

Winter 2023



lakewood

connections

HELP US COUNTDOWN TO THE HOLIDAYS

Join our parade and sign up
for the Jingle Bell 5K walk/run. Pages 8-9



Inside

- Council gears up for a short legislative session
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Jason Whalen
Mayor



Mary Moss
Deputy Mayor



Don Anderson
Councilmember



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Trestin Lauricella
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Shaping a bright future



We recently finalized our 2024 Legislative Agenda. The agenda serves

as a blueprint for progress. It focuses on key issues we believe are critical to the continued growth and success of Lakewood. It outlines how we will advocate for residents and businesses at the state, county and federal levels.

Our federal legislative agenda prioritizes neighborhoods and roads. Top of the list is a project to rebuild South Tacoma Way from 84th Street to our border with Tacoma. It will make it safer for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. It will beautify a bustling commercial corridor that serves as one of the city's most culturally rich and diverse districts. The majority of businesses on this stretch — 84.5% — are women or minority owned. This is the last part of South Tacoma Way to be improved.

Total project cost is estimated at \$4.5 million. Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland fought to get \$2.5 million in federal money allocated for this project. Construction is planned for 2024.

We remain committed to seeing more affordable housing added to the city's inventory. That's why we continue to advocate on behalf of Living Access Support Alliance, or LASA, for federal funding to support its

affordable housing project.

The project will add 25 affordable and low- and lower-income units to the LASA property off Gravelly Lake Drive. The city committed \$3.175 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds and other federal housing pass-through monies for the project. Pierce County committed \$3.5 million. The Legislature included \$500,000 in its 2023-25 capital budget for the project.

In partnership with LASA, the city pursued federal funding. As a result, \$1 million was included in the congressional appropriations process. We continue to advocate to see the project built.

Other federal priorities include:

- Building a linear urban park within the city's downtown commercial area.
- Nisqually Delta impacts to Interstate 5.
- Supporting efforts in the North Clear Zone.

At the state level we continue to push for improvements to public safety laws.

Progress was made during the 2023 session, but there is still more work to be done. In collaboration with other Pierce County municipalities, Lakewood will ask the Legislature to:

- Provide tools to address auto theft and property crime, including increased state

funding to grant programs to support regional enforcement and prosecution efforts.

- Make refinements to restrictions on vehicular pursuits.
- Empower and engage parents and guardians of juveniles involved in the criminal justice system to play an active part in reversing the trend of rising crime among youth.
- Commit ongoing state funding for therapeutic courts to satisfy the new state drug possession law.
- Supply stable state funding for co-responder programs, such as the city's Behavioral Health Contact Team.

We also continue to shine a light on the importance of "geographic equity" when releasing people from state facilities. We support the state's efforts to move toward a more community-based behavioral health system. This move presents an opportunity to provide accessible services to those who need them most. It also allows for facilities to be located across the state. We support establishment of long-term care facilities in the underserved regions of our state. When people are released from state facilities, they can return home to receive care.

These key priorities help us create a future where our residents can enjoy improved infrastructure, affordable housing, enhanced public safety, and more. Our proactive approach ensures that Lakewood remains a vibrant and thriving community.



JELLYFISH UNDERGROUND?

As part of its road improvement project on Washington Boulevard, the City of Lakewood upgraded the underground stormwater drainage system. The city installed a system nicknamed “jellyfish.”

This system uses filters to clean out debris and other particles from water running off the road. The filters are in isolated concrete boxes underground that then discharge to various bodies of water or into the ground through infiltration galleries throughout the city.

Lakewood operations and maintenance crew members recently worked with the contractor to learn how to check and change the filters. Cartridges only need to be replaced every five years. Traditional systems need replacement every one to two years. If the system operates as designed, crews should only be out there one-third as often as they would with a traditional storm system, ultimately saving the city money.

PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING

Road work planned to kick off the new year

Residents and visitors to the city’s Central Business District should plan for road construction impacts in the near future.

Ardmore Drive SW, Whitman Avenue SW and 93rd Street SW are all slated for improvement. The city will add sidewalks, curbs, gutters and streetlights. New road surfaces will be added where necessary and the storm drain system upgraded.

Once complete, this will link newly built sidewalks along the Steilacoom Boulevard corridor to the city’s downtown area that includes Colonial Plaza and Lakewood Towne Center.

Roads slated for improvement are:

- Whitman Avenue SW between its intersection with Motor Avenue SW heading north to the intersection with Ardmore Drive SW and 93rd Street SW.
- 93rd Street SW between its intersection with Bridgeport Avenue SW and Ardmore Drive SW and Whitman Avenue SW.
- Ardmore Drive SW from its intersection with Steilacoom Boulevard SW to the intersection with Whitman Avenue SW and 93rd Street SW.

At the start of 2024, residents along Hipkins Road can expect construction to begin as early as mid-January. Planned improvements include installation of a roundabout at North Way, continuing the sidewalk connection from Angle Lane and Elwood Drive, streetlight installation and new paving. Existing chicanes will be removed to create better traffic flow.



Water levels in Waughop Lake at the end of summer were low due to no rainfall in months and we're entering a drought period.

Where's the water?

Did you visit Waughop Lake in Fort Steilacoom Park at the end of summer and wonder, "Why is the lake level so low?"

The answer is simple: There was no considerable rainfall in months. From May to August, we saw our ninth driest period on record.

In four of the last five years, we had annual rainfall totals significantly below the 30-year average and even the 10-year average, according to state Department of Ecology and Pierce County data.

This lack of rainfall, coupled with warm weather, has a noticeable impact on our lakes.

Is this normal? Yes, especially at Waughop Lake.

Waughop Lake is primarily fed through groundwater. Without rain recharging the groundwater, there wasn't much water to recharge the kettle lake. Waughop is also relatively shallow. At its deepest point, it's roughly 11 feet. Add sun and heat to the equation, and the water levels drop.

This was the case elsewhere in Lakewood, though Waughop Lake is probably the most visible to residents because of its location at Fort Steilacoom Park. All lakes in the city experienced low water levels by the end of summer due to the hot, dry weather.

Luckily the wet start to fall is recharging the aquifers.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The city is beautifying its streets one signal box at a time through the installation of one-of-a-kind pieces of art. The artistic wraps deter graffiti and add visual interest to our streets.

Do you have an original design you think would look good on a utility box in the City of Lakewood? Submit your work for review and consideration. Art work must be able to be digitally reproduced.

Submit an application by Feb. 15 by emailing **Sally Martinez at SMartinez@CityOfLakewood.us**. Please include:

- A document with your name, address, email and phone number.
- Artistic resume or statement summarizing qualifications and/or past experience (Students are exempt).
- Up to five proposed designs, submitted as high resolution JPEG files.
- List of images emailed with the title of each one.
- A link to social media or website where your artwork is displayed, if applicable.

Emails must have the subject line "Signal Box Wrap (your name) title of art" in them to be considered. Artists receive \$700 per selected design.



More homes coming to a neighborhood near you

New housing laws passed by the state Legislature mean more homes could be coming to Lakewood’s already established neighborhoods. The impact is more housing density in the city.

In part, state law requires an increase in “middle housing” types in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing. Middle housing is described as housing that contains two or more attached, stacked or clustered homes. This includes duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, fiveplexes, sixplexes, townhomes, stacked flats, courtyard apartments and cottage housing.

Lakewood’s zoning already allows these housing types in certain parts of the city. But the new laws will require an expansion of these housing types in all residential neighborhoods.

The new laws also require cities to allow two or more accessory dwelling units on lots that meet a minimum size in all zones that allow single-family homes.

Because Lakewood is a largely residential city with single-family neighborhoods, the



New laws passed by the state Legislature mean more density for Lakewood’s existing residential neighborhoods.

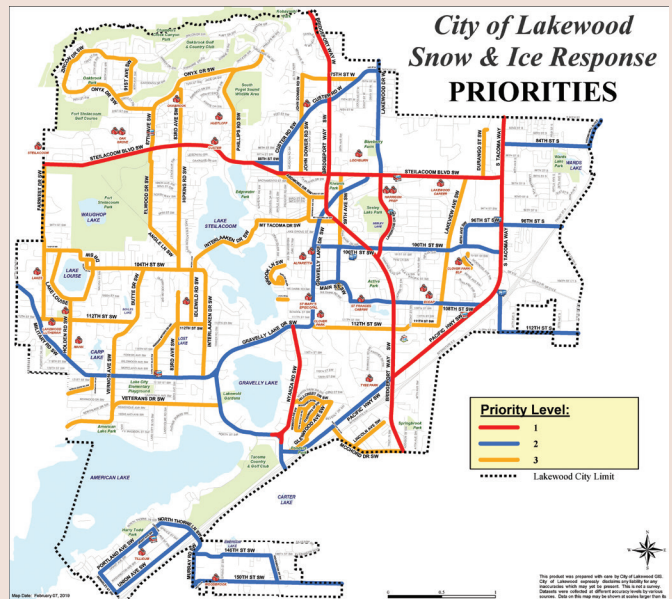
proposed increase in density will have a widespread impact. However, there are some limitations in some areas due to lakes, wetlands, Oregon White Oak stands and other critical, or environmental, sensitive areas.

The city is updating its development regulations and reviewing its Comprehensive Plan to meet the new state requirements as part of its 2024 Periodic Review process. Find out more at CityofLakewood.us/24PeriodicReview or provide your thoughts at LakewoodWaSpeaks.Org.

WINTER IS COMING

Meteorologists are calling for an El Niño winter in the Pacific Northwest, which means we could see drier-than-average temperatures. If that’s the case, we may not need to bring out our big trucks to plow and treat the roads.

But that doesn’t mean we’re not prepared. If we see significant snow fall this winter, our operations team is ready to keep the main arterials clear and apply necessary treatment before temperatures drop to below freezing. The maps show our routes and how we prioritize our response.



2024 Comprehensive Plan periodic review timeline

The City of Lakewood continues with its 2024 periodic review update to the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a road map for the city's future, identifying where growth can occur and ensuring the city complies with the state growth management act.

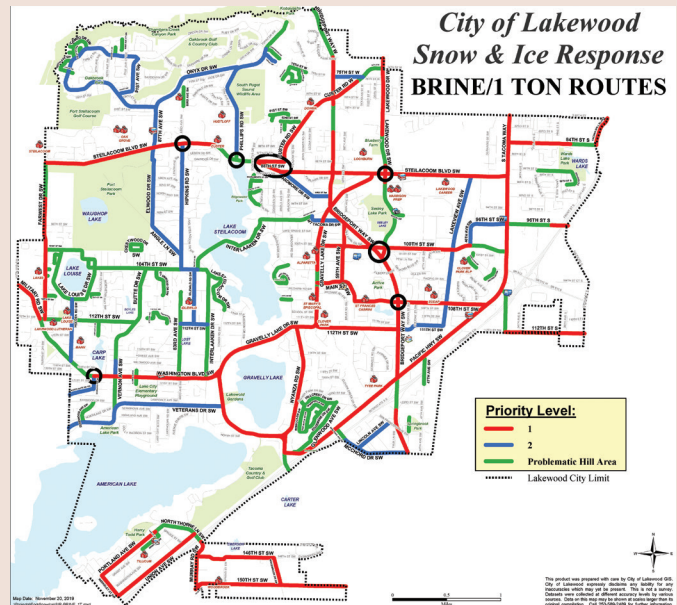
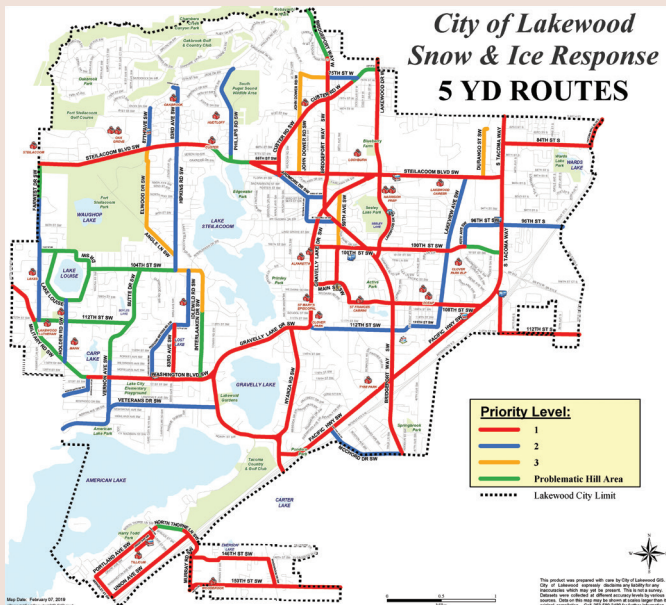
As part of the update, the city is engaging residents and business owners to lend their voices and opinions to the plan. A series of public engagement opportunities are planned for 2024. This includes:

- **Early 2024:** Open Houses and community outreach (stay tuned).
- **May 1, 2024:** Planning Commission introduction of 2024 Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations, and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS).

GET INVOLVED IN CITY DEVELOPMENT

Get involved in the process by staying up to date on what's happening. Sign up for updates at [CityofLakewood.us/24PeriodicReview](https://www.cityoflakewood.us/24PeriodicReview). Can't make an in-person meeting? Share your thoughts at LakewoodWaSpeaks.Org.

- **June 5, 2024:** Planning Commission public hearing on the plan.
- **June 26, 2024:** Planning Commission takes action on its recommendations to be sent to the Lakewood City Council.
- **June 24, 2024:** Introduction of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations, and Draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) to the Lakewood City Council.
- **July 15, 2024:** Lakewood City Council public hearing on the plan.
- **Sept. 3, 2024:** Lakewood City Council formal action on 2024 Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations.



SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING LAKEWOOD EVENTS



Jingle Bell 5K & Kids Dash, Dec. 16

JINGLE BELL 5K & KIDS DASH

The City of Lakewood is excited to partner with the Lakes Cross Country Booster Club to return a Jingle Bell 5K Walk/Run and 1K Kids Dash to Fort Steilacoom Park. Join us Saturday, Dec. 16 for this family-friendly event. Wear your best costume for the costume contest, dress up your pet, and hit the trails for this holiday-themed fun run. Event details and registration at CityOfLakewood.us/Calendar

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. VIDEO SERIES

The City of Lakewood will again honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a series of inspiring short videos featuring Lakewood leaders. This year's focus is on youth and youth empowerment. Tune in to the city's YouTube channel on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. to see the first video: YouTube.Com/CityOfLakewoodWA

WELCOME WALK

In partnership with the Clover Park School District we're hosting a Welcome Walk to get to know new neighbors. All are invited to join us at Fort Steilacoom Park, Saturday, Jan. 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be live music, food, drop-in yoga classes, group walks around Waughop Lake and a chance to mix and mingle. Find out more: CityOfLakewood.us/Calendar



Welcome Walk, Jan. 20

LOVE LAKEWOOD YOGA & MEDITATION

As you look to continue your mental and physical wellbeing into the new year, consider adding the Love Lakewood Yoga and Meditation series to your routine. Starting in January, classes will be offered as six-week sessions including a "Path to Peace: A trauma sensitive yoga journey."

Classes are for people of all levels. Meditation classes are free and focus on topics like anxiety, fear, and forgiveness, while strengthening concentration and intuition.

Classes are held inside the Pavilion at Fort Steilacoom Park, 9107 Angle Lane SW. Find the full class schedule through the end of 2023 online and look for the six-week sessions to be listed in early 2024 at CityOfLakewood.us/Yoga.



Mayor Jason Whalen, Deputy Mayor Mary Moss and Lakewood City Council members Pattie Belle, Paul Bocchi, Mike Brandstetter and Trestin Lauricella celebrate the completion of the city's newest mural at Fort Steilacoom Park. Muralist Angelina Villalobos helped cut the ribbon along with Consulate of Mexico's Deputy Consul Gerardo Javier Guiza Vargas at the city's Fiesta de la Familia event in September.



Line the parade route to cheer on local businesses and friends and neighbors for this year's Holiday Parade of Lights.

Celebrate the holidays

The Lakewood Holiday Parade of Lights and Christmas tree lighting is Saturday, Dec. 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall.

Intricately decorated floats, illuminated lights and walkers will parade from Park Lodge Elementary School down Gravelly Lake Drive SW to Main

Street in Lakewood Towne Center. At approximately 5:30 p.m., the Lakewood City Council will countdown to the lighting of the city Christmas tree. Enjoy food trucks, entertainment, face painting and don't forget to snap a selfie with Santa.

Interested in entering the parade? Hurry, applications are due Nov. 27. Email Sally Martinez, smartinez@cityoflakewood.us to apply.



SANTA IS COMING TO WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

West Pierce Fire & Rescue's annual Santa at the Station event is back!

DEC. 12 FROM 5:30 – 7 P.M.

West Pierce Fire & Rescue Station 21
5000 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood

DEC. 14 FROM 5:30 – 7 P.M.

West Pierce Fire & Rescue Station 31
3631 Drexler Drive W, University Place

Visit Santa's workshop, let him know what you'd like and take a photo with him! Parents may take photos of their own children, as no photographer will be on site. A food drive will also be held in conjunction with this event and any donations are greatly appreciated.



Want to write a letter to Santa? Use our template at westpiece.org/santa! Be sure to include your return address so he can write you back!

This program is made possible by West Pierce CARES, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operated by the employees of West Pierce Fire & Rescue. The programs run by West Pierce CARES support those in the Lakewood, University Place and Steilacoom communities and is funded solely through grants and donations. No taxpayer dollars are utilized.



Members of the Lakewood Police Department received the Distinguished Service Medal and Lifesaving Award for their actions earlier this year.

POLICE

Celebrating our officers

Lakewood Police Chief Patrick D. Smith recognized Lakewood police officers and administrative staff in

October with Police Chief’s Commendation awards, a Medal of Meritorious Service, Distinguished Service medals and a Life Saving Award.

Police Chief’s Commendation Award recipients included:

- Officer Stephen Moffit
- Administrative Technician Svea Pitts
- Sgt. Charles Porche
- Officer Mike McGettigan
- Officer Jeremy Vahle
- Officer Josh Northcutt



Front row, from left: Officers Josh Northcutt, Jeremy Vahle, Mike McGettigan and Sgt. Charles Porche receive the Police Chief’s Commendation Award. Lakewood Police Chief Patrick D. Smith and Assistant Chief John Unfred were joined by the Lakewood City Council to recognize them.



Stephen Moffit



Svea Pitts



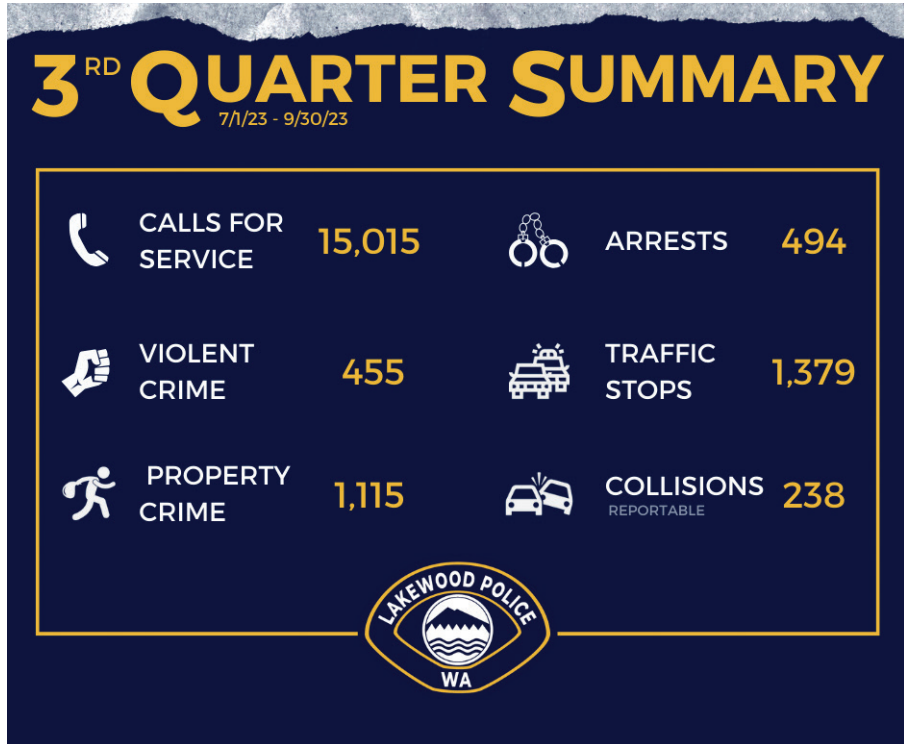
Bill Mathies

For their exceptional performance above and beyond the call of duty, involving significant risk to their life, the following officers were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal:

- Sgt. Ryan Moody
- Sgt. Ken Devaney
- Det. Mike Merrill
- Stephen Moffitt
- Kaybree Eames
- Brian Topasna
- Jared Pingul
- Kasey Bentz
- Brian Luttrull
- Natalie Zeiber
- Jacob Veenker
- Jeremy Keisler
- Quinn Rawson
- Anthony Bucat

For his exceptional performance above and beyond the call of duty, Code Enforcement Officer Bill Mathies was awarded the Medal of Meritorious Service.

For his actions rendering potentially lifesaving medical aid, Officer Jack Johnson received the Lifesaving Award.



Police chief’s corner: Third quarter review

Overall calls for service within the city were up roughly 8% in the third quarter compared to the second quarter. Arrests also increased, this time by 6% over the prior period.

Lakewood police saw a slight decline in property crime, down 3% from the previous period. And motor vehicle thefts also decreased 2.5% from the second quarter.

To see a more comprehensive look at the city’s crime statistics, including a snapshot of rising crime among juveniles, visit the Lakewood Police Department crime statistics website: CityOfLakewood.us/Police-Homepage/Crime-Statistics



STAY INFORMED WITH LAKEWOOD ALERT

Sign up to receive alerts and notifications from Lakewood through our Lakewood Alert system. This system is used for emergency notifications and periodic emails or text messages about special events, road closure alerts or other announcements.

Subscribe: Scan the QR code or visit CityofLakewood.us/Lakewood-Alert

Park Master Planning 101

Before updates or improvements are made to a city park, the City of Lakewood creates a master plan for the property. The creation of this plan is guided by public involvement. It incorporates feedback from park users, neighbors and interested parties.

The development of the plan is instrumental in helping the city secure outside

grant funding to pay for the proposed improvements — which often are in the range of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

After a plan is crafted, the city will revisit it periodically to update it so it reflects any changes to the property, its use or the surrounding area.

The City of Lakewood is currently in the process of updating the Edgewater Park Master Plan. The plan identifies future improvements and upgrades to the property that

is nestled along the shoreline of Lake Steilacoom. The park has largely been untouched since incorporation in 1996. The city is embarking on a yearslong process to apply for grant funding to help pay for proposed improvements at the park.

Here's a look at what's happened to date with the property:

- **2004:** The city worked with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to replace the aging boat launch at Edgewater Park. Adjacent street improvements were not made at the time to change the access to the launch.

Mother Nature at work



It didn't take long for plants to return to the 20-acre area that burned at Fort Steilacoom Park this summer during a wildfire.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering or involvement in stewardship efforts at the park can email parks@cityoflakewood.us.

LAKEWOOD SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

The Lakewood Senior Activity Center offers a variety of programs and activities for everyone. Now more than ever, it's important to connect with people. Join the center for its Dirty Gloves Gardening Club, Lunch & Learn presentations, Brain Games, Knotty Knitters, Coffee & Conversation and so much more. Here's just a few ways you can get involved:

- **Just a Walk in the Park:** Join us for fellowship and fitness! We're getting fit, enjoying nature and walking with friends at the park. We walk, rain or shine. Please arrive a few minutes early to sign in. Meet near the dog park. Dogs welcome for the dog walk. For more information call 253-983-7786.

- **Photography Club:** Are you interested in photography or love to take pictures? Join our group of avid photographers to get together to share your work, skills and photos. Be creative and bring your themed photos to meetings.

Contact Recreation Coordinator Elizabeth Scheid for more information about programs, activities, schedules, locations, newsletters and to get connected. Email EScheid@CityOfLakewood.Us, call 253-983-7786 or email Debbie Washburn at DWashburn@CityOfLakewood.Us.

- **2018–2019:** To prepare for a grant cycle to fund public park improvements, the city and members of the all-volunteer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) met with neighbors and community members. A series of meetings on-site and at City Hall were held to review site issues. City staff and advisory board members listened to community concerns. Ideas for future improvements were also brainstormed. Several draft plans were created for review. Community members shared what they liked and disliked regarding each option. From this, a draft preferred master plan was created.

- **2019:** The city began

preliminary work to prepare the draft master plan for review and grant needs. A site survey identified several encroachment issues at the park. The most significant encroachment is at the south end of the site.

- **2020–2021:** An arborist report was completed and dangerous trees were removed from the park.

- **2020–2023:** The city began working with an adjacent property owner to identify issues and possible solutions. This work and conversation continued from 2020-2023.

- **2023:** The Lakewood City Council authorized the

acquisition of property for park improvement purposes.

- **2023:** The city is reviewing and updating the draft master plan to prepare for future grant cycles to help pay for future improvements. Community input will be included. The volunteer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will participate in that process. The board will ultimately provide a recommendation to the City Council for review and consideration in preparation of applying for various grants in 2024.

Learn more: [CityOfLakewood.us/Edgewater-Park](https://www.cityoflakewood.us/edgewater-park)

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS, NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS-PROGRAM COORDINATOR

A little about myself: I am a Houston native turned Evergreen Stater at Western Washington University, where I earned my Bachelor’s in Environmental Planning and Policy. With a passion for community outreach, volunteer coordination, and community mobilization, I’m dedicated to hearing and supporting in the Lakewood community. From creating spaces for youth and educating on STI/HIV, I’ve championed causes like career navigation for homeless youth.

A little more about myself: A former Texas state wrestling champion, I’ve been grappling since junior high, now exploring martial arts and dance. Outside of physical pursuits, I thrive on video games, social events, and active community involvement. Despite a nonsinging gene in a musically talented family,



I bring my unique strengths to the mix. As part of a military family, I’ve journeyed across the United States, calling Texas, Colorado, Georgia, and Washington home.

Even more about myself: I’ve been a trailblazer in bringing ball culture to Tacoma, where it’s a vibrant blend of performance, runway flair, and a celebration of queer identities.

In the dynamic world of Kiki Balls, participants vie for victory in diverse categories like vogue, best dressed, sex siren, and face, each demanding unique styles and techniques. As a pioneer, I’ve fostered a community at the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, offering weekly classes to explore the rich tapestry of ball culture and its various categories.



Lakewood Barbershop owners Jordan and Kyro Parker receive the September 2023 Lakewood Business Showcase from the Lakewood City Council at a September Council meeting. The Parkers were joined by their children to accept the recognition.

Lakewood Barbershop

For a small business, Lakewood Barbershop leaves a huge imprint on the community. Self-proclaimed “Lakewood’s leading barbershop,” co-owner Jordan Parker says his business is about more than haircuts. To him and co-owner Kyro Parker, the barbershop is about uplifting and providing a safe space for the community.

This mentality transcends the walls of the barbershop, and they try to give back wherever they can. In the past, Lakewood Barbershop has provided free haircuts at the Caring for Kids back-to-school event as well as facilitated clothes and blanket drives. More specifically, they give a Lakewood Legacy Scholarship to one graduating Clover Park student to help with college tuition. The business most recently partnered with Anthony Peterson to award the Lakewood Legacy Scholarship, created in honor of Parker’s late cousin D’Juan Clark.

Along with providing scholarships and free haircuts to our youth, Lakewood Barbershop creates opportunities for our community to bond and grow. Lakewood Barbershop was recognized as the September 2023 Lakewood Business Showcase because it preserves and continues the culture of Lakewood through its creation of a safe and supportive space for members of our community to be themselves.

Biz snapshot

Business activity remains strong in Lakewood, despite a slowdown due to the tightening credit market, higher interest rates and inflation.

Retail sales continue to trend upward, employment is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, and the city’s commercial areas are attracting development in the Downtown, Lakewood Station District, and Woodbrook neighborhoods.

Significant projects over the next few years include another 400,000 square feet of industrial/manufacturing space, SpringHill Suites by Marriott, a new fulfillment center on Pacific Highway, and a variety of additional housing units that include affordable and market rate.

The City of Lakewood’s Economic Development team remains focused on transportation and park improvements that support community wants and needs, which will ultimately provide a more walkable and increasingly healthy community for all residents.

This fall the Lakewood City Council reviewed economic development in the city. Find more in-depth information on activities and projects on the city’s website: [Bit.ly/LKWDSnapshot](https://bit.ly/LKWDSnapshot)



STAY UP ON BUSINESS NEWS

Want to know the latest on economic development in the city of Lakewood? Sign up to receive an e-newsletter every other month from the city’s Economic Development team. Scan the QR code to sign up to receive the newsletter or visit [Bit.ly/LakewoodEconomicNews](https://bit.ly/LakewoodEconomicNews).



Lakewood Mayor Jason Whalen reads a proclamation in support of manufacturing at the first-ever Manufacturing Day Expo held in Lakewood at Clover Park Technical College.

Supporting economic development in Lakewood

In October, the City of Lakewood was proud to partner with Pierce County economic development

leaders to bring two events to the city focused on living wage jobs and small business support.

The first-ever Manufacturing Day Expo was held at Clover Park Technical College. Mayor Jason Whalen was there to welcome attendees and read a proclamation calling attention to the vital role manufacturing plays in the economic development of our region. He was joined by City Manager John Caulfield and Economic Development Director Becky Newton.

Companies like Milgard, Boeing, Brown and Haley, and many more had representatives there to answer questions and connect with students and those looking for a career in manufacturing.

Industry leaders sat on panels to talk about various topics related to manufacturing, including diversity, inclusion and innovation in manufacturing, student voices in building the manufacturing workforce and more.

At the Thriving Together Resource Event, the City of Lakewood partnered with Pierce County's Economic Development Department to showcase diverse businesses in the county. This included recent graduates of the BIPOC Accelerator Program.

Roughly 200 people attended the event. They were connected with exhibitors who offer free services or are accelerator education providers. They also received information about key resources to help them navigate small business success in the community. This included breakout sessions on marketing, finance and government contracting jobs to the city.

PIERCE COUNTY BIPOC ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

The City of Lakewood contributed ARPA funding to support the Pierce County BIPOC Accelerator Program. The program is centered around building generational wealth and business resiliency through business ownership, providing business training for business owners with an emphasis on BIPOC, veteran and women entrepreneurs. The program was awarded a VISION 2050 award this summer by the Puget Sound Regional Council for its innovation and focus on ensuring a sustainable future for businesses in the region.

Fifty-one Lakewood business owners have gone through the program. Of the 311 total graduates of the program:

- 94% are minority owned
- 67% are women owned
- 1% are veteran owned

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



CPSD IMPLEMENTS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Clover Park School District (CPSD) has updated its five-year strategic plan that guides its efforts to support student learning and achievement while preparing students with the knowledge and skills for successful futures. Creation of

this new strategic plan was driven directly by the school board's accountability plan.



CPSD recognizes that each school serves a unique community. The updated strategic plan empowers schools to tailor teaching strategies to the specific strengths and needs of their students.

Each school's annual action plan is designed to meet the individual needs of the building and are based on the three primary goals of the strategic plan:

Academic Achievement: Prepare students for college and careers by enhancing

academic accomplishments and removing barriers to access.

Family Engagement: Deepen engagement with students and families, ensuring all community subgroups are considered and student and family perspectives are considered in decision-making.

Supportive Learning Environment: Create a nurturing environment for students with an emphasis on keeping students in their primary classroom as much as possible.

CPSD's strategic plan nurtures student development throughout their educational journey while achieving steady growth over time.

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

At the end of November the City of Lakewood is embarking on a community satisfaction survey. The city contracts with survey company Polco to do this work.



The survey is meant to gauge people's thoughts about how the city is meeting the needs of the community and prioritize what's important to our residents. It will also be used to inform the city's 10-year review of its Comprehensive Plan. The survey will be mailed to randomly selected households. If you receive this survey, please take the time to fill it out. The responses will be shared with the Lakewood City Council as it maps city priorities.



SIGN UP FOR LAKEWOOD NEWS

Our weekly email newsletter covers important news, upcoming events, construction updates and more.



DON'T MISS CITY EVENTS

Visit our events calendar to see a list of upcoming and recurring events hosted by the city. Add the events to your calendar to make sure you never miss out on the fun!



REPORT NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

Report potholes, code violations and other items to MyLakewood311. Receive status updates as city staff work on your issue.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Find Lakewood on social media to see what's happening in real-time. We're on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.