

greet **LAKWOOD**



Chasing A Cure

How Lakewood neighbors Meghan Griffith and Ben and Alyson Woodard are honoring Chase Griffith's life.



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Lakewood Neighborhood Association
www.lakewoodneighborhood.org

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SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US IN 2026!

- We want your ideas, nominations, and moments that make Lakewood shine!
- Have an inspiring or fun story idea? Let us know!
 - Nominate your **amazing pet** for a chance to be featured.
 - Does your child have a cool **talent or achievement**? We'd love to hear about it!
 - Know someone who's recently **won an award or deserves recognition**?
 - Is your friend or family **giving back** to the community? Let's spotlight their impact!

No story is too small —your contributions bring our neighborhood to life!
 Send your ideas to GreetLakewood@n2co.com or simply scan the QR code to get started.



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What's Inside This Issue

March 2026

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Founded in Lakewood, Chasing a Cure is turning friendship and purpose into meaningful funding for rare kidney cancer research. Led by Meghan Griffith and close friends Ben and Alyson Woodard, the families honor Chase Griffith's legacy through high-energy community events that raise critical funds and awareness for this often-overlooked disease.

FEATURES

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Join business partners and neighbors for an exclusive night to connect our community. Save the date for April 28th and enjoy complimentary headshots!

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We need your help - vote now for the annual Lakewood Fourth of July parade theme.

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A multi-generational East Dallas family business, Summerhill Pools • Outdoor Living designs and builds outdoor spaces meant to last for generations.

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Congratulations to 6722 Lakeshore Drive for being this month's LNA Yard of the Month.

21 Making A Difference

Join neighbor Kelsey Doolan at the Run For The Roses to support The Ashford Rise School of Dallas.

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Aurora Rodriguez
M.A., LPC-Associate (#97557)
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LAKWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

From Our President

We live in a special place. Lakewood is a charming and vibrant neighborhood located in East Dallas, Texas, known for its tree-lined streets, historic homes, and close-knit community feel. Situated near **White Rock Lake**, the area offers a mix of natural beauty and urban convenience, making it an appealing place for families and retirees alike. In my view, Lakewood is a "front yard" neighborhood, where you know your neighbors and feel comfortable with your kids running up and down the streets.

New to the Neighborhood?

When you join the **Lakewood Neighborhood Association (LNA)**, you become part of a member-based organization dedicated to creating a vibrant, safe, and connected community. Through initiatives like the **Crime Watch program, local business discount opportunities**, and fun, engaging **social events**, LNA works to enhance the neighborhood experience for all its residents. The association also plays a crucial role in **neighborhood beautification**, including its commitment to recognizing beautiful yards through Yard of the Month program as well as maintaining the adopted community areas and a section of **White Rock Lake**, ensuring these spaces stay beautiful and well-cared-for. We hope you join us in making the neighborhood the best around!

Upcoming Bulk Trash Pick up

Each Wednesday is trash and recycling pick up while once a month the city conducts a bulk trash pick up.

Brush and Bulky Item Pick Up Dates:

- March 16
- April 13

- April 11 will be Community Clean Trashoff - will accept bulky trash, hazardous waste, and safely shred documents. Check [DallasCityHall.com](https://dallascityhall.com) for more details.

Bulk Trash Pick up Reminders:

- Brush and bulky items must be placed just behind the curb line in front of your home.
- Do not place on the side of your home, in an alleyway, or on property across from or adjacent to your home
- Do not place in the street, on the sidewalk, or in any manner that will interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic or with solid waste collection service
- Do not place within 5 feet of a roll cart, mailbox, fence or wall, water meter, telephone connection box, parked cars, fire hydrant, utility or light pole, or traffic sign
- Do not place under low hanging tree limbs or power line.

LNA Board of Directors 2024-2025

Jesse Smith - President
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Lindsey Pope - Director of Events
Pablo Pascal - Director of Technology

The LNA Board of Directors is an all volunteer based board that meets monthly. The Mission of LNA is to



enhance the security and beautification of the neighborhood, believing that an attractive, safe, and healthy neighborhood increases property values, supports existing businesses, and attracts new merchants. For more information about LNA please email hello@lakewoodna.org.

How to get involved

- Join us at our upcoming events whether it's the Saturday Spruce up at the Lake or our annual meeting.
- If you own or know of a local business that would be interested in participating in the LNA member discount program please let us know. We believe this program is a big benefit to our members and also drive traffic to our participating retailers.
- If your block is hosting an event or block party, please let us know; LNA would be interested in sponsoring and getting to know your area of the neighborhood.
- If you are interested in serving as a block captain, please also let us know.
- And perhaps most importantly, please let your neighbors know about us and encourage them to sign up at <https://lakewoodna.org/join>.



SCAN TO JOIN TODAY

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US Community, Connections, & Cocktails!

Let's raise a glass to
local connection!



You're invited to an exclusive evening where our community's business partners come together for cocktails, conversation, and meaningful connections. This is your chance to mix, mingle, and build relationships that go beyond business cards.

BONUS PERK: Icarus Photography & Video will be on site offering **complimentary professional headshots** — so come camera-ready and bring those business cards!



April 28 | 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Hosted by **Ed Kellum & Son**
5319 E. Mockingbird Lane
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Spots are limited — reserve yours by scanning the QR code or emailing Kirsten.Swanson@n2co.com.

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS



Meghan and Chase Griffith



Chase, Meghan, Fletcher and Harrison Griffith

Some neighbors leave a mark not just by how they lived, but by what continues long after they're gone. In Lakewood, **Chase Griffith** is one of those neighbors.

Chase was diagnosed with Chromophobe Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC), a rare form of kidney cancer, in 2019. After his kidney was removed, the family hoped the worst was behind them. Two years later, the cancer returned—this time metastasized. Chase passed away in 2025, but his fight sparked something powerful: a community-driven nonprofit that is changing the future of research for this overlooked disease.

Chasing A Cure was founded in 2023 by Chase, his wife **Meghan**, his best friend **Ben Woodard**, and Ben's wife **Alyson**. All four met while attending the University of Oklahoma and now call Lakewood home. What began as a conversation between friends—sparked by Chase's determination to help others facing the same diagnosis—quickly grew into a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to funding research for Chromophobe RCC.

Chromophobe RCC accounts for only about five percent of kidney cancer tumors. While many cases behave less aggressively, a subset spreads rapidly and has historically been misunderstood as “favorable,” leading to a severe lack of research funding and targeted treatments. As therapies for more common kidney cancers advanced, outcomes for patients with metastatic chromophobe RCC remained grim.



The Woodard Family and The Griffith Family at the First Chasing A Cure Golf Tournament in 2023

A Lakewood Legacy

THAT LIVES ON

Meghan Griffith and Ben and Alyson Woodard lead Chasing A Cure together, continuing Chase Griffith's vision of hope and progress for families facing rare kidney cancers.



Chase Griffith



Chasing A Cure 2025 Tournament

Chase receiving treatments.



That imbalance began to change in 2021, when patients and families helped launch the Kidney Cancer Research Alliance's Chromophobe Research Grant Program—the first initiative ever created specifically to fund research for this rare subtype. The program is uniquely patient-driven, with patients helping set priorities and even selecting grant recipients alongside medical experts. Since its inception, grants have funded chromophobe-specific research at leading institutions including Dana-Farber, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute.

Chasing A Cure exists to fuel that momentum. Every dollar raised through the organization's events goes directly to the KCCure Chromophobe Grant Program. Since hosting its inaugural golf tournament in the spring of 2023, Chasing A Cure has raised more than \$250,000 for research—an extraordinary achievement for a grassroots nonprofit rooted right here in East Dallas.

“Doing good should also feel good.”



Meghan and the boys.



Chasing A Cure Tennis Tournament at Lakewood Country Club



Clay Shoot in Oklahoma

Those fundraising events are anything but ordinary. An annual golf tournament at Tenison Park, a Tennis 105 event at Lakewood Country Club, and a fall clay shoot in Oklahoma are intentionally designed to feel less like traditional fundraisers and more like neighborhood celebrations. Expect DJs instead of quiet fairways, creative competitions, unexpected surprises, and local food people actually want to eat. From choosing tee boxes with a game of cornhole to team-themed tennis matches, the focus is on joy, connection, and making meaningful work feel accessible and fun.

That spirit reflects Chase himself—and the community that rallied around him.

Today, Chasing A Cure remains deeply personal. Ben left his career in cybersecurity in 2024 to focus full-time on the organization. Both the Griffith and Woodard families are fully involved, including their children—Fletcher (14), Harrison (12), Arch (14) and William (11)—who attend local Lakewood schools and grow up witnessing what it means to turn loss into purpose.

Headquartered in Lakewood, Chasing A Cure is a testament to what happens when friendship, resilience, and community come together. It is proof that meaningful change doesn't always start in laboratories or boardrooms—sometimes it starts with neighbors refusing to let a story end too soon.

To learn more, donate, or get involved, visit chasingacure.life. Because in Lakewood, doing good should also feel good.

Good People. Great Cause.

JOIN US ON THE COURSE

4th Annual
Chasing A Cure Invitational
Presented by Triumph Financial

Friday, April 17, 2026
Tenison Park Golf Course
9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Grab your friends and join Lakewood neighbors for a morning of golf, community, and purpose. All proceeds benefit research for Chromophobe Renal Cell Carcinoma through the KCCure Chromophobe Grant Program.

Registration and sponsorship opportunities available at chasingacure.life

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Last Chance to Vote for the 2026 Lakewood Fourth of July Parade Theme

One of Lakewood's most beloved traditions is back—and we need your help to make it unforgettable! Planning is officially underway for the **2026 Lakewood Fourth of July Parade**, and it all starts with choosing the theme that will inspire our floats, costumes, music, and neighborhood creativity.

This year, the parade committee has narrowed it down to **three fun, patriotic options**, and now it's your turn to vote:

- We the People
- Stars Through the Years
- Red, White & You
- Party like It's 1776
- Happy Birthday America



No matter which theme wins, one thing is certain: the Lakewood Fourth of July Parade will once again be filled with creativity, tradition, and hometown pride. Cast your vote, spread the word, and help shape one of our favorite summer celebrations!

Voting is open now until MARCH 27
—don't miss your chance to have a say!



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Save the Date 5th Annual Mothers' Brunch & Bazaar

Join the Nexus Auxiliary and Nexus Family Recovery Center for the 5th Annual Mothers' Brunch & Bazaar on Monday, April 13, 2026, at the Dallas Country Club.

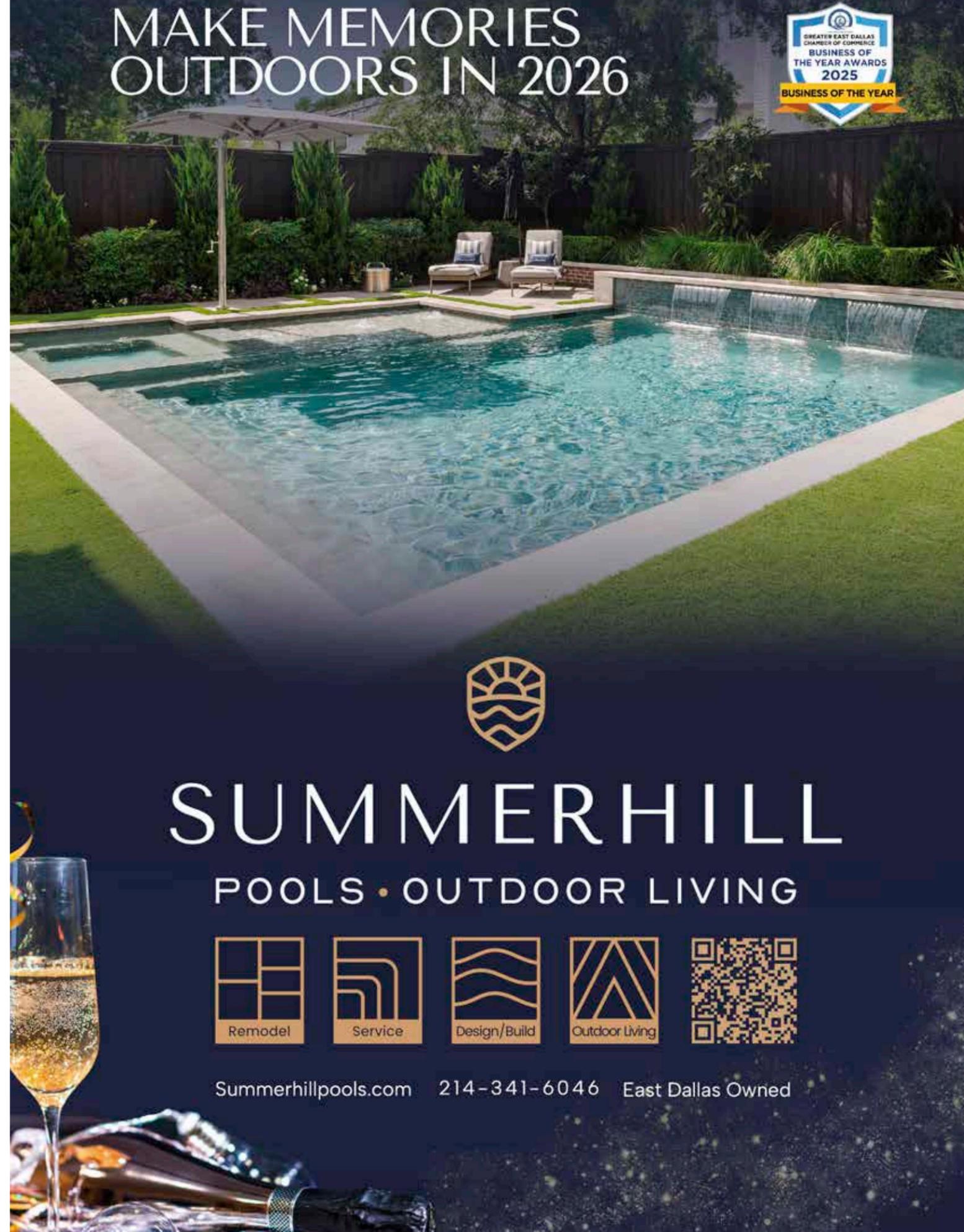
Celebrate the strength and resilience of mothers in our community with a joyful morning of shopping, friendship, and brunch — all in support of recovery and hope.



11:00 a.m. Shopping
12:00 p.m. Brunch
1:00 p.m. Shopping

Honorary Chairs: Maggie Kipp and Cathleen Griffith
2026 Event Chairs: Rachel Miller and Peggy Corrigan

Join us and purchase tickets at:
<https://nexusrecovery.org/brunch/>



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PRECISION BY DESIGN

WHY SUMMERHILL POOLS • OUTDOOR LIVING IS THE BENCHMARK FOR DALLAS CRAFTSMANSHIP

PHOTO CREDIT: JIN KIM STUDIO

For East Dallas homeowners who possess a deep-seated love for the outdoors, the backyard is more than a mere plot of land; it is a primary venue for living and a sanctuary that reflects the unique character of our community. “At Summerhill Pools • Outdoor Living, we believe these spaces should feel like a natural, seamless extension of the home—architecturally beautiful, highly functional, and built to endure for generations,” says Michelle Reed. This philosophy began in 1989 when founder Mark McCaffrey established the company on a singular premise: construction done right. With a career dating back to 1978, Mark recognized early on that long-term value is born from the fundamentals of rigorous planning, superior materials, and disciplined execution.

Summerhill grew into a multi-generational, family-owned boutique firm built on relationships. Michelle Reed, Mark’s daughter, joined in 1994, bringing a refined design perspective and a client-first approach rooted in being genuine and communicating clearly. Her husband David Reed added 30 years of pool construction expertise that strengthened the technical foundation of every project, reinforcing the kind of distinguished build quality that clients can feel in the finished product. In 2019, Matthew—Michelle’s brother—joined the crew. And in 2022, Lain, David and Michelle’s son, became an integral part of the operations team. That’s the “family” part in action: people who care deeply, stepping in to make sure the experience stays steady from start to finish.

What truly distinguishes a Summerhill project is an

engineering-first approach designed to protect the homeowner’s investment. “We utilize our in-house landscape architect, Bryce Bartlett to master complex site constraints and elevations before the first shovel hits the dirt,” says Michelle. This level of preparation ensures a smoother build with a defined project scope, protecting you from drastic changes in timeline or pricing. Their recent recognition in 2025 as the Business of the Year by the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce is a testament to this consistency. “We prioritize innovation that serves longevity, integrating high-efficiency systems and advanced 3D modeling to optimize how a family actually interacts with their environment,” says Michelle.

Ultimately, a Summerhill backyard is a lifestyle catalyst. Whether through new pool construction, meticulous

remodeling, or the addition of outdoor kitchens, fireplaces, and putting greens, their firm specializes in the total transformation of your outdoor space.

That commitment continues long after the build; from the initial 3D design to weekly professional maintenance overseen by Carrie Busse, Summerhill Pools • Outdoor Living remains dedicated to the longevity of your investment. The firm doesn’t just build pools; they curate the backdrop for your family’s most cherished memories, ensuring every detail is as reliable and distinguished as the home it complements.

Visit summerhillpools.com to meet the team or schedule your consultation.



“We prioritize innovation that serves longevity, integrating high-efficiency systems and advanced 3D modeling to optimize how a family actually interacts with their environment.”



Photo by Rachuig Photography

6722 Lakeshore Drive

*Congratulations to the Lakewood Neighborhood Association
Yard of the Month winner — 6722 Lakeshore Drive!*

THIS STATELY TUDOR-STYLE HOME makes a striking impression with its classic brick façade and timeless architectural details. Manicured hedges and symmetrical garden beds frame the front walkway beautifully, while thoughtfully placed greenery softens the home's bold lines. The balanced landscaping and crisp curb appeal create a polished, welcoming presence that stands out along Lakeshore. A wonderful example of elegance and neighborhood pride, this yard perfectly reflects the charm that makes Lakewood so special.



Nominate a yard today! Email GreetLakewood@n2co.com

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RUN FOR THE ROSES... AND FOR RISE

KELSEY DOOLAN, NEIGHBOR, RISE
SCHOOL PARENT & ADVOCATE



Mark your calendars and dust off your Derby hats — **Runway for Rise** returns on Saturday, April 25, at The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas. Hosted by The Ashford Rise School of Dallas, this annual Kentucky Derby-themed fashion show begins with a welcome reception at 10 a.m., followed by the runway show at 11 a.m. Guests are encouraged to wear their best Derby attire for a festive morning of fashion, fun, and philanthropy — all in support of local children and families.

The Ashford Rise School of Dallas, a program of the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas, provides exceptional early education for children ages six months to six years — with and without disabilities — in an inclusive environment. Through comprehensive education, intervention, and therapy during these formative years, Rise ensures each child receives individualized support. Master's-level educators, along with on-staff speech, occupational, physical, and music therapists, collaborate to meet every student's unique needs. Events like Runway for Rise directly support families in our community who rely on these services, helping children grow, learn, and thrive alongside their peers. It's a meaningful opportunity to show up for our neighbors while celebrating a truly special mission.

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MEET OUR EDUCATORS



From The Netherlands to Lakewood: Regina Swerts' 20-Year Journey in Education

Now at White Rock Montessori, she helps students discover their own answers — and their own confidence.

This month, we're proud to spotlight Regina Swerts, a Lower Elementary teacher at White Rock Montessori whose passion for student independence and discovery has shaped classrooms for two decades. With 20 years in education — spanning continents and grade levels — Regina brings both global perspective and deep Montessori roots to her work with students in Grades 1–3.

I love to guide students toward discovering answers for themselves. I want them to think independently and learn how to find solutions on their own.

Below, she shares more about her journey, her philosophy, and where you might see her around Lakewood.

How long have you been in education?

What grade levels have you taught?

I am in my 20th year of education. I started in The Netherlands teaching for the Department of Defense at the high school level. I then spent 14 years in Montessori Upper Elementary (Grades 4–6) before moving to Lower Elementary (Grades 1–3) for the last four years. I've been at White Rock Montessori for eight years.

What is your teaching style? I love to guide students toward discovering answers for themselves. I want them to think independently and learn how to find solutions on their own. In Montessori, we encourage students to follow their passions, develop independence, and understand their role in our global community.

What is your favorite part about teaching? The “aha” moments. When a student's eyes light up and you can see their wheels turning as they connect new ideas to concepts they've already learned.

Do you have a role model or guiding quote? Maria Montessori is my role model. She believed in empowering children and giving them a strong sense of worth, knowing our future is in their hands. I also love this quote: “The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, ‘The children are now working as if I did not exist.’” It reminds me to put my faith and trust in the children.

What do you enjoy outside the classroom? I love gardening. There's something incredibly joyful about starting plants from seed and watching them grow into something you can harvest. Tomatoes are my favorite — though I always run out of space because I want to grow too many varieties! I also donate extra plants to our school garden.

Where might we run into you in the community? You'll likely find me at Lochland's, grabbing coffee at White Rock Coffee on my way to work, browsing at Scents and Succulents, or enjoying Taco Joint — my absolute favorite.

From cultivating independence in the classroom to tending tomatoes in her garden, Regina Swerts continues to nurture growth wherever she plants her roots — and Lakewood is better for it.

Nominate a Teacher Today: GreetLakewood@n2co.com

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Should You Add Authorized Users to Your Financial Accounts?

BY: BRAD CLARK, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, FROST BANK



Whether you're supporting an aging parent, helping your child manage their finances, or planning ahead for potential emergencies, there may come a time when shared access to financial accounts becomes necessary. Adding an "authorized user" on certain accounts allows a trusted person to view balances, pay bills or make specific transactions on the account owner's behalf. While it can be a convenient option, everyone involved should understand how authorized access works and the potential risks.

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCESS

It's important to distinguish between an authorized user and other types of shared access like joint accounts or financial power of attorney (POA). Adding a joint owner means the assets in that account become theirs as much as yours — and can impact their taxes, credit and estate planning. POA is different — it's a legal document that provides far broader authority to manage another person's complete financial affairs (especially if they become incapacitated). By comparison, authorized users have much less control — typically restricted to specific accounts and basic transactions. In many families, a thoughtful combination of these tools creates flexibility while protecting everyone's interests.

WHY ADD AN AUTHORIZED USER?

There are several common scenarios where naming an authorized user (or becoming one) can be helpful:

- Spouses may add each other to accounts that aren't jointly owned.
- Young adults may include parents for guidance or emergency assistance.
- Retirees can add adult children to help manage their finances and reduce fraud risk.
- Anyone may wish to have a backup to handle urgent situations if they're traveling or otherwise unavailable.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Keep these things in mind if you're thinking about adding authorized users:

- 1. Trust is critical.** Even with limited authority, an irresponsible or dishonest user can create problems, so choose carefully. To avoid complex family dynamics, some people name a trusted outsider — like a family office manager or business advisor — as an authorized user.
- 2. Coordinate across accounts.** Without giving blanket authority, it can be helpful to grant a user access to multiple accounts in case they need to transfer funds for liquidity purposes.
- 3. Cross-check with your estate plan.** Authorized users, joint owners and POAs each have different implications for asset control, incapacity and how accounts are handled at death. Consult your advisors to make decisions with confidence and review all access privileges periodically. Not sure which type of shared access is right for your situation? Contact Brad Clark at 214.515.4870 or Brad.Clark@frostbank.com to help you evaluate options and align account access with your broader financial plan.

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Henry the Eyes & Ears

BY: MARIE GRIFFITH, JUNIOR RESIDENT CONTRIBUTOR



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Hi readers! My name is Henry, and I am a Terrier mix. My family, the Larkin's, adopted me from Forget Me Not Rescue Texas, which is a group based in Lakewood! The group had posted me on Petfinder during Labor Day weekend in 2024, and I looked a lot like their dog, Zoey, who had passed a few years prior. The Larkin's had been wanting a dog for their daughter to grow up with, and they just could not resist my cute face!

Something unique about me is that I love frozen blueberries, and I love to hide my peanut butter flavored bones in the backyard. I also love to snuggle and am very friendly to everyone that I meet. I instantly try to become best friends with anyone who comes over to our house. I am a firm believer in "strangers are just friends you haven't met yet."

My favorite toy is my squeaky gingerbread stuffed animal. I love to play tug-of-war with it. I also enjoy chasing balls in our backyard, as well as taking long walks on nice days around Lakewood! My favorite spot in our house is on the top of the back sofa cushions in the sunroom, which has floor to ceiling windows. I love to lounge in there and people (and dog) watch! I am the eyes and ears of the neighborhood.

Finally, I am very spoiled. The Larkin's daughter loves to give me an unlimited number of treats and bones. I'm definitely not complaining. I also have multiple beds around the house. Well, I hope you enjoyed learning about me! I hope to see you on a long walk!

Nominate your Pet of Lakewood today at linktr.ee/greetlakewood

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SPRING IS HERE, and it's the perfect time for kids to unleash their creativity! Forget plain pastel eggs—this year, turn your Easter eggs into true masterpieces.

What You'll Need

- Hard-boiled eggs (or hollowed eggs)
- Paint, markers, or crayons

Optional: glitter, stickers, tissue paper, or small craft embellishments

Steps

- 1. Choose a theme:** From rainbow patterns to polka dots, flowers, or even tiny animals, let your imagination lead.
- 2. Decorate:** Mix colors, layer patterns, or try marbling techniques using shaving cream or watercolor washes.
- 3. Add details:** Use small craft materials for texture, like tissue paper petals, sequins, or stickers.
- 4. Display:** Create a mini “egg gallery” at home—on a tray, in a basket, or even hanging from branches for a colorful spring display.

Let your creativity guide you—there are no mistakes in art! Experiment with textures and colors to make each egg unique.” Beyond being a fun spring activity, this project encourages kids to explore color, pattern, and design—all while celebrating the season.

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NEW YEAR, NEW VIBE: LAKEWOOD WOMEN GATHER FOR INTENTION & IMPACT

BY: JANE BALLARD, LCSW-S, CEDS, PMH-C FOUNDER, JANE BALLARD WELLNESS & RESIDENT CONTRIBUTOR

On January 23, Lakewood neighbors gathered at Roam Soul Mining Studio for the second annual New Year New Vibe sign up party — an evening rooted in intention, connection, and community impact.

Hosted by Jane Ballard Wellness in collaboration with Lauren Cureton of Lauren Cureton Breath and Sound, Caroline Mooi, and Dejah Fortenberry — all Lakewood parents and longtime supporters of Lakewood Early Childhood PTA — the event brought together women from across the neighborhood for a meaningful start to the year. The gathering was originally sold as a sign up party at the November LECPTA auction, with proceeds supporting Lakewood Elementary School and the DISD East Dallas feeder schools.

Rather than focusing on rigid resolutions, New Year New Vibe invited guests to reflect on what they want more of in 2026. Through guided journaling, small group conversations, breathwork, and sound healing, attendees explored personal values, clarified goals, and set intentions designed to feel sustainable and aligned. The atmosphere was warm

and welcoming — more intimate gathering than formal workshop — with neighbors reconnecting and meeting new friends in the spirit of shared growth.

The morning highlighted what makes Lakewood special: parents supporting local schools, women supporting one another, and small businesses creating spaces for authentic connection.

For neighbors who could not attend but would like to experience the intention-setting process at home, readers can access a complimentary copy of the New Year New Vibe Workbook by Jane Ballard by scanning the attached QR code.

Here's to another year of growth, generosity, and vibrant community in Lakewood.



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7233 Brennans	Maple Wood	\$2,750,000	01/30/26	103	4	4.2	5,276	2016
6435 Glenrose	Country Club Estates	\$1,995,000	01/23/26	5	4	4.1	4,341	2013
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