



Lakewood Gives a WARM Welcome to Big Blue Swim School!

Built inside what used to be a restaurant at Lakewood Center Mall is something unexpected and the first of its kind in Lakewood.. Big Blue Swim School! Big Blue is an all-new indoor children’s swim school. Located at 4700 Candlewood St. Lakewood, CA 90712 Big Blue aims to provide exceptional service that empowers kids with the skills they need to feel confident in the water. They officially opened their doors in Lakewood on August 25th, 2025. During their grand opening, Lakewood City officials and County representatives provided a BIG welcome to the team and to Big Blue as a new business in Lakewood. We are excited to see Big Blue thrive as



the only indoor swim school within Lakewood’s city limits. The Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

wishes the team well, and hopes for many years of success to everyone at Big Blue. If you or someone you



know would like to learn to swim, Big Blue is the place to be!

“Fest-Of-All” food & music festival Oct. 11

The fourth annual multicultural food and music festival called Lakewood’s Fest-Of-All will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 2-8 p.m. in its new location at Palms Park. Representing the wide variety of cultures which Lakewood is proud to have in the community, Lakewood’s Fest-Of-All will include the following fun features:

- Two entertainment stages—with a wide variety of musical and dance acts
- Multicultural Food Court
- Family Fun Zone with free inflatable attractions for kids in attendance
- Craft Village
- Children’s Cultural Booth
- Passport Around the World



Kids enjoyed the Children’s Cultural Booth at last year’s event.

Fest-Of-All Entertainment Schedule

2 p.m.	Event begins
2:05 – 3 p.m.	Hoku Mae’ole Polynesia (Polynesian/Hula)
3:05 – 3:30 p.m.	The Magic of Belly Dance by Fahtiem
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Upstream (Caribbean, Reggae, Latin Soul)
5:00 – 5:25 p.m.	Latinas Art Foundation (Ballet Folklorico)
5:30 – 5:55 p.m.	Powerhouse Percussive Dance
6:00 – 6:25 p.m.	Xipe Totec Danzantes Aztecas
6:30– 8 p.m.	Adelaide Pilar’s Tribute to Selena
8 p.m.	Event ends

Multicultural food court of booths and food trucks

Tatay Ry’s (Filipino)
 Noah Cajun Shrimp (Cajun)
 Padekwa Café & Create (Southern Creole Desserts)
 Gochu Gang (Korean BBQ)
 Boba Bee (Bubble Tea)
 El Churro Panzon (Mexican Desserts & Beverages)
 Mariscos Arenita (Modern Mexican Seafood)

Palms Park is located at 12305 207th St., Lakewood.

Drive with extra caution on Halloween

The City ofLakewood asks drivers to please remember that on Halloween children may be running unexpectedly across streets. Please drive extra cautiously, especially on residential streets where excited kids may dart out at any time.

Parents, please remind your children to be careful crossing streets. Always do so only at crosswalks, not in the middle of a street, and only after checking both directions carefully. Put reflective tape on dark costumes and give your children a flashlight or something to illuminate them when crossing streets.

Join your community to ‘Thank a Servicemember’

The City of Lakewood’s 12th annual ‘Thank a Servicemember’ campaign continues collecting cards and letters of appreciation to send to our U.S. military servicemembers stationed far from home.

The deadline to deliver your card or letter to City Hall is Thursday, Dec. 4 (or on Friday, Dec. 5 at the annual Tree Lighting event), so there’s plenty of time to get involved. The city will send the collected cards and letters to the nonprofit organization Operation Gratitude for delivery with care packages sent to U.S. servicemembers overseas.

You can pick up a free Lakewood-themed postcard, write your message and drop it off at the check-in table in the lobby at City Hall. You can also get creative and make your own card or write a letter and bring it in, no envelope or stamp needed.

Visit www.lakewoodca.gov/



Pick up a free 2025 Thank a Servicemember postcard at City Hall.

TAS to learn more about Thank a Servicemember and how you can get involved. You’ll find a list of program partners as well as additional card drop-off locations and alternative ways to submit your message online.

For more information, call the city’s Community Relations office at 562-866-9771, ext. 3123.

Halloween fun at Lakewood parks

Lakewood’s traditional Halloween Carnivals are back, offering fun and safety for youngsters on the year’s spookiest night.

Special carnival activities are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 31 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Biscailuz, Bloomfield, Bolivar, Boyar, Del Valle, Mayfair, Palms and San Martin parks.

Each park will have a special theme:

- Biscailuz Park: “Coraline”
- Bloomfield Park: “Phineas and Ferb”
- Bolivar Park: “Hotel Transylvania”
- Boyar Park: “Minecraft”
- Del Valle Park: “The Book of Life”
- Mayfair Park: “Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown”
- Palms Park: “Lilo & Stitch”
- San Martin Park: “Stranger Things”

“Haunted houses” for little ghosts and goblins to venture inside will be available at Bolivar, Del Valle, Palms



and San Martin parks.

There will be inflatable attractions at Mayfair Park for an additional fee.

Support for the carnivals comes from community volunteers, civic organizations and Lakewood Tot Lot parents. Want to help? Volunteers are needed to run carnival booths. Visit www.lakewoodca.gov/HalloweenVolunteers to sign up.

For information, call the park nearest you or City Hall at 562-866-9771, ext. 2408. Use the “Park Finder” at www.lakewoodca.gov/parkfinder to locate which Lakewood neighborhood park is closest to you.

Mayor Cassandra Chase

Empowering Lakewood’s Youth—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow





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There was a time when Lakewood’s neighborhoods overflowed with the sound of children, sometimes 65 or 70 on a single block. Their parents, many new to this young city, wondered how a community so fresh on the map would rise to meet the needs of its youngest residents. From the beginning, in 1954, Lakewood’s city leaders chose to make that challenge a priority, creating safe places for children to play and grow. Parks and playgrounds soon took shape and later came programs for teens and the opening of the Lakewood Youth Center.

Much has changed since those early years. Families look different, childhood itself feels different. Yet one thing has remained constant: Lakewood’s commitment to empowering its youth. Through every new generation and every new challenge, the city has carried forward the belief that our children and teens are not just residents of today but the promise of our tomorrow.

Lakewood’s park sports leagues, which would become known as Lakewood Youth Sports and branded LYS, launched in 1957, have done more than create teams. They have built friendships, shaped character and given young people the chance to learn what it means to work together. Long before it was common elsewhere, Lakewood opened the playing field to girls, offering organized leagues in the 1950s and 1960s. That spirit of inclusion still defines our program today.

From preschoolers just learning the basics to teenagers sharpening their skills, thousands of young athletes find encouragement on Lakewood’s courts and fields. Parents and community members looking to support our youth will volunteer their time as coaches. Children and teens discover teamwork, discipline and confidence through basketball, baseball, softball, flag football,

volleyball and volleyball. And for those who want to grow in other ways, programs in gymnastics, karate and soccer provide pathways to strength, balance and self-assurance.

For young people stepping into the next stage of life, Lakewood continues to be a steady guide. Teens in grades 6 through 12 find more than just recreation here—they find preparation for adulthood. Our Teen Life Skills program helps them navigate responsibilities and choices, giving them tools they will carry long after graduation. Many even volunteer in programs like the Lakewood Teen Action Committee and Teens in Lakewood Care.

At the Lakewood Youth Center, the experience is both practical and fun. On any given weeknight, you might see teens gathered for games, cooking instruction, book clubs or crafts. Just as often, you’ll see them working on homework, exploring career options or preparing for college applications with help from staff and mentors. It is a place where laughter and learning mix together, where young people discover both confidence and community.

Nurturing talent begins early in Lakewood. Our recreation programs open doors for children to express themselves through ceramics, drumming, dance and musical theater. For youth with special needs, the city’s Adaptive Recreation Program at Bloomfield Park creates opportunities for fun, friendship and growth. And through our partnership with Special Olympics of Southern California, Lakewood provides year-round sports and team experiences that celebrate ability and inclusion.

The spirit behind all of this is simple but powerful: in Lakewood, everyone plays and everyone belongs. That is especially meaningful to me because I was once a Lakewood kid myself. My parents made full use of our

city’s parks and recreation programs, and I have fond memories of gymnastics and karate. Those experiences taught me belonging, discipline and leadership skills, all of which continue to shape my experience as mayor today. Even now, parents can get in on the fun; when they gather at city-sponsored events like FUN-tastic Family Nights at The Centre or Family Camp at Monte Verde Park, they create memories and connections that last.

I’ve also been impressed by the entrepreneurial spirit of our young people. This summer, Lakewood once again joined with the Lakewood Jaycees to support Lemonade Day, a program where third- through fifth-grade students learn how to start and run a small business. These young entrepreneurs came to City Hall, proudly applied for their “business licenses” and set out to prepare their stands. They learned budgeting, marketing and customer service and many chose to donate part of their profits to nonprofit causes. What looked like a simple lemonade stand was really a lesson in leadership, self-reliance and giving back.

Our parks and programs are more than just activities. They are spaces where young people discover their strengths, their creativity and their resilience. Tot Lots for toddlers, hip hop for teens, adaptive sports for special needs athletes and skills for young adults—Lakewood has been empowering youth for nearly 70 years. And as your mayor, I am committed to continuing that tradition in every way I can, because when we invest in our youth, we invest in Lakewood’s future.

You can learn more about Lakewood’s programs for youth in the current recreation catalog published by the Department of Recreation and Community Services. It is available online at www.lakewoodca.gov/catalog.

Trunk-or-Treat and Haunted Jail at Lakewood Station

Lakewood Station will host the Trunk-or-Treat and Haunted Jail event on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 5 to 9 p.m.

This Halloween-themed community event for all ages features a safety expo, food, haunted jail, spooky maze and more. Kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and bring their empty candy bags.

Adults and older kids can explore the haunted jail (if they dare), while children age 6 and under can try the spooky maze.

Entrance to the Haunted Jail and Kids Maze is free. Attractions and games will require tickets, which may be purchased on site. Food and treats will be available for sale.

Families can also see displays of first responder vehicles and public safety equipment.

Enter the event on foot through the rear gate of the Lakewood Sheriff’s Station (5130 Clark Ave.) from Civic Center Drive.

City Spotlight

Older Adults Benefits Information Fair

The Weingart Senior Center will host its annual Older Adults Benefits and Information Fair on Monday, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. Adults 50+ can pick up health insurance and benefit related materials and speak with company representatives to help with plan comparison. For more information, contact the Weingart Senior Center at 562-630-6141.

Lollipop Lane returns with over 100 artisans!

Mayfair Park will come alive with over 100 crafters offering handmade, affordable holiday gifts on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

One of the first boutiques of the season in our region, the Lakewood event features a wide range of quality crafters and artists displaying Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas items. Jewelry, clothing, quilts, cards, gourds, gift bags, scarves, purses, wood crafts, paintings, candles, soaps, lotions and many other beautiful, handcrafted items will be for sale. Visit the Young Creative Craft Shop where young artisans ages 6-17 are learning what it takes to sell their goods and fully operate their own store.

Event admission is free, and each merchant handles their own sales. There will be a food truck onsite with a percentage of purchases benefiting Meals on Wheels of Long Beach.

Mayfair Park is located at 5720 Clark Ave., at the corner of South Street and Clark Ave. Parking for the event will be available at the park. Additional parking and a free shuttle will service the Lakewood City Hall east parking lot (5050 Clark Ave.) The shuttle will run every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. For more information, please call 562-866-9771, ext. 2408 or 562-866-4776 the day of the event.

Family overnight camp in Lakewood

Bring the whole family and have a fun overnight campout under the stars Nov. 1-2 at

Monte Verde Park, 4626 N. Shadeway Rd. Participate in games, crafts, nature walks, roasting marshmallows and singing around the campfire. All meals and snacks are prepared, so parents can sit back, relax and enjoy nature.

Learn more by watching a CityTV video at www.lakewoodca.gov/familycamp.

For a "what to bring" list and to register, visit www.lakewoodca.gov/ecatalog and search activity #31443. The fee is only \$10 per person. A \$20 per person supply fee is due to the instructor at camp.

Pets, barbecues, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

FUN-Tastic Family Night Featuring Powerhouse Percussion Tap

Jump into a high-energy stomp dance experience at The Centre, 5000 Clark Ave. on Friday, Nov. 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This exciting, interactive show feature precision clogging and percussive rhythms that will get kids clapping, stomping and moving to the beat. Penne pasta with white sauce, breadsticks, Caesar salad, lemonade and a dessert will be served prior to the show. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person, \$12 for children 1-3, and children under 1 are free. Visit www.lakewoodca.gov/ecatalog and use activity #31222 to register by Nov. 14.

Play softball to help Project Shepherd

Residents are being asked to get on base with Project Shepherd by playing in or sponsoring a softball team in the 11th annual "Turkey Tournament," hosted by the City of Lakewood. There will be two tournament divisions offered. A co-ed division, and a men's division. Games for both divisions will be played Saturday, Nov. 22. The co-ed tournament will take place at San Martin Park, while the men's tournament will be played at Palms Park. Games will begin at 9 a.m. at both locations and run throughout

the day.

Registrations are due by Nov. 17. Call the Recreation and Community Services Department for more information or to inquire about signing up as a team or sponsor at 562-866-9771, ext. 2408.

Teams

- Team fee is \$350
- 3-game guarantee
- ASA Bats
- Custom Dri-FIT jerseys will be given to the 1st place team

Sponsors

Sponsors get a field sign for \$100, highlighting your business in front of 120 ball players and fans.

Now in its 53rd year, Project Shepherd provides food and gifts during the holiday season and throughout the year to Lakewood residents in need. The City of Lakewood and the Rotary Club of Lakewood organize the efforts of volunteers and the donations of food, toys and cash to make Project Shepherd a success. Over 431 families, including 1,605 youth and adults, were helped in 2024.

How to register for



Project Shepherd assistance

The holiday season can be tough for some Lakewood households, including those who have faced unemployment or underemployment for many months. If you are a Lakewood resident facing tough economic times, your Lakewood neighbors want to help. The registration period to receive help from Project Shepherd for the December holiday runs from Monday, Nov. 3 to Sunday, Nov. 16. Visit www.lakewoodca.gov/PSRegistration for additional information.

Eligibility requirements:

- Lakewood residents only.
- Those who are low-income, unemployed or on public assistance.

To register, bring the

following:

--A current utility bill (water, gas, electric) or government award letter.

--Identification for each person in the household, including children.

Call to make an appointment starting Monday, Oct. 20.

For an appointment time, call the Burns Community Center Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at 562-925-7512.

Project Shepherd would like to thank our platinum sponsors Golden State Water Company, Fit Body Boot Camp, Lakewood Jaycees, Lakewood Albertsons/Vons/Pavilions and Lakewood Elks Lodge #1570 for their generous support this holiday season.

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Join us for our monthly "In-Person COFFEE CHAT" on Saturday, September 14th at Granny's Donuts, 5550 Woodruff Ave., from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and enjoy FREE COFFEE and GOODIES!

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Luncheon to honor those who protect Lakewood

Every November at the Award of Valor Luncheon, Lakewood invites residents and community leaders to take time to recognize Deputy Sheriffs, Firefighters and fellow residents who have demonstrated heroism and outstanding service to the community. This year will follow that tradition, with a luncheon at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at The Centre.

The Award of Valor annual luncheon brings together over 400 people, including Lakewood residents, civic and business leaders and public safety professionals.

Top officials from the Los Angeles

County Fire and Sheriff’s departments will speak and join the Lakewood community in a show of support and appreciation for local heroes and public safety personnel.

“This event is a great opportunity to say thank you to the Deputy Sheriffs and Firefighters who work hard every day protecting and serving us, and to the community volunteers who have gone above and beyond in the cause of public safety in Lakewood,” said Mayor Cassandra Chase. “If you are able, I hope you can join us at this wonderful and meaningful annual city event.”

Reservations are required. Tickets are \$37 each, and tables of nine are available if purchased by 5 p.m. on Oct. 15. After that, tickets will be \$47 each. Seats are not guaranteed after Oct. 22.

Checks should be made payable to the City of Lakewood and mailed with names of attendees to: Lakewood City Hall, c/o Community Relations Office, 5050 Clark Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.lakewoodca.gov/AOVtickets. Contact 562-866-9771 ext. 3123 for more information.



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The Lakewood Community News is printed once a month and covers the City of Lakewood and surrounding communities, with a strong emphasis on the business community. Both the GLCC President/CEO and Managing Editor have exclusive authority over the content that is published.

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High-tech cameras delivering results in Lakewood

Lakewood's investment in smarter, faster safety technology is already making a difference for public safety.

This past March, the City Council approved a free six-month trial of 58 next-generation Flock automatic license plate reading (ALPR) cameras and 10 cameras across the city. These advanced tools build on more than a decade of success with the city's existing camera network, which has helped deputies quickly locate and intercept vehicles linked to crimes before they could affect Lakewood residents. The pilot period commenced August 1.

Recently, the upgraded cameras helped deputies to identify several individuals doing burnouts on separate occasions at an intersection in a residential neighborhood. These individuals were cited for their reckless behavior. The system has also aided deputies in locating and arresting a carjacking suspect, several suspects driving stolen vehicles or with warrants, and identified vehicles used in various crimes, including a

burglary and grand theft.

Your Partnership for a Safer Community

Lakewood's investment is bolstered by participating in Flock's Community Partnership Program, where residents and business owners can purchase Flock cameras for the neighborhood or business and voluntarily share video feeds from their personal or commercial security cameras with law enforcement. This creates a broader safety network, helping deputies respond even faster and investigate more effectively when suspicious or criminal activity occurs nearby.

These next-generation ALPR cameras are equipped with intelligent features that go beyond license plate detection. They can now:

- Identify vehicles by color, make, model and unique details, even when plates are missing or obscured.
- Trigger real-time alerts directly



to Lakewood Sheriff's Station and Deputies in the field when there are vehicles without plates.

This means faster, more targeted responses — and a safer community for everyone.

Residents and business owners interested in learning more about the subscription-based program can contact the Lakewood Public Safety Department at 562-866-9771 x2114 or reach out directly to Flock Safety's Community Safety Account Executive Jermean Tabar at 949-534-8797 or jermean.tabar@flocksafety.com.

Disability Awareness Month

October is National Disability Awareness Month and the City of Lakewood is proud to stand in recognition of the more than 70 million Americans living with disabilities. It is an important time to honor the contributions of people with disabilities, advocate for equity, and promote a fully inclusive community for all.

Observed each October, National Disability Awareness Month aims to increase public understanding of the experiences of people with physical, intellectual, developmental and mental health disabilities. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of accessibility, inclusion and the elimination of barriers—both visible and invisible.

Physical impairment is the most common disability in the United States, and the City of Lakewood is proud to continue its ongoing work to create and enhance accessibility at its parks and community buildings.

Providing residents in need with reliable and friendly transit throughout the city is Lakewood's DASH (Disabled, Accessible, Seniors, Handicapped)



transit program. All the buses and vans are wheelchair accessible. To become a DASH rider, call city staff at 562-924-0149.

And since 1981, Lakewood has partnered with Special Olympics Southern California to provide a year-round athletic program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition, Lakewood's Adaptive Recreation Program is offered at Bloomfield Park, with recreation staff that plans, implements and supervises weekly activities. For information, contact Bloomfield Park staff at 562-865-1717.

The Disability Pride flag, designed by Ann Magill, a writer with cerebral palsy, symbolizes the varied experiences within the disability community. Each color on the flag holds significant meaning, representing different aspects of disability:

Black -- for mourning those who have faced mistreatment or neglect
Green -- for sensory disabilities
Blue -- for psychiatric disabilities
White--for invisible or undiagnosed

disabilities

Gold -- for cognitive and intellectual disabilities

Red -- for physical disabilities

The City of Lakewood has issued a proclamation in recognition of Disability Awareness Month which can be viewed at www.lakewoodca.gov.

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

September 28, 2025
Summer Stampede
Car Show
presented by the
Greater Lakewood
Chamber of Commerce

OCTOBER

October 9, 2025
Halloween Mixer
Women's Club

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Golf tournament to help Lakewood schools



You can help students attending Lakewood schools by supporting the Lakewood Education Foundation (LEF) Golf Tournament on Friday, Oct. 17. And, you don't even have to play golf to support the cause!

Through the generous donations of Lakewood residents and businesses, LEF was able to donate over \$60,425 last year in grants of up to \$500 to dozens of local teachers for classroom improvement projects. These grants provided books, classroom technology, classroom storage, sensory learning materials for children with special needs, robotics supplies, field trips, and much more.

Here's how you can help to fund teacher requests this year:

- Play golf (or sponsor another golfer, such as a high school student) at the Oct. 17 tournament, starting at 1 p.m. at the Lakewood Country Club. The entry fee of \$145 includes greens fees, golf cart, pre-tournament lunch, goodie bag and on-course small bites and beverages.
- Visit www.lakewoodca.gov/LEFGolf to support the event in any of these ways:
- Register for the golf tournament

- Take advantage of sponsorship opportunities
- Buy a "Tee Sign" with your name/message for \$100
- Purchase raffle tickets
- Donate a raffle prize of merchandise or a gift card worth \$25 or more

The non-profit LEF is run by volunteers in Lakewood and is dedicated to improving educational opportunities for local students.

For more information, or to register or donate, please call 562-866-9771, ext. 2401. You can donate directly by writing a check to the Lakewood Education Foundation and mailing it to LEF, c/o Lakewood City Hall, 5050 Clark Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712. You can also donate online at www.lakewoodca.gov/DonateLEF. Donations are tax deductible.

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College Fair is Tuesday, Oct. 14

Lakewood’s annual College Fair will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Centre, 5000 Clark Ave. Parents and students (ages 15-22) can meet college representatives, pick up brochures and get the information needed for the admissions process, including testing, transcripts, transfers, enrollment registration, fees and deadlines.

All students in attendance on Oct. 14 are eligible to win a \$250 scholarship sponsored by the Lakewood Teen Action Committee.

Free workshops Oct. 21-22 College-bound teens and their parents can also get expert information and resources to help guide their students through the college preparation and application process by signing up for two free workshops at www.lakewoodca.gov/CollegeFairWorkshops. The sessions will be held at the Lakewood Youth Center, 4658 Woodruff Ave., on Oct. 21 and Oct. 22, the week after the College Fair. **Space is limited.**

• **Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.** *College Planning Workshop: Navigate the Arduous Path of Admissions & How to Pay for College without Going Broke* is

presented by Skip Dawson of College Planning of Greater Long Beach

• **Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 6:45 p.m.** *College Information Workshop: Proper Preparation for College and Attending College Affordably* is presented by independent college counselor and admissions expert John H. Wilson, III, director of



the West Angeles COGIC Education & Enrichment Program.

You can get details on each workshop’s topics at www.lakewoodca.gov/CollegeFair. For more information, call 562-429-7472.

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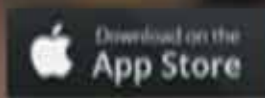
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Trunk or Treat

Lakewood Family YMCA





FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH | 5:00PM-7:00PM

Come celebrate Halloween with us at our fun-filled Trunk or Treat event!
Enjoy decorated trunks, candy, and more. Can't wait to see you there!

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