



The Eastlake Gazette

Lake Community News

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Volume 34 Issue 6

December 2020

12 Pages

Mayor's Report



Dennis Morley
Mayor/Safety Director

Hello All,
2020 continues to be a trying year with the pandemic as numbers continue to rise and the uncertainty of when life will get back to normal. Please continue to do what you have been doing to keep your family safe and healthy.

I would like to congratulate Councilman Zuren for being elected to Lake County Treasurer and wish him the best in his new position. Council President Meyers will announce when the position and how to apply when the proper time comes.

Yard Waste pick up will end December 24th, 2020. It will reopen for two weeks January 4-15 for Christmas Tree pick up only on your scheduled pick up day.

We continue to work on the move of the Senior Center from Taft to the Community Center.

Continued at right

Upcoming Virtual Library Programs for Families

During the month of December 2020, the following free programs will be offered VIRTUALLY at the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library. Registration is required. For a complete schedule of events or to register for one of our upcoming programs, visit www.we247.org.

All programs are via Zoom or YouTube. You must register to receive the link! Visit the Events Calendar at www.we247.org or call your library to register.

iPhone & iPad Tips & Tricks

Apple software expert Chris Woodman will reveal the hidden features that most iPhone & iPad users don't know exist. This will be a virtual class through Zoom and you will need use two devices 1) for attending the Zoom meeting and 2) for practicing with during the class.
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6:30 pm

Special Video Concert with Musician and Author Jim Gill

Jim Gill's songs and musical books are often share during story times at Willoughby-Eastlake Library. Jim calls his creations "music play." They are musical games that inspire children and the adults that love and care for them to join in the fun by actively singing, clapping and dancing along. Jim will be creating a special video concert

exclusively for the library, filled with opportunities for everyone to sing, play and read along.
Thursday, Dec. 3, 6:30 pm

Holiday Craft Corner

Learn how to use cookie cutters to make your own salt dough ornaments.
Friday, December 4, 10 am

Saturday with Santa

Sant Clause himself is visiting via Zoom, along with his special helper and favorite reindeer Rudolph! Stories, songs, dancing and more. Children will have an opportunity to tell Santa what they want for Christmas and each child will be able to get a picture with Santa.
Saturday, December 5, 12 pm

Poinsettias and Christmas Cacti

Master Gardener Susan Cowling will teach you how to buy holiday plants and get them to rebloom.
Saturday, December 5, 3 pm

Animal Crossing New Horizons for Teens/Tweens

Do you play Animal Crossing New Horizons on your Switch? Sign up for this event to play from home and help us make the Willoughby Library's island superior. Who knows, there might be mazes to figure out or

wheels to spin. Participants will receive a DODO code the day of the program at the email you signed up with. Ages 11-18.
Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 am-1 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6-8 pm

Make and Take Art Club Kits for Teens/Tweens

Each month we will have a different activity kit for you to pick up and complete at home. Instructions and supplies will be included in each kit. Please sign up for each activity separately. Ages 11-18. Art Club kits will be available for you to pick up at the Teen desk or curbside at the Willoughby Library.
Monday, December 7, 11 am

Ghosts of Christmas Past

Whitney Stalnaker of the Western Reserve Historical Society will lead us on an adventure as we explore the folklore and stories of ghosts that helped shape the 19th century holidays in Cleveland.
Monday, December 7, 6:30 pm

Happy Hanukkah

Get ready for Hanukkah with stories, fun facts and much more! This is a special event for the entire family.
Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 pm

Between the Lines: Author Rick Porrello

Join author Rick Porrello for a virtual discussion of his latest book, Bombs, Bullets & Bribes:

The True Story of Notorious Jewish Mobster Alex Shondor Birns.
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 6:30 pm

Zoom LEGO Club

Join us on Zoom to discuss the amazing LEGO creations you have been working on. The Wednesday before the program, Miss Sarah will send you a video about what the theme is and an example of something she has been working on, as well as the Zoom link for the next day. At 2 pm on Saturday, you'll be able to join a Zoom call and show off your amazing creation. Be sure to have a name for the creation and a little story that explains it. All ages!
Saturday, December 12, 2 pm

Take Home Gingerbread Houses

Come to the Willowick Library the week of December 14th to get a take home gingerbread kit. Take your kit home, build it and share pictures of your creations. Kits available while supplies last. Grades 6-12. Ages 12-18.

Family Christmas Stories with Miss Julie

Miss Julie will read favorite classic Christmas stories and then have a discussion about treasured family traditions.
Monday, Dec. 14, 6:30 pm

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Mayor

Continued from left

We do not believe the State will allow them to open back up until after the first quarter of 2021.

The demolition of Taft and Washington elementary schools will be sometime this month or in January. We look forward to the homes that will be built on both sites. I will update when I have more information.

I am sure the snow will be flying sooner or later and we will do our best to keep the streets

cleared.

From My family to yours I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope that 2021 brings us back to some sort of normalcy.

Eastlake Project Update

1. Stevens Boulevard – SR-91 to the Willoughby Border

The project was bid and let during the summer with the expectation that work would begin early in the fall

and be concluded this month. The project got underway as anticipated and the Contractor removed and replaced the entrance to Valley Parkway. Additionally, they installed new underdrains along the full length of Stevens within the project limits. At that time, it was anticipated that the Dominion East Ohio Gas Company would have completed work on their lines along Stevens, but that did not and still has not happened. Unfortunately, the previous

precludes the roadway work from proceeding this year and it is now scheduled to resume next spring with a finish in early to mid-summer.

The schedule for resumption of work will depend on the weather, but based upon past years, a restart sometime in April is likely.

2. Stevens Boulevard – SR-91 to Lakeshore Boulevard

The project started earlier
Continued on page 2

Presort Std
U.S. Postage
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Mentor, Ohio
Permit #621

City of Eastlake Council Reports



Michael Zuren
Ward 1 Councilman

Free Grab & Go Lunches for Children:

On Saturday, December 6th from 12 to 1:30pm join us for the Free Kids Grab and Go Lunch Program. The free lunch program is held the first Saturday of each month at Willow-Praise Church 32901 Vine Street Willowick. A huge "THANK YOU" to Severino's Restaurant (300 pizzas) for sponsoring the kids' lunch in December. The program is in partnership with the Eastlake Women's Club. Since starting the program on March 30th over 17,300 lunches have been provided.

Christmas Holiday Drive for Deepwood Residents

We are announcing our 2020 Christmas toy, clothing, and necessity drive for local special needs children. We have identified about 40 individuals with the help of the Lake County

Continued at right



Dave Spotton
Ward 4 Councilman


Hello, first I would like to wish all happy holidays and a Merry Christmas. If you have not seen them we were able to replace 2 fire trucks with CARES act money. We also were able to replace an ambulance, some service vehicles, and a few police vehicles. So, you will start to see these vehicles as they get outfitted and put into service.

Taft and Washington elementary schools were sold at auction by the school board. It seems that the plan is for a housing development at those locations.

During the last few months the students from NCI were able to finish the ramp park. Unfortunately at this time we have to put a grand opening event on hold, but the ramp park is seeing a lot of use. It seems to have people there nearly every day.

Again happy holidays and Merry Christmas and stay safe,

Dave Spotton
Ward 4 Council



Every morning you are handed 24 golden hours. They are one of the few things in this world that you get free of charge. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't buy an extra hour. What will you do with this priceless gift? Remember, you must use it, as it is only given once. Once wasted, you can never get it back!

Zuren

Continued from left

Board of DD/Deepwood. We are collecting gift cards for clothing, puzzles, games, perfume, toys, action figures, children's building blocks, ipad charger, hair accessories, back packs, activity books, crayons, head phones, basketball, purse, small stuffed animals, etc.

If you would like to donate to this year's Christmas Outreach, please contact Michael Zuren 440-251-5381, Sherri Falkenberg 216-704-9009, or Paula Price 314-585-8181.

Winter Coat Drive for Area Children:

Winter Coat Drive for Kids- We will be distributing the new or gently used winter gloves, hats, scarves, boots, and coats to Lake County Children. If you would like to donate to this cause, below is the list of drop off locations:

PVO Clothing Co.
1509 Mentor Avenue
Painesville, Oh 44077

Asa's Angels of Hope
2709 Ridge Road
Painesville, Oh 44077

Salvation Army-Painesville
69 Pearl Street
Painesville, Oh 44077

Willow Praise Church
32901 Vine Street
Willowick, Oh 44094

For large quantity donations, please contact Paula M. Price 440-721-8551 East Side of Lake County or Michael Zuren 440-251-8551 for the West Side of Lake County or Sherri Falkenberg 216-704-9009.

Vine Street Corridor Meeting:

Thank you to Severino's Restaurant for hosting the November Vine Street Corridor Business Meeting. We discussed

a variety of fundraisers, community events, and ideas for local business promotion during the Christmas Season. The time, date, and location of the next Vine Street Corridor and Non-Profit Meetings will be announced shortly. The meetings are a collaboration of non-profit organizations, local businesses, and residents in our community that want to promote and help each other with events that make our community stronger.

We will also be announcing a Community Christmas Lights contest for Eastlake Residents. A Facebook Events page will be announced listing details and prizes.

A special "Thank You" to Kindness & Justice Eastlake Eagles. They are selling their 2021 calendar sales soon. Part of the proceeds from the calendars will be donated to Eagle Scout Troop 280.

Your Councilman
Michael Zuren, Ward 1

Mayor

Continued from page 1

this year with an anticipated completion later this month. Circumstances occurring at the beginning of the project and throughout the construction put the work behind. Presently all work on the road from SR-91 to Willowick Drive will be completed in the next couple of weeks. As we are about to move into winter it was determined that for your safety and convenience and to assure quality construction that rebuilding the section of the road from Willowick Drive to Lakeshore Boulevard, should be postponed until the Spring of next year.

The schedule for resumption of work will depends on the weather, but based upon past years, a restart sometime in April is likely with a completion in early summer.

3. Green Drive

The County has let a contract to install a new waterline and appurtenances along the entire length of the road. Work is expected to begin in early January and take 1 to 1.5 months. Restoration will be done in the spring when weather permits. Typically, suitable restoration weather arrives sometime in May.

4. Galalina Phase 2

This project to install new storm sewers throughout the Galalina area recently got underway. The first stage of the project was to install piping to lower the ground water. The dewatering piping is currently in place along the entire length of Galalina, and also along portions of Forest, Wacoka, and River Drives. At such time as the water is lowered sufficiently, the excavation work can begin. Presently it is expected that such will occur sometime between next week and the beginning of December. The excavation and sewer work will first proceed along Galalina from Wacoka to River, then along Galalina from Wacoka to Forest. Once those areas are complete, work on the remainder streets will be undertaken. The sewer work is expected to continue into early summer followed by restoration of the roadways and then grass and landscaping. Work is expected to be fully complete in late August.

Weather has a significant impact on construction work and schedules and it can either help or hinder progress. Should anticipated schedules improve or slip significantly, further notices will be provided.

5. Site (1) Plymouth and Site

(7) Quentin – Storm Outfall and Revetment Work

The work on this contract is underway. Site 7 is substantially complete with the exception of final grading and restoration. Site 1 is nearing substantial completion with final earthwork and grading currently pending. Both sites will be completed by early December but final seeding and restoration work will be done next year, likely starting and concluding in May.

6. Willoway Beach Revetment and Galalina Dike Repair

Work on this contract to install a stone revetment and do grading at Willoway park is expected to start in the next few days, and with the exception of final restoration, will be done by the end of the year. Final restoration is anticipated to be completed in May of next year.

Similarly work to repair approximately 130' of failing dike section on Galalina just east of Wacoka is expected to begin shortly and be completed before years end.

Thank you,
Mayor Morley
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951-2200 ext. 1002

The Eastlake Gazette

A Lake Community News Publication

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Lakeland Waives Application Fee for New Students this Spring

Lakeland Community College is waiving its \$15 application fee for those who apply for admission and wish to take classes in the spring semester. Spring registration is now open and classes begin Jan. 16, 2021.

“With so much uncertainty

right now, we want the community to know that they can count on us,” said Dr. Morris Beverage Jr., Lakeland president. “Lakeland has provided college access in Lake County and the surrounding areas for more than 50 years. In times like these,

you can be certain that we’ll continue to provide high-quality, educational opportunities in high demand fields.”

With many having budgets squeezed, future students are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal

Student Aid) to be eligible for help with money for college. Lakeland may be added as a college of choice on the FAFSA form with the school’s code 006804. Many Lakeland scholarships are awarded using the information on a student’s FAFSA.

Because of the pandemic, students may also be eligible for CARES Act Emergency Grant funding toward unforeseen emergency expenses. Many have received money to use for technology, groceries, child

or health care needs. More information is available at lakelandcc.edu/web/about/cares-act.

Military veterans are especially encouraged to contact the veteran’s office for information about applying GI education benefits. They can get help with questions about filling out, and completing, Veterans Affairs forms and receive assistance with advance registration each semester.

General information about applying, financial aid and degree and certificate programs is available at lakelandcc.edu.

Lakeland

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For spring semester 2021, Lakeland Community College is waiving the application fee.

lakelandcc.edu/spring

Opportunity starts **HERE**

Stolen Packages - The Last Thing 2020 Needs

Let’s talk about how Eastlake residents are preparing and protecting their homes.

Eastlake is a safe city that we all love, but we can never be too careful.

Tis the season for joy and cheer, but with that comes desperation, car break-ins and stolen packages.

We are here to help and do our part at a discount to keep everyone in Eastlake safe.

Smart doorbells are the new wave in home protection and smart home improvements.

We find many homeowners have bought these and are immensely intimidated by the installs, with good reason.

The installs of the doorbells come with a variety of different

challenges though.

This is where we, the experts, can help.

We are offering \$99 dollar installs of your smart doorbell (Usually \$225.)

You buy your favorite smart doorbell and have it ready for us. The most popular are Ring, Nest, and Simplisafe.

All above brands make great quality products and we are familiar with all.

Before we arrive please make sure you have strong wifi and a current old school working doorbell.

We have availability to do 10 at this price so this will be a first come first serve deal.

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Bankruptcy 101:

Peace of Mind in Tough Financial Times.

Do you not want to get out of bed because you are distressed over your financial situation and the only peace you feel like you have is when you are asleep?

When you do get up you just want the day to end so that you can do something in the evening that will take your mind off of your sense of impending doom-even if it is just going back to sleep. Some of you might not be able to sleep at all because of the worry. There is also the person that wakes up in the middle of the night with anxiety over finances

and then is unable to go back to sleep.

Are you afraid to go to the mailbox because you know there will be bills that you cannot pay? And then what are you going to do. Is it a high point for you when you open the mailbox and there are no bills?

Is your mind running away with negativity and fear over your financial situation? Are you confused, angry, resentful, and afraid because you have always been able to pay your bills and you just cannot figure out how you ever got to this low point in life?

Do negative thoughts and fears

over your financial situation dominate your mind throughout the day?

If this sounds like you then I have some good news for you. This is it: FINANCIAL TROUBLES ARE TEMPORARY. You can recover financially and prosper no matter how far down you may think you have fallen. I personally know hundreds of people who have. All of it has to do with how you approach the problem. We have used bankruptcy to help thousands of people get back on their feet. If your home is in foreclosure, do not worry, we can help you keep a roof over your head. If you are being sued we can stop the lawsuit. If you are being garnished we can stop the garnishment. If your license is suspended because you caused uninsured property damage, we can help you get it back. If you are being harassed non stop by bill collectors we can make them go away. These are only a few of the ways we can use bankruptcy to help financially distressed

individuals get back on their feet and regain their peace of mind.

The problem is that most people look at filing bankruptcy as a bad ending rather than a new good beginning. Filing bankruptcy is, in fact, a fresh start in life. A rebirth. At some point, everybody knows when they are at the financial point of no return. If you have gotten to that point where you know in your heart that there is not enough income to pay the bills then you should act now. Waiting to file bankruptcy when you are at this point is just prolonging your agony for no real reason. It is unnecessarily jeopardizing your physical and mental well being and that of your family. Worst of all, you are wasting the precious days of what should be a new life in which you are happy, joyous and free.

The process is very easy. We can start these cases for as little as three hundred dollars down and immediately stop the debt collectors from harassing you. The rest of the fee is put into

an affordable payment plan. Basically, all you have to do is come to the office for a free initial consultation in which we evaluate your case to identify the issues that are specific to you. We then work with you to gather the information, put together the paperwork, file it with the court, go to court with you (usually, only one time) and you get a "discharge" which means your debt is wiped out. We help people regain their peace of mind this way every day- All day long.

Finally, do not worry what other people might think. No one is going to know unless you tell them. You would be surprised if you knew how many of your acquaintances have already taken this step. Bankruptcy is extremely common these days. The main point is you are a good person with a fixable problem. Bankruptcy is not a moral issue. It is financial planning for Peace of Mind and prosperity in the worst times since the great depression.

Robert C. Biales

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Browse Mosack's Christian Gifts & Books, one of our local stores owned by 3rd generation Betty Mosack Vento and husband Joe Vento.

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During these times at home, we have an opportunity to read and grow in our faith. Mosack's

has expanded and provides a wide variety of Christian books, Bibles, Christian fiction and CDs. See the variety of selections in every category of their fine store. Home décor, wall art & crosses, indoor & outdoor nativities, glitter-domes and Christmas ornaments galore!

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Laketrans Highlights Safety Protocols - Ensuring Public Transit Remains a Safe & Reliable Option During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As COVID-19 case numbers continue to rise in Ohio, Laketrans is joining with the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) and transit systems across the state to launch the Ride Easy Ohio campaign.

The campaign highlights safety initiatives to uphold public transportation as a safe and viable option, even in the midst of the pandemic. Best practices include wearing facial coverings, practicing social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing vehicles and facilities, practicing safe

hygiene, and employee self-monitoring.

“We want people to know that public transit is a safe place to be. As far as we know, there have been no cases transmitted on-board our buses to date and in a recent survey of our busiest route, 98 percent of our customers said they felt safe riding Laketrans,” shared Laketrans CEO Ben Capelle.

“Keeping public transit safe is a mutual commitment between us and our riders. We provide free masks and hand sanitizer on-board, limit our seating to six

feet apart and continue to sanitize our buses daily. We ask that our riders self-monitor, practice safe hygiene and please don't take transit if you are sick.”

Laketrans has also joined the American Public Transportation Association's Health and Safety Commitments Program and pledged to meet national standards alongside over 175 transit systems nationwide.

Laketrans is committed to five safety protocols

- Following public health guidelines from official sources
- Cleaning and disinfecting

transit vehicles daily and requiring face coverings and other protections

- Practicing social distancing by monitoring passenger loads and capacities

- Keeping passengers informed and empowered to choose the safest ways to travel and pay their fare

- Putting health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including during the Ohio Department of Health's Stay-at-Home order, Laketrans has continued to operate as an essential service, providing trips to work, medical appointments and shopping.

Laketrans' commitment to safety has always been a top priority, and now more than ever, Laketrans wants customers to be assured every precaution possible is being taken to make your ride safe.



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Routes 8 and 9

NEW ROUTES.

NEW DESTINATIONS.



Who Says That You Can't Have Fun This Holiday Season?

It will be necessary to make changes to our holiday plans this year and limit family gatherings as we all work together to overcome this Covid-19 pandemic. But we can still have some of the same joy and experiences as in previous years.

Perhaps there are special decorations and serving pieces that have been family favorites throughout the years, but belong to a home you cannot visit this year.

Come into Antiques & Uniques to find the same or similar pieces that will make the holidays more

familiar and comforting..... even if there is a store-bought rotisserie chicken on this year's turkey platter!

We are taking safety precautions at A&U to help you to have a safe shopping experience. We hear comments all the time from customers about how clean our store is, how helpful and friendly everyone is, and how they feel comfortable and safe coming in to shop. Here are some of the things we have in place:

1. Face coverings are required,
2. Social distancing (including 10 ft dealer spaces off of our 5 ft

aisles, giving plenty of separation from other shoppers),

3. High ceilings and a large volume of air, that is processed by six roof-top air handling units, with upgraded air filters,

4. Frequent sanitizing of surfaces, etc.

You can come into Antiques & Uniques to find that special, one-of-a-kind gift that will mean so much in this crazy year! We also have Gift Cards available for purchase. A gift card will give the person an opportunity to enjoy "the thrill of the hunt" for that special "something" at A&U. If

you would like to purchase a Gift Card over the phone, call A&U at 440-944-0133 and we will mail it out to you.

Asa's Angels is in our Community Spotlight space again this year. Ordinarily, they are requesting gifts of toys and clothing for the children's gifts. This year is a little different. We cannot accept gifts due to the Covid limitations, but A&U is a drop-off site for donations by credit card, cash, check, or gift card. Asa's Angels will use these

donations to buy the gifts they need for the kids on Santa's list. Please bring in your contribution to this worthwhile cause. Even in this difficult year, let's help kids to have a Merry Christmas.

All our best Holiday Wishes to you from our family-of-dealers at Antiques & Uniques! 30200 Euclid Ave, Wickliffe. (In the plaza with Gabe's, one mile west of SOM Center Rd (Rt.91). Open Wed thru Sat 10:00 to 6:00 and Sun 12:00 to 6:00.

Special evening shopping hours on Thursday, Dec. 3 - 10:00 to 9:00 pm.

MEET YOUR LOCAL FIREPLACE DEALER!

If you are wondering how to avoid the high cost of heating your home this winter, then take a ride to American Home & Energy Products in Painesville Township, across the street from the Lake County Fairgrounds.

You will find the owner there, Chris Bedrick, and his staff, ready and able to give you the best information about quality heating products that will save you money (and worries) about keeping warm in your home during the cold NE Ohio winter season.

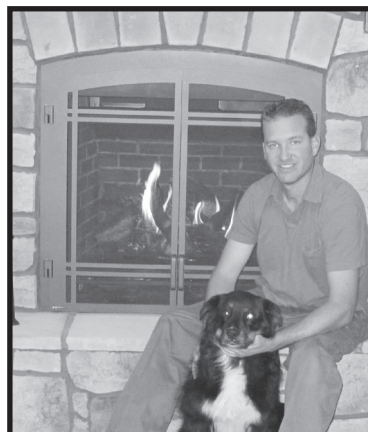
Chris said, "We are a full service store dedicated to customer service.

We educate our customers on the heating products and work with them to determine the best solution for their particular situation. Then we are able to

sell them a high efficiency unit, install the unit and service it afterwards. We also offer our customers pellet fuel, firewood and a complete hearth shop featuring all the products having to do with a fireplace!"

Chris says that American Home is all about green energy and proves that with high efficiency Regency wood, gas and pellet products including fireplaces, inserts and stoves. They have burning displays in the store to demonstrate the incredible heat, beautiful ambiance and easy to use heating products. You can see for yourself how great the units look, as well as how much heat you can expect, by coming in and experiencing the working products.

American Home & Energy is located at 1270 Mentor Avenue



(Rt 20) in Painesville Township, across from the Lake County Fairgrounds. Store hours are Monday through Friday 9am to 5:30 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The store is closed on Sunday.

Call 440-358-5858 or visit the website at American-Home-Online.com for more information.

Happy Holidays

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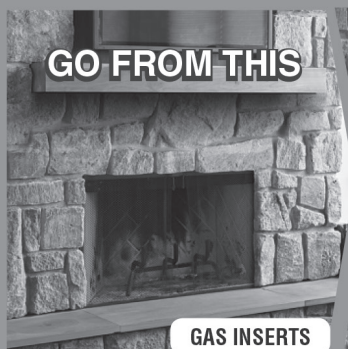


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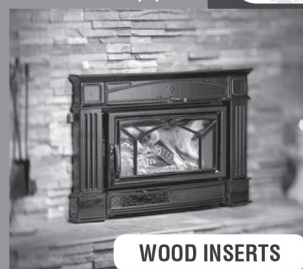
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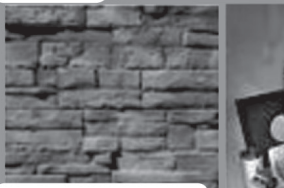
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Keep, Change, or Update Your Marketplace Plan

Time is running out for those with 2020 ACA Marketplace health insurance to renew, change, or update their plans for 2021. The Marketplace Open Enrollment Period ends Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

If you have a Marketplace plan, you should have already received two letters: one from your current insurance company and one from the Marketplace. Together they explain:

- Your 2021 coverage status
- Which plan (if any) you will be enrolled in or matched with if you do not act by December 15,

2020
- Any changes in your coverage and financial help

- Directions if you need to send the Marketplace any documents

If you have not received your insurance letter, contact your insurance company. If you have not received your Marketplace letter, contact the Marketplace Call Center.

No matter what plan you choose to enroll in, we urge you to update your Marketplace application with your expected income and household information and compare your current plan to

what is available for 2021.

We encourage you to do this comparison because new affordable plans may be available this year. Plans and prices change every year. Your situation may have changed too. You may find 2021 plans with coverage and features that better meet your needs, especially if you have had or expect income or household changes.

By updating your application, you are helping to make sure your 2021 financial help will be correct. Financial help is based on your expected income for 2021

(not 2020). If you do not update your income and household information, you could wind up paying more than you need to. If you do not renew or enroll in a plan by December 15, 2020, you may be automatically enrolled in the same or a similar plan, so you are covered on January 1, 2021.

If you need assistance, please set up an appointment with me by calling 440-255-5700 or emailing me at Lmutsko@mutskoinsurance.com. Appointments fill up fast so please do not wait until the last minute to call.

Laura Mutsko is a licensed insurance broker offering a complete line of health and life insurance products, including Individual, Group and Family Health, Annuities, Long Term Care Insurance, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement Plans, Medicare Part D Prescription Coverage, Vision, Dental and Life Insurance. Mutsko Insurance Services, LLC is located at 6982 Spinach Drive in Mentor, Ohio. Laura can be reached at 440-255-5700 or through email at Lmutsko@mutskoinsurance.com.

For more information, visit www.mutskoinsurance.com.

Audubon Seeks Counters for Christmas Bird Census

Blackbrook Audubon Society invites everyone to add to a century of science during the 121st annual Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 26.

Blackbrook encourages anyone interested in birding to join the CBC in one of two ways: in the field or from the comfort of your own home. Everyone will bird safely following the current Covid-19 guidelines.

The object of the CBC is to count all the bird species and number of birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in one 24-hour

period between December 14 and January 5. Anyone living within the circle can also report birds at their feeder.

To be assigned to a team covering a specific area on foot or in a vehicle, or to report backyard feeder counts, contact Dan Donaldson, the compiler for Blackbrook's circle, at danook057@yahoo.com. He will provide a data form for participants' checklists and details on how to join the virtual gathering later in the day, rather than the traditional lunch

at noon, where everyone can share stories of the day's census. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and no fee is required.

Blackbrook's CBC circle covers from Lost Nation Airport to Western Perry, Lake Erie down to Holden Arboretum and Big Creek Park in Geauga County.

Blackbrook Audubon's territory covers Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties. The Ashtabula CBC circle is centered east of Kingsville. Marc Hanneman compiles that count, which will be Saturday, January 2, 2021. Contact Marc at marchanneman@embarqmail.com to help with that count.

com to help with that count.

The CBC circle for Geauga County is centered west of Burton. Their count will also be January 2 and is compiled by Linda Gilbert, a naturalist with Geauga Park District. She can be reached at lgilbert@geaugaparkdistrict.org.

Circles for the count stretch from Arctic Bay, Baffin Island in Canada to a NOAA research vessel in the Drake Passage at the southern-most tip of South America; as far west as Guam in the Pacific to the eastern tip of Brazil. Census takers in the NEO circles share the same mission and may count on the same day as birders in some of

these far-off places.

View a map of active CBC circles at <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>.

For more information on the local Audubon chapter, visit blackbrookaudubon.org.

The Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running community science project in North America and helps biologists monitor bird population trends. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed a new holiday tradition - a "Christmas Bird Census" when people would count birds rather than hunt them.



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Women's Committee of the Fine Arts Association Presents Nwaka Onwusa from The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

The Women's Committee of the Fine Arts Association will present Nwaka Onwusa, Vice President of Curatorial Affairs & Chief Curator of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Onwusa will focus on how the Rock Hall develops exhibit ideas, collects artifacts and then curates the exhibits.

The presentation will be in the theater at the The Fine Arts, 38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

There is limited seating for this program in accordance with the protocols of safe distancing and

wearing masks. If circumstances warrant cancellation, notification will be made accordingly.

Reservations are required no later than January 6, 2021 by email to anthonyjanem@yahoo.com or call 440- 579-5020. The cost is \$10.00 per person payable at the door in cash or by check.

The Women's Committee is an independent auxiliary whose mission is to support and promote The Fine Arts Association in the appreciation of the creative arts of music, dance, art and drama. www.fineartsassociation.org



DIVORCE 101:

The Beginning or the End

A substantial part of my law practice involves divorce and child custody litigation. I always find it sad to see people who once lit up each others life uncomfortable to sit in the same room. People who once laughed and loved and built a family together and are now unable to even speak to one another. To me, it is like seeing a wild animal in a television documentary that loses its life innocently or driving by the remains of a dog that has been run over. It is not a part of my personal world yet it touches my heart with a very heavy sadness. We are conditioned as humans to associate the end of relationships and life as negative. I think it is partly because people fear change. When a situation changes the future appears uncertain; but the future is always uncertain. It is our illusion that it is not.

The real question is if there is really any difference between the beginning or the end other than one's perspective. Every beginning is the end of something and every end is the beginning of something. So which one is divorce? It's whatever the person going through it decides. So why does it matter what we think? It hurts. I'm angry. I hate. I'm alone. I'm afraid. I didn't do anything. It's not fair. He's evil. She's a He's a drunk. She won't stop using drugs. I hate my

(fill in the blank) life. What is the GD point. The point is when do you want to KNOW peace. Know as in "feel" as in "not to be in a constant state of turmoil and suffering." That is the whole point of this periodic 24 hour trek down the road of existence.

People do things that hurt other people. This is a fact of life. In this regard, if you believe in Karma things will work out. If you believe in justice they won't. If you believe that the system or the court will fix it-you will be disappointed. That is why negotiation and compromise between the divorcing parties is ALWAYS the best and least expensive way to resolve these situations. That is the process of dissolution and we will talk about that in another article. If you believe in revenge- you and your children will be hurt seriously. This is a guarantee. Your anguish will not be felt or considered by the object of your anger. That is a metaphysical reality. He or she is not thinking about you or the kids when their with the new squeeze in Aruba. They are not wallowing in remorse. Not then anyway. Trust me on this one.

Good and bad are equally useless concepts when it comes to evaluation of a person, place, situation or thing. I got the job (the girl, the guy, the promotion, the last one, the only one- fill in the blank.) You didn't. It is a "good" day for me. It is a "bad" day for you. The mouse ate the

spider who ate the fly. Their all hungry. They all want to survive. Which one is good? Which one is bad? It's the same with people. All reality is based upon perception.

I practice family law because I believe that divorce is the beginning of freedom AND the end of pain. To get to the point of seeking divorce either one or both people are usually in substantial pain. The purpose of an effective divorce attorney is to dissolve the marriage as painlessly, quickly and inexpensively as possible. It is also to help the client to learn how to develop tools (such as establishing credit, learning a vocation or career, obtaining child care and developing parenting skills) so that they will be able to live independently and successfully after the divorce is final. Some clients have been put down or abused for so long that they need to develop a sense of self worth and emotional and psychological stability and self

confidence before they will know peace. The divorce attorney should be willing to assist these clients in finding affordable and appropriate professional providers to help them achieve this. In many cases, the children need the same professional help. Sometimes the parties in a divorce become so embittered toward each other that they act in ways which are detrimental to the best interests of their children. Mostly, they have no idea that they may be causing unnecessary distress to their children. The attorney should be willing to help the parent identify and correct this type of behavior. He or she should be willing (even though it may invite hostility on the part of the client) to instruct the parent how to act appropriately

and in the best interest of the children throughout the divorce process. In cases involving children the protection and fostering of their emotional and psychological development must be the primary focus. These are the ways by which an effective divorce attorney helps the client and the children to know peace.

Divorce is essentially a new beginning of life and the end of pain. The divorce attorney is the guide that moves the client down the path that leads to knowing peace of mind through independence and self sufficiency. The attorney is the mother bear who keeps the cubs safe and prepares them for life on their own.

Robert C. Biales

Merry Christmas!

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Lake County Launches "Connections" to Combat Senior Loneliness

Lake County General Health District (LCGHD), in partnership with the Painesville Senior Center and We Thrive Together, both Lake County nonprofit organizations, is launching "Connections" as part of the Motivate Lake County (MLC) wellness initiative. A virtual senior engagement platform consisting of free online events, including discussion groups, games, exercise classes, relaxation sessions, virtual trips, presentations, and support

groups, "Connections" can be accessed by any internet-ready device or telephone, and aims to keep seniors engaged with their peers during a time with limited social engagement, as prompted by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"While LCGHD stands by our recommendation that Lake County senior centers remain closed until January 1, 2021 due to the spread of COVID-19, we can't stand by without addressing the escalation in social isolation

and loneliness among seniors" stated Health Commissioner Ron Graham. "Fortunately, we already had the MLC platform in place, and were able to leverage this technology to meet the needs of our senior residents". Thus far, the Lake County Council on Aging, Fairhill Partners, and the Wickliffe, Willoughby, Perry, and Eastlake Senior Centers have opted to participate in the program, to ensure that their members stay engaged and connected during this critical time.

According to an October report by the AARP Foundation and United Health Foundation, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a rise in social isolation and loneliness, with nearly two-thirds of the nation's adults experiencing some form of social isolation. While more than half of these individuals also report that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused their anxiety levels to increase, many are not reaching out for help. This growing trend is alarming, as social isolation

has long been linked to poor health outcomes, including but not limited to dementia, heart disease, and depression.

To sign up for an event, individuals can call (440) 478-5640 or email register@MotivateLakeCounty.com. A full list of programming can be found at www.motivatelakecounty.com. For more information on "Connections", please contact Denise Powell at denise@painesvilleseniors.com, or (216) 318-1211.

Auggie's Pet Food Pantry Open to All Lake County Residents in Need

Lake Humane Society is happy to announce that Auggie's Pet Food Pantry is open to all Lake County residents in need. The pantry, located in the Lake Humane Society Annex at 7564

Tyler Blvd. in Mentor, is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Appointments are not necessary. A current driver's license, mortgage/rent statement

or utility bill are required to show residency. There are no income requirements.

Lake Humane Society will provide dog and cat food every 2 weeks to community members in need who utilize Auggie's Pet Food Pantry. Food for other types of pets may be available upon request. The food provided has been purchased through grant funding and bulk discount buying programs through large pet food companies such as Purina.

The Pet Food Pantry is named after Auggie, a very special boxer

mix who came to Lake Humane Society through a humane investigation in 2017. Auggie was emaciated, dehydrated, anemic and close to death when he was found by the Humane Agent. He is also a fighter. In just 7 days in the care of LHS, he gained 7 lbs. Auggie is now healthy, happy and living his best life with his forever family. The pet food pantry is named in honor of Auggie because of his resilience when faced with adversity.

"Studies have shown that pets can relieve stress, reduce feelings of loneliness and help boost a person's overall emotional health and well-being. We never want someone to feel they have to surrender their pet because they cannot afford to feed them," said Lori Caszatt, Director of Marketing and Community Partnerships at Lake Humane Society.

"Due to COVID-19, many people have lost their jobs, are

being evicted from their homes and struggling to make ends meet. Auggie's Pet Food Pantry is a way we feel we can help support the community and all of Lake County."

"In the future, we will be opening a wellness clinic for low income individuals. This will help ensure that pets all across Lake County have their vaccines, an annual exam and medications so they are healthy and live a long, happy life."

For more information on Auggie's Pet Food Pantry, please visit lakehumane.org.

The mission at Lake Humane Society is to protect animals and build connections between pets and people through advocacy and education. Lake Humane Society is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit organization and operates solely on donations. For more information on Lake Humane Society or to donate, please visit www.lakehumane.org.

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Library Programs

Continued from page 1

Holiday Film Discussion

Join our new online group as we discuss a new film each month. To kick things off, we will be having a round table discussion to ask, "What is Your Favorite Holiday Movie?"

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Homeschool Thursdays

Children ages 6-12 will enjoy a variety of fun educational virtual programs!

Thursday, December 17, 2 pm

Kwanzaa Celebration

Join us as we celebrate African American culture and pride! This is a special event for the entire family.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:30 pm

Basement Writers

Write with us in our creative writing group on Zoom. Bring your writing and ideas to share.

All writing welcome. Fun and positive feedback provided. Grades 7-12. Ages 13-18.

Tuesday, December 22, 6:30-8:30 pm

Virtual Rose Parade Celebration

In a salute to the New Year's Day "Tournament of Roses" parade, we invite you to join our celebration! Patrons are encouraged to share stories and photos of their gardens as we create our own version of this annual tradition.

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 6:30 pm

Noon Year's Eve Celebration

Join Miss Sarah and Miss Sarah and ring in 2021! Take and Make Kits with New Year's Eve essentials will be available (noise makers, 2021 glasses and a craft). We'll be watching the ball drop and celebrating the end of 2020!

Thursday, December 31, 11 am

Heating Preventative Maintenance Special --- Only \$69.95!

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With summer winding down and colder weather approaching, now is the time to have us perform a Heating Preventative Maintenance Safety Check for the low price of only \$69.95 (Regular price \$95.95). The gas furnace tune-up and safety check includes:

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2. Clean, light pilot
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Even though those hot & humid days are fading away, you still may want to take advantage of Hoernig Heating and Air Conditioning's Central Air Conditioning Tune-Up Special for only \$69.95 (Regular price \$95.95). This cooling preventative maintenance safety check includes:

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Automobile Thefts are on the Rise...What You Can Do to Protect Yourself

Over the past several months, there has been a dramatic increase in automobile thefts throughout the Greater Cleveland area. Theft rings have been targeting neighborhoods by traveling in a transport vehicle and then canvassing the area for unlocked

cars. In addition to the car and any valuables inside, they also look for garage door openers left inside vehicles to gain access to garages for additional vehicles or other valuables.

The common thread in all of these thefts is that they target

unlocked vehicles and these incidents occur overnight.

Although Lake County is a very safe community to live in, we all should stay alert and take steps to protect ourselves and our property.

Here are a few simple tips:

Lock Your Car Doors

The easiest thing you can do is lock your car door. Automobile theft is a crime of opportunity. If a thief finds that your car has been secured, they will likely move along to an easier target.

Don't Leave Your Keys in Your Car

Leaving keys and key fobs in your car not only make it easier to steal, but also provides an opportunity for thieves to access your home and other vehicles. Never leave your keys in your car.

Secure Your Valuables

Bring your valuables inside with you. If you leave them in your car, then place them out of view so that they don't make attractive targets.

Lock Your Garage Entry Door

Thieves that gain access to your car can gain easy access to your garage and your home by utilizing your garage door opener. Be sure to lock the garage entrance to your home. While you're at it, also make sure all of your first-floor entry doors and windows are secured.

Law enforcement agencies across the region are working together break these rings – and they're making progress. In the meantime, let's do what we can to discourage this type of activity in our community by remaining aware and by locking our vehicles.



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