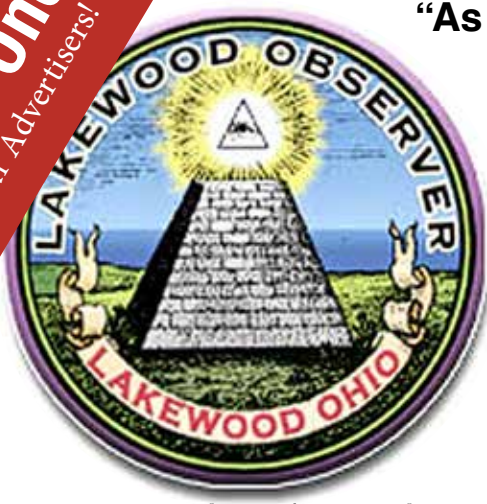


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"As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beauty I see." - Vincent Van Gogh

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 18, September 18, 2024



Lakewood City Council and the Mayor unanimously passed a resolution urging support for Issue 55, the funding initiative for arts and culture in Cuyahoga County on this November's ballot. The Beck Center's Cindy Einhouse, Lakewood Public Art Task Force's Bryan Evans, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture's Karolyn Isenhardt, and Assembly for the Arts' Jeremy Johnson spoke in support.

For Arts/Culture In Cuyahoga County Support Issue 55

by Tom Bullock

An important opportunity to keep arts and culture a vibrant part of Lakewood and our region is on the ballot this Nov. 5

Councilwoman Cindy Marx and I recently introduced a resolution in support of Issue 55, a funding initiative for arts and culture in Cuyahoga County. On Sept. 3, Lakewood City Council,

together with Mayor George, unanimously passed it. In attendance and expressing support were: Cindy Einhouse of the Beck Center; Lakewood Public Art Task Force's Bryan Evans; Cuyahoga Arts and Culture's Karolyn Isenhardt; and Assembly for the Arts' Jeremy Johnson.

Issue 55 is a funding initiative on the Nov. 5, 2024 General

Tristan Rader For State Representative

by Tristan Rader

I'm running to be your next State Representative because every Ohioan deserves healthcare, a living wage, and a clean and safe environment. I've spent my career working toward these goals—from advocating for renewables, pushing for minimum wage increases, fighting for reproductive rights, and spearheading Lakewood's commitment to 100% clean energy. My work as your city councilman these last seven years has taught me that real change comes from listening to people, taking bold action, and working hard.



Councilman Tristan Rader

As a renewable energy professional, I've had the privilege of helping people across Ohio lead more sustainable lives and become part of the solution to climate change. Whether it's

continued on page 8

Ranger Marching Band Festival Sept. 21

by Christine Gordillo

The 37th annual Ranger Marching Band Festival will take place on Sept. 21 at 6 pm and will feature the Alliance, Beachwood, Berkshire, Fairview and Lakewood High School marching bands! In addition, the CWRU Marching

Spartans will take the field as the featured college marching band. Ticket prices increase the day of the festival, so get your tickets early! Tickets sales are online only at www.pay-schools.com/events/home. No cash will be accepted at the gates for tickets or programs.

Family And Police Seeking Information About Madison Rich, Missing From Lakewood

from Lakewood Police

The City of Lakewood Police Department announced they are seeking information from the public about the disappearance of Madison Rich, who left her home between 12:00 AM and 4:30 AM on August 15, 2024.

Madison is 17 years old, 5'7" and 110 lbs. She has blonde hair, blue eyes, and has a spider/web tattoo on her right arm.

Madison is believed to have been at the Express Inn located at 4511 Northfield Rd. in Warrensville Heights on August 18, 2024. An exigent ping showed her phone in the area of the 19000 block of S. Miles Rd. as well as in the Lee Rd./Har-



Madison Rich (left) and one of her spider and web tattoo on her right arm. Any information call police immediately.

vard Rd./Green Rd. area on or between August 21 and August 22, 2024. The area was checked with negative results. Her phone has since been turned off or it ran out of battery power.

To provide any information on Madison's location, please contact Detective Michael Perhacs at (216) 529-6766 or the Lakewood Police Department at (216) 521-6773.

LHS Boasts 7 National Merit Honorees



by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Lakewood High School seniors Madelaine Gabella and Danka Wentzel on being named Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition! This designation recognizes Madelaine and Danka as among the top students in the nation based on junior year PSAT scores. LHS also boasts four Commended Students, seniors Beckett Broadwater, William Cosgriff, Anna Daso, Helen Fraunfelder and Connor Pierce.

Madelaine and Danka are part of an elite group of 16,000 Semifinalists across the country whose PSAT scores in the 2023-2024 school year put them in the top tier of the more than 1.3 million students who took the PSAT. Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U. S. high school seniors and are the high-

est scoring entrants in their state. The number of Semifinalists named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors.

Semifinalists are eligible to continue on in the competition in hopes of being named a Finalist and receiving one of more than 7,100 scholarships worth nearly \$28 million to be awarded in the spring. Finalists will be notified of this designation in February.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. Commended Students are among the top 5% of PSAT scorers. Although Beckett, William, Anna, Helen and Connor do not move on in the scholarship competition, we recognize them as among the best students in the state.

Congratulations to these seven academic standouts!

continued on page 8

CITY COUNCIL OBSERVED

Ranked Choice Voting, A New Guy, And An Old Bar

by Theodore Babcock

The Committee of the Whole met with the Charter Review Commission on Monday, September 16th. They mostly discussed the merits of Ranked Choice Voting. The University of Minnesota’s Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs explains RCV as follows:

“Ranked choice voting (RCV) — also known as instant runoff voting (IRV) — allows voters to rank candidates for office in order of preference: first, second, third and so forth. Votes that do not help voters’ top choices win count for their next choice.

Advocates of ranked choice voting say it increases fairness, encourages higher voter turnout, and eliminates problems like vote-splitting and unrepresentative outcomes that can arise when more than two candidates run for a single position.

Efforts to enact ranked choice voting reflect widespread disaffection with the current climate of angry and divi-



Fire Chief Timothy Dunphy, in the center, front row surrounded by the co-workers he considers family. As I went through photos for this piece, I knew out of the 20+ years of photos I had of him, at fires, getting awards, training and swearing in new firefighters, this was the image he would want me to use. photo and caption Jim O’Bryan

sive politics.”

The group spent about 75% of their time on debating whether RCV made sense for Lakewood. Some were concerned with Lakewood being the first city in Ohio to implement RCV and potential lawsuits that may come from the state in response. A counterpoint was also brought up: “If Lakewood doesn’t do it first, who would?”

Some others were skeptical that

this solves a “Lakewood Problem.” Is our current voting system flawed? Would RCV result in more fair, accurate or equitable elections?

Another concern is the additional cost that RCV would incur. Is it worthwhile to spend more money on elections if it is a better form of democracy? Is it a better form of democracy?

The general opinion of the room seemed to be “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” Many were wondering how they would explain this new system to voters. It was said that if this is something the public wants later, we can implement it then.

Have you ever heard of Ranked Choice Voting? Do you want to change the way we vote? Call or email your city council representative and let them know.

The full city council met afterwards at 7:30. Bryan Evans was sworn in as the new Ward 2 Representative replacing Jason Schachner. Around the Corner Saloon & Café was recognized for 50 years in business. Fire Chief Timothy P. Dunphy was recognized for his career of community service as his retirement approaches. This was his last meeting. All members of council thanked him for his great service to our city. Thank you, Chief Dunphy.

Finding Lakewood 2024

by Laura Hazen

The Finding Lakewood Photo Scavenger Hunt will run from October 7 through October 21. Sign up now to join the hunt! Entry fee of \$15 benefits the Lakewood Division of Aging. You’ll receive 18 photos, by email, on October 7 of features/places around Lakewood to identify. If you correctly identify all locations, you’ll be entered into a drawing for prizes! To join the hunt or find more information, scan the QR code or go to Eventbrite.com and search Finding Lakewood. You can join now up until October 18. Answers must be submitted by midnight October 21.



You may also join the hunt by paying cash (exact change) at Cove Community Center, 12525 Lake Ave. Ask for Susan or Barry. If preferred, paper copies of photos and answer forms will be available starting Oct. 7 for those who have paid to enter. If you pay online at Eventbrite, show your confirmation to get a paper copy of photos at Cove.

Although this fundraiser benefits aging adults in Lakewood, all ages are welcome to participate! See the Eventbrite page (scan code) or email lakewoodphotocontest@gmail.com with questions. Good luck!

Laura Hazen lives and works in Lakewood and loves it. She works for both Hanson Services and Sweet Designs. She volunteers in a couple community groups, in particular for the Division on Aging.

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Lakewood Observer

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THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Keeping Lakewood’s Seniors Active And Healthy

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

Lakewood rightly has a long tradition of supporting and celebrating our senior community – our Division of Aging was one of the first of its kind in the region when it was established over 50 years ago. Soon the City will join with several local partners in another effort to encourage healthy and active aging for our senior population. September 30 - October 6, 2024 is national Active Aging Week, and the City will take advantage of the occasion with our own host of special events and programming that promotes and leverages the many resources available here.

We’ve all heard that activity and exercise are essential to staying healthy as we age, and Active Aging Week is an excellent way to get the word out, connect seniors with resources and education, and promote ways to keep moving. The highlight of the week is a Community Day event on Wednesday October 2nd at Lakewood Park from 3pm – 7pm. Seniors can enjoy everything from yoga, dance, and outdoor games/competitions to blood pressure screening, fall prevention education, and information on the seven dimen-

sions of wellness, just to name a few. I am very excited about this week-long focus on our seniors, which builds on our Division of Aging’s decades of service and leadership in this field. Active Aging week is an example of how Lakewood continues to act on its community value of serving those who have given so much to us and who continue to play an important role in the fabric of Lakewood. This event also ties into more recent programming we’ve developed like our Lakewood Fire Department’s Neighborhood Paramedic program, which has a major focus on making sure seniors are safe in their homes and avoid falls and other common hazards people face later in life.

I also want to highlight that the City’s work on Active Aging Week is grounded in partnership with many others, and it is always a community-wide effort to support seniors in Lakewood. Barton Center, Lakewood City Schools and the Rec-

reation Department, Lakewood Alive, Lakewood Library, the Lakewood Ministerial Association, and the Lakewood YMCA are all key players in our Active Aging Week programming. Lakewood is fortunate to have a deep well of peo-

ple involved in this important work. If you or someone you know is interested in more information on our Active Aging Week programing, you can call 216-521-1515 or visit: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/active-aging-week/>. I hope to see many of you taking advantage, especially at the Community Day in Lakewood Park.

Input On Playground Equipment Needed

from City Hall

The City is currently finalizing plans for the new playground equipment at Merl Bunts Park. If you would like to provide your feedback, please send comments by September 20, 2024 to: michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.gov.



Merl/Bunts Park from the air.

AROUND THE CORNER

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: 7PM (\$50 Prize)	Saturday, September 21st 50 Cent Wings All Day Family Crab Races (50 winners) Car Show, Face Painting, Balloons
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	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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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming Events

by Lisa Calfee

Meet The Author - “Lost Ohio Treasure” by Mark Strecker

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium
Many an Ohioan has been duped by con artists toting everything from divining rods and magic tomes to dubious devices like the “scientific gold compass” to find lost treasure. Author Mark Strecker dives deep into the historical record to test the credibility of these tales and others. Books will be available for sale.

Presentation - “Pioneering Women in Early Rock and Roll” performed by QS Jazz

Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium
QS Jazz leads a lively musical discussion about the most influential women of early rock and roll. Along with information on each artist, the group will play selections that highlight their contributions to popular music.

Meet The Author - “This Place of Silence: Ohio’s Cemeteries & Burial Grounds” by Ian Adams

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium
A collection of images by Ian Adams and Randall Lee Schieber, from more than one hundred cemeteries in all eighty-eight counties, highlight the charming chapels, magnificent mausoleums and monuments, stately statues, graceful grave-stones and rich history of Ohio’s cemeteries. Books will be available for sale.

Meet the Author - “Watching the Asparagus Grow” by Jeff Wilkins

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium
During the Vietnam Era, lives are forever changed when a diverse group of vacationers descend upon a small summer resort along the shores of Lake Erie. Many deep, dark secrets are forced to the surface in this heartwarming yet heart-breaking tale of love and forgiveness triumphing over hatred and bigotry during the tumultuous 60s and 70s. Books will be available for sale.

Perfectionism In Gifted And Anxious Kids



by Lorilynn Wolf

Kate Boylan, LPCC-SUPV, MS, of Larchmere Center for Well-Being, will discuss how parents can help alleviate the pressure a child feels to be perfect through healthy communication and attachment. Learn how to boost your child’s self-confidence, foster pride outside of achievement and guide them in building relationships with peers.

Connecting for Kids offers presentations on childhood topics by pediatric professionals. For in-person programs, free, supervised children’s activities are available but adults and children must register separately. connectingforkids.org/speakerseries
Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch

Children’s And Youth Services Upcoming Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

Just Baby ‘N Me

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.
For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby
Just Baby ‘N Me is a lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. 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

September 9- October 31, 2024
Mondays: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
For You and Your 2 to 6 Year-Old Child
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.

Family Weekend Wonders

Main Library- Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
Madison Branch- Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
Looking for weekend entertainment for the whole family? Look no further! Drop in to the Library’s special weekend story time. Your whole family will enjoy these programs full of enthusiastic stories, engaging activities, entertaining music and clever crafts. Family Weekend Wonders Drop-In Story Time is offered every weekend throughout the year and features a different theme each week to keep things engaging. No registration is required.

Join the Fun at Coding Club

Mondays, 6:00- 7:30 pm. Through November 11, 2024 In the Main Library Computer Connections Room.
Calling all 5th through 9th graders! If you’re curious about coding, come join our exciting weekly Coding Club. Under the guidance of our awesome Girls-WhoCode facilitators, you’ll dive into the world of coding and create your own mobile apps, design cool websites, and even program robots. You’ll get hands-on experience with Scratch, Python, and JavaScript, making each session a fun adventure in tech. Don’tmiss out on this chance to unleash your creativity and discover the endless possibilities of coding!
No registration required.

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





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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

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

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

FOOTBALL

SEPT 13: RANGERS VS WESTAKE

In tonight's 32-21 win over Westlake, Malachai Davis, Chris Mathaios, Ahmed Al Masaleme, Jackson Comer, and Drew Potoczak didn't run for one yard, catch a pass or score a touchdown. But nothing of the sort would have happened without this hard charging, grinding offensive line that, every week, gets better. When the Rangers needed to finish the game in the fourth quarter--as was the case all game--they opened holes for Manny Serrano (2 touchdowns) and Braedon Greenfield, each of whom ran with speed and toughness all night. Thanks to the line, quarterback Avery Holt again had a fabulous game, hitting Jacob Stoll (who also had an interception) and Jaylen Chappell with TD passes. Avery also broke a 50 yard run before half to set up the Rangers for a TD and a 19-15 lead. Sophomore Tyrese Gatling had his usual strong game at safety, added a long kickoff return deep into Demon territory, and scored a rushing TD. This great team win extended to every Lakewood Ranger, whether they played both ways or just a few snaps. Sophomore Riley Verderber DE/TE controlled the edge all night (two sacks), putting constant pressure on



Rangers vs Westlake: At First Federal Lakewood Stadium, thousands of Rangers for Life met once again to celebrate what we are--many disparate elements coming together to make one very special community.

a very good Westlake QB. LBs John Chambers and Sam Hoy was tough and active. Special teams allowed no significant yardage on kicks, and the sidelines kept up the energy all game long. It's a long list. But, Friday Night Under the Lights is more than football in Lakewood and elsewhere. Tonight, we honored the '99 team, a playoff

squad that beat Glenville and stands as one of our best teams ever. The Band was fabulous, as was the cheer squad and student section. But no "list" of cool things can capture the magic of this quintessential community event, where we root for and with each other across the generations. At First Federal Lakewood Stadium, thousands of Rangers for Life met once again to celebrate what we are--many disparate elements coming together to make one very special community. Long Live Lakewood

SEPT 6: RANGERS VS KENT ROOSEVELT

Senior Captain Avery Holt threw for two touchdowns and ran for another, leading the Lakewood Rangers to a hard fought 21-13 win over Kent Roosevelt. The Rangers trailed 13-12 early in this 4th quarter slugfest when Avery made perhaps the key play of the game, booming a 75 yard punt that was downed inside the Kent 1. Junior linebacker Nick Hart knifed through on first down, recoding a safety and flipping the score--and the momentum--of the game.

The Rangers received the free kick, but their productive drive was set back by penalties and Lakewood faced a 4th down deep in Rough Rider territory. Avery rolled out, and at the last second lofted a pass to the end zone, where sophomore Riley Verderber high pointed the ball, out fighting 2 defenders for the score. From there, the Rangers stopped Kent on their last to possession to seal the win.

The Rangers scored on their first possession on a fourth down run by Avery, and after a Kent score recaptured the lead a 20 yard wheel route strike from Avery to senior Manny Serrano, who made a contested, diving catch in the end zone. (Serrano and Junior Braedan Greenfield helped secure the win with tough inside tackles in the final two drives.)

In this great team win, kudos to the guys in the trenches who fought hard all night long, with special mention for Sophomore center Drew Potoczak who snapped well all game under the worst



Lakewood goals by Isaac Craciun and Butoto Bafukamire.

of conditions. The Cheer Squad and the Lakewood Rangers Marching Band kept up the pep throughout, and as always were a special and vital part of our Friday celebrations. Congratulations to my colleague and friend Head Coach Mike Polevacik (and his staff) for all the great work they are doing to build out program. The many youth players and cheerleaders in attendance not only brought great enthusiasm, but also bode well for the future of our magical Friday Nights. Long Live Lakewood.

BOYS' SOCCER

SEPT 11: RANGERS VS WESTLAKE DEMONS

Congratulations to the Lakewood Boys Soccer team for their 2-1 win over Westlake in a fiercely contested game at our beautiful Garfield. Over the last 20 minutes of the game--the only part I was able to see--goalie Louis Van Dir Kuil was spectacular, repelling many tough shot from the determined Demon squad. My sources tell me that Isaac Craciun and Butoto Bafukamire scored early for the Rangers, and that the Demon's lone goal came on a penalty shot. I can say, from direct observation, that the student section was out in force and the the Rangers played their hearts out for a well-earned victory against a tough opponent. Long Live Lakewood Ranger Athletics, and Long Live Lakewood.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Antonio Applauds District 23 School Districts

by Nickie J. Antonio

I applaud Cleveland Metropolitan Schools (CMSD), Lakewood City Schools, and Parma City Schools for meeting state standards on the Ohio State Report Card released by the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).
I am proud of the educators and students who have earned impressive scores on the state report card and I'm especially proud of CMSD for earning a 3-star over-

all rating for the first time. This shows the hard work and dedication that students and staff have put into improving their education, and I join parents and community members in celebrating this achievement.
The report also revealed that Lakewood City Schools improved in their graduation evaluation, and Parma maintained their overall rating from the previous school year.

LHS Grad Evan Suttell Wins On Jeopardy

by Jim O'Bryan

As we go to press comes the news that Lakewood High Grad, and member of their winning Academic Challenge team, Evan Suttell has come in second on Jeopardy finishing his run that had Lakewood cheering for him.
He won \$20,200 last Friday and moved on to another round. Evan had



Evan is far left in this photo of his Academic Challenge winning team.



Evan on Jeopardy.

the final answer correct, but finished just out of reach of the winner. For that effort he adds another \$3,000 to his winnings.
Thank you for the excitement, the effort and displaying your Ranger Pride.



LHS Students Participate In Youth Voting Summit

by Christine Gordillo

Fifteen Lakewood High students had the opportunity to participate in the 8th Annual Your Voice Matters Youth Voting Summit at Cleveland Public Library on September 12. The summit aimed to provide students with an in-depth look at the power of a vote and focused on educating students on how to vote and using their voices to become confident voters who make informed political decisions that impact the world! Big shout out to our LHS Social Studies Department in their ongoing stellar effort to nurture engaged citizens who know the importance of voting!

LHS Pair Chosen For Regional Orchestra



Bryce Sandoval (left) and Abby Kovach.

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to Lakewood High students Bryce Sandoval and Abby Kovach on being chosen to be part of the Ohio Music Educators Association's Northeast Ohio Regional Orchestra! Bryce was also selected as an alternate cellist for the All-State Orchestra. Bryce and Abby, who plays bass, will perform with the regional honors group at the OMEA's annual conference in Cleveland next February.

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BirdieLight - Fentanyl Awareness Nonprofit For Youth

by Patricia Neligan Barley

BirdieLight is an organization founded by Dr. Beth Weinstock, whose son Eli died of an unintentional fentanyl overdose in March of 2021. Weinstock came to speak to the students at Lakewood High School on April 30th, and you can watch the presentation at this link. It is well worth watching her talk and hearing about the public health crisis that is unintentional fentanyl overdoses. Her visit was intended to save lives. Weinstock said she “came to save lives today, and she would enlist you, the students of LHS, in that effort because she couldn’t do it alone.”

Eli was a sophomore at American University in Washington D.C., and Weinstock described him as kind-hearted, thriving, with a good GPA. Their family had just seen him ten days before on a trip to Florida, and he was not struggling with addiction or substance abuse. They think he possibly ingested a pill that he thought was something else, but it was pure fentanyl. The coroner told them that the only other substance found in his system was a plant-based legal supplement that had calming qualities.

As Weinstock has learned more about the counterfeit pills being peddled to look like authentic prescription drugs, she believes that Eli took the most commonly trafficked illegal counterfeit pill, Oxycodone. These drug dealers use pill presses to manufacture and dye these pills to look like actual prescription pills. You can see photos and examples of this in her presentation.

I am sure many of you have heard the story of the two Northeast Ohio fresh-

men girls at OSU who, while studying for finals in the spring of 2023, thought they were taking Adderall to help them stay up and study all night. They ingested Fetynal and died. As I see my senior, and many of the kids I have watched him grow up with, head off to college in the fall, I want to help bring this educational awareness to my community.

Thank you, Dr. Weinstock, for coming to Lakewood to spread your message. I am very grateful that my children attend a school district willing to have this conversation. This is an everyone problem; this is an American problem, and to help de-stigmatize this subject, write to the surgeon general asking for a fentanyl flyer asking why we aren’t getting information about how many people are dying from this yearly as we did during the AIDS epidemic, a few decades ago.

Office of the Surgeon General:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Lakewood Resident Wins Five Gold Medals In Senior Games

by Dave Lange

Lakewood resident Dave Lange has returned home with gold medals in all five of his events from the New Hampshire Senior Games swimming competition held at Colby-Sawyer College in New London. His victories in the 75-to-79-year-old age group 50-, 100- and 200-yard breaststroke, 100-yard individual medley and 500-yard freestyle events qualify him for the 2025 National Senior Games next summer in Des Moines, Iowa.

“I ended up in New Hampshire this year after the belated scheduling of the Ohio Senior Olympics conflicted with my previously reserved family vacation in Myrtle Beach,” Lange said. “My wife, Linda, and I regularly visit great friends at a mountain lake in northern Massachusetts each summer, and the New Hampshire swimming competition just happened to be held nearby on July 20. Our friends like to visit us here in Lakewood in the fall.”

Lange’s swimming days date back to his childhood in Cuyahoga Falls as a member of the Water Works Swim Club AAU team. Among his best memories,

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E-mail: surgeongeneral@hhs.gov
Phone: 202-401-7529

Thank you to our PTA president, Adrienne Simmons, for helping me lead the effort to bring this critical message to our community and our children’s school. Thank you to Joy Morgan, the principal at Lakewood High School, and Kathleen Corrigan, our district nurse, for meeting with Adrienne and me and bringing this to our superintendent to get the green light to bring this to Lakewood City Schools.

Birdie Light saves lives by educating young people about the danger of unintentional fentanyl ingestion and by empowering them with tools to detect fentanyl before they ingest it.

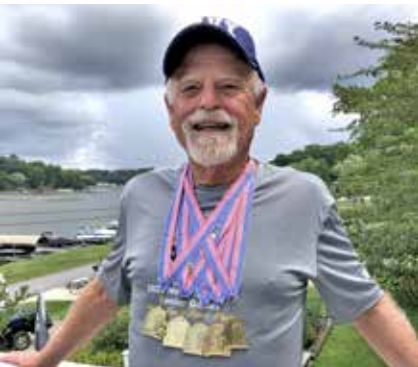
This LHS-PTA-sponsored event was made possible by donations from our community. Thank you if you donated to help us bring this critical message to

our students and their families.

Project Dawn

On Monday evening, the night before Dr. W came to speak to us, parents and community members were invited to hear about Project Dawn. Project Dawn (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) is a network of opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution programs coordinated by the Ohio Department of Health. Naloxone (commonly known as Narcan®) is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug.

Patricia Barley is a long-time resident of Lakewood. Her three boys attend Lakewood City Schools: a recent LHS graduate headed to OSU this fall, an eighth grader at HMS, and a sixth grader at GMS. She has volunteered at all the schools her children have attended and other organizations in Lakewood. She aims to continue to help maintain a safe, healthy, and stable community for her family and neighbors.



he said, were the big swim meets in the Olympic-sized pool at Lakewood Park in the 1960s. “I think about that every time we take our 6-year-old grandson to the playground there,” he said.

His swimming experiences essentially have taken him around the world. In 1968, his butterfly leg led his boot-camp company medley relay to first place at the Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois. During his riverine support service in Vietnam the following year, Lange completed a 500-yard swim in the hazardous Nha Be River. While on his R-and-R leave to Thailand that year, he had the pleasure of swimming and water-skiing in the Gulf of Siam.

While on his next duty assign-

ment onboard the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid, he took a plunge in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. He also led the Intrepid swim team with his second-place 100-meter-breaststroke finish in Bergen, Norway.

While his swimming sons were growing up, Lange was an assistant coach with the Lake Erie Silver Dolphins for several years and coached the swim teams at Kenston High School for seven years, including as head coach in 2006-07.

In 2014, Lange won four gold medals and one silver medal in the Ohio Senior Olympics, which earned him a trip to the National Senior Games in Minneapolis the following year. His top national finishes in the 65-to-69-year-old age group there were fifth place in the 200-yard and eighth place in the 100-yard breaststroke events.

Competing in the 70-to-74-year-old age group, he also took five gold medals in the 2021 Ohio Senior Olympics.

“Unlike the days of our youth,” Lange said, “our times as seniors don’t get faster each year, and the competition isn’t so fierce. I hope to step up on the podium more than twice next year in Iowa.”

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ELECTIONS 2024



Tristan Rader For State Representative

continued from page 1

guiding communities to embrace solar power or advancing policies that promote clean energy, I've seen firsthand how a commitment to sustainability can transform lives and protect our planet.

Ohio, currently the third-highest emitter of CO2 in the nation, is in an environmental crisis. Republican leadership in Columbus takes millions in bribes from corrupt utilities to let our planet burn. We cannot afford to continue down this path of corruption and complacency. Ohio must ramp up its energy production to achieve energy independence, and this energy must be sourced from renewables. The time for bold, decisive action to protect our planet and make a just transition to clean energy was yesterday, but today is the next best option.

Economic justice is more than just a slogan for me. It's a commitment. I believe in a fair economy where every Ohioan can thrive and hard work and is rewarded with a prosperous life and a dignified retirement. We need policies that uplift working families, not just the wealthy and well-connected, from capping wild property tax increases for vulnerable Ohioans to advocating for

workers' rights to organize and form unions. Workers deserve the power to negotiate fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. Our economy is stronger when workers are empowered and the most vulnerable are protected.

Healthcare is a human right, and I will fight tirelessly to ensure that no Ohioan goes without the care they need. We need a healthcare system that covers everyone without the threat of financial ruin. I'm not in this to talk—I'm in this to win real victories for Ohioans. As your Democratic Nominee and, with your help, your next State Representative, I will fight for a future where every Ohioan can succeed, our communities are safe, and our planet is protected.

Together, we can build a better Ohio. Let's make this future a reality. I ask for your vote, support, and belief that we can create the Ohio we all deserve together.

Councilman Rader is the Democratic Nominee for State Representative in Statehouse District 13, which includes Lakewood and Cleveland's near West-side. Rader was elected to Lakewood City Council in 2017, re-elected in 2021, and serves as the Ohio Director of Solar United Neighbors. You can learn more and get involved at TristanRader.com.

Join Me In Supporting Kira Krivosh For Judge



Left to right: Mayor George, State Senator Nicki Anotinio, Judge Krivosh and the kids, at the first "Giving Tree" located in Lakewood. It was Kira and Nicki's idea to provide free masks in areas that needed them. It was a huge success!

by Kyle Baker

I've known Kira Krivosh as a great friend and fellow attorney for many years. I can say with confidence that she will be an excellent judge on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. I encourage you to join me in supporting her in the election this Fall.

Back in 2009, Kira and I actually celebrated passing the Ohio Bar Exam together at her family's bar and restaurant, Around the Corner. We attended each other's weddings. I've seen Kira grow into an incredible mother who coaches her kids' soccer teams and drives across the state to support her kids' involvement in competitive sports. Meanwhile, she has developed an impressive legal resume. She has devoted her legal career to public service and the non-profit sector. She started her legal career in the Garfield Heights Law Department. Later, as an assistant county prosecutor, she helped secure millions in domestic support obligations for families and children. Kira has most recently served as a magistrate in Juvenile Court handling civil and quasi criminal cases.

She is an active and thoughtful member of our legal community, continuously refining her skills and teaching others about her areas of expertise. She has served on the board of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and as a co-chair of the Dismantling Systemic &

Negotiated Racism REAL Workgroup. Last year the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association gave Kira the Legacy In The Making award, acknowledging her already substantial contributions to the legal field and her bright future ahead.

What really sets Kira apart is her community service. During the first days of the Covid outbreak, Kira and State Senator Nickie Antonio founded the Giving Tree Project to distribute masks in under-resourced areas. Today she sits on the board of Open Doors Academy which provides high-quality afterschool programs to kids in underserved communities.

Kira uses her knowledge and understanding of the issues in our community to be the most effective magistrate and public servant possible. She connects the people who come before her to resources that will help them get back on their feet and be productive members of society. This makes the entire county stronger while also producing better outcomes for the families involved.

Kira handily won the Democratic primary this Spring and has been endorsed by a slew of labor unions, elected officials and community groups. Please join me in voting for Kira Krivosh for Common Pleas Judge this Fall. Early voting starts on October 8th.

Kyle Baker grew up in Lakewood, lives in Lakewood, loves Lakewood.

For Arts/Culture In Cuyahoga County Support Issue 55

continued from page 1

Beck Center, LakewoodAlive, and the Lakewood Young Filmmakers Academy, among others. In total, CAC has distributed \$246 million via more than 4,000 grants to 485 non-profits at more than 2,000 locations, resulting in \$533 million in economic activity and 8,637 jobs in 2022-2023 alone.

Lakewood's own Mike Gill has written in the Collective Arts Network Journal, "The smallest organizations need it the most. All the region's arts infrastructure would take a big hit if the tax does not pass...And that infrastructure is a huge support system for individual artists. They depend on studios, like Zygote Press, Morgan Conservatory, Praxis Fiber Workshop, and others to provide facilities and tools for their work. They are hired to teach at community arts centers like BAY-

arts, Beck Center, Art House, Valley Art Center, and more. Their exhibits engage the community at venues like Waterloo Arts, Karamu House, and Cleveland Print Room...The same...applies to theatres, orchestras, dance companies."

Lakewood has always supported the arts, and we are home to many artists, performing arts institutions, and creators who receive support from these funds. Supporting this funding initiative is supporting them, investing in ourselves, improving education, and enrichening our quality of life.

Please join us in supporting them, our community, and Issue 55 on the ballot this fall!

Tom Bullock serves Lakewood residents as their at-Large representative on City Council. Share ideas or concerns with Tom at 216-395-7LWD (-7593) or tom.bullock@lakewoodoh.net.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



Every year for decades John Russell and crew at Cottage of Flowers (14519 Madison Ave, Lakewood, phone 216-221-2100, online at: <http://cottageofflowers.net>) puts jerseys with the names and numbers of the Lakewood Ranger Varsity Football squad up on their windows. Many walk past without looking back and thinking about what a wonderful piece of Americana this is. A trip back to what community is all about.

2024 Cleveland Heroes Run



Runners and their families coming through under the Stars and Stripes. Every year the Lakewood Fire Department hangs the American flag over Riverside/ Rocky River Drive, aka State Route 237 for the run which raises money for The Fallen Heroes Park, seen here on the right in the photo.



A young man takes part in the custom of laying a flower on the memorial as you pass it.



The memorial which includes Lakewood fallen heroes too.

The New(er) Kids On The Block: E-Bikes

by Kenneth Knabe

You've probably noticed that the "pedal powered" or "muscle" bikes we grew up riding are competing with another type of bike—the electric bike, or e-bike. E-bikes are road legal in Ohio (except on closed access freeways) just like traditional muscle powered bikes and are the fastest-growing segment of the bike market in the United States. All three of Lakewood's bike shops, Spin Bike Shop, Beat Cycles, and The Bike Spot stock e-bikes.



E-bikes, defined

E-bikes are low-speed bicycles equipped with electric motors that run on lithium-ion batteries. Battery, controller, and motor are fully incorporated into the bike's componentry. E-bikes handle like regular bikes but are usually heavier due to the motor and battery.

Benefits of E-bikes

Moving at speeds similar to regular bicycles, e-bikes allow riders to climb hills with less effort and to extend trip lengths. Emission-free and low impact with relatively silent operation, e-bikes are here to stay. While typically a bit more expensive than comparable traditional bikes, they're still cost-effective in comparison to motor vehicles.

Ohio's E-bike Law

Despite having a motor, e-bikes are classified as bicycles (and as such, vehicles) in Ohio. They have pedals and are usually pedal assisted. Like regular bikes, e-bikes don't require a license, registration, or insurance.

Ohio's Three-Tiered E-bike Classification System

Ohio requires that e-bikes have a label stating the classification number, 1, 2, or 3.

Ohio law provides that:

- A Class 1 e-bike is only pedal assisted, has no throttle, with a maximum speed of 20 mph
- A Class 2 e-bike can be ridden with just the assistance of a throttle; up to a max speed of 20 mph
- A Class 3 e-bike is only pedal assisted, has no throttle, with a max speed of 28 mph

Besides the road (except on closed access freeways) Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are generally also permitted on multi-use trails. Because of their higher speeds, Class 3 e-bikes capable of 28 mph are not generally allowed on multi-use trails and are reserved for the road. Additional regulations in Ohio on Class-3 e-bikes include a bike helmet for anyone operating or riding as a passenger on a Class 3 e-bike, and one must be at least 16 to operate a Class 3 (a person under the age of 16 may still ride as a passenger if that Class 3 e-bike is designed to carry passengers.)

Controversy

E-bikes are not without controversy. Many e-bikes can be jimmied to increase the speeds listed in the class of the e-bike. Providing a vehicle that goes 28 or more miles an hour to a minor with no driver license has led to the deaths of some teenagers in California. Now the Golden State is considering licensing all e-bikes. In Ohio, you have to be 16 years old and wear a helmet to ride a class 3 e-bike, but there are no age or helmet regulations on class one and two e-bikes.

Since e-bikes can be very powerful, especially Class 3, anybody who is purchasing an e-bike should read "E-Bike Smart: Your Guide to Safe Riding" from PeopleForBikes and the League of American Bicyclists:

<https://www.ebikesmart.org/>
Enjoy your autumn 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.

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Seeking Forever Homes

by Stephanie Jarosz

Meet Vivi aka “collar #3511!” This sweet girl is about four months old and a little wobbly on her feet because she may have cerebellar hypoplasia (CH).

CH is a neurological condition that affects a cat's cerebellum, which is the area of the brain that controls fine motor movement, balance, and coordination. Because of this, CH is sometimes called "wobbly cat syndrome." CH is not painful or contagious, and it does not worsen over time.

CH kitties like Vivi can lead active, happy, and healthy lives! They do require a little special care, such as being kept indoors and away from stairs. Some cats need mats, carpets, or rugs to help them get around, and they should not be declawed.

Loving a special kitty like Vivi can be incredibly rewarding! She's currently at the Lakewood Animal Shelter



Vivi

waiting for her forever home.

Meet Sonny aka “collar #3521!” This handsome guy is about two years old and very sweet. Sonny is a little nervous about being at the shelter, but his gentle and kind nature still shines through. He would love nothing more than cuddling on the couch with his



Sonny

new family.

Sonny has the prettiest orange fur and the most striking amber eyes. He could probably be in the movies!

Want to meet Sonny? He has a big heart and is ready to give his future mom and/or dad all his love. He's waiting for you at the Lakewood Animal Shelter!

Visit Vivi, Sonny, and the other animals at the Lakewood Animal Shelter located at 1299 Metropark Drive, just past the Dog Park. Contact the shelter at (216) 529-5020.

Lakewood Animal Shelter hours:
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays.

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. Learn more about CCLAS at cclas.org.

Be SMART Lakewood

by Patricia Neligan Barley

Be SMART is a campaign focused on education and awareness about child gun deaths and secure gun storage. Everytown for Gun Safety launched the Be SMART campaign to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. 4.6 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.

I want to thank Chief Kevin Fischer for the opportunity to show him our Be SMART presentation. Chief Fischer said he is “one hundred percent behind the message.” He agrees that it is an important message and has helped us reach out to other local police chiefs and make arrangements to meet with our local neighborhood police officers.

He told us that as a police officer, he thinks there are too many guns and too many accidents. He strives to live by saying, “If it's predictable, it's preventable.”

Community leaders, parents, teachers, police chiefs, doctors, and nurses have come together nationwide to participate in the Be SMART message. Safety is always an adult responsibility.

Our community's proactive approach to the Be SMART campaign, as evidenced by our partnership with the city and the Lakewood City Schools, is a testament to our commitment to this crucial message.

Over the past few years, our grassroots group of volunteers has met with city and school leaders. We have presented our message to the Board of Education, various PTAs at all grade levels, and our City Council. After meeting with Mayor George at the end of the June 2022 school year, the Lakewood

Police Department purchased gun locks for our citizens to obtain at the police station free of charge.

Our platform is dedicated to fostering adult conversations and normalizing the discussion around safe gun storage. Whether you're a gun owner or not, ensuring your gun is secured properly, away from the ammunition, is crucial. However, it's equally important to consider the safety practices in the houses where your kids play.

We ask about pets and food allergies. Will an adult be home if young teens are gathering? Is there a fence around the pool? Who will be watching your child? But asking about guns seems to be a taboo and uncomfortable conversation to have.

I want to thank the many people who have taken the time to listen to this framework and allow us to present

to you, your school, and your event. Most recently, we had the opportunity to meet with our Lakewood Chief of Police, Chief Fischer.

You can visit BeSMARTforKids.org to learn more about safe gun storage and familiarize yourself with this framework. When it comes to kids' safety, we are all in this together!

Patricia Barley is a freelance travel writer and a resident of Lakewood. Her three boys attend(ed) Lakewood City Schools: a recent LHS graduate who is at OSU, an eighth grader at HMS, and a sixth grader at GMS. She has volunteered at all the schools her children have attended and other organizations in Lakewood. Most recently, Be SMART. She aims to continue to help maintain a safe, healthy, and stable community for her family and neighbors.

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COMMUNITY

Meet Me At Cove:
Karen Nahra, Clinical Manager,
Lakewood Area Collaborative

by Nancy Feighan

Karen Nahra is a Licensed Independent Social Worker with a supervisory designation. She holds a bachelor's in social work from Cleveland State University and a master's in social work from New York University. After returning to Cleveland in the early 2000s, Karen worked in community-based services and later gained experience in hospital social work and accreditation and regulatory affairs at the Cleveland Clinic. In 2022, she earned an MBA from Kent State University.



Karen Nahra

At the Lakewood Area Collaborative, Karen's team helps families maintain stability through case management, advocacy, and connections to local resources. She is inspired by the hard work and dedication of the team to strengthen families. She is passionate about the community activities at Cove and values opportunities for all age groups. Karen lives in Lakewood with her partner Robert, two children, and their English Cocker Spaniel. In her free time, she enjoys exploring Lakewood, practicing yoga, traveling, and attending Cleveland sports events. Her family is on a ballpark tour, having

visited parks across the U.S., with Yankee Stadium as their next goal. Karen recently discovered that her great aunt lived in Rockport (now Lakewood) in the late 19th century. Today, Karen and her two sisters all reside in Lakewood. Her commitment to community work and deep connection to Lakewood make her a vital part of the city's efforts to support and uplift its families. Nancy Feighan is a Project Specialist II, Department of Human Services, City of Lakewood.

Hawaiian Fun At Cove Community Center:
A Luau To Remember!



by Nancy Feighan

Aloha, Lakewood! The luau at n Cove Community Center last Thursday was a hit! Hula hoops spun, grass skirts swayed, and Hawaiian outfits took center stage. We gave out prizes for the best hula hoopers, best dressed, and had a 50/50 raffle. Even a "tourist" with a camera was there to capture all the island vibes! The highlight? Tasty shish-kabobs

and grilled pineapple, with DJ Scott Hanna playing the perfect island tunes. A big shoutout to the H2O high school students for helping with the photo booth, games, and dinner. Mahalo to our generous sponsors, Haven at Lakewood and O'Neil Healthcare Lakewood, for the great prizes and support. And thanks to everyone for bringing the Hawaiian spirit to Lakewood!

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Carol Ann Skindell 1936-2024

from Michael Skindell
State Representative

September 15, 2024, an amazing woman, my mom, Carol (born Kaska) Skindell, gained her wings at age 88 after battling Alzheimer's dementia for more than 16 years. We lost her bit by bit during these years. My mom brought joy to me, her grandchildren and many she came in contact with. Her life was rich from raising a family, working as a waitress, driving a school bus with the Brunswick School District, managing State Liquor stores, bowling, being active in my campaigns and serving on the Central Committee and Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and as a member of the Brunswick VFW Post.



She is survived by me, her granddaughter, Tara (Colin) Doppes of Brunswick, OH; great-grandchildren, Faith (Eric) Brancatelli and Noah Painting; great-great grandchildren, Peyton and Kendall Brancatelli; former daughter-in-law Diana (Neal) Lichty; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of nearly 34 years, Vincent M. Skindell; son, Vincent J. Skindell; grandson, Joshua Skindell; and sister, Marie (nee Kaska) Garcia. We deeply appreciate the compassionate care provided by Ennis

Court in Lakewood. The family will welcome guests from 5:00 to 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at Waite Funeral Home, 3300 Center Road, Brunswick, OH, with a memorial service beginning at 6:00 pm. Carol will be laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery in Valley City, OH. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Carol's name to the Cleveland Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, 3 Summit Park Drive, #550, Independence, OH 44131.

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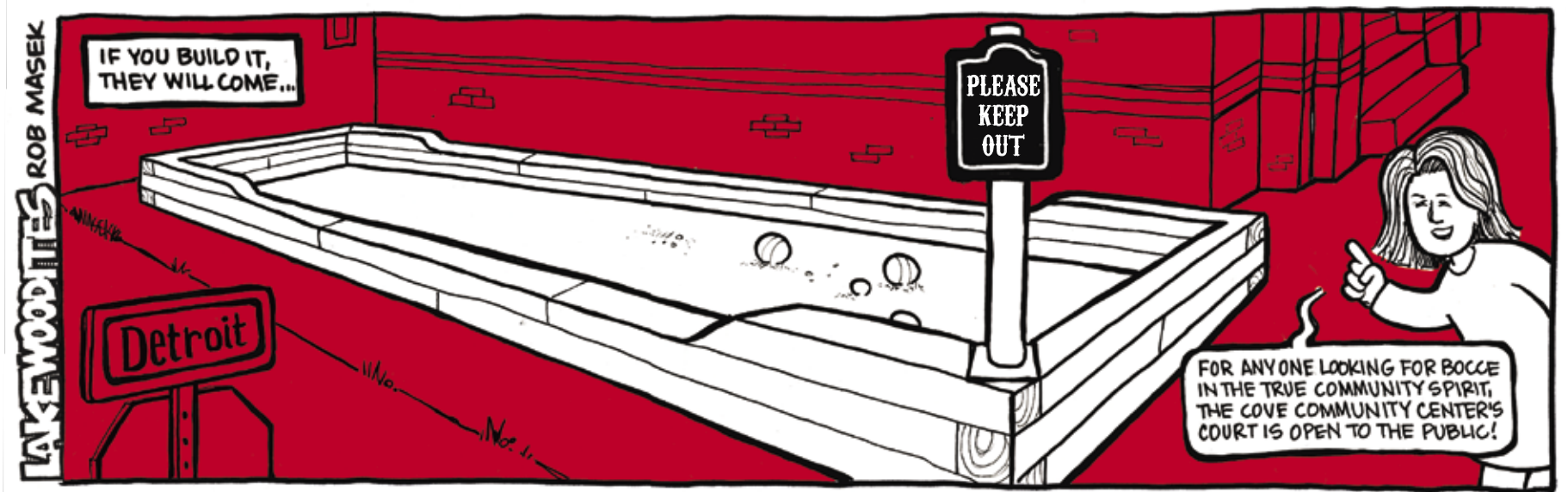
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