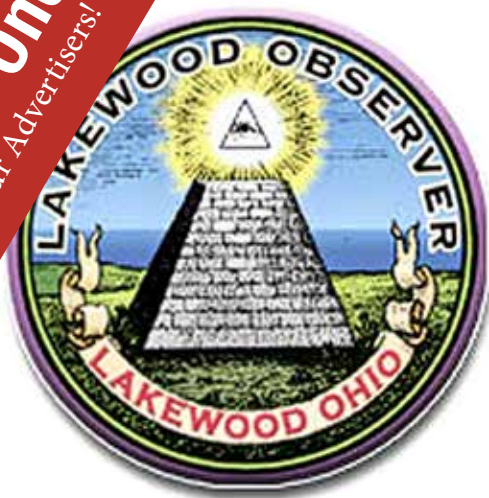


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Veteran’s Day Ceremony, Monday 11/11 at 11 AM, Lakewood Park

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Founder of Award Winning Observer Community-Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 20, Issue 21, November 6, 2024

Light Up Lakewood 2024 To Spread Holiday Cheer On December 7



by Ava Olic

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! This Lakewood tradition is returning to Downtown Lakewood for the 18th annual celebration. The spirit of the season will come to life with holiday cheer when Light Up Lakewood 2024 takes place on Saturday, December 7 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood and presented by LakewoodAlive, Light Up Lakewood celebrates the season and the richness of our city’s vibrancy. This free, family-friendly event on Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood features a holiday parade, lighting ceremony, winter fireworks, the

Light Up Lakewood Beer Garden, Holiday Train, live music, ice carvings, hot chocolate, food trucks, children’s games, and more.

Attendees are invited to stroll Lakewood’s downtown district and visit local shops and restaurants while taking in the sights and sounds of one of Northeast Ohio’s largest holiday celebrations. Light Up Lakewood serves as a marquee event for the entire region.

Light Up Lakewood represents a long-held holiday celebration of Lakewood’s sense of community. Guests will be delighted by the festive atmosphere, which includes the twinkle of holiday lights, the cheerful sounds of carolers, and

City Seeking Applicants To Serve On Boards And Commissions

The City of Lakewood is seeking volunteers ready to engage with the community and advise their local government.

Opportunities are available on the following Boards and Commissions:

Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board: The Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board (LASWAB) was established to serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council on issues related to the health and welfare of humans and animals as they interact in our community. LASWAB is composed of eleven members. Board members include a rep-

resentative from the Lakewood City Council, the Director of Public Safety or a representative of that office, and nine members who are residents of the City of Lakewood with some area of expertise in animal behavior, animal safety or other experience that would bring diversity to the membership of the Board.

Anti-Racism Task Force: The Anti-Racism Task Force advises and works with the administration to ensure the value of anti-racism is foundational and unambiguously expressed in all city objectives, such as, safety, housing, educa-



Winners Of The Lakewood Observer Halloween Decorating Contest

by Jim O’Bryan

What a year of decorating scary fun! Thank you to all who took part.

This year nearly 50 homes were nominated by the residents and Observers of Lakewood.

The home above on Eldred was the winner when all the votes were counted. Second was on Lewis Drive.

You can see the top eight

the warmth of hot beverages.

Highlights include: the indoor Holiday Market; festive live music; street vendors and food trucks; the Light Up Lakewood Beer Garden featuring Beer from Lakewood’s Immigrant Son Brewery; the Holiday Parade sponsored by Shinn Law Firm, which commences at Belle & Detroit Avenues at 5 p.m. and ends at Arthur Avenue; the Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at City Center Park; and a can’t-miss fireworks display at 7 p.m. over Kauffman Park.

tion and culture, and community wellness. The Task Force may consider any subject referred to it for review and advice.

Citizens Advisory Committee: The Citizens Advisory Committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and researching Community Development needs and the Consolidated Plan of the City of Lakewood. In this context, the CAC reviews various proposals for federal funds and makes recommendations to

continued on page 3

and two honorable mentions on pages 7-8.

The top eight will be receiving their prizes next week.

Thank you to Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, Root Cafe, Carabel Hair Salon for the prizes.

Uptown Trick Or Treat



Lakewood Clock Repair really got into the spirit for Uptown Trick-Or-Treating. 1000 + children and their chaperones roamed Madison Ave. on the evening of Oct. 22nd. L to R, Mike Baillis (Pirate), Andrew Bracken (Hobbit in Green Cape), Mira Bracken (Witch), and Alan Rue (Cogsworthy)

Board Position Available: Healthy Lakewood Foundation Board Of Directors

by Sharon Scholdt

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) seeks new board members. We are prioritizing those with non-profit financial management experience but welcome applications from all interested residents. The ideal candidates will join our diverse board in service to the Lakewood community.

Essential Requirements:

Must be a Lakewood resident (per bylaws requiring 2/3 resident membership)

Non-profit financial management background preferred
Commitment to supporting diverse perspectives in grantmaking

The Foundation believes diversity among its members and partners is a core strength. We actively seek board members who bring varied backgrounds, lived experiences, skills, and knowledge to examine community chal-

continued on page 9

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S PAGE

At Large Council Applicants Sought

by Sarah Kepple
City Council President
Councilperson-At-Large

As I write this, I’m sitting outside of Lincoln greeting neighbors coming in to vote. We don’t yet know what the results will be, and by the time you read this, some races may still be too close to call. It is, however; almost certain that Lakewood City Council Member at Large Tristan Rader will be elected State Representative for District 13 and will resign from Council effective December 31, 2024 in order to begin his new position. In this event, the City Charter requires Council to appoint an individual to the remainder of his unexpired term, which ends December 31, 2025.

Therefore the Council office shall begin accepting applications for the at large position. Per the charter, an applicant must be a registered voter and a resident of the city for at least one year to qualify for consideration.



If you are interested in applying, please review the job description posted on the council webpage to consider how your skills, knowledge and experience could be utilized to serve our neighbors and evaluate your capacity for the time commitment of this public-facing role. At Large Councilmembers serve and are elected by residents in all four wards. There are three At-Large Councilmembers, and as one of them, I welcome questions from interested individuals about the role. To apply,

please submit a cover letter and resume in PDF format to the Clerk of Council at council@lakewoodoh.gov by November 24th at 11:59pm.

In addition to reviewing applications, Council has a busy rest of the year. Plans for the Downtown Development project have now been approved by both of the required citizen-led groups- the Planning Commission and the Architecture Board of Review. We

anticipate that the Administration will officially submit the package to Council for the November 18th docket. Once received, the legislation is likely to be referred to Committee of the Whole for deliberation. Per ordinance, Council will have 45 days to approve or reject the proposal.

The November 18th docket will also include the Administration’s proposed 2025 budget documents, and we expect budget hearings to begin that same night in the Finance Committee and continue throughout November and December. 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/>

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Lakewood Observer

Upcoming Submission Deadline

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Friday, November 29, 2024

Publish Date

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Wednesday, December 4, 2024

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

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Introducing Chief Ryan Fairbanks

Recently, the City of Lakewood announced the promotion of Ryan Fairbanks to serve as Chief of the Lakewood Fire Department (LFD). Chief Fairbanks has been a longtime and publicly present member of LFD, so many of you already know and appreciate him. But for those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting him yet, I’d like to introduce you to Chief Fairbanks and explain why Lakewood is lucky to have him step into this new role. The chief is a humble man who prefers to give credit to others, so I wanted to highlight some of what makes him so well suited to lead LFD.

Chief Fairbanks has been with LFD for almost two decades, joining the department as a firefighter paramedic and serving in that role for many years. If you talk to Chief Fairbanks, he will let you know that in many ways, this was his favorite role because he was able to perform frontline service to the people of Lakewood, actively fighting fires and helping those in a medical crisis. But he also realizes that he can offer great value to cultivating the next generation of LFD firefighter paramedics in his new position, and is looking forward to con-

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood



Lakewood Fire Chief Ryan Fairbanks

tinuing the tradition of excellence we have seen over time in LFD.

As much as his Lakewood career has been stellar, Chief Fairbanks’ background before coming to our city is just as impressive. He has over 27 years of firefighting experience, both professional and volunteer. That includes service with the Bureau of Fire in Dover, Delaware, the Middlefield Fire Department in Geauga County, and

the Bath and Copley Township Fire Departments in Summit County. Some of Chief Fairbanks’ earliest experience as a firefighter was in the United States Air Force from 1998 to 2002, including a deployment overseas in Kuwait. He then worked as a Department of Defense civilian firefighter at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station until he joined LFD in 2005.

(In addition to his real-world experience, Chief Fairbanks also has an impressive educational background with an Associate Degree in Fire Science and a Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University. He’s currently working on his Master’s Degree in Fire Executive Leadership).

All of this experience and education benefits our team at LFD immensely. Chief Fairbanks has been recognized as a leader in LFD for some time, where he was previously promoted to Fire Marshal in 2019. During his time in that role, Chief Fairbanks co-founded (with current Fire Marshal Ryan Birth) the Lakewood Firefighters Peer Support

Team, which connects LFD members to definitive mental health care. He then worked to bring in the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) to Lakewood to train 30 firefighters from the region as peer supporters.

Chief Fairbanks has expressed a number of priorities as he takes over leadership of LFD. Those include finding ways work more closely with other departments (e.g., Building and Housing, Police, Public Works, etc.) to plan and troubleshoot matters before issues arise and to continue providing best in class service to our residents. Also, fire departments are now expected to take an all-hazards approach and diversify their response capabilities. Chief Fairbanks is looking forward to cooperatively planning for those responses to ensure the appropriate use of LFD’s resources.

I look forward to working closely with Chief Fairbanks to keep Lakewood safe as he and his team at LFD protect us in times of crisis while also proactively working to prevent emergencies. I know the chief plans to be even more visible in his new role, so say hello and when you see him around Lakewood.

City Seeking Applicants To Serve On Boards And Commissions

continued from page 1

the City Council as to what programs would be funded and at what funding levels in a particular year. The CAC members analyze requests for funds in relation to the needs of the community and the amount of funds available. Click here for more information about this commission.

Community Relations Advisory Commission: The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission was established in 2005 to serve in an advisory capacity for the purpose

of educating, informing and making recommendations to City officials, departments, boards and commissions on matters relating to community relations within the City of Lakewood in an effort to advance respect for diversity, bonds of mutuality, and equity.

Tree Advisory and Education Board: The Tree Advisory and Education Board meets monthly and is charged with collaborating with City officials regarding its urban tree policies and practices,

continued on page 10

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Meet The Author- 14 Gea Lane by Carolyn Anderson

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

In 1964, a magnificent eight-unit apartment building, the finest in the area, named “14 Gea Lane” opened. Interlaced stories of the exclusive list of tenants unfold in a whirlwind of conflict and drama, offering a riveting exploration of resilience and connection. Join Professor Emeritus, Carolyn Anderson, Ph.D., as she discusses the writing process and her latest novel. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Meet The Author- Alchemy of Emotions: A Black Women’s Workbook for Creating Health, Healing and Happiness by Dr. C. Jackson-Howard

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

In this session we will delve into the interconnected realms of the soul, spirit, and body to uncover the secrets of a joyful existence through the unique blend of holistic wellness and emotional intelligence that Dr. C. Jackson-Howard brings to her teachings. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Children’s And Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert Family Weekend Wonders

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.

Main Library- Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Madison Branch- Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Symbols of Autumn Scavenger Hunt

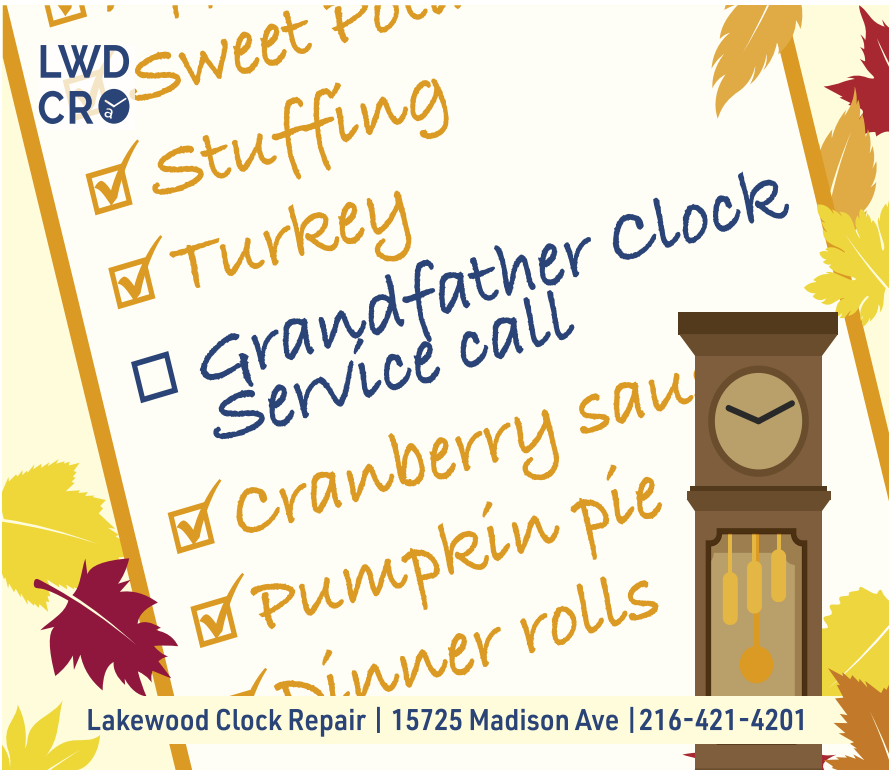
For Youth of All Ages. Apples! Pumpkins! Hunt throughout the children’s area of the Library for signs that depict symbols of autumn. Enter your scavenger hunt sheet into a drawing to win a prize. The scavenger hunt will be ready for hunting at the Main Library and the Madison branch. No registration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

October 1- November 30, 2024

Coding Club

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’t miss out on this chance to unleash your creativity and discover the endless possibilities of coding!

No registration required.
Mondays, 6:00- 7:30 pm. Through November 11, 2024 In the Main Library Computer Connections Room.



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Cuyahoga Reads

Readers Win

CuyahogaReads.org

A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne

Over the past 17 months, our nine local public library systems, Cleveland Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library, East Cleveland Public Library, Euclid Public Library, Heights Libraries, Lakewood Public Library, Rocky River Public Library, Shaker Heights Public Library and Westlake Porter Public Library successfully completed a county-wide reading initiative.

Through generous funding provided by the Ohio Department of Education, our public libraries provided 431 literacy programs to 18,493 participants. In addition to these important literacy programs, they also issued 17,039 Digital Library Cards, and connected just about 19,000 Cuyahoga residents to free literacy resources available at our public library systems. As we officially conclude Cuyahoga Reads, I encourage you to continue reading and supporting the wonderful libraries that we have in our county. Thank you for your participation and for making this such a successful campaign!



Students learn about reading recipes and food safety with RRPL Director Jessica Breslin at Rocky River Public Library.



EPL Director Kacie Armstrong hands out free books at the Children’s Museum of Cleveland midway event.



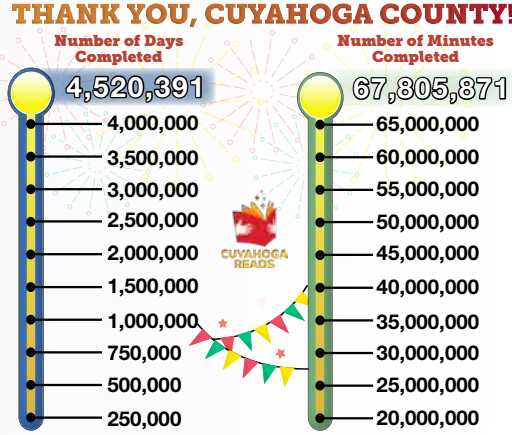
Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s Charles A. Mooney students gather for a memorable photo.



Young readers at East Cleveland School District’s Caledonia Elementary read along with the County Executive.

Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips

Thank you for participating in the Cuyahoga Reads Challenge! As we conclude this initiative, we encourage families to visit your local public library to check out a book and read. In addition, November is **National Writing Month**, which offers a special challenge to budding authors to write at least 1,667 words per day from November 1 – 30. The goal is to have 50,000 words written by the end of the challenge. To register for writing programs, visit your local public library!



LAKEWOOD SPORTS

Dr. G's Ranger Round Up: Football Wrap-Up

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Our Lakewood Rangers took a step forward this year, doubling their win total (4-6) and winning two big conference games, including a Homecoming thriller over Normandy. Senior Co-Captain Quarterback Avery Holt set multiple school records (passing TD's, most points in a season, most passing TD's in a career, most total TD's in a season, most all purpose yards in a career and season). On his way to 1st team All CWC/2nd team all district honors, Avery also punted for a net 45 yard average and blasted 25 kickoff into the end zone. Yet, for all the completions, tough runs and potent kicks, Avery's greatest legacy is his leadership on the field, in the classroom, in the locker room and in the weight room. Avery is an all-time great Lakewood Ranger.

The Ranger season had so many players contribute, including the "Bigs" on the lines, anchored by 2nd team all-conference senior Malachai Davis, in Coach Polevacik's words--a never leave the field player. Same goes for sophomore Jackson Comer, a two-way 1st team all-conference lineman with a huge upside. Sophomore Drew Potoczak and seniors Chris Mathaois and Ahmed Al Masalmeh were mainstays, while junior Htoo Lweh Wah earned Honorable Mention. Also named



Honorable mention were Junior Nick Hart, sophomore Tyrese Gatling and senior Jaylen Chappell, who caught nine touchdown passes and now owns the school records for career receiving yards (1321) and TD passes caught (16).

Two way sophomore Riley Verderber was 2nd team all-conference, caught 5 touchdown passes, and sacked the quarterback 4 times. His fourth down high point catch in the end zone, draped with 2 defenders, was vital to the win over Westlake, and was one of the most memorable and important plays of the season. This was a great moment, as was the endurance test against Kent

Roosevelt, when the soaked Rangers prevailed in a relentless rainstorm. The Homecoming win over Normandy, on a picture perfect fall evening, was led by Holt and strong two way performance from junior Jacob Stoll, who started the 2nd quarter comeback with a key interception, arguably the most important single play of the year.

Running backs junior Braedon Greenfield and Many Serano gained tough yards, rarely fumbled, and provided great balance to the offense. Sophomores Tye Taylor and Nick Thomas were factors as slot receivers. Junior Sam Hoy started every game at

linebacker and with Nick Hart added a strong physical presence.

Friday night Under the Lights at the corner of Bunts and Madison was and is the quintessential American High School experience, with our fabulous band, cheer squad and student section creating a spirited cacophony and a purple and gold color palette. It's a game of course, but I always experience it as a celebration of togetherness, teamwork and community. It's a thing of beauty.

The guys from 44107 gave us lots to cheer about this season, and the Rangers Nation Football Club, our middle school and LKWD Recreation teams give us great hope for the future. Thanks to their combined efforts, more kids are playing, having a positive experience, and wearing Lakewood Ranger gear.

It takes time and dedicated adults--many of them--to build and maintain a vibrant, competitive program. Head Coach Mike Polevacik is committed to Lakewood and its students--I know this first-hand as his colleague in the Social Studies Department--and the parents, coaches and players are and will continue to do their part. Our hyper local Lakewood Rangers have a lot of work ahead, but the journey will be hard, fun and transformative.

Long Live Lakewood

ADVERTISEMENT

Lutheran Hospital expands health services for women.



Natalie Adsuar, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Lutheran Hospital

A recently opened office at Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital is focused on providing gynecologic and prenatal obstetric care for women.

"We're addressing a need for these services among the diverse population living in our community," says Natalie

Adsuar, MD, an Ob/Gyn physician who is fluent in English, Spanish and French. "By bringing these women's health services back to Lutheran, we're serving a community that has not been served by Cleveland Clinic for quite a while."

Services provided range from routine gynecology including birth control and Pap smears, breast and pelvic exams to help you stay healthy, to specialty care for things like fibroids, endometriosis, pelvic pain and abnormal Pap smears. And if you're thinking



about pregnancy, preconception care is available to help get your pregnancy off to a healthy start.

"Along with providing acute and preventive office care and some prenatal care – babies are delivered at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital – we're also increasing gynecological surgery access at Lutheran for things like management of abnormal bleeding, pelvic pain and fibroids," says Dr. Adsuar.

Dr. Adsuar, along with two nurse midwives and a nurse practitioner who staff the new women's health services office at Lutheran Hospital, are very committed to the community. "This is a very personal project for us. We want to bridge the gap for patients who have not received care for a long time, break down barriers and increase access to quality care," she explains.

To schedule an appointment with an obstetrics and gynecology specialist at Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital, call 216.425.7699.

New thoracic surgeon at Fairview Hospital.



Issa Rezek, MD
Thoracic surgery

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LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS

Mayor George Shares History Of Women's Suffrage With Lakewood Girl Scouts



from City Hall

Last week, Mayor George met with some of Lakewood's Girl Scouts to share the history of women's suffrage in Lakewood, the importance of voting and getting involved, and her personal journey to the Mayor's office. Thank you to the Girl Scouts for hosting!

Participants Declare Finding Lakewood 2024 A Lot Of Fun!

by Laura Hazen

Participants in the scavenger hunt identified 18 places around Lakewood to be entered into the drawing for prizes. Ten winners received prize packages valued at \$125 or more! A couple photos were considered extra challenging by some. Thank you to all the Lakewood businesses who donated. And thanks to all who participated to raise funds for the Division of Aging. Congratulations to: Suzanne Bednarchik, Matt Colella, Ruth Gillett, Eileen Hailey, Barb Lynch, Brenda



Could you identify these features? Both can be found on Madison.

Nakonecznyj, Jillian Piteo, Jordan Rush, Marianna Seeholzer, and Regina Strauss. If you'd like to play next year, email lakewoodphotocontest@gmail.com and we'll let you know when the contest comes up again next October!

Laura Hazen lives and works in Lakewood and loves it. She works for both Hanson Services and Sweet Designs. She volunteers for the Democratic Club and the Commission on Aging, and delivers community meals for the Division of Aging.



LHS' Lakewood Times Visit Friday Forum At City Club Of Cleveland

by Christine Gordillo

On November 1st, student journalists from The Lakewood Times took a field trip to The City Club of Cleveland for its Friday Forum, which featured a conversation about the state of free speech, news, and access to information in our communities. Afterward, the students enjoyed a tour of @ideastreamneo studios and spent some time with some working journalists to hear their perspectives on the profession. #globalawareness#communication#growthmindset#criticalthinking

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TOP HALLOWEEN HOMES



1st Place, 2164 Eldred



2nd Place, 1557 Lewis



3rd Place, 16807 Hilliard

TOP HALLOWEEN HOMES



4th 1522 Coutant



5th 1350 Westlake



6th 2188 McKinley



7th 1259 Edwards



8th 1626 Lewis



Honorable Mention 1661 Lewis



Honorable Mention 2133 McKinley

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State Representative-Elect
Tristan Rader



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CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

Connecting For Kids Upcoming Programs

by Lorilynn Wolf

Connecting for Kids November & December Programs in Lakewood & Three Virtual Opportunities

Registration is required for these programs. Register online: www.connectingforkids.org/register, via email: info@connectingforkids.org or Call/Text: 440-570-5908.

Music Therapy & More: Elementary Age

Designed for families and children ages 7-12 with complex needs or disabilities. Engage in singing, listening, instrument play and movement to music in an interactive environment. Families learn to use music to enhance gross motor skills, develop body awareness and practice social skills. connectingforkids.org/music

Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch

Thursday, Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Music Therapy & More – 0-6 Years

Join us for a hands-on program designed to teach families how to use music to improve their child's academic, motor, communication and social skills as well as behavior. This program is designed for families and their children, ages 0 - 6 years, who have concerns about development. connectingforkids.org/music

Lakewood Public Library, Madison Branch

Saturday, Nov. 23, 9:30 a.m.

Inclusive Drop-In Playgroup

Designed for caregivers and their children. connectingforkids.org/play

Get hands-on support, meet other families and connect to community resources while children play. Led by an Early Childhood Specialist, caregivers will learn strategies for dealing with behavior challenges, communication concerns and sensory issues. Registration is welcome but not required. For caregivers and their children ages 0-6 years.

Lakewood Family Room

Thursday, Nov. 7, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Adapted Playgroups

Adapted Playgroup is a safe, welcoming environment for caregivers of children with concerns about development. Your child will practice play and social skills while you get tips on everything from behavior to social skills from an Early Childhood Specialist. For caregivers and children ages 18 months - 6 years. connectingforkids.org/play

Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch

Saturday, Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m.

Board Position Available: Healthy Lakewood Foundation Board Of Directors continued from page 1

Challenges and opportunities. Our board and staff ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion remain central to governance.

Support for Service:

Optional meeting stipend provided

Reimbursement available for:

Travel expenses

Caretaking costs

Meeting-related expenses

Previous board position applicants will be automatically considered in this review process.

To Apply or Learn More:

Visit: healthylakewoodfoundation.org/board/

For questions, contact Executive Director Kate Ingersoll at kate@healthylakewoodfoundation.org

Sharon Schuldt is Healthy Lakewood Foundation - Foundation and Grants Coordinator.

Virtual Sessions

Speaker Series: Autism 101

Nathan Morgan, MSSA, LSW, of Milestones Autism Resources, will present facts, debunk myths and provide the most up-to-date terminology available on ASD informed by experiences as both a licensed social worker and autism self-advocate. Learn about differing strengths, lagging skills and accommodating ever-changing support needs. connectingforkids.org/speakerseries

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Virtual

Share & Support Group: Parenting is Lonely For Families of Children with Complex Needs

Join the Connecting for Kids staff to discuss the article, "Why Parenting Can Be Lonely, Even When You're Rarely Alone." We will explore the theme of isolation when raising a child with disabilities or mental health issues and how to build a village of support. For in-person programs, free, supervised children's activities are available but adults and children must register separately. connectingforkids.org/support

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland (UCP)

Virtual

Behavior Chat

Ochanya McRoberts-Wells, MEd, will lead a discussion guided by your questions on a variety of behavior topics. Each session will focus on a new tool from our free Behavior Toolkit but questions on any behavior concern are welcome. Content is geared toward children 18 months - 6 years.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Legal Aid’s 119th Annual Meeting With Keynote Speaker Ruby Bridges, Awards Presentation

by Tonya Sams

Civil rights icon, activist and author Ruby Bridges will be the featured keynote speaker at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland’s 119th Annual Meeting on November 25. The afternoon program and reception will be held at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown at 2pm.

Ms. Bridges will be delivering her keynote remarks via a conversation with award-winning American broadcast journalist and Legal Aid supporter, Lori Stokes. Ms. Bridges will also receive Legal Aid’s highest honor, the Louis Stokes Paragon Award.

This year’s theme is centered around the words of Legal Aid’s 2011 annual meeting keynote speaker, the late Congressman John Lewis: “Freedom is not a state; it is an act. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take...to create an even more fair, more just society.”

Legal Aid will also honor some of the many staff members that make an impact on its client community.

Staff honorees are:

- Maria Smith - C. Lyonel Jones Lifetime Achievement Award
- Katherine Hollingsworth, Leadership Award
- Kimberly Barnett-Mills - Claude



The 2023 Legal Aid Annual Meeting

- E. Clarke Award
- Julia Lauritzen - Claude E. Clarke Award
- Olivia Pollack - Claude E. Clarke Award
- Anna Seballos - Claude E. Clarke Award

Legal Aid depends upon the many volunteers that help provide free, high quality legal services to those with low incomes through its Volunteer Lawyers Program. About 20% of people each year that are helped by Legal Aid are assisted by a pro bono attorney. This year’s volunteer award recipients are:

- David Kutik - Legacy of Justice Award
- Lynn Rowe Larsen – Access to Justice Award

- Daniel Leizerman - Access to Justice Award
- Delores Gray – Community Impact Award
- Judge Terri Stupica - Community Impact Award

For information on Legal Aid’s 119th Annual Meeting, go to: lasclev.org/legalaid119annualmeeting and lasclev.org/2024event

Founded in 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is the fifth oldest legal aid organization in the United States. Serving residents of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain counties, Legal Aid staff and volunteers secure justice, equity, and access to opportunity for and with people who have low incomes through passionate legal representation and advocacy for systemic change. In 2023, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland handled more than 9,000 cases, helping more than 24,000 people.

Do you need assistance with a legal civil matter? Legal Aid may be able to help. Call 888-817-3777 or visit lasclev.org/contact for more information.

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

City Seeking Applicants To Serve On Boards And Commissions

continued from page 3

promoting the City’s tree programs and educating residents regarding responsible tree stewardship and the benefits of tree planting on private property.

Any questions regarding the posi-

tions, deadlines, requirements, etc., can be directed to mayor@lakewoodoh.gov.

Go to <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/accordions/board-commission-application-form/> to apply for one of these positions.



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Ruth Kostadinov

Gingham Market by Gatherings Kitchen

Tuesday, November 12 @ 2pm



Karen Bosworth

KB Confections

Tuesday, December 10 @ 2pm

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LAKEWOOD FAMILY ROOM



Timeless Tales: Celebrating 30 Years Of The Lakewood Family Room

by Nancy Feighan
What a Night to Remember!
On October 19th, the Lakewood Family Room celebrated its 30th anniversary with a magical "Timeless Tales" evening at Cove Community Center. The atmosphere buzzed with nostalgia as guests enjoyed scenes inspired by childhood classics like "Where the Wild Things Are," "Goodnight Moon," "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." The event featured delicious food, drinks, and a silent auction generously supported by our community. Creative activities based on "The Wizard of Oz" and "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" added to the festive spirit,

filling the night with laughter. Jessica Parker, Program Manager for the Division of Early Childhood, served as host and shared memories from her time as a participant when her children were babies—now teenagers—and her journey from volunteer to her current role managing programs. Also in attendance was Toni Gelsomino, who was warmly recognized for starting the Family Room in her own home and leading it for 19 years. She later became the Director of Human Services, overseeing the refurbishing, repurposing, and relocation of staff to Cove Community Center. Throughout the evening, both past and present participants, along with dedi-

cated community leaders, reflected on the Family Room's lasting impact on Lakewood families. It takes a village; Timeless Tales wouldn't have been such a success without the support of these wonderful individuals: **Jenny Woodworth:** A former participant and supporter who attended with her two children. **Marseille Markham-Collins:** A current participant with her third child and jewelry maker (Junk Party Jewelry), who generously donated to the silent auction. **Emily Lindberg:** A former participant and librarian, who led over 100 virtual storytime sessions during the

pandemic. **Kristen Bindel:** A doula and lactation counselor, who kept the infant support group running during the pandemic. **Ashley Mosley:** A nanny and event planner, who chaired the gala committee and supported many families. **Megan Ahlman:** A current participant, speech pathologist, and board member of Keep Lakewood Beautiful. **Rachel Peterson:** A nanny and photographer, who has attended the Family Room for 15 years. **Carrol Hahn:** A social worker, known for her creativity and support across our department. **Brenda Nakonecznyj:** Former director and lead teacher at Lakewood Presbyterian Nursery School, with two decades of service.

It was an unforgettable night, and as guests departed, they carried with them treasured memories and a renewed commitment to the Family Room. This special evening was a fitting tribute to 30 years of service, and as "Goodnight Moon" would say, goodnight, Lakewood Family Room—here's to many more years of community and togetherness! A special thank you to our sponsors for making this celebration possible! *Nancy Feighan is Project Specialist II, Department of Human Services, City of Lakewood.*

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COMMUNITY

"Welcome To Lakewood" Community Event Back In November!

by Jon Gromek

Mark your calendars! Our city's Welcome to Lakewood community event is BACK on Tuesday, November 12!

This long-standing community gathering provides opportunities for Lakewood neighbors, old and new to connect with their city, get resources and meet new people!

If you are new to Lakewood or looking for additional opportunities to connect with your community, Welcome To Lakewood is a fun event to learn more about local civic organizations, services, and ways to get involved



in your hometown.

Come meet Lakewood city and school officials, as well as representatives of up to 50 local organizations, like the Beck Center, the Lakewood Family YMCA, and our Lakewood Public Library, along with activities for kids, and yummy treats from local bakeries. All attendees will leave with a packet of information all about Lakewood.

The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC) is excited to bring this valuable forum for new and long-time Lakewood residents to learn about many of the great

organizations, businesses, and opportunities available to Lakewood. This year Welcome to Lakewood will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 6:30- 8:30 p.m. in the gym of Garfield Middle School, located at 13114 Detroit Avenue.

Welcome to Lakewood is sponsored by the City of Lakewood and The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC). LCRAC is

a commission made up of volunteers appointed by the Mayor and Lakewood City Council Members. The Commission is charged with promoting equity, respect and diversity within the city. We strive to ensure that Lakewood is an intentionally inclusive and welcoming community.

Jon Gromek is Co-chair of the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission.

2nd Annual Lakewood Family YMCA Bowl-A-Thon

by Gina DeSantis

The Lakewood Family YMCA is excited to host their 2nd Annual Bowl-a-thon. This year's event will once again be held at Mahall's and Pins and Needles. You can support the event in a variety of ways. The YMCA is seeking bowlers to assemble teams of four players and help fundraise for our

event. Each player can buy into a team for \$50. Additionally the advisory board is sponsoring a few teams. You can also donate directly to a team you want to support. Or attend the event for \$25. Your ticket includes (1) drink ticket, appetizers, time to cheer on your teams and bid on our amazing raffle baskets. New to the event is online bidding for the raffle baskets starting November 1st.



Event Date:
Saturday, November 16th
4pm to 7pm

Event Details:
Ten teams of four players
\$50 per team member
Includes event ticket, drink ticket and appetizers
(Shoe and lane rental included)
Event attendee ticket: \$25
Includes drink ticket and appetizers
Visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/secondannuallwbowl-a-thon/> to learn more or to support the Lakewood Family YMCA. All proceeds benefit the Lakewood Family YMCA's Annual Campaign which provides financial assistance scholarships to members of the Lakewood community.

Gina DeSantis is a Lakewood resident and owner of Gina DeSantis Ceramics located in the Screw Factory.



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Seeking Forever Homes



Tabbytha aka "collar #3575"

by Stephanie Jarosz

Meet Davis aka "collar #3541"
This 10-month-old kitten should work in a bakery because he loves making biscuits! Watching his little paws knead is the cutest thing. Davis is a happy kitty who enjoys playing and getting chin rubs and back scratches. He is quite the charmer and would be a fun addition to any household.

Meet Tabbytha aka "collar #3575"
This 2-year-old girl is very gentle and sweet. Tabbytha is quite affectionate and is a big fan of chin rubs. She enjoys spending her free time sleeping, purring and cuddling. We think Tabbytha can purr her way into her forever home with her calming nature.

Visit Davis, Tabbytha, 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



Davis aka "collar #3541"

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.



Riverbelles Support USS Cleveland, LCS31

by Carol Mason

On October 21, Riverbelle members gathered on a beautiful, breezy day at the Lone Sailor Plaza to present Peter Collins, Brigadier General (USMC, Retired) & CEO of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation with a donation from Riverbelles. Riverbelles chose this fundraiser as a celebratory countdown to their 50th Anniversary in 2025. The donation is in support of the commissioning of the USS Cleveland, LCS 31, in 2025 for "Freedom-class littoral combat ship of the United States Navy."

Riverbelles President, Carol Mason of Lakewood, presented the check and was joined by Susan Rothacker, VP; Mary Glassco and Gail Ahlers (Lakewood residents), past presidents; and Marla Shaghaghi, new member. Jim Mason, SN, Past District Commander, USPS District 7, and Tom Durfey, WWI Veteran, accompanied the group. The group was then invited to tour the USS Cod Submarine Memorial.

To learn more about the USS Cleveland, LC 31 and the recent unveiling of the Lone Sailor Monument, go to www.usscleveland.org.

Riverbelles is an Auxiliary of the North Coast Ohio Sail and Power Squadron, United States Power Squadron--America's Boating Club. They support NCOSPS in their endeavors

for safe boating on our beautiful Lake Erie. They encourage not only sail and power boaters, but also individuals who kayak, paddle board and/or ride jet skis to access the free videos at www.usps.org, select the tab: "America's Boating Channel" to learn more about safe boating and small craft safety.

Carol Mason is a Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant and a Past President, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

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LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



November

ARIES: The Ram is blessed in the area of transformation this Thanksgiving season. You may receive a surprise gift from an outside resource. Slow down & count your blessings.

TAURUS: The Bull is shining in the relationship arena this month. No red capes for you, be grateful for your business & personal partnerships, & give thanks for others.

GEMINI: The Twins have a bounty of good health these days, not to mention be grateful for your pets. Whether they bark, purr, swim, fly or shed their skin, they make you smile.

CANCER: This November holiday the Crab can be grateful for the children in your life; the blessings far

outweigh the troubles. Romance may show up at your door, be ready.

LEO: The Lion/Lioness is just where it wants to be on Thanksgiving, the Jungle, surrounded by all those who reside in your bountiful home, give thanks for the variety.

VIRGO: Virgo, it's time to take a look around your community, send that critic out the door. You've got so much to be grateful for, the coffee shops, the parks, the eclectic vibe.

LIBRA: Finances are looking up for our Libra friends this Thanksgiving, but oh my, you just can't seem to make up your mind about where to share the wealth: make it easy, flip a coin.

SCORPIO: It's all about the Scorpion this month, put that stinger away & be grateful for your resourcefulness

and for your investigative powers. Go out & regenerate the world.

SAGITTARIUS: The Centaur is laying low this Thanksgiving. Your strength comes from behind the scenes, it's time to reflect, meditate, & take inventory of all you've got to be grateful for.

CAPRICORN: The Goat has developed quite a network of friends this past year. Take the time this Thanksgiving to let them know how much they are appreciated in your life.

AQUARIUS: Our Aquarian friends are blessed in the career sector this month. There are many to be grateful for in your professional arena, let them know they're appreciated.

PISCES: The Fish may receive visitors from across the borders of Lake Erie this Thanksgiving. There's room for everyone at the Fish's pond, bring out the feast.

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



Lakewood Safety Forces Share Ice Cream At Malleys



Thank you to all who joined the Lakewood safety forces for ice cream at Malley's on Friday, November 1st.

If you missed this event, join the Neighborhood Officers and Neighborhood Paramedic on Nov. 13 for cookies and cupcakes at KB Confections.



COVE COMMUNITY CENTER

Meet Us At Cove: Jim Wilson And Doug McGehe

by Nancy Feighan

Meet Us at Cove: Jim Wilson and Doug McGehe

Friendship often forms in the most unexpected places. For Jim Wilson and Doug McGehe, it began with a shared meal at Cove Community Center, where their rich life experiences brought them together in a community dedicated to connection and wellness.

Jim Wilson: The Car Enthusiast

Jim moved to Lakewood 40 years ago after relocating to Cleveland in 1963. A devoted family man, he has been a widower for 20 years. Jim dedicated 34 years of his life to working at LTV Steel, retiring in 1999 to care for his ailing wife. He is the proud father of two children, has five grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Active and engaged, Jim enjoys a vibrant life. He discovered Cove Community Center in 2022 while attending an intergenerational picnic he read about in the Lakewood Observer and was immediately drawn to it. He stays active through Silver Sneakers at the Lakewood Family YMCA, where he has participated for the last 14 years, and has spent the last two years enjoying activities and lunches at Cove.

Ten years ago, Jim fulfilled one of his dreams by visiting Ireland. A friend brought over travel brochures, and they decided to go together. He loved exploring churches, charming towns and villages, stone walls, and, of course, the forty shades of green. One of Jim's standout features is his prized 1957 Pontiac, which he fully restored with his son while he was in high school. He drives this classic car to Cove, bringing a touch of nostalgia and delight to the community.

Doug McGehe: The Passionate Volunteer

Doug was born during the Great Depression in West Palm Beach, Florida, and has lived in many places, including Dallas and Fort Wayne, before settling in Lakewood two years ago. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy



on the aircraft carrier USS Sitkoh Bay (CVE-86) and spent his career in sales, starting by delivering Liberty magazines to people's homes for his father. Doug's talent for sales earned him a spot as sixth in the nation in a national contest, winning a 1957 Nash Ambassador.

Beyond his professional achievements, Doug has dedicated significant time to volunteering. He worked in radio broadcasting for the blind for 20 years and participated in "Real Men Read," where he read to third graders in groups of thirty every other week for 15 years.

Doug moved to Lakewood to be closer to his daughter, Michele, while his wife, Joan, dealt with Alzheimer's disease. He has another daughter, Sue Ellen, who lives in Massachusetts with her husband and cat. When Doug and Joan arrived in Lakewood, they picked up a copy of the Lakewood Observer and thought, "We've got to check out that Cove place." They signed up right away, excited to join the community. Sadly, Joan passed away last year. Joan

was a history teacher and the backbone of their business. Doug often remarks, "Joan did all the work." Despite his loss, he found solace at Cove, where he

embraced the community shortly after moving to Lakewood and after Joan's death.

Almost as soon as Doug arrived at Cove, he started and continues to lead the meal participants, sometimes as many as 75-80 people, in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Friendship Blossoms

It was at Cove that Jim and Doug first met during lunch. Their shared interests and backgrounds quickly forged a strong bond. Both gentlemen enjoy participating in trips organized by the Division of Aging and have even visited each other's homes for dinner, expanding their friendship to include other friends as well.

Doug found that the friends he made at Cove, especially Jim, were a tremendous support after losing his wife. "The variety of offerings and the many nice people make it a perfect fit for me," he says, echoing the sentiments of many who have found a sense of belonging at Cove.

Jim and Doug's friendship shows the strength of community and that it's never too late to make meaningful connections. At Cove, friendships grow, enriching lives and providing support for everyone who visits.

Opinion Know Which Side Your Bread Is Buttered On

by Jeff Fritz

With elections coming up, it's important to know which side your bread is buttered on. In other words, know who it's in your best interest to vote for.

I thought about this while watching a story on the news about a man whose health was affected by the East Palestine train derailment which occurred on February 3rd 2023. The man was very sick and he blamed his condition on the chemicals that blanketed his neighborhood in the wake of the tragedy.

At the end of the story, as the camera zoomed out I noticed a Trump sign in his yard. He was apparently unaware that Trump had gotten rid of train safety rules that Obama put in place and that would have lessened the impact of the derailment, if not prevented it altogether.

At a subsidized housing project for seniors I have seen cars with Trump bumper stickers. (Trumper stickers?) Do these people know that subsidized housing is a government service and that government services are supported by DEMOCRATIC politicians and generally disliked by Republican politicians?

Guess they weren't paying attention when, during the Republican primaries, all candidates reported that they supported cuts in Medicare and Social Security.

I've talked to some of these vot-



ers and found that they get all their political information from Fox News. Guess Fox didn't report that it had to pay more than \$750,000,000 for lying about a company that makes voting machines and that they are being sued for a much higher figure for lying about another company.

And I'm pretty sure they weren't told that Fox News admitted to a policy of lying to improve their ratings and make them more money. And all their lies cut in favor of the Republican Party and the wealthy people who benefit from Republican policies, including the owners of Fox News.

To be "fair and balanced" I should note that some people might, in the short term, benefit from a Trump victory. I'm talking about those who are rich and selfish and won't live long enough to see the total destruction of our country under a dictatorship led by the dumbest, crookedest people on the planet.

As an afterthought I'd like to add that I am a vegan and never eat butter. It's one of the unhealthiest items in the supermarket. And bread's not that great either.

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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

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LAKEWOODITES

ROB MASEK

THIS WEEK'S LAKEWOODITES WAS DRAWN BEFORE THE RESULTS OF THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, SO PLEASE CIRCLE THE PANEL THAT REFLECTS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE POPULAR VOTE.

Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Full Service Salon For Females Of ALL Ages

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WOODSTOCK

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LET THERE BE MEAT

KITCHEN HOURS

MONDAY – THURSDAY – 4PM–10PM

FRIDAY – 4PM–10PM

SATURDAY – 12PM–10PM

SUNDAY – 12PM–9PM

BAR IS OPEN LATER...

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY – FRIDAY 4 PM – 6 PM

13362 MADISON AVE.

LAKEWOOD, OHIO + (216) 226-8828

Are you facing a legal problem that impacts Health? Housing? Family? Money? Employment?

Contact Legal Aid!

Browse legal information or apply for help 24/7 online: www.lasclev.org

Or, call 888.817.3777 during most business hours.

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