



lakewood

26 years of community

spring
2022



Events Calendar | Road Work | Flood Warning | Defining Equity

Photo courtesy of USAF 62nd Airlift Wing

Photo courtesy of USAF 62nd Airlift Wing



About the Cover:

The C-17 Globemaster III is a common sight over Lakewood. The City is working with the military to resolve encroachment around McChord airfield.

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Save These Dates

Mayor’s Community Coffeehouse

Thursday, March 24, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion

Chat with Mayor Whalen about important community issues.

Parks Appreciation Day

Saturday, April 23, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

Help us beautify local parks by helping pull weeds and picking up junk.

Youth Fishing Event

Saturday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
American Lake Park

Learn to fish and keep your pole! This event is free, but registration is required.

Dancing in the Streets

Saturday, May 21, 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

Bring your dancing shoes and cut a rug at Colonial Plaza downtown.

Paddle, Row, & Canoe Day

Saturday, June 4, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Harry Todd Park

Enjoy outdoor activities and a rowing exhibition by local crew teams.

Lakewood Farmers Market

Tuesday, June 7, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

Market season begins in June, and the market has moved to Tuesdays.

Keep in Touch

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter to hear about news & events, find our social media, and review our events calendar.

https://cityoflakewood.us/communications/



Jason Whalen
Mayor



Mary Moss
Deputy Mayor



Don Anderson
Councilmember



Mike Brandstetter
Councilmember



Patti Belle
Councilmember



Linda Farmer
Councilmember



Paul Bocchi
Councilmember

Raising the Bar for Civic Engagement

a message from your City Council

The new year is an opportunity for perspective and improvement. Your City Council is committed to creating opportunities to connect with you.

COVID has been challenging. We have been socially distanced. Events have been limited. Virtual meetings have become the norm. We’ve lost our personal connection with one another for almost two years.

As a result, civic engagement – the essential two-way connection between you and your representatives – has withered. It’s been harder to get to know you and have real conversations.

For our part, we are planning new opportunities to connect. We wish to hear your constructive input on important issues.

Our new Community Coffeehouse series is such effort. Coffeehouses will take place at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of

every other month. During these informal sessions, neighbors can get to know one another and engage with us on topics of interest.

Our event schedule is brimming with excitement. Each event is a chance to celebrate as a community. 2022 will feature street festivals, farmers markets, outdoor concerts, and our famous SummerFest on July 23.

We are also exploring new modes of conversation with you. You’ll notice blog posts, podcasts, videos, and increased social media presence from your City Council this year.

The City has much to celebrate –strong finances, street and sidewalk improvements, new businesses, more housing, enhanced parks, and new developments yet to come.

Lakewood daily becomes a better place to live, work, and play.

We still have big issues to tackle. Homelessness, housing affordability, and public safety are key issues. Accountable community policing and environmentally-compatible development are also pressing topics.

To quote an inspiring refrain from Clover Park School District Superintendent Ron Banner, “We are better together.”

Community conversations that move the policy needle forward start with you. As we start a new year together, let’s resolve to raise the bar on our civic engagement.

Join us during Council meetings, and write us on social media. Dig into our newsletter and podcasts. Speak up – we’re listening.

Still, there’s no substitute for personal interaction. We hope you join us at community events and our Coffeehouse series. A little back and forth goes a long way.



Staff Spotlight

Scott Turner, Maintenance Worker

When the snow and ice froze our streets this winter, Scott and the rest of the City’s maintenance team drove plows and salt trucks around the clock in rotating shifts for a week straight. Lakewood’s main streets were kept clear and safe throughout the snow event.



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Saturday Street Festivals

The City will host four thrilling Saturday Street Festivals in 2022 at Colonial Plaza.

On May 21, "Dancing in the Streets", enjoy fantastic music and footloose festivities.

On June 18, "Carnival of Cultures" will celebrate Lakewood's global heritage.

On Aug. 13, "Jazz Night & Car Show" will feature wild rides and smooth jazz.

On Sept. 17, "Fiesta de la Familia" will host family-friendly games and activities, and celebrate Latin American cultures.

Summer Nights Concerts

Enjoy our outdoor summer concert series on Tuesday nights after the market from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and a snack from the market, and enjoy the show.

June 28: Afrodisiacs (funk)

July 12: Herding Cats (rock)

July 19: Olsen Brothers (country)

July 26: Candy Shoppe (ragtime)

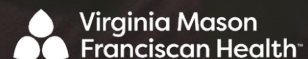
Aug. 9: Good Co. Swing (swing)

Aug. 16: Paperback Writer (rock)

The Lakewood Farmers Market has moved to Tuesdays from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Fort Steilacoom Park, beginning on June 7.

The Lakewood Farmers Market gets better every year. The park has been a popular location and visitors enjoy the variety of vendors, food, and fun.

The market will accept SNAP/EBT benefits for the first time this year, and the new Tuesday time slot will attract even more vendors.



WSECU

Lakewood Farmers Market

SummerFest is coming back July 23! Thousands of visitors flock to Fort Steilacoom Park every year to enjoy this summertime soirée.

Behold fantastic entertainment and explore endless activities. Savor a treat from a huge selection of food trucks. Enjoy live music and dance from talented artists.

Food and performances will represent countries from all over the world, and all your friends will be there - don't miss it!



Virginia Mason
Franciscan Health

amazon

SummerFest 2022



Also join us on April 23 for Parks Appreciation Day and May 14th for a youth fishing event!

Visit <https://cityoflakewood.us/calendar/> to learn about all of Lakewood's 2022 events.



Putting In Work

Everywhere you look, you'll find signs of progress in Lakewood.

Lakewood incorporated 26 years ago - we've come a long way. Lakewood's better than ever, and much of that improvement is a result of smart investment and hard work on projects of public benefit.

Just a few years ago, very few of Lakewood's arterials had sidewalks. In the last year alone, projects on 100th Street¹, 111th/112th Streets², Gravelly Lake Drive³, Lakewood Drive⁴, Steilacoom Boulevard⁵, and Veterans Drive⁶ have added sidewalks and bike lanes. Washington Boulevard⁷ will be totally rebuilt in 2022.

Lakewood's parks and public spaces are another important investment, and we keep adding new amenities and attractions every year. American Lake Park⁸ received a beachfront mural last year and will benefit from accessibility improvements within two years. Renovations at Harry Todd Park⁹ improved the playground and added bathrooms, picnic shelters, and a new fishing pier.

In 2022, Springbrook Park¹⁰ will receive a new dog park, pump track, basketball courts, and a community garden. Wards Lake Park¹¹ will be expanded and improved. The Fort Steilacoom Park¹² baseball fields will receive turf infields. A new footbridge now spans Chambers Creek¹³, connecting Lakewood and University Place by trail.

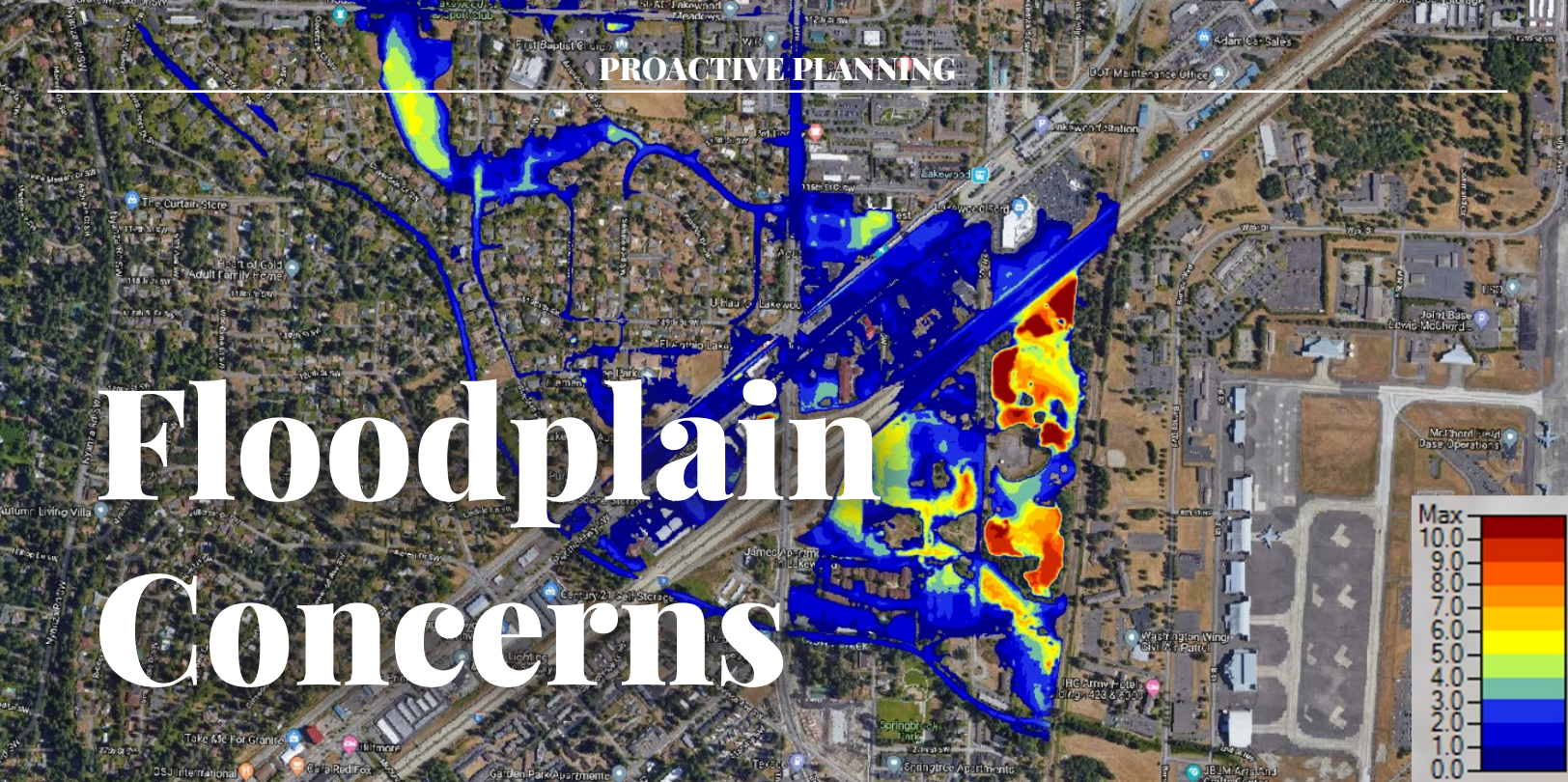
A number of development projects are underway. Lakewood participated in the purchase of the Aspen Court¹⁴ shelter to help the unhoused get back on their feet. A new Lakewood Station District Subarea Plan¹⁵ is successfully stirring development and creating housing. The Lakewood Landing¹⁶ project is attracting residential and retail development interest.

Lakewood expanded sewer service in the Tillicum neighborhood¹⁷ last year, and Pierce County is performing a necessary repair of a major sewer main beneath Steilacoom Boulevard¹⁸. That repair will be complete by the time you read this.

Lakewood is also being proactive about complex issues. The City is helping the military expand a buffer around the McChord Airfield¹⁹, and is working on solutions to reduce a flood risk to the Springbrook neighborhood²⁰ around Clover Creek.

Everywhere you look, your City is working to make Lakewood better every day.





In the event of a 100-year flood, floodwater from Clover Creek is predicted to reach properties in the Springbrook and Hillside neighborhoods. Floodwater would also compromise I-5 just north of the Bridgeport exit.

If a major flood event were to occur, property and infrastructure damage is likely in identified areas. There is a mix of commercial and residential properties within the floodplain. Some affected property owners may need to secure flood insurance.

While there is a low immediate risk, the City is proactively addressing the issue. Upstream from Lakewood, Clover Creek wanders through Frederickson, Parkland, and Spanaway. The City is organizing a multi-agency technical advisory group to produce solutions that would reduce the risk of flooding.

I-5 closures are devastating. A 2017 train derailment closed the highway for days, and detours extended travel by hours. Recent flooding in Lewis County threatened to halt travel for a weekend before subsiding. If I-5 were to close, traffic would divert to City streets unsuitable for that volume in traffic.

The whole state has seen how painful interstate closures are, and we hope to avoid such a closure near Lakewood.

The City will begin to contact residents and businesses within the floodplain by mail. We will also share updates through social media and our email newsletter.

To read about this issue, review a map of the floodplain, or to leave a question or comment, visit the project page below.

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

Tree Protections & Property Rights

Property owners should be aware of potential revisions to tree preservation code. These may affect your ability to modify or remove trees on your property.

City Council intends to revise local tree code and has begun an open process to find fair solutions.

An advisory committee has been convened, comprised of residents and subject experts. Property rights and environmental concerns will be fairly considered.

The committee will present suggested code revisions in May. The committee's suggestions will be public and there will be several public hearings on this topic.

The City invites your written comments at any time - let us know how you feel by visiting the link below.

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



JBLM North Access Project

The ongoing JBLM North Access project is improving Gravelly Lake Drive and Washington Boulevard, rebuilding the road surface and adding sidewalks, bike lanes, roundabouts, crosswalks, and other improvements.

The project is advancing right on schedule. Phase 1 is nearly done and the City has secured funding for Phase 2.

Gravelly Lake Drive reopened between Nyanza and Veterans on Valentine's Day, and Washington Boulevard is now closed between Interlaaken Drive and Gravelly Lake Drive.

Improvements to this section will be completed by early summer. Work will then begin on Edgewood Avenue, North Gate Road, Vernon Avenue, and all of Washington Boulevard later this summer.

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

PROACTIVE PLANNING

You surely noticed an abundance of orange in 2021 - the City of Lakewood has been busy improving roads all over town. 2022 and 2023 will also be productive years as the City continues to advance its Transportation Improvement Plan.

One of the City's priorities is to form a non-motorized "backbone" of accessible streets throughout Lakewood. Not too long ago, it was difficult or even unsafe to walk or bike along certain streets. Just a few years from now, the City will have a comprehensive sidewalk network branching into every neighborhood.

Another priority is planning for future growth. We expect density to increase in several neighborhoods, and projects are already underway to improve their safety, walkability, and efficiency.

Smart road design can improve air quality - that's one reason why more roundabouts are being built. Roundabouts reduce idling and acceleration (and greenhouse gas emissions) compared to stoplights.

Our Chip Seal and Pavement Patch programs will repair worn and damaged roads, and our Streetlight program will expand the city's network of street lights.

In 2022, work on the JBLM North Access Project will continue and sidewalks will be built along stretches of Farwest Drive, 112th Street, Philips Road, and Steilacoom Boulevard.

2023 promises to be another busy construction year. Improvements are planned for Steilacoom Boulevard, Hipkins Road, 100th Street, Ardmore Drive, 93rd Street, and Whitman Avenue. All of these projects will contribute to a safer, smoother, and more efficient future.

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

Room to Land

The powerful C-17 Globemaster is a common sight over Lakewood. Dozens of these enormous cargo jets take off and land at nearby McChord Airfield every day.

They need more room to land, says the federal government. FAA regulations require a larger safety buffer around the approach path for incoming aircraft.

Aircraft come in for landing from the north, so a small area surrounding the north end of the airfield must be cleared of structures and people in case of a crash.

There's an issue: the 3,000-by-3,000 foot area is partially on JBLM and partially within the City of Lakewood. Several businesses presently operate in the buffer zone.

One such business is Tactical Tailor, a military outfitter that has operated from its present location since 2005. Tactical Tailor makes bags, pouches, slings, and other gear used around the world by military and law enforcement.

Tactical Tailor is a Lakewood success story. Founder Logan Coffey started the business in 1998 as a bedroom operation, and the business now has 140 employees on the payroll. Tactical Tailor is considered a premiere manufacturer in their market.

Mr. Coffey died in 2008, but his proud enterprise carries on.

Tactical Tailor must relocate, but the City hopes to keep them, and other displaced businesses, right here in Lakewood.

Fortunately, the City of Lakewood has plenty of help on this project. The state, county, base, and national Department of Defense are all partners in the effort to acquire and clear properties in the buffer zone.

The project took a huge leap forward once the City completed the purchase of the Tactical Tailor facility on Jan. 20. The City will lease the property back to Tactical Tailor until they can find a new home, ideally within Lakewood.

It might be unusual that a city becomes a business' property manager at the direction of the Federal Aviation Authority, but Lakewood is an unusual place.

As a neighbor to one of the world's largest military installations, we know to expect the unexpected.

A Delta in Danger

The City of Lakewood is working with the Nisqually Indian Tribe to secure the health of the Nisqually Delta and the future of I-5.

South of Lakewood, I-5 passes through the Nisqually River Delta. That delta faces two significant environmental problems: salmon health and flooding.

Both of these issues affect the Nisqually Indian Tribe's way of life.

"Back in 1987, the tribe fished 105 days a year... By 2015, our season had been reduced to 8 days."

David Troutt, Nisqually Indian Tribe

Before salmon migrate into saltwater, they must acclimate in an estuary. As sea levels rise, this mixing zone of freshwater and saltwater moves upstream. I-5 may block future movement, posing a grave threat to migrating salmon.

The current path of I-5 is also at risk of flooding. A massive flood in 1996 revealed weaknesses of the design. A riverbend at Wah-He-Lut is shifting and may encroach on the highway within 15-20 years.

The South Sound Military & Communities Partnership, the City of Lakewood, and the Nisqually Tribe are leading the formation of a regional partnership to prioritize this issue.

"It's a strange day that long-haul truckers, tribes, and the Army agree that something should happen."

Don Anderson, Former Mayor of Lakewood

Solutions are expensive. It will be a long road to solve this problem, but there's little time to waste before I-5 is at risk.

Beyond the Nisqually Delta issue, the City is embracing a renewed partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The Lakewood City Council and Nisqually Tribal Council even hosted a joint meeting last year.

Planned art installations and trail markers at Fort Steilacoom Park will commemorate the native history of the land we call Lakewood.

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

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



A New Class

LPD welcomed a class of 20 new officers in January. The new class will reinforce important neighborhood policing programs.

Lakewood welcomed a class of 20 new officers this year, including 10 entry-level officers and 10 lateral officers. Two officers were promoted to detective.

LPD endured a wave of retirements in 2021, and some non-emergency and investigative units were temporarily deactivated to focus resources on serious crimes and patrolling.

Municipal Court Judge Lisa H. Mansfield performed the swearing-in ceremony.

Now at full strength, LPD can restore neighborhood policing programs that liaise with neighborhoods and business districts to resolve nuisances.

LPD is also embracing change in other areas: the department is beginning to implement a new body cameras and is adopting new recruitment tactics to appeal to a more diverse candidate pool.

The Civil Service Commission is a volunteer body of citizens that works to ensure a merit-based system of police employment.

For his 17 years of service on the commission, David Boyd was presented the Chief's Citizen Commendation Award. Every LPD officer, including Chief Zaro, was reviewed personally by Mr. Boyd during his extraordinary tenure.



David Boyd received the Chief's Citizen Commendation Award for his 17 years on the Civil Service Commission.



COPS & COURTS

City Launches “Lakewood Alert” Notification Service

The City of Lakewood will launch an emergency notification system in early March. Residents may subscribe to receive emergency alerts and non-emergency community notices.

Emergency alerts will instantly notify you of an emergency, providing important instructions for you and your loved ones.

Optional community notices will let you know about upcoming events, road closures, and other useful updates.

Visit the link below to subscribe or to learn more.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/lakewood-alert/>

LPD Begins to Implement Body Cameras

The Lakewood Police Department is beginning a pilot program to test new body cameras to be deployed to every patrol officer by the end of the year. The department already deploys universal vehicle cameras.

Cameras will document LPD's interactions with the public and criminal suspects. The cameras will serve as a window for the public into the world of policework. They will also provide valuable video evidence to support prosecutions.

The pilot program will begin by testing a small group of officers with the new technology. The department is still evaluating policy to determine if and when cameras may be deactivated and how footage will be transferred from the unit to computer servers.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/public-safety/>

Lisa H. Mansfield Sworn In as Municipal Court Judge

Judge Lisa H. Mansfield was appointed to a new term as the Municipal Court Judge presiding over Lakewood, Steilacoom, DuPont, and the Veterans Treatment Court.

Judge Mansfield is a graduate of the University of Washington and Columbia University. She previously served as a public defense attorney in Tacoma, and her work helped establish a program to assist families in dependencies with infants earned her a Pierce County Standing Ovation Award.

Judge Mansfield serves on Washington Safe Babies State Advisory Board, the University of Washington Tacoma Legal Pathways Advisory Board, and the District and Municipal Court Judges Association. She often contributes to publications of the Washington State Bar Association.



Q&A on Equity



Wilton Waverly is the City's DEI Manager

Equity is a fundamental idea to responsive governance and sound policy, but the term is often misunderstood. To learn more, we interviewed Wilton Waverly, DEI Manager for the City of Lakewood.

What would it mean for the City of Lakewood to become a more equitable organization?

In order to change systemic inequities, you must start with a systematic process to reverse them. Lakewood is a diverse city with BIPOC residents comprising more than half of the population. Diversity is one of our defining assets.

How might we incorporate practices that deliberately engage residents of color? How might we improve our recruiting to make our organization appealing to candidates of color?

Those are questions and challenges that we might establish systems to address.

What does successful equity look like?

Effective equity systems deliver communication, first and foremost. Equitable practices allow people that were once perhaps unheard or under-represented to participate.

For example, I worked at a school district. There are bound to be differences in the perspectives of students and teachers. We started to notice better two-way conversation over time, and students came to have a real voice on issues that mattered to them.

The term “Equity” is often misunderstood. What analogies would you make to simplify the idea?

Diversity is everyone being invited to the party. *Equity* is making sure everybody has what they need to get there: a ticket, an outfit, etc. *Inclusion* is everyone being asked to dance and participate.

Another way to think about equity might be “watering dry plants”. You have a resource that you need to allocate. You might water dry plants first, and you might give them a little more water.

Dry plants need water, or they will suffer and have little chance to bloom. Communities are not so different. Some need a little more water to bloom to their fullest.

It’s not always about being fair, or about being equal – sometimes, you have to identify who’s being left out, then start there. That’s equity.

Equity In Practice

Truly, the world lives in Lakewood. We have rich & poor, military & civilian, English- and non-English speakers.

With so many subcommunities, how does the City work to improve quality of life for everyone? In practice, equity means finding shortcomings and working to fix them.

The condition of our roads in the International District is suffering; the City is prioritizing the district for funding to completely rebuild local streets, sidewalks, and streetlights.

Some park amenities were inaccessible to people with disabilities. A beach ramp is coming to American Lake Park, and accessibility at Fort Steilacoom Park and Harry Todd Park was improved in 2021.

Most Lakewood residents rent, and housing costs are surging. The City is incentivizing housing development and offers programs to ensure safe, livable rental housing conditions.

The Tillicum neighborhood benefitted from expanded sewer service this year, and the Lake City neighborhood’s walkability is improving quickly.

Where problems exist, the City of Lakewood is investing in solutions. From homelessness to housing, roads to sewers, parks to programs, the projects we take on prioritize the community’s greatest needs.

Lakewood may never be perfect, but our mission is to make it better for everyone, every day.



A drumline of Korean “Roamers” parades at the 25th Anniversary Celebration, which honored many international cultures.



The City is working to secure funding to improve South Tacoma Way in the International District.



American Lake Park will undergo accessibility improvements this year, including a ramp to the waterfront.



City of Lakewood, Washington

Winter buried us under snow, then froze us with ice, then rained and rained until water pooled in the streets. It's been a long, gray winter, but nothing we're not used to. You can close your eyes and imagine the feeling of spring – it's almost here. The days are lengthening and a few rare sunny days hint at the wonderful possibilities ahead. SummerFest will return this year, and a new series of Saturday Street Festivals will be held at Colonial Plaza this summer.

As always, there is plenty to look forward to in Lakewood.

Dancing in the Streets

Saturday, May 21
4:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Colonial Plaza

Lakewood Farmers Market

Tuesdays, beginning June 7
2:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

SummerFest

Saturday, July 23
11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

Keep In Touch

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Crews worked around the clock to clear your roads after winter weather struck in December.