



lakewood

25 years of community

fall
2021



25th Anniversary | Climate Change | Western State Hospital | Police Reform

Table of Contents

2. Your City Council

Your City Council reflects on 25 years of Lakewood, and a special City employee is recognized.

3. Special Events

Join us on Sept. 18 for a celebration of 25 years since Lakewood became a city. Other special events are detailed.

5. Looking Ahead

The City is responding to climate change, tree preservation, housing affordability, and veterans advocacy.

7. Changes around Town

Changes are proposed for Western State Hospital, and gorgeous new art is popping up all over Lakewood.

9. Capital Improvements

Investments in your parks and roadways make Lakewood a better place to live and an easier place to navigate.

11. Tidying Up

Save the date for the next community cleanup. Download the MyLakewood311 app to report nuisances and code violations.

13. A Word from Chief Zaro

LPD Chief Mike Zaro explains new laws affecting police tactics and responses to calls, and introduces a new body camera program.

Keep In Touch

How to be Heard

To report nuisances and code violations, download the **MyLakewood311** app on your phone. That's the best way to notify us of problems, and for you to be notified once they are resolved.

On broader policy issues, engage your City Council - they represent *you*. Regular meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month, and public comments are invited.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/city-council/>

You have a lot to say, and so do we. We hope to keep you informed of important matters and invite your opinion.

Get the Latest News

To read the latest local headlines, sign up for our **weekly email newsletter**. It covers important news, construction updates, scheduled events, and more.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/communications/>

You can also follow us on **social media**. We're on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Reddit, and LinkedIn. Use the link above to visit our profiles.

Review scheduled events & meetings:

<https://cityoflakewood.us/calendar/>

Review current road construction:

<https://cityoflakewood.us/roads>



City of Lakewood, Washington

6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499



Save the Date:

Lovely Colonial Plaza in downtown Lakewood will host our 25th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 18. Join us to celebrate our shared history.

Your City Council



Don Anderson
Mayor



Jason Whalen
Deputy Mayor



Mary Moss
Councilmember



Mike Brandstetter
Councilmember



Patti Belle
Councilmember



Linda Farmer
Councilmember



Paul Bocchi
Councilmember

February 28, 2021 marked the 25-year anniversary of Lakewood's incorporation. There's no question that cityhood has been a success. We have achieved and exceeded the promises of incorporation.

These promises were about ensuring local control of public safety, land use, and parks and recreation. They were about controlled, quality growth and community identity. They were about improving Lakewood's image and addressing blight that had gone unabated for so many years. And most importantly, they were about better responding to your needs as a resident and community.

Quality of life has improved. Lakewood is a beautiful community marked by an abundance of parks, open spaces, and attractive, landscaped corridors as well as improved streets and sidewalks to enhance mobility, accessibility and safety. Crime is down almost 50%. The City has increased services, community events and other amenities.

Our success is attributable to the tremendous sense of civic pride and engagement, evidenced by the high level of community involvement and volunteerism.

Volunteers dedicated endless hours prior to incorporation, and continue today by serving on citizen advisory boards and commissions, neighborhood associations, and service clubs. Lakewood is strong because of collaboration with the

community to make improvements and proactively address prevalent issues.

As host city to JBLM and Camp Murray, we take pride in our relationship with the military. We strongly advocate for our service members, their families, and transitioning veterans. The City maintains a solid reputation with our military and congressional leaders and is viewed as a trusted organization valued for its integrity and responsiveness.

The challenges of the pandemic have created opportunities. Key priorities include addressing social and housing services, economic development, job creation, investment and business growth, and public safety. You can expect a strong focus on the environment and continued improvements in parks, streets, and youth programming.

A key strength of our community is our diversity. We are committed to ensuring that "Lakewood is a livable, resilient, and inclusive community that embraces and celebrates diversity and delivers equitable municipal services."

This anniversary is a junction: a chance to celebrate the past and to peer into the future. We are confident that the next 25 years will bring about bigger and better things for Lakewood. We will maintain our momentum for progress and innovation, and embrace our ability to take control of our future, in spite of global issues and challenges.



Staff Spotlight

Tiffany Speir, Long-Range and Strategic Planning Manager

Tiffany's job is to envision the future. She maintains the City's Comprehensive Plan and advises on current decisions that will yield long-term benefits. She's been busy, representing the City of Lakewood in regional efforts to end homelessness and improve housing affordability. She's organized, forward-thinking, and focused on the big picture.

25

1996 Anniversary 2021

SEPTEMBER

18

2:00PM

TO
8:30PM



International Performers



Community Vendors



Family Fun



Food Trucks

25th Anniversary Celebration

*Saturday, Sept. 18 at Colonial Plaza
2:00 to 8:30 p.m.*

A quarter-century has elapsed since Lakewood incorporated in 1996. Our “silver anniversary” will be one to remember, as we celebrate the occasion with a community festival in Colonial Plaza.

Food trucks, live entertainment, international performances, historical exhibits, community vendors, guest speakers, and fun activities are planned for this late-summer Saturday afternoon.

“This is something we’ve looked forward to all year: a chance to celebrate as a community.”

- Mary Dodsworth, Director of Parks & Recreation

The event will feature several gorgeous art displays: Clover Park School District students will finally unveil their mobile mural project, and artwork from the City’s 25th Anniversary Art Contest will be displayed.

Come and enjoy this historic events under the Colonial Plaza lights.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/celebrate25>



“Thank You”

Our community events would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. Thank you for your contributions.

WSECU

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Virginia-Mason Franciscan Health

Farmers Market Sponsor

Boo-Han Market

25th Anniversary Sponsor

Lakewood Sister Cities Association

25th Anniversary Sponsor

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Lake City Pub

Lakewold Gardens

Lakewood Hardware & Paint

Manic Meatballs

Pizza Studio

Robi's Print Design

Starbucks

Tacoma Trophy

Tea Madame

Windell Portraits



Truck & Tractor Day

*Saturday, Oct. 9 at Fort Steilacoom Park
12:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

Jump on a hayride and grab a free pumpkin at Truck & Tractor Day. The event will be a family-friendly celebration of the fall season. Kids can ride a jumbo tractor and fire a giant pumpkin slingshot.

WSECU



Farmers Market

*Fridays thru September at Fort Steilacoom Park
2:00 to 6:30 p.m.*

The Lakewood Farmers Market will continue through Sept. 24, held every summer Friday at Fort Steilacoom Park. The market features fresh produce, fun games, and tons of food trucks to choose from. Enjoy a snack, play cornhole, and leave with a fresh bouquet.

WSECU

Virginia Mason
Franciscan Health

Lakewood Events & Calendar

<https://cityoflakewood.us/calendar/>





Climate Change

City acts to preserve canopy, brace for change

The effects of climate change have arrived – they are no longer a distant possibility. Recognizing this, City Council has approved a new *Energy & Climate Change* chapter within the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Local transportation and land use patterns affect greenhouse gas emissions, and the Comprehensive Plan now includes urban planning strategies that will reduce projected emissions.

The chapter’s tactics include improving walkability and public transit efficiency by increasing density downtown, requiring the use of green building materials and practices, and restoring and expanding ecological systems.

The chapter also calls for preparation for foreseeable effects of climate change. Heat, flooding, and other effects of climate change threaten Lakewood now and in the future, and the City will take action to mitigate these threats.

Another important topic is the preservation of trees in Lakewood. A healthy canopy over our city will help with carbon sequestration, air quality, and ambient temperature reduction.

As the region heats, trees will provide valuable respite.

However, trees are under threat. Illegal removal of trees is common, and the City prosecutes violators.

“We end up having two types of violators: the one who blunders not knowing the rules, and the other who doesn’t care what the rules are. Either way, the City will enforce code & law.”

- Dave Bugher, Assistant City Manager



Dave Bugher, Assistant City Manager

Penalties for illegal tree removal are significant, often involving hefty fines.

If a tree is in question, property owners should start by calling the City at (253) 512-2261. Staff will help avoid the costly and serious mistake of damaging an environmentally significant tree.

Trees are good neighbors, beautifying Lakewood and improving air quality. Let’s keep them around.



New Biz

Startups & Expansions

376 new businesses have opened in Lakewood in 2021, including 207 home-based businesses. Entrepreneurship is surging, and the statewide business community is taking note – Lakewood is coming on strong.

Commercial permit activity is exploding as well. Last year smashed records, and this year is on pace to soar even higher. Permit activity is an indicator of business activity and health.

“We started this place in December, in the middle of the pandemic, and today we have lines (which is fantastic). We’ve survived and we’re really on a roll. Our team has tripled already.”

- Carrie Stalder, Owner of Manic Meatballs

Manic Meatballs opened in Tillicum this winter, serving quick and tasty lunch meals to JBLM servicemembers.

“A new business opening is a dream realized. These entrepreneurs have an idea and the guts to make it a reality.”

- Becky Newton, Economic Development Manager

A new autism care facility is up on 108th Street. A new hot yoga spot is up on 100th Street. A veteran-owned screenprinting and apparel company is manufacturing on Pacific Highway. All of this new culture, commerce, and flavor makes Lakewood better.



PEOPLE

VETERANS

Resource Center

Pierce County
Human Services

New Digs

Density & Inventory

The neighborhood around the Lakewood Sounder Station is poised for positive change - the new Station District Subarea Plan will promote density, amenities, commerce, and affordable housing inventory.

The objective of the plan is to build up around the Sounder Station, housing more residents within walking distance of a transit hub. This strategy reduces vehicle miles and carbon output.

“Positioned right next to a commuter rail line and minutes from two highways, the Lakewood Station District is going to become a center of commerce and housing for the City and the region.”

- Tiffany Speir, Long-Range Planning Manager

Within a month of adopting the plan, the City received several development proposals within the district.

“There are more projects coming in the Lakewood Station District. I’m a little bit surprised, but there is a lot of interest.”

- Dave Bugher, Assistant City Manager

Another site slated for improvement is located on Pacific Highway between SR-512 and Bridgeport Way SW. Lakewood Landing is a 30-acre site destined to become a mixed-use metropolis featuring beautiful green space, bustling business, and other attractions.

Veteran Support

City and county programs support vets in turmoil.

The Veterans Treatment Court of Lakewood supports veterans facing legal charges. Founded in 2016, the organization started with a mission to help veterans resume civilian life.

The program serves veterans in Lakewood, University Place, Steilacoom, and DuPont through rehabilitative programs for veterans facing gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor charges.

“The whole idea of veteran’s court - they aren’t kidding when they say it’s a therapeutic court. They want to send you back out to the world where you’re giving more good than you’re getting.”

- Participant in Veterans Treatment Court

The program is voluntary, and participants are accountable to a case management plan. Plans may include programming for mental health, physical health, and sobriety, and alternatives to incarceration like probation and treatment.

The goal for participants is to demonstrate consistent improvement, reaching personal milestones and eventually reinventing their lives.

Since inception, Lakewood’s Veterans Court has graduated nearly 20 participants and welcomes more.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a model of restorative justice. The program’s unequivocal focus is rehabilitation and the desired outcome is improvement, rather than incarceration.

“This is a place where veterans can come be vulnerable and ask for help, and actually get help. It is full circle, getting, growing, and giving. Everybody learns from everybody in this court. It’s a model for how justice should look and I’m happy to be a part of it.”

- Lisa Mansfield, Municipal Court Judge



Lisa Mansfield, Municipal Court Judge

Another program for local vets is the Pierce County Veterans Resource Van. The program supports veterans dealing with any number of issues. In addition to legal support, the van team connects veterans to counseling and other services they might need. The van visits City Hall on first Thursdays.

by Jamie Davis



Changes at Western State

New 350-bed forensic facility proposed

DSHS plans to build a new 350-bed forensic hospital on the Western State Hospital (WSH) campus in Lakewood to replace outdated facilities. This is a state project directed by the legislature under a new behavioral health plan.

Residents have asked questions and voiced concerns about the project.

How will the patient mix change?

The bed count is planned to reduce from 922 beds (2019) to 864 beds (2029) over the next decade.

Western State Hospital will prioritize forensic patients, while civil patients will transition to community-based care settings. Over time, the population will skew towards forensic commitments.

	2019	2029
Forensic	387	530
Civil	470	251
Child Study & Treatment	65	83

What is a “forensic patient”?

A person accused of a crime and found incompetent to stand trial might be committed as a “forensic patient”.

What is a “civil patient”?

Civil patients are typically committed at the direction of a qualified mental health professional.

After stabilization through medication and treatment, civil patients may earn independence.

What security is proposed?

The hospital will be a secure facility. Entrances and exits will be manned. Outdoor courtyards for patients will be enclosed by three-story buildings.

DSHS pays contributes towards the WSH Community Partnership Program to bolster police presence near the campus. The program was established in 2007 and should continue in perpetuity.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/western-state-hospital/>

Further Reading

This proposal has been the topic of significant conversation and news coverage. By the time you read this, DSHS will have hosted two open house events to respond to questions from residents.

For more detailed Q&A, and responses to questions posed in these open house events, visit this link:

<https://cityoflakewood.us/western-state-hospital/>

To review the DSHS Master Facility Plan for Western State Hospital in full, visit this link:

<https://wshmasterplan.org/>



DSHS mockup of the proposed facility

This is a state project. The City’s role is to review the proposal for community impacts, and require mitigations for problems identified.

Decorative Signal Wraps

Public art popping up around Lakewood

Local signal boxes received decorative wraps under a new program led by the Lakewood Arts Commission.

The wraps feature designs by local artists and add some exciting flair to several intersections across the City.



Tribal Quilt By Rosa Cruz
(Bridgeport Way & San Francisco Ave)

Colorful Rocks by Rosa Cruz
(Bridgeport Way & 108th St)

Leap of Faith by Katie Dean
(South Tacoma Way & 84th St)

Steila-Cross by Kelly Lonney
(Steilacoom Blvd & Lakewood Dr)

Mt. Rainier by Chrystine Westphal
(Location to be determined)

Clover Park School District students are applying the finishing touches on a mobile “Unity” mural to be unveiled at the upcoming 25th Anniversary Celebration on Sept. 18.

The retaining wall facing the beach at American Lake Park now features a bold and colorful “South Sound Proud” mural, depicting powerful Mt. Rainier flanked by cascading waterfalls.

The Lakewood Arts Commission is considering proposals for art displays at Colonial Plaza in downtown Lakewood. The area was recently renovated as an event space, and the leading proposal features metal gateway arcs near the plaza entrance.

The arcs would be embedded with small pieces of community art, creating new perspective when viewed from afar or from up close.

Everywhere you look in Lakewood, there are new and beautiful projects to celebrate. We hope you enjoy these new pieces.

New To Town



American Lake Park Mural

A “South Sound Proud” mural now graces a wall facing the lakefront beach at American Lake Park.



Youth “Unity Mural”

Clover Park High School students have created a mobile mural celebrating Lakewood’s diversity



Harry Todd Park

Harry Todd Park was closed for improvements this spring, but the park has reopened and it's better than ever.

Near the lakefront, visitors will notice a nicer swimming beach, a new fishing pier, new boat docks, and an accessible ramp so that folks of all abilities may enjoy waterfront activities.

In the upper area of the park, a new playground, restrooms, and picnic areas were constructed. The playground is packed with fun games and challenges for kids.

Bald eagles soar overhead. Kokanee and yellow perch swim in American Lake, waiting for a lure to hit. Kids are splashing, folks are picnicking - Harry Todd is the place to be.



All-Abilities Playground

Fort Steilacoom Park features nature paths, lakefront fishing, a concert venue, an RC aircraft area, picnic spots, sports fields, historic sites, and more.

There truly is something for everyone - and that means every single person.

The new Fort Steilacoom Park All-Abilities Playground is designed for accessibility. The merry-go-round is flush to the ground so that a wheelchair may easily board. Games and activities are designed for kids of all levels of mobility.

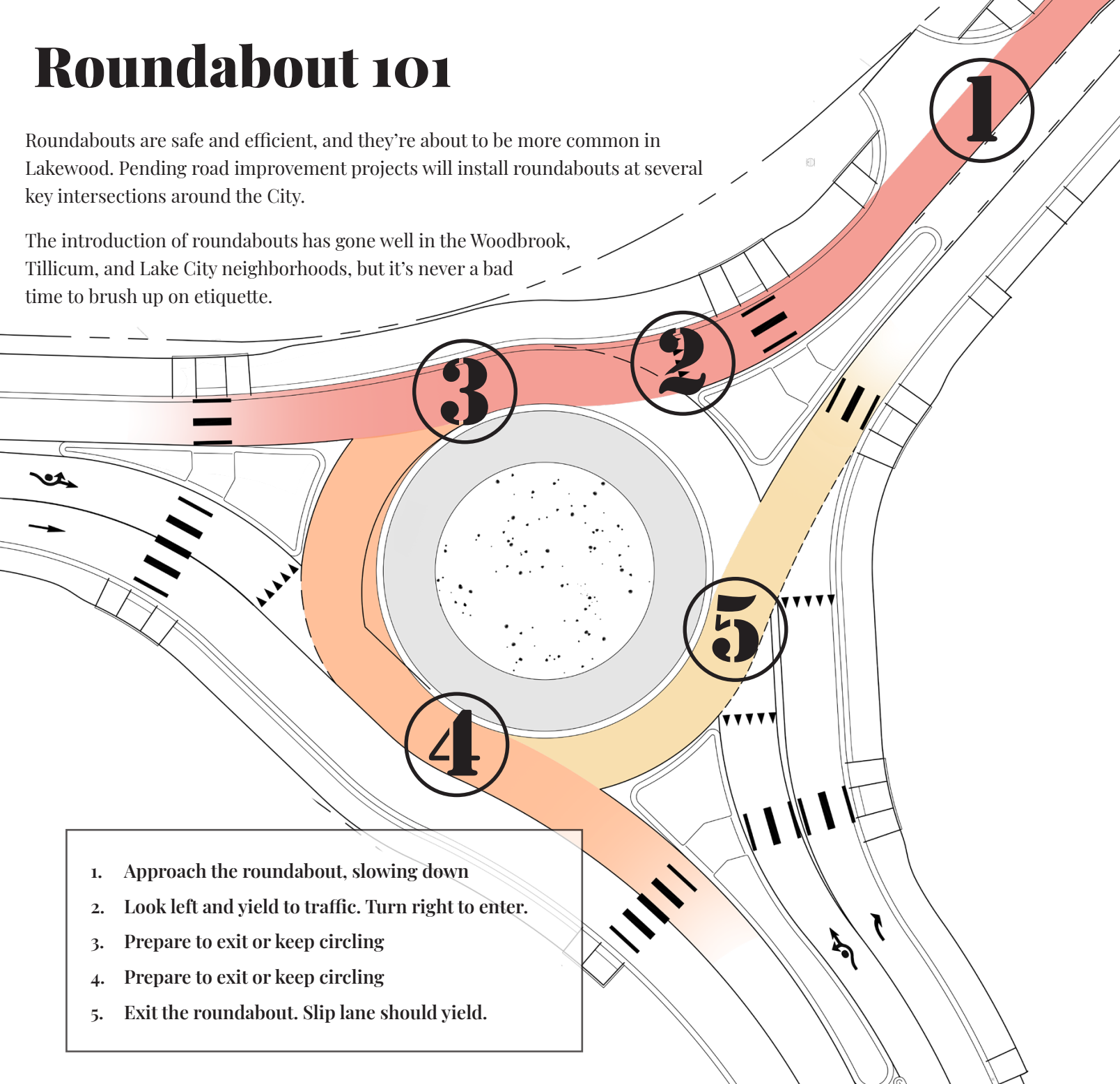
This playground was created so that all family members can play whether the adult of the child has physical or sensory limitations.



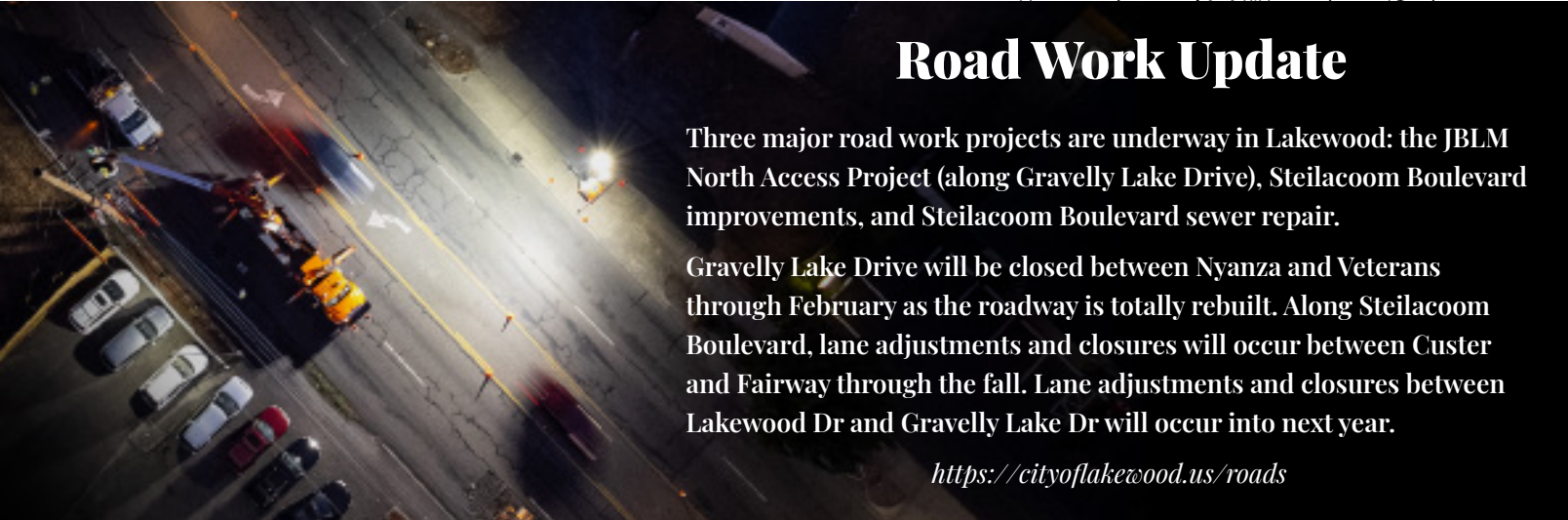
Roundabout 101

Roundabouts are safe and efficient, and they're about to be more common in Lakewood. Pending road improvement projects will install roundabouts at several key intersections around the City.

The introduction of roundabouts has gone well in the Woodbrook, Tillicum, and Lake City neighborhoods, but it's never a bad time to brush up on etiquette.



1. Approach the roundabout, slowing down
2. Look left and yield to traffic. Turn right to enter.
3. Prepare to exit or keep circling
4. Prepare to exit or keep circling
5. Exit the roundabout. Slip lane should yield.



Road Work Update

Three major road work projects are underway in Lakewood: the JBLM North Access Project (along Gravelly Lake Drive), Steilacoom Boulevard improvements, and Steilacoom Boulevard sewer repair.

Gravelly Lake Drive will be closed between Nyanza and Veterans through February as the roadway is totally rebuilt. Along Steilacoom Boulevard, lane adjustments and closures will occur between Custer and Fairway through the fall. Lane adjustments and closures between Lakewood Dr and Gravelly Lake Dr will occur into next year.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/roads>



MyLakewood311

You find it, we'll fix it

Community Cleanup

Saturday, November 6
Sunday, November 7

Bring your junk & recyclables for disposal at this free community cleanup, scheduled for the first weekend in November.

The last event was *extremely* popular; participants had to wait in long lines. Expect new rules and enforcement this time to get people through faster.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/refuse/>

The **MyLakewood311 app** is the best way to report maintenance and nuisance issues to the City of Lakewood.

Available on iOS and Android, the app accepts reports regarding potholes, code violations, speeders in your neighborhood, and other similar issues. You may also file on our website.

Once you file a ticket, a City employee will personally address your complaint, and you'll receive email updates on its progress. Response time depends on the nature of the ticket.

If there is a problem or maintenance issue in your neighborhood, the City of Lakewood wants to know about it. Staff do their best to keep roads in top shape, trim vegetation on public property, and keep Lakewood clean and pleasant.

For example, the Lakewood Police Department conducts speed surveys in neighborhoods where residents have reported dangerous drivers. LPD reviews the data and may add radar signs, rumble strips, or other strategies to reduce speeding.

Read what your neighbors have said on Facebook:

"This is a great app. I reported a knocked down speed limit sign in my neighborhood and it was fixed in a couple of days. I didn't have to search out what department, or wait on hold to talk to someone."

"I used it to request that the city put up a no parking sign where cars were parking on the side of the road and forcing the school kids to walk in the road to get to the bus stop."

"I reported trash that was dumped on my street. The city updated me when they cleaned it up. Very helpful."



Mask Up, Lakewood

A message from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

COVID-19 cases are increasing, and masks are now required in indoor public spaces like grocery stores, malls, and gyms for everyone 5 years and older.

Why wear a mask?

To protect friends and family

Masks catch droplets that can spread COVID-19 when you talk, laugh, sing, sneeze, or breathe. Masking helps your friends, family, and community stay safe. Indoors or in crowded outdoor places, please mask up.

A layered approach

Masks, physical distancing, washing your hands and even vaccines do not offer perfect protection. But when you layer them together, you greatly improve your defense against COVID-19.

Got your shot?

COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective tool we have to stop the spread. Nearly 55% of Pierce County residents have received one dose, and almost 48% are fully vaccinated. If you're eligible to get vaccinated, please take this step to protect yourself and our community.

We're all in this together.



Thank you for vaxing and masking.

Keep our community safe.

➔ tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture



When I Was Young...

by Mayor Don Anderson

When I was young, a neighbor of mine suffered from polio and relied on an "iron lung" to live. Growing up on the Southern Oregon coast, trees often knocked out power lines. I remember fearing for my neighbor, wondering what might happen if our power faltered.

Much has changed since then. I was spared from polio. I remember the relief in the community when vaccines became available. Unfortunately, I suffered through mumps, chicken pox and measles twice - those, too, have been eradicated. I worry now that neighborly concern is threatened.

The Rotary motto is "service above self", which I interpret to mean that I should act in the interest of others when I can. This is one of those times, and rolling up my sleeve is something I can manage.

For what it's worth, I got my COVID-19 vaccine, confident that I was acting in the interest of others. Like many in Lakewood I was vaccinated during my military service. Very few of us could tell you what was in there. If the FDA signed off, it couldn't be any riskier than other perils of service.

Vaccines have conquered 14 diseases in my lifetime. I've gotten my shots and my family has gotten theirs, and our reward is never having to think about polio, pertussis, or measles ever again. I hope to say the same about COVID-19 someday soon.

We recently gathered for a family birthday party. The youngest guest was four months old and the oldest was 92. All the adults had our shots, and we gathered in confidence that we had done our part to reduce the risk to not only ourselves, but to each other.

We're not getting the last two years back - they're long gone and the damage is done. This virus is patient, and it will remain for as long as we let it.

I hope that neighborly concern isn't as threatened as it seems. I hope to see more act in the collective interest. I hope to see COVID-19 defeated.

I hope that you get your vaccine to help us prevail. It is not just for you, it is for our neighbors, children and grandchildren.

Towne Center Vaccine Clinic
10330 59th Avenue SW STE B, Lakewood
Open Daily - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LPD Body Cameras

LPD first in Pierce County to deploy universal vehicle and body cameras.

The Lakewood Police Department is deploying body cameras to patrol officers. Lakewood will be the first Pierce County municipality to universally deploy vehicle and body cameras.

"We think that cameras will go a long way towards demonstrating transparency to our community. Additionally, cameras will help document evidence and will capture what our officers see every day."

– Mike Zaro, Chief of Police

Currently, all Lakewood patrol cars are already equipped with cameras, and only motorcycle officers had worn body cameras previously.

The new equipment will be provided by COBAN, the current vendor of video technology for the department.

Initial costs total \$336,304 and ongoing costs total \$1,396,460 (\$279,292 annually). Two employees will be hired

to support public disclosure requests and to review footage for prosecutorial purposes.



"We have been working to get to this point for a while. We implemented in-car cameras, and the plan was to wait on body cameras until we secured funding. We found it, so we're moving ahead early to get cameras on our officers."

– Mike Zaro, Chief of Police

Between vehicle and body cameras, police interactions with citizens will be well-documented at all times, providing the public a window to the world of law enforcement.

Crime Statistics

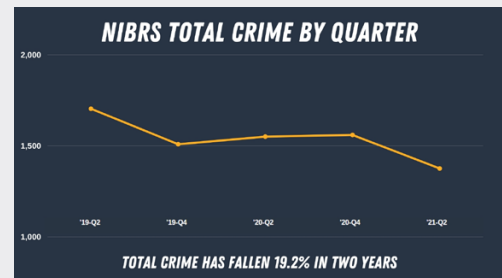
The Lakewood Police Department publishes quarterly crime reports tracking criminal trends and arrest statistics.

The Q2 2020 report included 4th of July weekend fireworks data; call volume was below the 8-year average and was only 2/3 as high as last year. Next year, fireworks will be limited to just July 4.

Traffic accidents are declining slightly, and property crime has fallen again after a brief spike early in the pandemic when some storefronts were unoccupied.

Violent "person" crimes are headed in the right direction, although Chief Zaro remarks that gun-related aggravated assaults are higher than normal.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/police>



Police Reform Laws

Lakewood Police Chief Mike Zaro discusses statewide legislation that affects police tactics and responses to calls.

There has been a lot of talk in Washington about changes to policing from our recent legislative session. Many changes are administrative in nature and may not be noticed by our community. There are a few, though, that may affect how police handle some situations. I would like to discuss the potential impacts of some of those changes.

The two bills with the most significant effects for us were House Bills 1054 and 1310. They are respectively titled the Police Tactics Bill and Use of Force Bill. House Bill 1054 does things like restrict the types of equipment and techniques we can use, and limits our ability to engage in vehicle pursuits.

In my estimation, the biggest change is found in the Use of Force bill. This bill changes the legal threshold that must be met for officers to use *any* amount of physical force. There now has to be probable cause for arrest, or the person must pose an immediate threat to the officer, someone else, or themselves.

There are two legal thresholds for physical detention by a police officer; reasonable suspicion and probable cause. Reasonable suspicion is when facts and circumstances would lead a reasonable officer to believe that a specific individual *may have been involved* in a particular crime. Probable cause is when an officer has evidence that a *specific crime occurred and a specific individual was likely responsible*.

Let's say that a store clerk calls 911 to

report that she was just robbed by a white male with purple hair, a green shirt, and carrying a brown backpack. The suspect fled the store on foot immediately after the robbery.

An officer is in the area and sees a white male with purple hair, a green shirt and a brown backpack running down the street away from the store. The unique description of the suspect and the proximity to the store would lead a reasonable person to believe he may be involved. This is reasonable suspicion.

Reasonable suspicion usually happens quickly, but probable cause takes much more time to develop. Under previous law, the officer would be able to use physical force to detain him pending further investigation. Under the new laws, the responding officer would not have been able to use any force to detain the running suspect.

When the running suspect refused to comply with any verbal commands to stop, the officer would have had to let him go to continue on to the store where he would conduct the investigation and work to identify the suspect at a later date.

We also respond to many incidents involving people in crisis, and nothing in the new law differentiates between a criminal suspect and a person in crisis.

Let's look at a situation in which officers may have to walk away when they might have previously intervened.

Officers respond to Ft. Steilacoom Park following a report of a male sitting in

the grass and yelling at trees. He has not committed a crime. When officers arrive they find the male yelling at trees, clearly hallucinating, in a mentally unstable state. He is unable to coherently respond to officers.

Medical aid and a mental health professional arrive, and everyone is in agreement that the male needs psychiatric evaluation and is unable to make that decision for himself. He screams "no" when officers try to convince him to go to the hospital.

Despite the clear need for help, this person has not committed a crime and is not an *immediate* threat to himself or anyone else. Officers must then walk away when we previously may have involuntarily committed the person for evaluation and treatment.

One might dismiss these as rare outliers, but our officers are faced with similar decisions routinely.

We must accept that there will be times when we will need to walk away from people in crisis, and we must accept that the way we respond to calls must be more methodical and may allow some suspects time to escape.

While this is admittedly going to be a difficult change in practice for us, this is the law, and we shall abide it. LPD will adapt, continue to respond to calls, and protect and serve this community.

Our top priority is the safety of this community, and Lakewood has our whole-hearted commitment to maintain that focus.



City of Lakewood, Washington

School is starting, summer is cooling off, and autumn is approaching. The City will celebrate a quarter-century since incorporating in 1996 with an exciting street festival on September 18th at Colonial Plaza. Live music, international performances, delicious food truck treats, and art displays will commemorate the occasion. Truck & Tractor Day is coming up, too. Let the kids jump on a hayride or fire our giant pumpkin slingshot. As you look around town, you'll notice a lot of positive change in Lakewood. Like the seasons, Lakewood is regenerating and advancing.

Save The Dates

Lakewood Farmers Market

Fridays through Sept. 24
2:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

25th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, Sept. 18
2:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Colonial Plaza

Truck & Tractor Day

Saturday, Oct. 9
12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

Keep In Touch

<https://cityoflakewood.us/communications/>



These two pups enjoyed a "Summer Nights at the Pavilion" concert with their owners (who leashed and picked up after them).