



Summer 2025

lakewood

connections

SUMMERFEST IS JULY 19

Head to Fort Steilacoom Park
for live music, food trucks,
market vendors, circus acts,
motorcycle stunts, a car show,
beer garden, International
Festival and more.

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neighborhood
connections
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life as pristine prairie
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Stop by Fort Steilacoom Park every Tuesday from 2-7 p.m. for the Lakewood Farmers Market, followed by our free concert series Summer Nights at the Pavilion.

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Jason Whalen
Mayor



Mary Moss
Deputy Mayor



Patti Belle
Councilmember



Paul Bocchi
Councilmember



Mike Brandstetter
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J. Trestin Lauricella
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HOW TO CONTACT YOUR CITY COUNCIL

Phone: 253-983-7705

Email: CityCouncil@CityOfLakewood.us

Online: CityOfLakewood.us/City-Council



Ryan Pearson
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HOW TO CONTACT THE CITY

CITY HALL

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LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

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Strengthening community through Neighborhood Associations



When neighbors come together — whether to discuss traffic safety, plan a block party or advocate for park improvements — they create more than a network; they build the foundation for meaningful civic engagement.

In Lakewood, Neighborhood Associations allow neighbors to strengthen these connections. They provide residents with a collective voice and a platform to shape the future of their neighborhoods. This grassroots approach to community building goes back to early cityhood and remains at the heart of the city's Neighborhood Connections Program.

The Lakewood City Council is proud to highlight the ongoing success and expansion of the program — a vital initiative that empowers residents to shape their neighborhoods and engage directly with city leadership.

Lakewood's Neighborhood Associations date back to early cityhood. They were created to align with the city's police patrol districts and offered a way for police and neighbors to connect.

Today there are six neighborhood associations in Lakewood. The two newest associations — Downtown and Fort Steilacoom — join long established associations like Lake City, Tillicum/Woodbrook, Springbrook and North Lakewood. Most of these groups meet regularly to discuss local issues, collaborate on solutions and strengthen community ties.

The City Council prioritized the growth and expansion of this

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ATTEND A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Downtown Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of every other month at 5:30 p.m. at the Interim Lakewood Library, 10202 Gravelly Lake Drive SW. Next meeting is Aug. 13.

Fort Steilacoom Neighborhood Association: Next meeting June 25. Typically meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at The Pavilion at Fort Steilacoom Park, 9107 Angle Lane SW. July and August meetings are TBD.

Lake City Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Lake City West Pierce Fire & Rescue station, 8517 Washington Blvd. SW. Next meeting is July 10.

Tillicum/Woodbrook Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Tillicum-American Lake Gardens Community Center, 14916 Washington Ave. SW, or Manic Meatballs, 14815 Union Ave. SW.

Springbrook Community Meetings: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at Springbrook Park, 12601 Addison St. SW.

North Lakewood Neighborhood Association: Not currently meeting.

WANT TO FORM A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION?

For those interested in starting a Neighborhood Association, here's a five-step guide:

- 1 Brainstorm:** Define the association's goals and scope.
- 2 Contact the Neighborhood Connections Program Coordinator:** Reach out to Chris Davis for support and coordination with city departments. You can email him at cdavis@cityoflakewood.us or call 253-298-1877.
- 3 Develop and Plan:** Establish meeting schedules, locations, and bylaws.
- 4 Implement:** Host the inaugural meeting and begin community engagement.
- 5 Continued Operation:** Maintain momentum through regular meetings and active participation.

Making a difference in Lakewood Towne Center

If you've visited the Lakewood Towne Center recently you may have seen one of the Lakewood Police Department's Neighborhood Patrol Officers out and about.

At the start of 2025 the department sent a dedicated team to patrol the Towne Center. The purpose was to deter crime, but also to support businesses and shoppers and help people feel safe.

"Their mission is to establish a consistent police presence," said Lakewood Police Chief Patrick D. Smith about the program. "By being there consistently, they give local

businesses an immediate point of contact, they help reduce crime and they develop long-term partnerships in the community."

Through the program, officers patrol the Towne Center on foot, bicycle or in their marked Lakewood police car. They stop into stores to talk with employees and have established relationships with retail store managers where many know them on a first-name basis.

"The officers assigned to this patrol have done an exceptional job making everyone feel comfortable and safe in the Lakewood Towne

“

We show a reduction in all areas of crime thanks to the incredible work of all of our officers.

— Lakewood Police Chief Patrick D. Smith

”

Center,” Smith said.

Already the program is seeing results.

"We show a reduction in all areas of crime thanks to the incredible work of all of our officers," Smith said. "This was simply one missing piece we needed to shore up in our enforcement measures."



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

1ST QUARTER SUMMARY

JAN - MAR COMPARE 2025 TO 2024

CALLS FOR SERVICE

↑ 12,382
+5% OR +587



ARRESTS

↑ 2,059
+233% OR +414



VIOLENT CRIME

↓ 1,642
-12% OR -50



TRAFFIC STOPS

↑ 5,001
+57% OR +685



PROPERTY CRIME

↓ 3,324
-15% OR -120



COLLISIONS REPORTABLE

↓ 1,067
-11% OR -28



Lakewood receives national recognition for financial reporting

The city was once again recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for financial excellence.

The national association awarded the city with its Triple Crown distinction. This means the city received the following recognitions:

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).
- Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award.
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2025-26 Biennial Budget.



Deputy City Manager Tho Kraus and City Manager John J. Caulfield

This is the 11th consecutive year that Lakewood has received national recognition for its financial reporting. These awards are the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and their attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a local government and its management.

"These prestigious accolades are a testament to the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our finance team led by Deputy City Manager Tho Kraus and are a positive reflection and unwavering commitment to transparency, accuracy, and excellence in our financial reporting by our finance team, city employees and City Council," said City Manager John J. Caulfield. "Receipt of these awards brings honor and recognition not just to our finance team, but also our entire organization and underscores the critical role they all play on our success."

Receipt of the ACFR award places the city in the top tier of cities across the country to receive such recognition. Less than 2% of cities nationally or statewide receive this award.

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program by establishing a Neighborhood Connections Coordinator position. Hired in 2023, program coordinator Chris Davis established a Neighborhood Connections Leadership Group.

The group is focused on growing neighborhood connections and helped with the establishment of the Downtown and Fort Steilacoom associations. The group meets monthly to identify key priorities for Lakewood residents and to help facilitate information sharing and



DESSERTS ON THE DRIVEWAY

Join Lakewood City Councilmembers for a refreshing evening of desserts, community and conversation.

Details, Page 15

conversation between residents and city officials.

One of the initiatives it started

in 2024 is the "Desserts on the Driveway" series. This is an opportunity for members of the Lakewood City Council to meet informally with residents in their neighborhood. These events provide a platform for community members to voice concerns, share ideas and learn about city services.

The Lakewood City Council is committed to fostering community engagement and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. We encourage everyone to participate in their local neighborhood association or consider starting one to make a positive impact on our city.

Where prairie meets the past: The story of Old Settlers Cemetery

Nestled below towering trees and pristine prairie plants, grave markers of varying heights dot the landscape of a 5-acre lot at the corner of Washington Boulevard and 83rd Avenue SW.

Though modest in size, this burial ground is among the oldest in Pierce County, its earliest interments reaching back to the 1850s. It stands as a rare physical connection to the area's early pioneers — families who arrived by wagon (some through Naches Pass) or by ship to make new lives in then-Washington Territory.

Known today as Old Settlers Cemetery, the site has held other names since its inception: Steilacoom Cemetery, Lake Cemetery and Gravelly Lake Cemetery. Old Settlers Cemetery is the name that stuck — and is most appropriate.

Among those buried are Civil War veterans and early territorial settlers. In 1887, The Tacoma Daily Ledger described burials taking place at Gravelly Lake, underscoring the cemetery's status even then as a site of community significance.

Purchased by Pierce County in 1881 for \$54, the county managed the site until 2023, when the City of Lakewood purchased it for \$1.



As its new owners, the city quickly learned the cemetery houses more than historic burial sites. It is home to a rare oak savannah prairie containing Garry oak trees and pristine, historic native plants.

For the last year and a half, a group of professors, landscape architects, botanists and master gardeners visited the site, meticulously surveying the different plants pushing up from the earth. With each visit they compiled information, created a species inventory, collected seeds, and mapped the property and vegetation.

This work led to the creation of a restoration plan, outlining how to establish a healthy ecosystem that promotes biodiversity and supports wildlife. It includes sustainable management practices to allow native plant species to thrive and establish deep root systems.

HELP US LEARN MORE

There is limited information about the 250 souls buried at Old Settlers Cemetery. The city has a list of names from still legible headstones, but not much else is known. If you have information or family history tied to someone buried at the cemetery, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at Parks@CityofLakewood.us or 253-983-7887.

Rather than mowing the grass or manicuring the grounds into a conventional cemetery landscape, the city is exploring a prairie-style stewardship plan where grass, wildflowers and native plants can grow freely. The approach reflects the original prairie character of the land as early settlers would have experienced.

The goal is to not forget the past but preserve it in the most genuine way possible, allowing native ecosystems to coexist with the human stories rooted there.

Old Settlers Cemetery is a reminder of the people who came before us. It remains rustic and reflective of the natural environment that has grown around it. Lakewood is embracing this new chapter in the cemetery's preservation story and invites the community to learn more about what is being done to preserve history and nature.

American Lake Park bathroom install: In April a crane was used to install the new restroom facilities at American Lake Park.



Getting American Lake Park ready for summer

If you haven't stopped by American Lake Park recently, you'll be surprised when you do. American Lake Park is one of the most popular waterfront spaces in Lakewood and after many years of use, the wear and tear was showing. We've improved the entry, made it easier for people to access the beach with an ADA accessible ramp and added a new restroom facility, picnic shelter and spinning playground equipment. Special efforts went into the design to save the many giant oak and fir trees. We removed and rebuilt the failing retaining walls and installed a grand staircase that provides quick access to the enhanced sandy beach.

Work continues and we hope to have the park open for visitors by mid-summer. Look for real-time updates on the city website (CityofLakewood.us) and the city's social media channels with an announced grand reopening date.

American Lake boat launch update: Due to low water and

failing planks, two of the three boat launches were closed in the winter of 2024 with the intent to perform emergency repairs so the launches could be back open in February 2025. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied the city's emergency permit application and directed the city to apply for a different permit. The new permit has since been approved, but due to high water levels, the work window closed when the necessary repairs could be made. The work is now slated for fall 2025. Improvements include:

- Rebuild all the base course material that has washed away over the years.
- Replace damaged/missing planks.
- Extend the ramp to support low water events.
- Add signage and markings along the docks to identify where the ramp ends.

Special mat materials will cover the rock at the end of the ramp to hold it in place and improve transitions for trailers.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LAKEWOOD PARKS

The city is working on updating its Legacy Plan, a strategic master plan that shapes the future of parks, recreation and open space in the city. Your input will go a long way to shape these Legacy Plan updates.

Why the update?

The Lakewood City Council adopted the current Legacy Plan in 2020. Periodic updates to the plan allows residents to participate in public engagement events to ensure the needs and desires of the community are reflected in future recreation programs, special events and park planning and development. The plan also needs to be updated to remain timely and competitive for grant funding.

Where can I find the current Legacy Plan?

The existing Legacy Plan can be found on the city's website at CityofLakewood.us/LegacyPlan. After a robust community engagement period, a draft of the 2026 Legacy Plan will be shared to the Legacy Plan webpage on the city website.

How can I get engaged in this process?

In the coming months we will host open houses, attend city special events to share information and offer presentations to local organizations and Neighborhood Associations. There will also be a public survey. These opportunities are a chance to share your vision for the future of parks and recreation in Lakewood. Be a part of our planning process. Your feedback is needed and greatly appreciated.

To find out about upcoming public engagement opportunities visit CityofLakewood.us/LegacyPlan and sign up to receive email alerts.

SummerFEST

SUMMERFEST

Saturday, July 19,
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Where: Fort Steilacoom
Park, 8714 87th Ave. SW

MAIN STAGE

11 a.m.:

M-Pianist, Steel
Drums

12:45 p.m.:

House Band of
Lakewood (Classic
rock)

2:30 p.m.:

Cherry, Cherry (Neil
Diamond tribute)

4:15 p.m.:

Nite Wave ('80s hits)

6:15 p.m.:

Spike & The Impalers
(Classic Rock)

8:15 p.m.:

Gimme Shelter
(The Rolling Stones
tribute)

EVENING EVENTS ARE NOT TO BE MISSED.

Stick around for the
grand finale to catch
the fire dancer show,
hot air balloon glow
and live music.

WENATCHEE YOUTH CIRCUS

- 12:15 p.m.
- 2 p.m.
- 3:45 p.m.
- 5:45 p.m.

AERIAL MOTOCROSS

- 1:15 p.m.
- 2:45 p.m.
- 4:30 p.m.
- 7 p.m.

TRAPEZE SHOW

- 1 p.m.
- 2:45 p.m.
- 4:30 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m.

THIS FREE FESTIVAL ON JULY 19 IS THE CITY'S LARGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!

The City of Lakewood's SummerFEST 2025 is the South Sound's not-to-be-missed summer celebration with something fun for everyone.

SummerFEST has it all: 38 food trucks, 100+ market vendors, beer garden, live music all day, pop-up skate park, skimboarding, aerial motocross shows, Bubble Soccer, International stage performances, kids activity zone and pony rides (for a fee). New this year: Seattle Ballooning will offer tethered hot air balloon rides between 2-7 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase on-site.

Walk through the car show, sit to watch circus acts by Wenatchee Youth Circus, stop by the Veterans Resource Village and don't forget to pick up your Passport from the City of Lakewood booth to earn prizes for participating in interactive sports and arts for all ages.

Make sure you stick around for the grand finale. Fire dancers will amaze you with their tricks at dusk. Head over to the large field by the main stage to watch choreographed hot air balloons burst with light and dance to music.

Find the full schedule of events, parking map, vendor list and more at
NEARcation.com/summerfest.



BOMBS AWAY CAR SHOW.

Stroll vintage, classic and custom cars at the Bombs Away Car Show. Cars will be displayed from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Awards will be announced toward the end of the show. Day-of registration is allowed.



INTERNATIONAL STAGE. Stop by the International Stage at the Pavilion, presented by the Lakewood Sister Cities Association. Enjoy performances from around the world throughout the day from 11 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.



BRICKS 4 KIDZ LEGO CONTEST.

Enter your builder in the Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO contest. Stop by the Bricks 4 Kidz booth to vote for your favorite build. Contest starts at 1:30 p.m. Winners announced at 3:15 p.m. Details and registration: bit.ly/SFLego2025



FOOD VENDORS. More than 38 food trucks and stands to choose from. You will find something sweet (or savory) for the whole family!

City roadwork: More than just a congestion nightmare



With longer days and better weather, nearly \$19

million in road construction projects will get underway this summer. These improvements go beyond just fixing roads. They're designed to enhance traffic flow, improve connections to schools and businesses, support safe travel for all users and replace aging infrastructure to improve impacts on the natural environment.

Most of Lakewood's roads were built in the 1950s and 60s, before incorporation. When rain water runs off the roads, it goes directly into lakes and streams without treatment. The city prioritizes improving its underground stormwater treatment with every major road project. By filtering

pollutants, we help improve water quality in local waterways.

Other environmental impacts considered include: reducing traffic congestion, which reduces vehicle emissions and improves air quality. Improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure encourages alternate transportation options.

The city also surveys trees located in public rights-of-way to carefully evaluate how to minimize tree removal within the available project budget. This aligns with a citywide goal to prioritize tree retention and increase tree canopy.

By balancing multiple needs, these efforts help create a cleaner, healthier environment for all Lakewood residents.

PROJECTS KICKING OFF THIS SUMMER

Total anticipated investment in Lakewood roads, pedestrian access and infrastructure in 2025: \$32.855 million. The below projects are set to begin this summer:

- **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 St. 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)**

*Funded with \$7.3 million in Transportation Benefit District collections.

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

ADUs in Lakewood

In the coming months, the Lakewood City Council will consider proposed amendments to the city's development regulations related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

The reason is to respond to updated state legislation that

provides greater allowances for ADUs in all zones.

ADUs are an increasingly important tool to address Lakewood's housing needs. By allowing homeowners the option to build ADUs, the city can boost housing supply without dramatically changing the character of existing neighborhoods.

Additionally, ADUs provide economic benefits offering rental income opportunities for homeowners and they promote multigenerational living options for families.

Where can I learn more? To find out more about ADU options and rules, email Permits@cityoflakewood.us or call 253-512-2261.

Encouraging private residential development through MFTEs

In 2024 the city began an assessment of its Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program, including a review of corresponding Residential Target Areas (RTA) in the city. A year later the City Council began review of proposed amendments to update city code around the MFTE program and the RTA boundaries. The amendments are intended to improve clarity, increase participation and improve effectiveness.

MFTE, WHAT IS IT?

The Multifamily Tax Exemption, or MFTE, is an economic incentive tool designed to encourage the development and renovation of multi-family housing in Residential Target Areas (RTAs). The target areas are residential and commercial areas within the city designed to handle an increase in residential development.

Currently the city's RTAs are in the Central Business District, Lakewood Station and Springbrook.

WHY DOES THE CITY OFFER AN MFTE PROGRAM?

By offering property tax exemptions on residential improvements for a limited period, the program provides opportunities for development that aims to increase affordable housing, stimulate economic growth and support urban revitalization.

Without this exemption, these housing projects might otherwise not be built.

Giving tax relief at the start of the project allows the projects to become financially feasible for the developer. These projects contribute to long-term growth in property values and local tax revenue.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR MFTE?

The MFTE is only available for projects that meet specific criteria and reporting requirements set by the state. Developers still pay property taxes on the land and commercial parts of the building during the exemption period, ensuring continued funding for public services.

WHAT ABOUT THE TAXES?

Once the deferred tax period ends, the developer is required to pay the taxes on the residential structures, resulting in increased revenue sometimes by as much as 200% in the first year.

This revenue increase further supports public services like law and justice programs and parks.

MFTE is not a permanent exemption, and it does not change land uses or zoning for a property. It's a voluntary program that supports redevelopment in areas designated for growth, helping meet local and regional housing goals.

STREAMLINING PUBLIC EXPERIENCE IN PLANNING & PUBLIC WORKS

Expanded front counter and digital services

Planning and Public Works (PPW) reopened our front counter to the public at the start of 2025. We are seeing a consistent stream of residents utilizing our services during public hours. To increase accessibility, we've also implemented online virtual meetings for those unable to visit City Hall during the day. We redeveloped the PPW website to be more user-friendly and intuitive, making it easier for people to find information. Updated brochures are now available online and at the front counter to improve transparency and help people clearly understand submittal requirements for various permit types. Have a question? Drop by Lakewood City Hall Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. to speak to one of our permit technicians or the planner of the day. On the go? You can book your appointment online with this link: [Bit.ly/LakewoodPPW](https://bit.ly/LakewoodPPW)

Permit system modernization

Our new permitting system — Camino — will be online soon. With its TurboTax-style interface, it will streamline the permit submittal process. Our goal is improved transparency and user experience. Internally we are integrating artificial intelligence tools to reduce processing times, while maintaining quality. This is part of a broader strategy to increase predictability in permit delivery, decrease processing times and reduce frustration.

Unified code enforcement process

To strengthen compliance and transparency, PPW implemented a unified code enforcement process that spans multiple titles within the Lakewood Municipal Code (LMC). This initiative provides both staff and residents with a clear, consistent framework for addressing code compliance issues. By aligning procedures across code sections, we're ensuring a more predictable, accountable, and equitable enforcement process for the entire community.

Economic snapshot: Lakewood at a glance

Recently Lakewood Economic Development Manager Becky Newton and Planning and Public Works Assistant Director Angie Sliva attended a global trade association annual conference to promote Lakewood as a place to do business.

The Lakewood City Council prioritizes economic development and continues to push for a business climate that ensures local enterprises have the support and resources they need to compete.

One way Lakewood does this is through its Economic Development division. Staff meet regularly with local businesses individually to answer questions, connect people to resources and help with retention and expansion. They are also connected to regional economic development boards and leaders to make sure Lakewood is part of the larger conversation of diversifying the area’s economy.

Lakewood’s retail vacancies remain low at approximately 1.5%, compared to the Seattle market at 3.2% (source: CoStar Q1 2025).

Retail Total Square Footage: 4.2 million
Leased Square Footage: 4.137 million
Vacancy rate (Q1 2025): 1.5%

A contributing factor: The city benefits from a balanced community where most of the goods and services needed by the surrounding community are available within the city. More people come into Lakewood for services, experiences, shopping and dining than those that leave the city to find these amenities.

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES LOCATED IN LAKEWOOD BY TYPE

Business Type	Q1 2025
Agriculture	6
Utilities	5
Construction	337
Manufacturing	61
Wholesale trade	55
Retail Trade	479
Transportation and Warehousing	88
Information	29
Finance and Insurance	97
Real Estate	134
Professional, Scientific and Technical	232
Management of Companies	10
Admin, Waste Management	170
Education	49
Health and Social Services	401
Arts and Entertainment	67
Accommodations and Food Services	220
Other (not public)	348
Public Administration	1
TOTALS	2,789

Lakewood has recovered nicely from the pandemic and saw an increase of roughly 1,000 jobs from the third quarter of 2019 to the third quarter of 2024.

JOB GROWTH IN LAKEWOOD

Industry	Q3 2019	Q4 2024
Total — All Industries	31,718	32,703



BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Juanita Lanier

The Lakewood City Council awarded the February 2025 Business Showcase to Juanita Lanier, an insurance agent with State Farm. After growing up in Lakewood and attending high school here, Lanier returned to start her business in the city. Now, Lanier and her team give back to the community by providing the best customer service possible, along with volunteering and providing scholarships to local students. She was recognized by the City Council as the February Business Showcase for her commitment to giving back to the community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM PREPARES CPSD STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

Guest article by Clover Park School District

Clover Park School District (CPSD) has partnered with Clover Park Technical College (CPTC) to create significant pathways for student success through the 2025 Summer Intensive Program.



An enthusiastic kickoff at CPTC welcomed more than 60 interested 10th and 11th graders eager to explore certificate programs in high-demand fields like nursing, mechatronics, environmental science and construction technologies.

This summer program provides high school students with the opportunity to take dual-credit college courses as part of the Running Start Program. CPTC offers hands-on career training alongside general education, providing access to college resources and a head start toward careers with minimal cost. These efforts are also supported by industry partners who recognize the value of this program in developing a skilled workforce.

The intensive summer experience enables students to earn college credits and industry-recognized certifications while developing crucial skills and gaining invaluable exposure to potential career paths. This partnership showcases the ongoing commitment of CPSD and CPTC to empowering young individuals with relevant

education and real-world experience to graduate future ready.

SUMMER SAFETY FROM WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

Guest article by West Pierce Fire & Rescue

Summer is in full swing, and West Pierce Fire & Rescue encourages families to enjoy the season safely!

To prep for warmer weather and increased water activity, our crews and divers have been training hard — conducting boat drills, practicing rescue swimming in pools, lakes and saltwater, and participating in a regional water rescue exercise on American Lake.



Our firefighters are ready, but are you?

Whether it's a trip to the pool or a day at the lake: Always have a safety plan. Never leave children unattended near water, wear life jackets, know the water conditions and avoid alcohol while swimming or boating.

Want to elevate your safety skills even further? Sign up for our **CPR, First Aid & AED class on Aug. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** This hands-on training covers CPR for adults, children and infants, airway management, choking response, bleeding control, burns, poison emergencies and more.

The class is \$70 per student.

If you can't make that specific date, there are many other scheduled CPR classes throughout the year.

Get ready to make a difference! Visit the West Pierce Fire & Rescue website for details and registration.

ENJOY A SUMMER OF STORIES AT THE PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Guest article by Pierce County Library System

Fill your summer with stories from the Pierce County Library System's Summer Reading

Program now through Aug. 31. Join reading challenges with activities, events, prizes and more. This fun, free program celebrates how people engage with stories through both reading and shared experiences.

Reading helps kids retain what they've learned during the school year and prepares them to achieve in the coming school year. The Pierce County Library's Summer Reading Program challenges students of all ages to read every day and earn prizes such as books they can keep, thanks to the Pierce County Library Foundation.

Research shows that kids are more likely to develop reading skills and build a love of reading for enjoyment when they get to choose their own books. Seeing other family members engage in reading or sharing stories also encourages kids to read and stay on their learning track when they return to school in the fall.

The Summer Reading Program also offers events for the whole family. Visit the interim Lakewood Pierce County Library and start your summer of stories today.



City of Lakewood events

Lakewood Farmers Market, Tuesdays through Aug. 26

LAKEWOOD FARMERS MARKET

2-7 p.m. | June 3 – Aug. 26 (except July 15 & 22)

Fort Steilacoom Park

Head to Fort Steilacoom Park for fresh cut flowers, fresh produce, local vendors, food trucks, live entertainment, giveaways and family fun. The market runs every Tuesday. CityofLakewood.Us/FarmersMarket

SUMMER NIGHTS AT THE PAVILION

6:30-8 p.m. | Tuesdays, June 17 – Aug. 19 (except July 15 & 22)

Pavilion at Fort Steilacoom Park

Visit the Lakewood Farmers Market for dinner, set up a lawn chair or picnic blanket

on the grass in front of the Pavilion and enjoy the show. This year's music line up is:

- June 17: Rebel Canyon (country)
- June 24: Baking with Julia (classic rock)

- July 1: Groove Nation (Top 40 hits)
- July 8: Candy Shoppe (variety)
- July 29: Radio 80's (80s)
- Aug. 5: House Band of Lakewood (classic rock)
- Aug. 12: Fastlane (Eagles tribute)
- Aug. 19: Wally & The Beavs (50s & 60s)

SUMMERFEST

11 a.m.-10 p.m. | July 19

Fort Steilacoom Park

Join us for this FREE outdoor festival that includes live entertainment, an international festival, food trucks, a car show, kids' activities, hot air balloon glow at night and more. Full event lineup: NEARcation.com/SummerFEST

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Aug. 5

Lakewood

Join your neighbors in this national celebration. Each August the Lakewood Police Department and Lakewood City Council visit neighborhood barbecues, potlucks and gatherings to strengthen relationships.

Summer Nights at the Pavilion, starts Tuesday, June 17





**Fiesta de la Familia,
Sept. 6**

FIESTA DE LA FAMILIA

12-6 p.m. | Sept. 6

Fort Steilacoom Park

Join us for an afternoon of culture and celebration with dancing, live music, community performances, food trucks, local vendors, art show competition, car show, children's parade, interactive activities and family fun.

FALL ARTIST RECEPTION: DIANE AOKI

5-7 p.m. | Sept. 15

Lakewood City Hall

View the works of artist Diane Aoki on display at Lakewood City Hall for the city's fall art exhibition. Stop by for refreshments, a chance to meet the artist and an evening of community.

SIGN UP FOR LAKEWOOD'S CAMP CREATE

Spots are still available for Lakewood's Camp Create summer camp! Camp is held at Park Lodge Elementary School and includes fun activities like arts and crafts, sports, field games, science experiments, team activities, field trips and more. Register your child today!

Camp hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CAMP CREATE DATES

- Week 1: June 23-27
- Week 2: July 7-11
- Week 3: July 14-18
- Week 4: July 21- 25
- Week 5: July 28- Aug. 1
- Week 6: Aug. 4- 8
- Week 7: Aug. 11-19

Lakewood also partners with community organizations like Bricks 4 Kidz, SkyHawks and others to offer summer youth programming in the city. Find more details online: [CityofLakewood.us/YouthPrograms](https://www.cityoflakewood.us/youthprograms).



DESSERTS ON THE DRIVEWAY

Join Lakewood City Councilmembers for a refreshing evening of desserts, community and conversation. Desserts on the Driveway is held in cooperation with the city's Neighborhood Associations to connect residents with City Council members and city staff to ask questions and engage in an informal setting. All are welcome.

• Tillicum/Woodbrook neighborhood

Tuesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m.
Tillicum-Woodbrook Community Center, 14916 Washington Ave. SW

• Dower Elementary Area

Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.
LASA, 8956 Gravelly Lake Drive SW

• Springbrook

Thursday, July 17, 6 p.m.
Springbrook Park, 12601 Addison St. SW

• Oakbrook

Tuesday, July 29, 6 p.m.
Oakbrook Elementary School, 7802 83rd Ave. SW

• Downtown

Wednesday, Aug. 13, 5:30 p.m.
Interim Lakewood Library, 10202 Gravelly Lake Drive SW

• Clover Creek

Thursday, Aug. 21, 6 p.m.
Tyee Park Elementary School, 11920

Seminole Road SW

• Fort Steilacoom

Thursday, Aug. 28, 6 p.m.
Pavilion at Fort Steilacoom Park, 9107 Angle Lane SW

• Lake City

Thursday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.
Former elementary school site, 8800 121st St. SW

Congratulations Lakewood seniors!

Fourteen members of the Lakewood Youth Council were seniors this year. Some have served on the Youth Council all four years of high school. Congratulations seniors and good luck after graduation.

- Alexandra Corona Hernandez will attend University of Washington in Seattle to pursue a degree in public health and a minor in leadership.
- Chase Washington will attend Harvard University on a full ride academic scholarship.
- Ruffaro Guzha will attend a TBD university with a career goal of working in public health and law.
- Violet Johnson
- Lui Owejan
- Gabriel Flores will attend University of Washington in Seattle to double major in international studies and

psychology with minors in an ROTC program and Russia, East Europe and Central Asia studies with a goal to become a CIA case officer.

- Kasia King will attend the University of Washington to study biology and pursue a career as an endocrinologist.
- Nathan Lewis
- Lesli Rosales will attend University of Washington in Seattle to major in biology with the intent to pursue dental school to become a pediatric dentist.
- Sophia Lana Castro will attend Pacific Lutheran University to study global studies and political science.
- Sotiria Sexton
- Salvador Cortes
- Jaqueline Gonzales-Mejia will attend Stanford University to study mathematics.
- Nevaeh Tutt



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.