

Looking@Lakewood

Transitioning
Toward Normal

For more information,
please visit
[Lakewood.org/
HoursAndServices](https://Lakewood.org/HoursAndServices).

Lakewood youth boosted by Kiwanis donations

Lakewood youth taking part in sports this spring and summer will be making up for a lost 2020 in style, thanks in part to a generous contribution from the Alameda West Kiwanis Club.

The club's \$3,000 donation is supplying new uniforms and equipment to participants in the city's youth sports program, which includes baseball, basketball and soccer among other offerings.

It's an ideal way for Kiwanis to contribute to the physical and emotional well-being of Lakewood kids after a year of pandemic-induced delays and cancellations, club President Barbara Fuller said.



"I work in schools, as a substitute teacher, and kids didn't have anything that they could do last year," she said. "There were no sports; there was nothing. This year, we wanted to encourage them to get outside and get active."

In the past, the club considered sponsoring individual teams, but decided a blanket contribution this year would "be even better," Fuller said.

The donation also will help offset



For more on Lakewood's annual fireworks show, visit BigBoomBash.com.

costs for youth and their families, in addition to programs already available such as the Lakewood Possibilities Fund, which provides scholarships of up to \$300 for city programs based on need and available funding.

This is not the first time the club has supported Lakewood's youth. Beginning in 2017, the club teamed up with Lakewood Parks to help fund a nature play area next to the visitor's center at Bear Creek Lake Park, and the members have been an instrumental fundraising and volunteer partner with the city, donating over \$35,000 in recent years. The club's work has been featured in the city's blog of good news stories at Lakewood.org/GoodNews.

In addition to its efforts supporting local youth recreation, the West Alameda Kiwanis Club has been active in the schools. One of its trademark programs is an annual school supply drive — The Write Stuff — to ensure elementary students have enough materials to finish out the school year.

"It's like Christmas. The kids are so excited," Fuller said. "It's great for our club members. They always get such positive feedback because the kids are always so happy." Though COVID-19 made in-person supply delivery impossible this year, Fuller is looking forward to doing it in-person in January 2022.

For 55 years, the club has focused on the needs of the Lakewood community, with an emphasis on children, making it one of the oldest service clubs in the city. Fuller said the club is actively seeking new members, and the best way to join is to either attend a meeting in-person at Café Del Sol, 608 S. Garrison St., or send a message to the group on Facebook.com/AlamedaWestKi. [Facebook.com/AlamedaWestKi](#)

Illegal fireworks can reignite trauma for veterans and others

For Don Maloy, a former U.S. Army Ranger and Green Beret who was deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan, fireworks can mean something completely different than an expression of patriotism or summertime celebration. As he was leaving a Rockies baseball game a few years ago, fireworks went off near the ballfield, triggering an experience that many veterans unfortunately live through during the summer months.

"I remember walking down the street going to my car, and all of a sudden I was pulled into a firefight that had happened in Iraq," he said. Being near his family helped him return to the present, he said, but the episode made him feel ashamed. "Had anybody seen me at that point, they might have looked over and wondered, 'What is wrong with that guy?'"

For a lot of veterans, the reaction of others is the hardest part. "When it comes down to it, we know that our families will understand, but for everyone else seeing it, it can be embarrassing (for us)," he said.

And veterans aren't the only ones. Setting off illegal fireworks, especially the mortar-type items, can trigger flashbacks for others who have experienced traumas involving loud noises, screams and flashes of light.

Because the Fourth of July signifies a time for neighbors and friends to come together to enjoy each other's company, Maloy recommends focusing on this atmosphere of inclusion and easygoing fun.

"Holidays are supposed to bring people together," said Maloy,

who is now the clinical director for WarriorNow, a mentoring program based in the metro area that connects veterans with fellow veterans for support and advice on transitioning into civilian life. He encourages people "to connect in a way that you can stand side by side with all of your neighbors," rather than relying on traditions for just those who enjoy fireworks.

In addition to the adverse effects of fireworks on some veterans and others with post-traumatic stress disorder, fireworks are illegal in Lakewood and possession or use of them, even sparklers, can be subject to fines of up to \$2,650. The weeks and weeks of residents using illegal fireworks also compounds the problems they cause.

"When fireworks go off at any time of day from the beginning of the summer until after the Fourth of July, we're missing the opportunity to create structure," Maloy explained. "Structure is so incredibly important. Nobody can anticipate holding their breath for months on end."

Illegal fireworks also create stress for household pets, increase the risk of fires and inflict all-too-common injuries to the users. Residents can report the use of illegal fireworks through the police nonemergency number at 303-980-7300 by providing a specific address. Only dial 911 to report fireworks causing a fire or injury.

Residents can also map illegal fireworks use to help Lakewood

FIREWORKS
Continued on page 7.

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LONGMONT CO
PERMIT NO. 16

POSTAL PATRON

Council Corner

MAYOR



Adam Paul

City Council will have a busy summer working on potential ballot items addressing tobacco and marijuana taxes. Council will also continue discussions related to metro districts, campaign finance and the economic, physical and fiscal recovery from the pandemic. Please join the conversation, your voice is critical, and we offer

multiple ways for you to participate. [LakewoodSpeaks.org](#) allows you to give public comment on council agenda items up until noon the day of the meeting. [LakewoodTogether.org](#) also provides interactive information on upcoming projects and ways to join the conversation. You can also participate in council meetings via Zoom. If at any point you have questions or difficulties, please reach out to us, and we will gladly help you navigate the issue. Council will also discuss when and how to safely go back to in-person meetings. We are looking at options that could allow a hybrid approach, providing both virtual and in-person attendance. I am proud of the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department who day in and day out serve with dignity and honor. Police Chief Dan

McCasky has stated, “Public trust in law enforcement is what allows us to serve our community. That trust has been shaken. There are no short-term fixes to retain or regain our community’s trust. We must work at it every single minute of every single day, and we can never take it for granted.” I want everyone to know that Lakewood agents are highly skilled and trained. They are instructed in de-escalating and crisis intervention techniques. I can say with great faith that they are always looking to see how they can do better. The department’s community policing model means that agents work to build relationships with all residents. I continue to be proud of the LPD because of its commitment to the community. Chief McCasky recently sat

down for an interview addressing important topics that we have heard in recent months. I hope you can take a moment to watch it at [Lakewood.org/ChiefInterview](#). We are all here to serve you, and I thank you for the opportunity. Always feel free to call or email with any questions, concerns and of course compliments!

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

We are building an inclusive community!

WARD 1



Ramey Johnson

Lakewood drivers are urged to be even more diligent this time of year. Summertime has returned, and Lakewood kids are out of school and enjoying newly relaxed public health guidelines on bike paths and sidewalks, in the city’s parks, pools, splash and spray parks as well as playing on neighborhood streets. Keep a watchful eye out for the youngsters as well as for the



Charley Able

reappearance of neighborhood lemonade stands, and please patronize the young entrepreneurs. Summer in Lakewood also includes our Independence Day weekend fireworks show: the Big Boom Bash, which is returning Saturday, July 3 after a year off due to COVID-19 restrictions. But, because of remaining public health concerns, there will be no

community gathering inside the fireworks venue at Jeffco Stadium. But the display will be visible at nearby parks, neighborhoods and from residences within a 1.5 mile radius of the stadium, according to the city’s Department of Community Resources. Suggested public viewing sites will be open to the public at Creighton Middle School, the parking lot at Trailblazer Stadium, Lakewood Park, the west side of O’Kane Park, the Lakewood High School parking lot, the Furniture Row parking lot, Addenbrooke Park and the East Rim of Main Reservoir. A map and details are available at [BigBoomBash.com](#). The fireworks show was revived in 2018 and 2019 after a lengthy hiatus and attracted thousands of community members each year. According to information from the City Manager’s Office, complaints

about illegal fireworks fell from more than 1,500 in both 2016 and 2017 to about 200 when the fireworks show resumed. After the event was canceled last year, a very apparent and dramatic increase in fireworks violations returned and spurred City Council to confront the problem from two approaches: an increase in fines and penalties, which is still under discussion, as well as referring the issue to the Lakewood Advisory Commission for recommendations to address the problem.

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

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

WARD 2



Jacob LaBure

Hello Ward 2, summer is finally here! Bear Creek Lake Park is seeing increased attendance, the greens at Fox Hollow and Homestead are, well, green and the smell of charcoal is in the air. After a tough year, life is increasingly looking the way we remember it. COVID-19 cases are decreasing, thanks to increased



Sharon Vincent

vaccinations — keep up the good work! After a year focused heavily on the pandemic, City Council is now refocused on the ongoing issues affecting our community. Homelessness continues to be an increasing challenge in Lakewood and the metro area. Lakewood is working with other cities and Jefferson County, using a recent countywide assessment to better

understand gaps in service and areas to increase to get people off the streets. Affordable housing also continues to be a major issue. As your Ward 2 representatives, we are drafting policies to help spread affordable housing citywide, using ideas developed by neighboring cities. We are also focused on economic development, jobs and infrastructure. We’re proud of new businesses like In-and-Out Burger coming to Ward 2 and additional investments coming to our business corridors. This includes the West Colfax Safety Project infusing regional and state dollars into the roadway, and staff is currently working with community members to make Colfax a more walkable and safer corridor. Join the discussion at [LakewoodTogether.org/WestColfax](#).

Lastly, Lakewood is stepping up enforcement against illegal fireworks. The recent grass fires that threatened houses are a reminder of the dangers of fireworks in such a dry climate. We also have to think about our pets, veterans and many others gravely affected by sounds associated with fireworks. Please consider going to the Big Boom Bash instead of other public events. There’s a lot to be proud of in Ward 2, and we want to thank all of you for making that possible. Keep your emails and advocacy coming! That’s making Ward 2 the best place to be in Lakewood.

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

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

WARD 3



Mike Bieda

The Colorado Legislature recently considered two bills proposing to limit our police agents’ ability to arrest criminals in the act of committing felonies. The bills would have required police to simply write felons the equivalent of a ticket that included a promise to appear in court at some future date. This practice was already occurring during the pandemic due to a lack of jail space, resulting in

crime increases throughout the state. Your City Council members had great concern with the bills. Working together through the council’s Legislative Committee, we lobbied successfully against both, which were defeated. My hope is that state lawmakers will talk with Lakewood leaders and others to ensure that our residents are protected by removing dangerous criminals from the street while still protecting the rights of minor offenders.

This is an example of how Lakewood City Council operates as a body; as such it has authority to govern our city. By contrast, individual council members standing alone, have little authority, which is why it is so important to work together for the benefit of our constituents.

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



Anita Springsteen

Tyranny. An autocratic form of government in which a few individuals exercise power without legal restraint. And it is happening in Lakewood. I have watched in horror how people have been silenced in increasingly blatant ways. Constituents regularly complain about being unable to speak during public comment, being cut off or

muted, being marginalized by bigger money interests, being unable to obtain public records, etcetera. People feel that complaints about police abuses and racial profiling have been silenced. Freedom starts at the local level. If you are not paying attention, I beg that you do. Protesting abuse of power has occurred across our nation over the past year, but local officials who are pushing reform need your support. Our city can only repair its imperfections if we acknowledge and address them head on. Burying our heads in the sand will cause erosion of our city’s foundation and of our rights.

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

WARD 4



David Skilling

ROAD SAFETY
As the days become longer and the weather nicer, our local roadways will be busier with bikes, motorcycles, and vehicles of all kinds. For everyone’s sake, please make a renewed effort to do the easy things: slow down, don’t text and drive, and give space to others on the road. Getting to your



Barb Franks

destination a few seconds sooner, or responding instantly to a message, are trivial when compared to how lives can be impacted in a moment of carelessness. Most importantly, do not drive impaired. There is absolutely no excuse for driving drunk or high, especially with the myriad ride-sharing apps at your fingertips. We should all be sick and tired of losing our family members, friends, sons, and daughters to the

selfish and stupid acts of inebriated drivers who couldn’t be bothered to pay a few dollars for a ride home. Do the right thing and encourage others to do the same.

FIREWORKS
Summer also brings with it the loud booms of illegal fireworks in Lakewood neighborhoods. Although some may think it’s harmless fun, please show respect and empathy for our veterans, pet owners, and others with heightened sensitivity. While there are no easy solutions, we have been working to address the problem. City staff is conducting an expanded outreach program (see story on front page) to make people aware of the possible fines (\$2,650) and penalties (up to 365 days in jail) that a judge may impose. Additionally, the Lakewood Advisory Commission is expected to soon

present the results of its research and make recommendations to address the problem. Lakewood will also provide an alternative to illegal displays with the return of the Big Boom Bash, featuring one of the best fireworks shows anywhere. Avoid starting a wildfire, going to jail, or burning your neighbor’s house down and instead join us on Saturday, July 3 at 9:15 p.m. For more details on the event, please visit BigBoomBash.com.

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

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

WARD 5



Karen Harrison

Is it time for Vision Zero in Lakewood? After this spring’s tragic bike accident, we are hearing many concerned residents reaching out about safety on our streets for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Lakewood City Council identified transportation safety as a 2021 priority at this year’s annual council planning session. Additionally, the Lakewood Advisory Commission



Dana Gutwein

recently presented a report on transportation safety. The report indicates that there were nine fatalities in 2017, 17 fatalities in 2018 and 25 fatalities in 2019. Lakewood has invested in safety on our streets, from painted bike lanes, green bike boxes, expanding our sidewalk and trail systems to adopting a Bicycling Master Plan. We should be proud of the progress we have made in ensuring that

transportation is safe for everyone. Still, there is critical progress to be made to benefit our air quality, our mental and physical health, quality of life and even our local economy by investing in a safe and equitable transit system. The commission included recommendations in its report such as adopting a Vision Zero Plan. Vision Zero is based on the premise that traffic deaths and injury are preventable and prioritizes health and safety of the community in the design of traffic systems. If you are interested in learning more about local Vision Zero plans, check out both Denver’s and Boulder’s plans. Another concept in the community proposal was an education campaign. You can read the full list of recommendations from the April 19 study session at LakewoodSpeaks.org.

If you would like to get more involved, check out the Lakewood Bicycle Advisory Team, a group of residents working to make Lakewood more bike friendly, or reach out to your council members to share your thoughts. Also consider applying to serve on the Lakewood Advisory Commission. Safer streets in our communities are possible if we prioritize them. As always, please reach out with questions, comments, ideas, concerns. We love to hear from you!

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

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

Arts, Parks & Recreation

Share your story for July Park and Recreation Month



Local parks often provide our first experiences in nature. They are places to gather with friends and family, spaces to celebrate life's special moments, spots of respite and healing and so much more. Recreation centers connect us with essential community services, provide the opportunity to participate in sports and leagues and help us stay well, fit and active.

Do you have a special memory of Lakewood parks and recreation? We want to hear from you! This July, during the nationwide celebration of Park and Recreation Month, we want to hear about your memorable experiences at our parks or recreation centers.


Participate in one of two ways:

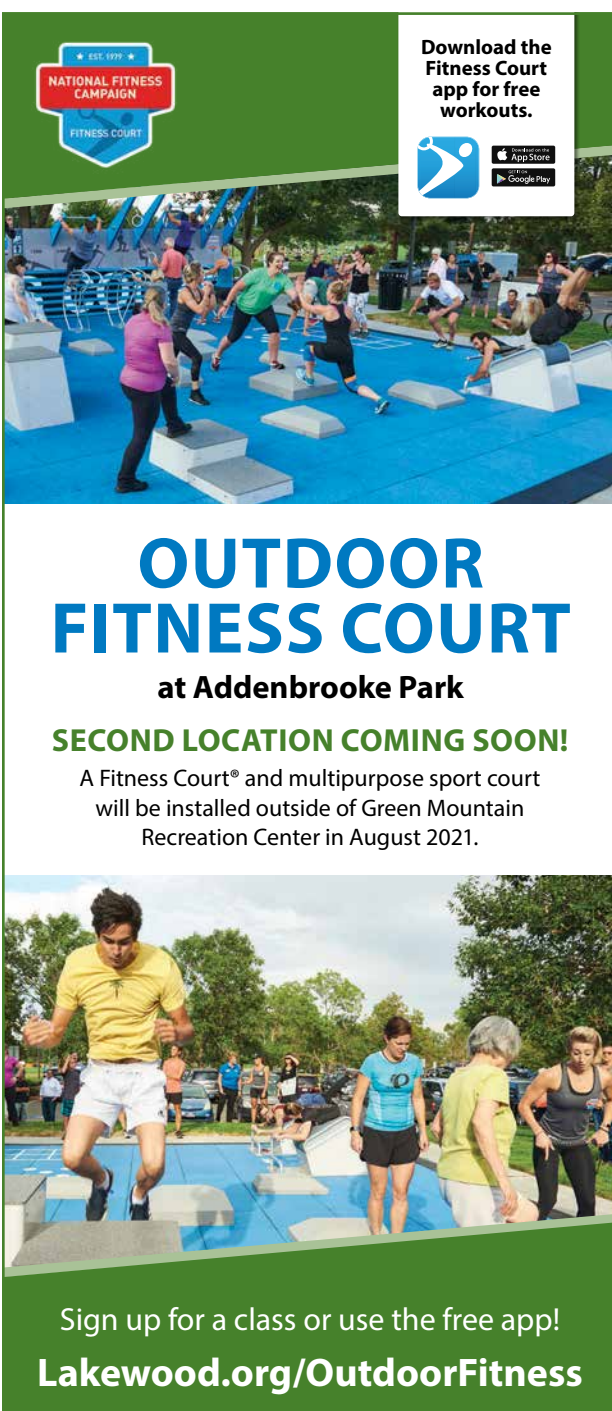
- Post a photo and story on Facebook or Instagram and tag #LakewoodRec. (Make sure your Instagram account or Facebook post is set to public!)
- Email a photo or story to CRinfo@Lakewood.org with “Park and Rec Story” in the subject line.

You'll be entered in a random drawing for a chance to win Lakewood golf, park and recreation prizes. And, your story may be featured on Facebook @LakewoodParksRec or on Instagram @LakewoodRec and @LakewoodParks.

Enjoy these offers and activities:

- Grab a spot for a free guided evening hike on July 1 or take a guided paddleboard tour at Bear Creek Lake Park the morning of July 31 for \$10, which includes the paddleboard. Activity #259926.
- On July 15, save 15% on personal training packages, including 3- and 10-session and buddy training packages.

For more information, visit Lakewood.org/July or call 303-987-7800. 





2021 Sustainability Award winners

The seven winners of the city's 14th annual Sustainability Awards demonstrate how creativity, passion and enthusiasm can create sustainable businesses, support community health, keep waste out of the landfill, spread environmental awareness and bring neighbors together. Learn more about the awards program at Lakewood.org/SustainabilityAwards.

Legacy Award

This inaugural award commemorates the numerous contributions made by Lakewood resident **Ken May** who dedicated his career to pioneering and transforming solar energy generation in Lakewood and around the world. He passed away in 2020 and spent his career at the National

Renewable Energy Lab while also co-founding a solar energy company.

Business Innovation

Ballmer Peak Distillery became a hand-sanitizer hero as one of the first businesses in Colorado to produce hand sanitizer at no cost to the community during the pandemic. This effort is in addition to several other sustainability measures the company has undertaken.

Compost Colorado provides pickup composting service to nearly 400 customers in Lakewood and in 2020 expanded its operations to deliver cleaning and other supplies including medical items during the pandemic to reduce delivery truck trips.

Community Sustainability

While the average American creates more than 4 pounds of waste a day, **Emily Post** and her family produce only 4-6 pounds a month. She employs a wide range of measures to achieve this and passes her knowledge on to others through her Zero Waste Club.

Alison Tamborlane and Michel Scheffers work every day to make their home more sustainable by creating a pollinator-friendly garden, sustaining low water and energy use and convincing their homeowners association to allow residents to install solar panels.

Defenders of the Planet (youth award)

The **Green Mountain Area Homeschoolers** adapted its

education and awareness campaign, The Pretty Big Pollinator Project!, to the pandemic by using virtual meetings, creating a website and blog, providing online art classes and an art contest that garnered more than 50 entries and distributing milkweed seeds to students to support monarch butterflies.

Eco-Employee Award

Lakewood's **Community Resources staff** provided virtual programs and events when the pandemic left the Lakewood community without many of the traditional activities residents enjoy. Staff took unique communication and programming approaches during this challenging time to help residents stay active and engaged.

Plan for Lakewood Cleanup Day

Clear out unwanted appliances, furniture, electronics and other items for reuse or recycling during Lakewood's free citywide Cleanup Day, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Jeffco Stadium, 500 Kipling St.

It is free to drop off items except for televisions and monitors, which will cost \$25 (cash only).

Lakewood residents need to bring proof that they live in the city and should allow plenty of time to drop off their items as Cleanup Day is quite popular. Residents will enter the site from Kipling Street and will exit onto the West Sixth Avenue Frontage Road.

This event is not for regular recyclable items such as plastic bottles, newspaper, glass, cardboard and cans that can be recycled through residents' curbside pickup or by reservation at Lakewood's Quail Street Recycling Center or for yard waste including trees, branches and shrubs that can be taken to Jefferson County slash drop-off locations listed at Jeffco.us/Slash.

Items accepted

- Furniture, mattresses, box springs and bed frames.
- Appliances including stoves, ovens, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, microwave ovens and wood stoves.
- Sinks, toilets, bathtubs, carpet, flooring, doors and windows.

- Electronics including computer monitors, computers, LED, LCD, plasma and other TVs \$25 each.
- Engine blocks, car parts or small gas engine equipment.

Items not accepted

- Landscaping materials and yard waste including trees, branches and shrubs.
- Scrap lumber, drywall or car tires.
- Household chemicals, paint, fuel tanks or cans, propane bottles and light bulbs. Rooney Road Recycling Center takes these by appointment only at RooneyRoadRecycling.org for a nominal fee.
- Gravel, asphalt, rock, sod, earth, concrete, brick, blocks, pavers or roofing material.
- General household trash or loose debris that would normally be picked up by a residential trash service.
- Materials or debris from a private contractor's work.
- Regular recyclable items such as plastic bottles, newspaper, glass, cardboard and cans.

For a complete list of items that will be accepted, call 303-987-7193 or visit Lakewood.org/Cleanup.

West Metro VETERANS FAIR

**Thursday, September 16
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Elks Lakewood Lodge #1777
1455 Newland Street, Lakewood

Mark your calendar!

Calling for nonprofit vendors to sign up at
Lakewood.org/VeteransFair



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

Public safety in 2021

From Lakewood Police

It's no understatement to say that the year 2020 changed everything in our collective lives. Not only did a worldwide pandemic force dramatic change in our day-to-day lives, but the country itself began to reassess the roles and practices of police. Here at the Lakewood Police Department, we pride ourselves in serving our community with integrity, intelligence and initiative. As such, we began to look inward to see how we could more effectively keep our community safe while responding to the nationwide concerns about police tactics.

Tactics and training

Following the events of George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, we immediately began to look at our own tactics to see what needed to change. Upon review, we immediately banned the use of any and all carotid control techniques. While we had already stopped teaching these techniques in our training academy, we felt it was appropriate that our policy reflected that practice.

Training is crucial to any public safety organization and something the Lakewood Police Department takes very seriously. For well over 20 years our agents have undergone regular training on possible bias in police work and how it can have devastating effects on the community. Our agents also routinely undergo training on crisis intervention, mental health evaluations and de-escalation techniques.

National accreditation

Since 1970, the motto: Integrity, Intelligence, Initiative has defined the way the Lakewood Police Department conducts business. The goal of every employee is to serve the residents of Lakewood with the highest level of commitment. In 1986, the Lakewood Police Department was the second agency in Colorado — and the 24th in the nation — to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). To maintain this accreditation, the

department is required to meet more than 479 nationally recognized law enforcement standards every four years with a required on-site assessment. We're excited to announce that in 2021 we achieved re-accreditation for the 10th time.

Homeless outreach

We are constantly looking at new ways to provide the best service to our community. In 2020, we added two homeless navigators to our Community Action Team to help provide services and resources for people experiencing homelessness in Lakewood. These civilians bring over 20 combined years of experience working directly with those experiencing homelessness.

The navigators, who are unarmed, work alongside LPD agents and service providers to deliver immediate assistance while pursuing long-term solutions for each resident. Navigating these residents through their challenges can be different for each person. Sometimes it's as simple as providing food resources so the person can stabilize physically enough to address underlying medical issues. With others, it's working through the complex housing market to find a stable housing solution.

The navigators are just one approach Lakewood is using to address homelessness. Since 2019, Lakewood, Arvada, Wheat Ridge, Westminster and Jefferson County have conducted Comprehensive Homeless Counts in the county. Hundreds of volunteers, law enforcement officers and staff have fanned out across the 774-square miles of the county to count those living in motels, cars and elsewhere. The data provides a better understanding of who is experiencing homelessness or who is at risk of becoming homeless, and the information can be used to create more effective policies, programs and services that better address the needs in the county.

Body-worn cameras

The concept of body-worn cameras is not new to the Lakewood



Police Department. Because the department was created on a foundation of progressive ideas in policing, we have been working on this issue to assess the needed hardware, software, data storage, policies and staff to manage this program.

Now that the Colorado State Legislature passed SB20-217 in 2020, we will be able to have the cameras in operation sooner than outlined in the law. This new law requires all police agencies in Colorado to implement body-worn cameras starting in 2023, and we will meet the guidelines well before that deadline. This program's startup cost is estimated at over \$1 million and an annual estimated cost of \$1.4 million every year after. We at LPD welcome the implementation of this valuable tool and are eager to share with our community what our agents encounter daily.

Where do we go from here?

Since our inception in 1970, we have prided ourselves on being a professional, progressive-minded police department that embraces change and celebrates education, innovation and diversity. From tactics and policies to personnel and training, we are ready and equipped to grow with our changing community. We recognize that we are only as effective as our relationship with our community allows us to be. We are incredibly proud to serve and protect the residents and visitors of Lakewood and will continue to work hard

to earn and maintain your trust and respect. Thank you for your continued support of the Lakewood Police Department. To learn more about the department, visit Lakewood.org/ChiefInterview.

NEW WAY TO REPORT CRIME

In April, Lakewood Police launched a new tool for online crime reporting that allows residents to file certain nonemergency incidents such as minor theft, vehicle burglary, lost property, property damage and similar issues via the internet at their convenience and without having to wait for an agent to respond or call them back. A temporary copy of the report can be printed when submitting the report, which will be reviewed by police personnel. Once approved, the resident will receive an email with a copy of the report attached without cost. The new site also allows smartphones to be used to file reports and even submit a digital image. The online reports will receive the same investigative review as a report filed by an agent. To file a nonemergency incident, visit Lakewood.org/CrimeReportForm.

Commission brings ideas for improvements

By Peggy Ralph, chair of the Lakewood Advisory Commission

Lakewood is a wonderful place to live! When you drive or walk around Lakewood, there are so many interesting things to see and do.

- Did you know one-quarter of the land in the city has been preserved as open space, parks and trails, creating more than 110 parks and more than 240 miles of trails.
- Do you like the public art on display throughout the city?
- Have you enjoyed the professional fireworks display for the entire community called the Big Boom Bash?

Have you wondered how these items are accomplished in our city? Who does all of this? Do you have ideas for other things we could do to improve Lakewood for our residents?

After doing some inquiring, I found that there is a volunteer group in Lakewood that works on different issues in our city and presents them to the City Council. It's called the Lakewood Advisory Commission or LAC for short. It has 30 members and three committees. Each committee is working on a different type of issue.

- The Sustainability Committee is currently working on ways to save energy and encourage recycling, solar energy use and green ideas.

- The Neighborhood Committee has worked on senior and veteran issues and is currently working on ways to connect our bike and walking trails throughout our city. Another big idea is a hotline to report abandoned shopping carts.
 - The Civic Awareness Committee has worked on tobacco ordinances and traffic safety issues and the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses. The committee is currently researching whether using fireworks is a nuisance, a hazard or a patriotic right.
- Once these ideas are presented to our City Council, our outstanding city staff takes over and works hard to implement them. They do a great job!
- This city's professional fireworks show available again this year is an example of an event that was

proposed by the LAC. It is now a yearly celebration that everyone can enjoy. This year's event will be July 3 at Jeffco Stadium. While the stadium won't be open, the city has outlined great viewing spots for the show at Lakewood.org/BigBoomBash. So grab your lawn chair, relax and enjoy the show!

If you like to do research and work with others in our community to improve Lakewood, join the LAC. You don't have to be a future politician, just a resident who has ideas and a willingness to help others. That is why I joined.

"Your biggest achievement lies in helping others first." (A fortune cookie saying). What ideas could you bring? How would you like to serve? Learn more at Lakewood.org/LAC.

Do you know whether you live in a flood hazard area?

TIPS FOR LIVING IN OR NEAR A FLOOD HAZARD AREA

Insure your property

- Check to see if you have a current flood insurance policy for your property. Flood insurance is recommended for everyone because standard homeowners’ and renters’ insurance policies do not cover flood losses. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure only their contents. There is a 30-day waiting period before policies become effective, so plan ahead.
- Lakewood is part of a federal program that provides discounted flood insurance premiums for any property owner in the city whether or not the building is in a flood hazard area. For flood insurance and premium details, contact your insurance agent. To search for an agent by your ZIP code, contact the National Flood Insurance Program at 877-336-2627 or [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov).

Protect your property

- Analyze the slope of the ground around your foundation. Check to see that water drains away from your foundation a minimum of 7 to 10 feet on all sides.

- Check your gutters and downspouts to see that they drain away from your foundation. Use splash blocks as necessary. Make sure that your downspouts do not drain toward your neighbor’s foundation. Remember, standing water in your yard can seep into a basement.
- Help keep drainageways clean so they can carry the flood flows. Do not dump or throw debris into gulches, ditches or streams, including branches, grass clippings, garbage, dirt and concrete. Debris can accumulate and block drainageways and increase flooding hazards, and it is against city law to dump debris in drainageways.
- Report dumping in gulches, ditches or streams and potential problems such as blocked culverts to the Public Works Department at 303-987-7500.

Protect yourself and others from flood hazards

- During heavy rainfall, stay alert for warning signals (sirens, television, radio, websites, and social media). Evacuate if directed.

- Plan evacuation routes to move to higher ground if necessary.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep away your vehicle.
- Prepare, plan, stay informed. Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

Build responsibly


- Always check with Lakewood Public Works at 303-987-7500 to ask about development requirements before you build, remodel, fence, regrade, fill or otherwise alter your property. All development within the flood plain requires a special permit from the city.

Protect natural flood plain functions

- Urban drainageways function as conveyance systems for storm runoff and flood events. Help keep Lakewood’s gulches and streams clear and clean by properly disposing of any trash, debris or motor oil. Follow directions when using fertilizers, pesticides and weed control chemicals.

Heavy thunderstorms are strong reminders that some Lakewood properties lie in flood hazard areas even though they don’t normally appear to be in danger. Flooding can happen in high, medium or low risk flood areas.

To understand your property’s flooding risk, call 303-987-7500 or submit a request for this free service to Lakewood’s Public Works Department at [Lakewood.org/FloodPlainRequest](https://www.lakewood.org/FloodPlainRequest). You can also write the department at 470 S. Allison Parkway, 80226. The Public Works offices are temporarily closed, but when they reopen, you can visit in person to receive this information. Public Works staff is also available to visit your property to discuss potential flood hazards.

Public Works can provide you with detailed flood plain information including Federal Emergency Management Agency flood insurance rate maps and studies, local community flood hazard area study maps, flood depth data, elevation certificates, landslide hazards, historic flood events and the location of designated wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory. Learn about your flood risk and other National Flood Insurance Program resources online at [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov). 

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS IN GOVERNMENT

West Metro’s newest ‘investigator’ has a nose for crime



West Metro Fire Rescue’s newest investigator has four legs and a keen sense of smell that will be put to use to investigate fires within the district and around the metro area. K-9 ROTC (pronounced Rot-see) is an accelerant detection specialist, and a graduate of the State Farm® Arson Dog Training Program. ROTC and his handler, West Metro Lieutenant Brian Eberle, bring a valuable set of skills to the Colorado fire service.

“ROTC is a huge asset for our investigative team,” said Eberle. “A well-trained accelerant detection dog can quickly identify whether or not accelerants were used at a fire

scene, helping us determine if a fire was intentionally set.”

Since its beginning in 1993, the State Farm Arson Dog Program has placed more than 425 dogs in 46 states, three Canadian provinces and the District of Columbia. All accelerant detection canine teams are trained by Maine Specialty Dogs and certified by the Maine State Police. The program is available to fire departments and law enforcement agencies across the United States.


“This program means a great deal to State Farm, fire departments and local communities,” said State Farm

Agency Executive Jim Passarelli. “The scope of arson goes beyond impacting insurance companies. It affects the personal and financial well-being of the community. These K-9s enable investigators to do their job more efficiently and effectively.”

K-9 ROTC is the third arson dog in service in Colorado that was trained through the State Farm program. ROTC and Eberle have investigated around two dozen fires, both in West Metro’s district and while assisting neighboring fire districts with their incidents.

“ROTC has an easy-going, laid back personality, but he loves to work,” said Eberle. “We do short trainings several times a day to keep us ready to respond when needed.”

An estimated 280,000 intentionally set fires are reported each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Those fires result in more than 400 civilian deaths, more than 1,300 injuries and \$1.3 billion in property damage. The actual number of arson fires and amount of property damage is likely much higher as arson is an underreported crime. Arson dogs play a key role in helping to determine the cause of many of these fires.

For more information about the Arson Dog Program, visit [ArsonDog.org](https://www.arsondog.org). 


Fireworks from page 1

Police plan future education and enforcement efforts at [LakewoodTogether.org](https://www.lakewoodtogether.org).

“It all comes down to respect. Respect for your community and respect for your neighbors,” said Lakewood Police Chief Dan McCasky. “Every year we receive hundreds of complaints about fireworks. A large portion of these complaints come from members of the community who have scared pets or are military veterans who are experiencing post-traumatic stress because of the loud explosions caused by fireworks.”

The best approach is to leave fireworks to the professionals and view the city’s Big Boom Bash fireworks show. It has returned for 2021 and will start about 9:15 p.m. on July 3, visible within 1.5 miles of Jeffco Stadium, 500 Kipling St.

Due to the pandemic, residents will not be allowed to watch from inside the stadium, and the city has identified eight locations from where the show can be seen clearly. Visit [BigBoomBash.com](https://www.bigboombash.com) for those locations and details.

“When it comes to the issue of fireworks, it’s simply about doing what is appropriate, and that lesson is good for everybody,” Maloy said. “Veterans want people to have a good time too. If we can tell a veteran that we are ensuring that people are doing things at the appropriate time and place, I think they appreciate that.” 




Lakewood Economic Development Team

We are coming back strong

This past year has been one of compassion amid chaos, and through it all, a story of innovation and resiliency. This past year has challenged us all and has shown us what community looks like in action. Our community, employees and businesses all worked to adapt, transform and stay connected with one another. Priorities changed almost overnight. We stayed home to stay safe. Workers on the front

lines — from first responders to delivery drivers and grocery store clerks — were all deemed essential. We spent more time with our families. Business owners rose to adjust to challenges that came with all of these new priorities while utilizing federal CARES Act funding to supply personal protective equipment to their essential workers. They also tailored their product offerings and services to meet these new priorities. Restaurants developed outdoor spaces and created take-n-bake kits to make at home. Retail stores provided touchless point-of-sale systems and drive-up-options for safe product delivery. Offices worked through work-from-home policies and new technology to complete projects. Examples of creative problem-solving include one Lakewood hotel replacing lost revenue from lack of business travelers with day rates for parents in need of a quiet space when they found themselves suddenly working from home.

We are now focused on recovery, restrictions are lifting and people are beginning to safely gather again. We are discovering what our new normal will look like. Throughout it all, we at Lakewood Economic Development will continue to celebrate our businesses while highlighting all that has made Lakewood unique and resilient. We are encouraging our businesses to continue to innovate and to embrace changes that make operations smoother and more efficient. As our businesses continue to evaluate and seek new partners, they will make changes that will better themselves and our community. These will create a stronger foundation, and our economy will grow. We encourage you to continue to visit your favorite businesses and to show support for new and existing businesses in our community. Businesses are thrilled to welcome you back through their doors and to serve you in person again with a smile. We as a team will continue to support our businesses and their employees that are in the city to help them grow, and we will focus on attracting new investment while showcasing that Lakewood is a great place to do business. That is our mission. We will

also encourage businesses and employees to continue to pursue the local, regional and statewide programs and tools available to them to foster growth. To learn more about programs that can help new and existing businesses in Lakewood, visit Lakewood.org/EconomicDevelopmentPrograms. We celebrate the resiliency of our businesses, employees and community. We applaud the hard work and innovation demonstrated over the past year. The willingness to be creative and adapt that saw us all through the pandemic will propel all of us into the future. Together, we can continue to open more doors. We are thrilled to see everyone out and about again. Stop us and say hello, ask us questions and let us know how we can help. Tell us what is needed to remain successful because we are here to help businesses launch, rebound and grow. We will work to attract companies to our community, keep them here and help them thrive. Lakewood, we are coming back strong, and we are thrilled to support everyone along the way. 

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



We are thrilled to welcome these new businesses to Lakewood and highlight important anniversaries. Because it's been a while since we've been able to celebrate, these date from November 2019 to now.

- Bank of Colorado**
275 Union Blvd., Suite 100
BankofColorado.com
- Body Perfection**
145 S. Sheridan Blvd., Suite 228
BodyPerfectionSpa.com
- Burn Boot Camp**
3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite A-111
BurnBootcamp.com
- The Children's World School**
7700 W. Woodard Drive
TheChildrensWorldSchool.com

- Craig Baldwin Insurance Agency**
7111 W. Alameda Ave., Suite Q
CraigInsuresColorado.com
- Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys**
830 Kipling St.
Dmmdt.org
- Dutch Bros Coffee**
45 Union Blvd.
DutchBros.com
- The Doughnut Bar**
7281 W. Alaska Dr.
DoughnutClub.com
- Empower Health Chiropractic**
710 Kipling St., Suite 401
EmpowerHealthChiropractic.com
- Five Below**
98 Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 115
14500 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 280D
FiveBelow.com
- Geekout Café**
3200 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite C
GeekoutCafe.com
- Ideal Image**
324 S. Saulsbury St.
IdealImage.com
- Jamaican Grill and International Jerk**
8580 W. Colfax Ave.
JamaicanMiniGrille.com
- Kickin Chicken**
275 S. Union Blvd.
KickinChickenRestaurant.com
- The Music Range**
1520 Iris St.
TheMusicRange.com

- Porchlight, A Family Justice Center**
11100 W. Eighth Ave., Suite 200
PorchlightFJC.org
- The S Turn**
13701 W. Jewell Ave., Suite 103
TheSTurn.com
- Shanna Powell Farmers Insurance**
7310 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 220
Agents.farmers.com/co/lakewood/shanna-powell
- Sound Body Health and Chiropractic**
12792 W. Alameda Parkway, Suite E
SoundBodyChiropractic.com
- Westerra Credit Union**
7740 W. Alameda Ave.
WesterraCU.com
- Zvia Weight Loss and Med Spa**
7700 W. Virginia Ave., Suite C
Zvia.com

- ANNIVERSARIES**
- Given & Associates – 25 Year Celebration**
735 S. Xenon Court, Suite 201
GivenandAssociates.com
- Lana Isaacson – 10 Year Celebration**
777 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Building 2, Suite 106
Lanaisaacson.com
- WestFax Brewing – 5 Year Celebration**
6733 W. Colfax Ave.
WestFaxBrewingCompany.com

To submit a listing, visit Lakewood.org/GrandOpenings.