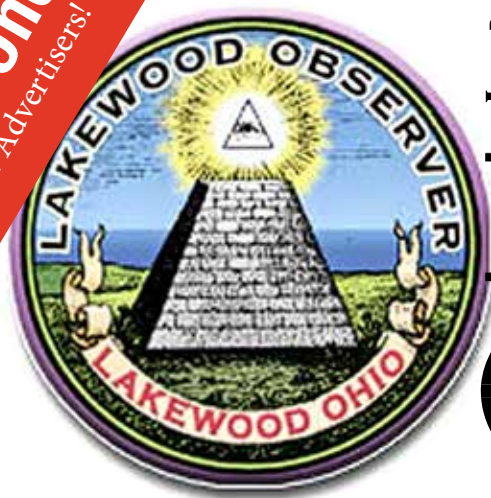


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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 17, Issue 23, December 1, 2021

## Lighting Up Lakewood 2021

### The Top Traditions Of Light Up Lakewood 2021

by Jacqueline Bon

Holiday traditions abound at Light Up Lakewood taking place December 4 in Downtown Lakewood! Here are 11 of

our favorites.

Help us to usher in the spirit of the holiday season! At Light Up Lakewood, traditions abound, instilling a sense

of comfort, belonging and excitement into the winter-time season. After a year apart, this popular community event comprised of many holiday rituals is returning in-person to Downtown Lakewood.

Here's our list of the top traditions associated with Light Up Lakewood 2021, which is presented by LakewoodAlive and sponsored by First Federal Lakewood. This festive community event takes place Saturday, December 4 from 4 to 8 p.m.

#### Holiday Street Festival & Local Retailers

Light Up Lakewood provides many opportunities to shop local! Peruse area merchants and shops in Downtown Lakewood and find unique gifts for everybody on your list.

#### Huskies & Nature-Tracks

Siberian Huskies are known to be loyal, mischievous and outgoing. With beautiful gray-and-white coats and distinctive eyes, it's no surprise that they're a crowd favorite at

continued on page 3



### Lakewood Observer's Holiday Lighting Contest 2021 Is On!

by Jim O'Bryan

The 2021 Christmas/Holiday Lighting Contest has started, you can suggest homes by going to the "Question of the Day" on our front page.

Nominations will be open until December 15. From the 15th - 20th we will be selecting the top 20, for the city to vote on.

Prizes again are from of some of Lakewood's finest res-

taurants; Woodstock BBQ, India Garden, West End Tavern, the Root Cafe.



## LHS Marching Band At The Magic Kingdom



Last week Emily Scott-Marvin sent in some photos and videos of Lakewood's favorite High School Band performing and marching down at Disney's Magic Kingdom. The Lakewood Ranger Marching Band was excited to travel to Orlando from Nov. 19-24. While this photo is at the Magic Kingdom, the band also visited Hollywood Studios, Universal Studios and EPCOT Center. They spent much of their time in marching band workshops with Disney performers. They concentrated on Disney hits from the movies and learning a Disney Resort Show. All of their work will be on display when the band returns to the Magic Kingdom to perform for real in March! Speaking on behalf of all Lakewoodites, we are proud of you. Thank you Emily Scott-Marvin, who will receive a Lakewood Observer Glow-in-the-Dark T-Shirt for her efforts!



The perfect urban Christmas tree experience. The Neuman family hiked a couple blocks down to Lakewood Garden Center where they picked out the perfect tree, loaded it into their wagon and headed home for decorating and hot cocoa.



## Sounds of the Season Returns Dec. 9 & 10

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School's Sounds of the Season concert is back! This concert is the highlight of the season! As in the past, there are two performances to choose from: Thursday, December 9 or Friday, December 10. Both performances begin at 7:30 pm in the Civic Auditorium.

Come and enjoy holiday favorites performed by The LHS Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Mixed Choir and members of the Lakewood middle school and elementary honors choirs. This well-choreographed con-

cert moves seamlessly from one group to the next with little to no applause. Purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to be the guest sleigh ride whip player with the full orchestra. Join in a community and sing along. Sounds of the Season is truly the way to bring your family together and get in the holiday mood!

Tickets can be purchased at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium ticket booth the day of the event for \$8.00 or you can purchase online at <https://www.payschoolsevents.com/events/details/18201>. Online tickets are \$5.00 in advance or \$8.00 the day of the show.

## It's Back! Christmas Sale At Nicholson House

by Heidi Murray

The Lakewood Historical Society's annual Christmas Sale on the Grounds is back after a year hiatus. This sale has everything you need for holiday decorating, entertaining and gift-giving. Everything to Deck your Halls and support

a great community organization. We are bursting at the seams with holiday treasures, plan plenty of time to see it all.

The sale occurs the weekend of Light Up Lakewood the perfect combination to put

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# The Mayor's Corner

## Safety Is Number One Priority

by Meghan George,  
Mayor, City of Lakewood

Safety remains the number one priority for Lakewood – we hear this from our residents on a daily basis and we share this overarching goal for our community. Recently, some high profile crimes have occurred in our city, and we want to use this opportunity to provide an update on safety efforts in Lakewood.

### It's Back! Christmas Sale At Nicholson House

continued from page 1

you in a holiday mood. Shop during the day, have dinner out at a great local restaurant and take in the festivities in Downtown Lakewood in the evening.

Christmas Sale on the Grounds offers the opportunity to recycle treasures of the past, providing one-of-a-kind gift ideas. Beautifully displayed new and nearly-new gift items, tree trimmings, decorations, wrapping paper and anything you need for holiday entertaining share the space with antiques, collectibles, vintage linens, glassware, silver and delicate heirloom ornaments. We have ruby red, snow white and patterned china to set the most festive table. Hundreds of ornaments and lights galore. This year we have a huge collection of Dept. 56 Vil-

As you probably are aware, we have seen a rise in violent crime nationwide recently, and local communities in Ohio have suffered from the same disturbing trend. In late September, the FBI released its annual uniform crime report. The FBI's data showed that after reaching a low point in violent crimes in 2014, our nation has seen a disturbing uptick in these most concerning crimes – and that has been

lage pieces, Ruby Glassware, new jigsaw puzzles and many Hallmark, Hershey, Campbell and train themed ornaments. If you're watching your budget, you can't afford not to shop here many items are just one dollar--don't miss this event!

Shop Christmas Sale on the Grounds at the Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit, on Friday December 3, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m, Saturday, December 4, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sunday, December 5, noon – 3 p.m. so come and take a look. Sunday all remaining items are half off. We accept cash, credit and checks. Parking is available across the street at St. Ed's.

All proceeds support the programs and projects of the Lakewood Historical Society. Questions? Call the Society at 216-221-7343 or visit [www.lakewoodhistory.org](http://www.lakewoodhistory.org)

### Victim Of W. 117th Accident Identified

by Jim O'Bryan

November 22nd at 4pm a truck struck a pedestrian at West 117 and Clifton around 4pm. The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner has identified the victim as Karen Mack, a 57-year-old resident of Clifton Boulevard in Cleveland.

The incident remains under investigation at this time.



The corner where the incident occurred.

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especially true over the past two years.

Unfortunately, Lakewood is not immune to the national trends, as shown by the recent high profile robberies. We can assure you that our police are fully aware of these trends – we are studying them to understand their impact for our city, and then taking affirmative steps to address these them.

When crimes like robberies (including car jackings) have occurred, our officers have demonstrated a strong track record of identifying offenders and bringing them to justice. An arrest already has been made in one of the cases from November, and our police continue to investigate the others robberies. In our respective roles as mayor and chief of police, we are in constant conversation on how to keep improving our strategic approach to crime prevention in Lakewood, and how to be proactive overall in our approach to safety.

It's important to note that our police

force is fully staffed to patrol the city and perform follow up investigations. The number of officers is not a current concern, and we continue to bring in new officers to ensure that we maintain capacity as officers retire over time. This year, we also have made significant investments to provide additional and upgraded equipment to help officers. That includes gear like radios, flashlights, and vehicles, but also the 40 new cameras installed citywide that are crucial to prevention and investigation. We also take a holistic view on crime prevention, so part of our strategy in Lakewood includes the dollars we have dedicated to homelessness prevention (especially during the pandemic) – this is a testament to the character of our community, and helps reduce the number of those who turn to crime in our community.

We want to close by thanking those of you who have reached out to share your concerns and offer words of support. We understand and share you concerns, and are committed to working together to continue keeping Lakewood safe.



### Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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#### Upcoming Submission Deadline

December 10, 2021  
December 31, 2021

#### Publish Date

December 15, 2021  
January 5, 2022

[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)  
216.407-6818 OR 216.339.2531  
PO BOX 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107

Lakewood Observer



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If you'd like to help this history-making 17-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](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/members).

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# Light Up Lakewood

Lighting Up Lakewood 2021

## The Top Traditions Of Light Up Lakewood 2021

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Light Up Lakewood. These intelligent canines thrive in wintry weather and in some ways have become synonymous with Lakewood’s annual holiday festival. In addition to huskies, Nature-Tracks, the Cleveland Metropark’s mobile outreach vehicle, will also be onsite bringing the parks to the people with a unique outreach experience that offers free environmental educational programs.

### The Roundstone Beer Garden

Crack open a cold one with us! The Beer Garden sponsored by Roundstone Insurance, located on Detroit Avenue between Arthur and Mars Avenues offers Light Up Lakewood attendees aged 21+ an opportunity to purchase and enjoy a selection of Platform Brewing Co. beers in a festive setting with holiday music.

### Live Entertainment & Local Food

Enjoy a wide variety of free musical performances during Light Up Lakewood, ranging from live bands and DJs to carolers and choral groups. Performers will include local carolers Peddlers of Mirth, choir groups from Lakewood schools, live music by The Sellouts, and festive tunes by DJ Byron and Rachel H. Arrive with an appetite because there’ll be plenty of local eats and treats to enjoy at Downtown Lakewood restaurants and from area food trucks.

### Royalty Scholarship Ceremony

As a prelude to the day’s main events, Light Up Lakewood Royalty gets crowned at 3 p.m. at Avenue Home, which has served as the long-time sponsor of this tradition. This prestigious honor for two high school juniors comes with a scholarship, as well as recognition during the Holiday Parade and Lighting Ceremony for their service to the community.

### Selfie Stations & Family Fun

Capture your own Light Up Lakewood memories. Enjoy opportunities to snap festive photos with

your family and friends, including a colossal, 25-foot Frosty the Snowman sponsored by Inflatable Images and a green screen photo booth presented by Eric Lowrey & Chris Bergin, Berkshire Hathaway/Lucien Realty. The event will also include kid’s games and a holiday train sponsored by Clark Wealth Management, Geiger’s and Laskey Costello, LLC.

### Santa, The Grinch & Buddy The Elf

Santa, the Grinch and Buddy the Elf are the ultimate crowd-pleasers at Light Up Lakewood. For greetings and photo opportunities, Santa will be at the steps of the Lakewood Public Library and the Grinch and Buddy the Elf will stroll along Detroit Avenue.

### The Parade

Enjoy the most festive parade of the year. Lakewoodites come out in droves to observe the pageantry of Light Up Lakewood’s Holiday Parade which will make its way down Detroit Avenue from Manor Park Avenue to Elmwood Avenue.

### “Flipping the Switch” at the Lighting Ceremony

The Lighting Ceremony at City Center Park sponsored by LSC Service Corporation provides a treat for all ages. When Santa Claus, Buddy The Elf and the “Why I Love Lakewood” essay contest winner flip the big red switch, the area will become illuminated with holiday lights.

### Fireworks Show

There’s something special about watching flashes of brilliant color splash across the December sky. We’re excited to announce that the Fireworks Show sponsored by First Federal Lakewood, will be shot off from a new location at Kauffman Park to provide more opportunities for attendees to view from Detroit Avenue. Guests will be able to view this feast for the eyes from the Roundstone Beer Garden and surrounding areas, providing a fitting culmination to LakewoodAlive’s signature community event.

### Celebrating A Longstand-

### ing Lakewood Tradition with Family and Loved Ones

At its core, the holiday season is about spending quality time with the people you love. As a free, family-friendly community event, Light Up Lakewood affords families and friends a perfect opportunity to connect for a special holiday experience. We hope to see you and your nearest and dearest on December 4.

For the official schedule of events for Light Up Lakewood 2021, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood](http://LakewoodAlive.org/LightUpLakewood).

Light Up Lakewood is generously supported by the following sponsors:

### Title Sponsor and Fireworks Sponsor:

First Federal Lakewood

### Snowflake Sponsor:

City of Lakewood

### Main Stage Sponsor:

LSC Service Corporation

### Beer Garden Sponsor:

Roundstone Insurance

### Royalty Scholarship Sponsor:

Avenue Home

### Photo Booth Sponsor:

Eric Lowrey and Chris Bergin, Berkshire Hathaway/Lucien Realty

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No children are permitted in the Center at this time.



# Lakewood Schools And Library

## Model UN: The Tradition Continues

by Dr. Charles Greanoff

Congratulations to the Lakewood High School Model UN Club who had a fabulous showing at the Collegiate Council on World Affairs Conference. Collin Hunt and Izzy Fallon won an Excellent Delegation Award, Grace Bratko and Cassidy Auck won Honorable Mention, and freshman Shannon Katzenberger won a Gavel as top delegate in her committee. Lakewood High School has had a Model UN Club for over 40 years, a tradition that Ms Lauren Kindstrand (LHS Teacher)



has maintained with great energy as MUN Advisor (An unpaid position). We're grateful to our students and Ms Kindstrand for being stewards of this wonderful LHS tradition.

## LHS Earns Financial Literacy Award

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High School recently earned a Gold Standard School award from Next Gen Personal Finance for being among the top high schools in the nation in financial literacy education course offerings.

Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF), a non-profit with a mission to ensure every high school student in America takes a personal finance course by the year 2030, teamed up with Montana State University researchers to evaluate thousands of high school course catalogs and graduation requirements on the following scale:

Bronze Standard Schools offer some personal finance instruction in less than one continuous semester, often by embedding it into other courses (e.g. Economics).

Silver Standard Schools offer at least one semester of personal finance as a standalone elective OR offer a standalone personal finance course as one option among multiple that can fulfill a one semester graduation requirement.

Gold Standard Schools ensure all students take at least one standalone semester course in personal finance before graduation.

Outside of the six states that currently require every high school student to take a personal finance course, researchers identified 1,591 Gold Standard Schools, Lakewood High School among them.

West Shore Career-Tech teacher Lisa Boettcher has been teaching the NGPF curriculum for the past three school years to Lakewood High students through West Shore's Business and Management Career Cluster course offerings.

"The course materials and no-cost professional development have transformed how we teach the one semester Personal Finance elective," Boettcher said. "Students are engaged in a wide variety of activities, assignments, and projects to develop foundational skills to create a real-world tool kit for future financial success. Being recognized as a Gold Standard School positions Lakewood High School to seamlessly pivot to meet Ohio's new financial literacy graduation requirement."

K-12 financial education has recently found the spotlight with 26 state legislatures introducing bills to expand access to financial education in public schools in 2021. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine in October signed into law SB1, which requires that Ohio public school students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2022, will be required to complete a financial literacy course.

NGPF co-Founder Tim Ranzetta said, "Gold Standard Schools show remarkable leadership, surging ahead of state progress on financial education instead of waiting for a mandate."

## District Seeks Applicants For Financial Advisory Committee

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education is seeking applicants to fill two positions on its Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), which is dedicated to the District's finances. Applicants must be Lakewood residents.

Duties of the committee include reviewing the annual state audit, conducting pre- and post-audit meetings, sharing business and financial "best practices" information, and reviewing the treasurer's five-year forecast. The committee meets on a quarterly or as needed basis.

These positions are voluntary appointments beginning January 1, 2022 and are the result of a resignation and a term expiring on December 31, 2021, which will run until 2024 and 2025, respectively. Applicants must be specific in the letter of interest whether they are applying for the term ending in 2024 or the term ending in 2025. Subsequent term renewals will be for three years.

Board members expect the committee members to work in a "cooperative, collaborative and consensus-driven manner." Applicants for the positions are expected to have strong experience in areas of finance or audit experience, especially CPAs, CFOs, CEOs, or bankers.

Qualified and interested citizens are asked to submit a letter of interest and experience to:

Mrs. Betsy Shaughnessy, Board of Education President, 13701 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Letters must be received no later than December 6, 2021.



## "With Music And Justice for All" Live Virtual Event With Anne E. DeChant

by Andrea Fisher

Lakewood Public Library is thrilled to announce a live virtual event, "With Music and Justice for All" featuring singer songwriter Anne E. DeChant and author Frye Gaillard on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook Live.

In an evening filled with stories and songs, Gaillard will be reading selections from his historical works, which will be accompanied by original music written and performed by DeChant. This unique musical performance seeks to touch the hearts and minds of people with its themes of justice and human rights.

Nashville-based DeChant grew up in Avon Lake, Ohio and is still a staple on the Cleveland music scene, along with venues all across the country. A five-time winner of the Cleveland Singer-Songwriter Award and a finalist

for the Kerrville Folk Festival in 2020, she has performed on stage with Stevie Nicks, Sheryl Crow, Melissa Etheridge and countless others.

Gaillard is a writer and historian, whose award winning works examine social justice, music, culture and race in the South. His book "A Hard Rain: America in the 1960s, Our Decade of Hope, Possibility, and Innocence Lost" was awarded the F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum Literary Prize, Governor's Arts Award (Alabama State Council on the Arts) and was named one of NPR's Best Books for 2018. Gaillard is the writer in residence at the University of South Alabama.

"With Music and Justice for All" will be streamed on Facebook Live on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. A recording of the concert will be made available at a later date at <https://www.youtube.com/lakewoodpubliclibrary>.

## Lakewood High School Community Drive Saturday Dec 4

by Christine Gordillo

This Saturday, December 4th from 9:00 - 11:00am, the School Counseling Department, in partnership with H2O and Student Council, will be hosting a community drive to assist our families.

Requested donations include new/unused hygiene products, new/unused cleaning supplies, and gift cards and can be made at Door 32 near the Book Room at the high school.

Student volunteers will be on hand to collect donations so that those who participate do not even need to leave their vehicle! Monetary donations can also be made using the



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# City Council's Page



## Tess Neff: Council To The Court

by Tess Neff

The November 2 General Election results were certified on November 22, and I was officially declared the next Lakewood Municipal Court Judge. Winning the election was a team effort that required an enormous amount of dedication and work. I am truly appreciative for all the amazing support I received for my judicial campaign. My husband Rich served as my campaign manager and my biggest supporter. He did a fine job for a novice. I will forever be grateful to all those who helped me prevail, whether by placing a yard sign, canvassing, or sharing my information with other Lakewood voters. Every task was important and impactful. We conducted a consistently positive campaign during some very difficult and challenging times, and this makes me very proud. For those who did not support me, I believe I will earn your trust and confidence through my future work with the court.



Municipal Judge Elect Tess Neff

It is a great honor and privilege to be elected the first woman judge in the history of Lakewood Court. It is an even greater honor to be able to serve the Lakewood community and the individuals who will pass through the court system over the next six years. Lakewood Municipal Court is where the people can go to resolve their disputes in civil cases, misdemeanor criminal cases, housing cases, and traffic matters. My intention is to make the court as user friendly as possible, promote transparency and keep the court connected to our community. It is incredibly satisfying work to help others and that is what I will be doing in my judicial role.

My successful election as judge will bring a bittersweet close my Lakewood

City Council service on December 31, 2021. Working as a councilperson has been tremendous. Particularly rewarding were the many times I worked collaboratively with city officials and city employees to reach solutions to constituents' concerns. Although I could not always obtain the result that some residents wished for, however, I always worked each issue to the best of my abilities. It is with heartfelt gratitude I say thank you to the Ward 1 residents for allowing me to serve you. It has been my distinct honor to work for you. Also, a special thank you to Mayor George, the city administration, all the city workers, community partners, and my council colleagues that provided responses to my questions and worked jointly with me to help our fellow residents. I am beyond thrilled to begin my new role on January 1, 2022!!

## Lakewood Council Seeks Applicants To Fill Vacant Ward One Seat

by Dan O'Malley

Lakewood City Council is seeking applicants for the Ward 1 seat soon to be vacated by Councilmember Tess Neff. Councilmember Neff has been elected Municipal Court Judge and will soon be resigning from council to assume her new position. The candidate appointed to this council seat is expected to serve the remainder of the term, which expires December 31, 2023.



Lakewood City Council President, Daniel O'Malley

Article 2.2 of the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood stipulates that each member of council representing a ward must be both a resident and registered voter of the ward for at least one year immediately prior to taking office, and shall continue to be a resident and a registered voter of the ward.

Interested and qualified indi-

viduals may submit a cover letter and resume to the Clerk of Council, 12650 Detroit Road, Lakewood, OH 44107, or by email to [council@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:council@lakewoodoh.net). City Council anticipates conducting interviews of finalists prior to making a public appointment.

## Municipal Parking Lot Update

from City Hall

The City of Lakewood has updated its parking payment system in Downtown Lakewood for city-owned lots A, B, and C, located behind buildings on the north side of Detroit between Gladys and St. Charles. Moving forward, the City is working with Park Mobile to provide several contactless payment options for parking in these lots while also maintaining a select number of meters to accept coins from those who prefer to pay in cash.

As part of the update to the municipal lots, new signage is also being installed both inside and along the edges of the lots. The signs along the edge of the lots intend to provide clearer guidance for patrons towards the different parking options provided in each lane – whether for contactless payment, coin-operated

**Key Points:**

- Parking is enforced Monday through Friday, 8am through 6pm.
- The number of spaces allocated for 2, 4, and 10-hour limit parking zones has not changed.
- There is no change to the number or location of existing permit spaces.
- Contactless payments can be made via smartphone application, by text, by website, or by phone call. Parking time is purchased in increments of 15 minutes with the first 30 minutes free.
- Meters are coin-operated and do not require use of any contactless payment option or smartphone. Meter operation is the same as across the rest of the city – with time increments purchased by type of coin used and with most meters equipped to provide the first 15 minutes for free.

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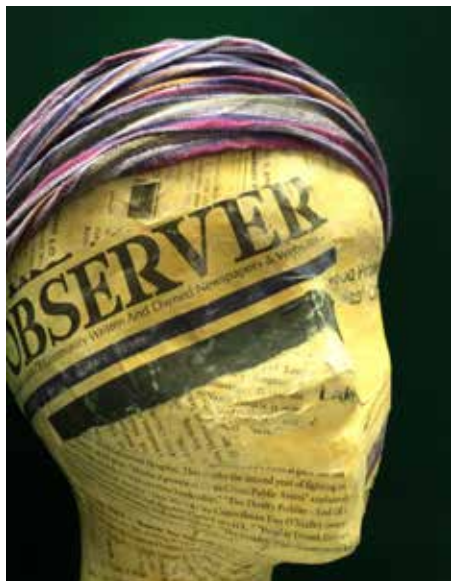
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by Debra O'Bryan

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# Life And Love In Lakewood

## Never Too Old To Find Love In Lakewood Part 2

by Joanne Gibbons

Part 2 of the love story of Ron and Lillie

"Were you looking for someone?" I said to Ron. "I mean, I think we're always looking." Ron stopped a minute, thoughtfully, and replied, "Well I was. I would never puff myself up or anything, but a lot of women approached me, they really did, and still did up until recently. I was just not interested in that kind of relationship. I wanted someone who was honest and she had to love the Lord, that had to be number one. And I could see that in Lillie, that she really loved the Lord. That was really the big attraction because other women I talked to, if I talked about the Lord, they seemed to shy away, or they'd say, 'My dad was a preacher, or I used to go to this church,' and all that kind of stuff. Lillie seemed to be the real deal in that respect and not only in just that respect but in everything else. She seemed to be as honest as the day was long, nothing pretentious, and was the real deal and still is that way. And one thing led to another."

"You bike, golf, play guitar, love music, and volunteer. Do you think that part of the reason you and Lillie hit it off so well is because she's more the stay-at-home person? She was more interested in home and family events and things she was invited to join. So there's no conflict for you to have the hobbies you have and Lillie isn't the jealous or possessive type. Do you think, if you had met someone who had as many hobbies as you, a relationship would not have worked?" Ron replied, "Well I think you touched on the stability aspect. She's fine with me doing my hobbies and stuff. Even when I do them I don't neglect my part of house-keeping and sharing responsibilities. And she is very good at what she does and likes. She does more ministry than I do, does more with prayer, she's more behind the scenes than I am. She encourages me. I'm just the person that

people see. Lillie agrees that she's better behind the scenes because she is a little on the shy side, not as outgoing initially. That's what tied the ties for me. If I had seen some kind of conflict, I may have hesitated."

So, what Ron wanted in a woman is what he found in Lillie. Her lifestyle and ways were the whole package and complemented his lifestyle. "If I were to ever get married again, and I said I wouldn't, it would have to be a person of God's choosing. When I look back, it wasn't coincidence when we met; I felt it was by divine appointment. The fact that she caught my eye immediately. First of all, she's pretty, but she glows, you can see it, and I saw it. And we just talked a little bit on Facebook and texted and I couldn't find a phony bone about her. And that's another thing about her, although she loves the Lord, and is a dyed-in-the-wool Christian, she still has a sense of humor, to where she doesn't preach the gospel all the time but it's still a first priority. She is always smiling and joking," Ron said. I agreed with him. "As a matter of fact," he said, "that was part of our agreement, that we had to keep God first, and that couldn't be compromised."

What would a compromise be? I asked. "Well, living together without getting married. I know today it's pretty acceptable."

"And what about your families?" I asked. "I introduced her to my family and they all loved her. And vice versa." "Well, what if they wouldn't have loved her?" I asked, "Well, that wouldn't matter". "Would it have mattered to you, Lil?" "Well it would not have mattered. The reason it wouldn't is that, my sons made their choices without asking me, and my choice is to be with him."

Coincidentally, Ron prays about everything when it comes to life decisions, especially life decisions. Should I be doing this? One more coincidence? Ron was just the kind of guy that Lillie needed: one that would keep pursu-

ing her, one that wasn't a player, flirty, and pushy. Just a really nice guy. And Lil was the kind of woman Ron was looking for; someone he could pursue instead of the one pursuing him. So old-fashioned. Pursuing instead of being pursued or conquering. What a grand idea.

So with all that praying going on, both felt that God was pushing them along. Each doing what they normally do, neither one having to change for the other. Both thinking they wouldn't get married again, but then how did this happen? "I fell in love with him," says Lillie, although he said it first.

Lillie had some medical problems and used a wheelchair for awhile. This didn't stop them. Ron would pick Lillie up for a date calling her Mustang Sally. He took her all around their complex and into the courtyard late at night to see the stars. Who would be thrilled to go to a parking lot on a date? She was. He took her to various places too or would come to her apartment with his guitar and sing to her. When he rode his bike, he would come past her window and ring the bell, or call her from the golf course.

One would think there would be a proposal, some pizzazz to add to this simple story, but there wasn't. It was a discussion. Isn't that interesting? It wasn't a fun-filled, creative proposal but a thought-provoking conversation with a sensible proposal that we love one another, spend lots of time together, and maybe we should spend more time together because we are a good fit. We won't live together because it compromises our principles and beliefs. Doesn't that say something about this whole love story about two people who truly complement one another?

Lillie has a simple philosophy; this is me, here I am, take me as I am and I take you the same way. And this power that they believe in, this God, Jesus Christ. I think that this higher power, put those two together. He was far away in a suburb, she was in a quiet apartment with 2 cats. And through an act of God? Maybe? Not worrying about if she was going to meet anyone, die alone, grow old alone, taking care of her daily business. They both asked

God and maybe He came through for them. Who am I to doubt or question the Almighty or to argue with those who believe? I believe in the Almighty, too, and though they probably have to work at it like everyone else, their work is cut in half, because they accept each other as they are.

It's possible some look for love in all the wrong places, or we arrived at the wrong time, or we're at the right place, at the right time, but then something gets in our way; mostly ourselves, our expectations or observations that lead us to pretend that we have analyzed a situation correctly, or a person. That's right, by their looks, clothes, actions, lack of action, the way that they did this or that, said this or that, or even worse, didn't do this or that, the right way, as we expected.

And so love is elusive to some. We really look hard to find it. We call a friend, or two or six. We call a therapist, or anyone who may have an answer. THE answer. We go on-line to find that the ones on-line are out-on-the-line, or even out-of-line, and not what we're looking for by far. Sometimes we settle. Sometimes we're rejected. And so, we do the thing, the self analysis. We look at ourselves, sternly, our innermost self, disdainfully. We go to places and do things to improve, improve ourselves, our chances and our futures. Alone. Mostly, we go alone, or with someone

continued on page 10

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# Lakewood Observer



## Help For Youth Aging Out Of Foster Care

by Tonya Sams

Aging out of the foster care system can be a very challenging time for youth who are also navigating the transition from childhood to adulthood. Without a birth certificate, social security card, or other identifying documentation, it can be extremely difficult to get a job or a driver's license.

Attorney Danielle Gadowski Littleton and social worker Dani Lachina, both of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, have several tips for people who are transitioning out of the foster care system.

First, if you have a case worker, ask him or her for access to your documents or for help applying for new copies.

Second, call the Identification Crisis Collaborative (IDCC). There are 29 community organizations in the IDCC that help people obtain birth certificates, proof of social security numbers, driver's licenses, state IDs, and other important documentation. For more information on how IDCC can help you, call the West Side Catholic Center at 216-631-4741, ext. 300.

Also, find out if you are eligible to receive help from Ohio Bridges. Ohio Bridges helps youth ages 18 to 20 who have aged out of the foster care system. The organization assists with issues regarding housing, education, employment, and mental and physical health. For more information, go to [bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov](http://bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov).

Finally, call YWCA's A Place 4 Me program. A Place 4 Me helps youths from 14 to 26 with issues regarding housing, jobs, and other areas to help create a stable and productive life. For more information, call Kate Lodge at 216-881-6878 or email her at [klodge@ywcaofcleveland.org](mailto:klodge@ywcaofcleveland.org)

If you are unable to use the above resources, follow these steps to obtain your documentation:

- First, get a copy of your birth certificate from the Ohio Department of Health. Picture IDs are not required to obtain birth certificates, which can be requested online or via mail for a cost of \$25. Most offices are not accepting in-person visits due to COVID restrictions. To look up offices near you, go to the "Find Local Health Districts" page of the Ohio Department of Health's website, [odh.ohio.gov](http://odh.ohio.gov).
- If you need more information, contact the Ohio Department of Health Issuance Unit at [VS.Issuance@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:VS.Issuance@odh.ohio.gov) or go to the "How to Order Certificates" page of the Ohio Department of Health's website.

ment of Health's website.

- Next, get your state ID or driver's license from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). BMV locations are open to the public, but you need to bring the required documents with you. More information is available at [bm.ohio.gov](http://bm.ohio.gov).
- Finally, obtain a copy of your Social Security Card. This is a free service that must be conducted online or via mail. For more information and to find the office nearest you, visit [secure.ssa.gov](http://secure.ssa.gov). To apply online, visit [faq.ssa.gov](http://faq.ssa.gov).

Once you have your documents, be sure to store them in a secure place; you may want to give them to a trusted friend, mentor, or family member. Remember, these documents can be expensive to replace, and that process will delay everything from getting government benefits to finding an apartment.

Do you need more help? Attorneys at Legal Aid can help solve legal programs for youth aging out of foster care. Learn more about ways Legal Aid can help at [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org). You can apply for help 24/7 on Legal Aid's website or call 216-687-1900 during most business hours. And, watch Legal Aid's website calendar for a list of 2022 in-person free legal advice clinics.

*Tonya Sams is the Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.*



## Starr Gazer

by Eva Starr

### DECEMBER

**Aries:** If I know the Ram, you'll whip through that Xmas list, saving time to take a trip to a foreign land, the hotter the better, Santa Claus is Coming to a Beach Town near you, get ready

**Taurus:** The Sun shines in the house of career & other people's money this month, yep...buy those luxury gifts, don't forget the chocolate shop, & go Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

**Gemini:** The Twins are in for double the pleasure in the relationship sector, business & personal, just watch the Xmas eggnog at the office party, go on a Sleigh Ride for two, the stars are aligned

**Cancer:** Jupiter is lined up in other's resources this Holiday, & the Sun is spending time in your daily routine & service to others, stay home baking Xmas cookies & Let it Snow, Let it Snow

**Leo:** Leo's are King/Queen of the Jungle & Christmas is no different, that Jungle is rocking with love & romance, take a risk, shine like only you can do, you'll be singing Under the Mistletoe

**Virgo:** Get that home of yours sparkling clean like only you can do, looks like the party is going to be at your house, get your bells & bows in a row, looks like they'll be Home for Christmas

**Libra:** Networking in the community is where your North Star is shining, get your gifts wrapped early with Pretty Paper, then go out on the town, get lit & Light up Lakewood, buy a lotto ticket

**Scorpio:** Move that secret door in that cave of yours, you'll find some extra Xmas cash you've stashed, dust the cobwebs off & enjoy spreading the wealth, Hark the Herald Angles Sing

**Sagittarius:** This month Centaur spread Xmas cheer helping those less fortunate in your community, generosity is contagious, it keeps on giving, then all have A Holly Jolly Christmas

**Capricorn:** This Xmas the Goat is doing something behind the scenes, that's where your Joy to the World is happening...spend time reflecting on finances, Santa landed in the money house

**Aquarian:** Xmas cheer is happening with your friends, & associations, get out & mingle, meet new elves, take a sleigh ride in the sky, you might run into Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

**Pisces:** The Fish loves to imbibe in that bubbly Holiday Cheer, you've got a secret or two hidden deep in those waters, be cautious when celebrating a Frosty one, or you'll end up in the Snow

*Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at [evastarr.com](http://evastarr.com)*

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# Lakewood Observer

## Welcome, St. Anselm!

by Susan Olmstead  
*Lakewood Anglican Mission Is Now St. Anselm Anglican Church*

An Anglican Christian congregation that has been part of the Lakewood community since 2014 was officially welcomed into the Anglican Church of North America (ANCA) Diocese of the Great Lakes on November 5 with joyful celebration. At a recent service the Rt. Rev. Mark Engel, bishop of this area, initially recognized this historic milestone and confirmed ten new members. Formerly known as Lakewood Anglican Mission, the congregation is rapidly growing and has a new name: St. Anselm Anglican Church.

St. Anselm is now an official parish (a fully functioning congregation) in the ACNA, an important milestone in the life of the church. "This is a historic day as God has brought a congregation of 100 from a small group of seven" said the Reverend Sean S. Templeton, who is the vicar at St. Anselm and has led this flock as its priest since its beginnings as a small house church in 2013. "From the beginning we have made Psalm 127 our focus, 'Unless the Lord builds the house the laborers labor in vain.' God has built it and we praise Him for it!" Father Sean will be installed as rector (head pastor of a parish) along with the vestry at St. Anselm's parish dedication on February 20, 2022.

The congregation worships in Gethsemane Lutheran Church at 14560 Madison Avenue.

**What is the Anglican Church?**

St. Anselm is a part of the ancient Anglican tradition. Anglicanism is a worldwide body of Christians responding to God's revelation through Jesus Christ. Anglicanism brings together the authority of the Bible, the historic faith, and the beauty of structured prayer. It is rooted in tradition, yet contemporary in practice. Globally, Anglicans form the third-largest body of Christians in the world (around 80 million members) behind the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.

The name "Anglican" is traced back to the ancient Anglo-Saxon tribes of Europe. The tribal name was spelled "Engles" or "Angles" and the tribe's



speech was the precursor to the English language. Their island became known as England, and their Christians were known as Anglicans. While Christians from Britain, the United States, Canada, and Australia continue to play an important role, the Anglican Communion is strongest in the global south. Today the "average" Anglican is a young woman from Sub-Saharan Africa.

St. Anselm Anglican Church aspires to be a hope-filled community that welcomes all to join in the worship of God and in the reconciliation of all people to God, to the city, and to one another. The congregation invites all to seek Jesus with them through the teaching of God's Word, the beauty of the Anglican liturgy, and the breaking of bread.

**Who was St. Anselm?**

A monk and later an archbishop in the English Church, St. Anselm of Canterbury lived c. 1033 to 1109. He was a champion of the rights and freedoms of the English Church in relation to the crown. A scholar, his was an intellectual Christianity, a "faith seeking understanding." He wrote, "I do not seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe in order that I may understand. For this, too, I believe, that unless I first believe, I shall not understand." This understanding of the relationship of



faith and knowledge influenced many late 20th century theologians and philosophers of religion and science.

"It is fitting that our church take on this saint's name," said Fr. Sean. "St. Anselm is a great patron. He was a strong guardian of the Church in a challenging political era, a pillar of western thought and Christian philosophy, and an advocate for education. He was a principled and winsome person."

**What's next for St. Anselm Church?**

The church is looking forward to the upcoming Advent season, which anticipates the incarnation of Christ at Christmas. The congregation has traditionally been an important and beloved part of Light Up Lakewood, which is on Saturday, December 4th this year. The church gives out free cups of hot chocolate in front of the Masonic temple, in the heart of the event. In past years, more than 2,000 attendees have

enjoyed cups of hot chocolate along with an invitation to come and worship thanks to St. Anselm volunteers.

St. Nicholas, in traditional costume, makes an appearance at the St. Anselm hot chocolate booth each year and is available for photos.

The church will have a candlelit Christmas Eve service at 4 pm on December 24. During Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas, Sunday services are held at 11:15 am, with Sunday School for adults and children at 9:30 am. "All are welcome," said Reverend Templeton. "In our worship, we join with Christians who have worshipped this way since AD 165. Together we praise and adore, listen, ask for ourselves, intercede on behalf of others, confess, and are fed and blessed by God. Join us!"

*Susan C. Olmstead is a local writer and editor and a member of St. Anselm Anglican Church.*

## Former Chat Room, Route 6, 56 West, Street Burger Location Cleveland Bagel Comes To Lakewood

by Jim O'Bryan

Foodwood is changing every day! The latest news is exciting for Lakewood, especially the west side of Lakewood.

It was announced by almost Lakewoodite Alan Glazen that Cleveland Bagel would be moving into the location that housed the Chat Room teenage drop-in center for years.

In recent years the church that owned the property was deserted and sold to Scalish Properties, one of Lakewood's most recognized names in building and development.

This would be the first big announcement for the property. How big? Cleveland Bagel is a true phenomenon. Since they opened their first store in Ohio City/Detroit Shoreway/ Hingetown area, and appeared on "Cleveland Chain Reaction," they have done nothing but sell out of bagels and open new locations. All of them well received and supported.

And why shouldn't they be? They are headed by another true phenomenon Alan Glazen. Born and raised in Cleveland, best known as an advertising innovator. Glazen is the founder of Glazen Advertising and Glazen Creative Studios, the producers for PBS in New York. Glazen is a co-founder of the Cleveland International Film Festival and was mayor of the village of Bentleyville, Ohio.

Alan believes this new store could be open by early spring 2022. After that? There are many other locations trying to get a Cleveland Bagel to come to their city.

**Good luck Alan!**

## Never Too Old To Find Love In Lakewood Part 2

continued from page 8

equally bored. And maybe the answer to that is this: Don't. Leave it alone. Wait. Have patience. Have standards. Have no expectations. And, while you're waiting, not waiting but living, while you're living your life, doing what YOU love to do, sometimes, once in a blue moon, love happens. It just happens, it comes upon you suddenly. Lillie's mother, the late Lois Black wrote this little poem about her beloved husband, Evat: LOVE, "It came upon me suddenly, I thought my heart was tough, it lasted but a lifetime and that wasn't long enough." Love is alive, fortunately for this couple, at the place you'd think love forgot about: the Westerly Senior Living Center, and may be coming your way!

Coincidentally, Ron wrote a second verse to the song, "Friends in Low

Places," called, "I Have Friends in High Places." And indeed he does.

*Joanne Gibbons is a former advertising/marketing/PR person turned public servant at Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, now retired. She spends her time volunteering for the Metroparks and for the Community-Based Correctional Facility in Cleveland, working on houses and writing. She lived in Lakewood for years, and now resides in Parma. She has four children who attended Lakewood schools and graduated, three have found careers in Colorado, North Carolina, New York, and one in North Olmsted. She has wonderful sons- and daughters-in-law, three fabulously talented grandchildren and can't wait to meet the 4th coming in May. She also has many children's books in the works and is having a blast in retirement.*

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# Lakewood Cares

## 21 Greater Cleveland Nonprofits Receive \$2 Million To Improve Access To Care - Three Arches Foundation Announces 2021 Annual Grants

by Kristin Broadbent

Three Arches Foundation, a community-focused grant making foundation, announced \$2 million in annual funding towards one-year and multi-year grants to twenty-one local nonprofit organizations for their work to improve the health and well-being of people in Lakewood and surrounding communities. Each grant award reflects the Foundation’s priority of access to care, specifically the advancement of solutions to remove barriers and improve behavioral and physical health.

This year’s recipients include a combination of new and previous grantees and reflect several common themes including youth-focused, supporting our seniors, intersection of arts and medicine, community collaboration, substance abuse and serving the health and well-being needs of specific populations. “We are grateful for the opportunity to help fund new initiatives and expand programs that will have a direct impact on the lives of people,” shared Kristin Broadbent, president and CEO of the Foundation. “These efforts vary in size and scope but together our grantee partners share a collective commitment to improving access to health care.”

For the second consecutive year, the Foundation maintained its increased funding to help meet the immense needs of the community. This includes a newly-created fund to support an unforeseen and emergent need experienced by a nonprofit organization. “We continue to be inspired and motivated by our grant partners,” said Mary Anne Crampton, board chair of the Foundation. “Throughout the year we’ve observed the flexibility and resiliency of community nonprofits as they shift program models, deliver new services, and intentionally work towards equitable access to resources.”

Highlights of 2021 grants approved by the Foundation’s board of directors include:

**B. Riley Sober House - \$60,000** for a trauma-informed care practice and awareness program to help adult members of the LGBTQ+ community achieve long-term sobriety.

**Barton Senior Center, Lakewood Senior Citizens & Neighborhood**



**Family Practice - \$114,126** for safe aging in place through access to affordable care and supportive services that create healthy environments and reduce health inequities in older adults.

**Beck Center for the Arts - \$25,000** for client-centric enhancements and expanded access to the Creative Arts Therapies program, including Arts as a Peaceful Solution designed for school-aged children and creation of recorded arts experiences to engage with those unable to attend community-based health and well-being related arts programming in person.

**Bellefaire JCB - \$217,582 (over two years)** to continue support of vital behavioral health consultation and critical trauma-informed prevention services in Lakewood City Schools through Bellefaire’s School-Based Counseling program.

**Canopy Child Advocacy Center - \$125,524 (over two years)** to hire an on site, dedicated family resource manager ensuring families have access to all necessary resources and services required to reduce trauma after a child abuse crisis.

**Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation for Brain Health - \$65,000** for unrestricted funding that supports the mission to empower individuals and families to live well with dementia and other brain health issues through arts programming, activity-based experiences and community outreach.

**Colors+ - \$134,000 (over two years)**to increase behavioral health programming and build an infrastructure for a sustainable business model that helps break down barriers and create opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth and families to access care.

**Journey Center for Safety and Healing - \$80,000** to continue the well-established and important role of the Justice System Advocate within the Lakewood and Rocky River Municipal Courts to help victims of, or those at risk of domestic violence, child abuse or other violence.

**Lakewood Community Services Center - \$99,000** to establish a health self-management program and hire an onsite nutritionist to help guide and empower low-income seniors to take control of their health and well-being through education and food choices that are affordable, accessible and easy to prepare.

**LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland - \$104,445** for the continuation and expansion of the Trans Wellness Program to address the deep and unique need for accessible and culturally competent health care and wellness support services for the local transgender community.

**OhioGuidestone - \$72,800** to support extensive behavioral health wraparound services for students, families and staff at four Lakewood elementary schools.

**Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio - \$40,706** to help provide uninterrupted access and affordability for uninsured or underinsured self-pay patients served at the Rocky River health center to receive essential reproductive and preventive health care services.

**Providence House - \$52,000** to sustain programs through the Pediatric Crisis Nursery offering specialized, medically-tiered services and direct care of children, as well as family preservation services and medical care training for parents and guardians.

**Recovery Resources - \$200,000 (over two years)** for unrestricted funding that supports the mission of helping people triumph over mental illness, alcoholism, drug and other addictions.

**St. Vincent Charity Medical Center - \$30,000** for the Intensive Outpatient Program Transportation (IOPT) Lyft Solution that removes barriers to care by providing low income patients with free, private transportation directly to rehabilitation appointments and assessments, or directly home.

**Spanish American Committee - \$35,000** for the Families First Program that promotes physical, mental and behavioral wellness for the Latino/Hispanic community through much-needed, culturally and linguistically competent case management and social services designed to remove barriers.

**Stella Maris - \$50,000** for the Supportive Housing Program that creates a climate of recovery essential for achieving sobriety and quality of life.

**The Centers - \$200,000 (over two years)** to support the development and implementation of a racial equity, diversity, inclusion and justice roadmap to better understand how to break down barriers to equity among clients challenged by income-related health disparities and other social determinants of health.

**The Cleveland Clinic Foundation - \$122,000 (over two years)** for the continuation of the established Mental Health Navigator position dedicated to filling a growing and critical need by helping K-12 students across the Lakewood City School district obtain access to mental and behavioral health care, including mental health assessment, care coordination and caregiver support.

**Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio - \$119,514** to provide a unique home-based opportunity for individuals facing mental and behavioral health challenges through the newly created Collaborate, Advocate, Redefine and Educate (CARE) Program.

**YMCA of Greater Cleveland - \$42,000 (over two years)** to support the pilot expansion of the We Run This City program in Lakewood to help address physical health and social disengagement issues among area youth.

For additional details about these grants, please visit [www.threearchesfoundation.org/grants-awarded](http://www.threearchesfoundation.org/grants-awarded)

*About Three Arches Foundation (TAF) – Three Arches Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that invests in advancing the health and well-being of the people of Lakewood and surrounding communities through grant making. By connecting people, ideas and resources, the Three Arches Foundation fosters a collaborative approach towards investing in organizations whose work directly addresses the continuum of physical and behavioral health issues. For more information, visit [threearchesfoundation.org](http://threearchesfoundation.org).*

*Kristin Broadbent is president and CEO of Three Arches Foundation.*



**18514 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
phone:216.521.7684  
fax: 216-521-9518  
CURRENT HOURS OF OPERATION  
MONDAY - THURSDAY: 4PM – 10PM  
FRIDAY: NOON - 10PM**

**WEEKEND BRUNCH RETURNS**  
**SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**  
**ALA CARTE BREAKFAST/LUNCH FEATURING:**  
**SUNDAY 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**  
**GOURMET ALA CARTE BRUNCH**  
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A circular logo with a blue background and a white border. It features a scale of justice.

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