

# Lake Country

## THIS MONTH

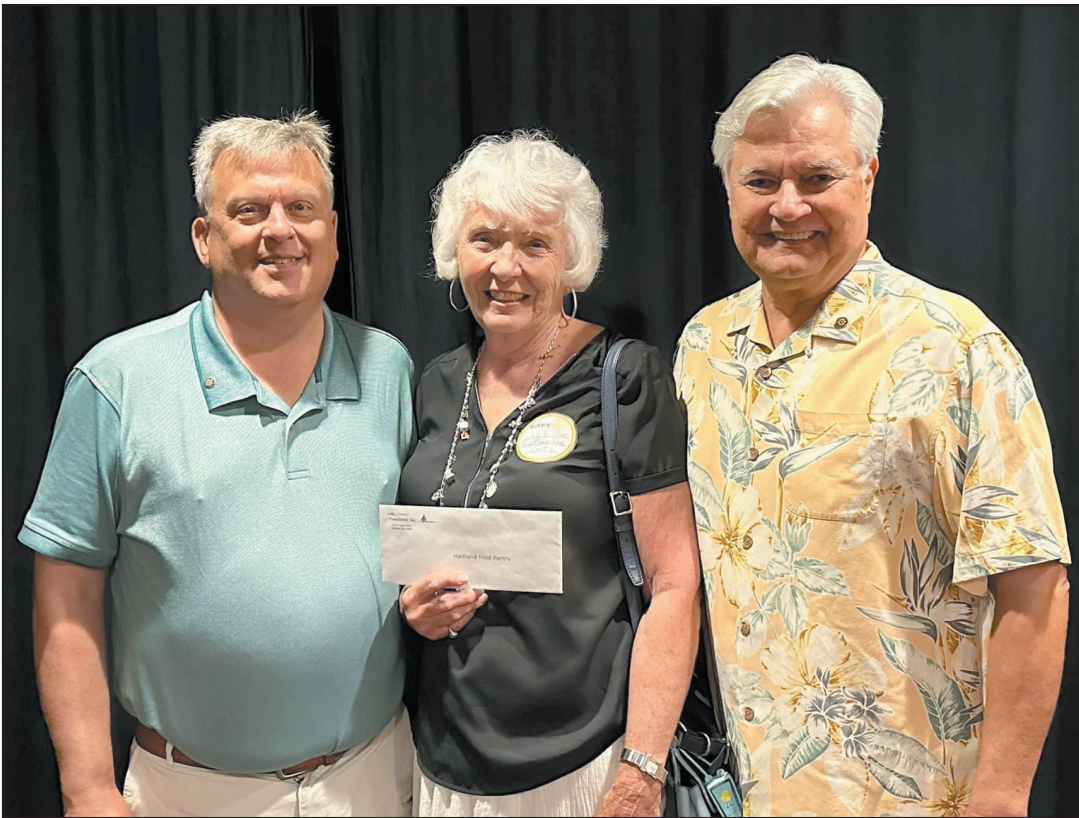
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### Yule Feed Families Holiday Drive still going strong for over 30 years

Drive feeds families at five pantries in Lake Country

By Karen Pilarski  
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262-513-2657

WAUKESHA — Gary Jasiek and Scott Peterson have been on a decades-long mission to fight hunger in Lake Country. The men launched the Yule Feed Families food drive 33 years ago. Jasiek worked at the Lake Country Reporter as the publisher and Peterson as the editor. The paper, which no longer exists, helped with the drives. Jasiek came up with the idea to include the Lake Country Rotary Club. “We are both members of Lake Country Rotary. In 1993, we went to the Rotary Board and asked if they wanted to be partners on this. They all thought it was a good idea,” Peterson said. They started the drive off small. “We decided to do a \$500 total donation to four food pantries, and that is how it started,” Jasiek said. The drive began by giving to Hartland, Pewaukee, North Lake and Kettle Moraine. Several years later, St. Vincent de Paul in Hartland was named as a fifth pantry. The first year went very well and the amount of money and nonperishable food items has steadily increased over the years. “The Yule Feed Families food drive in Lake Country has collected \$989,883.41 in cash plus 44,286 grocery items as of 2022. In addition, Yule Feed Families’ spinoff efforts at sister newspapers in Mukwonago, Oconomowoc and Sussex collected for those community’s respective pantries (before changes at the newspaper ended



Courtesy of Scott Peterson  
The Yule Feed Families food drive has been going strong for 33 years. Pictured are Scott Peterson, Joy Vilter of the Hartland Food Pantry and Gary Jasiek after presenting a check to Vilter earlier in 2023.

#### How the Yule Feed works

Annually the Yule Feed starts right after Thanksgiving and ends right before Christmas. In 2023, the drive runs Nov. 17 to Dec. 22.

**How to help:** Donations can be handled many ways. Checks can be made out to the Rotary Club’s partner 501(c)3 organization, Lake Country Foundation, or the pantry of your choice. (For tax purposes, do not make out checks to Yule Feed Families.) Payment online can be done through the PayPal account link at <https://rb.gy/g7vi13>.

Grocery donations can be dropped off during the drive at North Shore Middle School, 800 W. North Shore Drive, in the Hartland-Delafield area during school hours.

those drives) elevated the grand total as of 2022 to \$1,165,642.14 and 44,286 in groceries as of 2022,” the Rotary website said. It brings a tear to Peterson’s eye when he sees a huge donation. “There are a lot of generous people in Lake Country who were very willing to give. We also had nice people in our (Rotary) Club to be so generous. It really helped propel it,” Peterson said.

See FOOD, PAGE 2

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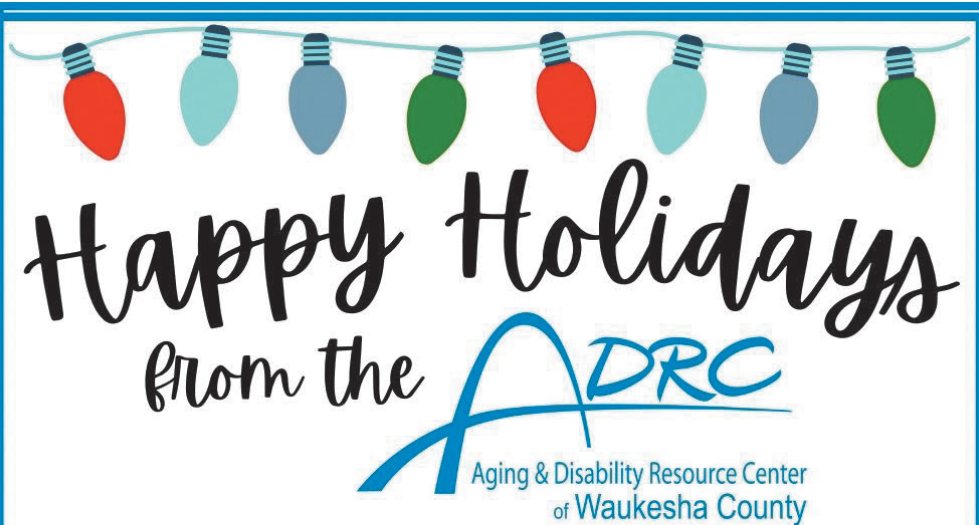
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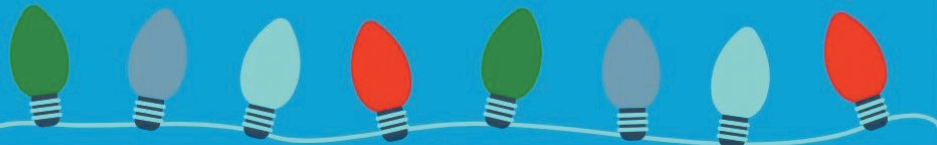


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## Food

From Page 1

### Stories from the food pantries

Donation totals are calculated in February, and they invite the directors of the food pantries to a meeting.

“In addition to giving them a check, they talk about what the money means, the people that they serve, how they serve them and each pantry director has a different story and different ways the money has helped,” Jasiek said.

That has always been impactful for the Rotary members.

“It’s not just sending an organization a check, but it is someone there to say how this helped pay someone’s rent and buy medication. It goes beyond just food,” he said.

One experience that has stuck with Peterson came when he worked for the Hartford Times Press in the ’80s. He interviewed someone who worked at a food pantry that discussed how difficult it was for her growing up. Often her family didn’t have food. The woman would go to bed at night with hunger pains.

“There is nothing more important than food at any time, but especially when we think about how bountiful our lives are and how much we have and the holidays. To know there are people without food is a troubling thing. Such a basic thing,” Peterson said.

It is an easy thing people can help with through donations.

Jasiek said many people think that in Lake Country food insecurity shouldn’t be an issue.

“There are stories of people who lost their job, someone has gotten sick, medical bills and insurance didn’t cover everything. A child became sick and a parent could no longer work due to having to be at home,” he said.

Financial issues affect everyone no matter if they live in an affluent area or not.

For more information on the Lake Country Rotary and Yule Feed, visit <https://lakecountryrotary.org/>.

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# Waukesha County Board Chairman Paul Decker not seeking re-election

## Has served as chair since 2012

**By Karen Pilarski**  
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262-513-2657

WAUKESHA — Waukesha County Board Chair Paul Decker announced on Dec. 4 he will not seek re-election this spring.

Decker was appointed to the County Board in 2009 to represent the Hartland area and has served as County Board chair since 2012. The decision not to run again wasn't an easy one for the soon-to-be 72-year-old. After speaking with his family, friends and doctors, he decided he wants to spend more time with loved ones. Decker has dealt with health challenges over the years including cancer, heart issues, and a bout with pneumonia. Right now, he said he is doing well but the body can only do so much.

"Just breathing sometimes going up steps for me now with the pneumonia. It did some real damage. I recovered and I think I'm recovering even more so. Talking with family, you are weighing that and they're giving their side. Obviously there's the emotional side," Decker said.

Decker said he feels older in body but younger in spirit, which is the most painful part for him. He still finds the work in county government to be very stimulating.

"I really enjoy serving the people of Waukesha County," he said.

"I'd like to thank Chairman Decker for his tireless work to address the diverse needs of our community. Since I was first elected as county executive in 2015, Chairman Decker has been a tremendous partner," said County Executive Paul Farrow in a statement. "His leadership played a critical role in guiding the county through a pandemic, passing significant projects such as the Courthouse renovation plan and several unanimously supported budgets. His unwavering commitment to public service has undoubtedly played a significant role in shaping the county's growth and development. The chairman's dedication to transparency, collaboration and fiscal responsibility has set a high standard for local governance, putting the needs of the county residents first, and for all of that I am grateful for his service. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors."

### Keys to leadership

The community has always inspired the Hartland resident. Before he served on the board, he was already serving in other capacities.

"A lot of it came as I

recovered from cancer. I did some consulting and it happened to be on something that was more community oriented. Then I was doing some cancer care items and went on the board of the American Cancer Society," he said.

Decker served as Rotary district governor in 2009 where he went out to 60 communities in southeastern Wisconsin.

"You see people are really concerned about what's going on," Decker said.

This was during a recession, and it had taken its toll on people. It was Decker's positivity and hopefulness that helped others.

"I would give presentations to the Rotary Clubs, and I had several members come and say you could really go a step up," Decker said.

Daniel Vrakas, former Waukesha County executive, told Decker he would be very good on the County Board. Decker was already serving on the Hartland Planning Commission.

"You get to really see the deep dives and how the infrastructure comes together, forward planning you have to do. Then you have to learn that in public life patience, which has never been one of my best virtues, is part of the plan," he said.

What he learned through cancer and cancer treatment was patience and more importantly, patience with himself.

"Once you have that inner patience, it transforms you a little bit better. There are still times when you learn not to react all the time. That's a big leadership principle," he said.

An opening on the board was there and Decker was appointed.

"I really enjoyed the scope. I had an idea what the county does to the benefit of people's daily lives. It was really appealing to me. How can I be helpful and that people know what we do. In the 10-plus years, the politics have become big to people," Decker said.

Decker has also taught for over 20 years through Waukesha County Technical College and has done guest lectures through other schools. His teaching was about helping students build better businesses and being more creative with how they apply their talents and tools.

In government, it was about "how do we help people do their best or be their best," he said.

As a leader and instructor, Decker has emphasized pragmatic decision making.

"That is one of the things I had to do with the board. Let's look at the entire decision making, what are the ramifications and that deliberateness? I know I'm



Courtesy of Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

Waukesha County Board Chair Paul Decker announced he is not seeking re-election. Decker has served as board chair since 2012.

talking to other people and some of the people appreciate that," he said.

Decker joked that's "an advantage of getting partly old and the experiences you've seen it and done it."

Decker said his business career has prepared him very well for his role as chairman. Time moves quickly and underscores the importance of planning ahead.

"Well, I have found since I've been a chair, especially five years comes quickly. Some of those decisions we make as far as financing or what we are going to build, you're glad you are out there planning it ahead of time," Decker said.

### The future

Decker said one thing he has tried to emphasize is process and procedure.

"When we stay with our process, we stay with our procedure. We stay with our ability to ask great questions. That's our job and we do respectfully, we get a lot done," he said.

He added, "We do our jobs and maintain that decorum and respect for each other. I think we've really had that in this term. There's a good back and forth. You know, colleagues are learning to work together," he said.

Decker's hope is the board continues with good dialogue and keeps moving things in the county forward. After the April election, Decker wants to travel with his wife, Paula, and visit more with family and friends.

He is thankful he has been able to contribute beyond even what he thought he could to the community.

### Did you know?

Paul Decker was appointed in January 2009 to the County Board after Jim Behrend was elected Register of Deeds and vacated the District 13 seat. Decker served 14 months and was elected to the board in 2010.

Decker has served as County Board chair since 2012.

During Decker's time as chair, the County Board dealt with a number of significant issues, including:

- Construction of a new Health and Human Services Building
- Reducing the County Board chair position to part-time
- Sale of Wanaki Golf Course
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Remodeling of the County Courthouse
- Investing in infrastructure projects, notably the West Waukesha Bypass and expansion of North Avenue
- Passage of balanced budgets that maintained the county's AAA/Aaa bond rating

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# Clean Juice wants to make eating healthy easy and convenient



**What's the Dish?**  
Waukesha County restaurant news

By Katherine Beck  
kbeck@conley.net.com

Eating and drinking healthy is not a trend, nor something new, but “a return to tradition” at **Clean Juice** in Oconomowoc.

Now open, Clean Juice in Pabst Farms, 1370 Pabst Farms Circle, Unit 300, is a franchise location of a company with more than 100 restaurants. Local franchise owners Claudia and Charlie Wiggins believe in the food and beverages the company makes, as well as its focus on Christian values. The Oconomowoc location will be the first in the state. Claudia Wiggins said everything on the menu is certified organic.

The menu includes wraps, sandwiches, acai bowls, salads, toast, smoothies, and of course, fresh juice and cold-pressed juice. Options include The Ultimate Grilled Cheese and a Veggie Wrap, as well as The Cold Brew Bowl, The Nutty Bowl and The Berry Bowl. Toast topping options include avocado, hummus and almond butter.

Smoothies pack a punch. For example, “The So Basic One” has almond butter, almond milk, banana, maple syrup and strawberries. “The Tropical One” lists banana, coconut oil, coconut water, kale and pineapple as ingredients. Protein smoothies are another menu option. Both cold-pressed juices and wellness shots come in prepackaged bottles. There is also a kids menu.

Cleanses offered by Clean Juice are another popular option, she said. Cleanses are geared toward anti-inflammatory, immunity, energy and more. According to the Clean Juice website, options available can be used for a half-day, a whole day or multiple days. ... “whatever you feel works best for your lifestyle.”

Businesses like Clean Juice are becoming increasingly popular, Wiggins said, because people are becoming more nutritionally aware. And Clean Juice offers a “very easy, healthy grab-and-go lunch or breakfast option.”

Claudia wanted to bring an easy, healthy eating option to Oconomowoc after working full-time as a traveling sales rep and finding it hard to eat while on the go.

“That inspired us to bring this to the community,” she said.

For its opening weekend, Clean Juice partnered with Zachariah’s Acres to help connect people with disabilities to the land. The money raised will go toward Zachariah’s Acres’ educational kitchen.

## Coming and going

Whether it’s because you didn’t pack your own lunch for work, or just want something flavorful



Photo courtesy of Clean Juice

The Loaded Avocado Toast is one of the healthy toast options served at Clean Juice in Oconomowoc.



Photo courtesy of Clean Juice

Clean Juice serves sandwiches, salads, wraps, smoothies, juices and more made with organic ingredients in Oconomowoc.

to eat with friends, **The Lunch Box Deli** in Menomonee Falls has got you covered. Recently opened at N88-W16683 Main St., the restaurant offers a menu of hot and cold sandwiches and soups. One of the hot sandwiches, Great Balls of Fire, is made with meatballs, provolone, giardiniera peppers, and sriracha hot honey. Served cold, the Turkey Gobbler has a blend of turkey and Colby Jack cheese. Soups include chicken poblano, creamy tomato bisque and chili. Mac and cheese and salads also fill the menu, as well as bagels and breakfast options.

If instead you found yourself in the mood for a hot chicken sandwich at **Here Chicky Chicky** at 20340 W. Lord St. in The Corners of Brookfield, make other plans as the restaurant with a retro vibe has closed. The restaurant opened Oct. 20, 2022 and was a spinoff of co-owner Tamar Mizrahi’s other café, **Goddess and the Baker**, also located in The Corners.

(Have a Waukesha County restaurant news tip? Email Katherine Beck at kbeck@conley.net.com.)



Photo courtesy of Susie Thomas

Claudia and Charlie Wiggins stand in front of their new business, Clean Juice, with their children, Savannah and Austin. Their other son, Charlie, is not pictured. The restaurant serves sandwiches, salads, smoothies and juices made with organic ingredients in Pabst Farms in Oconomowoc.



Hartland village documents

A large crowd, which the village estimated at 6,000, gathered in Hartland to view the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train roll through the village. During its stop, a band played out of one of the train cars.

## Hartland welcomes Holiday Train

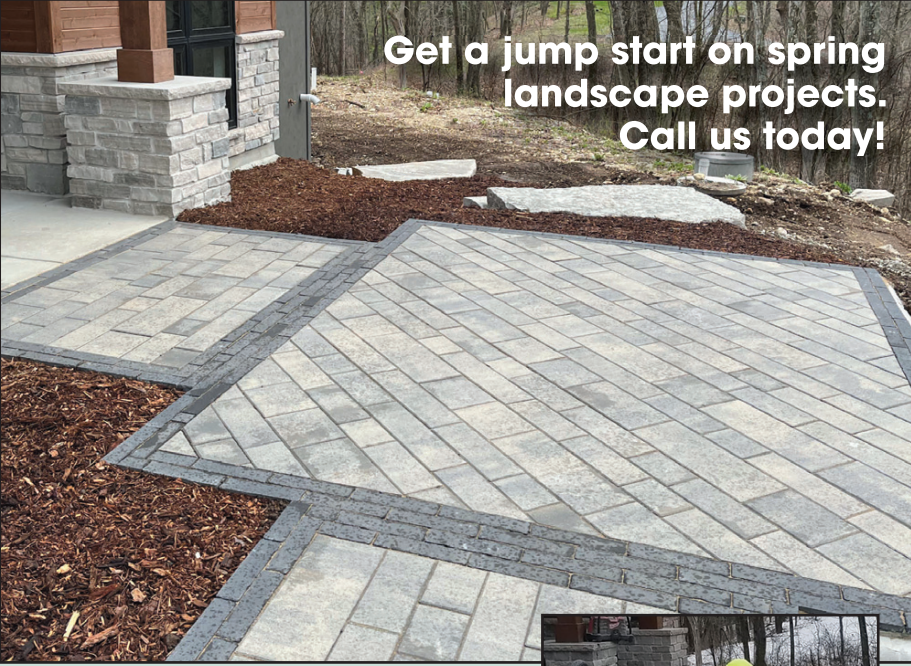
**HARTLAND** — The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train rolled through Hartland on Dec. 4. Residents who came to watch the train donated 4,800 pounds of food and \$6,150 for two food pantries. Canadian Pacific also donated \$4,500.



Food Pantry representatives, Village Board members and village employees gather for a photo with the donations gathered at the Holiday Train event. Left to right, Mary Pfeiffer, Barb Howland, Sandee Policello, Ryan Bailey, Andrew Kristensen, Amy Mattox, Jazzmin Wetzell, Sara Rennekamp, Brian Mundy, Cory Bahr, Nicholas Greenwood, Leo Jungbluth, Austin Buchholz, Tom Jensen and Tim Fischer.

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