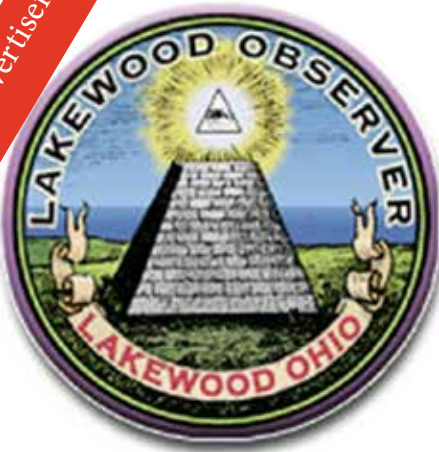


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"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." - Thomas Jefferson

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 16, Issue 21, November 4, 2020

## ELECTION RESULTS & UPDATES

by Margaret Brinich

At the top of the ticket, Lakewood and Cuyahoga County were unsurprisingly looking strong for Biden, but at the time of publication, the next POTUS was still unknown and may remain that way for several days as mail-in ballots continue to be counted across the country. Locally, of Lakewood's 37,687 eligible voters, 74% cast ballots in the 2020 general elec-

tion - the majority of which did so in advance of Tuesday's election. Major races on the ballot for Lakewoodites include U.S. District 9 Representative to Congress, in which Marcy Kaptur defeated her Republican opponent Rob Weber.

Other races include two familiar incumbents who both secured their seats for another term. First, District 13's State Representative Michael Skindell won about three-quarters of the vote in his bid for reelection. District 2 County Councilperson Dale Miller will also continue in his existing seat - Miller was unopposed.

At the time of publication, the two state-wide seats on the ballot for Ohio Supreme Court had Sharon Kennedy leading her opponent John O'Donnell and Jennifer Brunner leading opponent Judi French.

## Halloween Winners



First place 1324 Geil \$60.00 in dining gift certificates.

## Help LCAC "Deliver" Food For The Holidays!

by Celia Dorsch

Trying times are when Lakewood neighbors show up for one another, even if they can't "show up" in person.

For over 30 years, area schools have held non-perishable food drives and hundreds of volunteers have miraculously assembled at the Masonic Temple in mid-November and December to help Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation (LCAC) sort, bag and deliver holiday food baskets to neighbors in need. But then along came Covid.

Covid has presented many challenges to LCAC's normal operations, including the cancellation of three major fundraisers for the charitable organization. At its October meeting, LCAC's board members voted unanimously



to continue to serve 600 Lakewood families and seniors in 2020. Members developed a plan to protect recipients and volunteers from Covid exposure by purchasing Giant Eagle gift cards that could be distributed safely, without personal contact.

One of the best things about LCAC's annual food distribution is the sense of community it embodies. While LCAC regrets not being able to gather in person, its all-volun-



1433 Spring Garden. See all the prize winners at:

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/photoblogs/jim-obryan/halloween-2020>



teer board still need lots of help!

LCAC's commitment to providing food for 600 Lakewood households in need over the holidays comes with a \$30,000 price tag. Missing anticipated revenue from its 2020 fundraisers, LCAC is reaching out to its wonderful corps of volunteers and the entire community to help meet its holiday food distribution budget.

If you would like to be a part of LCAC's 2020 Holiday Food Distribution, please make a donation online at <https://paypal.me/LCAC44107> or go

continued on page 9

## Spooky Pooch Winners



Congrats to Teddy & Bear (and their humans) for winning Best in Show at Virtual Spooky Pooch 2020, determined by public voting. See the story on page 9.

## Arthur Ave. Pumpkin Contest



Miles and his perfectly painted pumpkin pictures! Story on page 11.

## Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce

### Sponsor The 4th Grade "Why I Love Lakewood" Essay Contest

by Lauren Small

Attention 4th Graders! The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that, in conjunction with virtual events planned for this year's Light Up Lakewood, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will continue the tradition of sponsoring an essay contest for all fourth graders in town. The topic of the essay is: "Why I Love Lakewood".

If you are in fourth grade or know a fourth grader who

loves to write, or who just plain loves this town, let us hear about it! Topics can include your favorite Lakewood celebrations, your neighborhood, the places you like to shop and eat, the people who live here... whatever you think is great about Lakewood.

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$100 and be invited to read their essay during a video recording, for use in this year's virtual Light Up Lakewood festivities. Essays

and entry forms are due at the Chamber of Commerce office at 16017 Detroit Avenue by Friday, November 13, 2020. Contest entry forms will be distributed through schools, however you can also download a copy at: <https://lakewoodchamber.org/7743-2/> You can mail your entry, scan and email to [info@lakewoodchamber.org](mailto:info@lakewoodchamber.org), or stop by and drop it off contact free by placing it through the slot on the front door.



# The Mayor's Corner

by Meghan George  
Mayor, City of Lakewood

October was a busy month for the City of Lakewood. We have brought projects to completion, made progress on others, and are in the initial stages of many new and exciting initiatives.

Our 2020 street resurfacing program has come to a close. We improved 9 streets with over \$1.7 million in materials and labor. We completed the installation of a new electric vehicle charging station near the intersection of Parkhaven Row and Detroit. We completed our Census work--earlier than we hoped--but we still managed to improve our overall response rate in Lakewood compared to the last Census ten years ago. I participated in Power a Clean Future Ohio's "Ohio Leaders for Climate Accountability Roundtable" to share the work my administration is doing to preserve and protect our environment. I swore in two new firefighters. We installed six new crosswalks.

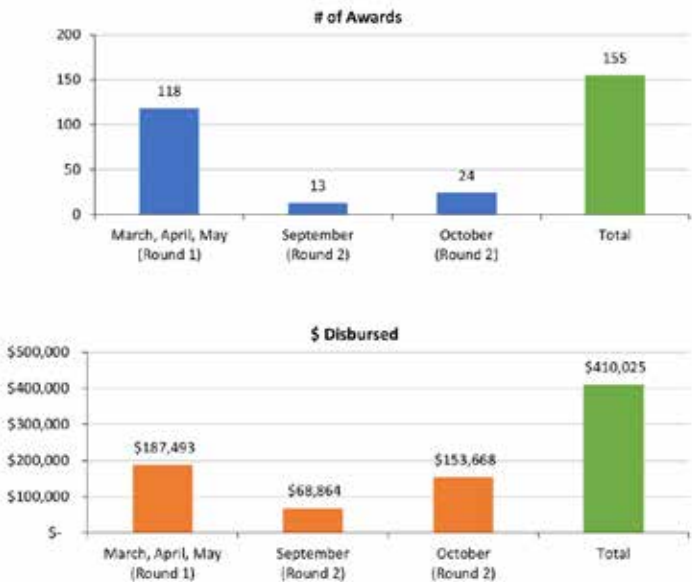
Last month, our Department of Human Services continued to provide creative and safe services to the seniors, children, and families of this community in the face of a pandemic. We continued to save money on overtime and operational expenses. We are in the middle of our fall tree planting program, planting 182 trees of 18 diverse species to bring the 2020 planting total to 406 trees. We continued to award grants to residents and small

businesses in our Rent Relief grant programs, which have provided over \$700,000 of assistance thus far with more to come. We're near completion of the Wagar Park revitalization, with a ribbon-cutting planned for early 2021. We continued planning for future park improvements with community input, such as the refurbishing of Clifton Prado pocket park.

In October, our Division of Aging began providing rides for seniors to the grocery store. We unveiled the City of Lakewood's Americans with Disabilities Act Task Force, which will work to ensure that the City meets the high-

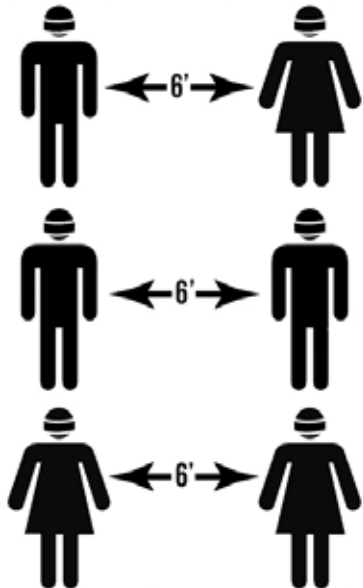
est needs of its residents and visitors with disabilities. I attended the kickoff meeting for Cuyahoga County's Lakefront Public Access Plan, for which I serve on the steering committee. The goal of this Plan is to better access and utilize Lake Erie assets to improve economic opportunities and quality of life. Construction of four new homes began at the former Marathon Gas site on Lake Avenue.

We accomplished a great deal together as a community in October. As always, please look out for your neighbors and stay healthy and safe. Let's be part of the solution, Lakewood.



SMALL BUSINESSES, Lakewood is leading the way! The City's Small Business Rent Relief program has provided over \$410,000 in grants and has broadened eligibility to help more businesses. Visit <http://ow.ly/hhg450Cacjp> to learn more and apply today. #LKWD

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**MONDAY - THURSDAY: 4PM – 10PM**  
**FRIDAY: NOON - 10PM**

**WEEKEND BRUNCH RETURNS**  
**SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**  
**ALA CARTE BREAKFAST/LUNCH FEATURING:**  
**SUNDAY 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**  
**GOURMET ALA CARTE BRUNCH**  
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**Upcoming Submission Deadline**  
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November 27, 2020

**Publish Date**  
November 18, 2020  
December 2, 2020

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**Lakewood Observer**

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# Healthcare for LGBTQ+ patients available in Lakewood.



Cleveland Clinic's Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTQ+) Care understands the health needs of LGBTQ+ patients and provides access to specialists with LGBTQ+ expertise.

| L   | G  | B   | T   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <div></div> <div><b>Shelby Wilson, MSN, APRN, FNP-C</b><br/>(she/her/hers)</div>   | <div></div> <div><b>Henry Ng, MD</b><br/>Head of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Medical Care<br/>(he/they)</div>  | <div></div> <div><b>Liz Dimmock, APRN, CNP</b><br/>(she/her/hers)</div>  | <div></div> <div><b>Cecile A. Ferrando, MD, MPH</b><br/>Medical Director, Transgender Surgery &amp; Medicine<br/>(she/her/hers)</div>  |
| <p>“Sexual orientation is an important factor in providing comprehensive healthcare. Patients can have better health outcomes when providers keep in mind the specific disparities of the population.</p> <p>Our caregivers provide primary care for lesbian patients, including blood pressure and weight management, cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings, mental health services and vaccinations.</p> <p>We provide a safe space for lesbian patients to receive routine care to improve their health.”</p> | <p>“HIV prevention and care, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, tobacco use, and general health and well-being are all important issues for gay men.</p> <p>At the Center for LGBTQ+ Care, we combine clinical knowledge with evidence-based care options to meet the needs of our patients. We provide gay men with tools to lead their best lives while respecting who they are.”</p> | <p>“Bi+ individuals have unique challenges, even when compared to other sexual minorities. Stereotypes about what it means to be bi+, invisibility and discrimination can contribute to minority stress.</p> <p>We offer a welcoming and supportive environment for bi+ individuals, who can receive appropriate primary care, STI screening, counseling, prevention (including PEP and PrEP) and treatment (including HIV treatment).”</p> | <p>“The transgender community sometimes lacks routine healthcare because patients fear discrimination and marginalization by healthcare providers.</p> <p>Our center offers comprehensive care, from mental health assessments and emotional support to gender-affirming treatments, such as hormone therapy and surgery. This allows patients to express themselves in the gender with which they identify, as well as transition medically and surgically into their self-affirmed gender so they may live more comfortable lives.”</p> |

For an appointment with a provider in the LGBTQ+ program, call Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center at 216.237.5500.

## “Waist management” helps avoid complications of diabetes.

Healthy eating and exercising should be a habit, not just a quick fix. It's important for your health, too – especially for people with diabetes.

“Being overweight increases your chance for developing type 2 diabetes. Those with diabetes have blood sugar levels that are harder to manage which can lead to complications,” explains Carolyn Garvey, RDN, LD, CDCES, a certified diabetes care and education specialist at Cleveland Clinic.

Diabetes care and education specialists at Cleveland Clinic include registered dietitians (RD), registered nurses (RN) and pharmacists. In the weight management program, they teach meal planning, lifestyle changes, healthy coping, medication management, and ways to boost activity.

“There is no one meal plan to manage diabetes. I take an individual approach with my patients when it comes to losing weight,” says Carolyn. “A diabetes specialist like myself can help create a plan specific to each patient's needs and lifestyle.”

For those with diabetes, exercise is just as important as healthy eating and medication. Exercise can help manage blood sugar and decrease

or eliminate the need for diabetes medications. The American Diabetes Association recommends at least 30 minutes of physical activity that increases heart activity five days a week.

“A meal plan and exercise can sometimes be the medicine you need to manage your diabetes,” says Carolyn. “Your diabetes specialist can help you craft a personalized eating and activity plan to keep your blood sugar in check.”

Diabetes educators are available for virtual visits.

For more information on scheduling a diabetes education visit at Lakewood Family Health Center, visit [ClevelandClinic.org/DiabetesEducation](https://ClevelandClinic.org/DiabetesEducation) or call 216.237.5500.



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- Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital Emergency Department
- Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital Emergency Department
- Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital Emergency Department

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Politics Local And State

The View From City Council

by Jason Shachner  
Councilman Ward 2

October 19th City Council Meeting Rundown

Previously, City Council asked the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC) to review applications for membership to the Anti-Racism Task Force and to make recommendations to Mayor George and City Council on who should be considered for appointment. LCRAC recommended 15 applicants for appointment, and Mayor George announced her appointments during the meeting. We will decide who to appoint from LCRAC's list at tonight's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council President Dan O'Malley informed Council of appointments

LEAF COLLECTION NO-PARKING STREETS  
NOVEMBER 2 – DECEMBER 11

| MONDAY               | TUESDAY                                | WEDNESDAY                      | THURSDAY                    | FRIDAY           |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Granger<br>Larchmont | Brockley<br>Lakeland (Det. To Clifton) | Cook<br>St. Charles            | Nicholson<br>Alameda        | Cove<br>Lakewood |
| Glenbury             | Lakeland (Hilliard to Det.)            | Lincoln (Det. To Madison)      | Parkwood                    | Ridgewood        |
| Cranford             | Morrison                               | Lincoln (Madison to Lkwd Hts.) | Elmwood (Madison to Athens) | Bayes            |
| Orchard Grove        | Westwood                               | Mars (Madison to Delaware)     | Reveley                     | Brown            |

that will expire at the end of the year. Council will need to fill one vacancy on the Board of Nuisance Abatement Appeals, two vacancies on the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council, one vacancy on the Planning Commission, and one vacancy on the Tree Advisory & Education Board. If you are interested in applying to any of these volunteer positions, please con-

tact our Clerk of Council at council@lakewoodoh.net. You can learn more about these boards and commissions by visiting <http://www.onelakewood.com/apply-register/boardscommissions/>.

Law Director Brian Corrigan presented Council with a resolution that would allow Mayor George to enter into an agreement with the District Advisory Council of Cuyahoga County for the provision of public health services by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) in 2021. The CCBH has proposed providing public health services for Lakewood residents at a per capita rate of \$5.45 for a total amount that would not exceed \$284,114. This item was referred to the Health & Human Services Committee for further discussion.

Mayor George provided Council with a break down of how she has disbursed the funds Lakewood received from the CARES Act. Lakewood received a total of \$5,283,717.23: \$4,461,776.21 went to the General Fund to be used for Covid-19 related expenses, \$347,637.29 went to the Police Pension Fund for salary and wages, and \$474, 303.73 went to the Fire Pension Fund for salary and wages.

lic comment. Both Mayor George and Director Corrigan expressed the importance of it being passed that evening to ensure the viability of the agreement and to begin the process of seeking a new developer as soon as possible. Following a lengthy discussion, City Council, by a margin of six to one, voted to permit Mayor George to enter into a settlement agreement with Carnegie.

Frequently, no party is happy when it comes to legal settlements and it is disappointing that our partnership with Carnegie ended this way. However, this settlement avoids years of litigation, where attorney fees alone would dwarf the size of the settlement, and allows us the freedom to immediately begin seeking a new partner to develop this property that is located at the heart of Lakewood.

Leaf Pick Up

Autumn has arrived and if your yard looks anything like ours, it is already full of leaves. The fall leaf collection program begins on Monday November 2nd and continues through December 11th. For more information, including the 2020 leaf collection map, please visit:<http://www.onelakewood.com/2020-leaf-collection-begins-on-november-2nd/>.

Jason Shachner is the Ward 2 Lakewood City Councilmember. He is currently serving as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Lake County Prosecutor's Offices' Criminal Division. He can be reached at Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net or at (216) 714-2150.

Senator Antonio Shares Important CARES Act Funding Information

by Nickie Antonio

Last week, Governor DeWine announced the distribution of the Covid-19 Relief Fund dollars throughout the state. The Federal CARES Act provides assistance for state, local, and tribal governments impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This is certainly a win for many of the people, businesses, and organizations of Ohio, for whom I have been tirelessly advocating.

I would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all those who have been in contact with my office sharing your stories, letting us know what support is needed, and advocating for funding. Your dedication, time and effort over the last few months have been extraordinary.

Clearly, more support is needed, but in these unprecedented times, this is a critical next step. I wanted to share a brief breakdown of Ohio's CARES Act distribution so eligible people may apply for assistance as soon as possible.

\$50 million has been allocated to rental, mortgage, water, and/or sewer utility assistance. Beginning this week, Ohioans at/below 200 percent Federal Poverty Level will be able to apply for assistance through their county's Com-



munity Action Agency. While current federal restrictions on evictions exist, absent a state moratorium, this assistance is most helpful.

Small businesses will be able to access a state total of \$125 million through the Small Business Relief Grant (SBRG) Program. SBRG will provide a \$10,000 grant to eligible small businesses with no more than 25 employees. \$44 million of the funding will be set aside to ensure that at least 50 businesses per county receive this assistance and the rest is to be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bars and restaurants across the state can apply for some of the \$37.5

continued on page 5

Settlement Agreement

Mayor Meghan George, along with Law Director Brian Corrigan, asked City Council to authorize the Mayor to enter into a settlement agreement with Carnegie Management and Development Corporation. It has become apparent that Carnegie will not be developing the former Lakewood Hospital site and Mayor George and Director Corrigan both relayed to City Council that the best course of action is to separate and seek a new developer for the project.

Several weeks ago, the City spent nearly 12 hours in mediation with Carnegie to negotiate the release of any obligations that either party has to each other. As a result of mediation, Mayor George asked City Council to authorize an agreement that would furnish Carnegie \$255,000 for the full and final settlement of all claims that Carnegie may have against the City. In return we will retain the market studies, surveys, and geotechnical reports that were completed by Carnegie. Both parties would be released from any remaining obligations.

I asked Mayor George and Director Corrigan if the resolution needed to be passed that evening or if it could be delayed to allow for further pub-





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Please bring bags to carry the items you choose. Face mask and gloves required.

No children are permitted in the Center at this time.



State House

Senator Antonio Shares Important CARES Act Funding Information

continued from page 4

million total allocation through December 31, 2020. Checks in the amount of \$2,500 will be distributed to establishments with on-premises consumption. This applies to roughly 30 permit types, including bars, restaurants, breweries, distilleries, wineries, casinos and private clubs.


New appropriations will be distributed to nonprofits and the Arts. Non-profit agencies providing high-priority social services which support individuals, families, and at-risk communities and have been interrupted or reduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic, can apply for a share of the \$25 million

appropriation. Another \$20 million will establish the Ohio Arts and Cultural Orgs Grant Program to assist art organizations whose primary mission is cultural, artistic, or performing arts.

Additionally, \$62 million has been allocated to rural and critical access hospitals, allowing them to continue responding to the Covid-19 crisis. \$100 million will also go toward higher education as Ohio's colleges and universities are highly important to our local communities.

I am incredibly supportive of this important step to help lift our communities up during this difficult time, and I will continue to advocate for additional resources for Ohioans.

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Vision changes after age 40: What's normal?



Claudia Perez-Straziota, MD  
Cleveland Clinic  
Cole Eye Institute

Noticing subtle changes in your near vision? There's a name for it.

"The medical term for this inevitable rite of passage is presbyopia, and it describes how our vision changes as we age," says ophthalmologist Claudia Perez-Straziota, MD, who sees patients in Westlake and Lakewood.

Presbyopia is the loss of the eye's ability to change its focus to see objects that are near. It is part of the natural aging process.

"Our eyes are like a camera – the lenses inside automatically focus on whatever we need to see,"

explains Dr. Perez-Straziota. "That process works through the contraction and relaxation of certain muscles that move our lens forward or backward."

When we're young, our eyes can 'accommodate,' or focus at different distances, without the help of glasses or other aids. But as we age, our eye muscles start losing their ability to adjust and accommodate.

Common signs of presbyopia – difficulty focusing up close and slower focusing ability – typically start to appear around age 40.

"Presbyopia is treatable," says Dr. Perez-Straziota. "From glasses and contacts to implants and surgery, there are many options to help you see clearly again."

Another age-related condition are cataracts, which are the clouding of the lenses inside your eyes.



Symptoms may include:

- Vision that is cloudy, blurry, foggy or filmy
- Sensitivity to light or glare (such as from oncoming headlights when driving)
- Poor night vision
- Double vision

In the early stages, you may simply need a stronger prescription for glasses or contacts more frequently than you did before; however, surgery may be needed if cataracts start to interfere with your daily activities.

Cataracts are treated surgically by removing the opacity from your eye and replacing it with a specialized lens placed inside your eye to help with focus. Different types of implants are available and a discussion with your doctor to determine if you are a good candidate for any of these is essential.

To help keep your eyes healthy, the American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends a yearly eye exam for adults ages 40-64; more frequent exams if you have diabetes or a medical eye condition.

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Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Perez-Straziota conducts patient visits in English and Spanish. For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Perez-Straziota or another Cole Eye Institute provider, please call 216.444.2020. Virtual visits may be an option for new and existing patients.



# Lakewood Business

## Bill Hixson Unveils More Than Safer Distances

by Jim O'Bryan

I love hearing from Bill; it had been a couple months since I saw him or Eunice. I'd checked on them during the pandemic, and knew they were doing OK. Bill turned 91 this year. I figured he was calling about the new Christmas ornament. I was shocked to find out he wasn't.

As soon as I came in, I noticed a major change! There was room to walk around! Anyone that has been to Hixson's knows it is wall-to-wall with narrow aisles and tons of great gifts and holiday items going back over a century. "Bill, what's happening?" I said.

To make space he had been running a 10% off sale. His new sale is 50% off on a wall of wreaths and other Christmas decorations until Thanksgiving.

Each year Bill himself designs 1-10

new ornaments. This year there are 5, including a couple that he thought people in Northern Ohio would enjoy. They often reflect current events or past historical events or both, like the West Side Market ornament that came out when they were thinking of closing it. Today the Market and the ornament have become favorites again.

After nearly an hour, I was busting at the seams. "Bill, anything new for Christmas?"

With a wry smile he led me into the ornament room: a long room with thousands of ornaments in it. In the past there were racks running down the middle, but they have been removed to give shoppers more space. In my entire life I have only seen one other room that even remotely reminds me of Bill Hixson's Ornament Room, that being Elvis Presley's Gold Record/Award Room. Both are impressive

in size and content, but Bill's room is dedicated to all of us and the things we celebrate. As we walk through the room I mention these old bird ornaments we had with elaborate tails. He becomes very business-like, and says, "Oh yes we have them over here," and there they were!

Finally we get to the far end of the room, and he reaches up for little red wagon ornament and says, "This is new-- who didn't have one of these as a kid?"

"No Bill, come on, what do you have NEW, from you, your new stuff?"

He smiles and points over to the Mr. Jing-A-Ling section. Yep, that's right, a whole section just for Mr. Jing-A-Ling, and says, "There is one over there."

If you get a chance, stop by and see Mr. Christmas, say hello, get

your photo taken with a legend, and take advantage of the sales and slow period up until Thanksgiving. Like voting, it's easier to enjoy Hixson's when it is not prime holiday shopping. Bill has assured me that they will be open, safely, with masks mandatory and social distancing from today all through Christmas.

Take a break, enjoy some historical perspective and a taste of normalcy in this crazy 2020 year.

**Hixson's**

14125 Detroit Ave.

**Hours:**

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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## Education

### Milestone Project Gives Tree To Every Kindergartener

by Christine Gordillo

Part of the mission of the LKWDGreenTeam is to nurture good environmental stewards among students and staff. Like the development of any mindset, it helps to start young. The team's Kindergarten Milestone Trees Project will give our youngest learners a tangible reminder of not only the benefits of healthy trees in our community, but it will also allow them to watch those trees grow as they do!

The project was the brainchild of LKWDGreenTeam and Harding Middle School staff members Diane Quimper and Laura Balliett as a great way to mark the milestone of our kindergarteners educational journey and foster their connection with nature. Each kindergartener will receive a popular sapling to plant at home. The trees and planting materials were donated by Lynn Yanyo, founder of tree4all.org, and someone Balliett met thanks to common interests in raising awareness and educating people about environmental issues.

"We wanted to create an opportunity for positive childhood memories with trees so that the next generation will be inspired to connect with nature and advocate for natural spaces in our urban community," Quimper said.



H2O volunteers help plant and package the trees for distribution.



Lincoln Elementary kindergartener Finn Zobrist, proud of his planted tree.

On October 20, GreenTeam members and other district staff members joined with student volunteers from Help to Others (H2O), Harding Green Team club as well as some District families to plant and package about 300 saplings for distribution. Parents and their kindergarteners began picking up the trees at their buildings this week. Along with the tree, they received an adoption certificate, planting and care instructions, and an original comic created by Balliett showing the many benefits of trees. We hope to see some photos of the students with their trees not only after they plant them, but as they continue to both grow each year as well!

While this project started with the district's kindergarteners, the hope is to see the idea grow beyond Lakewood City Schools.

"Planting trees is one of the easiest ways to help fight climate change, and when these little learners plant their trees, they will be making a difference," Balliett said. "I hope we can continue getting trees out there and rebuild the tree canopy not only in our district but in districts all over."

### LHS Students Engage With Violinist Known For Art Activism

by Christine Gordillo

The students in Lakewood High's Chamber Orchestra and AP Music Theory classrooms were fortunate to spend a virtual hour with acclaimed violinist, composer and social justice advocate Daniel Bernard Roumain. Roumain, known professionally as DBR, was recently the featured performer in New York at the Lincoln Center 9/11 tribute. He is a classically trained violinist who infuses a myriad electronic, urban, and African-American music influences (like Hip-hop, and funk) into his music. Roumain he uses his music to partner with others in projects that speak to social injustice issues. Some of his artistic partners include famed composer Philip Glass and Lady Gaga.

The students and Roumain, who were also joined by members of the nationally recognized Cavani String Quartet, who have been working with

the Chamber students this school year thanks to a grant by the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, talked about how one can use their art to help heal some wounds in the world. Roumain explained how he uses his violin as his "weapon of choice" in his social activism. "You can use music to change the world," he told the students. "You can change menacing in magic and you can change the mundane into magic."

LHS Orchestra Director Beth Hankins has her Chamber students studying the life and music of Dmitri Shostakovich and the ensemble will partner a Shostakovich composition with a modern piece by Roumain in order to expose the students to the music and composers who use the art of music to express significant historical times and feelings that may help to bring more empathy and unity to our community.



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Lakewood Is Art®

..And Other Hits:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 108

by Buzz Kompier

Jeff Curtis - Summertime Stridulations - Coffee-Hut Records - 7 songs - CD, download

You may know Jeff Curtis from bands as varied as My Dad Is Dead, Gem, and Satan's Satellites- the press release I have here tells me so- which, of course, are all absolutely great bands, though this one-sheet inexcusably leaves off J'accuse, one of the best area post-punk bands of the early '80s if you ask me. This does not sound anything like any of those bands. "Summertime Stridulations" finds Jeff with a new instrument: the banjo. However, this ain't no hillbilly pickin'. (Not that I would mind that, and in fact now that I've said it I kinda would like to hear Mr. Curtis do some Grand Ole Opry-style tunes). Some of this is based in traditional folk, like "Bat Sky" or, indeed, the traditional song

"Dinah," but more often these songs are hypnotic instrumentals, with the banjo carrying the "tune" as it were with backing from a droning chord organ (or, in a couple cases, earth music: the sounds of rain and wind or the occasional car passing by). It's actually pretty cool stuff. I personally don't love the sound of the banjo, generally speaking ("Stop Stop Stop" by the Hollies is an obvious exception), but what Jeff does here is so unlike typical banjo playing that it almost feels like some other instrument. And yeah, maybe sometimes his playing isn't note-perfect or it's a little amateurish (he says as much in the liner notes), but what he does with the sound of it is far more important here. My favorite might be "Sweet Corn," which has a feel not unlike George Harrison's excursions into Indian music. "Birthday Raga" is indeed a raga, but its title brings to mind Bert Jansch ("Birthday Blues,"

ya see) and I certainly think Bert (or, at least, other artists who were inspired by him) was an influence here. A cool little experimental collection here. 3.5/5 (coffeehut.bandcamp.com)

The Roobydocks - I Am Going To Kill Yourself - Cultural / Tiny God Inc. - 5 songs - cassette, download

I think this tape may have come out over a year ago, but I didn't manage to get a copy until now, so here's my (I'm sure hotly awaited) review of the final release by the now (very sadly) defunct Roobydocks. The mastering is terrible and maybe the songs aren't really the band's best, but you know what? I really like this tape. The Roobydocks were a great band and if you like their stuff, you'll like this. "The Roobydock Death Cult" epitomizes their sound: John spewing anger over mostly clean guitar and a band that cannot decide

if its totally tight or totally sloppy. The dumb guitar "lead" (kinda using that term loosely) on the chorus of "Polygon Field" is perfect. "Mental Dumbass" isn't "Leopard," but it isn't bad. The style of "Coconut Water" is a little out of the ordinary for these guys and yet still sounds just like them. There's a great count-off in the middle- I won't spoil it, but it sure isn't your ordinary "1-2-3-4." Who's that doing the ridiculous spoken word thing at the end? Kinda sounds like drummer Joe, but I'm not entirely sure. It's not the place to start with The Roobydocks, but it's a good tape. Bring back The Roobydocks! 3/5 (theroobydocks.bandcamp.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.



NOVEMBER

**Aries:** Mars is about to move direct this month, the Ram will now charge forward, set your sights on what you desire, be grateful for Ram energy, you'll got out & nab that Turkey yourself!

**Taurus:** The Bull's a stubborn one, no doubt about it, holding onto your anger has kept you locked up in that Bullpen, set yourself free this Thanksgiving & let it all go, be grateful.

**Gemini:** The Twins get a double dose of respect regarding their finances, pay heed to Aretha, and R.E.S.P.E.C.T. your money & your money will respect you, double up on your turkey.

**Cancer:** The Crab's too busy nurturing others, cooking up a storm in the kitchen, this Thanksgiving, take off that apron, & get out of the frying pan, have yourself some F.U.N.

**Leo:** Yes, we all know you're King/Queen of the Jungle, but you're going to need a little help putting on that feast for your Kingdom, call on your animal buddies, they all have special gifts.

**Virgo:** Sorry Virgo, but you do NOT have all the answers, we'll play along with you, but do yourself a favor, don't over analyze everything to death, when in doubt play it out, thank you.

**Libra:** You may set the pretti-

est table this Thanksgiving, but when it comes to decision making...that's a whole 'nother wishbone, happiness is a choice you make, MAKE IT!

**Scorpio:** The Sun is in the Scorpio's sign, Mercury has gone direct, when deciding over your plans for Thanksgiving, don't just dip your toe in, dive right in, & bring the secret recipe.

**Sagittarius:** The Centaur knows how to aim the arrow right at the Bulls-eye, focus on the plethora of things you have to be grateful for this year, zoom in on spreading the kudos.

**Capricorn:** With Jupiter still in the Goat's sign for a little longer, it's time to take off the F.E.A.R. glasses & expand that perseverance the Goat is known for, be grateful the Sun rises.

**Aquarian:** We know you're the Freebirds of the zodiac, this

turkey season, maybe tofu turkey for you, it's time to dissolve all boundaries with Love, yep, now you're free to fly anywhere.

**Pisces:** There's plenty of fish in the Sea, so dive right in & let others support you, while you do the same, they call it Thanksgiving for a reason, from one fishbone to another, help each other.

Eva Starr, local astrologer, has been studying the moon & stars since she could read. Starr can be reached at evastarr.com



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# Lakewood Observes Halloween

## Arthur Ave Pumpkin Contest

by Allison Woodward

As a kid, there are many holi- days or events you look forward to... Halloween is usually one of them! This year the annual traditions of classroom parties and trick or treat- ing may not be a reality for many children. With COVID-19 keeping families from participating in these types of events, we have to find ways to keep our spirits up.

Arthur Ave residents have orga- nized several socially distanced events this year to help cure the COVID-19 blues such as: the Arthur



Whitney wanted her pumpkin to stay safe for anyone that might come too close!

Ave marathon, a kids' bike parade, a positivity sidewalk chalking day and the most recently a pumpkin deco- rating contest.

On Sunday October 25th, fami- lies on Arthur Ave set out their best decorated or carved pumpkins to be voted on by a few special guests. Lakewood's Fire Chief Dunphy, Assistant Chief Bennett, Captain Schmook and Police Officer Las- kowski all took a walk down Arthur Ave from Madison Ave to Lakewood Hts. to pick their favorite pumpkins.



Our judges deliberating!

The kids were excited to show off their master- pieces for a chance to win a Halloween prize bucket, but getting to meet and talk with the fire and policemen was an added bonus and the highlight of the event!

Winners were selected and prizes were awarded in two categories. Best Decorated went to Miles, who painted three per- fect pumpkin pictures and runner-up was a red devil pumpkin painted by Chaz. Best Carved was a tough decision, but



Penelope's Mr Hedgehog

in the end, two delicately designed dinosaurs took first place belonging to brothers Nicholas and Zachary, while brother/sister set Penelope and Vaughn took runner-up with their hedgehog and Jack Skellington crea- tions.

Everyone involved had a blast and are even brainstorming ideas for next year! This, along with many of the other Arthur Ave events that were born because of the need to safely socialize with our neighbors this year, will become part of the annual traditions this great Lakewood street has come to know and love.



Chaz's red devil pumpkin



Vaughan's Jack Skellington



Nicolas and Zachary's dinosaur.

## Help LCAC "Deliver" Food For The Holidays!

continued from page 1

to LCAC's website at <https://lcac.info> and hit the donate button.

Donations can also be made via check payable to Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. Please mail checks to the following address: P.O. Box 771421 – Lakewood, OH 44107

Donations will be used to purchase gift cards and are 100% tax deduct- ible. The gift cards LCAC purchases through Giant Eagle's corporate office have restrictions on tobacco/alcohol and can only be used to purchase food.

Who's stepping up to the plate? For the past several years, COX Communications has had employee volunteers at our events and been an annual supporter at the \$1,000 level. Recognizing the increased needs cre- ated by Covid, COX has responded generously and raised their sponsor- ship to \$5,000 this year!

"When it comes to supporting our neighbors, friends, and commu- nity partners, the upcoming holiday season represents a unique opportu- nity for companies like ours to assist in new ways," said Rob Brill, market vice president, Cox Communications. "While we wish our employee volun- teers could be on hand to help sort, bag, and deliver food this year, we are excited to once again partner with The Lakewood Charitable Assistance Cor- poration (LCAC) to ensure their good works continue unabated.

St. Edward's High School is also challenging its students to help LCAC by redirecting their food collection efforts into fundraising to assist with this year's gift card price tag.

Thanks in advance to everyone who "shows up" at the holiday food distri- bution this year by donating to LCAC! Hope to see you "in person" in 2021!

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# Lakewood Fiction

## The Rockport Miracles: Episode 36 - The Finale of “The Ballad of Derecho Dan”

fiction by Scott MacGregor

We are now in the Year of Our Lord 1980 and the Storm Era isn't letting up. As I write, the sentinel clouds and thunderclaps of Storm 10.3 are setting up on the northwest horizon, poised for yet another attack on Rockport.

Five years have passed since ‘Derecho’ Dan Newman took his Electric Kool-Aid boat ride into history. His actions on Lake Erie caused great wars of class indignation between Rockport and River City. The first skirmish, known as “Shale Wars,” was followed by “Shale Wars II” and “Shale Wars III.” The conflicts resulted in the senseless torchings of 103 backyard gazebos in River City and all seven gazebos known to exist in Rockport.

When 5 year-old Kitty Morrison’s pet rabbit was unintentionally squashed during one of the skirmishes, the child’s endearing and tearful pleas for peace were broadcast simultaneously across all 5 TV channels. Once people saw the misty-eyed lass hold up poor “Becky-June” to the cameras by its dead ears, the inane hooliganism and violence came to a clumsy and pigeon-toed conclusion.

Today, the two towns are friends again and mutually hold an annual celebration on the anniversary of the

explosion. The BIG moment occurs when a re-enactment of the famous “Shale Wars” battle is performed during which ordinary Rockport citizens save a life-sized Derecho Dan piñata from mobs of River City Hessians. After the faux battle, the piñata is unceremoniously torn from limb to limb by children in pursuit of its hidden treats while ex-adversaries drink, hug and much later, start punching each other.

The most amazing thing that happened was Mickey Mars’ miraculous confrontation with the Late Cretaceous. A young male Elasmosaurus platyrus was what the paleontologists agreed upon. The heroic live creature had saved Derecho Dan’s life but was severely stunned by the blast and not shy about asking for help.

A contest to name the creature was held for Rockport school children. 1-year-old Cubby Brockley’s suggestion of “‘Rocky’ the Rockport Sea Serpent” was the winning choice. Sea World built and manages a large “Humane Aquatic Enclosure” on Rockport’s eastern lakeshore to house (some say imprison) the creature. To date, there have been three unsuccessful attempts by animal activists to forcibly free Rocky. The ultimate fate of the creature, (who otherwise

appears well-fed, dumb and happy in his new home), is being weighed solely according to his value to the local economy. In other words, he IS imprisoned and movements to free him are ongoing.

The storms that bedevil Rockport are well known to a world gone bored with it. When the Cleveland Museum of Natural History notified the international science community about a live plesiosaur species in Greater Cleveland waters, Rockport was again a destination for every natural science geek worth his/her pocket protector. The money that they and the multitudes of tourists and religious pilgrims are infusing into Rockport’s economy has rejuvenated the city’s coffers beyond everyone’s wildest dreams.

Much of the City’s windfall has been spent on bolstering Rockport’s defenses against the storms. All houses and businesses that remained in “Storm Alley” were razed and an enormous concrete ‘wind tunnel’ that runs from the lakeshore up to the town heights was constructed to capture and channel derecho winds toward giant turbines that generate electricity for the city.

All of this because an 18 year-old American manchild got really mad, popped a dose of pure Owsley acid, and confronted something that was 200,000,000 times bigger than himself. To this day, Derecho Dan is either admired or reviled, depending on who you ask. Local songwriters inspired by his wild and wicked story, have recorded several successful novelty hits like, “The Ballad of Derecho Dan,” “He Who Spanks the Wind,” “The Wind Cries Kablooeey,” and the classic, “Little Pink Houses Covered in Goo.” All became certified Gold.

Though Derecho Dan’s actions on Lake Erie made him infamous around the world, his infamy was magnetic and a slew of high-profile defense lawyers offered to run his widely televised trial at no charge. During a moment of high drama, the heavily bandaged testimony of the corrupt and recently noseless River City Mayor Bart Ridgewood was interrupted when FBI agents burst in on the proceedings. They arrested him right off the stand for defrauding the buyers and investors of his Erie Water Wave Estates. If the explosion and storm had a bright side at all, it was to reveal Ridgewood’s chicken wire and chewing gum approach to home building. (Bart is currently doing a 5 to 10 year stretch at the Mansfield Reformatory).

Derecho Dan’s legal dream team ably convinced the jury that the LSD had rendered him irresponsible for his actions (forever known thenceforth as the “Grateful Dead Defense”). The charges emanating from the Gas & Lube catastrophe were also dismissed after neighbors who’d lost their homes refused to press charges. They all remembered the times when Old Dan,

Big Dan, and Little Dan had taken care of their cars regardless of whether they could pay or not. And, there was also Wilmena to consider. No one wanted to hurt Wilmena, not after all she’d done for them throughout the years.

Derecho Dan was sent to a Psychiatric facility for three months, given 2 years probation and had to perform 2000 hours of community service. He and his fellow reprobates spent most of that time steam cleaning off thick layers of fish entrails spread over 10 square miles of River City by the explosion. The cleanup of that pungent atrocity, (an effort severely hampered by Hitchcockian moments involving thousands of hungry seabirds), took a very long year to complete.

Today, Derecho Dan Newman is a free man. Unemployable and still unwelcome in places outside of Rockport, he began taking night school classes and before long emerged with a good head for business. Forbidden to ever again have anything to do with petroleum or dynamite, or boats, he instead used the money earned from the sale of the Gas & Lube property to buy a broken down laundromat in the middle of Rockport.

After he’d spruced the place up, he installed comfortable couches and easy chairs, state of the art washing machines, and, not one but, two televisions. Soon after that he added a coffee bar that featured, what else? Wilmena’s famous tuna salad sandwiches! Before long, “Derecho Dan’s Suds ’N More Laundromat with ‘Derecho Clean Technology’ became a huge hit with the local laundromat community. Though once shattered, Derecho Dan and mother Wilmena were last seen picking up what was left and making something out of it.

It’s widely believed that the Earth has already crossed over an ecological point of no return. Here in 1980, there is a steady stream of prophetic warnings about the future of Earth coming from scholars and scientists who truly understand the rhythms of our planet. Those in control of things continue to ignore them utterly and, in keeping with our American traditions and norms, have labeled the scientists as socialists and enemies of the state.

The real “Rockport Miracles” are ourselves, the resilient citizens of Rockport. Through it all, most of us have stayed and remain positive despite our uncertain futures. We are, by way of our generosity and kindness, miracles. As long as we remind ourselves of that from time to time, we’ll be alright.

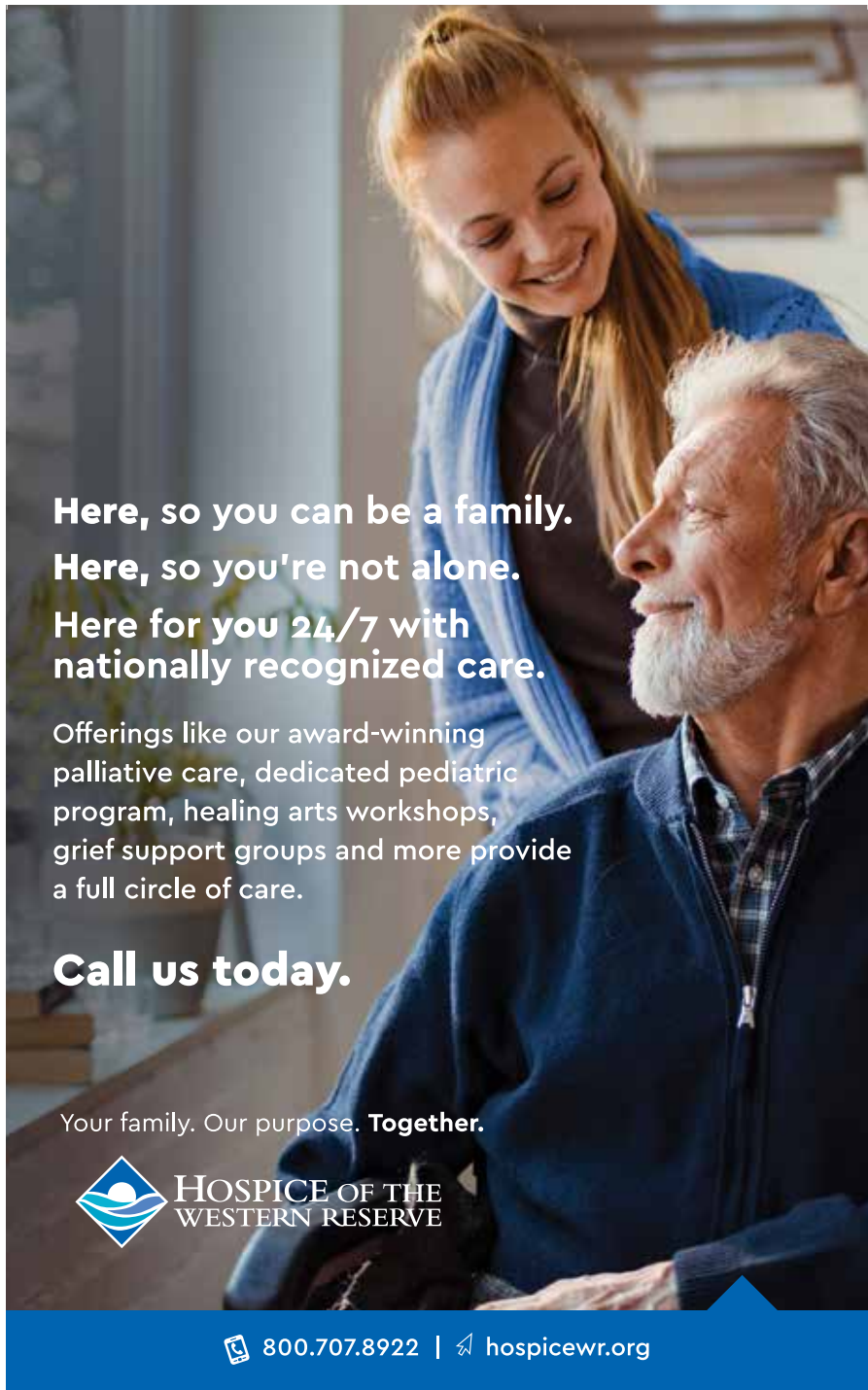
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# Lakewood Is Alive

## A Digital Dog Day Delight: 2020 Virtual Spooky Pooch Parade Highlight

by Jacqueline Bon

It was a crisp, picture-perfect autumn day, and although we weren't able to gather together at Kauffman Park, we were happy to see the creativity and enthusiasm of Spooky Pooch endure through these times. It was, indeed, a digital dog day delight.

On Saturday morning, October 17, the original day of our annual parade, we premiered our 2020 Spooky Pooch Parade Video announcing the Best in Show, 12 lucky dogs that will be featured on our 2021 wall calendar, and heart warming honorable mentions that made our 13th Annual Spooky Pooch Celebration memorable for all who participated. The votes and comments for Best in Show flooded in on Facebook and Instagram, after two days, we tallied over 1600 votes.

Sponsored by Ganley Subaru and presented by LakewoodAlive, the Spooky Pooch Parade featured mutts and pure-breds, lap dogs and large canines, and a wide assortment of clever costumes adorned by both humans and their furry friends. The 12 lucky dogs that will be featured on our calendar were selected

by a panel of judges, with the winner of Best in Show which was chosen through public through voting, receiving one year's worth of free dog food courtesy of Pet's General Store.

The level of creativity expressed in this year's array of costumes truly brought a smile to our faces. Costumes included many fictional favorites such as Oscar the Grouch (a dog painted green jumping out of a garbage can, of course), Mickey Mouse (and his cohort of friends), Baby Yoda (as adorable as the one on the big screen) and many more.

We're hopeful that next year we can return to hosting a sizable celebration of costumed canines in Downtown Lakewood. Until then, we've learned that not even a global pandemic can stop Spooky Pooch. Thanks to all who participated. Your submissions and boundless creativity delighted the community!

"We are thrilled with incredibly creative photos that people sent to us for the Spooky Pooch Parade calendar," said Ian Andrews, Executive Director for LakewoodAlive. "Despite COVID keeping us apart, the community showed their support by submitting more than 1,600 votes, helping us to keep the spirit of the event alive."



First Runner Up, Cujo and her "Social Dogstancing" costume.



Third place winner, Penny the Shiba Inu Hot Dog.

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