and to register, visit HLF's website at www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org.

Please Help



See page 8 for details.

Advisory and Education Board for giving it their all again this year to inform residents about the need for trees in our community. Please consider planting a tree on your property this fall to increase our canopy and to keep Lakewood a city of trees. To order a tree and have it professionally installed at a discounted price, contact greenleafgroup@hotmail.com to sign up.

Winners will be contacted and prizes will be given out courtesy of India Garden, Woodstock BBQ, Lakewood Garden Center, Lakewood Hardware, and Carabel Beauty Salon & Store.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner

Fiona Gjermeni's Winning Essay

by Fiona Gjermeni

"Why Is Democracy Important To Preserve?"

As a citizen of the United States, I recognize how easy it is to take democracy for granted. I never think twice about how lucky we are to have the opportunity to give our say in issues. My parents growing up were not this lucky. They grew up in Albania during the communist regime. I remember inquiring about what it was like to live in a communist country, even before I learned what a communist country even was. They told me about silly rules that I would've never thought of, like that all boys had to keep their hair cut short. There were some rules that were more unnerving, such as no speaking ill of the government or the dictator. I was told that the voting process was warped—everyone had to vote for the incumbent dictator, otherwise they would be sent to jail.

The stark contrast between a dem-

ocratic country like America and a communist country like Albania in the 1950s and 60s is appalling to think about, even decades later. While Americans experienced an economic boom under Ike, Albanians were forced to only eat rations—and their words. As Americans, we are endowed unalienable rights to free speech and the right to vote. However, the idea of a “right” is intangible. These entitlements were characterized by the founding fathers to be given to us from birth, they are natural rights. These rights, though it goes against the meaning of a right, can be taken away. Though it's not morally correct, there are times when a country can capsize. It is so important for democracy to be preserved and even strengthened in order to ward off corrupt coercion and political repression that can so easily swallow it whole.

There are a myriad of affairs in which the power of democracy has benefited the common good of the people.

For example, abortion. Putting this matter in the hands of the people who are directly affected by it, the citizens, was the correct way to deal with this issue. Democracy is important because it includes a plethora of voices that would go unheard with a dictator. Though no candidate is perfect, the ability to have a say in who you want as president is gigantic. Putting this power into the hands of the people is what generates new leaders with a zest for politics and what it could mean for their constituents.



Fiona will study Finance at The Ohio State University this fall.

A large advertisement for 'Pause Before You Play'. It features a football player in a white jersey with the number 28, running with the ball. The background is a blue and purple gradient. The text 'PAUSE BEFORE YOU PLAY' is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below it, it says 'SPORTS ARE FAST. BETTING SHOULDN'T BE.' and lists three points: 'SET LIMITS', 'RECOGNIZE THE RISKS', and 'KNOW WHEN TO STOP'. At the bottom, it provides a website URL and a phone number for gambling problems.

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Logo for The Lakewood Observer, featuring a stylized 'L' and 'O'.

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

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

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Jim O'Bryan

PHOTOGRAPHY - Nancy Feighan, Christine Gordillo, Karen Karp, Carla Kowalski, Kara Vlach-Lasher, Jim O'Bryan, Ava Olic, and Cindy Strebig

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Matt Bixenstine, Lisa Calfee, Adelaide Crnko, Nancy Feighan, Meghan George, Patty Gierman, Fiona Gjermeni, Christine Gordillo, Dr. Charles Greanoff, Trish Hendy, Karen Karp, Buzz Kompier, Kara Vlach-Lasher, Tess Neff, Debra O'Bryan, Jim O'Bryan, Ava Olic, Sharon Schuldt, Jeffrey Siebert, and Eva Starr

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THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Skate Park Upgrades

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

One of the many wonderful things about Lakewood is the different options our residents have to keep active across our city. With so many parks, pools, courts, and even an ice rink, Lakewood offers an array of enjoyable opportunities to stay healthy and keep moving. One of our most popular offerings is the Skate Park at Lakewood Park.

The Lakewood Skate Park was the first professionally designed skate park in Northeast Ohio when it opened nearly 20 years ago. (My father, Tom, served as mayor of Lakewood, when it was built, so you can understand my personal affection for this project.) This fall, the skate park will undergo a major \$550,000 renovation and upgrade that will add new elements and refresh others. The skate park project is a “design build” effort being led by California Skateparks, the premier expert in the field of skateboarding facilities.

Last summer, the City’s Planning and Development Department worked with California Skatepark to issue a public survey. That effort generated over 750

responses, which provided key information on priorities for the future of the skate park. California Skateparks used this information to come up with an initial plan that we then presented at a public meeting where dozens attended to provide feedback.

When completed, the project will include upgrades to the existing footprint of the skate park and an expansion that incorporates three additional sections for: 1) a hip and turnaround zone; 2) a rail and flatwork zone; and 3) a flow bowl. Work in the existing footprint will include the addition of a taco as well as overall repair and maintenance work on the current facility. Taken together, this represents a significant upgrade in the overall space and unique features available for skateboarders to enjoy.

A big thank you goes out to the local skateboarding community and our Lakewood residents who helped inspire and inform this project. Their input was essential to helping our professionals come up with a great design. I also need to thank our public works and planning

and development departments for their joint efforts in guiding this project along the way. They continue to do great work for Lakewood.

Construction on the skate park upgrades began this week and the project is expected to continue into the winter season. The work was scheduled during colder weather months to limit the

impact on usage of the skate park as well as nearby amenities including tennis/pickleball and basketball courts, which will see some closures to accommodate construction. A grand reopening should happen in the spring of 2025, just in time for better skateboarding weather and the 20th anniversary of the skate park.

For Private Yard Plantings
Giveaway Program Offers
Residents Free Trees

by Matt Bixenstine

Calling Lakewood residents: We need your help in growing our city’s tree canopy coverage by 10 percent in the next 11 years.

The City of Lakewood and its Tree Advisory and Education Board, in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation Community Canopy Program, seek to partner with YOU on an exciting Tree Giveaway Program whereby residents are eligible to receive a beautiful, native tree for planting at home free-of-charge. Following Lakewood’s successful spring event, an additional 100 trees will be given away this fall.

Online ordering will go live at 9 AM on Tuesday, September 10. In less than 10 minutes, you can reserve your free tree (limit one per resident) by visiting www.arborday.org/lakewoodoh and selecting a shade or ornamental species that fits your yard. Each tree has been grown in 3 gallon-sized containers with heights of 4 to 5 feet, a size which allows for easy transport and planting while still making an immediate impact in your landscape.

Native species available this fall through the Lakewood Tree Giveaway Program include:

Allegheny Serviceberry – A moderately-fast-growing ornamental tree that possesses fragrant white flowers in the spring, edible blueberry-like fruit in the summer, and brilliant fall color.

American Hornbeam – A slower-

growing woodland understory tree, also known as Musclewood, featuring unique “muscle like” smooth gray bark. In shade it will grow with an open irregular spread but will be compact and almost pyramidal in full sun. Songbirds will utilize the seeds from this tree.

Common Hackberry – A fast-growing and adaptable canopy tree, suitable for both naturalized areas and street tree plants alike. Features a warty smooth gray bark and “elm like” leaves. The drupe is edible, imparting a fig flavor.

Eastern Redbud – A fast-growing ornamental tree with pink flowers in the spring and large, heart-shaped leaves that change to golden yellow in the fall

Pagoda Dogwood – A beautiful and moderately-fast-growing ornamental tree. Flowers are showy in the spring followed by blue fruit favored by songbirds, brilliant fall color and finally unique pagoda branching during the winter. A wonderful understory tree for the landscape.

Pin Oak – A relatively fast-growing canopy tree. It will tolerate poorly drained soils but leaves will yellow in high pH soils. Lower leafless branches will often persist on this oak. Pin oak is a great tree for wet areas.

A Tree Giveaway Pickup event will be held on Saturday, October 19, from 10 am until noon at Bernice Pyke Park (1320 Belle Avenue in Downtown

continued on page 11



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming Events

by Lisa Calfee

Film: "The Postman Always Rings Twice" (1946)

Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (93 minutes)

Main Library Auditorium

Our film noir matinee stars Lana Turner and John Garfield in a dramatic love triangle that ends in disaster.

Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters:

Join Lee Jordan and Dean Jackson as they discuss Disinformation, A.I. and Elections: How to Separate Fact from Fiction in 2024

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Presentation: Discovering Your Home's Hidden Story
by Suzanne Seifert

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the

Main Library Auditorium

Discover how and where to uncover some of your home's hidden stories. Presenter Suzanne Seifert is the founder of House Ancestry, a micro business devoted to researching and telling the story of a property and the community around it.

Film: "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" (2000)

Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. (106 minutes)

Main Library Auditorium

The adventures of three escaped convicts (George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson) is loosely based on Homer's "The Odyssey." Terry Meehan introduces each film with an original video followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Meet the Author: "Lost Ohio Treasure" by Mark Strecker

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

The hope of finding legendary lost riches has inspired treasure hunters since Ohio became a state, but enthusiasm has its drawbacks. Author Mark Strecker dives deep into the historical record to test the credibility of these tales and others. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Knit & Lit Book Club:

Main Library Auditorium

September 17, 2024: "The Power" by Naomi Alderman

Booked For Murder Book Club:

Main Library Auditorium September 19, 2024: "Past Imperfect"

by Joshua Cohen

Children's And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert

Just Baby 'N Me

For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby

September 9 - October 31, 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.

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. No registration is required.

Pre-school Story Time

September 9 - October 31, 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.

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.

Pajama Party

For You and Your 2 to 6-year-old child

September 9 - October 31, 2024

Make the Library a part of your bedtime routine with an evening story time. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas and bring their stuffed animal friends to snuggle. Join us as we wind down for the night with quiet books, movement, fingerplays and songs. No registration is required.

Mondays: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

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

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Cuyahoga Reads

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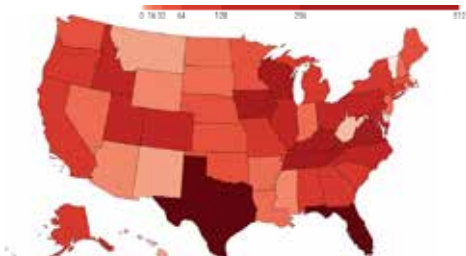
A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne

Cuyahoga Reads participants have been reading throughout the year! To date, 18,121 registered participants have completed 59,016,240 minutes, exceeding our goal of 5,000,000. The reading excitement doesn't end there - September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! Visit your local public library to renew or register for a new library card. Also, don't forget that September 22-28 is Banned Books Week. This week is a great opportunity to help our County libraries protect the right to read by borrowing a book.

Titles Challenged in Public Schools and Libraries During 2023

- Attempts to censor books during this period: 938
- Total titles challenged in those attempts: 9,021
- Unique Titles: 4,240

Data Compiled by: American Library Association – Office for Intellectual Freedom



Freed Between The Lines

by Cuyahoga Reads Committee



The number of titles targeted for censorship surged by 65% in 2023 compared to years prior, reaching the highest levels ever documented by the American Library Association. Pressure groups in 2023 focused mostly on public libraries in addition to targeting school libraries. The number of titles targeted for censorship at public libraries increased by 92% over the previous year; school libraries saw an 11% increase. This Banned Books Week, take a moment to think about how life would be different without some of the most renowned stories and titles throughout the history of literature.

Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips



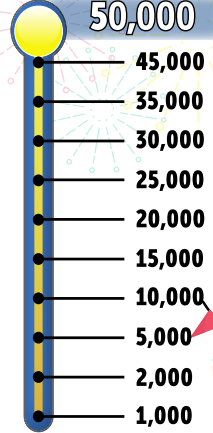
Library Card Sign-Up Month

Library Card Sign-Up Month is an annual campaign sponsored by the American Library Association to encourage readers of all ages to sign-up for a free library card. This September, "the American Library Association (ALA) is teaming up with multi-platform entertainment company Skybound Entertainment and leading toy and game company Hasbro to encourage people to roll out to their libraries with the TRANSFORMERS franchise, featuring Optimus Prime, as part of Library Card Sign-Up Month." To learn more about Library Card Sign-Up Month, visit cuyahogareads.org.



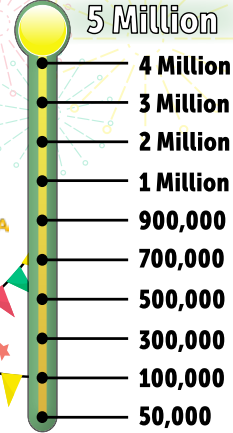
BOTH GOALS EXCEEDED!

Number of Days Read



50,000

Number of Minutes Read



5 Million

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Continuing Observations On The District:
The Good, The Better And The What The Heck

by Trish Hendy

The Good

What if the storm on August 6th happened when school was in session?

What follows are the questions I asked the district through Christine Gordillo; Communications & PR Coordinator unedited. Thank you, Chris!

Q: If the storm had hit near release time what actions would the district have taken during and then after?

A: We would follow our district protocols for tornado warnings and have staff and students take their places in the safe locations they have practiced going to during the state-required tornado drills each school building holds multiple times a year. A districtwide communication would alert all families that all students are safe and that dismissal has been delayed due to severe weather and that parents will be notified when they are able to pick up their student or when older students are released.

Q: The storm disabled not just electrical power but also cell towers rendering cell phones useless, possibly also disabling the repeater that the district uses for radios. Does the district have other ways to communicate to buildings and to the public? Or are the building staff given permission to take things into their own hands?

A: The LHS two-way radio repeater is powered through an electrical circuit that is supported by the LHS

emergency generator. Two-way radios are a viable means of communicating in such a power outage. Building staff would need to ensure radios are charged through an electrical circuit supported by the building's emergency generator, if outfitted with a generator.

Q: As the days moved on without power and considering the start of school, were the maintenance/custodial/secretarial and other classified staff required to be at work? Without communications or power, what type of work could be completed? Did all the buildings have generators and were they all working?

A: Only maintenance and custodial staff were required to be at work on the days when no buildings had power. As two buildings regained power, Central Office staff and building secretaries were dispersed to Hayes and Roosevelt to resume their work responsibilities on Friday, August 9. Hayes was not impacted by the power outage and remained on utility power. The following buildings had operable emergency generators running: LHS, Harding, Garfield, Emerson, Grant, Harrison, Hayes, Horace Mann, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Taft. The LHS generator dropped out early in the evening of 8/7/24. Cummins, who provides LCSD the routine maintenance on district emergency generators, was called out to assess and got the generator back oper-

ating. FSO and Coutant are not outfitted with emergency generators.

Q: What did the administration at central office do to assist the staff in the buildings?

A: From Maggie (Superintendent Niedzwiecki) We worked on prioritizing what needed to get accomplished and what jobs could wait until after school got started. For example, we needed to get mailers out, but if we needed to push waxing the floors until Labor Day weekend, we would.

Q: Who was "boots on the ground" as my cousin would say, directing all the needs for the district and community?

A: The Manager of Operations (Ed Deblock) used Hayes as a home base to coordinate property clean-up efforts and other operational needs from the maintenance & custodial staff.

Q: There were still summer programs in the buildings during that week, who had the authority to either hold or cancel the programs?

A: Leslie Krogman, Rec Department coordinator

Q: As the power and cell phones remained out the mayor announced that some of our buildings were open. Who at the district facilitates this?

A: Our Operations Department, after approval by the Superintendent.

Q: Did any of the district properties experience damage from the storm and if so, who is responsible for directing clean-up and repair?

A: All properties had tree debris that needed to be cleared and was coordinated by the Manager of Operations. Garfield los a few asphalt roof shingles. The Manager of Operations is coordinating repair.

What the heck?

A reminder for our community booster programs and extracurricular programs that policy 7510 dictates the priority for use of all school facilities is still an active board policy. As far as I know, no one involved in scheduling the buildings is new this year so things should go smoothly. Policy 7510: "In order to assure a close relationship between the Board of Education and the Lakewood community, it shall be the policy of the Board to grant and encourage maximum use of schools facilities as provided by law... Such use shall not interfere with the regular education programs." Policy 7510 mandates in detail the usage and priorities of all district properties. "Category 1: Lakewood Student Groups, Category 2: Lakewood School Support Entities, Category 3: Lakewood Public Nonprofit Groups Category 4: Lakewood Private Nonprofit Groups and Category 5: Commercial Users/Non-Resident Groups."

Fall in Lakewood is packed with athletic events. Not just football. Lakewoodrangerathletics.com is the place to find all the excitement for the season. The music program (lakewoodmusicboosters.com) shines with The Lakewood Ranger Marching Band and many other events. Be sure to check out these websites as there are always so many ways to become active members or volunteers.

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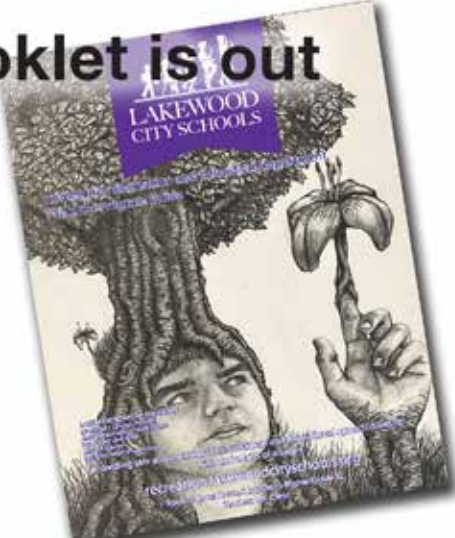
The fall booklet is out

Youth Basketball is open for registration

Youth Activities

Adult Activities

Swim Lessons





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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

District Task Force To Look At Elementary Needs

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools has convened a 50-person Elementary Planning Task Force to explore what is the optimal use and maintenance of the District's elementary facilities. This group, which is scheduled to meet four times this fall, will provide strategic recommendations to Superintendent Niedzwiecki, focusing on efficiently using our elementary school buildings, especially where excess capacity exists.

The task force's responsibilities include analyzing the financial, educational, and logistical impacts of potential changes to the way our current elementary buildings are used, engaging the community in these decisions, and exploring opportunities to expand early

childhood education and community programs. Its goal is to align facility use with the District's mission in a financially responsible and sustainable manner.

This task force is the second such group that is part of a comprehensive examination by the District of all of its facilities that began in spring 2023 with the Facilities Study Task Force. Information on that task force and meeting information and updates regarding the Elementary Planning Task Force can be found on the District's website at www.lakewoodcityschools.org. Community members are encouraged to check back to the page for the latest news, including agendas, meeting summaries and recommendations or decisions made by the task force.

District Turns Focus On Attendance With Stay In The Game

Did you know that in Ohio, students who have never been chronically absent are 6.7 times more likely to read on grade level by the end of third grade and nine times more likely to graduate from high school on time? Those stats are just some of the reasons why the Lakewood City Schools has partnered with the Cleveland Browns this school year to be part of their Stay In the Game attendance program.

The Stay in the Game network was designed to support improved student attendance. It launched in 2019 with the leadership of the Cleveland Browns Foundation, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and Harvard's Proving Ground. The program provides partner districts with: A campaign playbook to customize district and school campaigns, Browns-themed attendance campaign materials to use in our schools and community, Incentives and activities to reward improved attendance, Peer learning opportunities to meaningfully impact attendance

The District will officially launch its SITG campaign at the Rangers' first home football game this season on Friday, Sept. 13 at First Federal Lakewood Stadium. You can learn more about SITG at stayinthegame.org.

LREF Lands \$30K Grant For District STEM Programs

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF) have been awarded a \$30,000 grant from Howmet Aerospace Foundation that will be dedicated to purchasing 3D printers for our seven elementary STEM classrooms. This is the fourth Howmet grant LREF has received to benefit Lakewood students.

The printers are needed for the District's "Enhancing STEM Education through 3D Printing in Elementary Schools" project where teachers will be integrating 3D printing technology into the STEM curriculum at all seven elementary schools. Beginning in January 2025, the project will leverage 3D printing to enhance student engagement, foster creativity and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Each building will receive two printers.

"Once again this year, we are humbled and appreciative of the continuing support of STEM education for stu-



dents in the Lakewood Schools. Our partnership with the Howmet Foundation continues to be an outstanding resource for high level STEM education for Lakewood students," said LREF Executive Director Terri Richards.

Howmet Aerospace Foundation invests in STEM and technical education as part of its efforts to educate and inspire tomorrow's scientists, engineers and technical experts. The Howmet Foundation is the independently endowed charitable arm of Howmet Aerospace.

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up: Football, Girls' And Boys' Soccer

by Dr. Charles Greanoff
FOOTBALL

Aug 24: Rangers vs John Marshall
Senior QB Avery Holt rushed for two and threw four touchdowns passes, all into tight windows, leading the Lakewood Rangers to a decisive 43-6 win at John Marshall.

Sophomore Riley Verderber caught two TD passes, while sophomore Tye Taylor and senior Jaylen Chappell caught one each. Avery, senior Manny Serrano and junior Braedon Greenfield paced a strong running attack, with Avery throwing darts in the red zone to finish 4 drives.

In a great team effort, the defense was equally effective, allowing only one sustained drive while recording a rare safety. Sophomore Tyrese Gatling and junior Jacob Stoll had interceptions. The special teams also did their part--Avery's kickoff's, mostly for touch backs, pinned the Lawyers deep in their end for most of the game.

Congratulations to the whole squad, Head Coach Mike Polevacic and his entire staff.

The Lakewood Ranger Marching Band and the Cheer squad were excellent as always, and kept the energy up on a sweltering August afternoon. Ranger Nation also showed up, adorning our side of the stands with splashes of Purple and Gold.

The Rangers hit the road again next Friday (Clearview--7:00 pm). Hope to see you there. Long Live Lakewood.

BOYS' SOCCER

August 28: Rangers vs Bay
When senior Isaac Craciun cashed in a rebound less than a minute into the 2nd half, a tight (1-0) game broke open, and the Lakewood Boys Soccer

went on to a decisive 6-1 victory over Bay. Senior Ayodele Adigun (pictured) and junior Lawrence Moore scored two goals each, while senior Marcos Hueter also scored. Junior goalie Louis van der Kuil was sure footed/handed in goal, though the Ranger defense kept Bay out of scoring range for most of the game. Congratulations to the entire Ranger squad on a great team effort. It has been many years since Lakewood defeated Bay, a traditional west side power. It's always fun to watch two community-based teams, with programs rich in tradition, go at it. Of course, no venue is better than our Garfield Stadium, and it's always better when the Rangers prevail. Long Live Lakewood.

GIRLS' SOCCER

August 22: Rangers vs Holy Name
On a crisp and crystal clear late August night, at our fabulous Garfield Stadium, the Lakewood Rangers Girls Soccer squad defeated Holy Name 3-2. With a strong student section in support--many of whom are Ranger Football players--it took a full team effort to defeat the much larger and quite physical Green Wave. Senior Luella Darr scored 2 goals in the first half, and when junior Ruby Fraunfelder scored early in the second, it looked like the Rangers might breeze to a relaxing victory. Holy Name had other ideas, though, scoring midway through the half, setting up a tense final 20 minutes. Most of the play from then on was in the Rangers end, but senior Goalie Riley Forster rose to the occasion, making multiple high quality saves to preserve the win. Congratulations to first year Coach John Stalzer and the entire squad. Long Live Lakewood.

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LAKEWOOD CARES



Supplies For Success A Huge Success

by Christine Gordillo

A huge shoutout to our amazing community members and students who sorted thousands of school supplies donated by our generous community and local businesses! Thanks to your hard work and dedication, our students most in need will have the tools to start their school year off strong.

Special thanks to Supplies 4 Success organizer Karen Lee for her tireless work on behalf of our students!

Together, we're making a difference and helping every student succeed!

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Positive Steps For Single Moms:
A Walk At Lakewood Park

by Patty Giermann

Positive Steps for single moms in public housing BEGIN with hope and END with financial independence – the end goal is always getting a job, and earning enough money to move out. There are so many programs that currently address opportunities for child care, job training, transportation, and job placement.

But nobody is providing for the FIRST STEP – giving hope by boosting positivity and confidence. Scented lotions and personal care items address that First Step.

Studies have shown a strong relationship between scent and positive attitude, self-esteem, and confidence. Think about that boost you get from lighting a scented candle. The scent from a lotion follows you, giving you that boost all day. A reminder that someone loves you and supports you.

Join us as we walk to show sup-

port for single moms living in public housing, Saturday, September 28 from 10:00am to noon, at Lakewood Park. Meet at the Picnic Shelter and walk the beautiful trails within Lakewood Park: 1, 2, or 3 miles.

There is no registration fee, instead, you are invited to bring donations of name-brand, scented lotions, soaps, candles, etc. A free will offering will also be collected, to be fully directed to the needs of Single Moms.

Items may also be dropped off at the church, 1549 Rosewood, any Sunday in September between 10am-noon.

Please register at gracepresbyterian@att.net

The Single Moms Walk is supported by Grace Presbyterian Church (a Matthew 25 church) and the Presbytery of the Western Reserve.

Patty Giermann is an Office administrator at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Update: Westerly Senior Health Fair Rescheduled

by Adelaide Crnko

The Annual Westerly Apartments Senior Health & Wellness Fair originally scheduled for August 14 had to be postponed due to last month's severe weather and subsequent power outage. It will now take place Wednesday, September 12, from 10:00am-2:00pm at 14300 Detroit Avenue within the Westerly/Barton Communities complex. Approximately 40 vendors are expected. Refer to the August 7, 2024 Lakewood Observer for complete details. The initial article is accessible online within the News/Seniors section.

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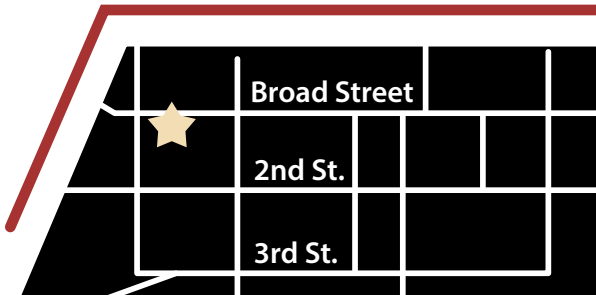
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LAKEWOOD CARES

Letters From
The Animal Shelter

by Kara Vlach-Lasher

Hi there, I'm Nala (ID#3470), a tiny, fuzzy 3-month old female kitten with the softest fur and the biggest, roundest eyes. Every day, I wake up at the shelter, hoping today will be the day I get to go home with my family.

When the humans walk by, I sit in my little litter box and peek out in the most adorable way. Sometimes they stop and smile, and my heart leaps with hope. I dream of a day when I can explore every corner of my new home, chasing sunlight and pouncing on toys.

I may be small, but I have a big heart, ready to give all my love to someone special. I promise to make you smile with my playful antics and snuggle close to you whenever you need a friend.

So, if you're looking for a little bundle of fur to make your house feel more like a home, I'm here at the Lakewood Animal Shelter waiting for you. Could you be the one to take me home and make all my dreams come true?

With positive purrs, Nala

I'm Tyson (ID#3482), a lovable 3-year-old stocky character with a heart as big as his playful spirit. I have been at the shelter too long, and while I have made lots of friends here, I dream of a home where I can run, play, and



Tyson (ID#3482)

finally relax with a family of my own. I am full of energy, always ready to chase a ball or play tug-of-war, and my tail wags non-stop when I am around people. Despite my tough appearance, I am



Nala (ID#3470)

a gentle soul who craves affection and loves to cuddle after a long day of fun. I sit waiting patiently for someone to see past the stereotypes and recognize the loyal, joyful companion I am. Could you be the one to give me the loving home I deserve?

With positive paws, Tyson

Come visit these and other animals at the Lakewood Animal Shelter - 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 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.

We treat animals with empathy, kindness, and respect and recognize that they can experience pain, suffering, and other emotions. Visit us at www.cclas.org



Zach, Judge Neff, Josh

Lakewood Court Sizzled This Summer
Two Student Interns And A
New \$150,000 Grant Award!

by Judge Tess Neff

Although the summer is winding down and students have resumed classes, the Lakewood Court was incredibly fortunate to benefit from employing two dependable and dedicated summer college students. Both young men live in our wonderful Lakewood community with their families.

Joshua Ferry wins the trifecta award for committing the past three summers to working at the court. He is not shy about taking on important tasks that are central to court operations. Josh has been a true asset to us all at the court and we miss him already. We wish Josh a successful senior year at Cleveland State University.

Zachary Simmons joined the court for the first time this summer. Just like a champ, he dove right into some of the not so desirable, yet very significant work necessary for the court. Zach fit right into the Clerk's Office as if he always was a full-time court employee. Everyone enjoyed Zach's personality, conversation and work efforts. We wish Zach the very best as he embarks upon his junior year at the Ohio State University.

I am beyond pleased to inform the community that Lakewood Municipal

Court was once again presented with another top grant award. The Supreme Court of Ohio awarded the court \$150,000 from the Technology Grant Fund pursuant to the Ohio Courts Technology Initiative. The grant process was very competitive, and I am grateful the Ohio Supreme Court realized our need.

The grant money is critical to help defray the high cost of technology enhancements. I thoroughly embrace the opportunity to continue to improve the court's processes and case management. Technology advancements are necessary to assist Lakewood Court to better serve the people in a secure, efficient, and transparent manner. This is an exciting time for the court as we add to other technological advancements from the past few years. I look forward to continuing my leadership of the court and dedicating myself to continue monitoring where we can improve our service to the community and the court users.

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

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-Jesus



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LAKEWOOD BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Mickey Krivosh Tells The Tale
As Around The Corner Turns Fifty

by Jim O'Bryan

Around The Corner, one of Lakewood's most established entertainment clubs and restaurants, is celebrating their 50th year September 19-22. I have known Mickey Krivosh since LHS, so I stopped by to reminisce and get some information for an article. The story is far different, and far more compelling than I ever knew. Here are the cliff notes:

After graduating from high school, Mickey and some of his friends were living on a beach in Florida--living much the life of "Moon Doggy" in the movie "Gidget," surviving on odd jobs. Mom(Lillian) flew down to visit and had the classic, "Honey, when are you going to do something with your life?" talk. With that kick in the ass, Mickey returned to their small family apartment, on Franklin near Lakewood Ave., to think about the next step.

The building that Around the Corner currently occupies came up for sale



1955 at 12507 Franklin: a 4-family where Lillian, along with Grandpa, raised Mickey and Ron after their dad died.



What makes Mickey and Patty the most happy? Days like this. Here the first family of Lakewood entertainment and dining enjoy time with son Ryan and his wife, Kira, daughter Jennifer Krivosh Pressnell, her husband Jon, and all the grandkids!

and Mickey looked at it; concluding that if the family could leverage nearly all they had, he could buy it to open a small bar.

Things were financially so tight, that after fixing the place up, Mickey realized they had no money for food or alcohol. Family came through again. His brother Ron, who passed away in 2013, was able to find another couple thousand for opening night food and drink.

Around the Corner opened and everyone loved it, especially the new concept..."It was unique, no tables or chairs, you ordered and wandered around talking to people," one person said. In fact, as Mickey explained, he was so over extended "I had this guy that would sell

me used bar furniture, and each week I would go down and buy another chair or table." Soon the bar was full.

Since that time Mickey and family have become true cornerstones of our community (business, community, philanthropy). Mickey has grown from a beach bum into a well-respected and leading businessman, land baron, and most importantly to him, beloved husband, father and grandfather. One could say that is all that matters to him: Family.

I asked him what has been the best part of the past 50 years. He smiled and said, "That's easy, it happened the second year we were open. Patty, my wife, walked in and I fell in love. After knowing her for just two months he asked her to marry him. Eight months later they were married. Everyone thought is was



Three generations of Krivosh: Mickey, Ryan and Michael.



A fabulous couple for 48 years.

so quick, there might have been another reason. But it wasn't until their eighth year of marriage that son Ryan was born.

He went on to say, "It has been a great run, especially with the love and support of Lakewood, and Northern Ohio. But the only thing that matters to me, is every day I get to wake up and work and be with my family." He went on to explain that what had been the most rewarding from the start was, and is, family: their support, love, and togetherness. "With Ryan(son) and Jennifer(daughter) stepping up, I get more time with Patty, the grandkids and friends."

But why listen to me? Stop down and talk with Mickey and family, and help them celebrate 50 years of great times.

- Cheers To 50 Schedule of Events:
- Thursday, September 19th
- Nickel Beers and Buffet
- Get a 50th Anniversary T-Shirt with purchase (while they last)
- Mickey Mustache Contest at 7PM (\$50 Prize)
- Friday, September 20th
- 10-Cent Wings
- ATC was the first offering "Buffalo Wings" in Cleveland
- 10-Cent Wing tickets must be bought online and sell out fast
- Saturday, September 21st
- 50 Cent Wings All Day
- Family Crab Races (50 winners)
- Car Show, Face Painting, Balloons
- Sunday, September 22nd
- Browns Game 1 PM
- \$4 Miller and Coors
- 30-Yard Toss at Half-Time for chance to win \$50 prize
- DJ on Patio after game

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September,

ARIES: Get out & about Ram; the Sun is shining in your 6th house of health, Jupiter’s lighting up communication; take a jog through the Metro parks & mingle with others.

TAURUS: The Bull’s got luck this month with romance & finances; the Sun is shining on your love gene, while Jupiter’s spreading its financial blessings on the Bullpen.

GEMINI: The Twins’ focus this September is on the home front; the Twins are also front & center with Jupiter landing in the first house of your personality; shine on.

CANCER: The Crab is coming out of its shell this month, & the Sun is lighting up your Chatty Cathy side; although don’t share the family secrets, Jupiter’s in your 12th house.

LEO: It’s time to redo the Jungle; the Lion/Lioness has come into some financial blessings this month; Jupiter’s in the 11th house of friends, throw a party Lion-style.

VIRGO: Virgo, it’s all about you; the Sun is shining on your personality, so lighten it up a bit. Jupiter’s also stopping by your career sector, take your coworkers to Happy Hour.

LIBRA: Libras have got something going on behind the scenes this month,

so hold it close to your chest. Jupiter’s landed in your 9th house of foreign travel; did you plan that trip?

SCORPIO: The Scorpion needs to put the Stinger away for this month. It’s time to network, join a group, and meet new friends. Jupiter’s also bringing extra cash. Smile!

SAGITTARIUS: The Centaur’s focus is career & relationships this month; the Sun’s in your house of career & Jupiter’s shining on your relationships – both business & personal.

CAPRICORN: Goat, you’ve got the Sun shining on your house of foreign affairs; plan that trip; Jupiter’s landed in your 6th house of health; enjoy, but easy does it.

AQUARIUS: Aquarius can expect money coming from others’ resources this month; while Jupiter is lighting up your house of affairs & romance, go for it, share the love.

PISCES: The Fish’s Pond is enjoying some visitors, both business & personal relationships; throw a red, white & blue party, invite the gang, but stay close to shore.

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

Oasis Is Back And So Am I:
Reviews Of Recent Releases
By Local Bands, Pt. 139

by Buzz Kompier
Knowso - Pulsating Gore - Sorry
State Records - 11 songs - LP, digital

The last we heard from Knowso was a few years back with the “Specialtronics/Green Vision” album. They haven’t changed much since then— at least on the record, it’s still Nathan Ward on everything and Jayson Gerycz on drums and they’re keeping with about the same sound as they’ve had. That said, this album feels more focused than some of the previous. There’s an overarching anger to this record— some of it feels downright apocalyptic. Or, at the very least, like the soundtrack for late stage capitalism. Or something like that. It kicks off right away with the title track, a classic in their off-time, very syncopated, strange version of punk. Who would’ve thought Knowso would be talking about Kierkegaard? “Do The Work” is one of the songs here, along with “Drink From The Lake” and “Last Of The Punks,” among others, that could easily come across as too goofy or too serious in the hands of a less capable group, but Knowso does a great job with making it not feel like a drag while still making sure you know they mean it. There are some great little touches on this record too, from the almost background lead guitar in “Heavy Hauler” or the vaguely triumphant sounding chiming guitar that comes in a few times during “Last Of The Punks” and juxtaposes very nicely with the decidedly not triumphant lyrics. “Saudi Royalty” is a favorite here— tell me you don’t have “treat me like a baby ‘cause you hate me” going through your head for a while after hearing it. The almost robotic quality that these songs sometimes have works particularly well on the final track, “Where Do You Fit?” which is another favorite here. Overall, while this is a dark record and, as I mentioned earlier, feels at times like a report on the end of the world, it doesn’t leave you feeling hopeless, so it’s balanced very well. It doesn’t really sound like many other punk records that I know but is certainly a punk record in both message and execution. Honestly, it might be my favorite Knowso record yet and there’s some tough competition for that. Also, the LP includes a large insert with lyrics and further Nathan Ward art (my favorite section is “The Roots Grow Thru You”), which should make it an even more essential purchase. 4/5

(sorrystaterecords.bandcamp.com)

Non Bruises - Non Bruises - self-released - 9 songs - CD, cassette, digital

This was sent to me a while back and got misplaced— very sorry it’s taken me this long to get the review out. This band is a sort of supergroup: Mike Uva (a solo artist for the most part), Carol Yachanin (The Tough & Lovely), Andy Stibora (the underrated Ditch), and Elliott Hoffman (whose name I did not recognize but who has played on a couple Scarcity Of Tanks records). Mostly, Non Bruises play a somewhat mellow style of alternative rock— it gets noisy at times but never gets loud or fast enough that it pushes into punk territory. I don’t think they want to be punk necessarily, but there is a sort of lack of dynamic range at points on here, though I suspect this is a recording problem rather than a band problem. Two of my favorites here were “Cracker Jack,” which is a good slower one that stretches out past six minutes and the catchy “Our Intentions Are Good,” which is a solid indie rocker (and on which you can really hear Carol Yachanin’s backing vocals, which gives it some pep). “Full Flask” is a cool almost mathy one which takes three minutes to get to where the vocals come in (by which point it’s almost gotten psychedelic) and then ends somewhat abruptly. I also enjoyed “Everyday,” which was just a solid alternative rock tune. This album is pretty top-loaded— all of the tracks I thought were highlights were in the first half. This is probably made more noticeable by the inclusion of an instrumental and another six minute song to close things out. I think this band is certainly likeable and there were songs and moments I enjoyed here, but as an album this didn’t work for me as well as it could’ve. 3/5

(nonbruises.bandcamp.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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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

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Meet Me At Cove:
Deborah Kuhn

by Nancy Feighan

Originally from Gettysburg, PA, Deborah Kuhn and her husband, Michael Gibble, moved to Lakewood in 2014. Michael, a proud alum of St. Edward High School, had deep ties to the area. He converted Deborah, a former Pittsburgh Steelers fan to become a passionate Browns fan. After moving, Deborah joined activities at the Lakewood Senior Center at the former Madison Avenue location, especially enjoying Tai Chi.

Following Michael’s passing in 2021, Deborah sought community and social connections at Cove. She began volunteering with the Division of Aging in July 2022, where she enjoys her role at the front desk, assisting visitors, answering questions, and managing the lunch reservations.

A rock and roll enthusiast, Deborah has recently had a streak of good luck, winning tickets to see John Waite, Styx, and Foreigner at Blossom Music Center, and Cheap Trick, Journey, and Def Leppard at Progressive Field. She’s been a member of the Rock and Roll



Deborah Kuhn

Hall of Fame and Museum since 2015.

Deborah loves Tai Chi, yoga, monthly trips, and dances at Cove, including the Leap Day Dance in February and the upcoming Luau on September 12. She volunteers at the front desk on Thursday mornings—stop by and say hello to this enthusiastic volunteer and rock fan!

Bocce At Cove Season Rolls To A Close



LakewoodAlive’s Community Engagement Specialist
Mark McNamara Wins Benjamin
Rose Golden Achievement Award

continued from page 1

get to know their neighbors. In 2017, he coached a team composed primarily of immigrant children, many of them refugees. Doing this on his own time, he was inspired to help the kids continue to learn over the summer, build friendships with each other despite the language barriers, and bring the community together. A secondary benefit was Mark developing relationships with the players parents and building trust, allowing him to help those families access resources to maintain their homes and yards.

Mark also knows the impact community gardens can have on a neighborhood. He worked with Harrison Elementary to help them establish and maintain a garden that not only

brought people of all ages together (elementary students to high school students to adults and seniors) but also fed neighbors. In 2018, Mark completed a Tree Steward training to teach the community about the immense value trees provide, as well as how to plant, prune, and care for trees.

Building relationships is Mark’s super-power; he has formed relationships with community members from all walks of life and of all ages (from kids to seniors). Additionally, he’s developed relationships with individuals at partner organizations which has led to increased collaboration and communication. It’s with great pride that we call him our colleague and friend, and thank you Mark for all that you do!

36th Annual Lakewood
Community Festival

continued from page 1

team from the Rocky River Nature Center. They will provide the opportunity to discover and learn about the wild animals who make Ohio their home.

Throughout the day, musical entertainment will be provided by 2

Program Offers
Free Trees

continued from page 3

Lakewood), during which tree planting demonstrations will take place.

Trees are a vital part of our community, improving our quality of life in many ways. Trees clean our air and water, cool our environment, reduce flooding, lower energy costs, increase property values, and provide habitats for nature. Lakewood’s legacy as a longtime ‘Tree City USA’ serves as a source of community pride, but we need your help to replenish our aging tree canopy.

The Lakewood Tree Giveaway Program takes place this fall while supplies last. All orders are subject to approval and must be at a Lakewood, Ohio address. Thank you for helping to grow our city’s tree canopy!

Guys 12 Strings (11 a.m.), The Newcomers (noon), The Happy Ramblers (1 p.m.), The Polka Pirates (2 p.m.), Riley & Flanagan (3 p.m.), and Jim Schafer and Friends (4 p.m.).

The festival is traditionally the last event of the summer. The event is sponsored by the Lakewood Community Festival, Inc. and the City of Lakewood.

Karen Karp is a member of the Lakewood Community Festival Committee.

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