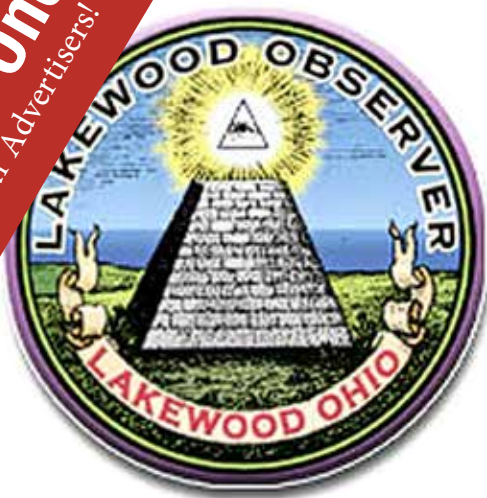


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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 20, Issue 19, October 2, 2024



LO's 15th Halloween Decorating Contest

by Jim O'Bryan

It's beginning to look a lot like Halloween! Let's give some stuff away!

The Lakewood Observer is looking for houses and apartments with the best Halloween/Fall decorations. So many work so hard putting on a show for the kids, neigh-

bors, and visitors – join with us in calling them out, thanking them, and awarding them some great prizes.

People can nominate up to 3 houses a day until midnight, October 29, 2024. The sooner a home is nominated, the earlier it will appear in voting.

Then, on October 30th

2024 thru November 05, 2024 we will all vote for the top 8 and give out some prizes from our prize basket.

First prize will be \$100.00 in fine dining at Lakewood restaurants, Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, Root Cafe.

continued on page 7

Ex Hospital Site Sees Some Action

from City Hall

Over the past two months, the final review for the Downtown Development project has gotten underway. Guided by the City's zoning code for planned developments, this final review process has started with the project team, led by CASTO and Dimit Architects, working collaboratively in joint public meetings with the City's Planning Commission (PC) and Architectural Board of Review (ABR).

These initial joint meetings during July and August have resulted in refinements to the details of the project in response to Board and Commission member recommendations as well as the comments and recommenda-



tions of those members of the public in attendance.

The key elements of the Downtown Development project include:

- Provides for/introduces new retail space.
- Provides housing units.
- Creates opportunity for a unique, urban community space in the heart of downtown.
- Preserves the designated historic exterior of the Curtis

Block Building.

- Adds public structured parking to support the development's uses and surrounding area.

- Positions the site to serve as a catalyst for additional opportunities in downtown.

On August 21, the City and Project team hosted a community open house at the Cove Community Center where members of the public had the opportunity to review the project and discuss the site plan and building designs with representatives from the Department of Planning & Development, CASTO, and Dimit Architects. The comments and recommendations from this open house will be considered and integrated into further refinement of the project as it continues review with the upcoming normal September public meetings of the Planning Commission (Sept 5) and Architectural Board of Review (Sept 12). The project is anticipated to advance to City Council for their review by mid-to-late October.

Thank You, Fire Chief Tim Dunphy



One of Lakewood's finest, Fire Chief Timothy Dunphy is set to retire this weekend at the Fire Fighter Recognition Ceremony at Fire Station 1, October 6th at 12 PM. Chief Dunphy started with the Lakewood Fire Department in 1992, shortly after graduating from Lakewood High School. From all of us, thank you for your decades of service and quality leadership. Now go have fun.

Fire Fighter Recognition Ceremony October 6

The annual Fire Recognition Ceremony will take place this Sunday, Oct. 6 at 12 PM to honor department retirees that have passed away during the year, celebrate the careers of those entering retirement including Chief Tim Dunphy, and inaugurate the new Fire Chief and Fire Marshal. The event will take place at Fire Station 1 and is open to the public.

Coat Drive And Give-Away

by Gladys Crider

Greetings from the Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist Community Service Center. Thank you for your patience as we are now situated in our new, smaller-but-nicer quarters. During our transition time, we may have been down but certainly were not out. We had a successful fall book bag give-away. We are now preparing for a winter coat giveaway on October 27th. (Look for the signs.) By the way, if you have a coat you no longer wear, or have barely worn, consider donating it to our Coat Give-

away. We only ask that the garments be in good shape and clean. You can place such items in our donations bin, in the parking lot. Please drop off donations before October 27th. The Lakewood community is such a caring entity that we extend a thank you already for your support. Other give-aways will be forthcoming.

Speaking of donated items, we could certainly use children's clothing for youngsters ages six to twelve, and non-perishable food items. Our donations bin is in the continued on page 2

Ian Andrews: CDC Staff Member Of The Year



Congratulations to LakewoodAlive's Ian Andrews, who was named the 2024 CDC (Community Development Corporation) Staff Member of the Year by the Ohio CDC Association!

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S PAGE

Welcome Bryan Evans, Council Member Ward 2

by Sarah Kepple
City Council President,
Councilperson-At-Large

Happy Fall, Neighbors!

With the departure of former Vice President and Ward 2 Councilmember Jason Shachner, Council had the Charter bound duty to elect a new Vice President and appoint an individual to serve the residents of Ward 2 until the next municipal election.

On Tuesday, September 3rd, Council unanimously elected Ward 1 Councilmember Kyle Baker to the role of Vice President. Vice President Baker is a lifelong resident of Lakewood. He has served on Council since 2022, chairs the Housing, Planning and Development Committee, previously chaired the Public Safety Committee, serves on the Finance Committee, and represented Council on the Active Transportation Plan/Safe Streets Advisory Board. Prior to his service on Council, he volunteered as Chair of the Planning Commission and as President and Trustee of the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation among many other contributions to our community. Kyle’s knowledge, skill and incredible dedication make him an asset to our city, and I’m excited to work with him in an official leadership capacity.

On Monday, September 16th,



Bryan Evans was sworn in as the new Ward 2 Councilmember. Councilmember Evans was selected from an impressive field of 17 applicants after extensive review and public interviews on September 3rd and 9th. Until his appointment, Councilmember Evans served as Chair of the Public Art Advisory Board and previously served as vice-chair of the Architectural Board of Review and on the board of Lakewood Alive. The former Planning Director for University Circle Incorporated in Cleveland, Bryan volunteered his over 20 years of urban design and planning experience to author the Kaufman Park Master plan. Residents writing in to express their support for Bryan’s appointment spoke of how his

hands-on, enthusiastic engagement with the community inspired them to also get involved. Bryan and his wife Megan are the proud parents of two LHS rangers. Congratulations and welcome to Councilmember Evans!

Please join us for our upcoming Lakewood City Council meetings:

7:30pm Monday, October 7th -
Regular Meeting of Council

6:00pm Monday, October 14th
- The Health and Human Services Committee will review the Annual Report of the Community Health Action Team (CHAT) which is working on interventions to address factors affecting our health, such as Housing, Community Information Strategies, Out of School Time Enrichment, Healthy Food Access, and Access to Physical & Behavioral Health.

Sign up for our email list to receive agendas for upcoming meetings, livestream meetings or watch past meetings, and learn more about Council on our webpage: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/lakewood-city-council/>

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

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Coat Drive And Give-Away

continued from page 1

parking lot, against the school building, at 1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood. We are located between Taco Bell and Kauffman Park courts.

You may ask, "If I need help, how do I prepare for a client visit to the Community Service Center?" In attempting to help those who really need our help, we ask that you bring with you evidence of income or evidence documenting special circumstances substantiating emergent need.

We look forward to continuing service to the Lakewood community.

Gladys Crider is the Community Service Director for Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist.

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood Observer

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Publish Date

Friday, October 11, 2024

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Friday, November 1, 2024

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

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THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Thank You, Fire Chief Tim Dunphy

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

On Sunday, Lakewood will hold a bittersweet event at the annual Firefighter Recognition Ceremony when we have the chance to celebrate the career of Fire Chief Tim Dunphy upon his retirement following a stellar 32 years of public service. While those who gather will enjoy honoring Chief Dunphy and all he has accomplished, we know we will miss him as he steps away to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

Our city benefits from the true excellence we see in our safety forces, who show up every day ready to spring into action and protect us in times crisis while also proactively working to prevent emergencies. Our fire department’s culture of excellence is a tradition, and Chief Dunphy has managed to both maintain and build upon it during his time actively fighting fires and more recently in his role leading the Lakewood Fire Department. His career is a model of success for public servants.

Chief Dunphy is a hometown product who grew up in Lakewood



Mayor Meghan George and Fire Chief Timothy Dunphy speak with Harlon Radford, founder of FireFighters Swim-A-Thon, at the event last year.

and began his career as a firefighter/paramedic in 1992 after graduating from Lakewood High School. If you

have seen him in action, the chief is known to proudly sport a LHS Ranger sticker on his helmet. He rose through the ranks over time, actively fighting fires and providing frontline services until he became Fire Marshal in 2011, a position he held until being promoted to Fire Chief in 2019. He has served admirably in that role ever since.

There are many examples from Chief Dunphy’s tenure that show how he enhanced safety in Lakewood and sought to innovate in the methods our Fire Department uses to protect our people. A few highlights that come to mind include introducing new initiatives like the Neighborhood Paramedic Program and bringing back the Car Seat Fit Stop Program while also focus-

ing on continuous training that kept our firefighters on the cutting edge of the industry and expanding the Lakewood Fire Department Memorial Committee to honor new firefighters.

I am personally grateful for the exceptional leadership Chief Dunphy exhibited during crisis events like the COVID-10 pandemic, the Marine Towers West garage collapse, and the extended and widespread power outages following the severe storms this past summer. Chief Dunphy’s tireless work and wise guidance to the mayor’s office on fire and emergency medical safety were always appreciated, along with his passion and enthusiasm for Lakewood and its people, and his special flair for conversation and gift of gab. Chief Dunphy, thank you for everything – you will be missed!

Lakewood is lucky that our Fire Department has a deep well of superior talent, and Chief Dunphy’s successor – Ryan Fairbanks – is ready, willing, and able to step into the role, bringing his own stellar background. Incoming Chief Fairbanks began his firefighting career in the US Air Force, at bases in the US and in Kuwait, then served as a Department of Defense Civilian firefighter at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station until he joined the Lakewood Fire Department in 2005. He was promoted to Fire Marshal in 2019 and has worked hand-in-hand with Chief Dunphy to ensure a seamless transition in leadership. While Incoming Chief Fairbanks has big shoes to fill, it’s clear he is up to the task, and will keep our city safe and continue the tradition of excellence in the Lakewood Fire Department.



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming Events

by Lisa Calfee

Meet the Author:

“Watching the Asparagus Grow” by Jeff Wilkins

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

Many deep, dark secrets are forced to the surface in this heartwarming yet heartbreaking tale of love and forgiveness triumphing over hatred and bigotry during the tumultuous 60s and 70s. Books will be available for sale.

Barbara Steffek-Hill Five-Star Matinee:

“The Tango Lesson” (1997)

Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

Teacher and student become deeply involved with the tango and then each other.

Meet the Author- “Mystery of Mysteries:

The Death and Life of Edgar Allan Poe” by Mark Dawidziak

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

The circumstances surrounding Edgar Allan Poe’s death on October 7, 1849, are as mysterious and macabre as the tales he wrote. Fresh from the International Edgar Allan Poe Festival in Baltimore, the author will stop by to discuss the life and untimely end of Poe. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Terry Meehan Film Series- “The Maltese Falcon” (1941)

Saturday, October 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

With a pace that quickens as tension mounts, Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Sidney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre are after one thing: The Maltese Falcon, a jewel-encrusted statuette, “the stuff that dreams are made of.”

Presentation:

Demythologizing the Cultural History Behind the Rolling Stones
Free Concert at Altamont, California, December 6th, 1969

Presenter Dr. Michael Skladany Sunday, October 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Using literature, film, audio and interviews with some of the key participants, CSU Professor Dr. Michael Skladany will explore a heady mythology that rose up in the aftermath of the infamous “free concert” held at Altamont, California on December 6, 1969.

Children’s And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert

Fall Storytimes:

September 9- October 31, 2024

Just Baby ‘N Me

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

Just Baby ‘N Me is a lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. No registration is required.

Main Library-

Mondays- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

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

Madison Branch-

Thursdays- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pre-school Story Time

For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler.

Children and their parents will enjoy stories, movement and songs for thirty fun filled minutes. The focus is on early literacy skills. No registration is required.

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.

Pajama Party

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.

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

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

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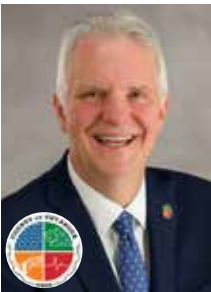
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A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne

Congratulations, Cuyahoga Reads participants! You not only reached our reading goal, you exceeded it! To celebrate, we invite you to a special FREE culminating event on Saturday, October 19 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Children’s Museum of Cleveland. Families can enjoy the museum exhibits, receive a free book, and help us celebrate Cuyahoga Reads! Participants must register to attend.



**Cuyahoga Reads
Culmination Celebration**
Children’s Museum of Cleveland
Saturday, October 19
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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Reading with Beanstack

by Cuyahoga Reads Committee



Although we’ve reached our reading goal for Cuyahoga County, you can still track your personal

reading goals with Beanstack! Join more community challenges, run your own reading competition between family and friends, or simply read in order to earn prizes and rewards! Visit beanstack.com for more information.

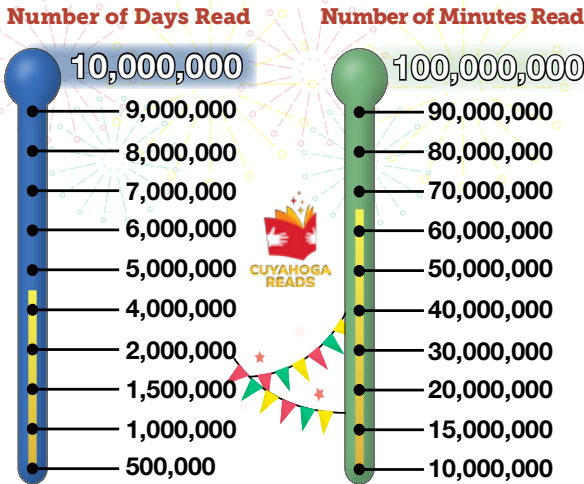
Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips



We encourage you to learn more about standing against book censorship by visiting uniteagainbookbans.org. UABB provides book resumes as a free resource to help stand against book bans in our community. Across the nation, 71% of voters (on both sides of the aisle) oppose efforts to remove books from public libraries.



Let’s Keep It Going, Cuyahoga County!



LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS



Rangers Cross Country Teams Score At McQuaid Invitational

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to our boys and girls cross country team members who traveled to the 59th McQuaid Invitational in New York this weekend! The boys varsity team placed 2nd overall of 28 teams and the girls varsity placed 4th out of 19 teams! Way to represent, Rangers!

Spirit Parade Set For Oct. 4

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Ranger Spirit/Homecoming Parade will kick off Homecoming Weekend on Friday, Oct. 4. The parade will step off at 5:30 pm from the corner of Abbieshire Avenue and Edgewater Drive, head south on Abbieshire to Lake Avenue, east on Lake to Belle Avenue, south on Belle to Clifton Boulevard, east on Clifton to Bunts Avenue, south on Bunts to Franklin Boulevard, west on Franklin and end at LHS North Parking lot across street from Lakewood High School. Wear your purple and gold and bring your Ranger Spirit to cheer on the parade participants! The Rangers will take on Nomandy in the Homecoming Game, which kicks off at 7 pm at First Federal Lakewood Stadium.

Listen & Learn With The Superintendent Oct. 17

by Christine Gordillo

Come share your thoughts, ideas and concerns about the Lakewood City Schools with Superintendent Niedzwiecki at her first Listen & Learn session of the school year. It will take place on Thursday, Oct. 17 from 6-7 pm in the Ranger Cafe at Lakewood High School. Enter at the flagpole entrance in front of the school. Treasurer Kent Zeman will join the superintendent to provide a brief financial update on the District. These sessions are informal one-hour discussions and community members are welcome to drop in any time during the hour.



Hayes Principal Eric Fortuna breaks a balloon full of confetti above a student's head to signify which house the student belongs to.

Hayes Launches House System

by Christine Gordillo

Hayes Elementary recently launched a new house system, similar to the concept in Harry Potter, to help the school nurture and build a better sense of community and belonging among each other and to build on the culture of school pride, empathy and inclusion. Hayes is the District's second school to use the house system, developed at Ron Clark Academy. Roosevelt Elementary launched their house program in 2020.

Hayes held a raucous initial house sorting assembly on Sept. 11 & 12 where each student learned which house they would belong to. The houses are comprised of all grade levels. Staff are assigned houses as well. At the start of each school year, new students will find out their house at the sorting assembly. The houses meet regularly throughout

the school year to collaborate on activities and check in on each other.

Friendly competition is a big part of the house concept as the houses compete for points that can be used to buy prizes in the school's PBIS store. At the end of the year, a house champion is declared. Teachers can award points for kindness, academics, service, character, school spirit and just generally going above and beyond.

This first year of houses at Hayes will focus a lot on students learning the history behind their house names, including the country from which the name is derived, and brainstorming ideas for projects throughout the year that will continue to grow the sense of community at the school. One activity that is definitely in Hayes' sight is a joint event with the Roosevelt community.

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

More Than 100 Earn AP Scholar Honors

by Christine Gordillo

Each newschool year the Lakewood City Schools celebrates its numerous Lakewood High School students who have earned recognition from the College Board due to the students' scores on the college-level Advanced Placement exams taken in May. The District proudly congratulates the 106 current students and recent graduates who have earned AP Scholar honors. We believe this is the first time the school has topped the 100 Scholars mark!

The following are the District's AP honorees:

AP Scholars with Distinction (earned by averaging at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams):

Meredith Barcelona, Ronan Barley, Rowan Brown, Leah Campbell, Aiden Clasen, Madison Comer, Ava Cuffari, Anna Daso, William Detmar, Jazmin Dunay, Carter Eardley, Jana Evans, Camden Fegely, Erica Frischauf, Fiona Gjermani, Mateo Guajardo, Callum Holland, Edward Horton, Shannon Katzenberger, Margot King, Michael Klasa, Maggie Lane, Sophia Lipowski, Amalija Marich, Evan Miller, Mae Mohar, Daniel O'Brien,

Emily Potoczak, Hutch Reed, Owen Rumsey, Bode Smith, Arabella Spear, Danka Wentzel, Andrew Winters

AP Scholars with Honor (earned by averaging at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams):

Sam Browning, Cicely Campen, Rosemary Cronin, Cameron Crouch, Olivia Diemert, Ava Donaldson, Madelynn Ellis, Helen Fraunfelder, Logan Friend, Leonardo Garman, Lukas George, Jake Hirsch, Mckenna Hunt, Andrew Jablonowski, Emily Jarecke,

Kathryn Jirousek, Aniya Johnson, Jackson Lodge, Isabella Marzicola, Anna Maurer, Ian Molinski, Colton Moran, Myint Mo Nee, Charles Quinn, Jonathan Reighard, Stella Rosen, Jane Wagle, Adele Wentzel, Cameron Wereb, Iris Wright, Corinne Wroblewski

AP Scholars (earned by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher):

Evelisse Abderrazza, Rachel Aoun, David Awkar, Margaret Barmann, Grace Bratko, Christopher Byrne,

Zachary Carnovale, Gillian Coulson, Isaac Craciun, Olivia Demery, Elizabeth Doup, Yasmine Elhachdani, Riley Forster, Delaney Garcia, Nora Germaine, Owen Gibbons, Turner Gilliland, Jack Gowan, Joseph Gregg, Chaiya Herberger, Gwen Hunter, Will Irwin, Maren Jacobs, Josie Kavc, Nathan Kopko, Ariana Marich, Alexa Masten, Alessio Matera, Donald Mikuluk, Aribeth Moore-Gucki, Oliver Nohta, Zoe Pace, Charles Payne, Margaret Rearden, Eleanor Rogers, Thaissa Santos, Elizabeth Schuldt, Quinn Sutliff, Parker Toms, Sara Viserta, Lillian Winters.

Construction Continues At LHS For New FSO Home, West Shore Programs

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School, already a busy hive of activity during the school year, is happily contending with additional commotion as construction crews continue work on several new areas that will transform the high school.

The first project that will be completed is a new space for the Franklin School of Opportunity, or FSO, currently located down the

street on Franklin. Construction teams are working on the western end of the high school moving existing classrooms and creating a space space for what will become a school within a school for FSO.

The move was necessitated by FSO's current aging building that would be cost prohibitive to repair. A task force of staff, parents and community members recommended LHS as the new home as students

more easily can take advantage of electives and extracurriculars. FSO is expected to move into LHS for the 2025-2026 school year.

Work will soon begin on space for West Shore Career Tech's new MEMS (microelectro-mechanical systems) and sending programs that are made possible by a \$5.78 million state grant. Those programs will likely be ready to launch for the 2026-2027 school year.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



LO's 15th Halloween Decorating Contest

continued from page 1

As we did last year, we will pick one person that nominated a house at random for a \$25.00 gift certificate from Woodstock BBQ.

There's more great food and prizes for 2nd through 8th.

So let's get this party started by going to: <https://lakewoodobserver.com/daily-question/2024-10-01>

As always, I would like to thank the sponsors of this contest, especially: Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, Root Cafe, Carabel Beauty Salon.

Follow the QR Code on the right!



AQUARIUS: Aquarians are known for their unconventional behavior & their uniqueness; strut your stuff as the enigmatic Angel Dust in Deadpool this Halloween.

PISCES: The Fish would be closest to the spirit world, swimming in his psychic pond, this Halloween as the wisest of all the Souls, Alia Atreides, in Dune: Part Two.

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

October

ARIES: This Halloween, the Ram would be perfect as Cable in Deadpool. With the Martian energy of the planet Mars, the Ram is difficult to slow down, the race is on...

TAURUS: The Bull needs to come out of the Bullpen this Halloween & give us your best Adam Maitland costume of Beetlejuice. The romantic that you are, you're a shoo-in.

GEMINI: Get ready Twins to win that Halloween contest with your best Deadpool imitation of Dominio; you'll hold your own with your smart, quick-witted personality.

CANCER: The Crab's Sun is shining on home & family this Halloween, & no one protects hearth & family better than Barbara Maitland of Beetlejuice; turn the porch light on.

LEO: The Lion/Lioness loves attention, any time of the week, but no better time to draw the Jungle to you than on Halloween with the charismatic leading role of Deadpool.

VIRGO: With Virgo being such a stickler for details, & Miss Argentina's meticulous, over-the-top, OCD display, you're sure to fit right in at the Beetlejuice Halloween party.

LIBRA: Hands down, Libra, you need to be your charming self, the ghost with the most, & play the leading role as the ladies' man that you are & win the prize as Beetlejuice himself.

SCORPIO: The Scorpion, known for its deadly intense personality & its powerful psychic abilities, will be at your best, as Paul Atreides from Dune: Part Two on Halloween.

SAGITTARIUS: The Centaur's strong belief in a higher presence & its laser-focused commitment to faith, Naib Stilgar in Dune: Part Two is your Halloween best choice.

CAPRICORN: Reverend Mother, Gaius Helen Mohiam represents the Saturnian traits of cold, rationality, & respect for tradition that will get the Goat the Oscar in Dune: Part Two this Halloween.

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Zeyd Khan, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lutheran Hospital

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"Some of this is normal teenage behavior, but if your

teen is having a hard time dealing with changes at home or school, if they've attempted self-harm or suicide, consider having them assessed to participate in our program that focuses on mood disorders," says Zeyd Khan, MD, an adolescent psychiatrist and medical director of Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital's Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP).

The IOP, which typically runs for five weeks but can be extended if needed, is for adolescents aged 13 to 18. Participants in the group program, which



operates on an ongoing rolling basis, attend three sessions per week from 4 – 7 pm. Monday and Tuesday sessions are virtual, with the Thursday session held in person at Lutheran Hospital. In addition, plans are in place to offer a separate IOP at Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital later this year.

Lutheran's program uses proven therapy techniques effective for mood disorders, helping participants broaden their coping skills, increase their capacity for self-awareness, decrease life threatening behaviors, and change behaviors that interfere with mental health and quality of life.

"The group is very welcoming. While some participants may be reluctant at first, after interacting with our team and members of the group, they realize this is something they need to better handle what is going on in their life," says Dr. Khan.

To schedule an appointment with a behavioral health specialist, please call **216.444.5812**.

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FORUM

Let's Vote Kira Krivosh For Judge

by Sarah Kepple

As President of Lakewood City Council, I have had the pleasure of working with Kira Krivosh in many capacities. Her family have been longtime business owners in the city, running beloved restaurants, Around the Corner, Vosh, and Georgetown. She is also an active community volunteer and has served on the Board of the Citizens Committee for Lakewood's Animals and Shelter for many years. Now I know her as a judicial candidate for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division. I can attest that Kira is an exemplary candidate who will serve Cuyahoga County well.

Kira is currently a magistrate with 14 years of legal experience which includes work in municipal, county, and federal courts. She also has worked as an Assistant County Prosecutor specializing in domestic support obligations which she helped pass on by educating other county prosecutors offices and county agencies across the State of Ohio. The daughter of teachers and a former substitute teacher herself, Kira enjoys improving the practice

of law by teaching continuing legal education classes.

Besides her vast legal knowledge, what sets Kira apart is the innovative practices she has been able to implement due to insights gained through her community service. She serves on the Board of Open Doors Academy, a high-quality after-school program for children in under-resourced communities. She also co-founded the Giving Tree Project to create and distribute much needed supplies during the early days of the pandemic. These experiences inform the work she does as magistrate, giving her the knowledge and understanding to connect the people who come before her to resources that can help them succeed.

Kira has a multitude of endorsements from unions, elected officials and community leaders. I have witnessed first-hand Kira's commitment to public service.

I would urge you to educate yourself about Kira and see for yourself why she deserves your vote. <https://www.krivoshforjudge.com>

Please consider giving Kira your vote in this upcoming election.

Early voting begins October 7th.



Lakewood Police Dispatcher And Dispatch Team Of The Year Awards from City Hall

On Sept 10th, Lakewood Police Dispatchers Bridget Roda, Tonya Graham, and Mia McGlynn were nominated for the Ohio Public Safety Gold Star Awards' Dispatcher of the Year and Dispatch Team of the Year for their outstanding work. Congratulations to each of you!

Zoning Refresh Project from City Hall

The City has partnered with the consulting firm Houseal Lavigne to kick off a much-needed refresh of its Planning and Zoning Code. Lakewood's current zoning code was last comprehensively updated and adopted in 1996 with a variety of piecemeal additions and revisions made since that time.

In 2012, the City released the Community Vision – which serves in place of a traditional Master Plan – that was last updated in 2019. The Community Vision centers upon six focus areas (commercial development, housing, community wellness, safety, mobility, and education and culture) with supporting objective statements for each.

The City's overarching intent with this project is to update our zoning code so that it:

- Aligns with the Community Vision,
- Integrates contemporary best practices for a dense, historic, urban community,

- Promotes sustainability and resiliency to climate change,
- Reflects the input and perspective gained through engagement with Lakewood residents, property owners, businesses, and other key stakeholders,
- Incorporates processes that are proportional and transparent with clear requirements and decision criteria, and
- Is easy to read/navigate, understandable by the public, and enforceable by the City.

A community open house to kick off the project was held on August 29 at the Cove Community Center. If you were unable to attend, there will be more opportunities to get involved and provide feedback on this important project. More information on upcoming events and engagement opportunities – including an initial online questionnaire – is available at the project website: <https://lakewood-oh-zoning-hlplanning.hub.arcgis.com/>

Spotted Lantern Flies In Lakewood from City Hall

Spotted lanternfly are an invasive insect species that feed on trees and grapevines. They have been in Cuyahoga County for several years and are becoming more prevalent and problematic. There are several things you can do to protect Lakewood and prevent further spread:

1. Kill spotted lanternfly by squishing them and removing egg masses. You will often find them crawling on the ground, buildings, or trees.
2. Check your car so you do not transport them with you. Use this checklist to help prevent their spread: <https://tinyurl.com/mcz6a3fc>
3. Remove Tree of Heaven if you



have it on your property and do not plant more. They prefer to feed on this invasive tree.

For more information, visit <https://agri.ohio.gov/slf>.



Councilman Tristan W. Rader with wife, Dr. Caitlin E. Rader

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Candidate for State Representative

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrate At Lakewood Public Library

The Artistry Of Roger Duvoisin

by Eve Klodnick

Lakewood Public Library is delighted to host a special event honoring the work of Caldecott Medal-winning author and illustrator, Roger Duvoisin. This celebration is made even more special by the unveiling of a new gallery featuring original sketches by Duvoisin, made possible through the generous donation of the Jeanne McGinness family.

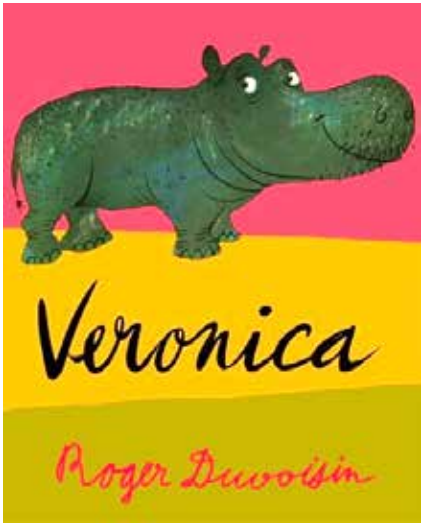
Join us on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. for a captivating presentation titled “The Children’s Book Illustrations of Roger Duvoisin.” The event will be led by Benjamin Sapp, Director of the University of Findlay’s Mazza Museum.

Roger Duvoisin (1900–1980) was a prolific picture book creator, best known for his beloved characters such as Petunia the silly goose and Veronica the conspicuous hippopotamus. Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Duvoisin moved to the United States in his twenties with his wife, writer Louise Fatio, with whom he collaborated on a successful series of picture books, beginning with The Happy Lion.

This event celebrates not only Duvoisin’s artistic legacy but also a touching story of connection and generosity. Jeanne McGinness, a life-long Lakewood resident and a creative French and English teacher who taught



Roger Duvoisin



Jeanne McGinness

at Riverside School, developed a special bond between Duvoisin and her students through a pen-pal relationship. This connection led to memorable classroom visits from the illustrator, during which he created custom illustrations for her students.

Upon Ms. McGinness's passing, her sister, Anne Wagner, generously donated these treasured artworks to Lakewood Public Library, to share them with the Lakewood community her sister so loved.

Benjamin Sapp will guide us through Duvoisin’s remarkable career and his lasting impact on children’s literature. As the Director of the Mazza Museum, home to the world’s largest collection of original artwork by children’s book illustrators, Sapp brings a wealth of knowledge and insights that will deepen our appreciation of Duvoisin’s contributions.

Join us for this unforgettable afternoon celebrating art, literature, and community. The event is free and open to the public.

Event Details:

The Children’s Book Illustrations of Roger Duvoisin

Presented by: Benjamin Sapp, Director of the Mazza Museum

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Main Library Auditorium, Lakewood Public Library

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM PUBLIC MEDIA RELEASE - FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Lakewood Child Care Center located at 1450 Belle Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio and **The St. Peter’s Child Care Center** located at 18001 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio along with **St. Peter’s Child Care Center Horace Mann Schoolage Program** located at 1215 West Clifton Blvd. in Lakewood, announces sponsorship of the USDA-funded CACFP.

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1	\$19,578	1,632	816	753	377	\$27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536
2	\$26,572	2,215	1,108	1,022	511	\$37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	\$33,566	2,798	1,399	1,291	646	\$47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	\$40,560	3,380	1,690	1,560	780	\$57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	\$47,554	3,963	1,982	1,829	915	\$67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	\$54,548	4,546	2,273	2,098	1,049	\$77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	\$61,542	5,129	2,565	2,367	1,184	\$87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	\$68,536	5,712	2,856	2,636	1,318	\$97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
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BIKING LAKEWOOD

OBF: Ohio's Only Statewide Bicyclist Organization

by Kenneth Knabe

Many of you are familiar with Bike Cleveland and its local chapter, Bike Lakewood. But do you know about Ohio Bicycling Federation (OBF)? As the only statewide organization for cycling advocacy In Ohio, OBF has the ear of our state representatives In Columbus.

Since its founding in 1980, OBF has been comprised of groups and individuals working together to promote cycling for transportation, safety legislation, recreation, and more. Current (at time of writing) Ohio Bicycle Federation Chair Chuck Smith has been working in this role since 1995. Talk about dedication!

A complete historical timeline of OBF's dedicated work and accomplishments can be found on its website <https://www.ohiobike.org/but> following are some of its many highlights:

In 1996, OBF was instrumental in the passage of Ohio House Bill 461which allows cyclists to point in the direction they are intending to turn (previously, a right turn had to be signaled with an upraised left arm).

From 1997-2003 on the National Committee for Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances (NCUTLO), Smith represented cycling, the mission being to update the Uniform Vehicle Code due to the definition of "bicycle" being upgraded to "vehicle."



OBF Board Members sporting OBF 3 Feet Passing cycling kits during the August 2022 Cycle Con in Dayton, L-R: Ken Braswell, Chuck Smith, Ken Mercurio

In 2004 OBF testified before the Ohio House and Senate Transportation Committees supporting House Bill 406, which was signed into law that year, making the "Share the Road" license plate available.

2005 saw the passage of House Bill 389 "The Better Ohio Cycling Bill" after OBF once again testified before the two committees; all local jurisdictions were now required to follow Ohio law about cycling, plus it made the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) closer to the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC).

After eight years of educating the

Ohio General Assembly, OBF testified in 2015 before the House Transportation Committee in support of House Bill 154 and again in 2016 before the Senate Transportation Committee. It was signed into law in December 2016 and included the Three Feet Safe Distance requirement when passing cyclists, and the "dead red" exception, both covered in Chapter Three.

In 2020 OBF was selected by the new Ohio Traffic Safety Council to represent Ohio cycling; the same year, Smith was selected as a League of American Bicyclists Board Member.

OBF's years of effort and recent testifying before Ohio legislators were instrumental in the passing of Ohio Revised Code §4511.204 on April 4, 2023, making driving while texting a primary offense!

As of this writing, there is discussion about developing and advocating for a Traffic Victim Support Act; Sharon Montgomery, whose husband John was killed by a distracted driver and who, for over two decades has worked toward making distracted driving a primary offense in Ohio, would support such legislation.

OBF publishes the annual Ohio Bicycle Events Calendar, which includes tours (noncompetitive group rides), budget tours, free rides, full-service tours, fundraisers, bike-a-thons/pledge rides. Some years include bicycle races.

I enjoy being on the board of this worthy and hardworking organization. Much gratitude to the Ohio Bicycle Federation and Chuck Smith for their decades of commitment to safe cycling across our state!

Enjoy autumn by riding legally and safely.

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

League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Impact Scholarship Winner, Alexa Masten
“Why Is Democracy Important To Preserve?”

by Alexa Masten

Political violence: the deliberate use of power and force to obtain political goals. Nearly a quarter of the American population agrees that resorting to political violence is the only effective way to save our country. This is dispiriting, to say the least. No American should feel that turning to violence is the only way to save our country. Preserving America’s democracy is exceptionally important because it is what we stand for. We should be proud of the free country that we created for ourselves and take pride in preserving it.

Democracy ensures the protection of our individual freedoms. A democratic government allows us, the people, to express our opinions, practice free religion, and live without the fear of persecution. We must maintain a society that values freedom. Democracy allows the government to be accountable to the people it serves, staying attentive to societal needs. Conserving a democratic government ensures that peace is protected. Every four years, our country can potentially be led by a new individual. This election is solely based on the opinions of American citizens. The leading of our country can be transferred without resorting to violence because the elections are held fairly—citizens over the age of 18 with different backgrounds and contrasting opinions have a voice in their government. Society in a democracy is far more inclusive. Mar-



Alexa plans to study Healthcare Administration at Ohio University.

ginalized groups now have a voice to be heard and can sustain their rights. Focusing more on the way the government internally functions in

a democracy, a system of checks and balances is incorporated, where each branch of government has separate—each of equal importance—powers. This

prevents any one individual branch from gaining excessive control over the other and ensures accountability within each branch. With the president holding the title of Commander in Chief of the military, he essentially controls whether or not the United States goes to war over a dispute. Democratic societies are more likely to resolve quarrels peacefully through communication and negotiation, rather than resorting to violence.

Preserving democracy is extremely crucial to the function of our country. However, challenges will inevitably present themselves. Maintaining democracy may be difficult when we face things such as voter apathy and growing political polarization. When citizens become disengaged from the democratic process, the system begins to weaken. Extreme political divisions can obstruct cooperation and compromise, making significant issues difficult to address. These threats to democracy are inevitable and only reiterate the importance of active citizen participation and efforts to strengthen the democratic process. Promoting civic education and fostering a culture of engagement are only a few ways that citizens can be encouraged to participate in their democracy. By educating people about the importance of their voice, we can empower them to take part in preserving the democracy of America.

Alexa plans to study Healthcare Administration at Ohio University.



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A New Look For Westerly Apartments Courtyard

by Adelaide Crnko

The patio within the Westerly Senior Apartments complex recently received some new furnishings. Led by Eagle Scout Rowan Brown of Troop 293, a group of volunteers built three beautiful wooden benches and a matching free standing structure where they also planted flowers. The Westerly/Barton Community is grateful for the time, effort and skills of the young people who participated in this project.



Although summer is officially behind us, these installments will enhance the lives of Westerly residents for seasons to come. Many thanks to Rowan and his entire team for this wonderful gift!

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LAKEWOOD LOVES PETS

Seeking Forever Homes



Java



Sonny

by **Stephanie Jarosz**

Meet Java aka “collar #3520!” This pretty girl is around two years old and is currently waiting at the Lakewood Animal Shelter for her forever family. Java was a little nervous when she first arrived at the shelter, but she’s settling in now and we’re seeing her wonderful personality. Java enjoys going for walks and getting the zoomies.

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

Visit Java, 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 at cclas.org



Spooky Pooch Parade To Bring The Bark To Madison Park On October 12

by **Ava Olic**

Release the hounds! LakewoodAlive’s 17th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade takes place on Saturday, October 12, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Madison Park.

Sponsored by Ken Ganley Subaru, the family-friendly Spooky Pooch Parade consists of a free-to-attend festival in Madison Park, a parade (which doubles as a costume contest) through Lakewood’s Birdtown neighborhood, and an awards presentation. A favorite fall tradition for Northeast Ohio dog lovers, this community festival represents a one-of-a-kind event within the

region, providing a tail-wagging good time for canine and human guests alike.

Festivities commence with the Spooky Pooch Festival beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Madison Park, during which attendees can enjoy entertainment, pumpkin painting, food trucks, and dog-related vendors and local businesses. Bring friends and family along to enjoy an Autumn afternoon of fun!

The parade steps off at 2 p.m. inside the park and ventures out onto surrounding streets, making a loop down Athens Avenue, to Clarence,

continued on page 14

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Ohio Families Deserve A Break: Fighting For Fair Property Taxes

by Tristan Rader

In Ohio, we know that building strong communities starts with fair wages, stable homes, and support for every family. But the weight of rising property taxes can feel like a never-ending burden. Property taxes fund our schools and emergency services and keep our streets safe, but the way they're structured right now just isn't working for everyone.

Let's be clear: property taxes are necessary. They help fund essential services that keep our communities strong. But too often, these taxes fall hardest on the people who can least afford them. If you're living on a fixed income, retired, or just trying to make ends meet, these increases can be simply unbearable. Families who have lived in their homes for decades are being priced out, working folks are feeling the squeeze, and seniors fear losing the homes they've spent their lives paying off. That's not the Ohio we should live in.

We Need a Fairer System

We need a property tax circuit breaker—a policy that ensures no one pays more in property taxes than they can afford based on their income. Other states already use this system, and it's time for Ohio to follow suit. A circuit breaker would protect middle- and low-income families so they don't get crushed by sudden, steep increases.

Right now, it's our most vulnerable neighbors—retirees, single parents,



and working families—who are hit the hardest. This isn't just about fairness; it's about keeping people in their homes and making sure our communities stay stable.

Why Now?

Ohio's property taxes are rising faster than wages and faster than most families can keep up with. At the same time, big corporations and the wealthy keep getting tax breaks while regular folks see their bills go up. This system is broken. A property tax circuit breaker would ensure that no one pays more in taxes than they can reasonably afford based on their income.

We need to protect Ohio homeowners from being priced out of their

own neighborhoods. This isn't just good policy—it's the right thing to do.

How We Can Fix This

First, we need to cap the amount of property tax a person pays based on their income, making sure that taxes are fair and manageable. Sec-

ond, we must expand exemptions and relief for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities—the people who have contributed so much to our state and deserve a break. Finally, we need to make the property assessment process more transparent and predictable so sudden increases don't blindside homeowners.

Fighting for Ohio's Working Families

This isn't about taking away funding from schools or essential services. It's about making sure those services are funded in a fair way—by making the wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share instead of putting more pressure on regular Ohioans.

Government should work for all of us, not just the rich or the powerful. We can fix this system. We can protect Ohio homeowners. And we can do it while still funding the services that make our communities strong.

Together, let's build a fairer future for Ohio, where no one is priced out of their home. It's time to give Ohioans the break they deserve.

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LAKEWOODALIVE



Spooky Pooch Parade To Bring The Bark To Madison Park On October 12

continued from page 12

then Madison, and finally Halsted Avenue before concluding in the park again. Dressed to the canines, dogs of all shapes and sizes will strut their stuff in their best Halloween costumes for the Judges. Top three prizes will be awarded at approximately 3:15 p.m. in the following categories: Best Pooch & Child, Best Pooch & Adult, Best Pooch & Group, Spookiest Pooch and Best in Show. The winner of Best in Show will receive one year's worth of complimentary dog food courtesy



of Pet's General Store. The event itself is free to attend, but registration is required to march in the parade. Pre-registration for the parade is \$15 per dog and day-of registration is \$20 per dog. Multiple dog discounts are available with pre-registration only. Humans are free! This community event takes place rain or shine, and the proceeds from the parade benefit LakewoodAlive, a nonprofit community development organization. For more information and to register your dog, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/2024-Spooky-Pooch-Parade.

The 17th Annual Spooky Pooch Parade is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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On October 24 15th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk To Delight Taste Buds

by Ava Olic
Get ready to rejoice, chocolate lovers! A delectable evening awaits when the 15th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk takes place on Thursday, October 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. in Downtown Lakewood.

The Chocolate Walk – hosted by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA) and LakewoodAlive – represents a popular autumn tradition with a devout following of chocolate enthusiasts from all over Northeast Ohio. Participants visit 20+ shops and eateries in Downtown Lakewood called “Sweet Stops.” Each “Sweet Stop” provides visitors with a unique chocolate treat. Limited to 350 attendees, this much-anticipated event will sell out very quickly.

There are two ways to purchase tickets: In-person on Saturday, September 28 or online starting Tuesday, October 1.

In-Person Ticket Sales

When: Saturday, September 28 at 10 a.m.

Where: Geiger's Lakewood location, 14710 Detroit Avenue

What: 100 General Admission tickets will be sold for \$60 each. Please note that there is a purchasing limit of four tickets per person, and that the Chocolate Walk is for adults, ages 21 and older. In-person sales will be on a first-come-first-served basis, so be sure to get there early as these tickets tend to go fast.

Online Ticket Sales

When: Tuesday, October 1, starting at 10 a.m.

Where: LakewoodAlive.org/ChocolateWalk

What: 50 VIP tickets will be sold for \$95 each and 200 General Admission tickets will be sold for \$60 each during the online ticket sale starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1. Please note that there is a purchasing limit of four tickets per person, and that the Chocolate Walk is for adults, ages 21 and older.

The VIP ticket option exists for those seeking to elevate the joy of this chocolate experience. The VIP ticket grants you access to the Pre-Walk VIP Reception – limited to only 50 lucky attendees – which takes place from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. at Rozi's Winehouse in Downtown Lakewood (14900 Detroit Avenue), where guests will sample decadent treats, as well as appetizers, wine and beer. VIP tickets will only be available for purchase online starting at 10 a.m. on October 3.

“We hope you can join us for a memorable evening that showcases Lakewood's amazing small businesses with proceeds supporting the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance and LakewoodAlive,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive.

Thank you to our title sponsor, First Federal Lakewood for their support and for helping to make this event a huge success. Stay tuned, as more information regarding the Lakewood Chocolate Walk taking place October 24 will be released in the coming weeks. For updates, please visit LakewoodAlive.org/ChocolateWalk.

Title Sponsor:
First Federal Lakewood
Ava Olic is Communications & Design Coordinator for Lakewood Alive.

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3 Items	\$11.00	\$13.25	\$17.50	\$20.00
4 Items	\$11.75	\$14.25	\$18.75	\$21.75
Deluxe	\$12.50	\$15.25	\$20.00	\$23.50
Extra Items	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.75
Chicken	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$4.75
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$2.00	2.50	3.50	4.50

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

COVE COMMUNITY CENTER



Lakewood's ME/WE Family Education And Support Group Holds "Meet And Greet" For Members At Cove Community Center

by Jim Joyner

The Lakewood ME/WE Family Education and Support Group held its second “Meet and Greet” at Cove Community Center on Saturday, August 24, 2024. Sixty-five current and past members, many of whom had only known each other virtually, met face-to-face for the first time. The event provided those present the opportunity to bond and reinforce the connections they had experienced in the virtual meetings. Some have been members for over ten years and others were more recent in their journey, but the energy and passion that flowed between the participants was more like that found at a family reunion than an online group of individuals meeting for the first time. In fact, two of the participants traveled over 4,800 miles. One coming from California and another coming from Washington state to be a part of the event.

All who attended enjoyed not only a diverse menu of wraps from Alladin’s Restaurant in Lakewood but also fruit platters, veggie and cheese trays, desserts and beverages contributed by some of the participants. Fun and laughs were had when representatives from each of the four weekly groups volunteered to participate in an “Academic Challenge” during which they were able to test their knowledge of information they had heard during the education portion of the weekly groups. There was much excitement as the teams vied with each other to buzz in the right answers first! Medals were awarded to the first, second and third place teams. The Saturday Family Group swept the event and “took home the gold!”

Those who were present reminded us and reinforced the fact that there is a need for healthy connections with each



other as we confront the challenges we all face in life and that it’s helpful to have support during the more difficult parts of the journey. Everyone who was there that Saturday left feeling good, with a lot of memories and a ME/WE t-shirt to remind themselves and others of what a healing community can be. Everyone agreed that this event should be an annual event. A big thank you to the City of Lakewood’s Human Services Department for providing the Community Center Sanctuary space in which to hold this very successful event.

The ME/WE Family Education and Support Group Program is free and offers weekly support and education for those persons who are concerned about a loved one’s abuse or addictive use of alcohol, other drugs or substances. The program is made possible by funding provided by the City of Lakewood, Stella Maris, Inc., Riveon Mental Health & Recovery, and Joyner and Associates LLC. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Jim Joyner at 216-780-3883 Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Jim Joyner is the Founder and Facilitator of the ME/WE Family Education and Support Group.

Meet Me At Cove: Barry Wemyss Volunteer Services Coordinator, Division Of Aging

by Nancy Feighan

If Barry looks familiar, it’s because you’ve likely seen him at the Division of Aging’s former location on Madison, at Cove Community Center, or briskly walking the streets of Lakewood. Barry has been a dedicated City employee since December 1994, starting his career with the Lakewood Office on Aging as an outreach worker.

A native of Kent, Ohio, and a graduate of Kent State University with a bachelor’s degree in history, Barry began his career teaching 10th and 11th grade high school students. As a long-time employee and ambassador for the Division of Aging, he thrives on face-to-face interactions with seniors and is a passionate advocate for their well-being. Barry takes pride in making life easier and more pleasant for others, striving each day to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those he serves.

In his spare time, Barry enjoys working out in his garage and at the Lakewood Family YMCA. He tends to his fruit trees and berry bushes, and he brews his own beer—currently preparing to bottle a batch of chocolate cherry stout for the holidays. Brewing is his passion, and he also dabbles in making mead, a honey wine. It’s no wonder



Barry Wemyss (Pronounced "Weems")

he’s one of the favorite neighbors on the block.

Barry has lived in Lakewood for 33 years and visits the lake daily. He’s been married to his wife, Cecilia, for 23 years, and they have three sons and four granddaughters. Barry met Cecilia when she was teaching his youngest son in Sunday school. Like Barry, Cecilia is dedicated to helping seniors and volunteers to deliver meals to homebound residents.

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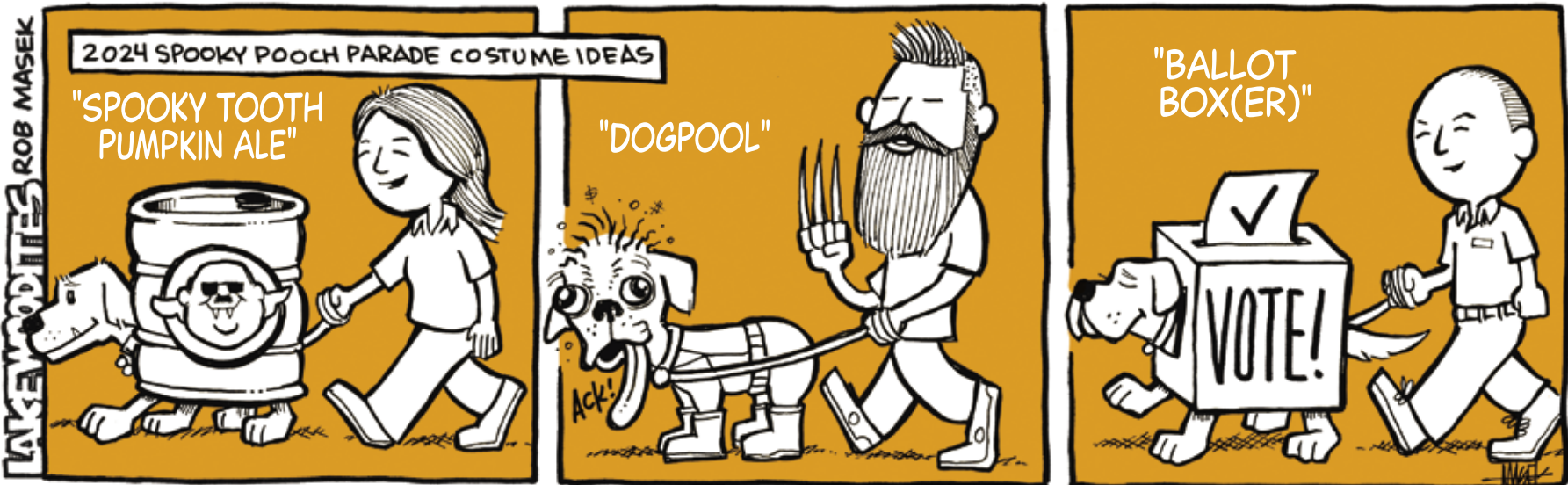
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