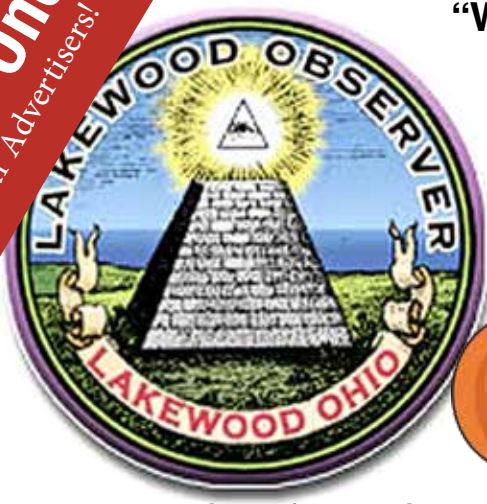


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“Where there is no imagination, there is no horror.” - Arthur Conan Doyle
Happy Halloween Lakewood, Trick or Treat is October 31st, 6 - 8 PM

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 20, October 16, 2024



photos by Jim O'Bryan

Best in Show, Dune

Spooky Pooch 2024 Winners

Best in Show

1. Dune
2. Pawfish Boil
3. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Best Pooch & Child

1. Willy Wonka
2. Mobile Pet Groomers
3. Spider Web

Best Pooch & Adult

1. Rainbow Skeleton
2. The Hunter & Deer
3. Inside Out

Best Pooch Group

1. Wounded Warriors
2. Star Wars
3. Mary Poppins

Spookiest Pooch

1. Bat Family
2. The Witches
3. The Yip Yips



photos by Jim O'Bryan

continued on page 11



Rainbow Skeleton #1 Best Pooch and Adult

Senator Brown Stops In Lakewood

by Tom Bullock
Councilman-at-Large

Senator Sherrod Brown told a packed room of the tide

of national money targeting him for defeat including a new round of \$40 million from four California billionaires.

But real people talking face to face matter a whole lot more, "Bernie Moreno has 4 billion-aires, but I have Lakewood!"



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Writer, journalist, educator, and Pulitzer Prize winner Connie Schultz takes a video of her husband, Senator Sherrod Brown.

Junior Fire Chief 2024 Lincoln's Ana Diekroger



photos by Jim O'Bryan

2024 Junior Fire Chief Ana Diekroger on the fire engine surrounded by family and fellow firefighters of Station 1. You can read Ana's winning essay, and see more photos from that and the Fire Fighter Recognition Ceremony on pages 5 and 6.

Promotions/New Hire



Mayor Meghan George swears in Fire Chief Ryan Fairbanks.



Fire Marshall Ryan Birth gets his new badge as family looks on.



New firefighter/paramedic Scott Wallace gets congratulated by Mayor George on his hiring.

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S PAGE

Neighbors...

by Sarah Kepple
President, City Council

October is not only a great time to cheer on the Guardians, it’s a great time to extend that community pride into active participation!

The City of Lakewood is seeking your feedback on our Zoning refresh project. We need you to tell us how you want our City to look and feel, what types of buildings should be allowed in your neighborhood, such as singles, doubles, accessory dwelling units, home based businesses, buffering businesses, and more. Your answers will also help us align the code to encourage resident priorities around sustainability, affordability, and accessibility for both residential and commercial development. I hope you will take part in the survey. It’s designed to be approachable, so even if you don’t



We want to hear those opinions. **Take the survey and get updates about the project here:** <https://tinyurl.com/Lkwd-Zoning24>

Of course, one of the greatest ways to participate is to VOTE! Before the

think you know or care about zoning, I think you’ll see when you open it that you do have opinions.



For the first time in the City’s history, Council passed a resolution honoring Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15. Anti-Racism Task Force Chair Laura Rodriguez-Carbone and members of the community joined to celebrate at the October 7th Council meeting.

next edition of the Observer comes out, voters will determine our next President, Senator, Congressmember, Ohio House Representative, County Councilmember, **Issue 1:** Citizens Not Politicians Amendment, local judges, and the funding level of Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. With three Ohio Supreme Court seats up this year, control of Ohio’s highest judicial body is also on the ballot, which could drastically impact which laws



and rights are overturned or upheld. Please make sure that you have a plan to vote! Early voting is now open at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid. Request your vote by mail application, find your polling location,

and see **what’s on your ballot here:** <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters>

Finally, as always, I encourage you to participate by attending an upcoming City Council meeting.

Oct 21: 6:00pm Committee of the Whole, 7:30pm Regular Meeting of Council

Oct 29: 6:00pm Special Joint Meeting of Council and School Board

Nov 04: 7:30pm Regular Meeting of Council

Committee meetings may be added or adjusted. 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/>



Celebrating Patricia Wellborn

by Shirley Nelson

On Saturday, September 21st, a Celebration of a Life Well Lived was hosted by the Lakewood Black Caucus on behalf of Patricia Wellborn, President. The celebration was held from 12 noon - 3:00 pm at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church where members, family, and friends gathered around to honor her for the work she has done as a social activist and a community leader, founder of the Lakewood Black Caucus in 2021.

Ms. Wellborn’s presence in the community was recognized by Lakewood City Council on September 21st during the celebration and she was given a Resolution by Cindy Strebig, Ward 3 Council person. Another Resolution was presented to her on Monday, October 7th, signed by all City Council members.

The celebration included moments of grace and remembrance as videos of Ms. Wellborn with family and friends provided glimpses of her life from childhood until now. Snapshots of her life

were captured in stories that were shared by a number of guests along with photos and mementos placed all around the room.

There was a spirit of joy and frivolity as good times were shared interspersed with moments of sadness in the realization that Ms. Wellborn’s battle with cancer prevents her from continuing to serve. She has been a kind and fearless leader who has responded to the ultimate call to serve while keeping alive a sensitivity to the movement of the spirit of love in service to humankind, with courage and strength that has inspired those who have had the honor of working with her in the Greater Cleveland area and beyond.



THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood Observer

Upcoming Submission Deadline		Publish Date	
Friday, November 1, 2024		Wednesday, November 6, 2024	
Friday, November 15, 2024		Wednesday, November 20, 2024	

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The Lakewood Observer is produced by volunteers/residents of Lakewood.
If you’d like to help this history-making 19-year-old project continue to publish the words, stories and images of fellow Lakewoodites follow the QR Code to the Member Center and sign up at www.lakewoodobserver.com/members.
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Isn’t it time you joined this effort to report community news while preserving our history?

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Recycling Continues To Grow In Upgraded Facility

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood

Lakewood has a long history of embracing green practices, and our efforts to promote recycling by residents and businesses are an important part of that community value. Our city was one of Ohio’s early leaders in implementing a recycling program beginning in the 1980s. With the opening of our upgraded and expanded refuse and recycling center at 12920 Berea Road early this year, Lakewood has seen a marked increase in the amount of material Lakewood is recycling.

From February 2024 to present, the volume of use at the upgraded Refuse and Recycling Center has grown immensely, with an increase of nearly 50% in the amount of material being dropped off for recycling. In terms of paper and cardboard alone, Lakewood has recycled roughly 11.5 tons this year, a dramatic increase that also helps Lakewood’s bottom line, as we can sell that material to a third party rather than paying for it to go into a landfill.

The addition of new equipment, including a high efficiency paper



City employee Ramon Rodriguez explains the baler to me. Each bale of cardboard is worth \$100 - \$150! Making this, the paper shredder, and metal salvage profitable. Returning needed money to the general funds.

shredder and a new cardboard baler, has made a clear difference in service and efficiency. People are clearly

taking advantage of these resources. I’ve personally heard from a number of people who have used the shredder to dispose of larger amounts of documents they no longer need to keep and want to dispose of safely.

I want to commend Glen Bleich, our Manager for Lakewood’s Division Manager Refuse & Recycling, and his entire team for doing a fantastic job elevating their work in the new facility. They continue to divert well over 50% of our solid waste from landfills through recycling and composting, and we expect that when the final numbers for 2024 come in, they will have again exceeded that mark. This type of efficiency not only helps to reduce our carbon footprint, it also cuts down on the tax burden for our residents.

Speaking of saving dollars, I also

remain impressed by the resourcefulness of our Public Works team in identifying, pursuing, and securing outside dollars to support Lakewood’s work in recycling. Recent examples include:

- \$26,897 from the 2023 Ohio EPA Recycle Ohio Grant Program that was used to help purchase the new shredder and new baler.
- \$6,000.00 from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District’s Community Recycling Awareness Grant Program to produce and distribute 25,000 recycling cart stickers featuring current recycling requirements and help clarify what is and is not recyclable.
- \$200,000.00 from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Recycle Ohio Grant Program to help purchase over 4,600 blue residential recycling “toters”. Some of the current toters are fourteen years old and have been in use since the inception of the City’s recycling initiatives in 2009, with many being damaged over time.

I encourage our Lakewood residents and businesses to take advantage of everything that the new and improved Refuse and Recycling Center has to offer. You can bring recycling, yard waste, bulky items, and even hazardous items (things like old paint, car batteries, etc.) for disposal. Please make sure you bring proof of residency with you when you visit, as we need to make sure that this new resource benefits Lakewoodites and others don’t take advantage of our tax dollars at work.

Please visit the Refuse Division page on our website for more information and details on what the facility has to offer: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/refuse-recycling/>.



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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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
Main Library - Mondays- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Thursdays-10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Madison Branch - Thursdays- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Just Baby ‘N Me is a lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together.
No registration is required.

Pre-school Story Time
For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler.
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.
Children and their parents will enjoy stories, movement and songs for thirty fun filled minutes. The focus is on early literacy skills. No registration is required.

Pajama Party
For You and Your 2 to 6 Year-Old Child
Mondays: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
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.

Symbols of Autumn Scavenger Hunt
October 1- November 30, 2024
For Youth of All Ages. Apples! Pumpkins! Hunt throughout the children’s area of the Library for signs that depict symbols of autumn. Enter your scavenger hunt sheet into a drawing to win a prize. The scavenger hunt will be ready for hunting at the Main Library and the Madison branch. No registration required.

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.

Election 2024
For Youth of All Ages.
Tuesday, October 15, 2024- Tuesday, November 5, 2024 inMain Library Children’s and Youth Services and the Madison Branch
We see it on the news every day: It is election time! Children can experience the electoral process by voting for their favorite picture book character. Participants will be given a ballot to cast their vote, selecting from nominees or writing in their own candidate. Votes will be counted, and the winner’s name will be posted at the Library.
No registration required.

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



**Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist
Community Service Center**
1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107



**Coat Drive - Accepting New or Slightly Used Coats
for All Ages until October 26th**
Coat Give-Away on October 27th, Noon - 3pm (look for the signs)



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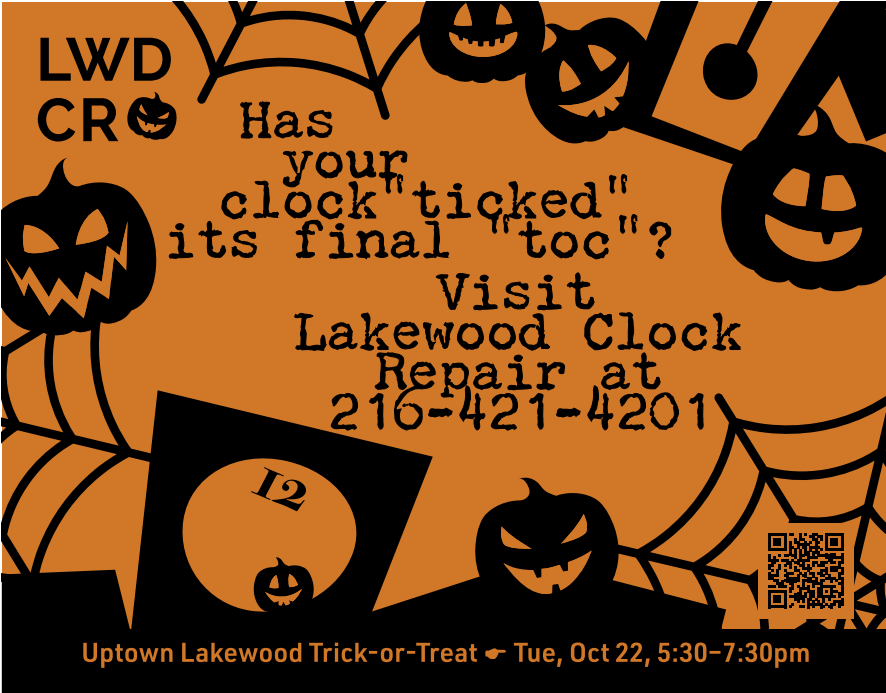
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Uptown Lakewood Trick-or-Treat ♡ Tue, Oct 22, 5:30-7:30pm

LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS



Women In Politics Forum

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School teamed up with the Lakewood League of Women Voters today to host an empowering Women in Politics Forum for a gathering of over 50 young women from grades 9-12. The event featured an inspiring panel of trailblazing leaders including U.S. Congresswoman @Rep. Shontel Brown, State Sen. Nickie Antonio, Cuyahoga County Council Vice President Cheryl Stephens and Sarah Kepple, President of Lakewood City Council.

President and owner Vanessa Tey Iosue of Burges & Burges Strategists and Sen. Antonio’s senior legislative aide Mia Barnes also shared their unique

journeys working behind the scenes. Each speaker discussed their pathways, the challenges they overcame, and their hopes for the future—all while empowering and encouraging our students to get involved and make an impact in their democracy.

Shout out to Social Studies teachers Ron Lewis and Lauren Flynn for championing this event with League of Women Voters member and Lakewood Councilwoman Cindy Strebis. Cindy Strebis and to Tric-C Democracy Fellow and moderator Sylvia Snow-Rackley. It was a fabulous morning for our students filled with motivation and wisdom for the next generation of leaders!

Fire Prevention Winning Essay

Lincoln school fifth grader Ana Diekroger was named the 2024 Junior Fire Chief! The junior chief earns the title by winning the annual fifth-grade essay contest on Fire Prevention Week’s theme, which this year is “Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You.” Here is her winning essay.

by Ana Diekroger

Beep beep beep! Beep beep beep! The fire alarm is going off, but wait what should we do? Let's back up. You will learn how to get out of the house if a fire starts, how to help prevent fires in your home, and all about smoke detectors. Make sure to have a family safety plan.

First, a smoke detector is a small device that detects smoke in your house if there is a fire. If you ever hear the smoke detector going off, get it now. There should be at least one in each sleeping room and test them every month if a smoke detector makes a series of loud beeps that means that it is working. Suppose a smoke detector makes a chirping noise that means that your smoke detector is not working and you need to change the smoke detector or the battery. Take these steps to make sure your smoke alarms go off.

If a smoke detector goes off you should have a good plan for your family so you know what to do. In a plan, you should have at least two exits out of each room. Some ways to plan to stay safe or prevent a fire should not play with fire and when you are cooking



Junior Fire Chief Ana Diekroger is swarmed by friends at Lincoln School.

make sure to keep pot handles in. To know your plan you should practice.

Now you know all about smoke detectors and have a good plan, but first focus on how to get out if a smoke detector goes off. If you hear a smoke detector go off, don't panic. Take a deep breath, stop, choose the best way out, get outside quickly, and finally get to your meeting place. Remember if your first exit out of your house doesn't work you can use your second exit. If there is a closed door in your path feel it with the back of your hand to see if it is warm. If the door is not warm go through. Put blankets around to help stop the flow of smoke. Remember to stay low to the floor and cover your mouth with your shirt. Don't stop for your pets. Remember these tips so you can be safe if there is a fire in your home.

In conclusion, it is good to stay safe in a fire and remember that even though smoke detectors are loud they keep you alive.

District Hosting Elementary Community Conversations

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools will be holding seven Elementary Community Conversations beginning later this month and stretching into December. The purpose of these conversations is to gather feedback from the community on the work done by the Elementary Planning Task Force on how to best use our elementary facilities in order to provide the most impactful and equitable education for all students as enrollment has trended downward. Please consider attending one of these

seven meetings to learn about the work the Task Force has done and to provide input or ask questions. We want to hear from you!

Community Conversations Schedule

All events will begin at 6:30 pm in the school cafeteria

OCTOBER 28

Emerson Elementary

OCTOBER 30

Roosevelt Elementary

NOVEMBER 7

Grant Elementary

NOVEMBER 20

Lincoln Elementary

NOVEMBER 25

Harrison Elementary

DECEMBER 3

Horace Mann Elementary

DECEMBER 11

Hayes Elementary

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or call - (216) 529-408

LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT



Each year it is my pleasure to do a group photo of Firefighters at the recognition Ceremony. This is the 2024 photo.



Above: With the building filled with fire and smoke, the first of many training runs begins.
Below: Council President Sarah Kepple emerges from her time in the burning building.



Above: Mayor and Council members after early morning walk-through of the burning building they will all take turns entering later!
Below: Joe Kappa, Station 1B shift driver, connects the main hose.



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

TRISTAN W. RADER
Candidate for State Representative

It’s been the honor of my life to serve you these last seven years as your city councilman. Thank you for trusting me to represent you. Now, I’m asking for your support again to be your voice in Columbus and continue fighting for a future that works for all of us—cleaner energy, workers’ rights, and a government that puts people first. Let’s keep building on what we’ve started, together.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League Of Women Voters Mary Warren Scholarship Winner Jazmin Dunay

Why Is Democracy Important To Preserve?

by Jazmin Dunay

American poet Walt Whitman, known as "the Bard of Democracy," envisioned democracy as a societal state where each person actively shapes government policies, emphasizing its profound impact on individual empowerment, social stability, and national well-being. To Whitman, democracy is meant to permeate all aspects of life. It is not just a political system.

The core of democracy lies in providing people with a voice in shaping their lives. Whitman's vision aligns with the democratic principle that

every person's perspective in society should be considered. Citizens, in a democratic setup, have the right to vote, express opinions, and contribute to policies directly affecting them, fostering a sense of ownership. Democracy acts as a catalyst for social progress by embracing diversity. Whitman's celebration of the diversity in American society aligns with the democratic ideal that everyone, regardless of background, should have an equal opportunity to participate. Protecting minority rights, a fundamental aspect of democracy, ensures the voices of marginalized communities are valued.

Democracy also plays a pivotal role in maintaining social stability. Regular elections allow citizens to express discontent or support for policies, preventing grievances that may lead to social unrest. The rule of law, a democratic cornerstone, ensures disputes are settled through established legal processes, contributing to stability and national well-being.

Despite these strengths, tensions are rising in the United States, with concerns that democracy is "at risk," especially with the 2024 election approaching. Contemporary challenges include voter suppression and misinformation, threatening the sys-

tem Whitman ardently championed. Gerrymandering and restrictive voting laws lead to disenfranchisement of certain social groups and overall voter suppression. Misinformation, amplified through social media, worsens these challenges, eroding the foundation of trust democracy relies upon. Informed decision-making becomes difficult when citizens are misled or manipulated, hindering their ability to shape government policies actively.

As the 2024 election approaches and tensions rise, preserving democracy is essential. This involves protecting the right to vote and combating misinformation. Walt Whitman's vision of democracy as a state where every individual actively shapes government policies remains powerful. Democracy is not merely a political system. It empowers individuals by giving them a voice and provides a foundation for resolving differences peacefully. With concerns growing about the state of democracy in the United States, reflecting on Whitman's vision could be helpful in motivating the preservation of the principles of a healthy democratic society.

Jazmin plans to study Civil Engineering in Fall 2024.



Nightmare On Merl Avenue Celebrates 15th Anniversary

by Wes Carney

How do you plan to spend the spookiest holiday of the year? If you're looking for something fun, free, and close to home on Halloween, consider attending the scariest experience Lakewood has to offer: Nightmare on Merl Avenue! Since 2009, our group of dedicated individuals has come together to share our passion for Halloween and create free haunted pathways for the people of Lakewood. Each year has come with an incredible production that hundreds of people enjoyed. This year will mark our 15th anniversary and our 10th year of haunted pathways at the Merl Avenue location! We're committed to making

this performance our best yet! Nightmare On Merl Avenue will be open from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Thursday, October 31st, and admission will be FREE FOR ALL! The location is 13303 Merl Avenue, near Saint Edward High School. The event is open to all ages, but we recommend that children under the age of 12 are accompanied by an adult. Candy will also be given out to trick-or-treaters. Treat yourself to a real scare this Halloween at Nightmare on Merl Avenue! Check out our Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/NightmareOnMerlAvenue>



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OBSERVER FORUM

Vote YES On Issue 1 To End Gerrymandering

by Sarah Kepple

Neighbors, I am writing to urge you to vote YES on ISSUE 1.

I came to my service on City Council after years of volunteer community organizing, bringing people together to advocate to their elected officials for needed change. Our power as citizens comes from collective action and our votes. When politicians are able to draw their own districts to favor their own re-election, they take away the power of the people that they are supposed to serve. When politicians draw districts that can only realistically be won by candidates of one particular party, it means that the election is determined by the primary. Since the vast majority of voters are Independent, that means that they do not get a say in who will represent them, and it leads to elected officials who have more extreme positions than their constituents. This practice is called gerrymandering, and it is bad for all Ohioans.

Issue 1, the Citizens Not Politicians Amendment, will take redistricting

out of the hands of politicians. It will create the 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens who broadly represent the different geographic areas and demographics of the state. Issue 1 will ban current or former politicians, political party officials and lobbyists from sitting on the Commission. Issue 1 will require fair and impartial districts by making it unconstitutional to draw voting districts that discriminate against or favor any political party or individual politician.

The misinformation campaign around Issue 1 reflects just how scared some politicians are of losing the power of gerrymandering. Four recent events show that when politicians draw their own gerrymandered districts, they completely lose touch with the voters that they're supposed to represent.

1: Extremist politicians held the Aug. 8 special election last year to try to block citizen-led constitutional amendments.

2: Extremist politicians passed one of the most backward and restrictive anti-abortion laws in the country, and the voters amended the constitution to protect reproductive rights.

3. Extremist politicians changed the ballot language of Issue 1 to confuse voters.

4. The current district maps were ruled unconstitutional five times by the

Ohio Supreme Court, but extremist politicians disregarded the judges and voters and implemented the maps anyway.

I urge you to read the actual language of Issue 1 at <https://www.citizensnotpoliticians.org/petition/> and vote YES on Issue 1 on or before November 5th. You can vote early right now at the Board of Elections or request your vote by mail application.

When Ohioans Vote, We Win

by Nickie Antonio

In the past year, politically savvy Ohioans may have noticed an interesting phenomenon at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. When members of the legislature discussed issues like protecting abortion access or legalizing recreational cannabis, they were shot down, disregarded, or even outright demonized by Republican lawmakers. When put up for consideration as citizen-led ballot issues, they received enthusiastic votes of sup-

port from Ohioans and passed with a sound majority, much to the chagrin of Republican politicians.

So, why do we have such a disconnect between a population that generally supports these issues and a legislative supermajority that vehemently opposes them? The answer is likely something that you've been hearing a lot about lately: gerrymandering.

Under our current redistricting laws, GOP politicians enjoy an artificial supermajority and have manipulated our state's legislative maps to rig the system in ways that even our Republican-controlled state Supreme Court deemed unconstitutional seven times.

An investigation by Newsweek published this past June shows that Ohio is one of the country's most gerrymandered states in the nation. This is an accolade Republicans are fighting hard to keep.

This November, the people of Ohio have a chance to take the power of redistricting out of the hands of politicians and put it into the hands of citizens with Issue 1. Issue 1 would create a citizen-led redistricting commission of equal parts Republicans, Independents, and Democrats, freeing the redistricting process from self-serving elected officials who are often more focused on expanding their manufactured supermajority than creating a map that accurately represents the interests of the people of Ohio.

Ohioans have made it clear that they want redistricting reform, but now they are being gaslighted by our very own Secretary of State, Frank LaRose. Gaslighting is defined as a form of psychological abuse or manipulation in which the person of power attempts to sow self-doubt and confusion in the victim's mind. Typically, gaslighters seek to gain power and control over people by distorting reality and making them question their judgment and intuition. Over 731,000 Ohioans signed a petition to put redistricting reform on the ballot. The language on that ballot measure has now been manipulated and distorted by LaRose and the Republican politicians that control the Ohio Ballot Board, a committee composed of members of the Ohio House and Senate led by the Secretary of State.

Ballot Board Chair LaRose and his republican counterparts acted in a disingenuous manner when they

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LAKEWOOD CARES

Seeking Forever Homes

by Stephanie Jarosz

Meet Bono aka “collar #3540!” This handsome guy is a 3-year-old Irish wolfhound mix. At about 40 pounds, he is a small but mighty version of the breed! When Bono first came to the shelter he was pretty reserved, but he has blossomed into a fun and loving boy. Bono enjoys playing, going on walks, and being close to the people he loves most. Anybody would be lucky to call him their best friend.

Meet Charlotte aka “collar #3548!” This pretty one-year-old lady has a very distinct marking on her nose that we call her spider bite!



Bono aka “collar #354”

Charlotte is a very calm and relaxed girl who would love to spend her days snuggled on the couch next to her mom or dad. In her free time, she enjoys sleeping, cuddling, and exploring her surroundings. Charlotte is quite the catch.

Visit Bono, Charlotte, 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.



What A Day At Active Aging Week Community Day!

by Nancy Feighan

Last Wednesday at Lakewood Park was fantastic! Perfect weather and great energy while celebrating healthy, active aging.

The day was filled with fun activities, including line dancing, adaptive Tai Chi, yoga, Qi Gong, belly dancing, blood pressure screenings, journaling with Dr. Marta, science trivia with

Science with Dan, and an energizing drum circle at the Solstice Steps. The Cleveland Road Runners Club even hosted a fun run!

If you missed it, it was a day full of laughter, movement, and connection. Let’s continue working toward healthy, happy aging together! If we keep this up, we might just be aging in reverse! We can’t wait to do it again next year!

Halloween Spirit Alive In Lakewood

by Adelaide Crnko

Nothing says it’s October like colorful mums, pumpkins on front steps, and a cast of characters occupying lawns or porches. Some are friendly and some are menacing, but they playfully demonstrate that Lakewood knows how to do Halloween! Take some time to check out how your neighbors are celebrating the season!

Adelaide Crnko is a Lakewood resident who loves Halloween.



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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence Retired Judge Pat Carroll Wins Award

By Maggie Ostrowski
Ohio Bar Staff, OSBA News

Ohio Bar Honors Judge Patrick Carroll and the Summit County Juvenile Court's Multidisciplinary Representation Team With Awards for Excellence and Innovation at Ohio Judicial Conference Annual Meeting

In recognition of judicial excellence and innovation, Ohio State Bar Association 2024-2025 President Dan Griffith presented the 2024 Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence to Retired Lakewood Municipal Court Judge Patrick Carroll and the 2024 Innovative Court Programs and Practices Award to the Multidisciplinary Representation Team at the Summit County Juvenile Court, led by Judge Linda Teodosio. Both awards were presented as part of the Ohio Judicial Conference annual meeting at the Hilton Easton Columbus on Sept. 19.

The Moyer award was established

in 2010 by the Ohio Bar in honor of the late Chief Justice, who was posthumously given the inaugural award. It seeks to recognize a current or former Ohio state or federal judge in the Moyer mold who displays outstanding qualities of judicial excellence including integrity, fairness, open-mindedness, knowledge of the law, professionalism, ethics, creativity, sound judgment, courage and decisiveness.

For this year's selection committee, Judge Patrick Carroll checked all the boxes and more. Though he retired from the Lakewood Municipal Court in 2022 after more than 30 years of distinguished service on the bench, he continues to give back by sharing his knowledge and experience as one of Ohio's most preeminent educators of fellow judges.

A lifelong learner and a lifelong resident of Lakewood, Judge Carroll graduated from the Cleveland-Mar-



President Dan Griffith (right) with Retired Judge Patrick Carroll.

shall College of Law, where he would later have an opportunity to serve as an adjunct professor. He began his career as a clerk to 8th District Court of Appeals Judge John Corrigan. Over the years, he served in private practice and as a prosecutor for Cuyahoga County, where his primary clients were the common pleas and juvenile courts and he advocated for judges in civil litigation cases.

It was in 1990 that he was appointed to the Lakewood Municipal Court. He

was subsequently elected and re-elected for a total of six terms, earning a reputation for impartiality, professionalism and compassion. Judge Carroll was an early adopter as courts began to take a more proactive role in treating substance abuse. He counts his work with, and in support of defendants struggling with addiction as some of the most rewarding of his career.

While still a sitting judge, Carroll became a frequent presenter on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference, conducting 10 webinars over the course of eight months during the pandemic when in-person continuing legal education was not a possibility. He continues to serve on the committee to plan education for judges, as co-chair of the jury instructions committee and recently took on the role as Ohio Judicial Outreach Liaison to the American Bar Association, where he is drafting a monthly newsletter to educate colleagues about recent case law around impaired driving, alcohol and drugs.

"Judge Carroll is highly deserving of this recognition. Not only has he been an outstanding trial judge and public servant, but he continues to embody judicial excellence through his generosity of time, talent and knowledge that has helped countless fellow judges hone their craft," President Griffith said.

When Ohioans Vote, We Win

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approved language that paints a citizen-led, anti-gerrymandering measure as an attack on the redistricting process and approved language that says the new commission would be, "Required to gerrymander the legislative and congressional district lines."

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, his decision to write and adopt misleading and deceptive language jeopardizes the integrity of our election process. This is all part of an effort to gaslight the people of Ohio and maintain a supermajority that will allow those in power to continue to use the power of the pen and the state legislature as a weapon against the people of Ohio.

The language that will appear on the November ballot is one in a series of Frank LaRose's recent attacks on our state's election process. In a letter to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, he again attempted to suppress voting rights in this state by suggesting they pass legislation to ban

ballot drop boxes, require proof of citizenship for voter registration, and force voters to cast provisional ballots for voter registration if their voter registration differs from the information on file with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or the Social Security Administration (BMV/SSA).

Let me be clear, our Secretary of State is using his power to push a political agenda making it harder for Ohioans to vote—the antithesis of the Secretary of State's job!

We have a chance to cut through the lies and deceit and make Ohio a better, more representative democracy. Early voting in Ohio begins October 8. I plan to vote yes on Issue 1, for citizens, not politicians, to draw districts that will lead Ohio into a more balanced representative future where the people choose their representatives, not the other way around.

Nickie J. Antonio serves as Senate Minority Leader. She represents Ohio's 23rd Senate District, which includes the majority of Cleveland, Parma, Parma Heights, Lakewood, and Bratenahl.

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LakewoodAlive's Final 2024 Knowing Your Home Workshop Set For October 19

by Ava Olic

Knowing Your Home: Rain Barrel Workshop—led by LakewoodAlive's Tool Box Coordinator Matt Clark—will wrap up the series from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The workshop is \$60 to register and is limited to 10 spots. The cost provides attendees with their own rain barrel and installation kit which they will take home with them, as well as in-person step-by-step instructions for set up. The location of the workshop has changed, and will be emailed out to attendees a few days beforehand.

With a couple spots left, register while you can, at LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome. The series will return with free workshops in the Spring of 2025!

Meet Me At Cove: Shellie Sedlak, Volunteer Extraordinaire And Gal-About-Town

by Nancy Feighan

Shellie Sedlak grew up in the bustling heart of New York City, where her parents were ahead of their time—her mother teaching yoga and her father instructing Latin dancing and tennis in the Catskills during the 1960s. This progressive upbringing set the stage for Shellie to become a trailblazer herself, focusing on environmental issues long before they became mainstream. Her parents' commitment to community service instilled in her the importance of giving back, a value she has carried throughout her life.

After graduating from the University of Toledo, Shellie found love with a Cleveland guy and moved to Lakewood. She's called Lakewood home for the past 47 years, living in the very first house she's ever known—quite a contrast from her apartment-dwelling days in New York, where a fire escape served as her front porch!

As a former distance runner who used to compete in 10Ks, Shellie now stays active by walking to Lakewood Park daily. Her career as an occupational therapist for Cleveland Clinic's home health care division spanned 15 years, where she found immense joy in helping others. Outside of work, her passion for volunteerism shines through her various roles. She served as president of Beth Israel-The West Temple, Cleveland's only synagogue west of the Cuyahoga River, and has been a devoted member of the Cleveland Public Theatre since 2002, helping to shape



Shellie Sedlak

its yearly Pandemonium showcase.

Shellie's environmental advocacy earned her the prestigious Governor's Award for Environmental Work in 1993, when she pioneered recycling programs for the City of Lakewood and Lakewood Hospital. Today, she continues her environmental efforts through Keep Lakewood Beautiful, an organization that plants trees, promotes recycling, and beautifies the city with pocket gardens.

A true community advocate, Shellie also devotes her time to delivering meals with a friend each week, finding purpose and joy in every opportunity to lend a hand. Shellie Sedlak's enduring spirit of service and commitment to Lakewood make her a cherished presence in the community.

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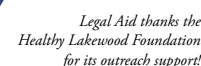
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