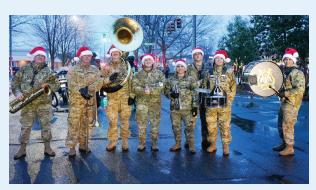


Line the parade route in front of Lakewood City Hall and help us countdown to the tree lighting.

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Join your neighbors for the Holiday Parade of Lights & Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday, Dec. 7 at 4:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall.

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Jason Whalen Mayor



Mary Moss Deputy Mayor



Patti Belle Councilmember



Paul Bocchi M Councilmember

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Ryan Pearson Councilmember

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Phone: 253-830-5000 Email: PoliceFrontDesk@CityOfLakewood.Us Online: CityOfLakewood.Us/Police

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Phone: 253-512-2261 Email: Permits@CityOfLakewood.Us Online: CityOfLakewood.Us/Permit-Center

LAKEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION Phone: 253-983-7887 Email: Parks@CityOfLakewood.Us Online: CityOfLakewood.Us/Parks

CITY COUNCIL CORNER

Reflecting on a year of accomplishment



s we close out 2024, we are proud of the many accomplishments we achieved this year. While the list is too long for the limited space we have here, below are some of the substantial strides we made

in enhancing infrastructure across the city, our continued support for public safety and our commitment to overall community well-being.

We started 2024 with an ambitious plan to improve roads and increase pedestrian safety across the city. The result is the completion of eight projects that invested \$12.46 million in our community. That investment upgraded and maintained key thoroughfares across the city.

This included improvements to:

- 84th & Pine
- · Ardmore/Whitman/93rd
- Hipkins Road
- Farwest Drive
- Interlaaken Drive bridge repair
- 2024 road patching
- 2024 chip seal
- 2022 Street Light Program

We also completed projects on Union Avenue and 112th Street between Gravelly Lake Drive and Highland, which started in 2023.

These improvements ensure smoother and safer travel for our residents and continue safe pedestrian connections across the city. The road and sidewalk improvements not only enhance transportation but also boost economic vibrancy by connecting neighborhoods and supporting local businesses.

This year we also saw crime trends drop significantly. The continued decline is attributed to multiple factors, including the installation of a Flock video system by the Lakewood Police Department. These high-tech cameras scan license plates at major intersections, instantly identifying vehicles reported as stolen. In 2024 we saw vehicle theft decrease by an impressive 68% by the third quarter, compared to the same period in 2023. This marks a major achievement in **66** The result is the completion of eight projects that invested \$12.46 million in our community. **99**

the city's crime prevention efforts and reinforces Lakewood as a safe place to live and work.

We continued to prioritize community resilience with our commitment of American Rescue Plan Act monies to critical local programs. We awarded more than \$13 million to support housing stability initiatives, food security, and youth programming to address current needs and provide long-term benefits. Small businesses received targeted assistance, strengthening Lakewood's economic foundation, while money was committed to improvements at some of our parks to enhance recreation options and contribute to residents' quality of life.

Each of these accomplishments highlights the City Council's commitment to making Lakewood a safer, stronger and more vibrant community for all.

Continued public safety investments remain paramount in 2025.

Other initiatives for 2025 include continued focus on enhancing connectivity and safety on our roads, and increasing recreation opportunities through a range of initiatives. With a \$1 million federal RAISE grant, we will develop a plan that sets the path to explore building a multigenerational community center and park in our commercial downtown district.

We will continue road improvements, connecting neighborhoods and ensuring safer pedestrian routes citywide. We'll also see the completion of park capital projects, including major upgrades at Wards Lake and American Lake parks.

And we'll increase public access to our lakes with enhancements to Edgewater Park and the development of a street-end pilot project to transform overgrown public right-of-way into access to Lake Steilacoom.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Lakewood parks under construction

 \mathbf{F}

rom major improvements to replacing aging park signage, there's a lot going on in Lakewood

parks. Here's a list of just some of what's happening — or coming up.

· American Lake Park:

Construction is underway on this \$4.2 million project that will make significant upgrades to the 5-acre waterfront park. Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2025.

• Fort Steilacoom Park: There are multiple projects planned. They include:

• Nisqually Indian Tribe Partnership Project.

Construction is expected in 2025 with completion by fall 2025.

• ADA and overflow parking. Design is expected to begin in early 2025 with permitting to follow by second quarter 2025.

· Wards Lake Park

improvements: Construction is anticipated to occur early in 2025 and continue until fall 2025.

• Oakbrook Park improvements: A new park shelter and pedestrian perimeter pathway are expected to be installed by early spring 2025.

· Primely Park improvements:

Construction of the playground and ADA access are expected to be finished by spring 2025.





• Harry Todd Park pickleball courts: Construction will begin in 2025 and is expected to be complete by summer 2025.

• Harry Todd Park deferred maintenance grant improvements: Construction to begin in 2025 and is

expected to be complete by summer 2025.

• **Park sign replacement:** The city is replacing the aging signs at all its parks. Work will begin in 2025 and is expected to be completed by summer 2025.

• Electronic message board:

A new sign will be installed in

Construction began this fall on American Lake Park. Work includes improving access to the waterfront, replacing the retaining wall and bulkhead, and adding a new restroom and shelter.

2025 on Gravelly Lake Drive near the Colonial Plaza.

PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

• Planning for future downtown park(s) and multigenerational community center.

 Edgewater Park improvements.

• Fort Steilacoom Park H-Barn complex restoration and renovation.

• Lakewood Water District property development.

• Camp Murray boat launch improvements.

LPD Fallen Officer Food Drive and Blood Drive

This year's Fallen Officer Food Drive to benefit Emergency Food Network and blood drive to support Bloodworks NW is Dec. 5 from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Lakewood police station. The blood drive is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During this event, people are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to the parking lot across from the police station at 9401 Lakewood Drive SW. Drop items with volunteers who will be outside waving signs all day.

Can't make it Dec. 5? You can also drop off nonperishable food in EFN collection bins Dec. 2-9 at the following locations:

• Lakewood Police Department, 9401 Lakewood Drive SW

- · Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St. SW
- Blue Steele Coffee, 11401 Steele St. S.



 Classy Chassis Car Wash and Detail, 7432 Custer Road

· Lakewood Classic Coffee, 7609 Custer Road

• University Place Classic Coffee, 4828 Bridgeport Way W.

The blood drive is by appointment only at the station. Sign up online with sponsor code 4109: **Bit.ly/4hAtQXS**





STAY INFORMED WITH LAKEWOOD ALERT

Sign up to receive alerts and notifications 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

PLANNING & PUBLIC WORKS



Developing Lakewood's street ends

This shows an example of how Westlake Ave SW can be improved to increase public access to Lake Steilacoom and create an inviting community space.

In th Cit din cit for a p

In September the Lakewood City Council directed the city to move forward with a pilot project

to improve public access to Lake Steilacoom by developing a "street end" at Westlake Avenue SW.

This came after discussion and review of recommendations from the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The advisory board made its recommendation after reviewing a 2022 updated street end report and developing assessment criteria of the city's primary street end properties. Criteria included:

• Safety and security (considering natural site surveillance)

• Equity (based on area median income and neighborhood health data)

- · Other existing access to lakes
- Water quality of the lakes

• Linear feet of shoreline at each site

- Access to fishing (a highly requested activity)
- Will improvements provide a significant change of use?

The advisory board ultimately selected Westlake Avenue as the first site to develop. This street was chosen because it had no apparent encroachment issues with neighboring properties, there is good natural site surveillance, and the surrounding community currently uses the site. Also, there is less public access to Lake Steilacoom than other lakes in the city.

The advisory board also discussed the limited public access to Gravelly Lake. It determined a successful pilot project on Lake Steilacoom would demonstrate how a street end can be an asset to the city. By creating positive community use and support, public trust will be increased for future sites like Gravelly Lake.

Design and community engagement is expected to begin later in 2025 on the Westlake pilot project. The community will be invited to help develop the final design and be involved. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026.



Westlake Avenue SW is overgrown with vegetation, preventing direct public access to Lake Steilacoom.

This street was chosen because it had no apparent encroachment issues with neighboring properties, there is good natural site surveillance, and the surrounding community currently uses the site.

Can I clear a street end in Lakewood?

Not without permits. Most work in the city's rights-of-way require permit approval before anything can be done.

Why? Despite the good intentions of volunteers who want to help, there can be unintended consequences or impacts that the public is not aware of.

After a public right-of-way on 100th Street SW was cleared of vegetation this summer by volunteers, the city received inquiries about how to do this on other street ends.

Street ends are parcels that date back to before incorporation. They are where the road dead ends into a body of water.

The work to clear the vegetation at 100th Street was done without city approval or permits. The City had to respond to the cleared area at 100th Street and do additional work to address stormwater run-off and other impacts that were the result of the vegetation removal.

Because street ends abut the shoreline, there are often additional considerations that must be reviewed based on the city's critical areas ordinance and stormwater and shoreline master program regulations.

To learn more about doing work in the city's right-of-way, call the City of Lakewood at 253-589-2489 and request to speak with the person responsible for right-ofway permits.

PLANNING & PUBLIC WORKS

Construction Alert: Steilacoom Boulevard

n November the Lakewood City Council approved a contract with Active Construction

Inc. to complete road improvements to Steilacoom Boulevard SW between Weller Road SW and 87th Avenue SW.

The total project is estimated at about \$6 million. The city applied for and received more than \$5 million in grant funding for the construction portion of the project.

Improvements include adding curbs, sidewalk, aluminum street lighting and bike lanes to Steilacoom Boulevard. Storm drainage will be replaced, and new traffic signals will go in at 87th Avenue SW, Hipkins Road SW, Briggs Road SW and Weller Road SW. The pavement will be overlaid and the road restriped with durable markings.

Steilacoom Boulevard Road Improvement Project

Project Area: Weller Rd SW to 87th Ave SW Planned improvements include:

- Curbs
- Sidewalk



Oakbrook Swim Oand Tennis/Club

Hudtloff Middle School 😒

This winter construction will begin on Steilacoom Boulevard between Weller Road and 87th Ave SW. The road will remain open during construction but lanes will be reduced and drivers should expect traffic backups.

Construction is anticipated to start this winter. A construction schedule will be shared once it is finalized with the contractor.

During construction the road will remain open, but lanes

will be reduced. Drivers should expect backups, especially during morning and afternoon commute hours. Plan accordingly and use alternate routes where possible.



Changes to housing regulations take effect in January 2025 with a goal to increase missing "middle" housing across the state.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2025

Total anticipated investment in Lakewood roads, pedestrian access and infrastructure in 2025:

\$32.855 million

Steilacoom Boulevard

\$6 million*

South Tacoma Way: 88th Street to north city limits

\$4.2 million*

South Tacoma Way/92nd Street signal **\$750.000***

South Tacoma Way road overlay **\$750.000***

Rose Road sewer installation

\$1.87 million*

Custer Road

\$3.5 million*

Wadsworth/Silcox Boat sewer installation

\$2.25 million*

Grant/Orchard sewer installation **\$1.8 million***

112th Street: Gravelly Lake Boulevard to Bridgeport Way

\$3.76 million*

Nyanza Road **\$4.3 million****



112th Street and Idlewild Road

\$1 million**

Interlaaken Boulevard: Washington Boulevard to 112th Street

\$2 million**

2025 Chip Seal Program **\$350.000*****

2025 Pavement Patching Program **\$175,000*****

2023/24 Street Light Program **\$150,000*****

- * Total: \$24.88 million, with approximately 85% of funding from grants, or \$21 million.
- **Funded from Transportation Benefit District collections totaling \$7.3 million.

***Annual street maintenance totaling \$675,000.

New housing laws take effect in 2025

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, new housing regulations will take effect across Lakewood. These state-mandated regulations are aimed at increasing housing opportunities, including "middle" housing, which will help meet housing targets to provide more places for people to live in Lakewood. Under the new state regulations people can build up to two (or up to four if within ¼ mile of a "major transit stop") attached or detached accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on single-family lots. In some cases, they will be able to build duplexes, triplexes and up to sixplexes, small courtyard apartments and cottage housing on historically single-family lots.

These new regulations are the result of state law changes aimed at creating more affordable housing options across the state. To learn more about adding an ADU or developing your property, call the Planning and Public Works Department at 253-512-2261.

Holiday Parade of Lights & Tree Lighting, Dec. 7

City of Lakewood winter events

HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS & TREE LIGHTING

4:30 p.m. | Dec. 7

Lakewood City Hall

6000 Main St. SW

Kick off your holidays in Lakewood at our Holiday Parade of Lights and annual Tree Lighting. Line the parade route on Gravelly Lake Drive and Main Street to cheer on local businesses and your neighbors. Capture a selfie with Santa starting at 5 p.m. inside City Hall.





JINGLE BELL 1-MILE KID'S DASH & 5K RUN/WALK

9:30 a.m. | Dec. 14

Fort Steilacoom Park

8714 87th Ave. SW

This 5k walk/run and 1-mile kids fun run is great for families. Wear your best holiday-themed costume, bring your dog (on a leash), grab the stroller and head to Fort Steilacoom Park for holiday cheer. The kid's dash starts at 9:30 a.m., the 5K at 10 a.m. Register online: **Bit.Ly/ JingleBell24**

FALLEN OFFICER FOOD & BLOOD DRIVE

6 a.m.-5:30 p.m. | Dec. 5

Lakewood police station

9401 Lakewood Dr. SW

Drop off nonperishable food items, monetary donations or sign up to donate blood for this annual event held by the Lakewood Police Department to benefit Emergency Food Network and Bloodworks NW. The Blood Drive portion of the event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment.

LAKEWOOD WELLNESS PROGRAMMING WINTER CLASSES

The Pavilion at Fort Steilacoom Park

9107 Angle Lane SW

Sign up for the City of Lakewood recreational programming focused on well-being. Offerings range from various yoga options and tai chi to qigong and cardio drumming. Classes are for all ages and skill levels. Find a full class descriptions and register online: CityofLakewood.Us/ Recreation-Programs

MLK BELOVED COMMUNITY EVENTS

WELCOME WALK

12-3 p.m. | Jan. 11, 2025

Fort Steilacoom Park 8714 87th Ave. SW

Help us celebrate community and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at this event focused on fellowship, community building and supporting each other. Walk the 1-mile paved loop around Waughop Lake and learn about King's traits for a Beloved Community, enjoy food trucks, a DJ, dancing and more.

ARTIST RECEPTION: RODNEY KING

5-7 p.m. | Jan. 13, 2025

Lakewood City Hall

6000 Main St. SW

Visit Lakewood City Hall to meet artist Rodney King and see his art on display. Enjoy spoken word performances, live music and light refreshments. Learn more: **CityofLakewood.Us/MLK-Day**

> Fallen Officer Food & Blood Drive, Dec. 5



Connecting with neighbors through community meetings



Mayor Jason Whalen and members of the Lakewood City Council hosted a Desserts on the Driveway event in Tillicum this year to meet with neighbors.



akewood's Neighborhood Connections program is designed to foster community engagement and improve the quality of life in local neighborhoods. The program serves as a bridge between the city and residents, ensuring open communication and collaboration.

Key objectives of the Neighborhood Connections program include:

• Enhance community engagement: Encourage residents to actively participate in local government and community activities.

• **Support neighborhood associations:** Assist in forming and maintaining neighborhood associations to address local issues collaboratively.

• Information circulation: Keeping residents informed about city initiatives, resources, and developments.

• **Collaboration:** Building partnerships with community leaders, non-profits, schools, and businesses to tackle neighborhood challenges collectively.

Want to learn more or get involved? The Neighborhood Connections Leadership Group meets the third Wednesday of every month at Lakewood City Hall from 5-6:30 p.m.

Desserts on the Driveway

The City of Lakewood launched its "Desserts on the Driveway" community outreach initiative this fall. The program is designed to connect Lakewood City Council members and city officials with residents, offering a platform for voicing concerns, sharing ideas for solutions and gaining insights into city services. The initiative is organized in collaboration with neighborhood associations.

Four Desserts on the Driveway events were held in 2024, including in the Fort Steilacoom, Lake City, Tillicum/Woodbrook and Springbrook neighborhoods. Topics ranged from issues around public safety and traffic to youth and schools. Stay tuned for more dates in 2025.

ATTEND A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Fort Steilacoom Neighborhood Association

Dec. 4, 2024 6:30 p.m. The Pavilion at Fort Steilacoom Park, 9107 Angle Lane SW

Downtown Neighborhood Association

Dec. 11, 2024 5:30 – 7 p.m. Interim Lakewood Library, 10202 Gravelly Lake Drive SW

Springbrook Community Meetings

Dec. 19, 2024 4:30 p.m. Springbrook Connections, 5105 Solberg Drive SW Suite #A

Lake City Neighborhood Association

January 15, 2025 7-8:30 p.m. 8517 Washington Blvd. SW

If you are interested in learning more or hosting a Desserts on the Driveway event, contact Chris Davis, Neighborhood Connections Program Coordinator, cdavis@ cityoflakewood.us or 253-298-1877.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

INTERIM LAKEWOOD PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY NOW OPEN

Submitted by Pierce County Library System

In September, the Pierce County Library System welcomed people to the interim Lakewood Library. The community has responded very positively to the new 7,500-square-foot, full service library. Community members lined up for an hour, waiting for the doors to open to the public for the first time on Sept. 12. Those excited residents checked out more than 500 books, movies and other library materials on the first day.

The Lakewood Library is serving you seven days a week. The full service library is a center for learning and enjoyment for the Lakewood community at 10202 Gravelly Lake Drive SW.

There are classes and events for all ages and abilities, including story times, STEAM classes, a teen advisory council, book clubs, and computer and technology classes.

Lakewood Library staff looks forward to seeing you soon!

For more information visit: mypcls.org/lakewood-piercecounty-library/.

LAKEWOOD YOUTH COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Submitted by members of the City of Lakewood Youth Council to highlight the committee's work.

Members of the 2024-25 Lakewood Youth Council came together for the first time at the end of August for team building and goal setting.

During this kickoff event we:

• Talked about our plans and goals for the year.

• Spent quality time with Lakewood City Council members by working in teams to build a marshmallow tower with only a marshmallow, spaghetti noodles, string and tape.

• Got to know City Council members by guessing their answers to "would you rather" questions.

Our identified goals for the 2024-25 term include:

• Productivity within the group.

• Using our resources as well as branching out of our comfort zones.

• Advertising the Lakewood Youth Council through various events.

Through this year, we hope to plan various youth-centered events, including the Youth Summit and are excited for another great term!



Members of the Lakewood Youth Council work with City Councilmember Ryan Pearson to build a marshmallow tower.

LAKEWOOD 2024 DASHBOARD HIGHLIGHTS



TRANSPARENCY

\$671,273 in vendor sales generated by 2024 Lakewood Farmers Market. **\$18,392** SNAP dollars distributed to

Lakewood Farmers Market visitors.

40,000 estimated attendance at Lakewood SummerFEST 2024.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1,671 building permits issued.

129 land use permits issued.

\$199,118,986

private investment dollars created with city-assisted efforts.

DEPENDABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

581

MyLakewood311 requests received reporting illegal dumping or garbage with a 97% completion rate.

8

road and pedestrian improvement projects valued at \$12.46 million completed in 2024. Another successful season of Lakewood Farmers Market is in the books.

PUBLIC SAFETY

37,363 police calls for service through 3rd quarter 2024.

68%

decline in reported vehicle thefts compared to 3rd quarter 2023.

10,937 registered rental units.

1,281 rental units inspected by the City's Rental Housing Safety Program.

12 dangerous buildings demolished.

17

properties in the abatement process and 7 properties resolved by third quarter 2024.

BUSINESS SHOWCASE



Chris Judd, southern regional director for Sound Restaurant Family, who owns Burs Restaurant, poses with the Lakewood City Council after accepting the September 2024 Business Showcase award.

Burs Restaurant

For nearly 70 years, the welcoming staff at Burs Restaurant has served comfort food to Lakewood residents in the morning and provided a space to meet with friends after work at night. Ownership of the restaurant has changed twice since its founding in the 1950s, but the spirit of the restaurant and many of the staff have remained the same.

Chris Judd, southern regional director for Burs current owner, Sound Restaurant Family, said that's what makes him the proudest: The staff that keep the beloved restaurant running.

"You can't teach people to care about where they work," Judd said. "The people who live in this area and also work here care deeply about it."

On top of the longtime employees, Judd credited the restaurant's regulars with keeping the diner bustling for a generation. Every morning around 7 a.m. the restaurant is full of diners who have eaten breakfast at Burs for years. Now, a new generation of young Lakewood families is adopting the restaurant as their go-to, Judd said.

Burs is a Lakewood dining icon. It is part of Lakewood's history and heritage.

For its reputation of great food, its sense of community, its outstanding service and its years as an established



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.**

landmark in Lakewood, the Lakewood City Council awarded Burs Restaurant with the September 2024 Business Showcase.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



TRANSFORMING MATH IN CLOVER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Submitted by Clover Park School District

Clover Park School District (CPSD) is implementing innovative changes to strengthen students' foundational math skills and expand opportunities in secondary math.

CPSD adopted the Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) framework at the elementary level, allowing students to approach math in a way that makes sense to them. This method encourages critical thinking and deeper understanding.

In middle school, CPSD is introducing Building Thinking Classrooms, a strategy that encourages collaborative problem-solving. Students work in groups to tackle increasingly complex math challenges, enhancing their math comprehension and teamwork skills.

CPSD is accelerating the math curriculum so that middle school students can complete four years of math in three. Starting next year, all eighth graders will take Applied Algebra 1, preparing them for Algebra 2 in 10th grade. This track puts students on track for Calculus by 12th grade and offers opportunities for students to earn college credit or participate in the Running Start program.

CPSD started the middle school math curriculum acceleration in sixth grade which resulted in a threepoint percentage increase in the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) results from the previous year and a three-point percentile growth in student achievement. The district expects to continue this trend of steady growth as we accelerate more math courses each year.

SANTA IS COMING TO WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

Submitted by West Pierce Fire & Rescue

Don't miss the WPFR's Santa at the Station events in Lakewood and University Place. Head to West Pierce Fire & Rescue stations

for pictures with Santa on:

• Dec. 10 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Station 21, 5000 Steilacoom Blvd.

SW, Lakewood

• Dec. 12 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Station 31, 3631 Drexler Drive W, University Place

The station bays will be transformed into Santa's workshop, where parents can take their child's photo with Santa, write a letter to him (which he will personally respond to!) and donate to the food drive. Visit www. westpierce.org/santa for details.



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.