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TODAY'S family

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Happy Holidays

From Dan & Kim Miller
Owners, Today's Family
Magazine



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Celebrate The Season!

The Lake County History Center brings nostalgic magic to the holidays, along with new experiences

By Deanna Adams

There's always something to do at the Lake County History Center, but the holidays are indeed special. "We're always excited about this time of year," says Amy Kapostasy, History Center director. "This year, our displays are new and different as we've partnered with the Western Reserve Junior Service League and the Daughters of the American Revolution to re-create some nostalgic displays, in addition to what we offer every holiday season."

The center's mission is to preserve, educate, and honor the amazing history of the people and events that have been a part of Lake County lore for centuries. While the Historical Society is known for capturing the county's local past, as well as hosting activities and special events, the building itself, located in Painesville Township, dates back to 1876, and is considered a historic community gem. Inside features permanent and temporary exhibits observing time-honored stories and culture with a museum that offers an array of exhibits, a research library, and gift shop. The eight-acre educational complex includes a restored vintage barn used for special events, with community meeting rooms, and reception hall.

With a look toward the holidays, Kapostasy knew to bring back some honored seasonal displays, but she also had another idea. For that, she enlisted the help of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an organization of women who pay tribute to their heritage and make a difference in their communities, and also summoned members of the Junior Service League, which also honors history and traditions. "These women are always so helpful and so I pulled them together and we had a few brainstorming sessions," Kapostasy says.

Those talks led to the development of re-creating the former Candy Cane Cottage, the beloved holiday display that was housed in Carlisle's department store in downtown Painesville from 1983-1987.

"Our vision was to bring back the holiday magic that so many experienced there," Kapostasy says. "I was especially excited to get Carolyn Blackwell on board because she used to be my art teacher in high school and she's very creative."

The new display not only took some creativity, but a little ingenuity as well. "Carlisle's was a blank canvas, with bare walls to paint and decorate, whereas in this building, we couldn't totally duplicate the original look," says Blackwell, who served as project co-chair, along with fellow WRJSL volunteer, Molly Hill. "The biggest reason was that there was nothing saved from the department store display so we relied on what was in the center's basement, which actually turned out to be a treasure trove."

The treasures included boxes of holiday ornaments, twelve sparkling trees, loads of garland, and vintage wreaths.

Along with the Candy Cane Cottage, visitors will enjoy twinkling festive decorations throughout the building while wandering through the Enchanted Forest (featuring the Talking Tree!), the ever-popular Fantasyland (where Maleficent will cast her spell over Sleeping Beauty) and of course, see the jolly ole elf that is the very spirit of Christmas.

Not only will the big guy himself, Santa Claus, be on hand, but young visitors can enjoy breakfast or lunch with him (in their PJs) in the History Center's Heritage Hall. Afterward, they will take a walk with Santa to the brightly lit event barn. "The children will follow Santa out to the barn where each one will decorate their own holiday cookie to take home," Kapostasy adds. There will also be photo opportunities with



Santa as well.

Dates for the Santa visits are as follows:

- Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022
- Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022
- Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022
- Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022
- Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022

Ticket holders can choose between three meal times: 9 am, 11 am, or 1 pm. Simply pick the date & time that works best for your family. Tickets are: \$17 for adult, \$13 for ages 3-12, and just \$4 for children under 3. Go to www.eventbrite.com/o/lake-county-historical-society-7949019341 to purchase your tickets.

In addition to all of the festivities and displays, The Peppermint Lane Sweet Shop will be open so you can get your fill of holiday sweets and treats, along with delicious baked goods.

Kapostasy is grateful for the many volunteers that put their time and efforts into events all year, but it takes a lot of Santa's helpers to pull off Christmas. "And this year, it's been made even more special with



the addition of the new Candy Cane Cottage display."

Details on these and more upcoming events are at www.lakehistorycenter.org/programs-and-events.

The Lake County History Center is located at 415 Riverside Drive in Painesville Twp. For more information, see www.lakehistorycenter.org, or call 440-639-2945.

Photos by Prelude Photography

How to balance receiving with giving

By Sandi Schwartz

One of the key challenges of holiday time is that our children get so used to receiving oodles of gifts that they begin to expect that they will always get more and more. But have you noticed how quickly they lose interest with many of the toys they receive during the holidays? Showering our children with gifts every year can end up being detrimental if they become numb to the excitement of gifts, and if they only focus on the receiving side of the holidays. There are several ways that we can instill some balance so that our children learn to appreciate what they receive while also giving to others.

Express gratitude

Gratitude is one of the most important ways for us to get a happiness boost, providing us with so many wonderful psychological, physical, and interpersonal benefits. It improves our health, reduces stress,

and helps us focus on the positive aspects of life. Teaching our kids how to step back and be thankful for what they have will keep them grounded and help them realize just how lucky they are to be receiving toys and other gifts at holiday time.

When children choose from their own pile of toys, they gain a powerful hands-on experience to learn about that balance between giving and receiving.

You can encourage your kids to express their gratitude for the gifts they receive by writing thank you notes to friends and relatives. You can also go around the dinner table and invite everyone to say how grateful they are for each gift and why it is so meaningful to them. Finally, one of the most popular and effective ways to express gratitude is through journaling. It encourages our kids to acknowledge the



positive moments in their day, no matter how insignificant they may seem. Consider giving them their own gratitude journal this holiday season so they have the perfect place to record what they are thankful for, including their holiday gifts and other special moments throughout the year.

Learn that less is more

How many dolls does one little girl really need? If you dig through your children's old toys, you may be taken aback by how many of each item they actually have: multiple puzzles, games, cars, trucks, plastic figures, and art supplies. It never ends. When they are showered with too many presents, it reduces the interest value of each toy very quickly. According to Kim John Payne in "Simplicity Parenting: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier, and More Secure Kids," kids who are inundated with toys are so overwhelmed that they are unable to play by themselves and can even develop focus issues.

It is so important to teach our children how to pick and choose a few special gifts that they would like and to not go overboard. Parenting coach Carla Naumburg developed a fabulous poem to inspire the types of presents to give to children for the holidays that helps make each gift meaningful. This approach goes

beyond just the obvious toys that children typically want, allowing both parents and children to be more creative with gifts.

Something you want, something you need, something to wear, something to read.

Something to see, something to spare, something to cook, something to share.

Choose experiences over stuff

Research over the last decade shows that experiences make us happier than possessions. Instead of always giving our kids gifts that they can hold in their hand, why not try a new experience that will provide them with a memory for a lifetime? It doesn't have to be an expensive family vacation to Disney World; it can be a simple activity close by that you can enjoy together. Here are some ideas that your kids will love:

- Enjoy nature by visiting a zoo or garden, going camping or hiking, or trying out skiing or snowboarding.
- Show them the excitement of the city by visiting historical monuments, exploring museums, going out to a fancy restaurant, or attending a concert or sporting event.
- Expand their knowledge by signing them up for an art class, music lesson, or dance class.

See **BALANCE** on page 6



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Telling my teens about Christmas in the '80s

By Katy M. Clark

"Fee-eed the woo-oorld. Let them know it's Christmas time!" I sing a song from Christmas in the '80s in the car.

Out of the corner of my eye, I see my 13-year-old daughter look at me. She is unimpressed.

"Why is that even a Christmas song?," she asks.

She has a good point. Amidst all the holiday songs of glad tidings and joy, it is a bit odd to hear a song about relieving famine in Ethiopia.

"This song was a huge deal in the '80s," I reply. Then I explain how Bob Geldof mobilized the biggest pop stars of the decade to perform this song and how he used MTV to spur everyone, including a young teen (me!), to help.

I tell her how I purchased the 45 record of "Do They Know It's Christmas?" by Band Aid and how the proceeds went to relief efforts. Then I remind her what a 45 record is. Next I try to convince her that

MTV was relevant and trendy when I was a young teen.

Christmas in the 1980s

Talking about this iconic '80s Christmas song also prompts me to reminisce about the era and share my memories of Christmas in the "old days." In the 1980s, I would spend hours flipping through catalogs to find my dream gifts. I circled what I wanted or folded down the pages. In my house, it was the Toys R Us Big Book, but some of my friends also had the Sears catalog.

One year, I wanted a Cabbage Patch doll for Christmas. My mom had to be determined and patient to make my dream come true because she had to physically go to a store, stand in line, and do her best impression of a linebacker to wrestle that toy off a shelf for me.

No, she couldn't order it on the computer, because our family didn't have a computer. I guess some wealthy folks may have had a Macintosh 84, but it wouldn't have mat-



"I had to flip through the TV guide, find the show's air date and time, and make sure I parked my butt in front of the TV so I could watch it the one time all season it came on."

tered, because there was no Internet. Imagine that, a world without Amazon Prime.

I loved visiting the mall at Christmas, when it was brimming with shoppers and decorated to the hilt. When I was little, my mother would take me and my sisters to the mall to see Santa. When I became a teen, I still waved at Santa while shopping for stirrup pants at Express, dining on sausage samples at Hickory Farms, and buying Bananarama and Prince cassettes at Sam Goody.

Christmas in the '80s meant every gift was wrapped in wrapping paper at my house

Gift bags did not exist yet. My grandmother and aunt yelled at me if I ripped the paper when opening a gift. They would carefully save every scrap of holiday wrapping paper to reuse, year after year. They also used yarn ribbon, like Raggedy Ann's hair, so that they could reuse that, too.

"Who's Raggedy Ann?" my teen interrupts.

See **CHRISTMAS IN '80s** page 6

Celebrate the Season!

at the Lake County History Center!



Deck the Halls

Special Open House

December 2 & 3 • 11 am–6 pm

\$8 members • \$10 nonmembers

\$5 children 12 and under

Visit North Pole Novelties and the Peppermint Lane Sweet Shop for unique gifts. The Nutcracker Café will be open for snacks and beverages. See music boxes, holiday light display in the event barn, decorations, the Candy Cane Cottage Memories display, and a special appearance by Santa.

Group Days (8 or more)

December 1 & 9

\$20 per person

Call to reserve your time.

440-639-2945, ext. 13 or ask for Tonya

Includes museum tour and lunch: pretzel-crusted chicken breast, potatoes, salad, cookies or brownies. North Pole Novelties and Peppermint Lane Sweet Shop will be open.

Museum Visiting Hours

December 6–21

Tues–Fri. from 10 am–4 pm

\$8 members and \$10 nonmembers

\$5 children 12 and under.

Breakfast or Lunch with Santa

December 4, 10, 11, 17, 18

9 am, 11 am, 1 pm

Tour the museum, eat with Santa, decorate a cookie, see our holiday light display in the event barn. Photo opportunity with Santa.

\$17 adults • \$13 youth ages 4–12

\$4 children 3 and under

Museum open to guests 1:30–5 pm

Breakfast Menu • 9 am

Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, and fresh fruit.

Brunch Menu • 11 am

Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, and fresh fruit, pizza

Lunch Menu • 1 pm

Lemon chicken, redskin potatoes, mac & cheese, chicken fingers, pizza & green salad.

More information can be found at

lakehistorycenter.org or
lakehistory.eventbrite.com.

Or call **440-639-2945**.



**415 Riverside Drive
Painesville Township**

NOTE: The Lake County History Center will be closed the entire month of January 2023.

Candy Cane Cottage Memories with WRJSL

Anyone who shopped at Carlisle's department store in Downtown Painesville during the 1980s will surely remember the Candy Cane Cottage! This year we are recreating parts of the Candy Cane Cottage that was sponsored by the Western Reserve Junior Service League. We will have a talking tree and mouse houses. Along with other specially decorated rooms, Santa's workshop, Fantasy Land, Enchanted Forest and Santa room.

Open during special events and visiting hours in December 2022.



Balance from page 4

Give to those less fortunate

The holiday season can quickly turn into a shopping spree if we are not careful. But this is a particularly critical time of year to remember those who are not able to celebrate the holidays like we are with piles of gifts. December is the perfect time to clean out the playroom and practice some giving. Spend some time each year going through every nook and cranny to weed out the old toys before you bring in the new ones. Ask your children to collect piles of items to recycle, throw away, and donate. When the children choose from their own pile of toys, they gain a powerful hands-on experience to learn about that balance between giving and receiving.

After you do this exercise a few times, your kids will automatically realize that no matter what new gifts they receive, they will choose some that they no longer play with to give to children who may not get any presents at all. This is a habit that everyone can easily add to their holiday traditions.

You can also start to encourage your children to forgo a new gift or two to purchase items for those in need. Look for a holiday toy drive in your community to support and take your kids along with you to purchase the items and to deliver them to the charity.

Christmas in the '80s from page 5

Yikes. That's a story for another time.

I tell my daughter how I baked cookies from recipes written by my grandma's hand, rather than ones I found on TikTok. I still have those recipes. And prefer them leaps and bounds over anything I find online. I tell her I will pass them on to her one day.

80s Christmas movies

I never watched a Hallmark Christmas movie in the 1980s because there was no Hallmark Channel. And the holiday movies we watch as a family every year—like *Home Alone*, *Christmas Vacation*, and *Elf*—had not yet been filmed.

I watched *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and *John Denver & The Muppets*. And it required some effort, too. I had to flip through the TV guide, find the show's air date and time, and make sure I parked my butt in front of the TV so I could watch it the one time all season it came on. There was no DVR or streaming service. If I missed the one airing, I had to wait another year to see it.

Just then "Frosty the Snowman" comes on the radio. I look at my daughter, who smiles back at me. "I know this one, Mom," she says.

And then we start singing the timeless holiday classic.

Now if only Taylor Swift's cover of "Last Christmas" could come on so I could tell my daughter why the version by Wham! is the best. Because it's from the 80s, of course.



Wild Winter Lights returns to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is again transforming into a winter wonderland this holiday season with Wild Winter Lights. In its fourth year, Wild Winter Lights will add over 1.5 million lights across holiday-themed areas including Candyland, Enchanted Forest, Starry Skies, Future for Wildlife Trail and Santa's Workshop, where guests can take photos with Santa Claus. Guests can again experience this year's Wild Winter Lights on foot or in their personal vehicle on select dates.

Additional highlights of this year's event include carousel rides, costumed characters, model train displays, ice carvers and the return of the dynamic light show featuring an enchanting 50-foot tree.

Wild Winter Lights runs from 5:30–10:30 pm on select dates through December 30.

Tickets are limited, and advance online reservations are strongly encouraged. Visit them online at FutureForWildlife.org/lights to reserve your spot.



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ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday

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The membership program is presented by 

Treat your family to memories of a lifetime

If you're looking for great giving ideas for the animal lover on your list, look no further. The Cleveland Zoological Society suggests these four easy ways to give a gift that also gives back.

Zoo Babies Calendar

When you give a gift of \$125 to the ZooFund, you'll also receive a 2023 Zoo Babies calendar highlighting the little ones born at the Zoo the last few years. It's a great holiday gift for that special animal lover in your life. Available while supplies last.

Zoo Gift Membership

Give them a gift they can use all year long. Use the code BRIGHTTF online for a 15% discount code.

Support a Species — Tigers

Hard to find a gift for someone who has everything? Donate to the Support a Species program and give them a certificate and fact sheet



about Amur tigers. They'll appreciate the gesture and you'll be supporting our mission.

Shop at the Zoo Gift Shop

From plush to sustainably grown coffee, you can find an array of gifts and stocking stuffers for friends and family of any age. Members always receive a 10% discount, or shop during PNC Member Days (Dec. 11-17) and receive 20% off.

Click ClevelandZooSociety.org/holiday and cross a few people off your nice list!

Local Goodwill employee honored with Achiever of the Year award

If you happen to be donating clothing or housewares at Goodwill in Painesville Township, you may catch a smile and greeting from Samuel Majoros.

This cheerful employee was honored recently with the Achiever of the Year Award by Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio.

Sam was nominated for the award by Goodwill staff and by his teacher, Natalie Urbas. Urbas serves as



Sam Majoros

the RAVE job training coordinator for Riverside Local Schools. RAVE (Reaching to Achieve Vocational Excellence) provides job exploration and training for students with disabilities.

"When Sam came into the program he was shy, he was timid and not a very confident worker yet," explained Urbas. "The beauty of the program is that I get to see young people like Sam grow."

At first, Sam trained on a number of jobs at Goodwill through RAVE. He learned soft skills and job responsibilities. Eventually, he was

hired by Goodwill as an employee.

As a donor door attendant, Sam greets customers and helps to unload their donations. Then he sorts the donations into different categories, preparing the items to be priced and placed on the sales floor.

"In the beginning, I was nervous, but now I've developed over time to be more confident," Sam shared. "What I learned here at Goodwill is to be more mature and responsible."

The local Goodwill employs nearly 700 people throughout the community. Donations and sales at area stores support a network of outreach programs including job training for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment, hot meal programs and even rape crisis services. Last year alone, more than 14,000 residents were supported by Goodwill mission programs.

"I do like to work with customers because I always make them happy by saying, 'have a great and inspiring day, and spread kindness,'" said Sam.

GRAND NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saturday, December 31
Starting at 8:00pm

FEATURING LAMALFA'S GRAND SEAFOOD BUFFET

Entertainment
DJ Jessie Webb
Radioactive Band

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Sprinkling some safety on your holiday spirit

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year – there’ll be Christmas trees glowing and candle flames burning and good times when loved ones are near — it’s the most wonderful time of the year!”

Making the season merry and bright can be beautiful yet dangerous. Let’s get in the holiday spirit by putting safety first!

- Whether your Christmas tree is real or fake, keep it a safe distance from a fireplace, wood burning stove, or other heat-producing sources. Three strings of lights should be the limit on any power strips or outlets. Be sure the UL symbol appears on the electrical items you purchase and pay attention to the color – green means it’s for indoor use while red is for indoor/outdoor. When using older lights, check that the cords or wires are not cracked or frayed. Always unplug indoor lights when you leave your home.
- Candles are pretty, but they’re still open flames. December is the peak time of year for candle-related house fires. Sure they set a glowy holiday mood, but lit flames and Christmas decorations don’t exactly mix. Here are a few important reminders:
 - ★ Never leave a burning candle unattended.
 - ★ Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from surrounding objects.
 - ★ Trim wicks to a quarter of an inch before you light them.



- ★ Keep candles and matches out of reach of children.
- ★ Don’t burn candles near trees, curtains, or other flammable items.
- ★ Candles should be on a sturdy surface.
- When decorating your tree, refrain from putting glass or breakable ornaments within children’s reach. When trying to reach up high, use a stepladder rather than a chair or other piece of furniture.
- When selecting gifts for young children, stay away from toys with coin lithium batteries or small parts that could easily be ingested or create

a choking hazard.

- Never toss anything but logs into your fireplace. Don’t try to burn evergreens or wreaths in a fireplace or wood stove. Greenery and tree needles burn much faster than logs, creating sparks, which can fly into the room or onto the roof. Don’t burn wrapping paper because it can contain metallic materials that could be hazardous to breathe in. Always make sure the fire is out and the embers have cooled before you leave the house or go to bed.
- Don’t forget to prep the outside of your house. Keep your driveway and walkways clear of ice and snow, especially if you’re expecting guests.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Courtesy of the Corsaro Insurance Group and Central Insurance Companies.

Matthew Corsaro is the president and owner of the Corsaro Insurance Group in Mentor. His company and staff have been providing insurance solutions to families and business owners for over 40 years. Mr. Corsaro has obtained the Accredited Advisor in Insurance and Certified Insurance Counselor designations. Corsaro Insurance Group represents over 20 insurance companies. As well they have expertise in all areas of auto, home and business insurance. They can be reached at 440-946-4950.



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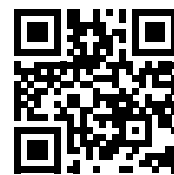
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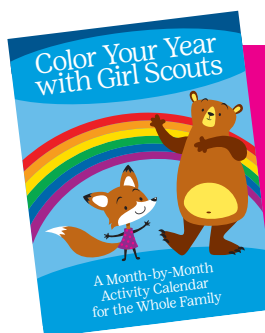
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Learn something new in 2023 at Fairmount Center for the Arts

Fairmount Center for the Arts announces its next session of dance, fitness, music, theatre and visual arts classes and workshops. Starting on January 6, 2023, the winter/spring session brings award-winning classes for preschoolers through seniors as well as special one-day camps, events and workshops.

Current and prospective students are invited to learn more about Fairmount's offerings at the Winter Warm-Up on Saturday, January 7 from 10 am to noon. Attendees can tour the facility, meet instructors, see dance performances by the student Fairmount Dance Company and Hip Hop Crew performing groups and enjoy art-making activities.

The winter/spring session brings several new offerings:

Adults will have a chance to explore new techniques and themes in drawing, watercolor, calligraphy, zentangle, bookmaking and ceramics classes. There will also be introductory classes in ballet and tap offered for adults looking to learn new dance skills.



Group youth music ensembles for vocalists and instrumentalists will give students a chance to perform in groups while receiving customized coaching.

The Fairmount Youth Theatre will produce the musical Kids Country. A special preparatory one-day audition workshop as well as a theatre intensive class focused on on-camera acting and singing for students age 12 and older will also be offered.

Saturday Youth Art Workshops give children ages 5 to 12 a chance to make their own handmade books, weave or paint.

Registration is currently open for all winter/spring classes. Scholarships and payment plans available. For program listings, call 440-338-3171 or visit fairmountcenter.org.

The Fine Arts Association presents Cinderella



Photo credit: Prelude Photography

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella is The Fine Arts Association's annual holiday musical production. Based on the 1957 made-for-television version, this beloved classic opened on November 25 and runs through December 18, 2022.

"I'm delighted to be personally directing this enduring musical," says David Malinowski, The Roger and Anne Clapp chair of performing arts. "It has been my dream to produce this show after having performed in it twice, in two different roles. This original version is the purest fairy tale. It's what we need right now — pure magic and joy!"

The timeless enchantment of a magical fairy tale is reborn with the Rodgers & Hammerstein hallmarks of originality, charm and elegance. Originally presented on television in 1957 starring Julie Andrews, Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella was the most widely viewed program in the history of the medium. Its re-creation in 1965 starring Lesley Ann Warren was no less successful in transporting a new generation to the miraculous kingdom of dreams-

come-true, and so was a second re-make in 1997, which starred Brandy as Cinderella and Whitney Houston as her fairy godmother.

Production Dates and Times

- December 2, 9 @ 7:30 pm
- December 3, 10, 11, 17 @ 2 pm
- December 4 @ 2 pm (sensory-friendly performance)
- December 18 @ 2:00 pm (sign interpreted for the hearing impaired performance)

Ticket prices

- Child 10 years and younger: \$17
- Student 11-18 years: \$25
- Senior 60 and older: \$25
- Adult: \$27

Running Time

Approximately two hours including two 10-minute intermissions.

Additional information

- The Corning Auditorium is barrier free. Secure, free on-site parking available.
- Call FAA's Customer Experience Team at 440-951-7500 with questions.
- Visit www.fineartsassociation.org/performance to purchase single tickets.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SHOP IN MENTOR

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27th annual “Protect & Serve Tavern” drive sober event

This holiday season, the Lake County Crime Prevention Taskforce, the Lake County Association of Chiefs of Police and the Lake County Safe Communities Coalition will team up with the United States Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to host an event to remind all drivers about the dangers of drinking and driving. The 27th annual Protect & Serve Tavern will take place Saturday, December 10 from noon – 4:00 pm at the Great Lakes Mall, located at 7850 Mentor Avenue in Mentor.

What is the event about?

This event will help remind the folks of Lake County – and beyond – to drive sober this holiday season and to encourage those at or above the legal drinking age to consider a fun “mocktail” drink instead of drinking alcohol and possibly getting behind the wheel while intoxicated. Local police chiefs and judges will hand out the nonalcoholic drinks with snacks to mall shoppers, and due to many generous donations from local businesses, this event is free to the public.

Local police departments will also invite shoppers to try the “Fatal Vision” goggle demonstration, which mimics alcohol impairment to raise awareness about the dangerous results of drunk driving. Free recipes featuring tasty nonalcoholic beverages created by the Lake County police departments will be available, and there will be a raffle opportunity



nity for two “mocktail” baskets with all the fixings to make your own nonalcoholic beverages.

With the holiday festivities and extra office parties taking place, it is essential to plan a sober ride home before the events begin. Here are a few simple tips to ensure that everyone has a fun evening and gets home safely:

- Plan a safe way home before festivities begin.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you are impaired, take a taxi, rideshare, or call a sober friend or family member for a ride home.
- If you happen to see an impaired driver on the road, call #667 to reach law enforcement.

What is the Safe Communities Coalition?

The Lake County General Health District is the lead agency for the Lake County Safe Communities Coalition and the goal is to reduce the number of traffic-related motor vehicle deaths in Lake County by increasing seat belt usage, increasing motorcycle safety awareness, and reducing distracted and impaired driving. The coalition also participates in national campaigns including “Click It or Ticket” and “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.”

For more events, meeting information and

volunteer opportunities, consider joining The Lake County Safe Communities Coalition! There is no county restriction. If you are interested in learning more or joining, contact Nikesha Yarbrough at 440-350-2543.

Safety tips for the winter months

During winter months with potentially extreme weather, it is important to get prepared and to stay prepared. This winter:

- Have emergency supplies at home, at work, and in your car.
- Stay out of the way of salt and plow trucks.
- If you have pets, buy pet-safe ice melt.
- If you are cold, chances are your pet is cold too.
- Stay off the roads when possible.

For more information on winter weather safety and preparedness, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration www.nhtsa.gov/ or visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.

Did you know?

Families get WIC benefits for each child under the age of five! That includes parents who are pregnant. Here is another fact: If you are recently unemployed, you do not have to wait to apply for WIC – we will use your estimated income for the next 30 days to determine your eligibility. Give your local WIC office a call today to see if you qualify! Visit <https://www.lcghd.org/wic/> to find your local WIC office.

Start small. Dream big.



Families choose our Early Childhood program because it fosters a child’s sense of wonder, encourages curiosity and inspires a desire to learn. Spend your Saturday morning with us to understand the benefits of a Laurel education for your young daughter or son.

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Beat the January Blues

How to keep the party going throughout 2023

By Katy M. Clark

After the excitement of ringing in the new year, many of us are faced with the January blues. The festive feel of the holiday season is gone and the winter days can be gloomy.

However, each month of the new year brings something to celebrate. Whether it's enjoying food, honoring animals, or just being silly, here are 12 unique and fun days to commemorate as you keep the party going long into the new year!

January 13

National Rubber Ducky Day

We celebrate the rubber ducky on January 13 after the date appeared circled on a calendar in a 1973 episode of Sesame Street. Spend the day counting, collecting, or just taking a bath (of course!) with your rubber ducky.

February 20

National Love Your Pet Day

Whether your family pet is a dog,

cat, or chinchilla, this day is all about giving extra love to the fur babies in your family. Or the ones with scales and feathers! You and your kids can pamper your pet with special treats, cuddles or new toys, while reflecting on the special bond you share.

March 3–4

National Day of Unplugging

From sundown on March 4 to sundown on March 5, this 24-hour period aims to help families disconnect from technology and reconnect as people. Enjoy a device-free dinner party and put your phone away while the kids create a play or concert. Take this time to unplug, unwind, and relax.

April 9

National Unicorn Day

This day honors the most popular mythical animal worldwide. With a single horn protruding from its forehead, the unicorn represents magic, fantasy, and happiness. Learn about its appearances in ancient cultures like those of the Celts, Romans and



Persians. Then draw pictures, read books, and wear your favorite clothing item with the beloved creature.

flashlight in the sky to make your own, and enjoy the outdoors as you turn your gaze upward.

May 31

National Smile Day

Turn that frown upside down and smile! Flash a beautiful grin at home, at school, and in your neighborhood. Little ones can count how many smiles they see throughout the day on a clipboard while bigger kids can be encouraged to simply smile in order to brighten someone's day.

September 19

Talk Like A Pirate Day

Ahoy mateys! Spend the day talking like your favorite swashbuckler. Whether you don an eye patch, dig for buried treasure, or nosh on some chocolate gold coins, you and your kids will walk the plank to celebrate this day. Shiver me timbers!

October 5

National Do Something Nice Day

You and your family can show kindness in big and small ways on this day. Try giving compliments, holding the door open for someone, writing a letter to a relative, or paying for the order of the person behind you in line.

November 14

National Family PJ Day

Who doesn't want to spend the day in their favorite pjs? Put on your matched or mismatched pajamas and then sleep in or snuggle up. Get your pets in the game, too. If you're really planning ahead, now is the perfect time to snap that holiday card photo.

December 13

National Cocoa Day

Prepare to welcome winter by indulging in a cup of hot chocolate. Your family can learn about the origin of drinking cocoa, said to be started by the Mayans as early as 500 BC, or have a taste test to decide which is the perfect topping: marshmallows or whipped cream.

June 17

National Eat Your Vegetables Day

This day is all about making more vegetables a part of your healthy diet. However, if your kids balk at the idea of celebrating peas and carrots, then your family can honor June 17 in a sweeter way. It's also National Apple Strudel Day.

July 16

National Ice Cream Day

Did you know that President Reagan established the third Sunday of July as National Ice Cream Day back in 1984? Beat the summer heat and indulge in scoops from your favorite spot or try your hand at making your own. Your family can discuss favorite flavors or think up new ones to try.

August 8

Global Sleep Under the Stars Night

This night encourages everyone to spend a night under the stars. Pitch a tent or bundle up under blankets in the backyard or on your patio. Read books about constellations, shine a

Winter/Spring Session begins January 6

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Mentor Fire “Rescue the Needy” Food Drive Dec 16 & 17

For the 27th year, Mentor firefighter/paramedic Dominic Vivolo and Lieutenant Mike Smith will gather their trusted team of firefighters, as well as family and friends, to brave the elements and help those in need in Lake County.

The 2022 Mentor Fire “Rescue the Needy” Food Drive will take place on Friday, December 16, 2022 from 4–8 pm, and Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 10 am–2 pm near the northeast entrance of the Great Lakes Mall by Barnes and Noble. Cash and nonperishable food donations will be accepted.

100% of proceeds from the Rescue the Needy Food Drive will directly benefit the Salvation Army Painesville Corps which serves Lake County. Donations stay in the community in which they are received to help serve those most in need. Since 1994, over \$150,000 in cash and food donations have been raised.

Hands-on birding with Geauga Park District

Attempt to hold some seed, then a hungry black-capped chickadee!

Have you ever hand-fed wild birds? Now through April, head out to give it a try at the Bird in the Hand Feeding Station at The West Woods in Russell Township – in optimal conditions, volunteers have reported as many as 60 chickadees in 20 minutes!

Hand-feeding works best with just one or two people or a small group, like three or four. Time your visit between 10 am and 4:30 pm and dress warmly with extra layers, hat and gloves, since you will be standing still. Cold days, especially in the morning, are often the best times to visit, as birds start feeding soon after they wake up to put on fat and have energy to survive the cold weather. Late afternoon is another good time, since birds need to stock up on nutrition before roosting somewhere for the night.

Your first stop should be to The West Woods Nature Center to collect a packet of black oil sunflower seed. Then follow the Trout Lily Trail and hang a right at the fork after the boardwalk across the wetlands,

following the sign. Soon you’ll come upon the feeding station marked by a mannequin who keeps the birds familiar with a human presence. (“Parker” is pretty realistic; then again, birds are fairly easy to fool.)

As soon as you arrive, cover the on-site feeder with the bucket. (A reminder to do this is also posted on site.) Place a few seeds in your hand, hold it out flat, stand very still, and wait for birds to arrive. They tend to come in waves, so you may need to wait a little while for the next wave to come, but odds are you’ll have at least a few takers if you are patient. Enjoy!

When finished, please be sure to remove the bucket from the feeder, place any unused seed into the feeder, and place your empty seed packet in the marked receptacle.

The West Woods is located at 9465 Kinsman Road (Route 87) in Russell Township. These guidelines can also be found at www.geaugaparkdistrict.org/activity/birdwatching. Enjoy – and if you take pictures, please share them with us on social media using #geaugaparkdistrict.org.



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jfedak@stmaryschoolchardon.org.

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www.stmaryschoolchardon.org
401 North St. Chardon, Ohio 44024
440-286-3590

2022 Holidays: Permission granted

By Stacy Turner

When I dropped something off at my daughter's school, I noticed the secretary's office was chock full of festive fall decorations. File cabinets were covered with colorful leaves, pumpkins, mums, and scarecrows; office windows showcased autumn-inspired window clings galore. I complimented her décor, appreciating the cheeriness in the colorful space. She explained that she planned to keep the decorations up at school until Thanksgiving, sheepishly admitting she had already begun decorating for Christmas at home. As if it was wrong to do so. She explained that she has a lot of decorations and needs extra time to get them all out in time to enjoy throughout the season. As if she needed to justify her reasons.

Not that my opinion should matter, I noted that after how trying the last few years have been, if decorating early for the holidays gives her joy, then she should go all in. After all, we can all use a little Christmas (or Hanukkah, or even Festivus) right this very minute, no matter what the calendar says. I applauded her for decking her halls early and so thoroughly, if that gives her joy. We can all use more joy, don't you think?

Later on, I ran into a mom friend carrying two extra large, caffeinated drinks as she headed back to

work. She sheepishly admitted how unhealthy the mega dose of caffeine and sugar would be, but that it's been a rough week. I assured her that caffeine and sugar are pretty much the only things that keep me moving some days, so she wasn't getting any judgment from me. Often, it seems like being a wife and mom while working and maintaining sanity can take Herculean effort to keep all the balls in the air. If that super-sized, go-juice helps you make it happen, then drink up, mamma! After all, espresso may not be the answer, but it's worth a shot.

As we head into the holiday season, my gift to you is the full authority to bring joy to yourself and your family by whatever means necessary. Whether you put a Christmas tree in every room of your house or leave your home unadorned is completely up to you. If your holiday soundtrack means Nat King Cole, Michael Bublé or Mariah Carey on repeat, or simply walking outdoors as silent snowflakes fall, it's your choice to make. Whether you embrace comfy sweaters, fuzzy socks, and spice-scented candles, or head someplace warm, beachy, and smelling of coconut, either way is the right way for you.

For years, I'd stress myself out trying to pick the perfect photos to create the ideal holiday cards. No matter what photos I chose, someone pictured would be unhappy with what they wore,



the expression on their face, or the way their hair looked that day. Often, I'd end up feeling super Grinchy long before I sat down trying to pen those warm holiday greetings to friends and family near and far. This year, I've given myself permission to forgo what began as a fun holiday activity, but over time developed into a pain in my butt. And this year, that's the right choice for me. But whether you choose to send perfectly curated holiday photo cards to everyone you know, buy ready-made cards, or send no cards at all, whatever you do (or don't do) is the right choice for you.

By the way, if you've got homemade sugar plums and trays of cookies still warm from the oven or you choose to buy holiday confections online or at the in-store bakery, either way is okay. And whether your holiday is low-key, rustic, or full of constant activities or tinsel, if you're spending time with the people that matter, then you're doing it right.

In case you need it, this is your permission to choose the best way to mark the holiday season this year. And since I'm not sending cards, I'll leave you with blessings and my hope that as one year closes and a brand new year begins, you're able to fully enjoy this season in whatever way you choose with the people that matter most.

FREE

Drive Safe & Sober This Holiday Season

27th Annual

Protect & Serve Tavern Event

Saturday, December 10 | Great Lakes Mall | Noon - 4 PM

Games, Snacks *and* Raffle Baskets

(Snacks and drinks while supplies last.)





Join The Lake County Safe Communities Coalition

for more upcoming events, meetings, and volunteer opportunities year-round! There is no county restriction. Contact Nikesha Yarbrough at (440) 350-2543 to learn more.

The Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) is the lead agency of the Lake County Safe Communities Coalition.



LCGHD Fact:

WIC is a program of LCGHD, and applications for WIC are YEAR-ROUND! Visit www.lcghd.org/wic to find your local WIC office and call to see if you qualify.

Open your heart and your home to a child in need



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Your home can make a difference!

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or email:

Eugene.Tetrick@jfs.ohio.gov

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Cleveland Browns Stadium

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Photo credit: Jim Marquardt

7 activities to try this winter at Lake Metroparks

Snowshoe the Parks: Have you ever tried snowshoeing? It's a great way to explore the outdoors and also has many health benefits. Lake Metroparks offers visitors opportunities to snowshoe on a variety of terrain throughout the park district. Girdled Road Reservation offers backcountry snowshoe trails, Chapin Forest Reservation offers nearly six miles of trails and Penitentiary Glen Reservation offers seven miles of trails.

Snowshoe rentals are available at Chapin Forest Reservation Pine Lodge Ski Center (first-come, first-served) and at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center (first-come, first-served).

Skiing Fun: Because Lake and Geauga counties are blessed with the best snowfalls in the state each year, cross-country skiing is a great way to get out and enjoy the parks! Lake Metroparks offers both groomed and ungroomed trails for skiers of all abilities.

Sled Down the Hills: Lake Metroparks offers a variety of winter activities for all ages, but by far, sledding is one of the most popular. The parks offer four different places to bring your family for a day of thrills upon whatever apparatus you choose to bring.

Hike the Trails under the Lights: Feel free to hike under the lights this winter at Chapin Forest Reservation. A mile of trail lights will be

turned on at the Arbor Lane Loop Trail (Hobart Road entrance) each evening from dusk until the park closes, regardless of ski conditions. If hiking and snow is on the trail, watch for skiers, respect groomed trails and do not walk in ski tracks.

View the Dunes: Have you ever seen the ice dunes along the Lake Erie shoreline? Visit one of their lakefront parks and discover what happens to the lake in winter.

Winter Bird Feeding: Many of our feathered friends fly south for the winter in search of food, but many stay right here in northeast Ohio. We also see some species in the winter only—these birds nest north of us and fly south to Ohio for their winter vacations.

Winter Camping: Have you ever thought about camping in the winter? Lake Metroparks offers winter camping at Girdled Road Reservation in Concord Township. It is a hike-in or ski-in site about ¾ of a mile into the Big Creek Valley. Enjoy this park in a new way from the comfort of your tent!

Cross-country ski and snowshoe rental equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Equipment cannot be reserved. A driver's license is required as a deposit with all rentals.

Call the winter sports hotline at 440-256-2118 x4178 or check Twitter or Facebook for up-to-date weather conditions.



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A new home for the holidays

If adopting a pet is on your list this year, here are a few things to keep in mind

By Ante Logarusic

The holiday season is upon us and we're all thinking about that perfect gift. Wish lists are shared and it should come as no surprise to many parents when a new puppy or kitten is right at the top of that list.

If you've been thinking about adding a new member to the family, there are some important things to keep in mind.

If adopting from a breeder, do your homework and ensure that the breeder is reputable. Don't be afraid to ask to see where and how the dogs are housed – the breeder should not object. That great deal you find online may be the result of a life of misery at a puppy mill. In addition to unknown health and behavioral issues that can develop at a mass breeding facility, these dogs can also be susceptible to genetic disorders.

A great alternative is adopting through a shelter and the reason is simple; when you adopt a shelter animal, you save a life.

Adopting a pet is a long-term commitment that shouldn't be taken lightly and it's a decision that should be made by the whole family. Your family needs to determine how responsibilities will be split up and most importantly, you need to ensure that your family has the time to give your pet the



love and attention that it deserves.

Everybody wants to have the cute puppy and cute kitten on Christmas morning with the bow on them, but families have to understand that this is a significant commitment and that they will need to spend time with the pet. A pet adoption should never be a surprise. When a family is ready to adopt a pet, all adults in the family should agree that the adoption is a good decision.

Your newest family member is going to be with you for quite a while so making the right choice matters. Some of the things to take into consideration include making sure your family's energy level is in line with your new pet's energy level. Puppies and kittens are incredibly cute but also re-

quire a lot of patience, training, and care. Messes will be made, and boundaries need to be set before poor behavior sets in.

Costs need to be weighed as well. Like humans, animals require medical exams and sometimes additional care to live a happy and healthy lifestyle. Another terrific benefit of adopting a shelter dog or cat is that the animals have been vetted and the initial round of wellness care has already been taken care of.

In some situations, older animals may be better suited and are often preferred. Seniors, as well as families with older children, will often gravitate towards an older pet because they have been trained and the commitment isn't quite as long.

"Our older pets are often adopted relatively quickly," says Lisa Ishee, external affairs director with Geauga County's Rescue Village. "Something about them tugs at people's heartstrings. People want to get them out of the shelter life and back into a loving home."

For many of us of a certain age, getting a dog was once as simple as taking a trip to the pound. These days, many organizations utilize adoption counselors to ensure that pets enter the right situation and are a good fit for the family. Counselors will work with a family to get an idea of

See *PETS* on page 19

The Botanical Garden celebrates Cleveland's holiday magic

The Cleveland Botanical Garden's "Twinkle in the 216" event will celebrate the historic character of Cleveland's neighborhoods as they sparkle and shine to add warmth and joy to the cold winter months. The winter show runs through Saturday, December 31, 2022.

The indoor and outdoor gardens will pay a festive holiday homage to the beautiful blocks that knit neighborhoods, people, and plants and trees together. In the Ellipse, visitors will be greeted by postcard vignettes of iconic Cleveland landmarks and a stunning 20-foot-tall "living" tree built from live and dried plant material—a delightful background for holiday photos.

Guests seeking a holiday escape a little farther from home can enter the Madagascar and Costa Rica glasshouses, transformed in the spirit of the season with special horticultural displays, lights, and postcard vignettes referencing iconic towns within the spiny desert and cloud forest.

Visitors will be surrounded by



beautiful holiday plants and trees from evergreen conifers to poinsettias in shades of white, pink, and red. Popular traditions return including dozens of trees decorated by more than 30 affiliate garden clubs from northeast Ohio and candy-coated gingerbread houses assembled by bakers from across the community.

Be sure to get outside this year to experience a festive display on the terrace complete with various activities for the whole family. On weekends during the show and every day between Dec. 20–31, outdoor activities will include hot cocoa story time, marshmallow roasting, community crafts, and more!

Reserve your tickets in advance at holdenfg.org. Walk-up tickets will be available.

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Mentor

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Pets from page 17

what they're looking for in a pet as well as assessing what kind of home they have to offer. They'll also spend time making sure that it's the right fit. Like humans, dogs and cats have unique personalities and some situations are better than others.

The worst situation is when a family and their new pet have bonded and have to be separated.

If you've checked all of the boxes and made the decision to move forward, keep in mind that any time is a good time to adopt. You'll be home for the holidays and that certainly helps, but experts agree that it takes about three months for a shelter pet to become completely acclimated to your environment and develop trust in your family.

The best thing you can do is establish a routine, define boundaries as well as positive reinforcement, and also give the pet the ability to have

some space as well as quiet time to itself as it adjusts to its new home.

Most local shelters post available animals on their websites and those can change daily. People are encouraged to visit often to see if their perfect pet becomes available. Shelters have different hours, fees, and rules in place. Some host regular visiting hours while others are done by appointment only. Be sure to visit their websites to learn more.

LAKE COUNTY

Lake Humane Society
www.lakehumane.org

GEAUGA COUNTY

Rescue Village
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CUYAHOGA COUNTY

Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter
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<p>Cleveland Zoological Society ClevelandZooSociety.org (See ad on page 6)</p> <p>Fairmount Center For The Arts Geauga County FairmountCenter.org 440-338-3171 (See ad on page 12)</p> <p>Fine Arts Association fineartsassociation.org 440-951-7500 x2 (See ad on page 20)</p> <p>Girl Scouts of North East Ohio gsneo.org/join (See ad on page 9)</p> <p>Greater Cleveland Aquarium West Bank of Flats, Cleveland Memberships available. greaterclevelandaquarium.com 216-862-8803 (See ad on page 19)</p>	<p>Lake Metroparks Farmpark Kirtland Memberships available lakemetroparks.com 440-256-2122 (See ad on page 17)</p> <p>Playhouse Square Downtown Cleveland Single performance or season tickets available PlayHouseSquare.org 216-241-6000 (See ad on page 5)</p> <p>Rabbit Run Community Arts Association rabbitrun.org (See ad on page 21)</p>
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Outdoor Winter Activities in Your Geauga Park District

Fun for the whole family!

- Go sled-riding
- Try Bird in the Hand
- Check our list of naturalist-led programs
- Go x-country skiing
- Take an exhilarating hike
- Go snowshoeing
You can borrow a pair at The West Woods

Find your adventure at www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Happy Hanukkah

Begins the evening of Sunday, December 18 and ends the evening of Monday, December 26.

space for your

lifestyle



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440-510-8884

LivingSpaceConstruction.net

“Quest for the Stars” exhibit now open at the International Women’s Air & Space Museum

The International Women’s Air & Space Museum (IWASM) is excited to announce the opening of its newest exhibit, “Quest for the Stars” (Quest). This project explores the experiences and impact of the women in the 1960s Woman in Space Program, a project not endorsed by NASA and commonly referred to as the Mercury 13, and women working within NASA itself in our early American space program.

Quest is the first step in the museum’s effort to update exhibits to enhance engagement, representation, and visual appeal while also providing greater accessibility. Learn about the Woman in Space Program participants, the first Native American female aerospace engineer, ‘hidden figures’ such as Katherine Johnson and Annie Easley, and the 1978 NASA astronaut class with the first six female astronaut selections. To provide a fuller understanding of their experiences, the exhibit highlights the unique periods in



which the women lived. Hear in their own words these women’s stories and engage with more content online thanks to the museum’s newly launched YouTube channel via the QR codes in the exhibit.

Located inside Cleveland’s Burke Lakefront Airport, exhibits are free of charge seven days a week from 8 am–8 pm. Guided tours are available M–F by appointment. Gift shop & offices open M–F 10 am–4 pm.

For more information, visit www.iwasm.org or call 216-623-1111. Closed for all major holidays and home games of the Cleveland Browns.

Northeast Ohio Girl Scouts to receive space badge after winning national contest

Have you ever dreamed of owning something that has been to space and back? After winning a national essay contest, this dream will become a reality for three northeast Ohio Girl Scouts when they receive a special badge that has been to space on NASA’s Artemis 1!

In early 2022, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) sponsored the “Girl Scouts to the Moon and Back” essay contest to give Girl Scouts a chance to win a Space Science badge that’s actually been to space!

The national essay contest winners in Northeast Ohio are Evalina D. (Girl Scout Junior in Brecksville), Mary Rose G. (Girl Scout Daisy in Broadview Heights), and Clara W. (Girl Scout Cadette in Avon).

This mission is NASA’s first step

toward the goal of sending the first woman and the first person of color to the moon. The rescheduled launch of Artemis 1 took place early morning on Wednesday, November 16 and the capsule will return to Earth in six to eight weeks.

“We are over the moon for our three Northeast Ohio Girl Scouts,” said Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) CEO Jane Christyson. “Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) is one of four program pillars in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), which builds girls’ skills and encourages their interest in STEM. At Girl Scouts, we encourage our girls to reach for the stars to make their big dreams a reality.”

Join, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, by visiting gsneo.org.



Tickets on Sale Now!

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

Cinderella

Music By
RICHARD RODGERS
Book and Lyrics by
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II



CINDERELLA is presented by arrangement with Contact Theatre as part of the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

Nov. 25 - Dec. 18, 2022

Sensory Friendly Performance on Dec. 4, 2022 at 2:00 pm

38660 Mentor Avenue - Willoughby, Ohio 44094

fineartsassociation.org

440-951-7500 X2



Candy Land Gone to the Birds

Now through January 1, 2023 • 10 am–5 pm

Bring the entire flock back to Penitentiary Glen Reservation to experience a family-favorite holiday tradition—the childhood game of Candy Land — brought to life with an avian twist! It's all about birds, birds, birds as your adventure begins on a life-sized game board where YOU become the playing piece, moving from space to space through an enchanting holiday display of birds. Colorful habitats surround you, and familiar feathered friends are around every twist and turn.

While on your journey, stop at the pretend Wild Bird Clinic and try your hand at helping wildlife. At the very end, climb the bird tower and do some birdwatching, then slide down the spiral slide and play all over again!

But don't stop there — your visit continues with other fun activities at the Nature Center including special weekend programs, indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts, a holiday craft for kids, activity pages, wildlife programs, nature exhibits and more. A keepsake holiday key will be given



to each participant. Shop for unique nature-themed gifts at The Nature Store and relax with hot chocolate in Snowshoe Lodge. Snowshoe rentals are available weather permitting.

Each Saturday during the exhibit, from noon–3 pm, enjoy an outdoor campfire with s'mores and animal chats.

Special Candy Land Gone to the Birds is open 10 am to 5 pm daily through January 1. The exhibit will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. Admission is free for all ages. Registration is not required.

Penitentiary Glen Reservation is located at 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road in Kirtland.

For more info visit <http://goto.lakemetroparks.com/penitentiary-glen>.

Schedule a Merry Meet & Greet at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Plus, see the shark-diving Scuba Claus!

Dive into holiday fun with Scuba Claus at Greater Cleveland Aquarium! Talk to the magical man in red while he's underwater with sharks, stingrays, eels and angelfish on his "nice list." Ask diving questions or share what you ho-ho-hope to see under your tree during Scuba Claus Merry Meet & Greet Days, Wed.–Fri., December 14–16, 5–7:30 pm, or Saturday & Sun., December 17 & 18, 8:30–10 am.

"Guests spend time exploring our fresh and saltwater galleries before ending their visit in the company of Scuba Claus," says Stephanie White, general manager.

All Scuba Claus Merry Meet & Greets include full Aquarium access, a seasonal I-Spy activity, an "I Saw Scuba Claus" pin, the unique opportunity to share "fish-mas" wishes with a Christmas icon and a digital photo of the memorable experience.

"If you have a family member who's nervous about visiting St. Nick, you might want to try meeting



Scuba Claus," says White, noting that although the interaction is live and in real time, the novelty of the situation and the significant wall of acrylic between the scuba-certified old pro and guests can change the dynamic and put young fans at ease.


Scuba Claus Merry Meet & Greets are limited capacity and only available with advance purchase. Tickets are \$24.95 for guests ages 13+, \$18.95 for children ages 2–12. Adult and child annual passholders ages 2+ can reserve tickets for \$5 each. Admission is always free for children younger than 2.

For tickets or details, visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com/event/scuba-claus.

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January 29, 2022
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



You are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun, family and Francis!

- Learn about our academic and religious curriculum
- Get to know our faculty and staff
- Participate in activities around the school
- Meet current St. Francis families

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- ✓ Faith infused throughout the day
- ✓ Variety of extracurricular activities

If you are unable to attend the open house, call us to schedule a tour.

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🌐 sfaschoolgms.org



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Gates Mills, OH 44040

Register now for Winter Classes at Rabbit Run



- **Dance**
 - Ballet
 - Tap/Jazz
 - Creative Movement
 - Hip Hop
 - Modern
 - Lyrical
 - Ballroom
- **Visual Art**
- **Private Music Lessons**

440-428-5913

49 Park St., Madison, OH
rabbitrun.org











Grown-up Gift Ideas

DYSON

www.dyson.com

Dyson V12 Detect Slim Extra™

Dyson's most compact, intelligent cordless vacuum featuring laser illumination to reveal microscopic dust you didn't even know existed. Features include:

- The limited-edition Dyson V12 Detect Slim Extra is the only Dyson vacuum to come with exclusive new tools: the scratch-free dusting brush and awkward gap tool.
- New detangling technology on the Motorbar cleaner automatically detangles long hair and pet hair from the cleaner head as you clean.
- The Dyson V12 Detect Slim Extra also features a single-button power control, making cleaning an easier and more seamless experience.



Dyson Corrale Straightener/Styler Gift Set

The Dyson Corrale™ straightener / styler can create a variety of different styles – from curls and waves to smooth and sleek.

Key features include:

- Suitable for all hair types, the Dyson Corrale straightener features pioneering flexing plate technology, engineered to apply heat and tension evenly across hair strands in each pass, reducing the reliance on heat.
- Due to the lithium-ion battery technology, the Corrale can be used in hybrid mode or cord-free to allow for styling from anywhere, ideal for the office party or touch ups en-route to festive family gatherings.
- Set includes: leather case, detangling comb and paddle brush.



HOSELINK

Retractable Hose Reels

www.hoselink.com

Hoselink's new 50 ft. retractable garden hose reel is a compact wall-mounted unit featuring a high-quality spring-loaded hose that automatically rewinds on command. Its specially designed 'stop-anywhere' locking mechanism secures the hose at any length, preventing your hose from kinking and tangling.

To lengthen, simply walk the hose out and stop wherever you desire. When you've finished, lightly tug the hose to engage its automatic rewind system.



Contains everything you need to get started:

- Hoselink's easy-to-use quick-connect hose fittings.
- Comfort 8-pattern flow control spray nozzle.
- 50 ft. high-quality PVC hose fitted with solid brass hose threads.
- Bracket + installation hardware. (82 ft. reel is available!)

VITAMIX Explorian® Series E310

www.vitamix.com

From appetizers to desserts, the 48-ounce container is ideal for blending medium batches for small family meals.

The ten variable speeds allow you to refine every texture with culinary precision, from the smoothest purées to the heartiest soups.

With the Pulse feature, layer coarse chops over smooth purées for heartier recipes.

The powerful 2-HP motor can handle even tough ingredients to create high-quality blends.



Classes and lessons at Rabbit Run

Registration for winter classes and lessons is now open at Rabbit Run Community Arts Association in Madison. RRCAA is a comprehensive fine arts association offering private and group instruction in all the major disciplines of the fine and performing arts.

Dance classes are available in creative movement, ballet, tap and jazz from preschoolers, who just love to move, to adults looking to get back into shape. Also available are classes in hip hop, modern dance, contemporary and lyrical and ballroom dancing.

The Winter Dance Session begins Jan. 7 and runs through May 12.

School-aged kids will have a great time exploring various mediums while creating one-of-a-kind masterpieces in six-week, after-school art classes focusing on mixed media and sculpting.

All new Canvas Art Workshops are planned throughout the year. In these one-hour virtual sessions, par-

ticipants enjoy painting a seasonal acrylic painting using an original as inspiration. Art supplies are provided in handy art-in-a-bag kits.

Art Club, for school-aged youth, meets Thursdays at the Madison Public Library from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Walk-ins are welcome. There is a \$5 weekly fee.

RRCAA provides a full range of private music instruction from beginner to advanced students in voice, brass, guitar, bass guitar, mandolin, ukulele, woodwinds, piano/keyboard, viola/violin/Suzuki violin, cello and fiddle.

The Winter Session for private music lessons begins Jan. 3 with enrollment continuing through the spring.

For specific class information or to register visit www.rabbitrun.org or call 440-428-5913. RRCAA is a nonprofit organization that receives partial funding from the Ohio Arts Council and is located at 49 Park Street in Madison.

Lake Humane Society needs your help to care for and place over 100 animals

This holiday season you can give hope to the homeless animals at Lake Humane Society by making a donation.

The need is greater than ever. Lake Humane Society reported that more animals are being abandoned than in years past, both in the community and at the shelter's doorstep. During these past few months alone, over 30 cats and kittens have been abandoned at Lake Humane Society.

Lake Humane Society's shelter manager, Megan Newkirk stated, "If you need to surrender your pet, please reach out to Lake Humane Society. Abandoning animals is against the law. Plus, abandoning pets puts strain on our shelter, as we have a set capacity of animals we can house and care for."

Over 100 animals are currently receiving care from Lake Humane Society, and more animals are on the organization's wait list. Newkirk noted, "A lot of animals need our help right now. Please consider making a donation to help us care for them all. And, if you are going to welcome a new pet into your home, please choose adoption!"

Donations will help provide the animals in Lake Humane's care with a warm bed, nutritious food, medical



Donate today and help dogs like Gordon.

treatment, loving care, and most importantly, hope, this holiday season.

Since 1937, Lake Humane Society has been serving pets in need through sheltering, humane investigations, community programs and education. This small, non-profit organization does not receive any county, state or federal funding and relies on community donations to care for pets in need.

To make an online donation visit lakehumane.org.

If you have any questions regarding how to make a donation, contact Elizabeth Johnson, director of development at donate@lakehumane.org or 440-951-6122 ext. 108.

TOY & GIFT Ideas



ROLLPLAY FLEX Kart XL Pedal

Rollplay.com
Ages 6+

Looking to go at your own speed? The ROLLPLAY FLEX Kart XL Pedal is a pedal-powered ride-on that will have kids leaving their bikes behind! In a fun teal color, this ride-on is perfect for ages 6+ looking to take on the neighborhood in a new way.

- **PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL:** Completely kid-powered with no batteries and no recharging necessary, this bold, eye-catching go kart will go as long as your thrill-seeking child does.
- **FOLD TO STORE IN SMALL SPACES:** Effortlessly folds with the press of a button for on-the-go fun or easy storage.
- **GRIP THE GROUND:** Features EVA tires for traction and durability.
- **SIT COMFORTABLY:** Offers an adjustable, two-position bucket seat and easy-grip steering.
- **ENJOY YEARS OF PLAY:** Keeps the fun rolling, as this go kart is suitable for children up to 110 lbs.
- **RIDE WITH CONFIDENCE:** Backed by a limited one-year warranty.



DAN & DARCI

www.dananddarci.com

Quality toys and science kits that are both entertaining and educational! Their lab of mad scientists develop the coolest products for kids ONLY — because they know that while you love to grow your brains and be the smartest one in the room, you're only going to do it if you're having fun!

Advanced Professional Rock Tumbler Kit

Turn rough rocks into beautiful gems! A great science kit & STEM gift for all ages. It's not often that a science project can be fun and engaging, but this kit achieves both! It fascinates children as soon as they pull it out of the box. It fosters a love for science, geology and mineralogy in a fun and exciting way.

Complete kit includes: rock tumbler machine, low-noise barrel, 4 grit packets, 1/2 lb. assorted rough rocks, mesh strainer, jewelry fasteners, gem storage bag, and an illustrated easy-to-follow instruction and learning guide. Visit their website for more information on this and other fun products.



INDESTRUCTIBLES

Baby Faces 4-book set
www.workman.com

Website exclusive 4-book bundle. Chew proof! Rip proof! Nontoxic and 100% washable! Built for the way babies read, Indestructibles are printed on an amazing paper-like material that can't be ripped, torn, or punctured. If the books get dirty, just throw them in the dishwasher or rinse them in the sink. They're made for

baby to hold, grab, chew, pull, and bend. This set of four books introduce baby to key early learning concepts (first words, friendly baby games, and funny faces) and the social-emotional skill of spreading kindness.

EUROGRAPHICS PUZZLES

www.eurographics.ca

Eurographics is a world-leading art publisher and puzzle manufacturer with puzzles that have strong, high-quality pieces made from recycled board and printed with vegetable-based ink. Visit their website to see the huge selection they offer!

EuroGraphics Dog's Life 500-Piece Puzzle



Nothing like coming home to a wagging tail and big smile, a dog is always a great way to brighten up your day!

EuroGraphics Christmas Table 1000-piece Puzzle



Ring in the holiday with this festive Christmas table of desserts—cakes, pies, cookies and other treats to indulge.

EuroGraphics Cocktails 1000-Piece Puzzle



You don't have to go to the cocktail lounge to enjoy a delectable assortment of cocktails! Recipe included on the back of the box.

EuroGraphics Ugly Christmas Sweaters 550-Piece Puzzle



A hilarious tradition to enjoy, who can win the ugliest Christmas sweater contest. This collectible puzzle set features an ugly sweater shaped tin.

Puzzle stored inside shaped tin packaging. Poster included of puzzle image.

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10:30 am–1 pm
Register online.**

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