

September Block Club Newsletter, 2018

Block Club Captains –

Fall is just around the corner but we still have lots of great weather and outdoor events to enjoy. Below you will find a Calendar of Events, Info on the Labor Day week trash pick-up, an update on the Dog Ordinance Insurance Requirement, Public Art, what to do about door-to-door solicitors and how to be prepared for Emergencies.

Thank you for sharing this information with your neighbors. These newsletters will now also be added to the Block Club Information on the website.

Thank you for your leadership!

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

August 31, 2018 and September 7, 2018 – Front Porch Concerts, Lakewood Public Library - 7:00 p.m.

Brought to you in collaboration by LakewoodAlive and the Lakewood Public Library

The Chris Vance Quartet, Presenting Sponsor: NOPEC – August 31, 2018

The Light of Day Band, Presenting Sponsor: lion and blue – September 7, 2018

September 1 – October 13, 2018 (Sat) – LKWD Farmers Market, City Center Park - 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lakewood Farmers Market offers a healthy mix of hand-picked produce, artisan foods and handmade goods from more than two dozen area vendors. Ohio local farm fresh produce and products are available.

September 3, 2018 – Labor Day – City Hall Closed (See City Services Schedule Changes below)

September 4, 2018 14th Annual Lakewood Dog Swim – 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Foster Pool at Lakewood Park
Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, volunteer, nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization is the host for this event. Cost of admission is \$8.00 for one dog and \$7.00 for each additional dog. Proceeds used for dog park improvements.

September 6, 2018 – Planning Commission Meeting – 7 p.m. – City Hall Auditorium

Carnegie Development and its architect RDL Architects are ready to begin the public meeting process with the Planning Commission and the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) for the planned development at Belle & Detroit. The Planning Commission will focus on topics related to land use (i.e. site planning, setbacks, density, building heights, use groups, traffic circulation etc.

Planning Commission is the first of many public meetings about the downtown development. Community meetings will also be incorporated over the next several months. To stay informed about the Downtown Development go to: <http://www.onelakewood.com/downtowndevelopment/>

September 8, 2018 Community Festival at Madison Park (Free) - 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The festival celebrates community, cultural heritage and families. It is a day of fun and activities for everyone. Craft and game booths, bounce houses, an inflatable obstacle course and children's games

will all be part of the festivities, as well as a variety of delectable foods, including stuffed cabbage, pierogis, potato cakes, cabbage and noodles, kielbasa and sauerkraut, pizza and other dishes. An assortment of traditional ethnic baked goods and other desserts will be available. Sponsored by the Lakewood Community Festival, Inc. and the City of Lakewood and is traditionally the last event of the summer. Proceeds from the event are donated to various local organizations. Event is held rain or shine.

September 9, 2018 National Electric Drive Week – Test Drive Electric Vehicles (Free)

Lakewood is pleased to participate for the second year in National Drive Electric Week. Join electric vehicle owners and enthusiasts from Drive Electric Northeast Ohio to see various makes and models of EVs and even take a ride through Lakewood Park in one. To participate or find out more go to: <https://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=1512>

September 11, 2018 – Listen 2 Lakewood – Nature’s Oasis, 15613 Detroit Avenue

All residents welcome and encouraged to attend. A time to meet the Mayor, ask questions and share your thoughts with him.

September 12, 2018 – Landlord Training Seminar – 7 p.m. – City Hall Auditorium

The best way for Landlords to keep current with changing landlord/tenant trends and requirements is to attend a free Landlord Training Seminar. The next Landlord Training Seminar is Wednesday, September 12, 2018. As a reminder L.C.O 1306.44 states that for landlords to obtain their housing license they must do two of the following 3 requirements: 1. Use a written rental agreement as defined in OR Sect. 5321.01(D); 2. Use a reputable tenant screening agency (discount available through the city of Lakewood) or 3. Attend a landlord tenant information seminar every two years.

To register for the seminar go to: <http://www.onelakewood.com/apply-register/landlord-registrations/>

September 13, 2018 Architectural Board of Review (ABR) Meeting – 5:30 p.m. – City Hall Auditorium

This meeting will be the second meeting of the formal community planning process. The ABR meetings will focus on the design of the site and property (massing, building materials, landscaping, architecture, etc)

The September ABR and Planning Commission meetings are the first of many public meetings about the downtown development to which the community is invited. Specific community meetings about the Downtown Development will also be incorporated over the next several months. To stay informed about the Downtown Development, formal public Planning Commission, ABR and Community Meetings go to: <http://www.onelakewood.com/downtowndevelopment/>

Office on Aging September [Calendar of Events](#)

Refuse & Recycling Schedule Adjustment for Labor Day

Labor Day will be observed on Monday, September 3, 2018

- When a holiday is observed on a Monday: Residents who have regular Monday trash and recycling collection will have their trash/recycling collected on Tuesday.
- Residents who have Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collection days should have their trash/recycling out and ready for collection by 6:30 a.m. on your regular collection day.

Lakewood Dog Ordinance Update

On September 30, 2018 L.C.O. Section 504.24 - Insurance Coverage for Dog Liability, will take affect and will require every owner, keeper or harbinger of a dog in the City of Lakewood to maintain public liability insurance in a single incident amount of at least \$10,000.00. All residents (whether you own or rent) are obligated under the law to maintain this insurance coverage. This type of animal coverage is often covered in a standard homeowner's or renter's liability policy. Before September 30, 2018, you are encouraged to contact your insurance agent or check your homeowner's or renter's liability policy to determine if this coverage is already included in your policy. For questions contact the city law department at: 216-529-6030

Public Art – Lakewood Arts Mural Program

Earlier this year, the city of Lakewood launched the [Lakewood Arts Mural Program \(LAMP\)](#) to encourage businesses and building owners to incorporate public art. Check out the newest addition to the LAMP program located at [15724 Detroit Avenue](#). The photos were taken prior to the full completion of the mural.

Housing & Building News

1. Housing Forward Program Continues – Residential Housing Survey – Fall 2018

Housing Forward is Lakewood's comprehensive housing improvement strategy that launched in 2012. Beginning October 1, 2018, the Lakewood Building Department will be conducting the third biannual Housing Forward Residential Housing Survey. Teams from the city will be walking every city street to evaluate the condition of approximately 13,000 properties. Houses will be rated from 1 (no code violations) to 4 (significant disrepair). Houses rated 3 or 4 in the survey will have a follow-up inspection by a housing inspector and owners will receive a detailed correction notice outlining violations that must be brought into compliance. The city will help connect homeowners to housing and technical assistance [programs and resources](#) that provide support for making improvements to their property. Housing is Lakewood's biggest economic engine - this survey is intended to maintain property values and the viability of our

neighborhoods. Lakewood is the city of homes - keeping housing in shape for the next 100 years is the foundation of our community's health.

Additional Home Owner programs are available through LakewoodAlive at:

<https://www.lakewoodalive.org/housing-outreach/>

2. Dealing with High Grass

Every spring and fall, the building department gets inundated with complaints about high grass and weeds. 2018 was no different. Verifying these complaints and notifying owners puts a strain on City resources. The Building Department would like to remind you that Lakewood codified ordinance §1775.01 states that grass or weeds exceeding a height of 6 inches or growing over the public right-of-way is considered a nuisance and is a violation. It goes on to state that an owner is responsible for cutting or destroying nuisance grass or weeds within 48 hours of notice. If the violation is not abated within 48 hours of notice, the city is authorized to cause the grass and/or weeds to be cut or destroyed and bill the property owner for the cost (minimum \$200.00 per visit). The city is only required to notify the owner once per calendar year, but may order additional cuts as required. Please keep your property maintained to avoid these charges.

3. Snow...it will be here sooner than we think.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind property owners of Lakewood codified ordinance §521.06, which requires owners to remove snow and ice from sidewalks. In business districts, sidewalks must be cleared by 9:00 a.m. each day. In all other areas of the City, sidewalks must be cleared the same day as the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain or NOT LATER than 8:00 p.m. whichever period is longer. Failure to do so may result in the City clearing the ice or snow from the sidewalk and charging the expense to the property owner. We are lucky to live in a community with neighborhood schools and no school buses. Because of this, our children rely on the use of our sidewalks to travel to and from school each day, please keep the sidewalks clear.

Cuyahoga County Property Valuation

We have all recently received new property valuations for our parcel of land and the buildings on it. The city is not involved in the valuation of your property. Valuations are handled by the Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office. By state law the county fiscal officer is required to conduct a reappraisal every six years, an update every three years and a valuation of improvements based

on building permits received from each city annually. Questions on or challenges to your specific valuation should be directed to the County Auditor at 216-443-7100.

Door-to-Door Solicitors

The city has received a significant number of calls about aggressive energy company solicitors. Below is some information on how to handle these situations:

Q: What do I do if a solicitor that comes to my door is aggressive in their sales to the point it is inappropriate and intimidating or is asking for my personal information or copies of my utility bills?

A: First of all, if you are concerned for your safety, you should never hesitate telling the individual to leave and that you are calling the police.

Second, you should always ask for identification from the individual first. Write their name down and the organization they are representing. Do not give them any personal information or copies of any of your invoices or bills. Ask them to provide you with information on their organization so that you can check it out and follow up with them if you are interested.

Third, if the caller is from a utility company (i.e. gas or electric) and you have a complaint about the interaction please call the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), the oversight organization for organizations providing utility services in Ohio to report your complaint:

PUCO – Customer Complaints – 800-686-7826

Q: Is there a way I can prevent solicitors from knocking on my door?

A: Yes, the City of Lakewood has a “Do Not Knock Registry”. You may sign up for the “Do Not Knock Registry” on the city website at: <http://www.onelakewood.com/do-not-knock/> **You must renew your registration each year.** If you receive solicitors and you have signed up for the Do Not Knock Registry you may report it to the Law Department at: Jennifer.swallow@lakewoodoh.net and be sure to include your Name, Address, Name of the individual that came to the door and the name of the organization they represented. **If however the solicitor was representing a utility company, also report it to the PUCO at: 1-800-686-7826.**

Emergency Preparedness

In an effort to improve to improve Lakewood’s readiness in case of severe weather, lasting power outages, fire and other disasters, the city has identified and promotes the following ways to ensure safety and limit property damage during emergencies. Prepare your home, your family, your business and yourself. For starters, check out the city of [Lakewood’s Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)

For additional information go to: <http://www.onelakewood.com/accordions/emergency-preparedness/>

Did you know?

The Mayor's Office handles about 30-50 civil marriage ceremonies per year? The Mayor charges \$30/ceremony and that money is then donated to the Lakewood Community Service Center.

Happy Labor Day!

**Mayor's Office
City of Lakewood
216-529-6600**