

# Keeping Tradition Alive In Grandview Heights, Ohio: A 70 Year Celebration Of The Cake Walk

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Girl Scout Gold Award Project, April 2019

Grandview Heights H.S. Class of 2020



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# INTRODUCTION AND THANKS

## “A SWEET SUCCESS”



I wrote this book for my Girl Scout Gold Award project because I love the Grandview Cake Walk. It is one of the oldest community events in the City of Grandview Heights, Ohio, and it celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 5, 2019. I also want to educate future Grandview residents and students about the importance of Grandview’s band and music education programs. Hopefully, this book will contribute to the recorded history of Grandview, and will preserve the origins and progress of this community-defining event for generations to come.

I am a junior at the Grandview Heights High School in Central Ohio. I play alto saxophone in the Marching Band and Jazz Ensemble. I have been attending the Cake Walk put on by the Grandview Heights Band Parents Association (“GBPA”) for as long as I can remember, and having been playing music at the Cake Walk since seventh grade. Most of the time, I don’t win a cake. But, the few times that I did were great.

The idea for my project came together when a large number of Grandview Heights High School graduates came to the alumni night football game on September 14, 2018, and walked out onto the track with the marching band during half-time. There was even someone in attendance who graduated in the 1940s! The alumni talked about all the things they did in high school. They talked about the band and how large it was for such a small school, and they talked about the Cake Walk. It was great hearing their stories and how much the band meant to them.

Then I learned that the only information about the Cake Walk at the Grandview Heights Public Library was local newspaper clippings from the past ten years. I also learned that the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society didn’t have a lot of information on the Cake Walk, but wanted any pictures or details that I could collect. Even the high school Highlander

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yearbook only mentioned the Cake Walk in passing twenty times over the past seventy years, with no details about it. So, I decided to do something to create community awareness in Central Ohio about the GBPA Cake Walk and its importance to Grandview.

My thanks to my Gold Award Project Team for their support and encouragement:

**Lorena Caito**, Grandview Heights Band Parents Association President  
**Robert Brown**, Grandview Heights High School Principal  
**Chris Hermann**, GHHS Instrumental Music Teacher and Marching Band Director  
**Debbie Farynowski**, Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society  
**Michelle Rinehart**, Reference Librarian, Grandview Heights Public Library  
**Ann Smith**, Girl Scout Troop 2219 Co-Leader

A special thanks to **Cathy Murphy** and **Joanne Taylor**, Co-Chairs of the 70<sup>th</sup> Cake Walk, for letting me go through their notebook, answering my questions, and everything they and every past chair have done to make the Cake Walk a success. Cathy Murphy has been chair or co-chair of the last ten Cake Walks!

Additional thanks to the following people for their support and for sharing their memories and stories (and for letting me know how many cakes their family has won):

**Andy Culp**, District Superintendent, Grandview Heights Schools  
**Dr. Jamie Lusher**, Chief Academic Officer, Grandview Heights Schools  
**Scott Heath**, GHHS Instrumental Music Instructor and 5th, 6th & 7th grade Band Director  
**Teresa Clayton**, GHHS Building Secretary  
**Cheri Berlin**, GHHS Attendance Secretary  
**Dr. Kie Watkins**, former GHHS Band Director 1995-2013  
**Mary Jo Gaskalla**, former GHHS Band Director 1965-1974 (“results, not excuses”)

**Debbie York**, past Cake Walk chair and past GBPA President  
**Susan Trendy**, past GBPA President  
**Tom DeMaria**, Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society  
**LaVerne McDaniel Foe** `65. Her mother, Mrs. George McDaniel, chaired the Cake Walk in 1956, 1957, 1958 & 1959, and her parents each served as GBPA President  
**Melanie Trout-Luckenbach**, past GBPA President  
**Jim Anderson** `72, past student director of the GHHS band

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**Tracy Garrett**, past Cake Walk chair and past GBPA President

**Harriett Casey**, past Cake Walk chair

**Eileen McNeil**, Teen/Youth Services Manager, Grandview Heights Public Library

**Jill Kuyper**, Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

**Teri Antolino Williams** `74, past Cake Walk emcee

**John Evans**, past Cake Walk emcee

**Cheryl Van Deusen**, past GBPA President

**Collin Wheeler**, GBPA Treasurer and board member

**Linda Wheeler**, GBPA board member

**Greta Kearns**, President, Grandview Heights City Council

**Ray DeGraw**, Mayor, City of Grandview Heights

**Pamela Browning**, GBPA board member

**Rob Smith** `63, GHHSAA President

**Catherine Dimes** `89

And to my mom, Elizabeth Watters, GBPA board member, who shared with me her love of history and books. Thank you for showing me how to work the microfiche machine at the library.

Meghan Watters



# FORMATION OF THE GRANDVIEW BAND AND GBPA

## “FUNDRAISING IS A PIECE OF CAKE”

In July of 1940, the *Tri-Village News* reported the announcement of Grandview Heights School District Superintendent W.C. Rohleder that he had hired Paul Holcomb to be an instructor of instrumental music who would “devote much of his time to the development of a school band.” A couple of months later, on September 30, 1940, thirty-five interested band parents held their first meeting to create an organization “designed to booster the formation of a band in the high school” and find ways of raising funds to purchase the large instruments necessary for a marching band. From the beginning, the Band Boosters, as it was initially called, was a co-ed group with leadership roles held by both men and women. Often husbands and wives worked together to support the band, such as in the case of Mr. and Mrs. George McDaniel, who jointly chaired four annual Cake Walks in the 1950s and who both served as President of the boosters organization.

On September 13, 1948, the Band Boosters officially became known as the Grandview Heights Band Parents Association and held its first meeting. By then, the band had expanded from the forty-seven members who first marched in the fall of 1941 to sixty members, with tryouts. The GBPA, which is now the largest booster organization in Grandview, raises money to support the hundreds of Grandview students in band from 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school. The funds raised by the GBPA subsidize the cost of high school band camp, are used to purchase uniforms and instruments, fund scholarships, and cover costs of the music programs.

When work began on this book it was believed that the Cake Walk was the oldest, continuous fundraiser for Grandview’s bands. Research, however, proved otherwise. On October 18, 1940, the GBPA held its first fundraiser on behalf of the band. It was a tag sale.



**The tags were white, square-shaped and made of cardboard. The four sides of the tag said: “I am a Band . . . Booster . . . Grandview . . . Bobcats” in blue lettering. There was an outline of a drum major in the middle of the square on a blue background. Later the drum major became the head of a bobcat.**

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The tags were sold at the Grandview homecoming football game against Columbus Academy. Twenty-seven male students played as a “band” at the school assembly and football game that day. Individuals who bought the \$1.00 tags wore them looped around a shirt or jacket button with a long string. The GBPA announced on October 25, 1940 that the sale of tags, which was “designed to acquaint school children, parents and Grandview boosters with the move to organize a high school band, as well as to aid in raising funds with which to purchase large instruments (bass drum and base horns), met with unusual success and over \$60 was contributed during the day.” The tag sale was so profitable that the tags remained on sale for the rest of the 1940 football season.

The GBPA’s tag sale has been held every year since 1940 in the late summer or early fall, and will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. The tag sale is still one of the three major fundraisers of the GBPA, along with the Cake Walk and football game concession sales. However, it is now known as the decal sale. The hanging tags evolved into decals of the high school band’s logo that residents place on their door, car or a window to show their support for Grandview’s bands. The name of the fundraiser officially changed from a tag sale to a decal sale in 2005 when members of the community gave confused band members collecting donations items to be sold at a “tag sale” instead of money. But, it was called the tag sale in the GBPA Treasurer’s records and reports until 2013. Today, the decal sale occurs the Sunday after band members return from band camp in late July. Research revealed that other early fundraisers for the band included an annual spring card party, which became part of the Cake Walk in 1953, and a Band Festival, complete with a circus, held in July in either the football stadium or on the Edison school field.

## “DID YOU EVER SEE A CAKE WALK?”

On November 11, 1948, the front page of the *Tri-Village News* contained a small article on the lower left side of the paper entitled, “*Did You Ever See A Cake Walk?*” The article told Tri-Village residents – citizens of Grandview Heights, Marble Cliff and Upper Arlington because it was the local paper for all three communities at that time – that they “were invited to share in the fun at the Cake Walk in the Grandview High School Auditorium, Monday evening, November 22, 1948, at 8:00 p.m.” It was suggested that the “entire family will enjoy the fun and the delicious homemade cakes you may win.” Residents were informed that music and

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entertainment would be provided by the Grandview High School Band under the direction of J. Wendell Byrnes in this third year as Director, and the Cake Walk was sponsored by the Grandview Heights Band Parents Association, under the chairmanship of Mr. James Wallace, assisted by Mrs. Wallace. Other parents reported in the paper as leaders of the first Cake Walk were Mr. Ed Bogen, Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Shick, Mr. and Mrs. R.R. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bechtol, Mr. and Mrs. Iver Islasrud, Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Pierce, and Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Fethinger. Then, as is true today, the contributions and efforts of the leaders of the Cake Walk were valued by the Grandview community and recognized in the local paper.



Tickets for each walk around the circle at the first Cake Walk were 10 cents each, and could be purchased in advance from band members or at the auditorium the night of the party. There was no cost for admission. Residents were reminded in the article that “[t]he public is invited,” showing an intent from the very beginning that the Cake Walk would be an event for the entire community, and not something limited to families with children in the Grandview schools. Today, tickets are three for \$1.00.

Additionally, the first Cake Walk appears to have been a last-minute addition to the GBPA’s schedule for the 1948-49 school year. On September 10, 1948, the GBPA announced its meeting dates, committee chairs, and activities for the year in the *Tri-Village News*, including the Tag Day (October 1, 1948), the Card Party (February 17, 1949) and Band Banquet (April 2, 1949). Committees created for the year were program, telephone, seat covers, purchasing and advisory. There was no mention of a Cake Walk. But, as the 1949 Highlander yearbook indicates, “the Band sponsored a successful Cake Walk” where it “mixed business with pleasure” when it played.<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> On August 25, 1949, the *Tri-Village News* reported that for the upcoming school year the band would be a 60-piece marching band with a drum major and 6 majorettes. The band would play while forming the opposing school’s initial, a “revolving G,” atomic cheer and formations done in blackout with lighted caps and batons. In addition to the Cake Walk, the paper noted that the band had a card party, band festival and annual banquet the prior year.



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## a. Grandview's Cake Walks – “Let Them Eat Cake”



The 1948-49 GBPA Cake Walk was not the first cake walk held in the City of Grandview Heights, just as the Bobcat Boosters' Ox Roast in 1956 was not the first Ox Roast held in Grandview. Grandview Heights became a separate, independent village in 1906 and its own city in 1931. Although it was only seventeen years old at time of first GBPA Cake Walk, its residents had seen numerous cake walks held by other organizations and some Ox Roasts held by local churches. Cake walks, card parties, dances, spaghetti dinners and formal teas were all popular fundraisers in Grandview in the early 1940s. Since the beginning of America's involvement in World War II in December of 1941, however, the only mention found in the *Tri-Village News* of a cake walk was the GBPA Cake Walk. It alone survived, as did the Bobcat Boosters' Ox Roast.

The GBPA Cake Walk has been held on the following documented dates:

Monday, November 22, 1948

1949-50?

1950-51?

Friday, March 21, 1952

Friday, March 13, 1953

Friday, March 12, 1954

Friday, March 11, 1955

Friday, March 9, 1956

Friday, March 8, 1957

Friday, March 7, 1958

Friday, March 6, 1959

Friday, March 4, 1960

Friday, March 17, 1961

Friday, March 16, 1962

Friday, March 13, 1963

Friday, March 6, 1964

Friday, March 5, 1965

Friday, March 25, 1966

Friday, April 7, 1967

Friday, March 29, 1968

Friday, March 21, 1969

Friday, March 20, 1970

Friday, April 2, 1971

Friday, March 24, 1972

Saturday, October 31, 1972

Friday, March 20, 1973

Friday, March 29, 1974

Friday, March 7, 1975

Saturday, March 20, 1976

Friday, March 18, 1977

Friday, March 17, 1978

Friday, April 6, 1979

Friday, April 11, 1980

Friday, April 3, 1981

Friday, April 2, 1982

Friday, April 29, 1983

Friday, March 9, 1984

Friday, March 15, 1985

Friday, April 4, 1986

Friday, April 4, 1987

Friday, April 8, 1988

Friday, April 7, 1989

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Friday, April 20, 1990  
Friday, April 12, 1991  
Friday, April 10, 1992  
Friday, April 16, 1993  
Friday, April 8, 1994  
Friday, April 7, 1995  
Friday, April 12, 1996  
Friday, April 18, 1997  
Friday, April 24, 1998  
Friday, April 9, 1999

Friday, April 7, 2000  
Friday, April 6, 2001  
Friday, April 5, 2002  
Friday, April 4, 2003  
Friday, April 2, 2004  
Friday, April 8, 2005  
Friday, April 7, 2006  
Friday, March 30, 2007  
Friday, April 4, 2008  
Friday, April 3, 2009

Friday, April 9, 2010  
Friday, April 1, 2011  
Friday, March 23, 2012  
Friday, March 22, 2013  
Friday, April 4, 2014  
Friday, April 10, 2015  
Friday, April 8, 2016  
Friday, April 7, 2017  
Friday, April 23, 2018  
Friday, April 5, 2019



When you look at the dates of prior Cake Walks, there are things that you immediately notice. One is that the Cake Walk was so popular and successful that the GBPA held two cake walks during the 1972-73 school year, one in the late fall and one in early spring. That is a lot of cakes! The number of volunteers and the amount of time needed to put on a successful cake walk, as well as the involvement of local businesses, is probably why this only happened once. It was just too much effort.

Another thing you notice is that from 1952 to 1978, the Cake Walk was held on a Friday in March, but from 1979 to the present, the Cake Walk has been on the first Friday of April. There have been a few years here and there since 1979 when the Cake Walk was held in March or later in April, but usually it was because the first Friday in April conflicted with a holiday. It is not known why the 1976 Cake Walk was held on a Saturday evening (it was also held on a Saturday evening in October of 1972, but there was a Friday football game. Plus, there was a second walk held on a Friday in late March). There was no holiday conflict with Friday, March 19, 1976 as Passover was on April 14<sup>th</sup>, Easter was on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and St. Patrick's Day was on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps Saturday night was just more convenient for the chairperson that year, and the first Friday in April tradition had not become set as an expectation of the community.

## **b. Is This Really The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? – “It Takes The Cake”**

The last thing that you notice when you look at all the dates of the Cake Walks – actually, the first thing you probably notice – is that there are no known dates for 1950 and 1951. A review

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of every page of every *Tri-Village News* newspaper for the years 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 did not reveal any information about a cake walk to support the band, except for the one held on November 22, 1948. This is strange because in the 1950s and 1960s every announcement by the schools and their supporting organizations, including the GBPA, made the front page of the paper. In fact, it appears as if every event by any organization, group, club, mother's group, masonic organization, fraternity, sorority, athletic team or church, large or small, was announced in the paper. The *Tri-Village News* served as an old-fashioned Facebook page for Grandview by publishing announcements of births, vacations, hospitalizations, visits by family and friends, moves, retirements, and accomplishments of residents in weekly columns. You name it, it was in the paper. So, it is hard to believe that cake walks took place during the 1949-50 and 1950-51 school year without it being announced and reported on by the *Tri-Village News*.

Adding further confusion to the situation is the fact that in 1970 the GBPA announced in the *Tri-Village News* that it would celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cake Walk at the annual walk held on Friday, March 20, 1970. This suggests that the Cake Walk began in 1950 as part of the 1949-50 school year – one of the undocumented years. The anniversary celebration also ignores the Cake Walk held during the 1948-49 school year and reported in the 1949 Highlander HS yearbook. But, what is helpful about the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary announcement is that it indirectly confirms that there was a Cake Walk in 1950 and 1951. You can't have a 20<sup>th</sup> annual Cake Walk in the spring of 1970 if you didn't have a Cake Walk in the spring of 1950 and the spring of 1951.



The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Cake Walk, however, did not match up with the 20<sup>th</sup> annual celebration as it did not occur in the spring of 2000. Instead, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cake Walk was celebrated in 1999 at the walk held on Friday, April 9, 1999. This date goes back to the first Cake Walk during the 1948-49 school year. So, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration suggests that walks have been held every year since 1949, including in 1950 and 1951. Sue Trendy, who was GBPA President for five years in the mid to late 1990s, confirmed that the GBPA did its best in 1998 to research the 1949 date for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration held in 1999. The GBPA even spoke to Lorna “Skip” Karlovec, '43, Life Member and Trustee Emeritus of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society, who was the unofficial historian of Grandview at the time. After speaking with Ms. Karlovec, the GBPA was confident that it was the 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of the Cake Walk. (Ms. Trendy was also invaluable in tracking down the date for the 1991 Cake Walk – another year where nothing was published in the *Tri-Village News*, but there may be a picture in the 1991 Highlander yearbook).

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On the other hand, Dr. Kie Watkins, who was the high school band director at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, remembers that “when we had the 50th Cake Walk a little old lady came to me and said it was actually the 47th, and that I had my years wrong, but I had no way of proving myself right or her wrong. That goes back to the fact that the Cake Walk wasn't necessarily something 'big' when it started, at least not for the band.” This story supports a 1952 start date.

Additional support for a finding that cake walks occurred in 1950 and 1951 is a March 6, 1952 front page article in the *Tri-Village News*. The article announced that the Cake Walk would be on Friday, March 21, 1952, and that the band parents association “has sponsored cake walks before, always with considerable success . . .” If there wasn’t a cake walk in 1950 or 1951 and there had only been one other cake walk in November of 1948, it is unlikely that the GBPA would publicize its history of prior, successful cake walks. The newspaper announcement for the 1953 Cake Walk called it the “annual cake walk.” It is hard to believe that it would be considered an annual event after just one year (i.e. a 1952 start date). Plus, the 1954 Highlander yearbook notes that in order to raise funds during the year, the band sponsored the “traditional cake walk” and spring festival. Again, suggesting a history of more than one or two cake walks.

So, can it be proven that there have been seventy annual cake walks beginning in 1948-49 and continuing uninterrupted until 2019, rather than sixty-eight annual cake walks beginning in 1952, after a two-year gap from the first Cake Walk? No. However, most research suggests that the 2019 Cake Walk was, in fact, the 70<sup>th</sup> annual GBPA Cake Walk in Grandview.



# HOW DOES THE CAKE WALK WORK?

## “IT’S A CAKEWALK”

Before considering some of the well-known traditions and changes to Grandview’s Cake Walk, it is important to review the basics of how it works. It isn’t really a piece of cake or an easy “cakewalk.” It takes lots of volunteers,<sup>2</sup> advanced planning, the support of local businesses and school administrators, and, most importantly, lots of band parents baking, buying, and donating cakes.

Cake walks in America have a long history. According to National Public Radio on-line, the Cake Walk was a pre-Civil War dance performed by slaves on plantation grounds who were making fun of the plantation owners’ fancy promenades. After emancipation, the dance evolved into a high-stepping dance around the room known as the “prize walk” because the winning prize was an elaborately decorated cake. It’s where the phrases “cake walking” and “takes the cake” come from. Also, it is where the phrase “it’s a cake walk” came from, indicating a prize won by doing something easy, like stepping on a numbered square. It was often performed at minstrel shows, and became a two-step musical form during the ragtime era.

Today, a cake walk is basically musical chairs with cakes. While many cake walks feature numbered squares on the floor, including perhaps the early walks in Grandview, the tradition in Grandview is to walk inside a circle of chairs. Unlike musical chairs, a chair is never removed from the circle during the walks.

In Grandview, thirty chairs are placed in a circle or “walk ring.” The GBPA Cake Walk began with one ring in 1948-49, and newspaper articles suggest that at early cake walks, especially those that were combined with a dance, the ring numbers were placed on the floor. By 1964, there were three rings comprised of metal chairs as seen in Cake Walk pictures in the Highlander yearbook. In the late 1960s/early 1970s, it expanded from three rings to four, and then four rings with a small



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<sup>2</sup> Volunteers are needed for set-up that begins at 1:00 pm. Volunteer job categories include cake check-in table using the official school rosters for all the bands, cake runners, floaters, admissions tables, circle workers, games, face-painting, the cake decorating contest, silent auction, raffles, ticket sales for 50-50 raffle, ticket sales for walks, concessions, security, cake walk emcee, and clean-up crew. Parents who do cake check-in have the added chore of stopping or at least slowing down kids who want to climb the bleachers to inspect and pick out cakes.

# HOW DOES THE CAKE WALK WORK?

ring for children. Then the walk circles expanded to five rings in 1999. One ring was designated for children, and then two of the five rings became children's circles. Today, the Cake Walk has grown to an event with three large rings with adult chairs from the high school, two rings with small chairs borrowed from Stevenson Elementary, and one cupcake circle for preschoolers and kindergarteners with numbers on the floor, for a total of six rings.



Each chair seat in a ring has a number 1 through 30 on it. People line up around the outside of the ring to wait their turn to participate. Your walk ticket is your paid admission into one of the Cake Walk rings. You put your ticket in a decorated cardboard box with the circle number on it, which is held by the volunteer working at the entrance to the Cake Walk ring. When 30 tickets have been collected, the ring is closed. The volunteer who collected the tickets holds up a paddle or a sign to signal that the ring is full and ready to walk.

The second ring volunteer receives one of the donated cakes from the cake runner who goes back and forth from the bleachers where the cakes are stored. The second volunteer then displays the cake to everyone inside the ring so that the walkers know which cake will be the winning prize for that circle. At early cake walks, the cake prize for each walk was displayed on a fancy card table with a white linen tablecloth.



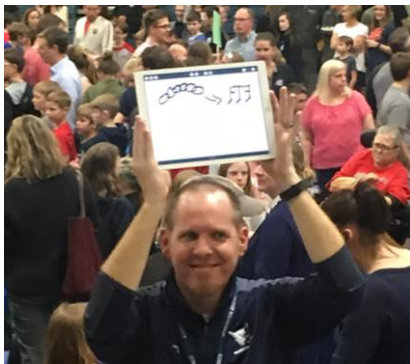
# HOW DOES THE CAKE WALK WORK?

The most popular cakes are gaudy ones with colorful frosting or as much chocolate on them as possible. Cakes made from joined cupcakes put together by frosting in the shape of a butterfly, flower, or an object like a car are also desired. Cakes with fruit loops, Oreos, M&Ms or candy all over the top are highly prized. In short, kids love candy and sugar with their cakes.



Music is then played by the combined 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and by the high school band from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Initially, members of the high school band wore their formal, marching uniforms to the Cake Walk. In the late 1960s, the band began to dress casually at the Cake Walk and band members did not wear their uniforms (students are wearing their band uniforms in Cake Walk photos in 1964 Highlander yearbook, but not in Cake Walk photos in the 1970 yearbook). Beginning in 2013, the high school band started wearing the white polos of its summer uniform to the Cake Walk. In 2014, blue band polos were created for the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade bands, and the blue band polos are now worn by the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands at the Cake Walk.

Participants in each walk march around a circle of chairs while music is played. Until the new public-address system was put in the high school gymnasium, Dr. Kie Watkins and Mr. Scott Heath, the high school and middle school band directors at the time, used a bull horn and hand signals to communicate songs selections to the bands as well as the Cake Walk emcee in the loft. Now, directors Chris Hermann and Scott Heath hold up an iPad with the song selection on the computer screen. Mr. Hermann has the iPad set up so that it is like a mini-game of Pictionary – just numbers and symbols. The band directors usually have the band play a song for 8-12 measures, to the end of a musical phrase, so that there is a full walk around the ring before the music stops. Mr. Hermann says that 30-45 seconds is the ideal time interval for a walk.



# HOW DOES THE CAKE WALK WORK?

When the Cake Walk began, the band played formal music. In the early 1970s, band director Mary Jo Gaskalla put together a folder of easy band songs that junior high students, who were added as performers in 1972, could play with minimal rehearsal. The high school band played “music for cakewalking.” Jim Anderson, ’72, one of the two student directors of the high school band in 1971-72, remembers the high school band playing marches and directing the “Colonel Bogey March” at the Cake Walk his senior year. Ms. Gaskalla’s folder of Cake Walk music was still used by the middle school band in 1995, with some additions, when Dr. Watkins became the high school band director. Songs in the folder included “Space Shuttle Rock,” “The Blue Rock,” “Meteor Rock,” and the theme from the movie “Rocky.” Dr. Watkins and Mr. Heath later added rock classics such as the “Final Countdown” and “Walk This Way” to the folder. Today, Mr. Heath tries to find Cake Walk songs that the middle school students enjoy playing, but are a little more challenging. The high school band plays pep songs, stand tunes, music from their half-time shows, and school favorites like the fight song. Every Cake Walk ends with the high school band playing a full rendition of the Grandview fight song.

When the music stops during a walk, everyone sits down on a chair. In recent years, there has been some scrambling by walkers for a preferred chair or number. As a result, the GBPA began using the wrestling team’s mats to cover the gym floor to protect it from chair scrapes. Now, several large tarps are used to protect the floor from cake “mishaps.” According to past Cake Walk co-chair Tracy Garrett, parent security with yellow security t-shirts was added in 2004 to prevent mishaps inside and outside of the school, like cake throwing and food fights. Professional security was put in place in 2018 as part of the school’s safety and security measures.



33 cents (tickets are 3 for \$1.00) *you get a cake!*

Once everyone is sitting in a chair, a numbered ball is then pulled out of a ball cage by the Cake Walk emcee. The cage used by the Cake Walk emcee in the gym loft has seen better days and looks like it has been around for 70+ years. Its condition is probably the basis for unsubstantiated stories about a “lucky” birthday boy or girl winning a cake. John Evans, a former Cake Walk emcee, and Lorena Caito, the 2019 emcee, both indicated that every effort is made to pick a random number out of the cage. Then, if you are sitting on the chair with the number that is called out *you win a cake!* The second ring volunteer gives you the cake on display in the ring, and *you win a cake!* For about



## THE 1950's & 1960's

While the event is geared towards children, every year nearly 1,000 people of all ages pay \$1.00 to attend and try to win a cake. That does not include all the volunteers and band performers. Some don't win a cake. Some walk out with five cakes. You can store the cake that you won in the bleachers with the volunteers who oversee the donated cakes, and pick it up before you leave. That way, you can continue to cake walk and have fun all night long. All in all, "it's an event with a great atmosphere for a good cause," according to Cathy Murphy, who has co-chaired the event for the last ten years.



### “AN OLD-FASHIONED, LOW-TECH, HIGH ENERGY EVENT”

The early GBPA Cake Walks proved to be so successful that in 1952 the Cake Walk was held instead of the annual card party as the main spring fundraiser for the band. The 1952 Cake Walk was held in the gymnasium/auditorium on Friday, March 21st, and it was the concert band, not the marching band, that performed. In 1958, the Cake Walk was moved to the new gymnasium. Additionally, it remained an annual event held in March from 1952 until 1979, when the Cake Walk was moved to the first Friday in April, unless it conflicted with St. Patrick's Day, Passover or Easter.

The 1952 Cake Walk was a combined cake walk and square dance. The band played for a "walk" around the cake ring with homemade cakes given as prizes, and then a square dance reel was played for dancing. They were alternated, and the cost for each walk was still 10 cents. John Montgomery, a popular caller from The Ohio State University, called the square dances.

It is hard to imagine everyone in Grandview square dancing and walking for cakes at the same time. In fact, it is hard to imagine anyone in Grandview square dancing at all, but it seems to have been a big hit. The *Tri-Village News* reported that the "rollicking rhythms of the square dance" were "mingled with the marching tempo of the Cake Walk" when the two were combined into one big affair in the high school gymnasium. The cake walks involved "marching around to the tune of sprightly cake walk music" and if you were lucky enough to "get caught on the right spot when the music ended," you won a cake. This suggests that the Cake Walk's ring numbers

## THE 1950's & 1960's

were on the floor and chairs were not involved. This makes sense if a lot of people are going to be running around the gymnasium doing a square dance after each walk. A large circle of chairs would definitely get in the way. In advertising the 1952 event, the GBPA indicated it “has sponsored cake walks before, always with considerable success, but the combination of the two [a cake walk and square dance] will be new.”

In 1953, admission to the Cake Walk was charged for the first time: 25 cents. Each walk around a cake ring remained 10 cents a walk. The 1953 Cake Walk began with a 30-minute band concert followed by dancing, cards and traditional “cake walking.” The 25-cent admission price remained the same for the next 46 years, until the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cake Walk on Friday, April 9, 1999, when the cost of admission was increased to 50 cents.



Throughout the 1950s and into the early 1960s, the Cake Walk was a formal affair. Volunteers and attendees dressed in formal dresses, suits and ties. Band members wore their marching uniforms. Card tables with white linen tablecloths were placed at the top of each ring and showed off the beautiful homemade cakes made by band families that could be won during each walk. Then, as now, the cakes were stored on the pulled-out bleachers. Card tables and chairs were also set up for those who liked to play cards or wanted to be served coffee and cake. There was no pizza, popcorn, hot dogs, candy or soft drinks. Just coffee and cake were served on china. It was not until 1957, that soft drinks, ice cream, potato chips and candy were added to the refreshments menu.

Dancing and a sock hop usually followed the walks. The sock hop replaced the 30-minute band concert that marked early cake walks. Dress for students attending the walks became casual, at least by 1964, where walkers can be seen in yearbook pictures wearing everyday slacks, shirts and skirts. Because membership in the band was limited to no more than 60-70 students at that time, families were required to donate 2 cakes. Many donated multiple cakes. LaVerne McDaniel Foe, '65 and her brother, Jerry McDaniel, '59, remember cakes being everywhere in their mother's kitchen the week of the Cake Walk along with boxes donated by local bakeries. Members of the community were encouraged to donate cakes as well. Cakes that did not make the “cut” in appearance, were sliced up and sold with coffee, rather than handed out as prizes.

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During this time, the Cake Walk also expanded from one to three circles. An RCA personal table model radio and a \$25 savings bond were the first raffle prizes given away. High school art classes made posters to advertise the Cake Walk, which were displayed in the windows of local merchants. In March of 1955, the *Tri-Village News* reported that the Cake Walk was “one of the most popular events of the season.” In 1956, the *Tri-Village News* announced that the annual Cake Walk “has come to be a traditional community event.” And, in 1964, the paper reported that, “over the years, this old-fashioned event has become a favorite with parents and students alike.” Even then, the Cake Walk was old-fashioned.



Due to its popularity and the dances held after the walks, some alumni have indicated that the Cake Walk became the traditional first “date” for students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The boy’s father was responsible for driving the “couple” to and from the Cake Walk.

Some additional facts about early cake walks include:

- 1954 — An RCA personal table model radio and other door prizes were given away. Card tables and chairs were set up for those wanted to play cards or who asked to be served coffee and cake. Attendees had to bring their own cards.
- 1955 — Card playing and dancing followed the Cake Walk. Door prizes included a \$25 bond.
- 1956 — There was dancing after the Cake Walk.
- 1957 — Dancing until 11 pm followed the Cake Walk. Posters advertising the Cake Walk were made by art class students and were displayed by local merchants. Funds raised were earmarked for new majorette uniforms. The Cake Walk contributed \$330 of the \$1719 raised for the uniforms.
- 1959 — Funds raised were for the repair of instruments and maintenance of uniforms.
- 1961 — Members of the band posed with a special cake, a replica of a marching band member, complete with a mini-hat and uniform, to promote the Cake Walk in the *Tri-Village News*.

## THE 1950's & 1960's

- 1962 — A band member dressed up as a walking cake to “surprise” the director and promote the Cake Walk. A six-transistor radio was the door prize, which was donated by Cussin & Fern, on Grandview Avenue. This was a highly sought-after prize without TV or internet.
- 1963 — A camera was given away as a door prize.
- 1964 — Participants paid 10 cents for each promenade around the hall. Refreshments were sold in the breezeway.
- 1965 — The door prize was an eight-transistor, portable radio. The walk netted over \$500, which was used for purchasing new uniforms and repairing instruments.
- 1966 - 74 members in the band. First year with Mary Jo Gaskalla as director. The music programs for 102 junior high and grade students receiving musical instruction in Grandview schools were added as beneficiaries of the Cake Walk's proceeds.
- 1968 — \$10 and \$5 door prizes were given. Cake, coffee and soft drinks, 10 cents each, were sold at the concessions stand.
- 1970 — The 20th Cake Walk was celebrated. Cake Walk Chairpersons and a young child, Jerry Pickett, posed with a special 20th cake — a chocolate cake with large “20” on the side — to promote the Cake Walk in the *Tri-Village News*.

What is remarkable about these cake walks is how little they changed even as the country began to change in the 1960s. The cost of admission and the cost of each walk remained the same, even though the Cake Walk was a fundraiser and the costs of instruments, music and uniforms continued to go up. Often it was just the door prizes that changed from year to year.

It also seems that the Grandview community really embraced the Cake Walk in the 1950s and 1960s when other fundraisers and events, like card parties, came and went. It wasn't the flashiest event. It didn't raise the most money. But everyone had a good time and the whole family could participate. Kids looked forward to it every spring. It was an inexpensive and fun way for the entire community to show their support for Grandview's schools and bands on a Friday night. It was like an annual birthday party for the Grandview community, complete with cake. Never underestimate the power of delicious cake.

# THE 1970's, 1980's & 1990's

## “PEACE, LOVE AND CAKE”



In the 1970s, doll cakes with the doll's dress made of cake became the rage along with spice cakes, carrot cakes, angel food cakes, and other non-traditional cakes. Gone were the luxurious red velvet cakes made from scratch. Store-bought cakes slowly replaced many of the homemade cakes. There were parents who still made a cake, but they often used a box mix bought at the grocery store. A 1988 Highlander yearbook photo of the Cake Walk reveals that card tables were still placed at the top of each ring to show off the cakes to be won during each walk, but the linen table clothes and cake pedestals were gone.

Despite these changes, the cakes at the Cake Walk were still highly regarded. The local paper noted in 1979 that “some of the best cakes in Grandview” are expected to be at the Cake Walk. In the 1990s, large pizza-sized chocolate-chip cookies decorated like cakes became popular prizes in the walk circles. Also during this time, Big Bear, Kroger and local bakeries made sure to have extra cakes available for purchase on Thursday and Friday of Cake Walk week. They decorated them with Grandview's logo, music notes, or paw prints in blue and white frosting. This tradition continues with Kroger's, Giant Eagle's, Whole Foods' and Nothing Bundt Cakes' support of the Cake Walk.

Dress at the Cake Walk became very casual for the students, but was still formal for the parents, at least through the mid-1970s. The starting time was moved up to 7:30 pm from 8:00 pm in 1971 due to the number of cakes donated by families of an increasingly larger band. The Cake Walk expanded from three rings to four rings of 30 chairs. In 1976, one of the four rings became a designated children's circle for younger children. The Cake Walk was so popular that during the 1972-73 school year, two cake walks were held – one on October 31, 1972 and one on March 20, 1973.

The Junior High School band also began playing at the Cake Walk in 1972. When the school district eliminated the junior high and instituted a middle school system in 1995, the Middle School band began playing at the Cake Walk. The addition of the Junior High/Middle School band to the Cake Walk continues to this day. Now that the music program includes 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are at Edison with the middle school students, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands play together at the Cake Walk instead of a single junior

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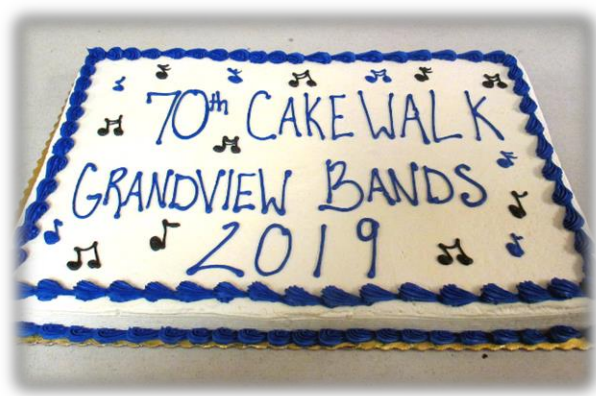
high or middle school band. Mr. Heath recalls that one year they had all the bands from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade play in effort to boost adult attendance at the Cake Walk. This was not repeated, however, because it was too difficult to manage that many students at the event.

## a. New Traditions Of A “Cake Walk” Cake, Direct The Band Opportunity, Kids’ Circles, Games For Children, And Business Raffles – “Nothing Bundt Cake”

### i. The Band and a “Cake Walk” Cake

In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the Cake Walk was often promoted in the *Tri-Village News* with a picture of the high school band’s officers, in uniform or casually dressed, holding a large cake that said, “Cake Walk.” These pictures replaced the annual picture of the Cake Walk chairperson in the local paper. For instance, John Browning was featured as band President, along with his fellow officers, holding a “Cake Walk” cake in the *Tri-Village News* on March 16, 1971, to advertise the 1971 Cake Walk. Other pictures of band members posing with a “Cake Walk” cake were published in the paper in 1970, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1999, as well as in the 1992 yearbook. It is believed that the “Cake Walk” cake became the senior cake that graduating senior band members enjoy today at either the Cake Walk or final band concert.

On April 1, 2019, the senior members of the high school band and director Chris Hermann posed for a picture with a large 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake Walk cake in a nod to this past tradition. But, the 70<sup>th</sup> cake did not make it to the walk. It was eaten by the entire band that day.



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## ii. Direct the Band Fundraiser

Another Cake Walk tradition that began during this time was the “Direct the Band” fundraiser. Starting in 1980, students, parents, kids, and members of the community could donate \$1.00 in exchange for the opportunity to direct either the junior high or high school bands for one walk. This fundraiser was introduced to the public in the local paper with the headline, “So You Want to Lead a Band?”.



One of the band directors is often recruited to be the volunteer who encourages attendees to donate and step up to the podium. Scott Heath remembers walking around with a large hat, encouraging donations, until a special “Direct the Band” jar was created. Dr. Watkins also remembers the donation hat, and that it was usually a child who put a dollar in the hat and tried to conduct the band. One time, however, a grown man came up and put a \$10 bill in the hat and demanded to conduct. None of the kids in the band knew who he was, but Dr. Watkins remembered that he was a former middle school band director and principal. That got a big laugh once Dr. Watkins explained the situation to the band.

Every year since 1980, about twenty to twenty-five wannabe band directors step up and lead the band for one walk. At the 70<sup>th</sup> Cake Walk, twenty-four individuals put a dollar in the “Direct the Band” jar and directed the band, including marching band senior Quinn Tillett (pictured). Scott Warburton, Edison Orchestra Director and Music Teacher, was assigned the task of manning the “Direct the Band” jar and encouraging people to give it a try.

As you might guess, for nearly 40 years the cost of the “Direct the Band” opportunity has remained \$1.00. This is not surprising given how long it took for the price of a walk to increase. In 1979, as gas shortages, long lines and inflation took



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a toll on President Jimmy Carter's administration, the value and tradition of the Cake Walk's admission price of 25 cents and 10 cents for each walk was recognized by the *Tri-Village News* on March 27, 1979 with the note that, "inflation has hit just about everything but the Grandview Band Cakewalk; it is still a bargain."

### iii. Children's Game and Face Painting

In 1976, the Cake Walk expanded from three to four rings, with one ring just for children. This began a 43-year tradition that is still going strong of having special rings just for kids. Initially, the children's ring was for kids in the third grade or younger. In 1977, the children's ring became a special ring for kids age six and under. In 1980, two of the Cake Walk circles were reserved for children under the age of 8, but it went back to just one ring for children six and under in 1982. In 1995, the "Kiddie" ring, as it was called, was designated for children less than 48 inches tall. These changes were made to help the little kids have a better chance of winning a cake, and because the GBPA noticed that little kids sometimes got pushed around in the regular rings. A measuring stick was even used with the 48 inches or less ring.



The first mention of games for kids at the Cake Walk also occurred during this time, in 1992. It appears they were added as part of the GBPA's recognition that the "night is always especially enjoyable for young children and provides a night of entertainment for families at an affordable cost." Cheryl Van Deusen, *Tri-Village News*, April 8, 1992. Fish ponds, basketball hoops, number wheels, bean bag tosses, golf putting, colored sand art, colored sugar crafts, lollipop wheels and face painting became favorite activities for young children and their parents. Winning a game also made it easier to lose in the cake ring. Plus, the cost of each game was the same as a walk, one ticket or 10 cents.

Dr. Watkins remembers that the ducky or fish pond where kids could turn over a duck for a prize in exchange for one ticket was very popular. He recalls that, "I never saw children so happy to get a sucker after winning the 'ducky pond.' The little kids' ring was usually close to the band, so most of my memories are of watching them have the time of their lives." He also remembers that during his time as director, the GBPA introduced (or re-introduced) face



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painting for the little ones. Some of the members of the band would volunteer to be face painters when they weren't playing for the walks.

At some point in time in early 2000s, the games were moved from the main gym to the wrestling room across from the concession stand in the breezeway. In 2013, the games were moved to the upstairs balcony of the gym. In 2019, most of the games were eliminated in favor of the cupcake circle, although coloring and face painting continued to be offered at tables on the main floor of the gym by the cupcake circle.

In 1985, the start time for the Cake Walk was moved to its current start time of 6:30 pm, ensuring that kids of all ages could attend. The ending time was officially expanded from 9:00 pm to 9:30 pm in 1989. But, the Cake Walk generally goes until there are no more cakes. A few times there have been 5-6 cakes left at 9:30 pm, but current co-chairs Cathy Murphy and Joanne Taylor note that, "we keep going until all the cakes are gone." Then they call it a night.

Afterwards, there is a lot of work to be done by the parent volunteers who have agreed to help clean-up. They usually do not leave until between 10:30 and 11:00 pm.



In 1990, the Cake Walk had a petting zoo of Columbus Zoo animals. This was a one-time event. Maybe mixing zoo animals and cake was not such a great idea (sticky hands and a yucky floor are not very sanitary for eating cake). It might be the real reason why the GBPA started placing wrestling mats and then tarps on the floor during the walks. Pictures of the Cake Walk in the 1988 yearbook show that the gym floor was bare just two years before the petting zoo.

#### iv. [Raffles, Silent Auctions, and Local Business Support](#)

Another area where the Cake Walk expanded was with raffles. Although door prizes and raffles had been a part of the Cake Walk's festivities since 1954, those raffles were focused on one big prize such as a transistor radio or a savings bond. Raffle prizes during the 1970s-90s became numerous and for large amounts. Individual tickets were sold for the raffles. They included a vacation weekend in Hocking Hills, autographed Ohio State footballs by Archie Griffin and Coach Jim Tressel, autographed Ohio State basketballs by Basketball Coach Randy Ayers, a basketball hoop, and gift certificates by many companies owned by Les Wexner, such as

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Victoria's Secret. When Beanie Babies were all the rage in the 1990s, one of the raffle items was a basket of highly sought-after beanies. Another year, band parent and former Grandview Mayor Colleen Sexton sewed a replica of the Grandview marching band uniform that would fit an American Girl doll. This raffle item was very popular and sold a lot of raffle tickets.

Items also began to be raffled in the cake rings, making them "special rings." There was a "cash walk" in the center ring one year where the winner won cash instead of a cake. Another year, a framed, numbered print from a Columbus artist was the prize in a special ring. Walkers made a \$20 donation to walk in this ring.

In 1999, raffles at the Cake Walk really took off with numerous donors, including McDonald's, Longaberger baskets, AMC Theatres, Anthony Thomas Candy Shoppes, Big Bear, Barley's Smokehouse, Barnes & Noble, Blooms Direct, Byerly's Aquarium Supplies, Cheryl's Cookies, Columbus Zoo, Columbus Clippers, COSI, Dairy Queen, Drexel Theatre, Fiesta Lanes, Figlio's, Gibby's, Graeter's Ice Cream, Grandview Parks and Recreation Department, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beauty Salon, Panzera's Pizza, Red Door Tavern, Spaghetti Warehouse, 33 Fitness, and USA Martial Arts. The increase in the number of the raffle prizes continued in the 2000s.

## **b. Old Tradition Of Cost Of Admission – "Cherry On The Cake Walk"**

It is said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. This is true with the Cake Walk. Although some changes have taken place over the years, what people love most about the Cake Walk is that the basics have remained the same. The band plays, you walk around a circle of chairs, the music stops, you sit down, and if you are lucky you win a cake. If you are really lucky, you win more than one cake.



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In 1992, the *Tri-Village News* noted that “[j]ust as the Ox Roast is an autumn tradition in Grandview, with Spring comes the Band Cake Walk.” Cheryl Van Deusen, a past GBPA President agreed, stating that “everybody knows about the Cake Walk and everybody is there. Grandview Heights City School District has historically displayed a strong interest in school bands. In a district of about 1,200 students, 350 to 400 students are involved in one of the bands.” In 1993, Grandview residents were encouraged to “[i]magine baking a cake and having it turn into a musical instrument. That’s essentially what happens each year in Grandview Heights when the Band Boosters sponsor the annual Band Cake Walk.”



While it is true that the focus of the Cake Walk is winning a cake and supporting the Grandview school bands, one of reasons it is so successful is the cost. It has always been a bargain, a steal. Even in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the cost of admission remained the same as it was in 1953 when admission was first charged: 25 cents. The cost of each walk also remained the same as it was in November of 1948, just 10 cents a walk. The Cake Walk was and still is cheaper than the cost of a family going to the movies, cheaper than going out for pizza, cheaper than a trip to Jeni’s Ice Cream or Graeter’s, and even cheaper than the cost of a family outing to a Grandview high school football game. In talking to past Cake Walk chairs and GBPA presidents such as Sue Trendy and Harriett Casey, they spoke about their efforts to keep the price of admission and walks the same so that the Cake Walk was as family friendly as possible.

So, it was a real struggle for the GBPA to raise the cost of admission to 50 cents in 1999. There was no announcement made about the price increase. Instead, promotions and interviews in the *Tri-Village News* focused on the fact that a walk was still only 10 cents. “The price of the walk hasn’t changed. It’s the same as 50 years ago,” said cake walk chairwoman Dale Marie Jones in the April 7, 1999 *Tri-Village News*. However, the price of admission was lowered back to 25 cents in 2002, and then re-increased to 50 cents in 2003, suggesting that there may have been some complaints or lower attendance due to the admission price increase.

It is no surprise, however, that the new admission price of 50 cents set in 1999/2003 did not change for another ten years. In 2013, then Cake Walk co-chair Debbie York fought to increase the admission price to \$1.00. The \$1.00 admission price, which has not changed since

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2013, eliminated the need for coin change at the admissions, tables, increased revenue, and reminded the community that the purpose and focus of the GBPA was to financially support the schools' music programs. While the Cake Walk is a neighborhood event and a tradition that in many ways defines Grandview as a community, it is still a fundraiser.

Some additional facts about Cake Walks in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s include:

- 1971 – Door prizes of \$10 and \$5 were awarded.
- 1972 (spring) – 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Cake Walk was celebrated. Parents of instrumental music students as well as band members donated cakes.
- 1972 (fall)/1973 (spring) – Two cake walks held as part of efforts to purchase new band uniforms. The junior high band played under the direction of Mrs. David Bowers from 7:30 to 8:00 pm, followed by the senior high school band with Miss Mary Jo Gaskalla directing. Cash prizes of \$5 and \$10 were given.
- 1974 – Cake, coffee and punch were sold as refreshments. Door prizes of \$10 and \$5 were awarded, but winners did not have to be present to receive the prizes.
- 1976 – Rings at the Cake Walk were expanded from three to four, with one ring for children in the third grade and younger. When the cakes were all awarded, door prizes of \$10 and \$5 were given.
- 1977 – The children's ring became a special ring for kids age six and under. Door prizes remained \$10 and \$5.
- 1980 – Expansion of children's circles to two for kids under the age of 8; beginning of the Direct the Band fundraiser.
- 1981 – Start time of the Cake Walk was moved to 7 pm. Proceeds of the Cake Walk expanded to benefit the band programs in grades 5 through 12.
- 1982 – Second children's ring was eliminated. One ring for children age 6 and under.

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- 1985 – Start time of the Cake Walk moved to 6:30 pm and ending time moved to 9:00 pm.
- 1989 – Ending time of the Cake Walk moved to 9:30 pm so there was three full hours of cake walking.
- 1990 – Money raised from the Cake Walk was earmarked toward the \$20,000 goal for new band instruments. Hot dogs were added to concessions.
- 1992 – 130 cakes donated. There was a raffle (25 cent tickets) for a basketball signed by Ohio State University Basketball Coach Randy Ayers and a football signed by former OSU football player Archie Griffin. Proceeds were estimated at \$1,000.
- 1993 – The donation of used instruments at the Cake Walk was encouraged. Cake Walk was a family affair with the sale of hand-crafted items, door prizes and balloons. Raffles were held for a \$50 gift certificate to The Limited, Limited Express, Lane Bryant, Victoria's Secret, Structure 9, Lerner New York or Bath & Body Works.
- 1995 – A “kiddie” ring for children less than 48 inches tall was put in place. \$2,000 was raised.
- 1996 – More than 250 cakes were donated. Local artists and crafts people donated raffle items (\$1 tickets). An additional raffle item was a \$50 gift certificate to the Limited, Structure or Victoria's Secret. An evening stay for two at one of Ohio's state park lodges including breakfast and dinner was raffled for \$10 per ticket. There were 6 door prizes. For kids there were games, including a fish pond, number wheel and basketball for 50 cents each. The concession stand offered pizza.
- 1997 – About \$3,000 was raised. Proceeds were used to fund uniforms, band camp (first mention) and music for students.
- 1998 – About \$3,500 was raised. Sponsors were April's Flowers & Gifts, Big Bear, Blooms Direct, Byerly's Aquarium, Chapel Hill Flowers & Gifts, Cinemark, Columbus Zoo, Dairy Queen, Donatos Pizza, Figlio's, Graeter's, Grandad's Pizza, Magic Mountain, Panzera's Pizza, Sax Car Wash, Spaghetti Warehouse and Zuppas.

# THE MODERN ERA (2000-2019)

- 1999 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 5 to 6 circles planned, and \$3,000 was raised. Face painting, door prizes, a fish pond and a basketball shooting contest were also part of the fun. Admission price was increased to 50 cents.

## “ICING ON THE CAKE WALK”

The most known changes to the Cake Walk occurred during the last 20 years. Cake decorating contests, Cake Walk themes, t-shirts, and a flash mob were all introduced. Cake bingo with the help of the Bobcat Boosters was added from 2003-2005, but stopped due to a change in Ohio’s gambling laws. The bands moved from playing on the gym floor to playing in the bleachers in 2009, and the high school band began wearing its summer uniform polos in 2013, followed by the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in blue band polos in 2014.



A “Mother’s Special” of a cupcake and milk for \$1 at the concession stand was added in 2010. This special and pizza are still the most popular concession items. In 2016, a special ring that required three tickets was held as part of the GBPA’s campaign to raise \$75,000 to buy 150 new marching band uniforms. The ring, which was the idea of then GBPA President Debbie York, raised \$1,278 for uniforms, and allowed the GBPA to buy at least two uniforms from the proceeds. Board members were thrilled. But, the biggest change to Grandview’s modern era of cake walking, the last tradition to give way, was the cost of a walk in a cake ring.

### a. Changes To The Cost Of A Walk – “Cake Walk Crumbs”

Beginning in 1948-49 and through the baby boom, military conflicts, recessions, the introduction of restaurants and coffee shops to the Grandview Bank Block, and the events of 9/11, the cost to try to win a cake at the Grandview Cake Walk remained 10 cents a walk. It was not until 2003, 54 years after the Cake Walk began, that the price to participate in a walk increased to two tickets or 20 cents. An increase to 25 cents a walk soon followed in 2009 for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, followed by a slight increase to \$35 cents each or three for a \$1 in 2017, and just three for a \$1 in 2018. But, even at three walks for a \$1, it is still a deal.

# THE MODERN ERA (2000-2019)



Also in 2018, a sixth ring was introduced to the Cake Walk. It was a cupcake circle just for preschoolers and kindergarten students. It has two circles of fifteen numbers on the floor and no chairs (1-15 inner circle and 16-30 outer circle). The preschoolers stand on two numbers and double their chances to win. Originally it was in the gym balcony, but was moved to the gym floor in 2019. In the new cupcake circle, a winner of a specially-boxed cupcake is declared for every walk, even if the circle is not full. Cathy Murphy thinks the cupcake circle was a great addition to the Cake Walk. “We added the cupcake circle last year to give the little kids something they could participate in that was their own size,” Murphy said. “They loved it.”

## **b. Cake Decorating Contests – “Have Your Cake & Eat It Too”**

In 2001, the GBPA introduced the cake decorating contest. While publicity for the Cake Walk claimed at the time that this was a re-introduction of contests that were held in the past, research of past walks, including discussions with alumni and past chairs, failed to find a single mention of a cake decorating contest before 2001. Slicing up ugly cakes and selling them, yes. Displaying beautiful cakes on pedestals on card tables with linen table clothes, yes. Making cakes from scratch, yes. But a contest for the best decorated cake, no. Plus, it is hard to believe that the winner of a cake decorating contest at the Cake Walk would not have been reported in the *Tri-Village News* in the 1950s and early 1960s. That would have been big news worthy of an announcement on the



# THE MODERN ERA (2000-2019)

front page, with a picture of the winner. But, just as there is no information about the 1950 and 1951 Cake Walks, it is possible that contests were held and not put in the paper.

It seems as if the cake decorating contests that started in 2001 were a recognition of the informal attempts of parents (i.e. moms) to outdo one another with their cakes at the early cake walks. Initially, prizes were given out to the top three professional and non-professional bakers, and the cakes were judged by three members of the community. According to Dr. Watkins, the cake decorating contest was a huge hit right away. He had former students come back to the Cake Walk just to enter a cake in the contest. It was probably the biggest money-making addition during his time as band director, that and the addition of a fifth ring. Dr. Watkins doesn't know why there wasn't a contest before 2001 or why a fifth ring wasn't added before 1999. He just supposes it was because "that's the way we've always done it" was the mantra of the event.



In 2002 & 2003, prizes were given for the most school spirit, most creative, and other distinctions. There was a separate category for professionally decorated cakes. In 2004, an edible Weber grill cake, Easter basket cake and a bowling ball cake were the most talked about entries. The cake decorating contest also added categories for student bakers. In 2005, the cake decorating contest categories were changed to most bobcat spirit, best use of frosting, best children's theme and

best holiday theme. Student categories were the most Bobcat spirit, best use of frosting, most outrageous and best cartoon character. People selected the adult and youth winners by placing a game/walk ticket in a plastic container next to a cake. The cakes with the most number of tickets or "votes" won. The professionally donated cakes were then bid upon and sold in a silent auction. In 2007, 13 professional cakes were auctioned off for \$475. In addition, a "People's Choice Award" was added to the cake decorating contest.



In 2014, the cake decorating contest had youth (18 and under) and adult divisions. It changed its categories to best use of frosting, Bobcat spirit, best aligned to cake walk theme, best



# THE MODERN ERA (2000-2019)

use of cartoon theme, most creative, and a People’s Choice Award. Even today, adults and students compete in the cake decorating categories of most Bobcat spirit, best use of frosting and best cake walk theme.

## c. Cake Walk Themes – “Got Cake?”



Beginning in 2011, GBPA leadership implemented a new approach to Cake Walk ticket sales and publicity. This approach included using social media, creating themes for the walks in 2011-2015, selling branded items, and inviting the local media to be guests at the walks. It also built upon prior efforts to increase sales, such as the addition of walking ticket sales by persons with big hats in 2004. 2004 co-chair Tracy Garrett remembers that the sellers would stand out to people who were out of tickets because their large, goofy hats could be easily seen, and that it was a great way to sell tickets to people without them having to go back to the front door.

The first known official Cake Walk t-shirts were made in 2006. The winning drawing of a Stevenson Elementary student was put on the front of the shirt and on the back it said, “Got Cake?” It included a listing of corporate sponsors, including the main sponsor, O’Malley Real Estate. One hundred free t-shirts were distributed to volunteers.

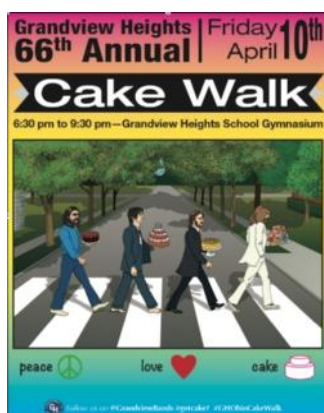
The first known “theme” for a Cake Walk was “Be A Part of Tradition” in 2011. Past GBPA President Melanie Trout-Luckenbach recalls during this time, “we created unique branding for that year’s event, including designing special t-shirts and posters for sale, and branding the event to make an annual impression. We used that to promote it more broadly out the bubble known as ‘Grandview Proper.’ We also expanded our bakery reach outside the ‘bubble’ and brought in bakers from other small communities, helping them in their brand recognition and promoting community/ business partnerships more broadly.” She even got the whole news team of Fox 28 ABC to show up one year.

For the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cake Walk in 2014, marketing for the Cake Walk was based on a humorous take of the 1943 Norman Rockwell painting *Freedom From Want*, also known as *The Thanksgiving Picture*. Instead of the mother placing a large turkey in the middle of the dining room table, she had a large cake on the platter.



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A “Text to Vote” promotional event also occurred in 2014. Area businesses created cake displays using materials they used or sold. Visitors to the businesses voted on their favorite display via text, and the top vote getter won the Community Take the Cake Award trophy. In addition, in the week leading up to the Cake Walk, area restaurants made specialty cakes/desserts to promote the event. The DK Diner created the “*Strawberry Bobcat Band Donut*” in honor of 65<sup>th</sup> walk, with part of proceeds benefitting the GHHS band.



In 2015, the Cake Walk had a “Life’s A Cake Walk” theme, but people remember it best for the “Peace, Love, Cake” logo that was created depicting the *Abbey Road* album cover with the Beatles carrying cakes as they cross the street. Logo posters and t-shirts created by State of Devotion were sold at the Cake Walk. The t-shirts were discontinued, but “Got Cake” and “Life is a Cake Walk” shirts can still be seen at Cake Walks. Band parent volunteers even wore them at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake Walk. A tie-dye shirt-making activity and a hippie photo booth with 60’s props and costumes to wear for the pictures added to the fun of the 2015 Cake Walk, and enhanced the theming of the event.

## d. The 2011 Flash Mob/The Band Moves – “Time To Spring For The Cake Walk”

In 2011, band parent Sherry Daniel and Grandview kindergarten teacher and band parent Jennie Reed organized a flash mob at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Cake Walk. Band parent Dori Jenks choreographed a simple version of The Time Warp dance from the 1975 film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. This dance was performed by numerous band parents, teachers and administrators as part of the flash mob. Many attendees were caught unaware, but the high school band was in on it from the beginning. After playing a stanza from the fight song, director Kie Watkins announced that the band was going to do something from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Parents then put on their sunglasses (some of them quite goofy), and slowly joined in until there was a large group dancing in front of the band and among the cake circles, all doing The Time Warp. Even Superintendent Edward O’Reilly and Middle School Principal Bob Baeslack danced. Some students also danced. At the end of the song, everyone fell to the ground in a heap – the official ending of The Time Warp.

# THE MODERN ERA (2000-2019)



**Dr. Kie Watkins remembers that the whole thing was “hilarious, and a lot of fun.” The video of the 2011 Flash Mob, with some great footage of cakes in the cake decorating contest and children’s games, can be viewed on YouTube.**

Another event involving the band during this time frame was the band’s move from the gym floor to the bleachers in 2009. Mr. Heath remembers that the band moved to create more space for activities and because the band’s chairs could be used to make and expand the walk circles. There are 170 chairs used at every Cake Walk, so freeing up chairs for use from the closest classroom to the gym was a big deal. Also, before the change, band members had to carry their chairs from the band room to the gym and back again when they played at the Cake Walk. Using the bleachers eliminated this hassle. Dr. Watkins remembers band members always complained about having to take their chairs and stands back and forth from the band room, so Mr. Heath (in his usual dry manner) said, “next year, let’s not use the chairs.” Dr. Watkins agreed. Initially, the band was on the northwest (right) side bleachers and the cakes were on the southwest (left) side. A couple of years later they switch places to their current locations so that the band directors could see the Cake Walk emcee better.



# THE MODERN ERA

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Some additional facts about Cake Walks in the 2000s and 2010s include:

- 2000 – First mention of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands playing together. 5 circles of numbered chairs, one with child-sized seats. The Cake Walk provided half of the GBPA's revenue for the year. 20 uniforms at a cost of \$300/piece were purchased with the money raised.
- 2001 – More than 1,000 people attended.
- 2002 – Admission was lowered back to 25 cents. A table was set up where kids could decorate a cupcake. A silent auction was held featuring professionally decorated cakes from Kroger, Big Bear, the French Loaf, Aladdin's, Paul's Pantry and Spagio's. Cakes were also sold so that everyone who wanted a cake, but didn't win one, could leave with a cake. Raffle items included belly-dancing lessons, haircuts, facials, books, an Ohio State University football signed by Coach Jim Tressel, and nearly 100 other items.
- 2003 – Admission raised back to 50 cents. Tickets were sold 10 for \$1 for games and walks, but each walk required 2 tickets, i.e. 20 cents. \$5,000 was raised to help pay for band camp and the band director's copier and upkeep.
- 2004 – A pie ring was added as a new event where the walker lost his/her seat like musical chairs. The last person standing won the pie. Co-chair Tracy Garrett shared that deep-pocketed, nail aprons were donated by Home Depot for collecting tickets by the walking ticket sales people and in the cake rings.
- 2005 – More than 300 cakes and pies were donated, and more than \$5,000 was raised. Bicycles, an Xbox video-game system and a basketball hoop were raffled off. Game tickets were increased to 25 cents each.
- 2006 – A 50-50 raffle and more children's games replaced cake bingo.
- 2007 – 245 cakes were donated and \$4,700 was raised. 13 professional cakes were auctioned off for \$475. A special walk with the chance to win a football autographed by Ohio State University Football Coach Jim Tressel was conducted at 8 pm for \$5 a seat.

# THE MODERN ERA

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- 2008 – 237 cakes were donated and \$5,350 was raised. A special walk that cost \$2 a seat was held at 8 pm for the chance to win a portable basketball hoop and ball. Raffle donations by Vino, Bucca Di Beppo, Cowtown Pizza, Mama Mimi's Pizza, Old Bag of Nails, Panzera's Pizza, Sister Sage, Figlio's, and Stauf's. Just Pies, Cap City Diner, Champps, French Loaf, Spagio's, Thom's, Rife's Market, Z Cucina and Dairy Queen donated cakes.
- 2009 – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated and about \$5,000 raised. Cost for games and walk increased to 25 cents.
- 2010 – Tickets for games or a walk in a cake ring were 25 cents or 5 for a dollar. More than 300 cakes were donated, and \$4600 was raised.
- 2011 – \$5200 was raised.
- 2012 – Although discussions about raising the price to make more money to support the band took place, admission remained 50 cents and the cost of walks remained 25 cents. A silent auction was held where band parents could bid on photographs taken by Stephanie Evans of the band's various instrument sections at band camp. Karen Riggs of the GH/MC Historical Society had an information table of photographs and memorabilia from the history of Grandview's school bands.
- 2012 – Grandview resident Pat Peters finally won a cake after attending the Cake Walk for more than 50 years. It was a yellow butterfly cake with M&M's sprinkled on it. She had attended the Cake Walk since high school because she wanted to support the band and make sure that Grandview had a strong band program.
- 2013 – Admission cost was increased to \$1, but a walk was still 25 cents. Admission was made easier with the doors on both sides of the gym opened to allow admission from either Fairview Avenue or Oakland Avenue. A professional face-painter painted detailed faces for \$8 a person, an artist made balloon animals that cost \$1 to \$5, and henna or painted tattoos were sold for \$3 to \$5. The game area was moved to the gym balcony. Concessions included corn dogs and walking tacos. Approximately 240 cakes were donated. \$5,000 was raised.

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- 2015 – Plans to replace the band uniforms, which were more than 30 years old, were announced. 931 people attended (not including volunteers and band members). 8,892 tickets were sold for a game or walk. \$5,800 was raised.
- 2016 – 839 attended (not including volunteers and band members). \$6,825 was raised.
- 2017 – Walks in the cake rings increased in cost to \$35 cents each or three for a \$1. 20-25 cakes were donated for the silent auction by places like la Chatelaine, The Avenue and Cap City Diner. 1,378 attended (not including volunteers and band members). \$7,353 was raised.
- 2018 – Walk tickets cost three for \$1. Twelve dozen mini-Bundt cakes were donated by Nothing Bundt Cakes and were used for the newly created cupcake circle for preschoolers. The children’s area in the balcony offered face-painting, a soccer-goal kick game and a candy-art project. \$6,532 was raised.
- 2019 – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Old band uniforms replaced in 2017 were given away in exchange for a donation (\$10) so families could turn them into keepsake pillows or use the embroidered “Grandview” on the back. Children’s games were eliminated. The cupcake circle, face-painting and coloring table were moved to the gym floor near the donated cakes. Nothing Bundt Cakes donated 60 mini-Bundt cakes for the cupcake circle. Over \$7,000 was raised and over 1,000 people attended (not including volunteers and band members).

# LIFE IS A CAKE WALK

## “LIFE IS A CAKE WALK”



For the past seventy years, Grandview Heights High School alumni, local businesses, community leaders, families and members of the Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff communities – young and old – have supported the Grandview Cake Walk and the schools’ music programs. Every year, over 400 parents and band members volunteer their time to put on this event, donating their time, talents and cakes. More than 1,000 members of the community pay the \$1.00 admission price and show their support for the bands. These numbers are impressive for a city with just over 6,000 residents.

As co-chair Cathy Murphy reflected before the 70<sup>th</sup> Cake Walk, “we’re always so grateful for the great support we get from the community for the Cake Walk. It’s a fun night out for families and a great way to support our band program.” Her co-chair, Joanne Taylor, noted that “it’s become such an ingrained tradition in our community. The first cake walk was held in 1949. I think people enjoy taking part and carrying on the tradition. I don’t know of many other places that have an event quite like this. It’s the tradition of the Cake Walk that helps make it so special.” Past chair Angela Jackson observed, “it is a reflection of our community and students that this tradition has been upheld for so long.” Even current high school band director Chris Hermann was “pleasantly surprised” at his first Cake Walk in 2015 “by the magnitude of attendees, enthusiasm, and honor the community places on the Cake Walk.” Although he is not sure why it has lasted 70 years, he pointed out that “it’s what residents do in Grandview – it’s a social event with a band accompaniment. Fun for all!”

When you ask someone about the Cake Walk, the first thing they will tell you is if they have won a cake. Some kids leave empty handed, often in tears or maybe with a cake or cupcake that their parent bought to stop the tears. Others walk away with smiles on their faces and the joy of winning a cake (or two or even five). Jim Anderson’s favorite memory is winning four cakes at one Cake Walk



# LIFE IS A CAKE WALK



when he was in elementary school. Bob and Pat Peters attended over 50 cake walks before experiencing the thrill of winning their first cake in 2016. Melanie Trout-Luckenbach had five children, four of whom were in the band, and only her middle daughter won a cake. Superintendent Andy Culp's favorite memory is of former High School Principal Ken Chaffin taking a picture of his two kids at the Cake Walk. His son, who won a cake, was smiling for the camera and beaming with pride. His daughter standing next to his son was empty-handed and crying. That is the luck of the numbers at the Cake Walk.

The second thing that people will tell you about the Cake Walk is that it is something for the entire family and all generations. Joanne Taylor explained that "each year, the event is basically the same: There's the cake rings and the chance to win cakes and listen to the middle school and high school bands play. I think that people like that it's the same event each year. Generations have grown up with it. It's just an inexpensive way to come out, see your neighbors and have some fun." Debbie York, who chaired the event for 5 years, agrees, stating what she likes best about the Cake Walk "is that it is a neighborhood event for all ages."

Grandview residents are also very proud if they did walks when they were a student, then as a parent, and then as a grandparent, passing along their love for this Grandview event. Harriett Casey has fond memories of taking her grandsons to the Cake Walk, and loves that it is an "alumni night" for generations of Grandview families. Ray DeGraw first took his daughter to the Cake Walk when she was in kindergarten about 35 years ago, and then his grandson when he was five years old. His grandson won a cake the first three times he walked in a ring, but hasn't won a cake since. Sue Trendy observed that, "Grandview grads bring their little ones back. Grandview grandparents bring their grandchildren washed with the memories of their children's first Cake Walk. Nostalgia. The comfort of community that everyone longs for. It's just that special."

The alumni of Grandview take pride in the band and the old-fashioned traditions of the Cake Walk. Scott Heath, who has been a band director in Grandview's schools for nearly 20 years, shared the following: "my favorite memories include seeing alumni who come back with their own kids to participate. I now teach with several Grandview alumni and I still remember what they played and how they performed in the show. I do have one special memory from a few years ago when a student submitted a cake to the decorating contest with a man conducting



# LIFE IS A CAKE WALK

on top. The student said it was the Mr. Heath Cake. I still think about that today.” Jim Anderson summed up the feelings of many alumni when he indicated that “Grandview has always been a close-knit community that supports everything the schools have to offer. And it has to do with the quality of the people that live in Grandview. They want the best for each and every student. Not only is there strong support from the community, but alumni are always proud to say they are from Grandview and are interested in what is currently happening with the schools.”

The third thing people will tell you is that the Cake Walk is the first sign of spring in Grandview, a chance to catch up with neighbors and friends and enjoy some wholesome fun at very little cost. Angela Jackson noted in the *This Week Community News - Grandview* in 2012 that “this completely old-fashioned, high-energy, low-tech event kicks off spring in Grandview,” with Debbie York adding, “it really is like Mayberry or *The Music Man*.” “I think it is a way of shaking off winter and welcoming in the spring. People are ready for a night of fun. Plus, it feels like something from long ago,” remarked Sue Trendy. “It is a fun, lighthearted event that brings the community together for music and promotes camaraderie with the promise of coming spring and warmer weather,” band parent Greta Kearns shared. Kathy Grinstead, Cake Walk chair in 2009, noted that “it’s so much fun and noisy. I think everybody loves the Cake Walk. It’s just a great spring time event.” Harriett Casey also pointed out that one of the keys to the success of the Cake Walk is that it is in-between the end of basketball/winter sports and the beginning of spring sports such as baseball, softball, and track and field. She shared that “in Grandview, the Cake Walk is a way of saying spring is here, and it is time to get out and visit with your friends and neighbors. Watching the kids laugh and have fun – it just brings a smile to your face.”

When community leaders were asked what the Cake Walk means to Grandview, City Council President Greta Kearns responded, “the Cake Walk is emblematic of how our community rallies around schools, extracurriculars, and the arts – and likes to have fun! It is a great tradition and the long history shows we value all these things deeply as a community.” Grandview Mayor Ray DeGraw noted, “it’s one of those events that makes this community special. The best part is the gathering of the community, seeing friends, and the activities around the event. It’s also a bonus that you can go home and have some cake after the event.” District Superintendent Andy Culp said that the Cake Walk “says that our community believes in being

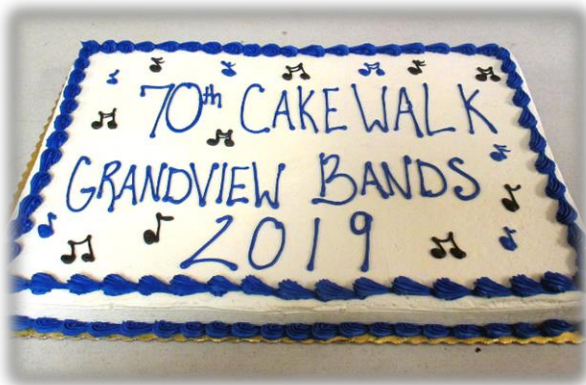


# LIFE IS A CAKE WALK

a part of something bigger than themselves and believes in service above self. It says that they want to come and support the Grandview Heights Schools and the amazing Grandview Heights band.” Dr. Kie Watkins thinks the Grandview “community prides itself on maintaining the traditions of the Cake Walk, even though no one does them anymore around Columbus,” and it has “lasted because it stayed true to its ideals: cheap family fun that has easy access, dependable items/events, and something to look forward to each year.”

I think that family fun, tradition, and Grandview’s strong sense of community are the reasons that the Cake Walk has lasted for 70 years. The Cake Walk reflects the values and priorities of the Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff communities. It reflects Grandview’s focus on the quality of its schools. It reflects Grandview’s pride in its bands and music programs. It has become an important community-wide event and a part of Grandview’s uniqueness as a city and school district. It is not just a fundraiser for the Grandview Band Parents Association. It is a fixed tradition that is part of the identity of the Grandview Heights community.<sup>3</sup>

The Cake Walk “is” Grandview.



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<sup>3</sup> The Cake Walk is 7 years older than the Bobcat Booster’s Ox Roast, the other fixed tradition in Grandview. The Ox Roast was first put on by the Bobcat Boosters on October 25-27, 1956 as part of Grandview’s celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. *Tri-Village News*, Oct. 4, 1956, p. 1. It was moved to Labor Day weekend the following year, and Ox Roast plates were only \$1.00. *Tri-Village News*, Aug. 29, 1957, p. 1. The Grandview Civic Welfare Club’s Recreation Festival was combined with the Ox Roast in 1958, and the barbecue pits were moved from Oxley and First Avenue to Hilo Lane and Northwest Boulevard. A midway of five amusement rides at 10 cents each was also added. *Tri-Village News*, Aug. 26, 1958, p. 1. The Bobcat Boosters’ 5<sup>th</sup> annual Ox Roast and Carnival was celebrated on Sept. 8-10, 1960. *Tri-Village News*, Sept. 6, 1960, p. 1. From the very beginning of the Bobcat Booster’s Ox Roast, members of the GHHS football team have had the honor of lighting the festival’s fire pits.

# CREDITS

## Bibliography:

1. Every article about the Cake Walk that could be found in the *Tri-Village News* from 1948-2008 was reviewed via microfiche at the Grandview and Upper Arlington libraries. *Tri-Village News* articles about the formation of the Grandview Marching Band, Grandview Band Parents Association, and the start of the Ox Roast from 1940-1960 were also reviewed. *This Week Community News – Grandview Cake Walk* articles from 2008-2018 were reviewed. These articles were relied upon as general source material with direct quotes noted. Printed copies have been collected and donated to the collections of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society and Reference Department of the Grandview Heights Library.

2. Written responses to questions, quotations, and interviews provided by Andy Culp, Chris Hermann, Dr. Kie Watkins, Scott Heath, Mary Jo Gaskalla, Debbie York, Susan Trendy, LaVerne McDaniel Foe, Melanie Trout-Luckenbach, Tracy Garrett, Jim Anderson, Harriett Casey, Catherine Dimes, Joanne Taylor, Cathy Murphy, Ray DeGraw and Greta Kearns have been donated to the collections of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society and Reference Department of the Grandview Heights Library.

3. The 1957 photo of Herriot Delaney and Nancy Williams on page 8 of the book is reproduced with the permission of Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society and is part of its collection. It notes a \$330 donation from the Cake Walk to the fundraising drive for new majorette uniforms. The 2000 photo on page 20 of the book is from the 51<sup>st</sup> Cake Walk and is in the 2000 book by Ken Frick, “43212 - 2000 Grandview Heights Marble Cliff a Day in the Millennium.” The picture of the early band tag is from LaVerne Foe. Two cake pictures are from Catherine Dimes and 2 pictures were donated by Melanie Trout-Luckenbach. All other pictures in the book are from the April 4, 2014 or April 5, 2019 Cake Walks. The 2019 pictures taken by Elizabeth Watters have been donated to the GH/MC Historical Society collection.

4. The phrase “the more things change, the more they remain the same” was coined by French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr (“plus ca change, plus c’est la meme chose”). [https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/the more things change, the more they stay the same](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/the_more_things_change,_the_more_they_stay_the_same).

5. The 2011 Flash mob at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeH3eWJib4U>.

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