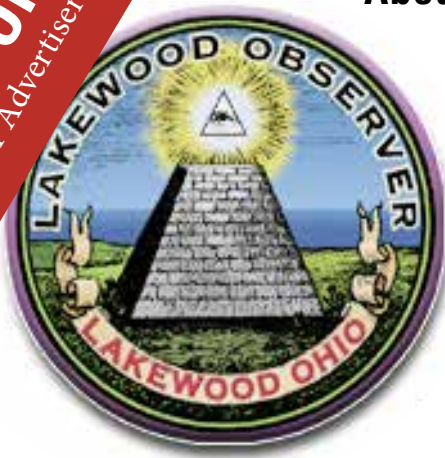


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“About morals, I know only that what is moral is what you feel good after and what is immoral is what you feel bad after.” Ernest Hemingway

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 15, Issue 21, November 6, 2019

## Neff, Shachner, Litten, O'Malley In On Council, Petrie-Barcelona, Callahan, Beebe On BOE Meghan George New Mayor Of Lakewood

by Margaret Brinich

Although 2019 was considered an off-year election, locally, this year's election cycle proved to be as busy as ever

in Lakewood. With mayor, four ward council races, and three board of education seats up for grabs, election night in Lakewood did not disap-

point. From the start, as the results rolled in, the margins in the most hotly contested and closely watched race of the night, that which would deter-

mine Lakewood's next mayor, were razor thin. Ultimately, Meghan George prevailed over her fellow current councilperson, Sam O'Leary. The Ward 1 Council seat went to Tess Neff, the Ward 2 Council seat went to Jason Shachner, and the Ward 3 Council seat went to incumbent John Litten. The Ward 4 Council seat was uncontested, with Dan O'Malley retaining his seat on council. Of the three seats up for grabs on the Lakewood Board of Education, two will stay with familiar names,

Linda Beebe and Emma Petrie-Barcelona, while the third will go to a new face on the board - Michael Callahan.

In addition, there were several other races impacting Lakewood, including a charter amendment that adds a primary election contest for Lakewood's Municipal Judge seat if more than two candidates run for the post. In addition, at the county level, Issue 3, the Cuyahoga Community College tax levy renewal and increase, passed with a strong majority.

### Municipal Election Results

#### Lakewood Mayor

**Meghan F. George:** 50.73% (5,702)  
**Sam O'Leary:** 49.27% (5,537)

#### Lakewood City Council Ward 1

**Tess Neff:** 61.68% (1,774)  
**Rodriguez-Carbone:** 38.32% (1,102)

#### Lakewood City Council Ward 2

**Jason Shachner:** 62.14% (1,874)  
**Brad Presutto:** 37.86% (1,142)

#### Lakewood City Council 3

**John Litten:** 66.73% (1,893)  
**Jeff Wise:** 33.27% (944)

#### Lakewood City Council Ward 4

**Daniel J. O'Malley:** 100% (1,518)

#### Board of Education (vote for 3)

**Emma Petrie-Barcelona:** 25.11% (5,710)  
**Michael J. Callahan:** 21.84% (4,966)  
**Linda G. Beebe:** 20.25% (4,605)

**Tom Einhouse:** 17.20% (3,911)

**Andrew A. Meyer:** 15.61% (3,549)

#### Lakewood Charter Amendment Judges

**Yes:** 85.20% (9,067)

**No:** 14.80% (1,575)

## LakewoodAlive To Host "Transportation For A 21st Century City" Community Forum On November 14

by Matt Bixenstine

As transportation preferences continue to evolve, our society is increasingly seeking better options for getting around. But how can we ensure our region's transportation policies keep pace with our modern-day transportation needs?

LakewoodAlive announces it will host a community forum – entitled Transportation for a 21st Century City – from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, at Harrison Elementary School (2080 Quail Street in Lakewood's Historic Birdtown Neighborhood). This community conversation will offer insightful dialogue regarding how we as a society can improve our transportation sys-

tem to address today's unique transportation challenges, capitalize on changing lifestyle preferences and enhance quality of life for individuals without adequate access to transportation.

Both the general public and members of the media are invited to attend this free forum as the community seeks to better understand current and future transportation needs and how we can create a more responsive



LakewoodAlive's "Transportation for a 21st Century City" Community Forum takes place on November 14.

transportation system to meet these needs. The discussion will delve into the evolution of transportation within our society, best practices for urban mass transit, and transportation solutions ranging from expanded public access and walkable neighborhoods to biking alternatives and ride-share options.

Michael P. Summers, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, will oversee a distinguished group of panelists for an informative discussion. The final 30 minutes will be devoted to panelists fielding questions from the audience.

The panelists participating in this community forum include:

**Grace Gallucci,** Execu-

**Read the rest of this story online at: [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com)**

## 2nd Annual End Hunger In Lakewood Day Set For Saturday November 16th

by Trish Rooney

Matt Fish, owner and founder of Melt Bar and Grilled, has again spearheaded the annual End Hunger in Lakewood event scheduled for Saturday, November 16th. "We had an exceptionally successful first event last November with 34 restaurants and food retailers participating. Donating 10% of food sales on a Saturday is not a small gesture," said Fish. All the money raised will go to Lakewood Community Services Center's efforts to provide emergency food to 15% of the population of Lakewood who need food support. "This year 43 establishments responded immediately to my request to participate. This outpouring of support for needy Lakewood residents speaks to the generosity of my colleagues here in town," added Fish.

"We used 100% of the \$11,000 raised last year to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for individuals who come into the Center and for the seniors in subsidized housing who rely on our monthly door-to-door deliveries," said LCSC Executive Director Trish Rooney. "Our goal is to supplement the shelf-stable groceries we are always able to provide with healthy food options, but this is easier said than done. The

cost can be prohibitive, but with the incredible generosity of our local restaurants and shops last November, we were able to purchase and distribute fresh produce every month."

When you dine out and shop on Saturday November 16th, please visit one – or more – of these participating establishments. Enjoy great food, be a part of this annual community-wide event for our neighbors in need, and support these generous participants.

Addicted Coffee, Fear's Confections, Mahall's 20 Lanes, Aladdin's, Forge Public House, Malley's Chocolates\*, Angelo's Pizza, Gatherings Kitchen, Melt Bar and Grilled, Around the Corner, Georgetown, Molto Bene Italian Eatery, Barrio, GoodKind Coffee. Rood Food & Pie, Barroco, Gray Dog Diner, Salt+, Blackbird Baking Company, Harlow's, Sarita A Restaurant\*, Bottlehouse Lakewood, Humble Wine Bar, Sauced Taproom, Buckeye Beer Engine, Ice Cream Joy Café, Sweet Designs Chocolatier, Cleveland Vegan, Italian Creations\*, Taco Tontos, Deagan's, KB Confections, Thai Thai\*\*, Dewey's Pizza, Lakewood SouperMarket,



2019 Halloween winner was over at 1433 Spring Garden. The amount of detail work in this display was staggering. The top ten photos on page 9, See all the photos online at the Lakewood Observer.co

continued on page 2



# Lakewood Observer

## 2nd Annual End Hunger In Lakewood Day Set For Saturday November 16th

continued from page 1

The Root Cafe, Dinerbar on Clifton, LBM, The Tea Lab, El Carnicero, Little Lakewood Pasta Company, The Winchester, Woodstock BBQ

\*Donating directly to LCSC and not part of the dine & donate event.  
\*\* Held their event on October 28th due to their move to a new Lakewood location.  
Trish Rooney is the Executive



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<b>Upcoming Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Publish Date</b>
November 14, 2019	November 20, 2019
November 28, 2019	December 4, 2019

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**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** - Matt Bixenstine, Margaret Brinich, Kristin Broadbent, Lynn Donaldson, Marge Foley, Aubrey Fox, Melinda Frank, Tom Gibbons, Christine Gordillo, Amy Kloss, Scott MacGregor, Tish Marshall, Jim O'Bryan, Trish Rooney, Elaine Rosenberger, Nic Starr, and Melissa Zreny.



# Healthy Lakewood

## Keep Lakewood Beautiful - Community Composting At Lakewood Park

by Tish Marshall

Keep Lakewood Beautiful (KLB) and the City of Lakewood have partnered with Rust Belt Riders to provide residents with an alternative to landfills for household food waste. A collection bin has been placed in Lakewood Park, in front of the Oldest Stone House. For \$5 per month, you can take your waste food items to the collection site instead of putting the waste in the trash. You can subscribe to this service on [www.rustbeltriders.com](http://www.rustbeltriders.com). Drop-off is at your convenience; the bin is always available. Just about all non-liquid food waste can be composted; meat, dairy, citrus, coffee grounds, eggshells, etc. My family recently signed up and took our first food waste to the bins; it was easy.

The US Department of Agriculture estimates that 30 to 40% of all food in the US is wasted. And the USEPA reports that food waste is the single largest component of discarded municipal waste. Government statis-

tics like these led to the founding of Rust Belt Riders in 2014. According to Dan Brown, co-founder, they believe, and many of us agree, that composting food scraps is one of the most significant actions an individual can take to help the environment. In addition to the Lakewood location, they have collection bins at their facility in Cleveland and at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. They also contract with about 150 businesses in Ohio. Dan calculates that, in this year alone, their programs have redirected over two million pounds of food waste from a landfill to composting.

Dan had a few words of wisdom based on his experiences in composting. Have a container for your food scraps out while you're preparing a meal. Make collecting for compost-

ing part of your routine. Any reusable container will do for collecting food scraps; a bucket, a plastic storage case, etc. The best place to store your food waste for composting is in the freezer, but any cool, dark, dry place that slows the decomposition process will do. Make it a weekly habit to drop off your food scraps at the collection bin, maybe on trash day.

More Information on Rust Belt Riders can be found on their web site, [www.rustbeltriders.com](http://www.rustbeltriders.com). If you have specific questions on whether or not a food item is compostable or just general questions about their program, they can be reached at [info@rustbeltriders.com](mailto:info@rustbeltriders.com). You can, of course, contact KLB through our web page on the city web site ([www.onelakewood.com/keep-lakewood-beautiful/](http://www.onelakewood.com/keep-lakewood-beautiful/)). Please consider joining

us in this community composting effort.

KLB would also like to take this opportunity to thank Around the Corner for their partnership with our early October neighborhood litter pick-up event. Many thanks to Around the Corner employees and other intrepid Lakewoodites who showed up in the rain to help keep our streets clean. KLB hopes to organize more of these localized litter pick-up events; it was quite a success in spite of the weather.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful was created in 1982 to promote civic involvement in improving the Lakewood environment. We always welcome new Board members and new ideas. Thank you.

## Three Arches Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

by Kristin Broadbent

Three Arches Foundation, a community-focused grant making foundation, announces the election of Lakewood resident Pat Sullivan to its board of directors.

Sullivan is managing director at Monticello Associates focused on client portfolio management and investment manager evaluation. As head of the firm's Cleveland office, he represents an array of notable clients across Northeast Ohio. Prior to joining Monticello in 2003, he served as president of Parkwood Trust Company leading all aspects of investment management for the private bank and began his career at Jones Day as a corporate and restructuring lawyer. Sullivan has served as



Pat Sullivan

chairman of the board of trustees of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, trustee of the Mandel Foundation, and on the Business Advisory Council of the Farmer School of Busi-

ness at Miami University. Currently, he serves on the Investment Committee of St. Ignatius High School.

About Three Arches Foundation (TAF) – Three Arches Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that invests in advancing the health and well-being of the citizens of Lakewood and surrounding communities through grant-making. By connecting people, ideas and resources, the Three Arches Foundation fosters a collaborative approach towards investing in organizations whose work directly addresses the continuum of physical and behavioral health issues. For more information, visit [threearchesfoundation.org](http://threearchesfoundation.org).

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Meet the Author  
“Cafe Abyss: John O’Brien’s Fiction, A Reflection”  
Edited by Dave Megenhardt and Rob Jackson  
Main Library Auditorium

Editors and contributors of “Cafe Abyss” discuss the fiction of John O’Brien, Lakewood native and author of four novels including “Leaving Las Vegas.” O’Brien’s sister, Erin O’Brien, will discuss John’s life and legacy. Contributors Sara Dobie Bauer, Patrick Snee, Matt Marshall and Tanya Pilumeli, will speak about discovering O’Brien’s work and share their analyses of it. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.  
Film Series—Sam Fuller: Audacious Auteur: “Shock Corridor” (1963)  
Directed by Samuel Fuller, Presented by Terry Meehan  
Main Library Auditorium

Johnny Barrett (Peter Breck) is a journalist who wants to win a Pulitzer Prize. He learns of a murder at a mental institution and decides that an inside investigative piece will get him recognized. He hires a psychiatrist to coach him on how to appear insane and gets himself locked up. Terry Meehan continues his series Sam Fuller: Audacious Auteur, introducing each film with an original video followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday with the Friends  
Concert - Global Connections  
Main Library Auditorium

Global Connections performs a unique mix of original compositions and popular musical genres from around the world. The group uses various musical styles from South America, Africa, North America, Europe and Asia to create a high energy performance. Musicians Patricia Bussert, Chano Gibson, Josh Sherman, Mike McNamara, Ismail Douglas, Damon Cody and Baba David Coleman will perform using cultural instruments for music with a distinctly world flair.

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Lakewood Historical Society Programs  
Cuyahoga and Its Burning River  
Presentation by Western Reserve Historical Society  
Main Library Auditorium

The Cuyahoga River plays a central role in Cleveland’s history. Its terminus in Lake Erie was chosen by Moses Cleaveland as the location for the capital city of the Western Reserve. It was both used and abused, catching fire at least a dozen times from industrial waste runoff. Marking the fiftieth anniversary of the most notorious blaze, a speaker from the Western Reserve Historical Society will review the history of Cleveland’s crooked river.

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Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Meet the Author  
“White Like Her: My Family’s Story of Race and Racial Passing”  
Book by Gail Lukasik, PhD  
Main Library Auditorium  
“White Like Her: My Family’s Story of Race and Racial Passing” is the story of Gail Lukasik’s mother’s racial passing, Lukasik’s struggle with the shame of her mother’s choice and her subsequent journey of self-discovery and redemption. Haunted by her mother’s fear and shame, she embarks on a quest to uncover her mother’s racial lineage. Lukasik is an award-winning mystery author and Ohio native. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event.

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Nonfiction Book Club  
Main Library Meeting Room  
Come and join the conversation with our newest book club. There are sure to be serious and thought-provoking discussions about many subjects inspired by these nonfiction works. Tonight we will discuss “The Uninhabitable Earth: Life after Warming” by David Wallace-Wells.

Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.  
Lakewood Public Cinema  
“The Painted Veil” (2006), Directed by John Curran  
Presented by Barbara Steffek-Hill  
Main Library Auditorium  
Newlywed society girl Kitty (Naomi Watts) realizes that her frivolous pursuit of romantic ideals clashes with her intelligent, yet dull, husband Dr. Walter Fane (Edward Norton). The couple takes their troubled marriage to a remote Chinese village in search of connection. In the midst of a raging cholera epidemic, the couple faces new hardships together. Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a series of classic and contemporary films from her personal favorites.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday with the Friends, Mary Beth Ions  
Main Library Auditorium  
Violinist Mary Beth Ions will take you on a journey from Bach to Broadway, from country fiddle tunes to fiery Gypsy music and even showcase contemporary uses of the violin, like in the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and on American Idol! Her story-telling inspires awe of the violin, its history and how it has developed through the centuries. Ions is one of Northeast Ohio’s most active musicians, playing in the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and at Playhouse Square.

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. (80 minutes)  
Weekday Documentaries  
“Kusama: Infinity” (2018), Directed by Heather Lenz  
Presented by Cleveland Institute of Art - Sculpture + Expanded Media Department  
Main Library Auditorium  
Now the top-selling female artist in the world, Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama overcame impossible odds to bring her radical artistic vision to the world stage. After working as an artist for over six decades, people around the globe are experiencing her installation Infinity Mirrored Rooms in record numbers. Joining us to discuss the film will be Sarah Paul, associate professor and chair of Sculpture + Expanded Media at Cleveland Institute of Art.

## Events For Kids

compiled by Nic Starr

Thursdays, November 7 – November 21, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
NaNoWriMo Writer’s Cafe  
For students in fifth through twelfth grade  
Main Library Multipurpose Room  
NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) is a fun, empowering approach to creative writing that occurs each November. You will have a weekly meet-up at the Library to work on your writing project while brainstorming, sharing ideas and breaking through the wall of writer’s block. Registration is required.

Friday, November 8, 2019, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Space is the Place: The Solar System in the CMNH’s New Mobile Planetarium, For All Ages  
Main Library Multipurpose Room  
Launch into space with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s new mobile planetarium! No registration is required; tickets will be distributed thirty minutes before the program.

Saturday, November 9, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Tail Waggin’ Tutors  
For school-age children  
Main Library Multipurpose Room  
Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

Sunday, November 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Happily Ever Crafter  
Main Library Activity Room  
For students in sixth through twelfth grade  
Beginners and pros, come create clever crafts with everyday materials! Registration required.



# Lakewood Public Library

## Cuyahoga And Its Burning River

by Amy Kloss

The Cuyahoga River dates back 12,000 years, but it was the fire in 1969 that made it famous. Even though it was not the first or the worst, the 1969 blaze caught the attention of the country, making Cleveland the butt of jokes and spurring the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Cuyahoga River and its colorful history will be the subject of a talk by the Western Reserve Historical Society on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Formed when the last glacier retreated across Northeast Ohio, the Cuyahoga River is 10,000 to 12,000 years old. For centuries, Native Americans used it for food and transportation. In 1796, it was the river and its promise of transportation inland that led surveyor Moses Cleaveland to form a settlement on Lake Erie. Over the next century and



a half, business grew on its banks and industrial waste was dumped directly into the water. In 1881, the mayor of

Cleveland called it an “open sewer.” Over a dozen fires occurred on the river, caused by oil slicks and floating debris.

## WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 1969 fire was minor compared to previous fires, but the time was ripe for social upheaval and environmental protest. People around the country took notice, and in 1972, the Clean Water Act was passed.

Cleveland did not fare well after the fire. The mayor’s hair caught on fire, population declined, factories closed and the city become fodder for late night comedians. But by the late 1980s, the Cuyahoga was improving and Cleveland began to embrace the “burning river” moniker. There are currently 90 active businesses registered with the state that have “burning river” in their names. The Cuyahoga has improved to the point that fishing is now encouraged, kayakers abound and birds have returned to its banks.

Join us at the Lakewood Main Library on November 13, 2019 to find out more about the history of the Cuyahoga River. This program is co-sponsored by Lakewood Historical Society.

## Jungle Bob And His Crazy Critters

by Marge Foley

Come to the Lakewood Public Library and meet some of Jungle Bob’s incredible animals. Jungle Bob is a certified animal technician as well as a licensed teacher in animal care who has been educating and engaging children for nearly three decades. He is not only dedicated to entertaining audiences with his

interactive animal shows, but also to teaching children about the importance of animal care, safety, and conservation. It will be a fun evening with reptiles and furry friends. “Jungle Bob and His Crazy Critters” will take place in the Main Library Multipurpose Room on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.



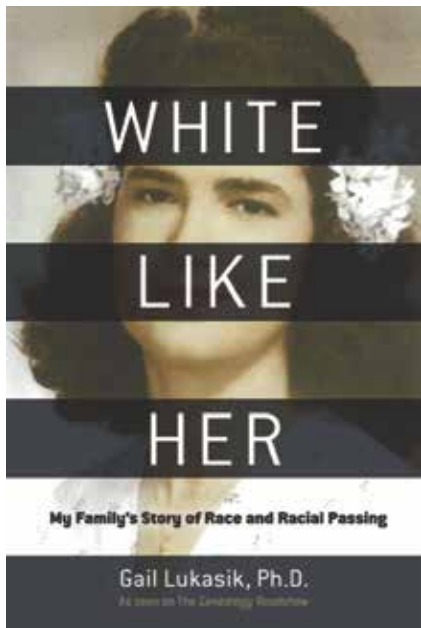
## Family Secrets Uncovered: Gail Lukasik, Award-Winning Author To Visit The Library

by Melinda Frank

What if your family history research revealed a long-hidden family secret? Award-winning author Gail Lukasik grew up with few photographs of her mother’s family and in 1995 she discovered the reason why. When researching census records for her Louisiana family, Gail discovered that her mother’s father and his entire family were designated as black. “You can’t tell anyone,” said her mother Alvera.

The discovery of her mother’s racial heritage brought Gail into the fascinating world of family history and genealogy. Gail appeared on PBS’s Genealogy Roadshow in an effort to unpack her conflicting past and uncover the records that traced her family back to eighteenth-century colonial Louisiana. Her experience on the show and her research into her mother’s family is the story behind “White Like Her: My Family’s Story of Race and Racial Passing.”

Part memoir and part social history, “White Like Her” explores what it means to know where you came from and who your people are. It is the story of Alvera Frederic, a young woman from the Jim Crow South who migrated North and kept her racial identity a secret from everyone, including her own husband. Ultimately the family settled in Cleveland, where Gail’s story begins.



Gail was raised in Parma and performed as a member of the Cleveland Civic Ballet Company. After working as a freelance writer, Gail earned a Ph.D. in English and is now the author of four mystery novels, a book of poetry, and numerous essays and short stories.

Alvera and Gail are just two of the voices in the greater story of race and racial passing in America, but the pursuit of heritage is a common thread for individuals of all backgrounds. Gail Lukasik will share her story on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Books will be available for sale and signing.

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# Lakewood Education Observed

## Runner Peppard-Kramer Finishes Top 50 In State

by Christine Gordillo  
**Highlights Super Postseason For Rangers**

The postseason has been full of highlights for the Lakewood High boys' cross country team, led by a top 50 finish by senior Cormac Peppard-Kramer in the Division 1 Cross Country State Tournament in Columbus on November 2. Peppard-Kramer finished 49th out of 186 runners in a time of 16:14.9. The State Tournament was the culmination of a season where Peppard-Kramer earned the Southwest Conference individual title and conference MVP, a 2nd place finish at Districts and a 11th place finish at Regionals.

Peppard-Kramer led a strong varsity team that was runner-up at the Southwest Conference Championship Meet and a 4th place team finish at the District meet. The 4th place finished gave the Rangers an automatic team qualification Regionals.

Senior co-captain Patrick McCalum was among the leaders as well, finishing third at the conference meet and 13th at Districts. Junior Aidyn Zingale also cracked the top 20 at Districts, placing 17th. Rounding out the varsity team are Joe Kelly, James O'Donnell, Sean O'Donnell, and James Toole. The team is coached by Steph-



Cormac Peppard-Kramer

nie Toole.

On the girls' side, the team finished 6th at the conference championships and 7th at Districts. Freshmen Sadie Gregg qualified for the Regional meet at Boardman with her 19th place finish at the District meet at Lorain County Community College. The girls' team is coached by Danielle Hammond.

## Applicants For District Financial Advisory Committee Sought

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education is seeking applicants to fill a position on its Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), which is dedicated to the District's finances. Applicants must be Lakewood residents. Duties of the committee include reviewing the annual state audit, conducting pre- and post-audit meetings, sharing business and financial "best practices" information, and reviewing the treasurer's five-year forecast. The committee meets on a quarterly or as needed basis.

The position is a result of a term expiring on December 31, 2019. This is a voluntary appointment for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2020.

Jennifer Pae, whose term is expiring, intends to apply for the position.

Board members expect the committee members to work in a "cooperative, collaborative and consensus-driven manner." Applicants for the position are expected to have strong experience in areas of finance or audit experience, especially CPAs, CFOs, CEOs, or bankers.

Qualified and interested citizens are asked to submit a letter of interest and experience to Linda Beebe, Board of Education President, 1470 Warren Road, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Letters must be received no later than December 1, 2019.

## Sign Up For District's Senior Citizen Holiday Breakfast

by Christine Gordillo

Superintendent Michael Barnes and members of the Board of Education invite the city's senior citizens to a festive, free holiday breakfast on Wednesday, December 11 from 8:45-10:00 am in the Garfield Middle School cafeteria. Hear from some of our talented student groups, enjoy great food, and listen to Superintendent Barnes give an update on the District. RSVPs are required by December 3. Please call 216-529-4074 or email christine.gordillo@lakewoodcityschools.org if you would like to attend.

## Students Work To Make Home Alone Project Reality

by Christine Gordillo

A group of 11 Lakewood High students spent hundreds of hours this past summer and the first months of the school year devoting their time to a project that has become near and dear to their hearts. They are working together to create the Home Alone Youth Leadership Program for Help To Others (H2O). Their work on the program, which aims to educate 9-12-year-olds about how to safely be home alone or with younger siblings, has given them leadership skills that will serve them well, long after their time with Home Alone.

The 11 teens make up the Home Alone Research & Development team and are the heart of the project, along with youth leadership consultant Celia Dorsch, who facilitated the Home Alone concept from 1997-2007 as former director of H2O and now guides the second iteration of the program



Several members of the Home Alone Research & Development team pictured here are: (front row l-r) Lavinia Grandt and Gina Marjanovic; (back from l-r) Hayley Welsh, Sydney Wilhelmy and Sarah Donaldson.

along with H2O's Emmie Hutchison and Amy Chodzin. To aid in developing the program, the R&D team held a retreat in July where they heard from first responders and internet crime investigators regarding how youth can

continued on page 10

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## Lakewood Recreation

Basketball registration is now open for adult men's weekday and women's Sunday 4 x 4 leagues.

Team registration deadline is November 15th.

Men's leagues begin December 2nd.

Women's league begins January 5th.

More info at:  
[www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com)

Lakewood Board of Education  
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Emma Petrie Barcelona  
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Betsy Bergen Shaugnessy



# Lakewood Education Observed

## Cleveland Teacher Recognized As Impact Educator By Northwestern University

by Aubrey Fox

Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search is known for recognizing high achieving students. However, their mission also incorporates parents and teachers in a quest to support gifted students. In fact, elementary and middle school students who are recognized based on their exceptional PSAT™8/9, SAT®, or ACT® scores can in turn nominate their teacher.

This recognition was bestowed on

Chuck Debelak, of Lakewood, based on his impact on just one of his students. However, the award highlights his career-long achievements in innovative, gifted education. He and his wife Helene founded Birchwood School in 1984 to give children the best education possible and both have been recognized by Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search many times over the last 20 years. He currently teaches mathematics to fifth through eighth graders at Birchwood School of Hawken on Cleveland’s west side.

Chuck Debelak has received much recognition over the years including Math Olympiads Highest Team Award in 2012-13, being named Ohio’s Math-Counts Coach in 2011, and a three-time recipient of the Ohio Governors Award for Excellence in Math and Science. But the success of his students is his most proud honor. Last year Birchwood had 90 students qualify for Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search with 34 students choosing to participate. Over the past 3 years, 70% of Birchwood students in grades 3-8 have been invited to participate and 5% of them went on to finish in the top 2% of all participants.

Birchwood School congratulates

Chuck Debelak on this well-deserved recognition.

Birchwood School of Hawken is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood’s mission is to equip children to lead a life of becoming – growing, thriving and flourishing – through the development of intellect and character. The school is located at 4400 W 140th St in Cleveland.



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Lakewood Recreation

Basketball registration is now open for boys and girls youth leagues.

Youth registration deadline is December 2nd.

Games played on Saturdays with season beginning January 4th.

Current physical and copy of birth certificate required at time of registration.

More info: [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com)

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## School-based clinic in Lakewood brings care to students, staff.



**Roopa Thakur, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic Independence Family Health Center



**James Hekman, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center

“We talk about the importance of population health and that as physicians, we must take care of all our patients, including those we don’t see regularly,” says Roopa Thakur, MD, a pediatrician and medical director of Cleveland Clinic’s school-based health clinics. “The medical clinic located inside Lakewood High School allows us to bring care, education and outreach directly to the students and employees of Lakewood City Schools rather than expecting them to come to us.”

Open daily during school hours (with reduced hours available during summer and holiday breaks), the clinic is open to enrolled students of all grades and their families, as well as

school district staff. To receive care from the on-site

medical nurse practitioner, an enrollment packet must be completed by parents/legal guardians.

Services include routine check-ups, immunizations, sports physicals, care for injury or illness, adolescent reproductive care, follow up care for chronic conditions, like asthma and ADHD, mental health counseling and more.

“We know that if kids are healthy, they stay in school. When they don’t miss class, they have better grades which down the road can lead to better job and better economic status,” says James Hekman, MD, internal medicine physician and medical director of the Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center. “Keeping the staff healthy and limiting the time parents miss at work to take children to appointments also allows *them* to do better, lessening the burden on families — another benefit.”

To learn more about Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center or the in-school clinic at Lakewood High School, please call 216.237.5500.

### New West Side ophthalmologist.



**Claudia Perez-Straziota, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Medical Outpatient Center and Westlake Medical Campus

Ophthalmologist Claudia Perez-Straziota, MD, has joined Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute’s Department of Ophthalmology. She is accepting new patients at Lakewood Medical Outpatient Center and Westlake Medical Campus, Building A. She also offers patient exams in Spanish.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Perez-Straziota, call 216.444.2020.



Pictured, left to right: Tim Barnett, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Fairview Hospital; Olmsted Falls Fire Chief Matt Sheehan, retired Lakewood Fire Chief Scott Gilman, Olmsted Township Fire Chief Patrick Kelly, Lakewood Fire Chief Tim Dunphy, Fairview Park Fire Chief Tony Raffin, and Neil Smith, DO, President, Fairview Hospital and West Region.

### “Stop the Bleed” emergency kits donated to West Side schools.

Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital and the Community West Foundation have donated “Stop the Bleed” kits to be distributed to schools in Fairview Park, Lakewood, Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township.

A result of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, “Stop the Bleed” is a national program to empower people to help in an emergency until medical providers arrive. The kits include items to help stop hemorrhages: a tourniquet, bandages and gauze, and trauma scissors.

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# Lakewood Cares

## Lakewood Women’s Club Elects Officers For 2019-2020 Term



Lakewood Women’s Club Elects Officers For 2019-2020 Term

by Melissa Zreny

Members of the Lakewood Women’s Club (LWC) have launched a new year by unanimously voting in the Slate of Officers presented at their annual Installation Dinner. The incoming Executive Board includes President Diana Quickel-Ketchaver, Vice President Jessica Price, Secretary Melis Uras, and Treasurer Margaret Wetzler.

Mrs. Quickel-Ketchaver is entering her second term as president of Lakewood Women’s Club. During this year she hopes to offer monthly social opportunities to allow LWC members to gather together and engage with members of the community. She also seeks to increase LWC’s membership with diverse women who represent the makeup of Lakewood. Mrs. Quickel-Ketchaver is excited to continue to promote the club’s focus of supporting and celebrating Lakewood women doing wonderful things within the

community.

**Representatives of the Standing Committees for 2019-2020 will be:**

**By-Laws Co-Chairs:** Jessica Price and Margaret Wetzler

**Grant Liaison:** Anastasia Loejos Morrison

**Magpie Editor:** Mary Dugger Dodge

**Membership Co-Chairs:** Kristy Feyedelem and Melis Uras

**Public Relations/Social Media Chair:** Melissa Zreny

**Scholarship Chair:** Kathleen Rocco

**Social Chair:** Kristy Feyedelem

**Spring Fundraiser Co-Chairs:** Torey Worron, Lissette Rivera, Melissa Zreny, Jessica Price and Lyn Haselton

**Winter Ways and Means Chair:** Margaret Wetzler

**Read the rest of this story online at: [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com)**

## Club Welcomes New Exchange Student

by Lynn Donaldson

Estefania Orpheu Pinheiro de Castro, inbound Rotary Youth Exchange student from Brazil, is being hosted by the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River.

No stranger to youth exchange, the club has had at least one exchange student every year since Lisa Nestorsen (from Sweden) in 1982.

“Este” is attending Lakewood High School as a senior. When Este returns home, she will have to take six more months of classes to graduate.



New Rotary youth exchange student, Estefania Orpheu Pinheiro de Castro (right), displays her country’s flag at a recent meeting with (from left) counselor Natasha Corrigan, and host parents Torey and Jeff Worron. Este’s host club is the Rotary Club of Lakewood & RockyRiver.

A youth leadership development program of Rotary International, RYE gives high school students the opportunity to spend up to 12 months in another country living with local host families. These families, with the support of the student’s Rotary counselor, the local Rotary club and district, provide the student with opportunities to experience life in the U.S. while being an ambassador for Rotary and the student’s home country.

Rotary states that RYE’s objectives are “Instilling international understanding and goodwill in students, creating positive change by empowering youth, and making lasting connections for host clubs, host families, communities, and the students involved.”

Exchange students are called “outbounds” by their home (sponsor) Rotary club and district, and simultaneously “inbounds” by their host Rotary club and district in the country

where they spend their year. Students who have completed their exchanges are called “rebounds.” 80 countries typically participate in the Youth Exchange each year.

Living in a foreign country is a powerful way to gain global understanding and promote world peace. Through the youth exchange program, exchange students enhance their language skills, discover different cultures and make friendships that last a lifetime.

Rotary Youth Exchange is just one of the programs sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River. The club also plans and supports community, youth, vocational, and international service projects in these cities. For more information contact [harlanrjr@yahoo.com](mailto:harlanrjr@yahoo.com).

## Rotary Seeks Grant Applications

by Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River is seeking grant applications from non-profit organizations that serve our youth and community within Lakewood and Rocky River.

Grant requests can be for seed money for new endeavors, or to grow, enhance or sustain existing programs. Applications should emphasize activities that focus on job training, youth leadership, and health and hunger services.

Organizations are not limited to the number of applications they may submit. Each year, the Rotary club, through its foundation, gives back to the community over \$60,000 in grants, scholarships, and financial aid.

Additional information and the grant application form can be accessed on the club’s website, [www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org](http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org).

Grant applications must be submitted by November 23, 2019, to Todd Lessig, Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River, PO Box 770916, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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# LO Halloween Prize Winners

by Jim O'Bryan

What a great year for Halloween Decorations. Here are the top ten vote-getters, from over 82 entries. Even with a record number of entries, many great displays didn't even get nominated. I hope that changes next year.

This year's winners will be dividing up over \$320 in great dining. Dinners for one, two and more from Melt Bar and Grilled, Woodstock BBQ, Rood, West End Tavern, India Garden, and The Root Cafe.

Thank you to everyone who took part, nominated and voted. A huge thank-you to all who decorated. Christmas Decoration Contest Starts December 1!



1st Overall - Spring Garden



2nd Overall - Ridgewood



3rd Overall - Alameda



4th Overall - Webb Road



5th Overall - Cannon Ave.



6th Overall - Spring Garden



7th Overall - Cannon Ave.



8th Overall - Geil



9th Overall - Lewis Drive



10th Overall - Franklin Ave.

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Lakewood Observer

The Rockport Miracles-Part 4: Episode 17:

“The Ballad of Derecho Dan” Continues

fiction by Scott MacGregor

Little Dan laid uneasy on a table in a damp, cramped basement in Cleveland’s Little Italy. Still babbling incoherently, Little Dan was accused of over 30 counts of negligence and arson in the wake of storm 5.5. On the lam, he’d been a fugitive as much to reality as he was to justice. Unable to grasp exactly how the promise of his young life had been destroyed in less than five minutes, his tortured mind retreated into a fitful dream:

“LITTLE DAN! LITTLE DAN!” shouted the shadowy figure before him. The apparition was so close that its words were blowing past Little Dan’s ears. “Little Dan, it’s me, Maynard!” said the specter in softer modulations. “It’s me, your cousin...Maynard Gridley.”

Little Dan felt the deep fear one feels in dreams. A fear so terrifying, that your legs turn into cement and

you cannot run or escape. “I-I thought you were dead,” mumbled Little Dan. “I AM dead,” replied Maynard. “A drunk driver T-boned my motorcycle when I was riding home last night.” Little Dan began to cry uncontrollably. “How can you be dead?” he sobbed, “I was just getting to know you.” Maynard just shook his head and said, “I know. It’s amazing to think that I survived the nuns, Vietnam, and gallons of cheap Mogen-David wines, only to be wiped out by some asshole in a Buick.” Maynard paused for a moment and concluded, “Life’s a funny ol’ meatball, ain’t it?”

Little Dan replied, “I will join



you soon, Maynard. Y’see...my life is over, too.” Maynard just laughed. “Little Dan, you are only 19 years old. At your age, EVERYTHING IS REPAIRABLE.” Suddenly, the weight of Little Dan’s legs dropped back to normal. “Little Dan--do you remember the story about ‘Monsoon Charlie’?” asked Maynard. Little Dan chuckled and said, “How the heck could I forget ‘Monsoon Charlie’?”

The dream shifted gears once more and now Little Dan was inside the cabin of a boat. He looked out one of the portals and observed a Great Lakes freighter going by. Maynard said, “You like my boat, Little Dan?” Incredulous, Little Dan replied, “I didn’t know you had a boat, Maynard.” Suddenly, they weren’t on a boat anymore. They were standing on a cliff with a bilious crowd of River City jerks who were cheering as another storm roared in off the lake and crushed itself against Rockport.

Maynard put his arm around Little Dan’s broad, round shoulders. “The boat is big enough, Little Dan,” counseled Maynard, “Remember ‘Monsoon Charlie’ and get it done. That is your MISSION.” Before Little Dan could reply, Maynard’s ghost began to fade from Little Dan’s dream. Little Dan flailed his arms and tried in vain to keep Maynard’s spirit from leaving him. “I’ll get it done, Maynard! I’ll get it done! DON’T LEAVE ME!!”

Blasted from his incoherency by the dream, Little Dan shot up from his prone position on the table and screamed, “I’ll get it done, Maynard! I’ll get it done!!” Suddenly, someone shoved an entire Wonder Bread sandwich into his wide open mouth. At first he just sat there stunned with the sandwich dangling halfway out of his face. Then he started to chew. The sandwich’s taste was familiar—it was tuna salad. Not just any tuna salad, either. It was his mother Wilmena’s famous tuna salad! He hadn’t tasted Wilmena’s tuna since their house fell on top of her during Storm 5.4.

The more Little Dan chewed the more he began to gradually come out of his trance. He looked confusedly around the room. The people that surrounded him were familiar but he couldn’t quite remember their names. He continued to chew on the tuna sandwich and just like Popeye and spinach, the more tuna salad he swallowed, the stronger he became. Then, at once it all became clear. The people that surrounded him were the three Joes and his Aunt Rowena!

“Welcome back, Little Dan,” said Rowena. The three Joes patted Little Dan on the back while muttering Mediterranean phrases of relief. Rowena then said, “I finally convinced your mom to give me the secret recipe for her tuna salad. It wasn’t easy. She held

that secret for 40 years! I had to cut off her oxygen before she’d literally cough it up.” Little Dan didn’t see the humor but her story cracked up the three Joes to no end. “Turns out the big secret ingredients are plain olives marinated in Coca-Cola! You have to puree the olives and stir the vile slop into the tuna salad. That’s what gives the flavor it’s special kick. Imagine that.”

“Aunt Rowena,” said Little Dan with great urgency in his voice. “Maynard...he came to me in my dream. He said he was dead!” Tears began to well up again in Rowena’s eyes. “He’s gone, honey. Maynard is in heaven, now...hopefully.” Little Dan cried hard as he ate the rest of his sandwich.

Then, he wiped the tears from his eyes with the short sleeves of his dirty T-shirt and said. “I really need to go to the bathroom.” The three Joes helped him stand up. After a minute, Little Dan had regained his bearings. Then he turned to Rowena and said in an unusually strong and firm voice, “Take me to Maynard’s boat!”

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Students Work To Make Home Alone Project Reality

continued from page 6

be safe at home while parents are away. Since then, the team has recruited 42 more high school students to run four Home Alone workshops for the younger students and their parents that will be held in January and February. Registration for the sessions begin November 15, 2019 on the H2O website ([h2olakewood.org](http://h2olakewood.org))

Th R&D group has taken ownership of the program from the start, working on finding sponsors and experts to guide them, cultivating community connections and developing marketing materials and promotional strategies.

To listen to the R&D members explain why they wanted to be involved with the Home Alone project is to be inspired by the maturity and commitment to their community these young people possess.

“I saw (Home Alone) as something different than what I was doing before with H2O, I saw it offered more direct action and more direct impact on younger people,” said senior Hayley Welsh.

The group members believe they can uniquely connect with the younger

students who will attend the sessions as many of them have been in their shoes as someone who was home alone at a younger age.

“I could relate to the anxieties (of staying home alone) and I wanted to help,” sophomore Lavinia Grandt said, regarding why she joined the project.

As the workshops near, members will be working in one of six groups they have been assigned to and will be responsible to present on the topic. The R&D team determined the most important areas to address are: First Aid, Internet Safety, To/From School, After School Routines, and Tricky People.

It has been a labor of love for the R&D group to get to the point where they are ready to register participants for the session. “Everyone has become like a family,” said sophomore Sarah Donaldson of the group. “It is a safe place to share our ideas and everyone is respected.”

In addition to Sarah, Hayley and Lavinia, other members of the R&D team are: Kim Banak, Johana Guci, Emma Hart, Jacob Kavc, Gina Marjanovic, Olivia Patterson, Sydney Wilhelmy, and Tully Worrone.

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# Downtown Lakewood

## Give A Gently Used Coat To The Homeless; Get A \$25 Gift Card From Geiger's

by Tom Gibbons

FrontLine Service and Geiger's are asking Lakewood to donate "gently used" coats to the homeless. Coats can be dropped off at Geiger's store, 14710 Detroit Avenue, from November 1 through November 10. Everyone donating a coat will receive a \$25 Geiger's Gift Card, good on the purchase of a new coat.

This is the fourth year Geiger's and FrontLine have joined forces to help the homeless in Cuyahoga County.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of Geiger's. Winter is always such a difficult time for those who are homeless. The toys and coats that will be donated will make a difference for many children and adults in our community this winter," FrontLine Service Executive Director Susan Neth said.

"We are most impressed with the remarkable programs FrontLine provides to our most vulnerable fellow citizens," Geiger's President Chas Geiger said. "We are proud to team up with them and invite our customers to make a very meaningful donation to a homeless person."

FrontLine Service is a private non-profit behavioral health organization that, for the past 30 years, seeks out, then serves the community's most traumatized and vulnerable people: children affected by violence, the



Susan Neth, Frontline; Christy Geiger

homeless, and those who are in crisis.

Geiger's, which began in Lakewood nearly 90 years ago, outfits Lakewood with the best brands in ski and snowboard gear, clothing, shoes and accessories. The company is managed by brothers Chas and Gordon Geiger and their wives, Patti and Susan, representing Geiger's third generation. They are assisted by Geiger's fourth generation – Christy and John.

Tom Gibbons has lived in Lakewood for 37 years and does part time work for Geiger's.

## 11th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk Draws Sellout Crowd For Memorable Evening In Downtown Lakewood

by Matt Bixenstine

There's something truly magical about a beautiful fall evening centered around the deliciousness that is chocolate.

A sellout crowd of 350 attendees from across Northeast Ohio participated in the 11th Annual Lakewood Chocolate Walk on Thursday evening, October 24. This large contingent of chocolate fans descended upon Downtown Lakewood to visit nearly 30 merchants serving as "Sweet Stops" by each offering guests a unique chocolate treat.

Hosted by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA) and LakewoodAlive, the Chocolate Walk has developed into a highly-anticipated Lakewood tradition. Tickets went on sale both online and at lion and blue during early October and sold out in a matter of hours.

The evening kicked off with the Pre-Walk VIP Reception at Malley's Chocolates, where 50 lucky guests enjoyed delicious savory foods and chocolate concoctions within the vintage and historic chocolate shop located in

## Breakfast With Santa Returns To Downtown Lakewood 11/30

by Matt Bixenstine

Santa Claus is indeed coming to town, and it's sooner than you think. Breakfast with Santa returns to Downtown Lakewood on Small Business Saturday (November 30) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon when Jolly Saint Nick himself visits O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood (Assisted Living Building - 1381 Bunts Road).

Presented by the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a merchant association of LakewoodAlive, this popular holiday tradition consists of "Selfies with Santa" photo opportunities (bring your own camera), a seated breakfast (pancakes, eggs and sausage) and a children's activity room featuring opportunities to write letters to the North Pole.

This fun-filled, family-friendly event is open to all ages and is anticipated to sell out quickly. Tickets for both seatings (9 and 10:30 a.m.) of Breakfast with Santa are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting LakewoodAlive.org/Santa. General

admission tickets are \$12; tickets for children aged 3 to 8 are \$7; and tickets for children aged two and under are free. Please note that highchairs and booster seats will not be available.

Breakfast with Santa coincides with Small Business Saturday, a nationally-recognized day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. Upon finishing breakfast, attendees are encouraged to visit the wide variety of independent shops and restaurants throughout Downtown Lakewood.

Proceeds from Breakfast with Santa benefit the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, a merchant association striving to ensure Downtown Lakewood remains one of the region's top destinations for dining, shopping and entertainment.

For more information regarding Breakfast with Santa on November 30, please contact LakewoodAlive at 216-521-0655.

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Thurs - Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday 10am - 2pm

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# The Back Page



2019 Halloween winner was over at 1433 Spring Garden. The amount of detail work in this display was staggering. The top ten photos on page 9, See all the photos online at the

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