

LAKEWOOD LIFE

Fall 2024



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It is hard to believe that 2024 is already winding down. It has been a great year for all of our spring and summer events, including Meet the Trucks, the Fourth of July, concerts and movies at Lakewood Park, street festivals, and everything in between. Thank you for being a part of all the fun this year!

In this issue, we want to highlight all of the great things that the Department of Human Services has to offer at Cove Community Center since we commonly receive feedback that not all of our residents are aware of all the service-based resources that are offered by the City. Cove Community Center is a great place to receive assistance when you need it, volunteer and give back to your community, or to simply meet new people and share experiences with those with whom you might not otherwise encounter.

Also in this issue, we discuss the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision that took place earlier this year. You may have received or heard about letters that have been sent out regarding the City's water service

lines from neighbors, the news, or on social media. We share some information about what these rule changes mean for Lakewood and how we are working to maintain and update our water infrastructure to serve our residents.

We also introduce three new leaders in the Lakewood Fire Department: Chief Ryan Fairbanks, Fire Marshal Ryan Birth, and Neighborhood Paramedic Oliver Harper. I am very confident that all three are poised to do a great job and keep moving the LFD forward. Read on to learn a little more about each of these leaders.

While the fun of the warm summer months are gone, it's almost time for the best holiday celebration in the whole Cleveland area: Light Up Lakewood! I look forward to seeing you there for the parade, fireworks, and fun right in the heart of our City.





What's Happening At Cove Community Center?

All year round, the Department of Human Services offers a wide range of programs designed to help Lakewood's residents that need a little extra support. In this issue of Lakewood Life, we aim to shed some light on all that goes on at Cove Community Center and beyond.

Division of Aging

With nearly 10,000 residents aged 60 and older, Lakewood is committed to helping its senior population remain independent and active. The Division of Aging offers a wide range of assistance to seniors including daily activities, congregate meals and meal delivery, senior transportation, and supportive services offered by social workers.

Daily Activities

Walk into the Community Center on any weekday and you will find a host of opportunities for socialization, wellness, and education created specifically for seniors. "As kids move out and we enter retirement, it's easy to fall into loneliness as we enter our 60s, 70s, and beyond," said Division of Aging Manager Susan Hijjawi. "That's why we have worked to offer so many different types of activities for our senior population to stay active, make new friends, and build community."

Cove hosts regular chess, mahjong, dominoes, and Scrabble® games; adaptive tai chi, Qi Gong, and yoga designed for any ability level; karaoke, improv, movies and TV viewings; science talks, tech support sessions; and much, much more.

Congregate and Delivered Meals

As meal preparation and grocery shopping become more difficult, the Division of Aging offers daily meals at the Center as well as home-delivered meals. Seniors 60 and older can come in for a hot meal served at lunchtime. Orders for the week must be placed by the end of the day on Tuesday the week prior to guarantee a meal, but you are welcome to drop in—occasionally there are extra unclaimed meals available.

For homebound individuals 60 and older, meal delivery is available. Volunteers bring hot meals to each individual between 11 AM and 1 PM on weekdays. This program requires an application.

Transportation Services

Seniors who need help getting from place to place can ride the City's transport vans to and from Cove Community Center to access activities and events. Additionally, the Center offers weekly grocery store trips and transportation to local shopping centers, attractions, and restaurants around town.

Transportation to doctors' appointments is also available, but must be reserved a minimum of 3 days in advance.

Supportive Services

Through the Department of Human Services, seniors and caregivers alike have access to assistance in obtaining and applying for resources that they require including Medicare, OSHIP, and the meal delivery and transportation mentioned above. The Division of Aging can also make referrals to other community services and programming in specific circumstances.

H2O: Help To Others

The Department of Human Services also houses the H2O Program, a service organization for middle schoolers and high schoolers. H2O is a collaborative effort among the City of Lakewood, Lakewood City Schools, and local community partners.

Throughout the year, you can find H2O members giving back to the community through service projects, volunteer opportunities, and mentoring.

H2O's flagship program is its Summer Service Camp that sees middle school students mentored by high schoolers in service and growth activities. The students prepare the annual clothing sale, help at the Cleveland Food Bank, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, LakewoodAlive, and other area organizations.

Division of Early Childhood

In the lower level of Cove, you can find the Lakewood Family Room: a home base where parents, grandparents, and caregivers can bring their children for playtime, community building, support, and education. Serving parents from pre-birth up to elementary school, the Family Room has been a part of Lakewood's story for thirty years now, and past and present attendees attest to how impactful it is to their parenting journeys.

Throughout the week, the Family Room hosts play sessions for different age groups as well as New Parent Support with a doula and certified lactation counselor.

While outwardly the Family Room appears to be a place for kids, perhaps the most important outcome is the opportunity for parents to find support and friendship among families with children in similar age groups. "I

like to say that the Family Room is a parent support group in disguise as a play group," said Early Childhood Programs Manager Jessica Parker.

During the summer months, the Family Room can be found outside (weather-permitting) at nearby Cove Park for outdoor play on the playground, in the soccer field, and the walking/bike path.

In addition to the Family Room programming, the Division of Early Childhood supports families with scholarships for daycare and before/after-care, educational resources, and special events throughout the year.

Lakewood Area Collaborative

With a reach that extends well beyond Lakewood's borders, the Lakewood Area Collaborative provides services to families with children under the age of 18 (or 21 with a disability). The Collaborative's goal is to help families meet needs that they are struggling to meet on their own, and connect them with resources to help them continue to do so independently.

Offerings include support groups like the Me/We Program, which focuses on family members dealing with a relative's substance abuse; Kinship Support for individuals providing full-time care for a child of a relative or friend; and case management and advocacy to help families overcome obstacles and obtain further help.

The Lakewood Area Collaborative also helps to connect families with external resources related to food security, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence support, and job services. "The Collaborative honors you [the adult] as the expert on your family, and works to help you reach your goals by focusing first on your collective strengths," said Karen Nahra, LAC Clinical Manager. "Our services are free and optional, and we do not bill insurance."

As a County-funded program, the reach of the Lakewood Area Collaborative includes Lakewood, Bay Village, Fairview Park, Rocky River, Westlake, and the western Cleveland neighborhoods of Kamm's Corners/Riverside and Puritas/Longmead.



What Does The Lead and Copper Rule Revision Mean For My Home?

On October 8, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a rule revision that requires drinking water providers across the country to identify and ultimately replace lead service lines that provide drinking water to homes and businesses. As a part of this rule change, the City of Lakewood Water Department is required to notify owners of homes and buildings whose service lines are made of lead, galvanized steel, or are unknown.

Roughly 4,000 notification letters have gone out to Lakewood property owners whose buildings meet one of these criteria.

What Is The City Doing About Lead?

The City of Lakewood has worked for years to address lead service lines. Given that our water infrastructure is over 100 years old in large areas of the city, there are still some lead service lines present. During water main replacements, City-owned lead and galvanized service lines are removed and replaced by copper to ensure

lead safety and water quality. Since 2018, the City has also replaced lead and galvanized service lines on the private side (the portion owned by residents) when they are encountered during scheduled water main replacements, repairs, and other infrastructure projects.

Lakewood receives drinking water from Cleveland Water, who reports that the water is lead-free when it leaves their treatment plants. Cleveland Water treats its water to prevent the leeching of lead into the water from lead service lines.

The City of Lakewood also performs lead-level testing in accordance with state policies to ensure safety, and we report the results in the annual water quality report available on the City of Lakewood's website.

If you received a letter and have questions concerning your home or building's service line, please reach out to the City of Lakewood Division of Water and Wastewater Collection at (216) 529-6820, option 3.

Lakewood Fire Department Welcomes New Leaders

With the retirement of Chief Tim Dunphy, the Lakewood Fire Department welcomed three new members into leadership positions at the beginning of October: Chief Ryan Fairbanks, Fire Marshal Ryan Birth, and Neighborhood Paramedic Oliver Harper.

Chief Ryan Fairbanks

Ryan Fairbanks began his role as Chief after serving as Fire Marshal for the past five years. Ryan has been in the fire service for 27 years overall, and as Chief, hopes to preserve the rich history of the LFD and foster new traditions for its dedicated members.



Ryan Fairbanks
Fire Chief

Fire Marshal Ryan Birth

Ryan Birth has taken over the Fire Marshal job after his time as Lakewood's first Neighborhood Paramedic. In his 14 years with the LFD, Birth has also served as Fire Investigator, Training Coordinator for the Westshore FIU, and Coordinator for the LFD Peer Support Team.



Ryan Birth
Fire Marshal

As Fire Marshal, Birth aims to continue to expanding the Department's vision of community risk reduction through outreach, prevention, and education. He hopes to build stronger and more proactive relationships with business owners and further expand public education programs to enhance the Department's reach in the community.

Neighborhood Paramedic Oliver Harper

After serving as a Firefighter/Paramedic since 2018, Oliver Harper has moved into the role of Lakewood's Neighborhood Paramedic.

Harper hopes to connect to more County resources to better serve the residents of Lakewood, including increasing access to mental health services to accompany EMS on mental health crisis calls. He also hopes to promote health and fitness initiatives.



Oliver Harper
Neighborhood Paramedic


Light Up
Lakewood

Saturday, December 7 • 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Detroit Ave. Between Arthur and Marlowe





Lakewood City Hall
12650 Detroit Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

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Fall Leaf Pickup

Fall pickup of loose leaves is underway. City crews will continue to collect leaves through December 20, weather-permitting.

To have your leaves collected, please place them in a pile on the tree lawn in front of your property. No other yard waste should be put into the leaf piles. Leaves can also be placed in paper yard waste bags (no plastic bags) and set out on your regular refuse and recycling collection day.

Please do not rake leaves into the street. Doing so can block storm drains which can lead to basement flooding during heavy rains.

In order to maximize efficiency, residents are asked to not park on the street from 8 AM to 4 PM during leaf collection season. If large leaf piles are blocked by parked cars, individual "No Parking" signs will be posted and there will be an attempt to collect them at a later date. Cars may be towed if necessary.

If you have any questions about leaf pickup, please call (216) 529-6810 between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday or visit

lakewoodoh.gov/leaf-collection-begins.

