



lakewood

26 years of community

summer
2022



SummerFest & Special Events | Services for Renters | Roundabouts & Fireworks



About the Cover:

A new series of "Saturday Street Festivals" is coming to Colonial Plaza. Join us for dancing, cultural performances, music, food, car shows, and more.

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Summer is here again. Your City Council looks forward to gathering the community at Lakewood's fantastic summertime events.

3. SummerFest

SummerFest is back! Join us on Saturday, July 23 at Fort Steilacoom Park for a day of food, fun, and festivities for your entire family.

5. Special Events & Family Fun

Our summer event schedule is packed with markets, concerts, and celebrations. We also host day camps and tons of activities for kids.

7. Programs & Services

Free internet service, eviction prevention counseling, apartment safety inspections - we and our partners offer many programs you might benefit from.

9. Code Enforcement & Police

Lakewood's code enforcement team and police department work together to improve your neighborhoods and reduce crime.

11. Environment & City Council

We're taking big steps to reduce emissions and protect habitats. City Council is also advancing youth mental health & affordable housing.

13. Streets, Sidewalks, & Fireworks

New sidewalks are making Lakewood more walkable. Review rules for roundabouts and fireworks (now allowed only on July 4).

Save These Dates

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

Starting on June 7, the Farmers Market will be held every Tuesday through August.

Carnival of Cultures

Saturday, June 18, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Colonial Plaza

Join us to celebrate the many cultures, languages, and foods of Lakewood.

Summer Nights Concert

Tuesday, June 28, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Fort Steilacoom Park

Bring chairs or good dancing shoes for a disco/funk show by "The Afrodisiacs".

SummerFest

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

It's back! Don't miss our huge summer celebration, a 25-year tradition.

Jazz Night & Car Show

Saturday, August 13, 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Colonial Plaza

Enjoy a night on the plaza with live music, cool cars, and great food.

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/>



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Councilmember



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City Council Corner

WELCOME TO SPRING! As the wet weather subsides, your City Council awaits a glorious spring and summer. There is much to look forward to.

The city has planned a fantastic calendar of events starting with Saturday Street Festivals on Motor Avenue. The Farmer's Market is back in Ft. Steilacoom Park (now on Tuesdays) followed by a selection of great concerts at the Pavilion.

Summerfest returns on July 23 - enjoy family-friendly activities, food and craft vendors, and an evening drone light show. After the challenges of COVID and the dreary wet weather, we are pleased to provide fun opportunities to get us all outdoors and moving.

Your Council has also been busy addressing issues of substantive concern for residents.

Housing Affordability

Housing affordability for all remains a concern as regional rents and mortgage costs continue to rise. A few of the actions your Council are taking include:

- Partnering with Living Access Support Alliance (LASA) to build 50 housing units for low-income families along Gravelly Lake Drive.
- Increasing the supply of market rate housing. The Central Business District and Lakewood Station District subarea plans are bearing fruit - more housing units are in the works.
- Joining the new South Sound Housing Affordability Partnership (SSHAP), a group of 15 local governments dedicated to finding regional solutions to improve housing inventory.

Homelessness

- Providing funding for LASA to break ground on a hygiene center to address laundry and showering needs for unhoused residents.
- Investing 1% of our general fund, American Rescue Plan Act funds, and other funds to address critical human services needs. An example is the joint purchase of the Aspen Court shelter.

Infrastructure

Beyond issues of the day, there remains the steady business of local government. Streets, sidewalks, streetlights, sewers, and our parks are always top of mind.

The city is making progress on a backlog of infrastructure projects that went neglected for too long before cityhood. While construction can be frustrating, we trust that these are changes for the better.

Sidewalks are spreading throughout Lakewood, especially along major arterials and near schools. Safer pathways and opportunities for residents to run, walk and roll are important to the health of the community.

Road construction throughout the city is smoothing traffic flow, reducing accidents, and improving surface quality.

Things are going the right way in Lakewood. We hope you feel it, too. We also hope you stay involved and say hello when you see us at events this summer. We can't wait to celebrate with you.



Staff Spotlight

Sergeant Mark Eakes' influence on the Lakewood Police Department during his 18-year tenure has been profound. Perhaps Sgt. Eakes most important duty has been peer trauma counseling. Officers that witness traumatizing encounters rely on Sgt. Eakes for support. In May, Sgt. Eakes rode hundreds of miles on his bike as part of the Police Unity Tour honoring officers that fell in the line of duty. Sgt. Eakes rode to champion the memory of six friends lost over the years.

SummerFEST

SummerFest is back! After a two-year hiatus, Lakewood's signature summer festival returns to Fort Steilacoom Park.

It's back. Every summer, 30,000 people visit Lakewood to attend our famous SummerFest. On July 23, come to Fort Steilacoom Park for a day of fun, entertainment, music, activities, and more.

Enjoy live music from six bands. Pick from a mouth-watering menu of food truck treats. Walk right up to a fearsome U.S. Army Stryker vehicle or West Pierce Fire & Rescue fire engine.

Enjoy a car show crammed with classic rides. Watch an airborne trampoline acrobatics show. Ride a hot air balloon 150 feet off the ground, then

be amazed by a choreographed hot air balloon show. Stay late for a synchronized drone light display in the night sky.

Participate in a volleyball tournament. Bump into jugglers, stilt walkers, balloon makers, and artists. Have your kids try to fill an activity passport - kids get stamps for each activity they try.

There is something for everyone at SummerFest, and **the event is free to attend.**

Title Sponsor
amazon

Presenting Sponsor
 Virginia Mason
Franciscan Health

SUMMERFEST 2022
SATURDAY, JULY 23
11:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
FORT STEILACOOM PARK



Special thanks to our generous sponsors, whose support makes events like SummerFest possible.



Orienteering Race: use a map and compass to find clues along Fort Steilacoom Park trails. Fun for beginners and seasoned racers.



Balloon Glow: SummerFest will conclude with a grand finale - hot air balloons will light the night sky with a beautiful glowing display.



Freestyle Motorcycle Stunts: Watch in amazement as the fearless Robert Haslam performs jaw-dropping motorcycle stunts.



Kid Zone: Kids will be laughing and launching for hours bouncing around a variety of inflatables of all shapes and sizes.



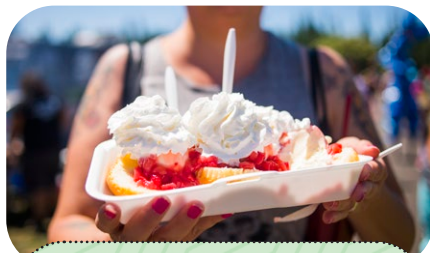
Car Show: The SummerFest Car Show is a 23-year tradition. We're happy to 'refuel' it this year - there will be tons of gorgeous and classic cars.



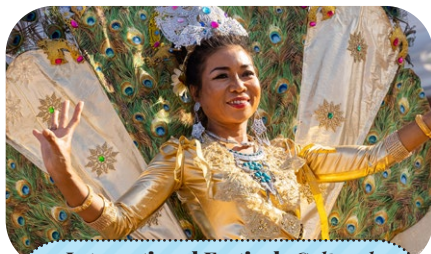
Museum of Glass: Watch charismatic glassblowers create gorgeous creations up close. The Tacoma Museum of Glass Hot Shop crew will work all day.



Live Your Best Life Passport: Dozens of art, sports, and wellness activities will be held at the event. Kids get a passport stamp for each one they try.



Food Trucks & Beer Garden: Over 35 vendors will offer mouth-watering meals and refreshing beverages from all over the world.



International Festival: Cultural performances will represent the entire world. Sponsored by the Lakewood Sister Cities Association.

Visit our website to read more about all of the day's exciting entertainment and activities.

The City thanks our key sponsors, Amazon and Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, for their generous support. We also thank our supporting sponsors. Our sponsors help make this event a true summer spectacle.

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



SummerFest Schedule

Some events require advance registration, including the volleyball tournament, orienteering race, and balloon rides.

Visit the official event webpage to find registration instructions and to learn more about the entertainment.

MAIN STAGE

INTERNATIONAL

Opening Ceremonies Opening Ceremonies

11:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Mariachi, Drumming

11:15 a.m.

Okinawa

12:00 p.m.

"The Knot-Its"

11:30 a.m.

Okinawa

12:15 p.m.

"Chapter 5"

1:00 p.m.

China

11:00 a.m.

"Dusty 45's"

2:30 p.m.

Hawaii

1:00 p.m.

"Eagle Eyes"

4:00 p.m.

Caribbean

1:30 p.m.

"Infinity Project"

6:15 p.m.

Philippines

2:00 p.m.

"Kalimba"

8:15 p.m.

India

2:30 p.m.

Drone Light Show

9:30 p.m.

Vietnam

3:00 p.m.

Balloon Glow

9:30 p.m.

Samoa

3:30 p.m.

LEGO Contest

All Day (register)

West Africa

4:00 p.m.

Orienteering Race

All Day (register)

Indonesia

4:30 p.m.

Volleyball Tourney

All Day (register)

Thailand

5:00 p.m.

Hot Air Balloon Rides

9-11:00 a.m. (register)

Guam

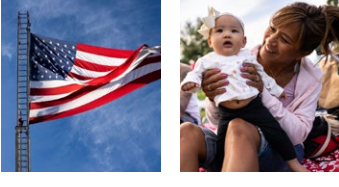
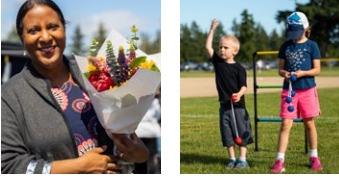
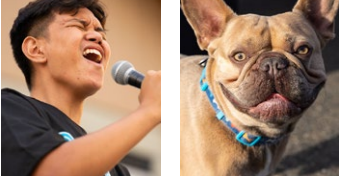
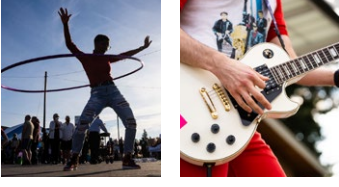
5:30 p.m.



Supporting Sponsors



Main Sponsors



Summertime is Lakewood's special event season. Feel the warm sun and the cool breeze. Listen to live music and watch fantastic performances as you savor a food truck treat. The kids will have fun, too.

Bring home fresh produce or unique crafts from the **Lakewood Farmers Market**. Kids will have dozens of games to choose from. The market has moved to Tuesdays, and SNAP/EBT will be accepted this year.

Our new series of **Saturday Street Festivals** will bring the party back to Colonial Plaza downtown. Enjoy cultural performances, live music, great food, car shows, dancing, and family-friendly activities.

Hang out after the Farmers Market on Tuesdays and bring a lawn chair to enjoy **Summer Nights Outdoor Concerts**. Six shows are scheduled this summer, representing funk, rock, country, swing, and oldies.

Lakewood's 25-year tradition, **SummerFest**, makes its triumphant return this year. The event will be packed with unbelievable entertainment for you and your family to make lifelong memories together.

At Lakewood's special events, there is something for everyone. From car shows to craft vendors, bounce houses to blues concerts, games to great food - we promise you'll find something you love.

Paddle, Row, Canoe Day	<i>Harry Todd Park</i>	<i>Saturday, June 4</i>
Farmers Market Opening Day	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, June 7</i>
Farmers Market	<i>Every Tuesday from June 7 through August 30.</i>	
Carnival of Cultures	<i>Colonial Plaza</i>	<i>Saturday, June 18</i>
"Afrodisiacs" Concert	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, June 28</i>
"Herding Cats" Concert	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, July 12</i>
"Olsen Brothers" Concert	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, July 19</i>
SummerFest	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Saturday, July 23</i>
"Candy Shoppe" Concert	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, July 26</i>
"Good Co. Swing" Concert	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, August 9</i>
Jazz Night & Car Show	<i>Colonial Plaza</i>	<i>Saturday, August 13</i>
"Paperback Writer" Concert	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, August 16</i>
Farmers Market Closing Day	<i>Fort Steilacoom Park</i>	<i>Tuesday, August 30</i>
Fiesta de la Familia	<i>Colonial Plaza</i>	<i>Saturday, September 17</i>



Youth Activities

From in-person day camps to fun virtual exploration apps, the City of Lakewood and our partners offer endless summer fun.

Our **Outdoor Adventure Day Camp** features field trips, golf, games, sports, art, and more. The camp will be held between June 27 & August 19. The cost per kid is \$49 per week.

Download our **Agents of Discovery** app to try a fun virtual scavenger hunt exploring Lakewood parks. Kids will complete challenges and learn about plants, animals, and history.



Kids will enjoy sports, art, games, and many more activities at our Outdoor Adventure Day Camps from June through August.

On Tuesday June 14, Lakewood Gardens will host a **youth gardening clinic** at the Lakewood Farmers Market.

The Clover Park High School soccer team will host a **youth soccer clinic** at Springbrook Park later this summer. Dates will be announced on the City's social media pages.

Each of our special events offers fun activities for kids and families. At SummerFest, for example, kids can work on a **"Live Your Best Life" passport** with stamps for each activity.

Dozens of local partners host sports leagues, educational courses, day camps, and even counseling services. Visit the link below to find a list of activities and services for kids.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/youth-programs/>



Park Updates

Lakewood is famous for its 14 beautiful parks, and they get better every year. Last year, Harry Todd Park received a new playground, swimming area, fishing pier, and more. American Lake Park got a beautiful mural.

This summer, the City will work with the Nisqually Indian Tribe to commemorate tribal history at **Fort Steilacoom Park**. Signage, art, and other displays might be installed to tell the story of Chief Leschi, or show tribal uses of the beautiful purple *Common Camas* flower found in the park.

Parking has been expanded at **American Lake Park**, and an accessible ramp will be built to make it easier to reach the beach. A new bathroom shelter will be built in 2023.

Work will begin this year to add a dog park, walking paths, new basketball courts, and a pump track at **Springbrook Park**. The City will also do shoreline restoration to protect Clover Creek.

Wards Lake Park will receive new walking trails, a footbridge, new signage, a dog park, and a new walking trail loop around the lake. Construction will begin in early 2023 - just one more thing to look forward to in Lakewood!



Nisqually Tribal Council Chairman Willie Frank chats with City Staff about historical exhibits in Fort Steilacoom Park describing tribal history.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/parks-and-recreation/>



Programs To Know

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence can happen to anyone, and abuse doesn't have to be physical. Abuse can also be mental or emotional.

If you have been a victim of abuse, help is available.

The Crystal Judson Family Justice Center offers legal help, safety planning, and victim advocacy. Call (253) 798-4166.

The YWCA can help connect you to emergency shelter, legal services, and support groups. Call their 24/7 crisis line at (253) 383-2593.

Other partners offer culturally-specific support for non-English speakers and other demographics:

Culturally-Specific DV Advocates

Our Sister's House	Black	(253) 383-4275
KWA	Asian	(253) 359-0470
Mi Centro	Latino	(253) 572- 7717

<https://cityoflakewood.us/domestic-violence/>

Animal Licensing

All dogs and cats over eight weeks old must be licensed in Lakewood. Licenses expire on Dec. 31 and must be renewed by Feb. 28 each year.

Licensing is important because it can help you recover your pet if they are lost or stolen. Funds are used to support animal control services.

Dog or Cat (< 6 mo)	\$4
Altered Dog	\$20
Altered Cat	\$12
Unaltered Dog/Cat	\$55

Seniors 65+ receive a discount, and service animals are exempt from fees.

You must prove that your pet is spayed or neutered to qualify for the 'altered' rate.

You may call PetData at (866) 594-1283 for questions about licensing and fees, or visit the link below.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/animal-licensing/>

Discounted Internet

Many Lakewood households are eligible for free or discounted internet service. An FCC program offers a \$30/month discount for households with total incomes less than the following:

1 person: \$27,180	2 people: \$36,620
3 people: \$46,060	4 people: \$55,500
5 people: \$64,490	6 people: \$74,380

Three internet providers serve Lakewood: Comcast, CenturyLink, and Rainier Connect.

Rainier Connect does not participate and cannot be discounted. CenturyLink's cheapest service is \$50 per month, or \$20 after the discount.

Comcast offers a low-cost internet plan that is free after the FCC discount.

Call your service provider and ask about the "Affordable Connectivity Program".

<https://www.fcc.gov/acp>

Rental Housing Safety

If your apartment or rental unit is unsafe, we can help. You do not have to accept fire hazards, leaky roofs, mold, and other hazards. Call (253) 983-7850 or email rentals@cityoflakewood.us. Inspections are free - there is no cost. Your rent money should buy you a safe home - we can help make sure of that.

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





Programs To Know

Litter Cleanup

Volunteering is a great way to improve your community and beautify Lakewood.

Our “Adopt-A-Street” program allows individuals or groups to adopt a local street and occasionally pick up litter.

The City will post a big blue sign along your adopted street to acknowledge your hard work.

The Full Tilt Riders Motorcycle Club” for example, adopted 100th Street near Gravelly Lake Drive.

West Pierce CERT adopted Steilacoom Boulevard near Fort Steilacoom Park.

Pierce Transit cleans up South Tacoma Way in front of their headquarters.

These outstanding groups and many more help a lot to clean up litter. Join them by adopting a street of your own. Visit the link below to learn more.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/adopt-a-street/>

Park & Shelter Rentals

Book a picnic shelter at a Lakewood park for your next gathering. We offer shelters at several parks with seating for 25-100 people – perfect for a big birthday party or baby shower.

You may also book the beautiful and spacious Fort Steilacoom Park Pavilion for private events.

Events require a special use permit typically around \$200. Alcohol permits require an additional fee, typically \$200 for smaller events.

You may also rent sports fields to organize tournaments, sporting events, or other activities. With parks and sports fields all over Lakewood, we can help you find the perfect setting for your event.

Contact Nikki York at (253) 983-7887 or nyork@cityoflakewood.us with rental requests and questions.

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

Pollution Prevention

The City offers a free program to educate local businesses on pollution prevention.

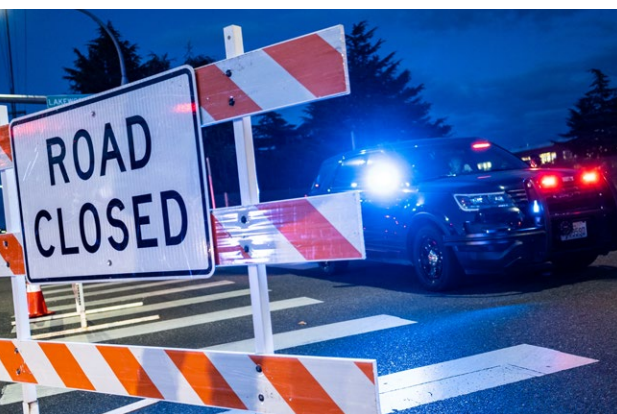
Our program offers voluntary, free, non-regulatory visits. The City will not cite during the consultation – we will help you fix problems to prevent future fines.

Restaurants, auto detail and repair shops, and some other businesses are common polluters. They often struggle with water treatment and waste storage. We focus on these businesses and offer free advice.

Our program specialist visits about 15 business a month. She identifies pollution-generating activities and helps suggest improved treatment, waste storage, spill prevention, and other tips.

Pollution is harmful for our water, plants, animals, and people. By inviting our help, you can reduce pollution, protect the environment, and avoid future trouble.

<https://cityoflakewood.us/ppa>



Lakewood Alert

Lakewood has a new emergency alert service: **Lakewood Alert**. Subscribers receive text and email alerts during emergencies. You may also sign up for non-emergency alerts like road closures, weather warnings, and event notices. Tell your neighbors and loved ones to sign up today.

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



Improving Neighborhoods

Officer Bill Mathies speaks with Jaime, a longtime resident of a mobile home park. "It's changed a lot here," says Jaime.



At Karwan Village Mobile Home Park, CSRT's work helped to achieve a 60% reduction in calls for police service.



Citing small things like junk vehicles and improvised electric helps improve safety, but also compels better park management.



CSRT often encounters people that need help. LPD and West Pierce Fire & Rescue are now partnering to help connect people to vital services.

Officer Bill Mathies often visits mobile home parks to perform code enforcement inspections. Bill is a member of the Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT). Over the years, CSRT has worked wonders to improve Lakewood's neighborhoods.

As he toured the Lakewood Mobile Home Park in April, Mathies proudly pointed to new units, new windows, clean lawns, and fresh paint. The park is a different place than it used to be.

"Five or so years ago, this place had a lot of crime, stolen cars, and drug activity. Our unit worked for years to get it back into compliance. Look at it now. We used to get hundreds of calls for police service here every year – not so much anymore. This park has been cleaned up a lot."

As Mathies inspects the park, a resident comes out to talk. Jaime has lived in the Lakewood Mobile Home Park for 18 years. His home is neat and well-maintained. He recently put in new windows, built a new staircase, and painted.

"I did the walls and the siding and the stairs and the windows – you know, I've got my kids. When I started fixing mine, then everyone started fixing theirs."

Jaime remembers the old days well. He remembers the crime. He remembers the neglected units that fell apart and had to be demolished. He and his family were there for all of it.

"It's changed a lot. Nice people live here. Everyone works. My kids have friends. We don't see a lot of things like before."

Karwan Village is another mobile home park in Lakewood. Police were called to the park 254 times in 2018, but those calls since have fallen by 60%. CSRT has made the difference.

CSRT has vigorously enforced safety compliance. They've worked with property management to repair and maintain units. LPD has investigated and arrested serial offenders.

Lakewood is now helping to connect Karwan Village residents to sewer service. A nearby park is due for improvements. The park is safer, and life is getting better for its residents.



Protecting & Serving

LPD officers discuss a plan to find a stolen vehicle. The suspect was in sight, but pursuit was restricted due to new legislation.



Eakes watches and waits for a stolen vehicle to appear. He and other officers have set up a containment area to catch the suspect.



Eakes is one of fifteen officers testing the Lakewood Police Department's new body cameras. Every patrol officer will wear one soon.



Sergeant Eakes chats with a maintenance worker in Woodbrook. Crime is way down in Woodbrook, and neighborhoods are improving quickly.

Sergeant Mark Eakes has been a police officer for 28 years. He was the first officer hired by the Lakewood Police Department when it formed in 2004. He's since seen crime fall by half in Lakewood.

"Violent crime is way down, especially in Tillicum and Woodbrook. I'll go shifts without calls to Tillicum. That's a sign of where we are today - a good sign."

Property crime and vehicle theft have jumped lately, revealed Chief Zaro in his Q4 2021 report. The spike is concerning, but Zaro believes he knows the cause.

"New legislation has hampered the ability of our officers to catch and detain suspects. These are well-intended reforms, but there have been some unintended consequences in the form of increased crime and reduced consequences for suspects."

Twice in one day, those unintended consequences appear for Sgt. Eakes. In the morning, he and other officers chased a suspect that broke into a vehicle, stole a gun and credit cards, tried to use the credit card, then sped off recklessly once officers tracked him down. In the afternoon, another suspect hit the gas to escape officers in a stolen vehicle tracked by GPS.

In a typical quarter, only one to four times a month would a suspect attempt to race away from police. In December, 31 suspects attempted to get away.

"Criminals talk. They learn from each other - they know what the laws are, and they think they can get away with this."

Zaro is confident that compromise will be struck, and that officers will regain important tactics to catch suspects. From his seat, Eakes is optimistic, too. He marvels at a well-kept apartment complex in Woodbrook.

"Look at this place - there's not even a gum wrapper on the ground. No litter, no junk cars, no nothing. I remember some tough calls here back in the day. Ancient history. People really care about their neighborhoods. You can see it - just look around and appreciate where places like Woodbrook and Tillicum are now."



Preserving Natural Resources

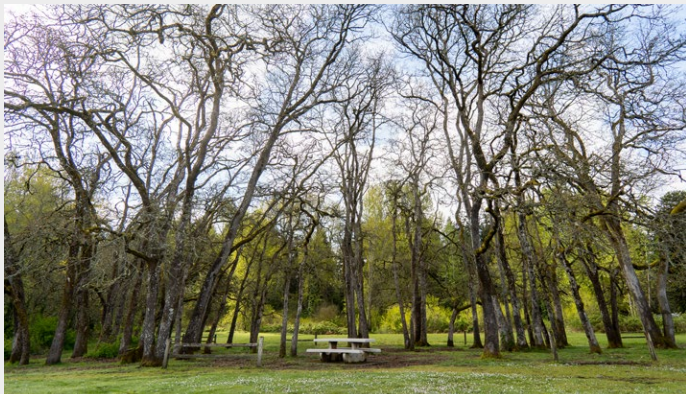
Common Camas grows in Fort Steilacoom Park. The pleasant purple flower's stems were used as weaving material by local tribes.



Trees reflect in the surface of Wards Lake. The City treats lakes to fight invasive species and maintains shorelines to protect waterways.



Cherry blossoms spring to life. A special tree advisory committee will suggest new measures to protect trees to City Council later this summer.



Garry oaks tower over a picnic table at Wards Lake Park. They are among the longest-living trees in the USA, often living for 300+ years.

Our five lakes and gorgeous natural tree canopy are gifts Lakewood is lucky to enjoy. They are also all of our responsibility to care for and protect.

City Council adopted an *'Energy & Climate Change'* chapter into the City's comprehensive plan last year. The chapter covers threats to the natural environment and plans to protect it. The City's goals include reduced emissions, improved regional transit and walkability, and sustainable development. Lakewood is also bracing for predictable effects of climate change.

To achieve these goals, City Council is currently reviewing a Climate Change Work Plan. The work plan recommends 35 measures that may yield improved air quality and reduced emissions.

One idea is protecting Lakewood's trees. Trees help sequester carbon and produce oxygen. They are also beautiful and historic, and they shelter local wildlife.

Tree removal is unregulated on most small residential lots. Some slow-growing, irreplaceable trees like Garry oaks are not yet considered endangered and don't enjoy any legal protections.

A special tree committee was formed this spring to suggest code adjustments that will help to protect trees. The balanced committee has members with a variety of perspectives. They will suggest code revisions to the Planning Commission in June, and later to the City Council. Public comment will be invited at several scheduled public hearings - visit the link below.

Waterways are another sensitive resource. The City treats local lakes to fight invasive plants and algae. The City also improves shorelines to protect local creeks and the wildlife within.

Natural resources are easier to consume than replace. Lakewood's trees, waterways, plants, and air require careful management. We need your support to ensure that these gifts remain for the next generation, and the generations that follow.

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



Keeping In Touch

Linda Farmer, Paul Bocchi, Mike Brandstetter, Don Anderson, Deputy Mayor Mary Moss, Mayor Jason Whalen, and Patti Belle.



The Lakewood City Council and Senator Twina Nobles cut the ribbon to reopen Harry Todd Park after gorgeous renovations last year.



Mayor Whalen hosts bimonthly "Community Coffeehouses" to invite conversation about important issues like public safety.



City Council proclaimed March as Women's History Month. Clover Park High School student Liupapa Lauulu accepted the proclamation.

Over the years, cooperation and compromise have helped Lakewood soar.

Each member of your City Council is independently elected. They each have different opinions and perspectives. They put those differences aside on Monday nights to work together, consider many opinions, and make choices that benefit Lakewood.

In the coming months, City Council will consider many issues that you might have strong opinions about. Your involvement is important and invited.

Some of these issues might be controversial. On each issue, City Council will carefully consider opinions from all sides and will urge civility and collaboration.

City Council will consider adjustments to tree code this summer. There will be public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council to invite your thoughts about trees and property rights.

The downtown Lakewood library branch was recently closed due to a leaky roof and water damage. The Pierce County Library System is listening to public input on what to do about its library facilities in Lakewood.

New floodplain data shows that a 100-year flood would damage some Springbrook properties and I-5. A public meeting will be held later this summer to hear concerns and opinions about how to manage this flood risk.

Mayor Jason Whalen has begun hosting "Community Coffeehouse" sessions every two months. At each event, the Mayor and City staff discuss issues and invite questions from residents. The next two events will be held on July 28 and Sept. 22.

There are plenty of issues to talk about and plenty of opportunities to speak up. Subscribe to the City's social media and weekly email newsletter to keep up with news and opportunities for public comment.

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

Streets & Sidewalks

This time last year, road work along **Veterans Drive (A)** had just finished. It was a difficult project. Extended road closures caused delays for residents. The pandemic extended some deadlines.

Now, the benefits are shining. Residents walk their dogs along beautiful, wide sidewalks that allow cyclists to comfortably pass. Modern crossings warn oncoming traffic and guide pedestrians safely. Local businesses report more walk-up traffic.

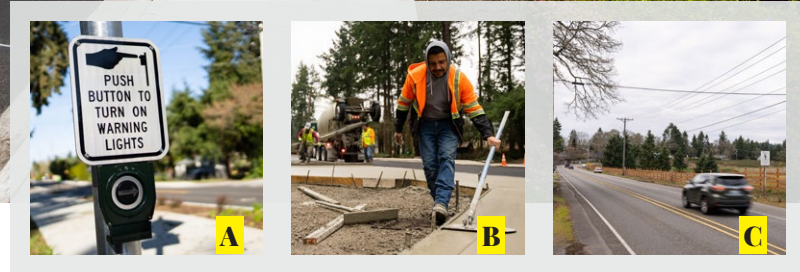
Traffic-calming roundabouts and radar signs have reduced speeding. The road surface is silky smooth, and it's built to endure Lakewood's expected growth.

Road work is like any investment – it costs before it pays. Construction involves detours and inconvenience. It involves closures and delays.

But in the end, the reward is clear. Drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians are safer, and the trip is more enjoyable.

The City has a number of projects in the works that will improve transportation and pedestrian safety all over Lakewood.

2022's biggest project is the **JBLM North Access Project (B)**, also in Lake City. By now, Gravelly Lake Drive will have reopened. A new phase of work will have begun to rebuild Washington Boulevard, adding sidewalks, landscaping, and safer crossings.



Sidewalks are being built along Steilacoom Boulevard near Custer Elementary so students may walk home more safely. Sidewalks will also be built along **Phillips Road (C)** near Hudtloff Middle School and the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area.

Pavement patching will repair the surfaces of Nyanza Road, Langlow Street, and 112th Street. Chip sealing will improve road surfaces around Lake Louise.

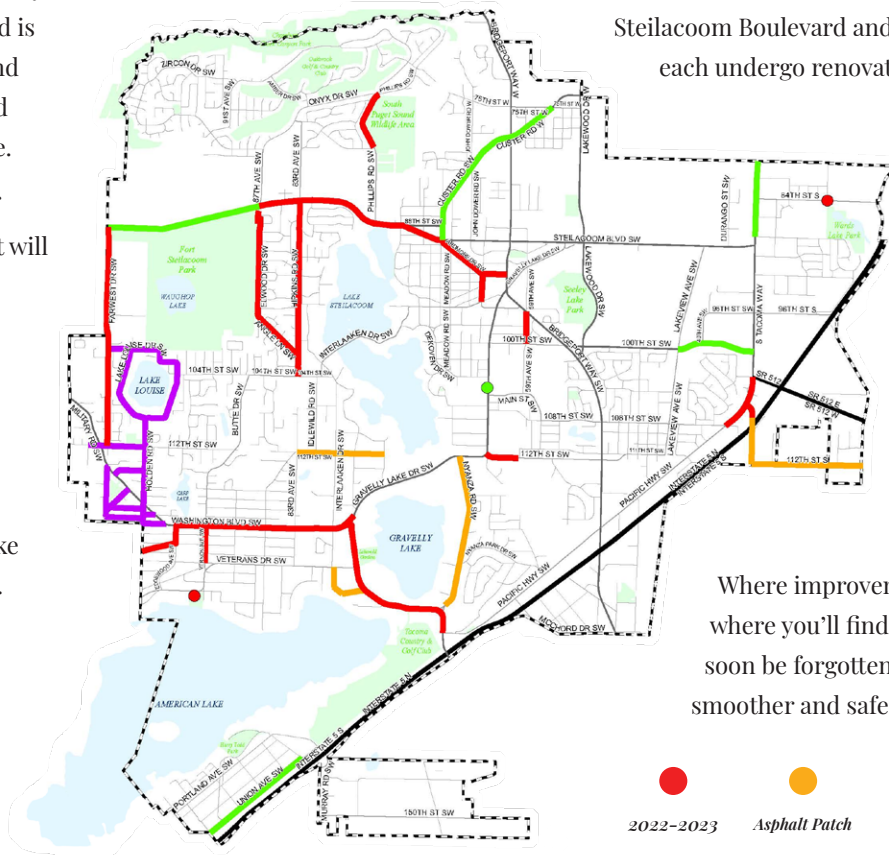
The next few years will be busy, too. The City is preparing designs and seeking funding for many future projects. In Tillicum, Union Avenue will be rebuilt and will receive sidewalks. Farwest Drive, Hipkins Road, Elwood Drive, and Angle Lane will receive important sidewalks near the park.

Steilacoom Boulevard and South Tacoma Way will each undergo renovation. Walkability in those commercial districts will improve dramatically.

Recent road work has been a little painful, but Lakewood is easier to access than ever. It's safer to walk around, too.

Future improvements are prioritized by traffic volume, road condition, and neighborhood needs.

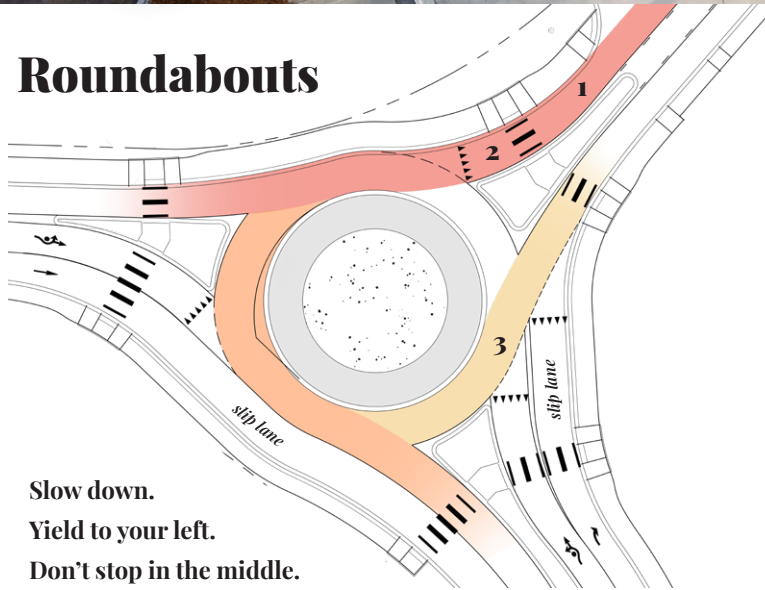
Where improvement is most needed, that's where you'll find us working. These delays will soon be forgotten, and your commute will be smoother and safer.



● 2022-2023
 ● Asphalt Patch
 ● Chip Seal
 ● Future Projects

Rules & Regulations

Roundabouts



Slow down.

Yield to your left.

Don't stop in the middle.

Roundabouts have a learning 'curve', but they offer big benefits. They allow traffic to flow more smoothly than a light, accelerating your commute. They reduce serious accidents by a vast margin. They improve air quality as fewer cars must idle and accelerate.

There are only a few roundabouts in the area, so they are new to many drivers. Soon enough, navigating them will be easy as pie.

The first step is to slow upon approach **(1)**. Start from the red lane at the top-right. Slow down as you enter, and be prepared to stop.

Look to your left as you approach **(2)**. Traffic should only come from that direction. Many cars may not signal before they exit, so wait for a safe opportunity to enter. Do not stop or change lanes within the roundabout.

You may leave from your intended exit without stopping. Watch for pedestrians, and yield to them if they are in the crosswalk. Generally, you should not stop in the middle of a roundabout.

In this example, imagine you want you leave the roundabout from the yellow lane **(3)**. Watch for drivers in the 'slip lanes', which allow traffic to take the first turn without entering the roundabout. Drivers in the slip lane must yield.

Fireworks

Save Them For The Fourth!

Fireworks are only allowed on July 4 this summer.

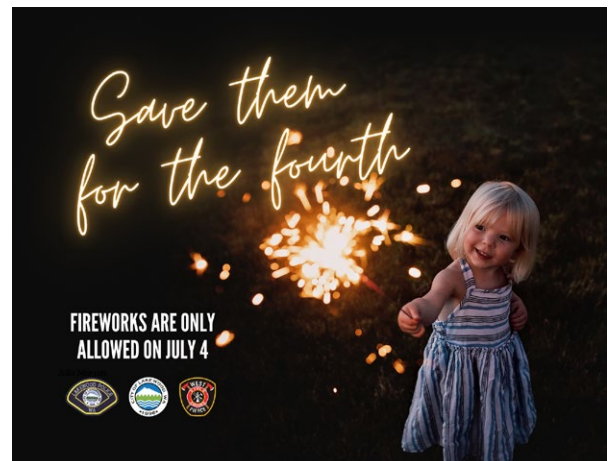
Fireworks are only permitted on the Independence Day (July 4) this summer. Lighting fireworks any other time is illegal, and may get you in trouble.

In previous years, fireworks were also allowed on July 3 and July 5 - that is no longer law. An ordinance passed in 2020 takes effect this year and limits fireworks to July 4.

Only use legal fireworks purchased from local stands. Light any fireworks far away from homes, woods, and other flammable items. Fireworks are fire hazards during the hottest, driest months of the year.

The Lakewood Police Department will do fireworks emphasis patrols as Independence Day approaches.

Please use fireworks only on the Fourth of July, please use only legal fireworks, and please use them safely.



For More Information, Visit:

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



City of Lakewood, Washington

The long, warm days of summer are back. So is SummerFest, a longstanding tradition in Lakewood. So is the Farmers Market, and so is our series of Outdoor Concerts. So is the sound of fireworks, but this year, they will be limited to the Fourth of July. New this summer is a series of Saturday Street Festivals. As the mercury soars, so do our spirits. Have a wonderful summer, Lakewood!

Email Newsletter

Sign up for a weekly summary of everything you need to know about your city government.



Social Media

Follow our social media to keep up with daily news and to comment about important issues.



Event Calendar

Check our calendar to track upcoming events, markets, festivals, and City Council meetings.



SummerFEST
JULY 23 1996 2022

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