

Free - Take One!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." - Anne Bradstreet

Lakewood's Award Winning Citizen Journalism Project for 20+ Years • In The Journalism Hall of Fame

Volume 21, Issue 06, March 19, 2025

Breakfast With The Bunny

By Emmie Hutchison

H2O is getting ready to invite spring into Cove Community Center! The annual Breakfast with the Bunny event is Saturday, April 12th and will feature a pancake breakfast, photos with the bunny, and a beautiful assortment of raffle baskets that guests can purchase chances to win. This event is a wonderful showcase for the program, as it is run by high school volunteers serving food, selling raffle tickets, and helping in the kitchen. All proceeds from the event support H2O's service-learning projects. We are grateful for sponsorship from First Federal Lakewood, NeoGraf, and for raffle basket donations from Lakewood's generous small



H2O looking ready for this year's Breakfast With The Bunny.

business community.

This support allows H2O to raise needed funds while hosting an enjoyable and affordable event for families in the area.

There are four timed seatings for Breakfast with the Bunny and ticket prices are \$14.00 for guests who are 12

years and older and \$8.00 for younger children. Registration links will be available soon on H2O's page on the City of Lakewood site. Please call (216) 529-6045 or email emmie.hutchison@lakewoodoh.gov with questions about Breakfast with the Bunny.

Despina's Bakery Gets Her Ribbon Cutting

by Jim O'Bryan

Despina's Bakery on the east end of Lakewood opened three years ago. As time went by the ribbon cutting for Despina's bakery kept getting set back for different reasons, but owner Despina Sarantopoulou, kept putting out her versions of great Greek and other pastries.

As the legend of these delicious tidbits spread, setbacks on the planning of the ribbon cutting kept the welcoming event from happening.

None of it deterred Despina, who believes in the city and more importantly, her neighborhood and store. The lines grew, and so did the praise and respect for what she has brought to Lakewood.

Last week, the stars aligned for The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Meghan George and Despina. This allowed for the long overdue ribbon cutting to happen. As Mayor George put it so nicely, "Despina's Bakery is a treasure to our community and we were thrilled to celebrate with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony."

Despina's Bakery
11823 Detroit Ave.
Tue.-Sat. 8:30am - 3pm
216.801.4294



Left to right: Lauren Smalls, Director of Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Meghan George, Iliana Sarantopoulou, Despina Sarantopoulou, and Athanasios Sarantopoulos, Cindy Marx Ward 4 Council person, and Jo Higgins, Lakewood Alive's Operation Manager.

Lakewood Police Open Skate



The Lakewood Police would like to thank everyone that came out for the ice skating event at Winterhurst!



LHS Cardboard Regatta: A Classic Event

Photo taken by the LHS Journalism student James Babson. You can see his photos and read the story on page 5.

The Lakewood Police Department Is Hiring



from City Hall

The Lakewood Civil Service Commission is conducting an examination for Entry-Level Patrol Officer.

The deadline to complete the examination and submit required documents is 4:00 PM on May 14, 2025. More information can be found at <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/accordions/police-job-postings>.

Join our team: Starting base salary: \$76,170 (including bonuses); \$92,765 after four years. **Permanent** (non-rotating) 12-hour shifts with 3-day weekends every other week. **Paid Police Academy Training** and OPOTC certification while receiving full salary and benefits. **Full police academy** tuition reimbursement is available for graduates with last 12 months. **Extensive training and specialization opportunities.**

To view the Lakewood Police Department employment listing, visit - <https://ow.ly/pZs550V6uFr>.

Lakewood Kiwanis Lenten Speaker Series

by Anna Bacho

Join us for a Lenten Speaker series!

Lakewood Kiwanis started a community Lenten series back in 1972. This year we have sponsored three meetings with inspirational speakers from our community. The meetings will be held at St Clement's church (Madison and Lincoln) at different times to offer all people an opportunity to attend one or more for this Lenten season. Last week we heard Father Peter Paul,

Chaplain of Fairview Hospital speak. Please plan to come on one of these dates.

Mar 25th @noon, Pastor Robin Dillon, Lakewood United Methodist

Apr 9th @5:00pm, Deacon Jack Wenzel, Cleveland Diocese

Light food and refreshments will be served. Any questions, please call Chairman Tim Mohr, 216-941-7319

#KidsNeedKiwanis
Anna Bacho is a member of Lakewood Kiwanis.

PRESIDENT’S PAGE

Transgender Day of Visibility

by Sarah Kepple
President of City Council/Council Person-At-Large



Members of the public including Harding Pride Club, Colors+ Youth Center, and more celebrate the passage of Resolution 2025-10 recognizing Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, 2025.

Dear Neighbors,

On Tuesday, with support of a standing room only crowd, City Council unanimously passed Resolution 2025-10 declaring March 31, 2025 Transgender Day of Visibility in Lakewood. I was proud to join Councilmembers Cindy Strebig and Cindy Marx in co-sponsoring this resolution to celebrate the lives and contributions of transgender people, while also drawing attention to the difficulties faced by our transgender neighbors.

Transgender Day of Visibility was created in 2010 by trans advocate Rachel Crandall to create a day where people could celebrate the lives of transgender people, while still acknowledging that not every trans person can or wants to be visible due to the fear of violence and discrimination. Last year alone there were 479 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills introduced across state legislatures according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Here in Ohio, the Republican supermajority passed HB68, which among other things, banned the recognized gender-affirming medical standard of puberty blockers for youth. However, in some other positive news on Tuesday, the 10th District Court of Appeals overturned that part of Ohio HB 68 and ruled that it violated the Health Care Freedom Amendment in the Ohio Constitution.

Despite the numerous systemic and interpersonal obstacles, at least one million Americans are

transgender and have bravely overcome significant hardships to live their authentic lives. Trans people have made countless contributions to the betterment of our society, often working at the frontlines of the social justice and human rights movements. In fact, the courage and persistence of trans activists of color Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson was foundational to the Stonewall uprising, the birth of Pride, and the fight for the rights and respect of all LGBTQIA+ people.

In her remarks Tuesday, Councilwoman Strebig highlighted the courage of Montana State Representative Zooey Zephyr, who, when originally elected as the state’s first transgender legislator, was barred by colleagues from taking her seat in the chamber. The duly elected Rep Zephyr held firm, and after initially working from a bench in the hallway, has managed to not only to earn re-election, but also through her visibility and advocacy change the hearts and votes of some Republican members to effectively kill proposed legislation that would have banned drag and pride festivals and potentially remove transgender children from their parents.

On this Transgender Day of Visibility and always, let us honor the inherent value of each and every resident of our city, including our trans and gender nonconforming residents, without exception.

India Garden



Serving Northern Ohio's Award
Winning Indian Lunch Buffet & Fine Dining Experience
Open Daily
11:30 am – 2:30 pm \$16.95 Brunch or Lunch off Menu
4:30pm – 9:30pm – Award winning Dinner Menu
18405 Detroit Avenue • 216-221-0676
www.indiagardencleveland.com



**THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER**

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

Published twice a month with a current circulation of 10,000+ copies. The paper is made available free of charge and can be found at over 100 business locations within the City of Lakewood and on our website. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff. Copyright 2024 • AGS/The Lakewood Observer, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

Become an Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is a product of citizen journalism, which means it is a completely community-written paper. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators. It doesn't matter if you're a professional or an amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our Member Center at lakewoodobserver.com where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos, cartoons, drawings, etc. No need to register to post online calendar items or classified ads. Questions? Email our Editor-in-chief at betsy@lakewoodobserver.com.

www.lakewoodobserver.com
216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531
PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

 **Lakewood Observer**

Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Friday, March 28, 2025	Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Friday, April 11, 2025	Wednesday, April 16, 2025

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

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

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Jim O'Bryan,

PHOTOGRAPHY - Abby Ayers, James Babson, Nancy Feighan, Christine Gordillo, Emmie Hutchison, Stephanie Jarosz, Sarah Kepple, Dan Kirk, and Jim O'Bryan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Abby Ayers, Anna Bacho, Lisa Calfee, Nancy Feighan, Jennifer Fitchwell, Mayor Meghan George, Christine Gordillo, Emmie Hutchison, Stephanie Jarosz, Sarah Kepple, Dan Kirk, Shannon Mortland, Jim O'Bryan, Ava Olic, Dan Shields, Jeffrey Siebert, and Corky Thacker



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.

If you'd like to advertise with us contact: production@lakewoodobserver.com.

Subscribe to the digital edition by sending a request to thelakewoodobserver.digital@gmail.com with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

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

THE MAYOR’S CORNER

Enjoy Your Parks

As the weather begins to warm up in Northeast Ohio, we are all excited to get outside and enjoy some springtime sun and fresh air. Here in Lakewood, we are fortunate to benefit from an abundance of city parks spread across our city that encourage our residents to stay active. At City Hall, we understand that we have a duty to maintain and improve these important public assets to ensure that they continue to provide value over generations. This year, there are a number of projects ongoing and planned in our city parks.

Many of you will be aware of repairs and upgrades at our larger parks and recreation assets in recent years – for example, the complete rebuilding of Foster Pool or the major investment and management changes at Winterhurst. But we also continue to place an emphasis on investing in our neighborhood parks, which are important in providing access to recreation within walking distance of our residents throughout Lakewood. This year’s focus on neighborhood parks can be found at Merle Bunts Park and Niagara Park.

by Meghan George
Mayor/Safety Director, City of Lakewood



At both parks, brand new playground equipment, swing sets, and picnic tables will be installed soon. Demolition of the previous equipment is complete at both parks, and our public works staff currently is working with the contractor on final grading and excavation. New pads will be poured for the picnic tables, which will also

connect them to the public sidewalks. Merle Bunts will also feature a new 10’ X 15’ picnic shelter, made possible by an award of \$50,000 from Cuyahoga County’s CDSG program. We hope to have construction done soon on these neighborhood parks to ensure they are

usable as the weather warms up and more people are out and about.

In addition to our neighborhood parks, we are also working on investments over at Madison Park. Once again with the support of Cuyahoga County dollars, our Lakewood Planning and Development Department recently completed a visionary new master plan for Madison Park that will guide usage and capital investment for our second largest city park for years to come. Investments scheduled to happen this year include the creation of a connector path through a city lot on Halstead that will add more direct pedestrian and bicycle access to the park from the Birdtown neighborhood. We will also install a new loop path through the park to encourage active walking, running, and multi-modal exercise.

Our city continues to be a wonderful place to stay active, enjoy nature, and connect with neighbors in our many parks. I hope to see you all out and about as we welcome spring to Lakewood.

Reading Time At Cove Center



Fire Chief Ryan Fairbanks and Fire Marshall Ryan Birth take time to read some stories to the kids at Cove Community Center, in an ongoing reading series.

LWD
CR

Has the
luck of
the Irish
ran out on
your clock?

Lakewood Clock Repair | 15725 Madison Ave | 216-421-4201

You get more at
O’Neill Healthcare
Assisted Living

60
Years & Counting

O’Neill
Healthcare

ONeillHC.com

- Spacious Assisted Living Apartments
- Gourmet, Chef-Designed Cuisine
- Large Walk-In Showers
- Utilities Included
- Recreation Programs
- Housekeeping & Laundry Services
- Premium Streaming Services

Bay Village
605 Bradley Road

Lakewood
13900 Detroit Avenue

North Olmsted
4800 Clague Road

North Ridgeville
38600 Center Ridge Road

Call or Text (216)386-6687
to schedule a tour

Bay Village | Fairview Park | Lakewood | Middleburg Heights | North Olmsted | North Ridgeville

Celebrating Over 19 Years of Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Lakewood, Ohio: www.lakewoodobserver.com

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Upcoming Events

by Lisa Calfee

**Besa Presentation and Documentary-
“Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story” (2014)**
Presented by Dr. Shrabani Basu
Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Join Dr. Shrabani Basu, author of “Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan” and principal of the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust, for an introduction of the documentary, a discussion of the life and legacy of Noor Inayat Khan, and questions and answers. Dr. Basu will be joining us live from London, England.

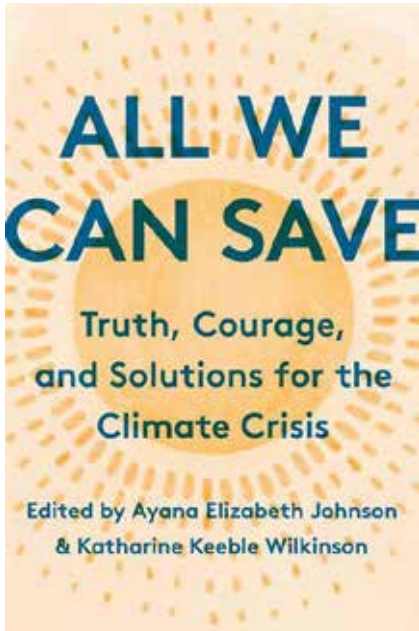
**Besa Film- “A Shelter Among the Clouds” (2018)
Encore (screening only)**
Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
This film follows Besnik, a lonely shepherd and devoted Muslim, haunted by unfulfilled love. English subtitles.

**Meet the Author- “Sales Mastery Essentials Made Simple”
by Ruth M. Farrington**
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Ruth M. Farrington has generated over 5 billion dollars in a forty-eight-year career in retail sales. Join us for an engaging and insightful talk with the internationally recognized author of Sales Mastery Essentials Made Simple as she shares her unique journey and the powerful strategies that have led to her extraordinary success. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

**Knit & Lit Book Club-”Remarkably Bright Creatures:
A Novel” by Shelby Van Pelt**
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Book For Murder Book Club- “Nine Lives” by Peter Swanson
Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Multipurpose Room

**Book Club- “All We Can Save:
Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis”**
edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson
& Katharine K. Wilkinson
Mondays: April 7, April 14, April 21, April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19, June 2, June 9, 2025 From 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
Facilitated by Dr. Mike Skladany, Camden Lockner, Kamyra Plicka, and Kayleigh Conners; Department of Criminology and Sociology, Cleveland State University
For the sake of our current and future generations, and especially Mother Earth, please join us and our notable guest speakers as we embark on an inclusive march forward in addressing the most pressing issue of the twenty-first century. Lakewood Public Library will be giving out free copies of “All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis” while supplies last.



Children’s and Youth Services

by Jeffrey Siebert

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.

Just Baby ‘N Me
For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby
Just Baby ‘N Me is a lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. No registration is required.

Main Library - Mondays - 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Thursdays-10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Madison Branch - Thursdays- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pre-school Story Time
For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler. Children and their parents will enjoy stories, movement and songs for thirty fun filled minutes. The focus is on early literacy skills. No registration is required.
Main Library:
Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Madison Branch - Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Pajama Party
For You and Your 2 to 6 Year-Old Child
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.

Learn About Albania Scavenger Hunt For Youth of All Ages
February 1, 2025-March 31, 2025
Discover many different aspects of everyday life in Albania by hunting for signs throughout the children’s area of the Library. Enter your scavenger hunt sheet into a drawing to win a prize. The scavenger hunt will be ready for hunting at the Main Lakewood Public Library and the Madison branch of the Lakewood Public Library. No registration required.

Tail Waggin’ Tutors
For School-Age Children.
Saturday, March 8, 2025 11:00 am- 12:30 pm in the Main Library Multipurpose Room
Your child can bone up on their reading skills during a one-on-one session in a dog-friendly atmosphere. Students can practice reading with one of the dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International, an organization dedicated to regulating, testing and registering therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers. Reading to a therapy dog can provide comfort, support and happiness for self-conscious readers. No registration is required.



Drone Services

Safe and Professional • Insured • FAA Certified
Lakewood Local Business

- * Aerial Inspection
- * Aerial Photo/Video
- * Drone Mapping/GIS

Call or Text
(303) 589-2475

Roof/Gutter Inspection - \$99
Lake Bluff Inspection - \$99

<https://twomile.com/drone-services>



the Root cafe
15118 detroit ave
lakewood, ohio 44015
216.226.4401
www.theroot-cafe.com
organic bar
bakery
vegan
vegetarian
local kitchen

LAKEWOOD EDUCATION

Growing Number Of West Shore Students Interning



Business Management interns (from left): Mihai Bogdan-Chindea, Brayden McCarthy, Lay Phalt Htoo, Ella Hyatt

by Christine Gordillo

The West Shore Career-Technical District provides hands-on learning in their 13 programs aimed toward preparing students for college and careers. Now, some West Shore students are taking their hands-on learning a step further into the real world with internships in the community.

Five students in Dan Popio’s Exercise and Sports Science program have landed internships as wellness consultants with the Lakewood YMCA. Two of Cassie Tetorakis’ students in the Business Management program are working with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and two are interning at Laskey Costello accounting firm and two at Stepan CPA Firm in Lakewood.

These hands-on experiences provide students with invaluable industry knowledge, professional connections, and a strong addition to their resumes. This opportunity not only prepares them for future careers but also showcases the power of career-tech education in bridging the gap between education and employment.

YMCA interns Luke Anderson, Evan Gardner, Russell Oldfield, Frank Revy and Ryan Sterling work approximately six hours a week with duties such as leading fitness center orientations for teens, assisting with teen strength and conditioning training programs and giving 30-minute introductions to personal training.

Ryan is eager to dig into his work



Exercise Science YMCA interns (front row from left): Evan Gardner, Ryan Sterling, Luke Anderson, Back row (from left): Frank Revy, Russell Oldfield

at the Y and test out the skills he has been learning in class: “There is an extremely practical crossover between the two, everything we’ve done in Sports Exercise Science has been in preparation for a job that is in that field of work,” he said.

Laskey Costello intern Mihai Bogdan-Chindea says he puts in approximately 20 hours a week for his paid internship at the firm and is sharpening his skills learned in class like Excel and other Microsoft applications while also learning new accounting software programs such as QuickBooks, Onvio, and UltraTax. Brayden McCarthy of Rocky River High School is also interning at the CPA firm. Nathan Kopko and Steven Mattar are interning at Stepan.

At the Chamber, Lay Phalt Htoo and Ella Hyatt will be assisting with event planning and administrative tasks as well as monitor members’ social media accounts to share good news they may post and sit in on meetings with local businesses.

West Shore is looking for more local businesses and organizations to consider offering internships to its students. By partnering with West Shore, employers can play a pivotal role in nurturing the workforce of tomorrow and building a stronger community. If interested, you can reach out to West Shore at 216-529-4155 or email yakoob.badat@lakewoodcityschools.org.



Card Board Regatta: A Splashing Good Time

by Jim O’Bryan

The Lakewood High School Card-board Regatta has become one of the great events at LHS and in Lakewood. Always bringing in media from all over the state and country, this year’s was no different, including long-time Cleveland Favorite Kenny Crumpton covering some of it LIVE on Fox8.

The event combines science, physics, team work, engineering, construction, physical health, and fun in a silly and creative way.

The teams are only allowed to use cardboard and packing tape to design a boat that can make it across the Lakewood High Pool without sinking. Winning is good, but just making it is reward enough.



Photos taken by the LHS Journalism student James Babson.



LHS Artists Winners In Governor's Youth Art Exhibit



by Anna Maurer



by Helen Fraunfelder



by Oceana (Iris) Krizan



by Poppy Smrekar

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the four Lakewood High School student artists who have been named winners for the 2025 Ohio Governor’s Youth Art Exhibition! The artwork of Anna Maurer, Helen Fraunfelder and Oceana (Iris) Krizan will hang in the public exhibition of nearly 300 art pieces. Another piece by Iris and one by Poppy Smrekar

will hang in a special Cameo exhibit in the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce building.

In the prior Northeast Region judging for the state contest, 18 students had 29 pieces of work chosen to go through final judging. The pieces were selected from more than 1,200 regional submissions. Kudos to all on this amazing achievement!

NOW HIRING LIFEGUARDS (will train)

The Winter booklet is now out

Adult Activities

Swim Lessons

Youth Activities

Driver's Education

Youth Baseball

Registration:

https://lakewoodrecreation.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and X(Twitter) to stay updated with our latest news and events

14100 Franklin Blvd. OH 44107 • (216) 529-4081

recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org

follow us on facebook.com/lkwdrec • twitter.com/lkwdrec

LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood Fire Fighters Local 382
Fire And Ice Hockey Game 2025

by Jim O'Bryan

Each year the Lakewood Fire Department Local 382 challenges LHS hockey players(current and alumni) to a Hockey Game for charity. Put together by Lakewood Fire Fighter Seth Andregg and his wife and first grade teacher, Nicole Andregg, the game raises money for school charities. This is the 3rd year and already the event is growing, and has raised over \$10,000

for special programs at the schools.
This year's proceeds will go to special middle school programs.
This year was a tie-breaker as each team has won in the past. This year, the winner was Lakewood High, 7-4.
Thank you to Seth and Nicole, Lakewood Fire Fighters Local 382, Lakewood High hockey players, and the fans!
We all had fun.



Lakewood High takes another shot on goal!



There is also a free skate and a kids' game. Great fun for everyone.



Lined up for the National Anthem.



Lakewood Seventh-day Adventist
Community Service Center

1382 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Tuesdays 10am to Noon

Thursdays 5pm to 6:30pm

Please use glass doors entrance

Limited inventory for emergent needs
(clothing, hygiene supplies, etc.)

Please bring proof of family income
or other documentation of emergent need

Thank you for your donations of clean, bagged clothing placed in
the donations bin



Seeking Forever Homes!

by Stephanie Jarosz

Meet Zorro, a one-year-old Domestic Shorthair! He's a gentle and independent boy who enjoys affection and playing with his spring toy. Though a bit reserved at first, Zorro quickly warms up and loves napping alongside his human friends. He's also comfortable with other cats and doesn't mind being picked up. Zorro would make a loving and easygoing companion!

Zorro

Visit Zorro, 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.

Free Preparation Of Lakewood Municipal Tax Returns

To assist with tax prep this season, the Division of Tax will hold extended hours (9 AM to 6 PM) on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 25, as well as Monday and Tuesday, Apr. 14 and 15.
The office will also open from 9 AM to 12 PM on Saturday, April 12.
No appointment is necessary.
For more info go to:
<https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/municipal-income-tax/>

Lunar Eclipse - 03.14.2025

Total Lunar Eclipse as viewed from a Lakewood front yard, March 14 at 2:50am.

Roman Fountain

Pizza & Subs

ORDER ONLINE @ ROMANFOUNTAIN.COM

Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzeria in Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzone, stromboli, subs, pasta, wings, and salads.

Whether carryout or delivery, we provide your family with the freshest of toppings (over 25 to choose from) on our pizza. With dough and sauce made daily from our own recipe and freshly grated blend of mozzarella & provolone cheese, we provide a great pizza for you and your family

At Roman Fountain you can find all your favorites:

• Pizza

• Calzones

• Stromboli

• Salads

• Pasta

• Subs

• Wings

• Appetizers

• Desserts

• Dinners

To see our menu or coupons please go to
www.romanfountain.com
Or stop by at
15603 Detroit Ave
Near the corner of Lakeland Ave

Call us at 216-221-6633

Celebrating Over 19 Years of Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Lakewood, Ohio: www.lakewoodobserver.com

LAKEWOOD CARES

Lakewood Neighbors Gather To Support Democracy

by Dan Shields

On Saturday, March 8th I and several dozen concerned Lakewood residents gathered at the corner of Summit and Detroit to protest current U.S. administration policies and to support Ukraine. In these difficult and dark times, this rally was a ray of sunshine. 40+ Lakewood residents came together to send strong messages of support and caring. We did so by letting the powers that be hear our voices, loud and clear.

Because of the current administration's comprehensive actions of hurt and hatred, there were many signs displayed in support of many causes. We sent messages of support for the families of those federal workers being thrown out of their jobs, with little or no notice. There were messages in support of Ukraine, and its besieged people. Messages of diversity and inclusion, for protecting the environment, and to give the immigrants among us the understanding and support they need.

As Pastor Robin Dillon of Lakewood United Methodist Church noted, "As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe in the value of all people and standing up for those who are being oppressed."



There is something else equally important here that should be noted. That is, if you think you cannot make a difference, think again. This protest started with the desire of one person to 'do something.' That person asked several of his friends, who enthusiastically signed on. Then they decided on the where, the when and the what: People walking on the street with signs displaying their messages. Those few

asked their friends and family, and then it was spread via phone calls and social media. In one week one person became 40+, with signs and shouting. The support was overwhelmingly positive, with hundreds of thumbs-up from pedestrians and drivers alike. The honking of cars was constant. It was a joyful noise.

If you think you do not know what to do, do something anyway. In these crucial times, every action matters. Every voice matters. Every protest works. I can guarantee you that you are surrounded by others who are eager and ready to fight RIGHT NOW to make a difference.

Gather some friends, family, and neighbors and write letters, make phone calls, demand a town hall, create your own town hall, make signs, march, sit-in, stand-up, shout, shout, shout. You CAN do it. You matter. This country matters. Go now spread some sunshine. We need it right now.

Congressman John Lewis famously said, "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, SAY something! DO something! Get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble."

So remember, you can do it. Go make some good trouble.



Dan Shields with Ward 2 Councilman Bryan Evans

Local Artist Invites You To Her Upcoming Show

by Jennifer Fitchwell

My husband Frank and I moved here 23 years ago from Williamsport, PA so that I could pursue my art career at American Greetings.

We picked Lakewood because of the beautiful old homes, old town feel, it was close to work, and we knew our kids would be able to walk and ride bikes anywhere from schools to parks.

As a greeting card illustrator who was raising children, I loved sharing my art skills, teaching neighborhood kids summer projects; my door was always open. I donated work to high-school events and loved contributing at the Beck Center for kids' workshops and floral classes. Now all of our kids are adults and married, we have four grandkids (one on the way) in Lakewood and the other is close by in West Park.

When I discovered painting, fine art became my greatest expression,



Jenn Fitchwell

especially painting outside from life; painting small greeting cards to large canvas and on the masonite surfaces my husband Frank built. Even with his full time job, he has found a wonderful way to create beautiful base platforms for me to paint on.

I sell art out of my Corporate Gallery and I'm now having a show at Bay Arts titled, "Favorite Places," which includes my gestural broadstroke landscapes, florals and paintings of some areas of Lakewood. Please stop by, see my work, and attend the opening on Friday, April 11th, 5 - 8 pm at Bay Arts. 28795 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.

Jennifer Fitchwell is a mother of three adult kids raised in Lakewood. She moved here 21 years ago to work at American Greetings and picked Lakewood to raise their family.



LAKEWOOD DENTAL GROUP

We Accept Most Forms Of Insurance

17117 Detroit Ave. • Lakewood, Ohio

216.221.0300

5 Great Reasons To Call Us

- 1. CONVENIENCE...WE'LL SEE YOU IMMEDIATELY AND FIX YOUR PROBLEM.
- 2. PRICE...WE'RE AFFORDABLE AND WE WORK WITH YOUR INSURANCE.
- 3. TIME...WE KNOW YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE, WE DON'T KEEP YOU WAITING.
- 4. FEAR...NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT PAIN, OUR WORK IS DONE COMFORTABLY.
- 5. OUR PROMISE...WE STAND BEHIND ALL THE WORK WE DO.

CALL AND MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Historical Lectures Kick Off Church Of The Ascension's 150th Anniversary Celebration Events

by Corky Thacker

Church of the Ascension, an Episcopal Church located at 13216 Detroit Avenue, is the church with the longest history in Lakewood, continuous since 1875, according to the Lakewood Historical Society. The society's director, Dr. Robert Shimp, will deliver a talk on Wed., March 26, titled "Church of the Ascension 150: A Rockport Township and Lakewood Retrospective." He will discuss Rockport in 1875, Ascension and some of Lakewood's well-known pioneers who were part of its early days, and the other churches that existed at that time. Following Stations of the Cross in the nave at 6:00 p.m., the event begins at 6:30 p.m. in the church's Ascension Hall on the second floor, and includes supper. It is free, and the public is invited.

Following the 10:30 worship service on Sun., March 30, the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert will speak at noon in Ascension Hall "Of Bishops, Buildings, and the Broad Work of the Church." The Rev. Dr. Wilbert is the Archivist of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, which was the first diocese established outside of the country's original 13 colonies in



Image of the original Church of the Ascension, built in 1875. (Used with permission.)

1817. The lecture and luncheon are free and the public is welcome. Reservations are not required; however, a call to the church office, (216) 521-8727, would be appreciated to plan numbers for the supper and/or luncheon. For more information about Church of the Ascension and other upcoming events, please visit www.ascension-lakewood.org. *Corky Thacker is a novelist and a parishioner at Church of the Ascension, an Episcopal Church located at 13216 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.*

New Gaming Lounge In Lakewood Gives Kids A Safe Place To Play And Learn

by Abby Ayers

Ethlete Lab Academy, Video Game Lounge Announces Grand Opening to Inspire the Next Generation of Gamers
ELA Classroom/ Party room- 12 PC private room where coding, game design, cybersecurity and more are taught

Ethlete Lab Academy (ELA), an innovative education hub designed for youth passionate about gaming, coding, and digital creativity, is thrilled to announce its grand opening on March 3rd, at 14414 Detroit Ave, on the corner of Detroit and Marlowe in Lakewood.. This milestone marks the beginning of a transformative journey to empower students aged 8-18 to harness their love for gaming and technology in a supportive and inclusive environment.

With a unique mission to bridge the gap between gaming culture and education, ELA provides classes and workshops in esports, coding, game design, and digital media. Tailored for learners at all skill levels, ELA fosters creativity, teamwork, and leadership while offering a platform for students to turn their passions into future career opportunities.



"We believe that gaming is more than just entertainment. It's a gateway to innovation, collaboration, and limitless potential," said Michael Newton, Co- Founder and CEO of Ethlete Lab Academy. "Our goal is to create an inclusive space where young minds can thrive, gain valuable skills, and build lifelong connections with others who share their interests."

What's Happening All Month Long?
Open House Tours
Stop by for a guided tour of our state-of-the-art facilities, designed to inspire learning and play. Discover how ELA empowers kids and teens (ages 8-18) through esports training, coding, and game design.
Read the rest of this article online at: lakewoodobserver.com



Updated Skatepark Now Open

by Jim O'Bryan

It's open! And the tennis and basketball courts next to it at Lakewood Park are too. Congratulations to California Skateparks and all the community partners involved. Above is the artist concept from California Skate Park that illustrates the proposal and their ideas. To experience the real thing, stop down and see one of skaters' favorite skate parks in the country. On the right is the first printed edition of the Lakewood Observer. We covered the original opening of the Skate Park. Getting it done was one of the many achievements of Mayor Meghan George's father's administration--something the Lakewood Observer was proud to support all the way back to our founding day.



Lakewood Observer Volume 1, Issue 1. The first of 702 papers and counting. All written and produced by Lakewood residents! Join us at <http://lakewoodobserver.com>

DLPSOUND

Mobile DJ Service
Playing All The Hits
Large or Small Parties
Corporate Events
Family Gatherings
DENNIS@DLPSOUND.COM
DENNIS PEREZ 303-803.3219
DLPSOUND.COM/MOBILEDJ

Lakewood's #1 choice for interior and exterior painting

Neubert PAINTING

Serving Northeast Ohio Homeowners since 1975

Quality Painting.
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at **216-529-0360** for a Free Consultation!
neubertpainting.com

WALL TO WALL TRANSFORMATIONS
PLASTER REPAIR
specializing in plaster and lathe restoration
216-255-8529
fully insured, free estimates

American Red Cross
Give blood. Help save lives.

Blood Drive
Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1382 Arthur Ave. (Gym)
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Saturday March 29 10 a.m. – 4 p.m

Give in March for a \$10 Gift Card by email & successful donations get A1C testing. rcblood.org/March

Scan to schedule an appointment.
1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

LAKEWOOD OBSERVER FORUM

Preserve Lakewood Schools Shares Recommendations Residents Meet With Board And District Officials

by Dan Kirk

Six concerned residents from Preserve Lakewood Schools met with school district officials on March 11, to share their recommendations for how the school district should move forward with its elementary school plan to provide long-term excellence and stability for Lakewood’s schools.

Over the last three months, Preserve Lakewood Schools has engaged with thousands of Lakewood families, residents and business owners, gathering feedback about how residents feel the school district should move forward with providing elementary school services.

Lakewood’s school board is currently considering whether or not to repurpose one or even two of Lakewood’s neighborhood elementary



Left to right: Dan Kirk, Bill Locke, Brian Higgins, Monica Bruaw, Marie Fechik-Kirk, Jennifer Schlosser

schools (Grant, Lincoln, and Roosevelt are being considered), and may vote on the issue as soon as late May 2025.

In the meeting, Preserve Lakewood Schools met with School Board President Nora Katzenberger and School Board Member Lisa Dopman, as well as

school superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki and treasurer Kent Zeman.

Preserve Lakewood Schools’ Recommendations to the School Board:

- Prioritize safety and walkability.
- Conduct a traffic and safety study.
- Provide a safety analysis to accompany each of the seven scenarios under consideration.
- Make Elementary Planning Task Force meetings open to the public.
- Make a resolution that provides clear parameters on considering closures only under dire circumstances, with benchmarks outlined.

Vote for a scenario that:

- Keeps all seven of Lakewood’s current elementary schools
 - Redraws the boundary lines for elementary schools to keep all schools at 60% enrollment or higher
 - Limits the number of crossings of main roads and railroad tracks
 - Keeps as many students as possible within one mile of walking distance of their home school, and when a student is further than one mile, the family should have the option to choose a closer school, or one with a safer commute.
 - * Gives students who have their home school changed the option to remain at their current school through 5th grade.
- Finally, Preserve Lakewood Schools

encouraged the school district to celebrate and promote itself as one of America’s most walkable school districts, as a long-term effort to increase enrollment and improve school utilization.

One of Preserve Lakewood Schools’ goals was to ask the school district for feedback on any incorrect information that it has shared, and as an act of good faith, Preserve Lakewood Schools has updated its website, Facebook page, and petition to use language that it believes almost everyone can support.

Preserve Lakewood Schools asked the school district officials to clarify how the Task Force will arrive at its recommendation, whether it will be through a vote, or some other process. Ms. Niedzwiecki, Ms. Katzinger, and Ms. Dopman stated that there is no vote or formal recommendation process, but that a scenario would emerge as the best choice. Preserve Lakewood Schools has asked the school district to provide to the community a clear explanation of the process through which the Task Force will make their recommendation.

The meeting lasted for about one hour and fifteen minutes and ended with all agreeing on many shared goals, including our commitment to working toward the long-term excellence of public education in Lakewood, and our commitment to the community.

Preserve Lakewood Schools remains open to have discussions with city and school district officials, as well as members of the Elementary Planning Task Force, to learn more and determine ways in which we can collaborate for the betterment of our schools and our community.

Preserve Lakewood Schools is a coalition of parents, residents, and business owners in Lakewood, Ohio, committed to preventing the closure/repurposing of neighborhood elementary schools by Lakewood City Schools. <https://www.preservelakewoodschools.org>

Dan Kirk is a concerned parent and member of Preserve Lakewood Schools.

Congratulations To Rotary/Beck Center Contest Winners

by Christine Gorgillo

Congratulations to the Lakewood High students whose artwork earned honors in the 80th Annual Rotary/Beck Center Visual Arts Contest:

Molly Keane earned second place for her piece based on the phobia of losing teeth. Helen Fraunfelder earned an honorable mention for her self-portrait. Sebastian Shafer earned an honorable mention for



Losing Teeth by Molly Keane.

his portrait photography. In addition to Molly, Helen and Sebastian, 30 other LHS students' artwork was chosen for display in the exhibition at the Beck. Congratulations to all!

Sebastian Shafer earned an honorable mention for his portrait photography.





STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TRISTAN RADER
Ohio Statehouse District 13 - Cleveland & Lakewood

Join us for 'Coffee with Rep. Rader'

Fridays		
February 28, 9-11am	Propaganda Coffee	17806 Detroit Ave. Lakewood
March 28, 10am-noon	Las Villas Deli & Pastries	3216 W. 41st St. Cleveland
April 25, 9-11am	Civilization	2366 W. 11th St. Cleveland
May 30, 10am-noon	Root Café	15118 Detroit Ave. Lakewood
June 27, 9-11am	Koffie Café	2517 Market Ave. Cleveland

(614) 466-5921
rep13@ohiohouse.gov
ohiohouse.gov

Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street - Floor 10
Columbus, Ohio 43215



LAKEWOOD OBSERVER FORUM

LakewoodAlive Announces Knowing Your Home Spring Schedule

by Ava Olic

When it comes to your home, there's no better time than now to take proper care of this important investment, and LakewoodAlive is here to help you every step of the way.

LakewoodAlive announces the Spring 2025 schedule for this free educational series intended for homeowners looking to sustain and improve their homes inside and out. This series is designed to help homeowners learn about home maintenance best practices, give them the confidence to tackle necessary repairs and improvements, and focus on sustainability.

Open to all homeowners in the greater Cleveland area, not just Lakewood residents, this series is intended for:

- Those considering a home DIY project
- Those planning to hire a contractor
- Those simply interested in better understanding how their home works

The Spring installment of 2025's home education program features three workshops lead by industry experts, with a fourth to be



announced. The goal of this series is helping to remove the guesswork from daunting home repairs and improvement projects, getting the work done correctly the first time, and saving your precious time and money.

The 2025 Spring Series commences with **"Homeownership in Lakewood 101"** on Wednesday, April 2, from 7 - 8:30 PM. This kick-off workshop will feature a panel of local housing experts and focus on best practices for home improvement projects, resources, city permitting, and more when it comes to owning a century home in Lakewood. Join us at the Lakewood Public Library Main Branch, at 15425 Detroit Ave. in the Auditorium located in the lower level of the building.

The following workshop is **"Spring Cleaning & Decluttering,"** on Thursday, April 17, from 7 - 8:30 PM at the Lakewood Public Library Main Branch (15425 Detroit Avenue). Join us and our guest speakers who are decluttering and organization experts, to learn about decluttering tips as well as your options when it comes to recycling your unwanted items.

"Pollinator Gardens" is third in the series, taking place on Saturday, May 31 from 10 AM - 12 PM at Wagar Park, located on Madison Avenue between Orchard Grove and Rosewood Avenues. Join Master Gardeners for this hands-on outdoor gardening session where you will learn about the benefits of pollinator gardens and how to cultivate your own at home.

Keep an eye out for details on the upcoming fourth workshop of the season, and the subsequent Fall 2025 Knowing Your Home schedule, which will be announced late in the summer.

Now in its twelfth year, LakewoodAlive's "Knowing Your Home" series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Visit LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome to learn more.

Home Alone

Pet Sitting LLC

Trusted Care For 30 Years

In Home Pet Care While You Are Away

Experienced Veterinarian Technician

Bonded & Insured

216-548-1543

djmhokin@gmail.com

Homealonepetsitting.net

NUNZIO'S Pizzeria

Fresh Authentic Italian Cuisine

Pizza • Pasta • Sandwiches • Salads • Wings

Let Us Cater Your Next Event

OPEN:

Monday - Thursday
4pm - 3am
Delivery till 3 am

Friday - Saturday
4pm - 3:30
Delivery till 3:15 am

Sunday
2pm - 1am
Delivery till 12:45 am

17615 Detroit Avenue • 216-228-2900 nunziospizza.net

Visit Sicily Without Leaving Home

BEST USCA "Best of Local Business" Award Winning Pizza

1990 • 34 Years in Business!

Now Serving 4 Locations! Lakewood, Cleveland, Akron, and Parma

PIZZA	Small 6 cut 9"	Medium 8 cut 12"	Large 12 cut 16"	Party Tray Half Sheet
Plain	\$8.75	\$10.25	\$13.75	\$14.75
1 Item	\$9.50	\$11.25	\$15.00	\$16.50
2 Items	\$10.25	\$12.25	\$16.25	\$18.25
3 Items	\$11.00	\$13.25	\$17.50	\$20.00
4 Items	\$11.75	\$14.25	\$18.75	\$21.75
Deluxe	\$12.50	\$15.25	\$20.00	\$23.50
Extra Items	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.75
Chicken	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$4.75
Extra Cheese & Special Toppings	\$2.00	2.50	3.50	4.50

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

Letter To The Editor Bunts Rd Bike Path Opposition

by Shannon Mortland

I am among a growing group of Bunts Road residents who oppose the multi-use path planned for my street, and I would like to set the record straight.

Bunts Road residents received a letter dated April 25, 2024 alerting us to the project and a public meeting on May 7. The letter mentioned a "bike lane," which is 4-6 feet wide, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. A bike lane is what is currently on Madison.

We were shocked to find out at the May 7 meeting that the city had already created two plans for the Bunts project, both of which included a 10-foot-wide multi-use path, the same size as a standard lane for vehicle traffic.

City officials followed the letter of the law and provided ample opportunity for public input, but they had their minds made up before we were consulted at the May 7 meeting. They gave us chances to speak but never had any intention of using our input on the multi-use path.

Before you cry NIMBY (not in my backyard), consider these questions.

Why is it so bad to not want a multi-use path on a residential street? Do you want it on your street? If so, contact the city. I haven't found a person on Bunts yet who wants this path. We will gladly shift it to your street.

Would you risk your life or that



of your loved ones to travel on this path as cars are trying to back out and cross busy streets, or would you travel smarter and move to a calmer street?

Would you sue if you got hit while traveling on this path? If so, there's a personal injury attorney in Lakewood who is a champion of this path. He's waiting for your business.

Should city officials, voted in office by the residents, take the advice of a small, special interest group over the people the path will actually impact?

Would you want me or someone else making decisions for your street without consulting those who actually live there and experience its patterns?

I am not opposed to bicycles or lanes to accommodate them. I am opposed to dramatically altering a street at the expense of its residents.

Make your voice heard by signing our petition to stop this dangerous multi-use path from being built on Bunts.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

A non-profit peer wellness center

For adults diagnosed with Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder

- * Drop-In Center
- * Peer Support Group
- * Arts and Crafts Program

Recovery is a personal journey of healing and transformation.

Phone: 216-251-8265

On Facebook @ [futuredirectionscos](https://www.facebook.com/futuredirectionscos)

futuredirections@ameritech.net

2070 West 117th Street

Cleveland, Ohio 44111

COVE COMMUNITY CENTER

Meet Me At Cove: Sue Lanzer, BS RN (Retired), Active Participant And Volunteer Ambassador

by Nancy Feighan

Sue moved with her husband to Lakewood over 40 years ago for a nursing job and raised her five children here, all graduates of Lakewood City Schools. Despite offers from other hospitals, Sue chose to stay in Lakewood for its schools, history, architecture, and community. Her husband, Jay, also worked at Lakewood Hospital.

Sue spent over two decades working for Lakewood Hospital before transitioning to Cleveland Clinic’s education department. There, she helped orient new nurses and continued the education of seasoned ones.

But after retiring in October 2021, Sue found herself thinking, “I miss people and want to exercise with others” when a friendly group at Foster Pool at Lakewood Park encouraged her to check out the group exercise classes at Cove.

Her first visit was nothing short of a revelation. Walking through the door, Sue felt welcomed by the friendly faces of the staff and volunteers, especially the three Martha’s, who greeted her like an old friend. One of the pool friends exclaimed, “You made it!” Sue couldn’t help but feel like a kid in a candy store—except this was no ordinary store; it was full of activities, programs, and even daily lunches.

Her schedule quickly became packed with activities: Jazzercise with Patty, Silver Strength with Andrea, yoga



Sue Lanzer, BSN RN

with Joyce, Tai Chi with Jan, and from spring through fall, line dancing with Caroline. Yet, despite her packed calendar, Sue made room for something even more rewarding—volunteering.

When Barry approached her with the opportunity to volunteer at the front desk, Sue accepted the challenge. She quickly discovered that welcoming others was a natural fit for her. As she put it, “This is the easiest commitment I could ever fulfill.” The staff at Cove make her feel like a part of the team, and her goal is simple: to make people smile. “Even if I have to ask for it,” she says with a grin, “they always leave with a smile.”

For Sue, Cove isn’t just about exer-

cise; it’s about connection. While she came to stay active, she also loves sharing meals with others. As someone who’s on the younger side of being a senior, Sue finds joy in listening to the stories of others, learning about their past, their families, and their lives. At Cove, Sue loves seeing seniors and young families with children interact. There’s something special about watching different generations connect, especially at Cove, in the Family Room, where these moments happen.

Sue’s love for Cove extends beyond the programs. As a volunteer, she’s also involved in various community activities, such as supporting the Youth Equestrian Development Association (YEDA), which encourages middle and high school students to get involved in horseback riding and team sports. She also enjoys participating in events like the Leap Day Dance and the Luau, where she even got her husband to join in on the fun!

When she’s not at Cove, Sue indulges in her hobbies: quilting (often at the Quilting Bee in Lakewood),

cooking (where she’s a fan of the “Chopped” method—never following a recipe), and swimming at the Lakewood pool.

Come summer, you’ll find her at the pool with her grandkids, cherishing time with them at Lakewood Park. Sue’s life is a beautiful blend of activity, community, and family. She loves being a tourist in her own hometown, always discovering new places, events, and offerings in Lakewood. And at Cove, she’s discovered a whole new world of fun and inspiration.

Cove has opened Sue’s eyes to new experiences she would never have imagined, from Science w/Dan to journaling for J.O.Y. (Just One Yes) to focus on positive affirmations. She even attended a jazz concert by the Lakewood Music Academy’s LMA Jazz Ensemble on Valentine’s Day, saying it was so good, she’d have paid admission just to enjoy it.

Sue is proof that no matter where life takes you, there’s always room for fun, new experiences, and a smile—especially at Cove.

At Cove: St. Patrick’s Day

by Nancy Feighan

The celebration kicked off with Pat Slife playing lively Irish tunes on the bagpipes, setting the perfect mood for the day. Even some little ones from the Family Room enjoyed listening to the music! The food was delicious, with Colcannon (Irish mashed potatoes) and Irish soda bread stealing the show – total crowd-pleasers!

Irish Karaoke had everyone singing their hearts out, and many came dressed for the occasion, rocking their best St. Patrick’s Day gear. The sunny, 70-degree weather made for a perfect day filled with good vibes and fun!

Thanks to all who joined in for a memorable day of Irish cheer!



Bagpiper Pat Slife’s newest fans the Vogel family at Cove Community Center.

Drum Circle At Cove: A Creative Rhythm Experience



by Nancy Feighan

On March 12th, a great group gathered at Cove for a drum circle. This improvised art form lets everyone contribute to a shared rhythm, sparking creativity and self-expression. There’s no set song—just pure, spontaneous music.

It was a memorable experience, with people of all skill levels coming together to create something special. We can’t wait for more drum circles—stay tuned for our next session in June!



JOHNSON | BENTLEY
WEALTH PARTNERS
OF
RAYMOND JAMES

We are here for all
your financial
planning & wealth
management needs

- Financial Planning
- Investment Strategy
- Retirement Planning
- Portfolio Management
- Alternative Investments
- Educational Planning
- Estate and Trust Services
- Longevity Planning
- Corporate Retirement Plan Consulting

Michael A. Bentley
Vice President, Investments
440.801.1629
Michael.Bentley@RaymondJames.com
JohnsonBentley.com
159 Crocker Park Blvd., Suite 390
Westlake, OH 44145
Raymond James & Associates, Inc Member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC

AROUND THE CORNER

Friday Fish Frys



18616 Detroit Avenue
216.521.4413 • www.atccafe.com

Fish Fry Dinner

BUY ONE GET THE SECOND HALF OFF.
Dine in only. Valid during lent.

EATERY
DRINKERY
FUNNERY

The Back Page



Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Full Service Salon For Females Of ALL Ages

Treat your favorite young lady to a Princess Package

12 years and younger, Includes a mini manicure, haircut, and accessory. (Easter themed bows, hair clips)

10% off on Seniors Tuesdays and Wednesdays

f

Follow Us On Facebook To See Accessories and New Ideas!

Call for an appointment for best service. Free Private Parking. Check with Id or cash

15309 MADISON AVENUE • 216.226.8616

Skettle Automotive

Tim Skettle, Technician

Get Road Trip Ready This Spring

Call for an appointment for a Free Inspection

216.226.5993

13436 Madison Avenue at Elbur

health markets

The Smarter Way to Shop...

• Health

• Medicare

• Small Group

• Life Insurance

• Supplemental

• Long-Term Care

• Retirement

Call today for your FREE QUOTE!

216-228-0765

www.clevelandinsurance.info

16506 Detroit Rd. Lakewood, OH 44107

Carl Lishing

Licensed Insurance Agent

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency is the d/b/a, or assumed name, of Insphere Insurance Solutions, Inc. which is licensed as an insurance agency in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state HMIA000589

WOODSTOCK

woodstocksmokejoint.com #1 BBQ In Northern Ohio 2021, 2022 2024! Scene Magazine

LET THERE BE MEAT

Lake Erie Perch Fish Fry Every Friday!

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!