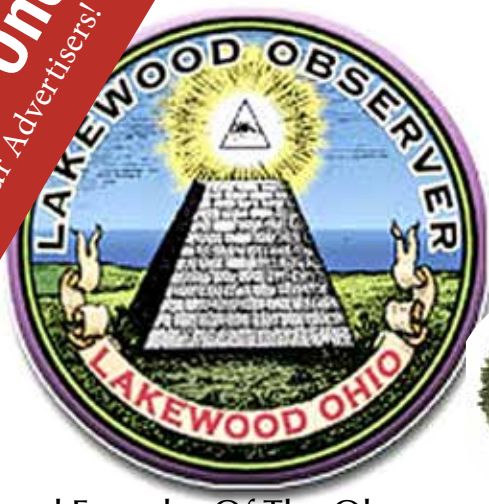


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# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Proud Founder Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Written And Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 18, Issue 23, December 7, 2022

Shop Local This Holiday Season



photo by Jim O'Bryan

The official kick off of Light Up Lakewood is the awarding of scholarships to the Royal Scholarship recipients. These scholarships are from one of Lakewood's biggest holiday hearts, David Stein, owner of Avenue Home furnishings and Cotton. At the ceremony were Ian Andrews (LakewoodAlive), Lyndy Warren, Lakewood's Mayor Meghan George, David Stein and scholarship winners Arabella Spear and Sadie Kriska Urso.

## LakewoodAlive's

## Light Up Lakewood Party 2022

by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood residents were ready to get out and party, and LakewoodAlive with their volunteers and sponsors were ready to deliver big time!

While some things were scaled back, many things were new and improved. LakewoodAlive constructed the framework for the party, Lakewood turned out.

Kudos to all of the volunteers and city workers that made it all possible, and let's not



photo by Jim O'Bryan

More photos on page 6, and hundreds online.

## Healthy Lakewood Foundation

## Awards Over \$150,000 In Grants To Support Community-Based Projects

by Kate Ingersoll

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$153,550 in grants at its November Board meeting.

The HLF Board awarded Neighborhood Opportunity Grants for a total of \$103,550 in funding to local organizations for community-based projects that support community building through innovation and learning. These projects address the social determinants of health – the environmental, social, and economic conditions of our community – through local programs and initiatives.

**Awarded Neighborhood Opportunity Grants include:**

**\$3,150 to GardenWalk**

**Lakewood** to promote the beautification of neighborhoods, spread gardening knowledge, and inspire home gardeners in the community.

**\$5,250 to the Lakewood Black Caucus** to build capacity, allyship, and support for the mental health of Black residents in Lakewood.

**\$5,000 to the Lakewood Family Room** for the new Parent Support Group, providing feeding, lactation, and parenting support to families with infants and babies.

**\$10,000 to Trials for Hope** for community meals, basic care items, and outreach to unsheltered people to provide vulnerable populations

with basic services.

**\$10,000 to the City of Lakewood Department of Human Services** to start a composting and education program at Cove Community Center.

**\$10,500 to the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee** for the Youth Mentor and Violence Prevention Program at the Lakewood public basketball courts.

Additionally, the HLF Board awarded four (4) Covid-Response Grants to efforts related to or impacted by the ongoing pandemic. These awards include:

**\$5,000 to the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation** for its commu-

**continued on page 10**

## Lakewood Firefighters Make Us Proud



photo by Jim O'Bryan

The photo above is Lakewood Firefighters volunteering to work Cleveland Fire Station 33 on West 117th Street near Halloran Park so that Cleveland Firefighters could attend the funeral service of fallen Cleveland Firefighter Johnny Tetrick. Over 160 Firefighters from all over Northern Ohio volunteered to cover all the shifts. First time in history this was ever tried, and it worked!

Saturday, 11.19.2022, 51-year-old Cleveland Firefighter Johnny Tetrick was answering a call for a car accident, unfortunately it would be his last. The entire county was expected to turn out for his funeral, which was held at Quicken Loans Arena.

Lakewood Fire Chief Tim Dunphy headed up the west side suburban fire departments. "I know that all Firefighters feel the pain, but for the Cleveland family of firefighters it has to be intense. When I heard of the plan I knew our members would step up." The plan was for each city to donate one truck and crew to work a station. While not perfect, it did the job. So proud of all.

forget the sponsors! First Federal Lakewood, City of Lakewood, Roundstone, Avenue Home, Lindsay Perrico--State Farm Agent, Eric Lowrey--Berkshire Hathaway/ Lucien Realty, Larsen Architects, Chris Bergin-- Berkshire Hathaway/ Lucien Realty, Kent State University College of Nursing, Lanter Legal, LLC, Planet Fitness, The Shinn Law

Firm, LLC, Platform Beer Co., Geiger's, Lakewood Catholic Academy, NEO Realty Group, LLC, Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center, Stanley Engineered Fastening / Ferry Cap & Set Screw, Laskey Costello, LLC, Sauced Taproom & Kitchen, Lakewood Public Library, Beyond Juicery + Eatery.

## LCAC Wraps Up Thanksgiving Drive, Prepares For Christmas Food Drive

by Sara Crawford

With the help of dozens of Lakewood community members, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation was able to deliver non-perishable and perishable bags filled with Thanksgiving fixings to 150 Lakewood residences.

With the Thanksgiving Food Drive over, LCAC is already back in full swing to prepare for its Christmas Food Drive which will take place at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, at 15300 Detroit Ave., over two days.

On Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., non-perishable food donations will be sorted. Later that evening, LCAC members and volunteers will gather from 6-7:30 p.m. to bag non-perishable food.

On Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon, LCAC members and volunteers will bag perishable food and then hand deliver both non-perishable and perishable bags filled with food fixings to the community.

LCAC will need volun-

teers of all ages to sort food items, bag over 150 bags of food and deliver them to the community. The event will be held regardless of the weather, so dress accordingly to stay warm and dry.

On Dec. 10, members of the Lakewood Fire Department will be collecting non-perishable food items for LCAC at Fire Station 1, located at 14601 Madison Ave., through a drive-thru drop-off.

With the success of the Thanksgiving Food Drive and the number of volunteers that came to help, LCAC members hope for a similar success at its upcoming Christmas Food Drive over Dec. 16-17.

For more information or to make a monetary donation, visit [www.LCAC.info](http://www.LCAC.info). Make sure to follow Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation on Facebook for updates on the Thanksgiving Food Drive and to keep up-to-date with the organization.



# THE MAYOR’S CORNER

## Lakewood’s First Comprehensive Snow And Ice Control Plan

by Mayor Meghan George

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and were able to enjoy a fantastic feast with friends and family. Although we’ve been lucky to have a relatively mild November, we at the City of Lakewood have been diligently preparing for the full arrival of winter weather. Part of that effort has been the unveiling of the City’s first official and comprehensive Snow & Ice Control Plan.

Our team at the City has always worked hard to coordinate efforts and provide high quality service in addressing cold weather events, but until now the City had not fully aligned our snow and ice control strategy across departments and codified this work in a single place. My administration made developing an official plan a priority this year in advance of the onset of cold weather. Our Public Works and Planning Departments did a deep dive during our warm weather months and involved all relevant City departments to brainstorm how we can improve our snow and ice protocols and practices to

ensure we provide the best service possible for Lakewood.

The new Snow & Ice Control Plan prioritizes increasing the City’s overall capacity to proactively plan for and respond to harsh winter weather. This winter, the City is attaching snow plows to additional, smaller City vehicles so we can deploy more plows on the street simultaneously and clear more roads at once. On the personnel side, we are implementing policy changes to ensure additional coverage during holiday and weekends and proactively address our overall personnel needs.

The plan also includes revisions to the City’s snow removal priority routes and maps, updating signage regarding snow streets, and additions to our communications protocols during inclement weather to ensure that the public is advised of any parking bans. The City plans to roll out an automatic notification system that will

help with events such as snow emergencies – more information to come on that as we fine tune the details.

One innovation in the plan is a pilot project to provide residents up to five gallons of rock salt at no cost. We heard from many residents that keeping sidewalks safe during cold weather was a priority, and we are piloting this salt program to help address those concerns. The free salt program kicked off on December 1st, so if you are an interested resident, bring your own shovel and bucket to load your own salt at one of five locations: at five locations throughout Lakewood: Madison Park North Parking Lot; Lakewood Park Skate House; Cove Park; Kauffman Park; and Lakewood Dog Park. You can also return for more salt later if you use your initial five gallons before the end of winter. We are including signage at each free salt location on environmentally

safe and smart salt usage – for example, one coffee cup of salt is enough to treat ten concrete sidewalk slabs. The program is for residents only – sorry, but contractors, landscapers, and businesses do not qualify.

The residential salt program will be evaluated in the spring of 2023 to determine its effectiveness and whether it should continue moving forward. The City will also continue to partner with LakewoodAlive on a program that provides snow shoveling assistance for elderly and disabled residents.

I hope you all enjoy the beauty of our winter months, and with our new Snow & Ice Control Plan in place, we can keep Lakewood safe for everyone even during harsh weather.

*The City’s full Snow & Ice Control Plan can be found online at: <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/lakewood-rolls-out-new-snow-ice-control-plan/>*



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**WHEN & WHERE**

Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00PM  
Cove Community Center  
12525 Lake Avenue

**FEATURING**

Lakewood celebrity chef  
Gregg Korney of  
Georgetown





**THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER**

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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**Upcoming Submission Deadline**

December 16, 2022  
December 30, 2022


**Publish Date**

December 21, 2022  
January 4, 2023

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



AROUND TOWN

# Lakewood Municipal Court Is Recipient Of Top Grant Award Of \$425,000

by Judge Tess Neff

I am thrilled for our community and the court to have received \$425,000 in grant money through the Office of Criminal Justice Services, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the Ohio Supreme Court.

It is an amazing opportunity for me to significantly advance many facets of the court: from providing more efficient operations, to improving technology, modernizing, decreasing case backlog, and allowing broader access to the court and its services. This award benefits the court, and more importantly the users of the court, which I will explain later in the article.

In July 2022 the grant application process began. It was stressful, tedious work, with very significant obstacles. We were able to overcome the challenges to meet the grant application deadline of July 29, despite the short turnaround time from the date we were made aware of this opportunity. I was determined because I knew an award would greatly impact the court on many levels.

## Cards By Willow Special Holiday Greetings For That Special Person

by Jim O'Bryan

Last year while surfing social media, I noticed some beautiful Christmas cards being talked about by a friend. I normally never give a second look but these were very clean, nice simple cards that captured the holiday season. When I asked who did them her answer was, "My daughter Willow."

"Holiday visions, dreams, classic words and sayings are how I get some of my ideas" said Willow Trapp when asked about inspiration. The 14-year-old Lakewood High School student went on to say. "I try to take those special moments and capture them on the cards."

Willow has always had an interest in art, but it was during the first year of COVID, she started to take an interest in pen and ink and calligraphy. Spending time with the tools of the trade she became very proficient in the pens, and soon the art and cards began to flow.

Her first endeavor were Halloween cards, then came the requests from the relatives. While it is nice when the grandparents like your work, it has grown far beyond that. With orders now coming in from all over.

"I am not sure this is what I want to do with my life, as a business. But right now I am enjoying it, and people love the cards." Indeed they do, social media is all abuzz that she has cards out again this year.

Each year since 2020, she has produced 4 unique card styles. Each card sells for \$5.00. When a card is ordered, she redraws each card! These are not



Lakewood's Municipal Court Judge, Tess Neff

Having never been intricately involved in the granular details required to write a robust grant, I had to scramble to pull a team together to assist in the endeavor. A special shout-out to my court administrator, Maria Russo, who worked tirelessly, and to the city's Finance Department for connecting us with experienced and court knowledgeable grant writers. Together we pulled it off, and the application,

with supporting documents, was submitted on July 29 a few hours before the deadline.

We anxiously waited during the remainder of the summer and into the fall to hear about the status of our grant application. Finally, on October 29, 2022, the Governor DeWine's office announced the lucky recipients.

Lakewood Municipal Court is one of 51 Ohio courts in 36 counties to share in the 10.2-million-dollar Ohio Court Backlog Reduction Program Awards. We are incredibly excited to be among the few courts in the state to receive the maximum grant award in the amount of \$425,000!

Our plan, which is comprised of two years, was just approved on November 30. Here are some of the innovative projects that will be paid from the grant funds: One, fully implement and launch the new case management system. This will drastically increase case flow efficiency and alleviate most of the current paper and pen daily processes. Also, it will allow for e-signing, e-filing, better access to the court dockets, and allow for accurate data collection, which has been an existing problem. Two, hire an IT staff to assist with the case manage-

ment project for internal oversight and training of staff. Three, install an interactive self-help kiosk for court users and the public. The goal is to integrate the kiosk with the new case management system to allow individuals to easily search for their case, ask questions, pay any costs, and sign necessary documents via the kiosk. Four, maintain an on-site public defender during peak court times. This will allow for attorney representation at the initial court process through sentencing for indigent individuals, when appropriate. It will promote consistency in case treatment, assist in resolving cases in a timelier fashion, and promote fairness in the judicial process.

Thank you for taking the time to read about this exciting news. I happily look forward to updating the citizens as we continue to make the court a more accessible and user-friendly place to visit.

*Tess Neff is a 35-year Lakewood resident. She and her husband Rich raised their three children here and love being a part of the community. Her public service career expands 29 years and she is grateful for the opportunity to continue to help people and have a positive impact on their lives.*



Willow hard at work on another order of hand made cards.

printed. This shows amazing skill and restraint. It would be far easier to make every card unique onto itself.

In the future she may be interested going big, but for now she is happy with 4-8 cards a night as long as it does not interfere with family, school and friends. Talk about having your priorities straight!

You are wasting time reading this when you could be ordering this year's set or getting in line for next years.

Send a note to Willow at: [Willowjoannerdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:Willowjoannerdesigns@gmail.com) or on Instagram: [willowjoannedesigns](https://www.instagram.com/willowjoannedesigns) and order a set or two. There is no better gift than the gift of handmade local art.

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LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Children’s And Youth Services Programs

by Jeffrey Siebert

## Pre-school Story Time:

### For You and Your 2 to 5-Year-Old Pre-schooler

This four-week pre-school story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. You and your toddler and preschoolers will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. Registration is required. Register once for all four weeks.

Main Library- Tuesdays, January 3- January 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, January 4- January 25, 2023

11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Madison Branch- Thursdays, January 5- January 26, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

### Just Baby 'N Me: For You and Your Birth to 24-Month-Old Baby

Just Baby 'N Me is a four-week lap-sit story time ideal for babies from birth through early walkers. The focus is on rhymes, songs, finger plays and exploring short books together. Registration is required. Register once for all four weeks.

Mondays, January 2- January 23, 2023

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, January 4- January 25, 2023

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Thursdays, January 5- January 26, 2022

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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

Make the Library a part of your bedtime routine with an evening story time. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas and bring their stuffed animal friends to snuggle. Join us as we wind down for the night. This four-week story time is ideal for walkers, new talkers, and learning early literacy skills. You and your children will enjoy short books, songs and rhymes. The focus is on skills with your participation as a model. Registration is required. Register once for all four weeks.

Tuesdays, January 3- January 24, 2023

6:00-6:30 p.m.

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## Dear Ukraine: Ukrainian Folk Tales and Craft

For Students in Kindergarten through Second Grade

Do you like stories about animals? Ukrainian folk tales and fairy tales often use animals to show us how we can succeed with the challenges life brings us and encourage us to never give up! Join us October 12 as we read "Kolobok the Small Round Bun" retold and illustrated by Olha Tkachenko and create our own piece of Ukrainian art. Registration is required.

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Main Library Activity Room

To sign up for any program, register online at [lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth](http://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

# December Events At Lakewood Public Library

by Lisa Calfee

## Meet the Author-

### "Christmas in Cleveland"

Book by Alan Dutka

Many Clevelanders recall the Sterling-Lindner Christmas trees, shopping at the Twigbee Shop and visits with Mr. Jingeling. Local author Alan Dutka will share fond recollections of bygone holiday seasons. Alan Dutka has authored nine books on Cleveland history and has made multiple media appearances. This program is presented in partnership with the Lakewood Historical Society. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium



## Meet the Author-

### "The Storytelling Code: 10 Simple Rules to Shape and Tell a Brilliant Story" Book by Dana Norris



Master the art of storytelling using ten rules to help shape your story and share it confidently. Whether you're practicing job interview skills or giving a wedding speech, local author Dana Norris provides help on crafting a narrative and building public speaking skills. Dana Norris is the founder of Story Club, a monthly storytelling show. Her work has been featured in cleveland.com, Cleveland Scene, the Chicago Tribune, and others. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

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EDUCATION

LHS Science Classes Tackle Invasive Species Growth

by Christine Gordillo

A partnership with First Ring First Fellowship (FRFF) program and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District led to Lakewood High science teachers Rita Chahda and Ann Pesta and their AP Environmental Science and biology students to remove a large amount of the invasive vegetation last week from the high school grounds.

The FRFF program provides first-ring science teachers in Cuyahoga County with free resources and professional development that creates place-based watershed projects with our students. Chadha and Pesta are obtaining knowledge and tools to introduce our students to Great Lakes literacy and watershed restoration concepts through meaningful watershed experiences implemented in their classrooms. This partnership led to a survey of the grounds at Lakewood High, where a hot spot of an invasive plant species was discovered in the stormwater basin behind the softball



field in the North Lot.

The students removed the vegetation on Nov. 29 and will return in May to remove the rest of the vegetation and reseed with a native wildflower mix and plant native plants decided upon through their own research.

The real-life hands-on project is a great example of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate in action, demonstrating communication, collaboration and a global citizen outlook. Many in our greater community collaborated on the project. The City of Lakewood provided a driver and truck to help remove all the vegetation that was pulled out. LHS custodians helped remove the filled bags as well. The project wouldn't have happened without the guidance of Jacki Zevenbergen, Stormwater Education Program Manager at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. More importantly, our LHS AP Environmental and Biology students got down and dirty and did all the hard work!



Lakewood Board Of Education's Resolution Opposes State Proposal

from City of Lakewood

The Lakewood Board of Education at its November 21 meeting unanimously approved a resolution stating its opposition to a proposed anti-LGBTQ+ resolution under consideration by the Ohio Board of Education. The Board's resolution states that the Ohio Board of Education's proposal: "contradicts Lakewood City Schools Board of Education Policy...(and) is also in

opposition to Lakewood's Vision of a Lakewood Graduate, specifically the values of empathy and global awareness, and violates the ideals of human kindness and inclusion that are so valued by the Lakewood Community."

The resolution encourages the community to contact the State Board of Education to express their opposition

continued on page 9

Indoor Track is Open!

Mondays - Fridays: 6 am - 8 am and 4:30 pm - 9 pm  
Saturdays: 7 am - 6 pm - Sundays: 8 am - 6 pm  
Track is closed when Lakewood High School is in session and for any scheduled school event

Indoor Track Facts: 10 laps = 1 mile, 3 full-size lanes  
Walkers inside and runners on the outside  
Elevated around the LHS Main Gym

Residents cost  
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LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD 2022



The Parade Royals! Sadie Kriska Urso and Arabella Spear



Online we have more than 100 photos of Light Up Lakewood 2022, and thousands of photos from all of the past Light Up Lakewoods. Stop by Lakewood’s Journalism Hall of Fame award-winning website. Isn’t it time you joined and shared your stories, im-ages and observations? Be a part of history, it’s FREE! [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com)



The fireworks were over the top!



The best darn band in this land, Lakewood High School Marching Band.



Color Guard kicks off the parade.



Happy residents everywhere!



Mr. Jing-A-Ling



Santa on a fire truck.



When the firefighters show up everyone smiles! Especially if they have candy canes!



Lakewood’s favorite Christmas Angel, Bonnie Fencl, from Carabel Salon



In Lakewood, “Elf” means more than Santa. Because each year he hands out the best stuff, while posing with the kids!



Lakewood’s Trikeable Treats!



LAKEWOOD SHOPPING

Avenue Home And Cotton: Two Lakewood Gems

by Adelaide Crnko

“What would our community be like without this store or any of our other local shops?” A collection of phrases such as this are framed and perched upon the counters of both Avenue Home and Cotton. Directly across the street from each other on Detroit Avenue, they represent two exceptional small businesses in our city.

Both establishments are owned by founder, David Stein, and have been in operation for approximately 20 and 10 years respectively.

Avenue Home (formerly Plantation Home) features home decor including wall art, compelling art pieces and eye-catching accent pillows. There is a selection of furniture as well, some of which can be custom upholstered.

"The New Yorker Encyclopedia of Cartoons," a two-volume set of the publication's high-brow comics, represents the diverse and distinctive nature of what is found here. There are plenty of edibles to savor, such as mint julep bourbon balls and flavored nuts. For the adventurous cook, how about a gourmet duck fat cooking oil spray!

Aside from their core inventory, presently there is an impressive amount of holiday product oozing with charm. The merchandise showcased here and at Cotton is truly unique. Both also represent a more intimate retail experience.

Cotton has a variety of textiles whether they be clothing, bedding or towels (both bath and kitchen). There are fashion accessories such as tote



Two of Lakewood’s finest retail stores are owned by David Stein, and are across the street from each other. This is Avenue home at 14401 Detroit Avenue. Across the street is Cotton at 14400 Detroit Avenue.

bags too. For those who like to entertain, etched barware and interesting serving pieces will add flair to your gathering. Frames, soaps and candles are perfect for gifts. There is a strong presence of seasonal merchandise this time of year as well.

To really lighten the mood, the clever and sarcastic quips found on the inventory of cocktail napkins will make you laugh out loud and are sure to delight your guests. Both stores offer an abundance of carefully selected product. Act quickly if you see something you like, as some items may be of limited quantity. When visiting their websites, be sure to click on “David’s Corner” which offers segments covering a variety of design topics.

Although these shops are located

in Lakewood, there are many customers who travel from the east side and beyond. Some come in for inspiration. One patron was overheard telling Cotton's manager, "You have such a talent for bringing this all together." With that in mind, what should be appreciated about Avenue Home and Cotton is their attention to detail, even down to window displays. Right now you'll see animated figures, colorful lights and a backdrop with a vintage Santa. All create a sense of theater and glamor reminiscent of days gone by.

Consider what treasures exist here in your own neighborhood before planning your next trip to the mall or finalizing that online purchase. Avenue

Home and Cotton are two venues that we are fortunate to have, and they each contribute beautifully to the mosaic of what makes Lakewood special.

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Adelaide Crnko is a Lakewood resident.



Both Cotton and Avenue home are must stops during the holidays. In the same area you can find Hixson’s and Paisley Monkey. You should be able to handle most gift shopping within these two blocks!



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LAKEWOOD CARES

Harlan Radford Receives Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award

by Lynn Donaldson

Harlan Radford has been named a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River in recognition of his leadership in the club and the communities it serves.

He was among those honored at the District 6630 Annual Foundation Awards Gala at Windows on the River on November 17.

Radford joined the club in July 2014 and immediately became totally involved in growing and strengthening the club's membership. In presenting the award, past president Jim Lechko acknowledged Radford's contributions, stating, "He has an amazing ability to explain and exemplify the tenets of our organization clearly and enthusiastically. As a result, he has been the source of nearly all our new members over the last eight years."

Now serving on the District Membership Committee, Radford chaired the club's membership committee shortly after he joined the club. He also serves on its board of directors and runs the club's literacy project where each year over 400 dictionaries



Rotary members present at the District 6630 Annual Foundation Awards Gala to honor Harlan Radford's Paul Harris Fellow award were (from left) Larry Lohman, past district governor; Kevin Kelly, The Rotary Fund (TRF) major gifts officer; Marjorie Corrigan, past president Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River; Frederick T. "Rory" McGuire, grandson of Arch C. Klumph, founder of TRF; Haran Radford; and Tyler Stokesbary TRF annual giving officer.

are presented to every third grader in Lakewood and Rocky River.

He single-handedly runs an annual Swim A Thon fundraiser that has garnered significant funds for equipment

for the local police and fire departments, as well as the Elle's Enchanted Forest playground in Rocky River.

"He also always remembers to show his appreciation to fellow club members which makes his programs so successful," Lechko noted.

Also at the gala, Lechko was honored with an Outstanding Service Award for his service as District Foundation Chair from 2019-22.

The local Rotary Club was one of only eight Northeast Ohio clubs that achieved 100% membership giving to Rotary International's Annual Fund, earning the club the opportunity to award a PHF to an individual who has made a difference in the community.

Paul Harris Fellowships are given to recognize exceptional contributions made by individuals who further Rotary's mission of encouraging the ideals of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, high ethical standards,

community service, and the advancement of international understanding and goodwill.

Named for Paul Harris who founded Rotary in 1905, the award was established in his honor in 1957 and is usually reserved for individuals who contribute \$1000 US to the Rotary Foundation.

Gifts to the Annual Fund help Rotary clubs take action today to create positive change in communities at home and around the world. Contributions help strengthen peace efforts, provide clean water and sanitation, support education, grow local economies, save mothers and children, and fight disease.



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# LAKEWOOD OBSERVED

# Why I Love Lakewood

**Congratulations to Landon Metz winner of the 2022 Lakewood Chamber of Commerce “Why I Love Lakewood” 4th Grade Essay contest!**

by Landon Metz

I love this small but big community called Lakewood. This is my dream town! My parents moved us here a few years ago from the eastside because they loved it so much. There are so many things to love it's hard to narrow it down!

First, Lakewood is an interesting historical city. There are so many old houses and buildings. It's great to see people fixing up their old houses to make them beautiful and charming again. My family is working on fixing up our house that just turned 101 years old. I like to think about all of the families that have lived here before us.

Second, Lakewood has an awesome variety of food options. If someone came up and asked me “What food places are nearby?” I’ll say “I can walk right to the end of my street and find Angelo’s, Taco Tantos, Sushi, Thai, Barbeque, Eugene’s Kitchen, Frosty’s ice cream and cookies. So many options!” My favorites are Angelo’s, Taco Tantos, and Frosty’s.

Our location is what gives Lakewood its name! I really like that we are close to the great Lake Erie, we have a beach nearby and we are close to downtown for all the sporting events. It's amazing how much the lake affects our weather! And the view from the Solstice Steps across the lake and back toward downtown is beautiful.

And last, no other town puts on as many great events as Lakewood, like music and movies in the park, the 4th of July fireworks, the Spooky Pooch Parade, and the Summer Meltdown. Plus, around Lakewood there are many amazing murals to see, scooters to borrow, community gardens, and now the sports lending lockers in Madison Park.

In conclusion, there are so many reasons to love Lakewood. It's an awesome city with lots of different kinds of people, great food, great history, great location, and great community activities. What's not to love!



*Grace Presbyterian Church To Honor*  
**Dr. H. Leslie Adams**

by Nancy Sanders

Twenty-seven years ago Grace Presbyterian Church had the honor of turning Grace's musical program over into the hands of world-renowned composer, Dr. H. Leslie Adams. Now Grace is celebrating Dr. Adams' ninetyeth birthday with a concert in his honor. On Saturday, December 10th, a concert will take place at 2:00 PM at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1659 Rosewood Avenue, Lakewood.

Guest artists will be gifting the audience with many of Dr. Adam's works. Pianists Nicole diPaolo and Dan Overly, of the Cleveland Music Settlement, will be at the piano and violin. Additionally there will be pieces played

by Tamara Kazy and Katherine Calvey on flute and piccolo. Brandy Birdsong, lyricist, vocalist and personal friend of Dr. Adams, will be flying in for the concert. Ms. Birdsong was the lyricist for Dr. Adams' "Daybirth" and "Coming back to Cleveland."

After the concert there will be a reception in the church's social hall. Friends of Dr. Adams are invited to attend. Gifts are not necessary, but if anyone wants to send a birthday card, mail it to the church or bring it to the concert.

The Grace Family feels so honored to know Dr. Adams and to get to experience both his incredible music and his warm and loving friendship.

# *Lakewood Board Of Education's Resolution* **Opposes State Proposal**

continued from page 5

to the proposed legislation.

Here is the text of the Lakewood Board of Education's resolution:

**WHEREAS,** In September 2022, Ohio Board of Education Member Brenden Shea presented an anti-LGBTQ+ resolution for consideration: The “Resolution to Support Parents, Schools, and Districts in Rejecting Harmful, Coercive, and Burdensome Gender Identity Policies” attempts to invalidate Federal Title IX protections in schools for LGBTQ+ youth;

**WHEREAS,** This resolution directly contradicts Lakewood City Schools Board of Education Policy;

**WHEREAS**, This resolution is also in opposition to Lakewood's Vision of a Lakewood Graduate, specifically the values of empathy and global awareness and violates the ideals of human

kindness and inclusion that are so valued by the Lakewood Community; WHEREAS, It is essential that our schools remain a safe, inclusive space for our children to grow and learn;

**WHEREAS**, The State Board of Education Executive Committee will continue debate on this resolution and two additional amendments;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of the Lakewood Board of Education encourage members of our schools and our community to contact the State Board of Education to express their opposition to this harmful resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**  
by the Board of Education of the  
Lakewood City Schools District that  
the two-reading rule be suspended and  
that this resolution as recommended  
by the Superintendent of Schools be  
approved on one reading.



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LAKEWOOD IS ART

# The Importance Of Music Education

by Ellie Clark and  
Dr. Charles Greanoff

Music has always been an important part of the curriculum in the Lakewood City Schools. As a teacher at LHS, I have enjoyed many an orchestra, band and choir concert. I also teach "about" music in my College Credit Psychology class, specifically the impact of music education on the brain, and have always wanted to write an article on this topic. But LHS

senior Ellie Clark's response to an exam prompt—written in ten minutes—is not only better than what I could produce, but comes from a musician (flute) and a scholar (Ellie is President of our National Honor Society and Co-Captain of our Academic Challenge Team).

The Question was: "Discuss the research on the relationship between music education and brain development. Be sure to cite at least two specific examples." Her response follows.

"Music Education fosters more interconnectivity in the brain because the very act of playing an instrument requires a sustained neural connection between the left and right hemispheres of the brain. Because the left brain controls language, it's needed to properly read sheet music and the notes it translates are then communicated to the right brain, which has more of a role in motor skills, which then communicates through synapses and nerves through-

out the body. This leaves a thickened Corpus Callosum to aid in communication between the two hemispheres."

"Another example of the relationship between music education and brain development is that playing music while stumped on a particular problem can stimulate new neuronal pathways and thus leads to new approaches to problem solving. For example, when writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson practiced the violin in between writing sessions to help himself come with new ideas."

Leave it to a musician and academic powerhouse to produce such a potent analysis. It makes one wonder, though, why the research on the relationship between music education and brain development has not informed education policy on a larger scale. As billionaire elites use their influence to shape education policy (See Bill Gates, Michael Bloomberg, Laurene Powell Jobs), conspicuously absent has been a focus on early music education. Every several years, a new cockamamie educational "transformation" plan is rolled out with great promise and either no results or negative ones. It's time to make music education—a universal language which brings joy, hope, healing and of course neural connectivity—a national priority.

In the mean time, Winter concert season is fast approaching—time again to celebrate the Lakewood City Schools music tradition. The Sounds of the Seasons, Choir, Band and Orchestra Concerts at Lakewood Civic Auditorium on December 9th and 10th at 7:30pm will thicken corpus callosums and bring smiles throughout the 44107. I look forward to watching Ellie and hundreds of her fellow students make some December magic. Hope to see you there. Long Live Lakewood.

## All Over The Place 2: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 129

by Buzz Kompier

**Moonlove - May Never Happen - Concentric Circles - 10 songs - LP, digital**

I really like when totally obscure bands get reissued. This album originally came out on cassette only in 1985 in an edition of "probably fewer than 25 copies" on the classic Kent label Discographies For The Deaf (numbered DFTD 4—I have only seen evidence of two other DFTD releases but consider my interest piqued). Who were Moonlove? Well, there's Jeff Curtis (whose recent music has been reviewed here at least once and has been in many great bands, from Bad Crabs to

Satan's Satellites and beyond), Randy Russell (who was also in The Channel Masters with Jeff), and Beth Erickson, aka Edda Blaine, whose trail ends as far as I can tell with her appearance on the Gibson Bros.' "Dedicated Fool" LP in 1989. This record really fits right in with a lot of indie and underground music of its era—Beat Happening and The Clean both came to mind while listening. Not quite Paisley Underground, but they definitely really like the Velvets (and Beth Erickson certainly sounds at times like Moe Tucker). It's lo-fi, it's a bit scrappy, sometimes the guitars sound out of tune and the drums miss a few beats— but that all just adds

to its charm. A lot of these songs are very catchy—"Blue Skies" gets stuck in my head every time I hear it. Something about "Moroccan Moon" reminds me of Daniel Johnston without really sounding at all like Daniel Johnston. "Trying To Find" has a cool double-melody vocal from Beth. Accuse me of being a Jeff Curtis superfan if you want, but "Cast Your Troubles And Dreams Away" and "Triangle" (his two solo writing credits) might be my favorite tracks here. A solid record with a nice presentation—Concentric Circles put some care into this, which is always appreciated with reissues, especially ones of something so unknown. The booklet has lots of cool pictures of the band and scans of flyers and stuff—not only do these three look like the perfect mid-'80s indie band, but they have quite a command of their aesthetic as well (which can be seen just by looking at the cover here as well). Hey, while we're on the Discographies For The Deaf stuff, I would personally really love it if somebody would reissue the J'accuse tape—please? 4/5

(moonlove.bandcamp.com)



### DECEMBER

**ARIES:** The Ram's got bigger-than-life things going on behind closed doors, & the Sunbeams are in your house of higher learning & overseas...looks like you're taking a Sleigh Ride abroad

**TAURUS:** The Bull is catching some rays from other people's money/resources; luck is coming to you from friends, groups & associations who may have seen Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

**GEMINI:** The Twin's business/personal partnerships are getting a double boost from the Sun & Jolly Jupiter has landed in your Career house...It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

**CANCER:** The Crab's focus is on service & health; Lady Luck visits your 9th house of foreign travel & higher studies – you may be singing Feliz Navidad from different shores than Lake Erie

**LEO:** The Lion/Lioness romantic vibes are on fire, and the golden buzzer has lit up the house of other's resources, buy a lotto ticket, and soon you'll be Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree

**VIRGO:** Home/family is the focus this Xmas season; your partnerships, both love & business, are blessed by Jupiter's wand...Santa Claus is Coming to Town; put out the cookies & milk

**LIBRA:** The community is where you shine this month; Jupiter is making a stay in your house of health; the keyword is moderation, then you'll be able to do the Jingle Bell Rock in style

**SCORPIO:** The Sun is shining green bucks on the Scorpion, Jupiter is lighting up the romantic arena along with a few beams cast on the children, invite Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer

**SAGITTARIUS:** The Sun is casting its rays in the house of Self; changes must come from within, bringing Peace on Earth; Jupiter is stopping by the Centaur's home & family this Xmas

**CAPRICORN:** The Goat is working behind the scenes for Xmas; however, Jupiter is bringing you luck in your networking circles in the community; get out & make it a Holly Jolly Christmas

**AQUARIUS:** Your house of friends, & associations are lighting up more than the tree, Jupiter is blessing your finances, and it's time to celebrate from the Heavens & sing Joy to the World

**PISCES:** Jupiter is in the pond of the fish this Holiday Season; take it easy on the Egg Nog; the Sun is shining its golden rays on your career corner, Silver Bells; it's Christmas time in the city

*Eva Starr, the local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. You can reach Starr at evastarr.com.*

## Healthy Lakewood Foundation Awards Over \$150,000 In Grants To Support Community-Based Projects

continued from page 1

nity-based holiday food drive.

**\$10,000 to Lakewood City Schools** to support the Coordinated Care Project which offers individualized support to families experiencing barriers and lack of access to basic needs. \$10,000 to Connecting for Kids to support a community research project in collaboration with Lakewood area organizations to understand the needs of and increase access to programming and services for families of children with special needs after programming disruptions due to the pandemic.

**\$25,000 to Lakewood Community Services Center** for the continued support of food assistance for Lakewood residents.

HLF Board President, Khalilah Worley Billy, said, "In its first year of comprehensive grantmaking, the HLF Board has funded a range of programs to advance the health of our community. While these Neighborhood Opportunity Grants are modest in amount, we believe the funded projects have great potential to increase community connections, provide needed care, and initiate new

ideas and leaders in Lakewood. We are so excited to support these new grantees and learn from their projects in the year ahead."

*For a complete list of the grant awards, please visit HLF's website: <https://healthylakewoodfoundation.org/grantmaking/recent-grants/>. HLF's funding opportunities will open again in Spring 2023.*

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LIGHTING LAKEWOOD UP!

Lakewood Observer’s Annual Holiday Lighting Contest

by Debra O'Bryan

Lakewood lights up in spectacular ways. Drive around other communities, I think we do it best. Our city of homes should take great pride in the decorating and holiday lighting that seems to get better every year. Once again, we try to acknowledge and award the most deserving homes that bring a smile to their neighbors. **Anyone can win.**

We are looking for everything from the simple and elegant traditional displays to the blinding disco of colors: one string of lights to, "I can't believe there's that many inflatables in one yard." Whatever makes you happy, you should nominate!



photos by Jim O'Bryan

Nominate them at the Daily Question on our home page at: lakewoodobserver.com. You can nominate 5 different homes a day.

Public voting week will start on December 21st and continue through Dec. 28th. The homes with the most votes will be judged by a team who will decide the top ten. Winners will be announced December 30th. Along with the winning homes, one nominator and one voter will win a prize as well.

As always, we sincerely thank our sponsors who step up every year with gift certificates for prizes: Parnell Eagen of the West End Tavern, Brothers Ramesh and Sanjeev Sharma of India Garden, Bob Togliotti of Woodstock BBQ, Bobby and Julie at the Root Cafe, and new this year: Lakewood's

own Christmas Angel, Bonnie Fencel of Carabel Beauty Salon and Store with Haircuts for Females of All Ages.



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The Back Page

LAKEWOODITES

ROB MASEK

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