

Looking@Lakewood

COMMUNITY

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
Resources in Jefferson County

It's okay to ask for help.

www.jeffco.us/community

FOOD

EMPLOYMENT

SUPPORT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY JEFFCO COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Find the help you need

Paying rent, keeping food on the table, finding a job, getting child care or seeking mental health support can feel overwhelming. You or your family might not have needed support before, but times have changed. It's okay to ask for help.

Jefferson County's CommUNITY campaign is focused on this important message so that all those in need in the county can connect with organizations providing help during these difficult times. Visit Jeffco.us/community or Jeffco.us/comunidad to quickly find resources and assistance available throughout the county in English and Spanish.

Sometimes we just need to know where to start, so share CommUNITY services with those who might not know these services exist whether they are looking for help to pay utilities, caring for aging adults, needing housing or many other issues. CommUNITY also encourages neighbors to safely check on each other and provides a way to link residents to volunteer opportunities with numerous community organizations.

VACCINATIONS

The best resource for learning about when and how you can access a COVID-19 vaccine is through the public health agencies or health care providers. The city's role is to direct residents to the agencies managing the distribution of the vaccines, so please check these resources:

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment vaccine information: COVID19.Colorado.gov/vaccine or 1-877-462-2911, which is a toll-free hotline with updated public health information.
 - Jefferson County Public Health: Jeffco.us/covid-vaccine where you can sign up to receive alerts on updates and information.
- As the rollout of the vaccinations proceeds, it's important to continue to wear masks, wash your hands, watch your distance and follow other health guidelines throughout the process.

IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS

Mile High United Way 2-1-1 Colorado is available as a confidential and multilingual service connecting people to vital resources at 211colorado.org. You can call, text, live chat or search the 2-1-1 database to get help. Just dial 2-1-1 to reach the help center or text your zip code to 898-211 (message and data rates apply).

ColoradoCrisisServices.org is available 24 hours a day at 1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255. Residents can also rely on the Jefferson Center at JCMH.org or 303-425-0300.

TESTING


Visit Jeffco.us/testing for community testing sites.

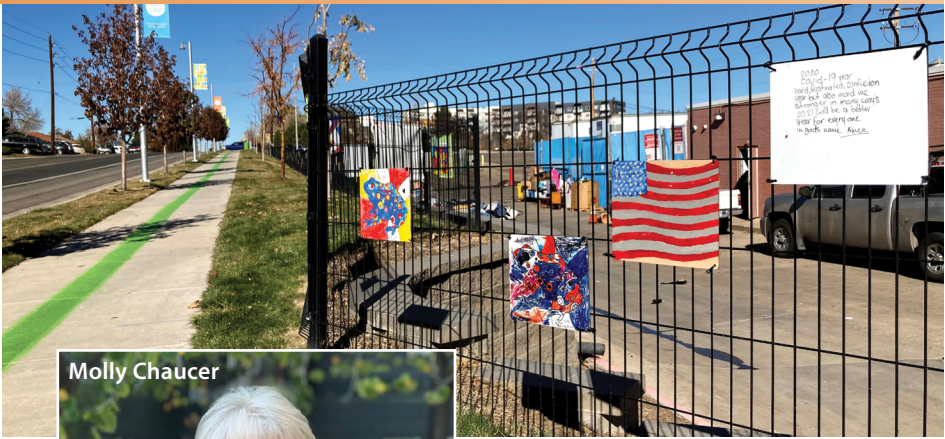
STATE DIAL FRAMEWORK

Find where Lakewood and Jefferson County are on the state's dial framework, which dictates openings, capacities and protocols at COVID19.Colorado.gov or Jeffco.us/4047/dial-status.

LAKEWOOD RESOURCES

Lakewood residents age 60 and older can call 303-987-4833 to request meal delivery from the Clements Community Center via Lakewood Rides, in partnership with Volunteers of America. Deliveries are made within Lakewood city limits to individual homes and to senior housing communities. A \$2.50 contribution is suggested, but not required.

Visit Lakewood.org/COVIDResourceCenter for current information about city services, hours and more. 



Molly Chaucer



Art kits help lead the way through the pandemic

Paint-by-number kits might be a humble way to create art, yet during the pandemic they became a lifeline to a sense of connection and unity for the seniors living at the Residences at Creekside and Creekside West in Lakewood.

As part of a 40 West ArtLine project, dozens of residents contributed by painting artwork, and in many cases, writing messages on the back of the artwork to share their personal stories of living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, that artwork has expanded the offerings along the ArtLine, the free four-mile walking and biking arts trail through Lakewood's state-certified 40 West Arts Creative District and historic neighborhoods along West Colfax Avenue and the W Line light rail.

Reflecting the ArtLine's tagline #ExploreArtOutside, the finished artwork is on display at 1590 Pierce St. in a temporary community fence art installation titled "Creativity in COVID Time."

"At first, I did not want to participate, but now I think of how much people cared enough to involve us and the feeling of unity I feel when I see the art installation. I loved it," said Molly Chaucer, a resident at the Residences at Creekside.

The art project has encouraged the seniors to feel more ownership of the space and to enjoy and engage with the ArtLine rather than just passing by as they travel to and from their homes.

"It was a lot of fun, and it is a complete lift every time I pass by and see our artwork," said Joey St. Michelle, who also lives at the Residences at Creekside.

This innovative art kit project was designed to bring relief to those living along the ArtLine during the pandemic by easing social isolation among older residents and offering free art activities to families and youth at the Lamar Station Crossing apartments. Residents from Granville Assisted Living Center and other 40 West community members also participated in the project, helping connect all of them to a larger community.

A national grant that the city received from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) funded the project, which also helped support local artists and beautify public spaces. Lakewood was only one of 184 organizations to receive the AARP grant from among the 2,000 organizations across the country competing for them.

"The recent art project not only provided the residents with something to engage their artistic abilities, it was displayed in close enough proximity that allowed them the ability to get out of their apartments to walk to see the finished project," said Jennifer Brewer, manager of the Residences at Creekside. Creekside, Creekside West and Lamar Station Crossing are affordable housing communities owned by Metro West Housing Solutions, which supported the effort by connecting the residents to the project.

Local 40 West artists Sean Doherty and Padraig Doherty produced the art installation on Pierce as the project's key element. They also

See **ART KITS** page 7

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LONGMONT CO
PERMIT NO. 16

POSTAL PATRON

Letter from the Mayor



Out with 2020 and in with 2021

Webster’s Dictionary defines 20/20 as “meeting a standard of normal vision.” Many use this ophthalmology term when describing perfect vision, and of course it’s often used in the saying, “Hindsight is 20/20.” It goes without saying that the year 2020 was certainly not normal or perfect and will be looked back on with plenty of hindsight! What a year, and we are certainly glad that it is over. However, it is important to reflect on 2020 and take the time to refocus all the negatives into positives for the future of our city, country and world.

2020 gave us profound insight into the past, and it forced us to confront things that aren’t easy to see or talk about. It exposed in great detail the cracks and failures in our systems. It pushed us to recognize, examine and seek to change root causes related to racism, violence, hunger, inequality and toxic political partisanship. In hindsight, the pains of yesterday will be the great gains of tomorrow, if we so choose.

It might seem odd that one would even want to revisit the past year, a year that many generations have never seen. We have been fighting a global pandemic, witnessing thousands of people die, watching businesses shuttered, and seeing hungry families, social upheavals, political unrest, increased suffering, and overwhelming uncertainty and a fear of what’s to come. You might say, “Please stop, don’t remind me!” I do so because without the bad we can’t celebrate the good. We have a lot to celebrate, and it starts with the love and kindness seen throughout this great city. You came together to help those in need and to support one another with an abundant spirit of caring. You spoke up for the oppressed, and you took the time to reflect and examine, “How can I make the future better?” Well done!

With the new year we have a lot to look forward to in 2021. We

certainly have a rough road ahead; however, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Vaccinations are arriving, and businesses are starting to reopen. Even with this progress, it is crucial now more than ever that we continue to take the necessary precautions to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe. Please use good judgment because we are not out of the woods. Mask up, wash your hands, interact wisely with your neighbors. Until more progress is made, we are still at risk of having to close back down. Let’s continue to work hard to move forward and not slip backwards because we simply can’t afford to close back down. Be safe, be smart, be the cure.

The goals laid out by City Council in 2020 were put on hold as we focused solely on COVID-19 response and relief. The 2021 Planning session will occur virtually on Saturday, Jan. 30, and you are welcome to attend, so visit [Lakewood.org](https://lakewood.org) for the details. Now is the time to reach out to City Council members to share your thoughts. The goals in 2020 focused on economic development, municipal funding, homelessness, affordable housing, sustainability and sidewalk infrastructure. I believe these are all still very relevant, and we will discuss them and others brought forth by council members at the planning session.

In closing I would like to thank the city staff members for their hard work and sacrifice in 2020. This dedicated team works day in and day out to provide the highest level of service to our residents. They too have faced great stress and adversity. While faced with significant budget cuts, they have continued to perform at the highest levels by finding ways to do more with less. I’m very proud of them. I’m proud of you, and I am excited for the future. Remember we are all in this together, so let’s stay focused on the future and continue to learn from our past.

Adam Paul
303-987-7040
apaul@lakewood.org
We are building an inclusive community!

Council Corner

Ward 2



Sharon Vincent

Moving forward from year of fortitude and sacrifice

Happy New Year! The past year was a very difficult one. The new year brings new opportunities and a moment for self-reflection for us all. Last year city staff and city leadership worked hard to keep the city running. Our first responders, police, fire district, and medical professionals all showed an incredible amount of fortitude and perseverance. We thank them for all of their sacrifices.



Jacob LaBure

We also want to thank you, our residents. All of you endured many sacrifices and challenges. As a City Council, we have worked to ensure that you were supported along the way. The council directed staff to work to distribute important notices regarding COVID-19. Council also approved the distribution of federal relief dollars to support our nonprofits addressing COVID-19 issues related to homelessness, food insecurity and mental health. Lakewood Economic Development worked with our business community to distribute over \$3 million in grants (see page 3).

While the first half of the year was focused heavily on dealing with

the pandemic and the economic fallout, the second half of the year involved the council’s Development Dialogue Ad Hoc Committee starting back up and refocusing on tackling many of the issues that you have expressed concerns about including metro districts, new development guidelines and vacation rentals.

The city and Ward 2 are particularly proud of a vote at the Denver Regional Council of Governments where Council member LaBure represents Lakewood. The city was awarded a \$10 million grant to address pedestrian and traffic issues along West Colfax Avenue between Sheridan and Wadsworth boulevards. Data showed that this corridor is the most dangerous one in Lakewood when it comes to traffic and pedestrian safety. The city will be launching a community engagement process to ask residents, businesses and community members about what should be done along this corridor to improve safety in ways that will also make the street a more welcoming, attractive area for everyone.

This is just a short list of some of what we dealt with in 2020. We also want to take this time to encourage you to tell us what your priorities are for 2021. The City Council will meet

Jan. 30 to go over our plans for this year. Together, we look forward to a brighter year ahead. Thank you for the opportunity to represent and serve you. We wish you and your families the best for this new year!

Sharon Vincent
720-979-1449
svincent@lakewood.org

Jacob LaBure
720-628-9161
jlature@lakewood.org



Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

City Manager Kathy Hodgson
Looking@Lakewood is a newsletter published by the City of Lakewood, 480 S. Allison Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80226.
It is distributed to all households and businesses in the city. Alternative formats of this publication are available upon request.
Editor Stacie Oulton, 303-987-7050
Designer Paul Koob
[Lakewood.org](https://lakewood.org)

LAKEWOOD BUSINESS GRANTS

In 2020, Lakewood's Economic Development Office facilitated hundreds of local business grants funded through federal CARES Act dollars.

3

Rounds
of Grants

377

Lakewood
Businesses
Awarded
Grants

\$3.3M

Added to
the Lakewood
Economy

Lakewood Economic Development supports businesses through challenging times

The Lakewood Economic Development Office played an integral role in the city's response to the pandemic by working with businesses across the city in numerous ways to help them weather the economic impacts and to assist in sustaining Lakewood's local economy. The office's most significant role came in developing and managing the Business Relief and Recovery Grant Program, providing much needed financial assistance to companies in Lakewood. This grant program awarded assistance to 377 businesses through three rounds of grants and added \$3.3 million to Lakewood's economy. The first two rounds consisted of awards given to local businesses with 25 or fewer employees, with awards totaling \$2,820,000. Round 3 supported Lakewood's medium-sized businesses with 25 to 100 employees, or Lakewood property owners who experienced a loss, with the total amount awarded of \$464,000.

We distributed information about the grants through a variety of resources including our partners and regional sources. We posted on our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and promoted the program in our weekly e-newsletter (you can sign up to receive this e-newsletter at [Lakewood.org/newsletters](https://lakewood.org/newsletters)). Major news sites and newspapers also covered the program, and we sent an email to all businesses that had

email addresses tied to their active Lakewood business licenses. We also ensured that grant materials and applications were available in English and Spanish.

The grant program received nearly 550 applications. Some of the most common reasons an application did not receive a grant included the following:

- Employee counts not met.
- Closure of business.
- Delinquent on city sales tax as of March 1, 2020.
- Insufficient proof of operational loss and receipts.
- Lack of Lakewood business license.
- Insufficient points scored on the rubric used to evaluate numerous factors.
- Awarded a grant in a previous round.
- Property owner did not upload proof of ownership.

The recovery program was funded by federal relief dollars through the CARES Act, and no city or economic development funds were used. A wide variety of Lakewood businesses received grants including restaurants, stores, health care businesses, hospitality/hotels companies and other service providers.

The ways that awardees spent their grant money varied. Some updated online ordering or payment systems. Others paid rent, utilities and staff. Many businesses used the

funding to continue to operate and to buy essential products for their businesses such as inventory. They also used this as an opportunity to set up their businesses for the future, upgrading infrastructure, heating and cooling equipment, online systems and more. We saw businesses use the forced downtime to cross train employees to build workforce capacity, update company policies and handbooks and fine tune their business plan. The requirement of the grant was that the funds had to be used for continued business operating expenses, which allowed companies to direct the funds to a variety of uses.

Throughout the pandemic and grant process, we have interacted with thousands of Lakewood's businesses. We have listened to their struggles, helped them connect with resources and provided financial and other solutions to allow them to adapt and continue business operations. As part of the grant application, we asked businesses to explain the hardship that the pandemic had caused them, and their insights and comments were inspiring.

"As a restaurant, we saw a drastic reduction in sales when the 'Stay at home' order was issued. Despite the downturn, we worked hard to keep our business open and current employees employed through this challenging time. However, continuing concerns about COVID keeps people from

eating out so our business has not recovered to pre-COVID levels, and we don't know when (if) it will," one restaurant wrote.

We also saw creativity and resilience, with businesses executing different pivots and adaptations to adjust to the fluid economy and regulations. The city worked across departments to create a Temporary Outdoor Expansion program to allow businesses to expand outside and accommodate additional customers safely. This temporary change has allowed businesses to continue to serve our community while following all state, county and local guidelines for capacity and social distancing. Many of our businesses also changed aspects of their operating models to adapt to customers' needs and safety requirements. Changes included moving to online sales and distribution, curbside service or delivery, virtual functions and more. We are proud of our businesses and how they have modified their operations and continue to be flexible in this pandemic environment.

"Our business was forced to shut down our main source of revenue and spend a substantial amount of money to pivot to creating hand sanitizer as well as purchasing equipment to sell to-go cocktails. While we were able to pivot to other products and stay open, a fair amount of investment was required to do so," one business explained.

As a team, we are grateful that we were able to give these businesses aid and offer support anyway we could. We continue to work with our businesses to help them understand guidelines, adapt as needed and know about tools and resources as they become available. We have also diligently promoted our local businesses along with ways that community members can continue to support them.

We will continue to work with Lakewood businesses on creating solutions for moving forward, promoting them and supporting them. We are getting through this pandemic together and will continue working together even once the pandemic ends. Please visit [Lakewood.org/ResourcesForBiz](https://lakewood.org/ResourcesForBiz) for a wide array of available resources and [Lakewood.org/BizRecovery](https://lakewood.org/BizRecovery) to view a full list of the grant recipients. For Lakewood Local restaurants, retailers and businesses, please visit [Lakewood.org/SupportLocalBiz](https://lakewood.org/SupportLocalBiz) to put yourself on our map to be promoted to your community. Thank you to all our Lakewood businesses for doing business with us, and thank you to our community for supporting our businesses. 📍

**Lakewood Economic
Development Team**
303-987-7730
ED@lakewood.org



QUIZ: Find out how much you know about the city’s snow plan

Having the streets plowed in the winter is one of the most important services the city provides, so take this quiz to see how much you know about the plan.

- 1) How many snowplows does the city have?
- 2) How much money per resident does the city typically spend on snowplowing annually?
- 3) Which streets does the city plow first?
- 4) Name two of the nine major thoroughfares in Lakewood that the city is not responsible for plowing.
- 5) How much does it cost the city to plow residential streets?

PLOWING PRIORITIES

During snowstorms and blizzards, Lakewood’s mission is to provide a transportation system that’s travelable and as safe as possible for the conditions. The city’s first responsibility is to plow and

maintain the city’s major streets to allow higher traffic volumes to flow and to provide access to emergency vehicles.

To accomplish this, Lakewood deploys 25 city snowplows to operate on a 24-hour schedule throughout a storm, and the city can contract for five additional plows. Crews begin plowing as soon as any measurable snow accumulates on the pavement, and they will focus on the city’s arterial and main collector streets known as the Priority 1 routes. Crews will remain on Priority 1 streets until snow accumulation has slowed, these streets are cleared as much as possible and deicing material for traction and melting has been applied where necessary. The city has 160 miles of Priority 1 streets, which include roadways such as Union Boulevard, Bear Creek Boulevard, West Alameda Avenue and West Jewell Avenue.

Priority 1 streets do not include the state highways running through the city such as West Sixth Avenue, Interstate 70, U.S. 285/Hampden Avenue, C-470 and Wadsworth and

Sheridan boulevards. The Colorado Department of Transportation plows these highways as well as West Colfax Avenue, Morrison Road and Kipling Parkway. To report concerns about snow conditions or plowing concerns on these state highways, please visit [CODOT.gov/TopContent/contact-cdot](https://www.codot.gov/TopContent/contact-cdot).

Once Lakewood crews have ensured that the Priority 1 streets are as clear as possible, they move on to Priority 2 and 3 streets, which are 125 miles of minor collector streets, hilly areas and school and shopping areas. Crews might have to stop plowing these streets to return to Priority 1 routes in certain weather conditions. A map is available of the Priority 1, 2 and 3 routes at Lakewood.org/SnowPlan or by calling 303-987-7950.

The city spends about \$1.3 million during a typical winter on snow removal — or about \$8 per resident. This also includes crews spraying a light application of liquid anti-icing material that is similar to magnesium chloride in certain conditions on some arterial streets such as Union in preparation for a storm. This anti-icing material reduces the potential for snow to bond to the pavement and makes plowing more effective.

During major snowstorms or blizzards, residents can report concerns about unplowed city streets online through the winter storm page at Lakewood.org or by calling 303-987-7950. Because of the volume of calls during large snowstorms, the phone number only takes messages, and calls are not returned.

RESIDENTIAL STREETS

Lakewood has about 204 miles of residential streets that are not part of the priority routes, and these streets are plowed only when snow

depths are seriously impeding vehicle mobility and melting is not expected to occur quickly. Plowing residential streets costs a minimum of \$80,000 for each snowstorm, and the city considers the conditions and weather forecast before deciding whether to plow residential streets.

SIDEWALKS

After a winter storm, it often takes everyone working together to dig out, and residents are encouraged to help shovel for neighbors who are elderly or disabled. If you can provide snow shoveling assistance to individuals in your area, the city encourages you to organize an effort to assist your neighbors who may need some help.

Lakewood requires owners and tenants of properties adjacent to sidewalks and business driveways to clear them within 24 hours after the end of a storm. Sidewalks left unshoveled create icy conditions that are hazardous to pedestrians, children walking to school and those in wheelchairs. Residents can report unshoveled sidewalks at Lakewood.org/RequestLakewood, the city’s online customer service hub, or at 303-987-7975.

Snow should be shoveled into yards, not into the street, sidewalk, bikeway or against any fire hydrant or official traffic control device. While it’s against the law to shovel snow into the street, it’s simply smarter to put it in yards because who wants more snow in the streets. This just creates icy buildup and hazardous conditions in the streets. [A](#)

ANSWERS: 1) 25. 2) \$8. 3) Major streets known as arterials and collectors. 4) CDOT plows Kipling, Wadsworth, Colfax, Sheridan, Morrison Road, Sixth Avenue, I-70, C-470 and U.S. Highway 285/Hampden. 5) \$80,000 per storm if they are plowed.

Budget in brief

In October, City Council approved the city’s budget for 2021 that includes an operations budget that is 5 percent lower than last year’s operations budget. This year’s total budget is \$217 million, but the operations budget known as the General Fund was significantly reduced to address the financial impacts to the city caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of \$17 million in reductions has been made in 2020 and 2021 to the General Fund, which pays for most of the city’s services provided to residents. These reductions have affected every city department. Lakewood, however, is committed to sustaining core services to residents while maintaining fiscal stability.

Most of the reductions were accomplished through a hiring freeze and continuing to leave positions vacant. But reductions have also been

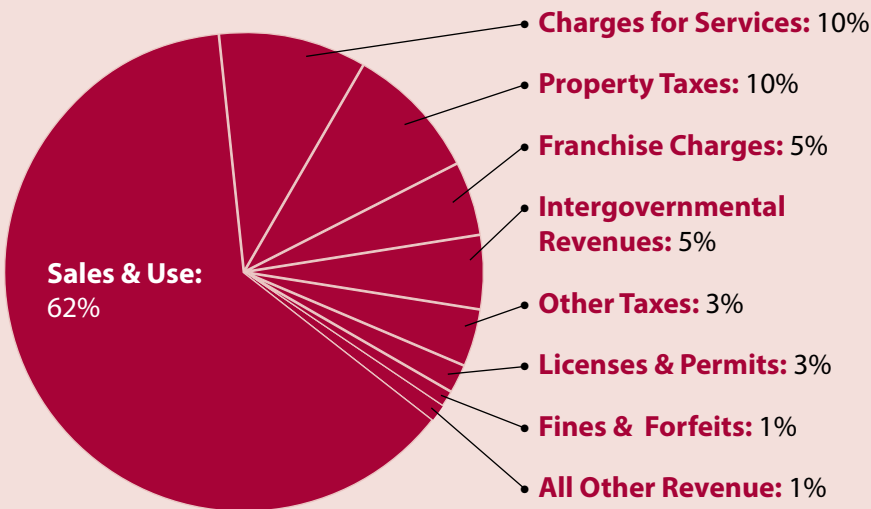
made by decreasing purchases and delaying projects and maintenance. View the budget at Lakewood.org/Budgets.

The 2021 budget also contains items related to the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR). Three years ago, Lakewood voters approved lifting the TABOR limits on the city’s budget, resulting in funds becoming available to spend on open space and park needs as well as police and transportation improvements. An

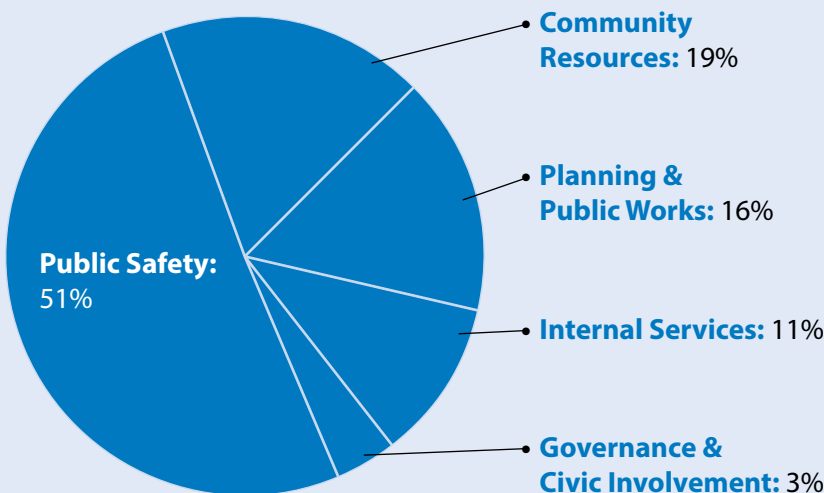
estimated \$5.5 million will be used for the following items:

- Body-worn police cameras.
- Improvements along the Bear Creek Greenbelt, Bear Creek Trail and the Taylor open space property.
- Improvements to the Wadsworth Boulevard and Morrison Road intersection. [A](#)

Where does the money come from?



Where does the money go?





Quilting, wood burning and Broadway performances for ages 55+

The Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., is offering new classes and longtime favorites, with in-person and virtual options available. Call 303-987-4820 for details or register and browse all class options and sign up online at Lakewood.org/Register.

Quilting and wood burning are two new hands-on classes offered at the center. Both classes happen on Wednesdays from Feb. 3-24. In the morning, from 10 a.m. to noon, an experienced teacher will take you through the steps to make a beautiful lap quilt. In the afternoon, from 1 to 3 p.m., those interested in the creativity of wood burning will learn techniques to make a

landscape design. You can bring your own supplies or use those provided. Registration is required. Each four-week class costs \$54 for Lakewood residents, and there is a 20% discount for those with RenewActive insurance-based memberships.

Another popular new program is Broadway at Clements: From Stage to Screen. This free activity (registration required) brings feature performances to the big screen at the Clements Center! Performances will be shown on the third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. Upcoming features include “Kinky Boots” on Feb. 17, “Cats” on March 17 and “Jersey Boys” on April 21. [A](#)



New Programs for All Ages!

MONTHLY REGISTRATION

First Thursday of every month at 10 a.m.

ONLINE

Lakewood.org/Register

BY PHONE

303-987-7830

Phone registration is by credit card only.



LAKEWOOD 2021 SUMMER CAMPS

Register February 11 at 10 a.m.

Preview online February 4.

Lakewood.org/Camps



Check trail conditions online to avoid mud and closures

Due to significant damage to resources during mud season, the City of Lakewood will close trails at William Frederick Hayden Park on Green Mountain when they become too muddy for recreation. This will be fully implemented within a month. Park rangers will be enforcing these new closures.

But how will you know if trails are closed before driving all the way out there? Go online to Lakewood.org/Trails to view the trail conditions interactive map. It will be immediately updated as trails are closed or reopened. Also follow @TrailsLakewood on Twitter for updates. [A](#)



Visit LakewoodTogether.org and help shape future parks

Have you signed up for LakewoodTogether.org, the city’s community engagement portal? Several exciting park improvements are on the way in 2021, including the construction of three new parks! Click on project links for Quail Street Park, 1960 Quail St.; Cottage Park, 110 S. Cody St.; and Westland Park, 1690 Owens St., to view site plans and share feedback or ask a question of the project manager. Learn more about the public engagement

efforts to date that resulted in the proposed park improvements. LakewoodTogether.org is used to supplement community meetings, providing participants the opportunity to learn more about upcoming projects, take surveys, select play equipment or park amenities and leave feedback or ask questions. Sign up today and subscribe for updates on the projects you are most interested in. [A](#)

Lakewood Rides fares are suspended

Lakewood Rides is now suspending all fares thanks to the generous support of the Older Americans Act and 5310 grant. The free door-through-door transportation service is offered to Lakewood residents age 60 or older and residents of any age with disabilities. For details and required intake information, visit Lakewood.org/LakewoodRides. Call 303-987-4826 for assistance and to request a ride.

Lakewood Rides is only available to Lakewood residents; however, your destination can be outside of Lakewood city limits within certain boundaries. Transportation may include independently scheduled trips for medical appointments, employment, adult day programs, social visits, and personal needs pending availability. Group grocery shopping trips are offered each week. Residents are picked up in their area on a designated day of the week and taken to the local King Soopers. VOA sponsored lunch meals are also available for delivery for those age 60 and older. Please call 303-987-4833 for more details about meals.

Contributions are welcome but not required. If you would like to contribute to Lakewood Rides, please call 303-987-4826. [A](#)

Lakewood’s Sustainable Neighborhoods adapt to pandemic needs

In 2020, two new neighborhoods joined the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, which thrives because of its ability to achieve a shared spirit of cooperation and collaboration. While launching a volunteer-led, community-focused program seemed daunting in a year like 2020, residents in the Weir Gulch Gardens and O’Kane Park neighborhoods remained unfazed and created several inspiring initiatives in their communities.

COMPOST BUDDIES

In one of the first initiatives as a Sustainable Neighborhood, Weir Gulch Gardens is working to keep food scraps and yard waste out of the landfill with Compost Buddies. Residents have two ways to participate:

1. Residents who have materials to compost, like yard waste, manure and food scraps, can connect with neighbors who already have a backyard compost pile (or are interested in starting one).
2. Residents can connect with neighbors who are interested in splitting the cost of a paid compost collection service to make this type of service more affordable and accessible.

To learn more about the Compost Buddies program and how to participate for those who live in or near the neighborhood, visit Lakewood.org/SustainableWGG.


COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Volunteers for the Sustain O’Kane neighborhood have identified seven initiatives, with one focused on enhancing community connections

and serving those in need. Projects also include creating a “buddy” program for assistance with challenges such as raking leaves and shoveling snow; addressing loneliness; and identifying ways to help the homeless in the neighborhood. Visit Lakewood.org/SustainOkane to get involved.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCY

During this time of uncertainty and isolation, the importance of knowing your neighbors is invaluable. Sustainable Neighborhoods Program volunteers have been finding innovative ways to keep their momentum and discussions around sustainability going while also emphasizing the importance of building deeper connections and support systems in their neighborhoods. Sustainable Applewood organized an all-ages chalk art event that encouraged residents to decorate their sidewalks and driveways, then used an online map to show neighbors where to walk to enjoy the art. View a gallery of the artwork at Lakewood.org/GoodNews.


Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, neighbors have also continued to host virtual workshops and happy hours, exchange seeds while practicing responsible social distancing, organize neighborhood cleanups, connect with and provide for neighbors in need, share resources on topics such as gardening tips and kid activities during quarantine and much more. The work performed by these dedicated residents serves as a reminder of the importance of creating resilient communities. 



Does your neighborhood need a little help?

If your neighborhood needs a little help, apply for Lakewood’s Neighborhood Participation Program.


During its 27 years, the program has helped pay for items such as sidewalk and bicycle path connections, picnic facilities and playgrounds at neighborhood parks, community gardens, artwork and more. The grants offer an outstanding opportunity for

neighborhood organizations to come together to make a difference in their neighborhoods. Grants of up to \$60,000 are available for a project, with a total of \$160,000 to be awarded in 2021. Applications and more information about the requirements are available at Lakewood.org/NPP. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. March 5. 

Sustainability Awards nominations open with new categories



Visit Lakewood.org/SustainabilityAwards for a full description of each category, to nominate your sustainability hero and to check out the new awards’ logo!

Each year, the Lakewood Sustainability Awards recognize the sustainability champions that are making a difference in the community. From environmental stewardship to educating peers, or from implementing a sustainable business practice to introducing sustainability concepts in schools, the accomplishments of previous winners are as diverse as they are powerful. Now is the chance to nominate your Lakewood sustainability hero. Two new categories have been added to the awards for 2021 that amplify the awards’ mission to recognize leadership in sustainability across Lakewood. The Legacy and the Business Innovation categories will join the previous categories of Community, Defender of the Planet and Eco-Employee. 





My Neighborhood

Find nearby parks and events, utility providers and more.


My Neighborhood

The My Neighborhood button on the city’s website helps provide the keys to your community.

Find nearby parks and trails, your utility providers, which City Council members represent you and more at Lakewood.org/My-Neighborhood

Use the map option or view the list of your neighborhood resources.





Electronic tracking for permits and projects

Coming this spring, a one-stop website for city planning, permitting, inspecting and other project services.

- User accounts with logins to submit plans, make payments.
- Online method to track projects, view records, request inspections.
- Easy way to find a contractor registered with the city or get a permit for home projects.

Contractors, engineers, architects, businesses and homeowners — stay tuned.

Get more information at Lakewood.org/eTRAKiTcontact.

Bringing the city to you

If you're looking for a great source for what's going on in Lakewood, check out Lakewood 8, the city's government-access cable channel. Lakewood 8 programs include local shows, City Council meetings, political forums and special features about our community.

Lakewood 8 also airs a community bulletin board that provides residents with useful, timely information about city events, contact information, programs and notifications.

Watch it on Comcast Xfinity cable channels 8 (SD) and 880 (HD). Stream it to your computer or mobile device at Lakewood.org/Live8 or your AppleTV and Roku device with the Screenweave app.

HERE'S A SAMPLE OF UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

City Council Meetings – Watch live at 7 p.m. Mondays.

“Let’s Talk with Mark Koebrich” – Learn from panel discussions about issues that affect Jefferson County residents.

“Connected Colorado” – A collection of stories from cities around the state.

“Still Working on the Railroad” – In partnership with the Colorado Railroad Museum, these programs feature a Big Train tour of outdoor

exhibits, followed by smaller items in the museum’s collection. There’s even a storytime and crafts segment for the younger train fans.

“The Folklorist” – This Emmy® Award-winning series produced by NewTV in Newton, Massachusetts, offers a captivating look at some of the lesser-known historical events. Whether it’s a tale of a legendary lost city, a forgotten hero or a hoax beyond belief, these shows uncover what has been left out of textbooks and what lives on as folklore.

JPS TV – Covering Jeffco Public Schools from the inside with inspiring, fun and informative stories. [A](#)

Other ways to stay tuned in.

Lakewood.org – Visit for in-depth city information.

Friday Report – Sign up to get the city’s weekly e-newsletter at Lakewood.org/newsletters.

Looking@Lakewood – Look for it in your mailbox or read it online at Lakewood.org/LAL.

LakewoodSpeaks.org – Get the details on council agenda items.

LakewoodTogether.org – Find out what projects the city needs your feedback on.

Art Kits [from page 1](#)

created more than 100 paint-by-number art kits, and delivery of the kits to the residents was its own work of art.

Handsome Little Devils, a new creative arts group in the 40 West District, delivered the kits to the residents through a pop-up, immersive experience called “Project Joy Bomb,” a socially distanced art-based parade of sorts that took place outside to allow residents to safely enjoy the event from their apartment balconies. Its engaging nature helped land the 40 West “Project Joy Bomb” parade on 9news’ list of (Making) the Best of 2020. For more information about the AARP project and to see photos and a video about the project, visit 40WestArtLine.org/AARP.

The AARP grant will also fund a new community ground mural and an artist-created Little Free Library outside the Residences at Creekside this spring. The paint-by-number project, along with the parade, new mural and library are benefiting neighborhood residents and ArtLine visitors of all ages while also supporting the local creative economy, which includes many artists in the 50-plus age group who have been significantly affected by the pandemic. Because creative businesses are the fourth largest industry in the state and play a critical role in the state’s long-term economic recovery and quality of life, these projects provide important support to the arts.



The AARP art was just one of several additions this year to the 40 West ArtLine that connects three city parks with transit, shopping, galleries, restaurants and more. More than \$100,000 in new murals were painted by artists on buildings and sidewalks along the ArtLine in 2020. Recent additions include three vibrant ground murals by artist Jwlç Mendoza, an interactive chalk mural by artist Lauren Gombas, and the transformation of an entire street through murals by artist Katy Casper and her team.

In partnership with the City of Edgewater, the ArtLine route was also extended to the Edgewater Public Library and Recreation Center in Walker-Branch Park, which is shared by the two cities.

Visitors can follow the ArtLine’s painted green line to see more than 70 public art installations, which are open 365 days a year in a safe, socially distanced outdoor cultural and recreational amenity. To learn more and see a map of the route, visit 40WestArtLine.org, where new mini-tours provide a way to explore the route and plan an ArtLine adventure. [A](#)



Serve with Integrity, Intelligence and Initiative!



FUN FACTS:

The department requires a four-year college degree in any discipline at hire.

The department is working toward earning its 11th accreditation in 2021 that governs best practices for police.

Starting salary for recruits is \$63,461 and for laterals \$82,368. Qualifying veterans lateral pay offered.

The Lakewood Police Department will begin accepting applications for new hires and lateral applicants for the January 2022 training academy in March. We are looking for innovative people from our community and beyond who want to serve.

For information about our agency, our history, the hiring process and to apply:

JoinLakewoodBlue.com



Request Lakewood

CUSTOMER SERVICE

You don’t have to wait for City Hall to open if you have a question, comment or concern that you want addressed. The Request Lakewood customer service hub lets you report overgrown weeds, graffiti or any other issue when it’s convenient for you.

ACCESSING IT IS EASY:

- Click on the Request Lakewood button at Lakewood.org.
- Visit Lakewood.org/RequestLakewood.
- Download the mobile app.



Know Your City Council Members



Mayor Adam Paul
303-987-7040
apaul@lakewood.org



Ramey Johnson
303-232-1567
rjohnson@lakewood.org

Ward 1



Charley Able
303-233-7275
cable@lakewood.org



Jacob LaBure
720-628-9161
jlabure@lakewood.org

Ward 2



Sharon Vincent
720-979-1449
svincent@lakewood.org



Mike Bieda
303-987-7740
mbieda@lakewood.org

Ward 3



Anita Springsteen
303-987-7743
aspringsteen@lakewood.org



David Skilling
303-987-7748
dskilling@lakewood.org

Ward 4



Barb Franks
720-515-6501
bfranks@lakewood.org



Karen Harrison
303-987-7767
kharrison@lakewood.org

Ward 5



Dana Gutwein
303-987-7776
dgutwein@lakewood.org

[Lakewood.org/CityCouncil](https://lakewood.org/CityCouncil)



Additions to welcome signs

The Welcome to Lakewood signs around the city have received an addition that shows the city’s commitment to equity and inclusion of all residents as part of its mission statement, City Council’s commitment to residents and core values available at [Lakewood.org/LakewoodValues](https://lakewood.org/LakewoodValues). The signs read “Welcome, We are building an inclusive community.” They have been placed at 11 locations that mark the entrances to Lakewood. City Council decided to erect these signs once again in the wake of the nationwide concern over racial justice and equity. These signs had been at the entrances to the city for more than 15 years, but a redesign in recent years changed the city’s entry signs.

Connect with your council members

You have a chance each month to meet with your City Council members during ward meetings that provide an informal setting to share ideas and learn more about your community. The meetings have gone virtual until further notice, so check the schedule below. Don’t know which ward you live in? Click the “My Neighborhood” button at [Lakewood.org](https://lakewood.org) and type in your address.

WARD MEETING SCHEDULE

- Ward 1**
9:30–11 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month
- Ward 2**
6–7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month
- Ward 3**
9–10:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of the month
- Ward 4**
9:30–10:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month
- Ward 5**
9–10 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month

Subscribe to receive a notice for the next ward meeting by visiting [Lakewood.org/WardMeetings](https://lakewood.org/WardMeetings), scrolling to your ward, then clicking the “subscribe” link.