

# Looking@Lakewood

## Businesses to receive relief, recovery funds

With City Council's approval, the city has launched the COVID-19 Business Relief and Recovery Program to help businesses in Lakewood struggling to manage the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.

City Council approved the \$3 million program on June 8 by using a portion of the \$12.3 million that Lakewood has received from the federal relief funds known as the CARES Act. Lakewood has about 7,000 licensed businesses, which is the largest cluster of companies in Jefferson County. The top industries by employees in the city consist of health care including dentists and eye doctors, retail trade, education, food services, construction, and professional, administration, scientific and technical jobs.

To address the wide-ranging needs of these businesses, the city has designed a program to serve small businesses employing 25 or fewer employees that have physical locations in the city and meet several other requirements including a current Lakewood business license, registration with the state and plans for continued operations. Businesses based outside the state and medical marijuana shops cannot apply for the city's recovery grants.

Lakewood is offering a two-phased grant process that could help 400 to 700 businesses depending on the size of the grants. Details about the program are available at [Lakewood.org/BizRecovery](http://Lakewood.org/BizRecovery).

"I think we have created a program that will provide meaningful help to a lot of businesses in Lakewood, and it's an important step in getting our local economy restarted," said Mayor Adam Paul.

The funds will provide a \$2 million pool for large grants that businesses must qualify for and a \$1 million pool for modest, random-drawing grants for eligible Lakewood businesses. The large grants will range from \$5,000 to \$30,000, and eligible businesses will be assessed on a weighted rubric including years in business, number of employees up to 25, most affected industries and COVID-19 expenses. The grants will be based on the business's calculated lost revenues.

For the random drawing of smaller grants, businesses that don't receive a large grant will be entered into the drawing for grants of \$3,000.

The program will remove the business's name and other identifying markers for the evaluation process for the large grants and random drawing, which will use an automated computer system to determine the recipients for the \$3,000 grants.

Local governments across the metro area have created similar programs ranging in size from \$220,000 to \$4 million in funds.

Lakewood's business recovery grants will play an important role in the coming months because of continued economic stress from factors such as lower demand



**Collecting history.** This photo taken by Debi, a Lakewood resident, shows a dramatically empty produce section in March at a King Soopers in Lakewood where she works. Debi has worked for King Soopers for 30 years, and she said she has never experienced anything like this, leaving her feeling shell-shocked, exhausted and even afraid at the end of those days. Her photo is one of more than 50 photos that residents have submitted, along with the stories behind the photos, to Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park as part of its History Photo Project to collect Lakewood images of COVID-19. The museum's project will use the photos to connect this time to the past, present and future. See some of the other submitted photos on page 4.

## \$375,000 in federal funds provided to nonprofits

The network of nonprofits woven throughout the community has never been more important because these organizations are providing the direct relief Lakewood residents need from the impacts of COVID-19.

As an example, the number of residents needing help from food banks and pantries run by nonprofit groups has doubled, tripled and even quadrupled in some cases, including in Lakewood, with many seeking help for the first time ever. Those needing help to pay rent are also looking to nonprofits along with veterans who are struggling and those trying to navigate unemployment and the potential loss of housing.

To help this network of support for residents, Lakewood City Council has used \$375,000 of its share of the federal relief funds known as the CARES Act to award grants to these nonprofits so that the federal funds reach residents who need it the most.

"Our nonprofit organizations are on the front lines of trying to help Lakewood residents who are struggling because of the COVID-19 crisis, and the CARES Act is designed to get funds to these groups directly helping residents," Mayor Adam Paul said. "This emergency grant program

will do that and provide as much relief as we can to our residents."

The demand for the city's COVID-19 Nonprofit Impact Grant program was high. It received 40 applications, amounting to requests worth \$634,632. The \$375,000 was able to provide 24 large and small nonprofits with grants to support services ranging from help for families and youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness and food insecurity to mental health and youth programs and scholarships. The grant recipients had to demonstrate that they would use the funds to provide goods or services that offer assistance to Lakewood residents needing help because of COVID-19. The organizations received their grants by mid-June. For a complete list of the recipients, visit [Lakewood.org/CovidNonprofitGrant](http://Lakewood.org/CovidNonprofitGrant).

The impacts from COVID-19 are expected to last for some time, with food insecurity rising in the coming weeks and months as one example of the continuing need for assistance. As a result, City Council will consider a second round of grants in the coming months based on the level of need demonstrated through this application process. ▲

**"I think we have created a program that will provide meaningful help to a lot of businesses in Lakewood, and it's an important step in getting our local economy restarted." –Mayor Adam Paul**

for reopened businesses, the expiration of the governor's ban on eviction and foreclosures, and the ending of unemployment benefits and the federal Paycheck Protection Program.

The public health orders requiring businesses to close started on March 16 and lasted nearly 80 days before the orders began allowing the reopening of certain businesses with specific restrictions and precautions. Lakewood's Economic Development team has responded by initiating substantial efforts to help Lakewood businesses survive and pivot to new ways of operating (see page 3), and this grant program will ramp up that work. ▲

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# Letter from the Mayor



## And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea

It has become a tradition for me to watch the National Memorial Day Concert every year on PBS. Like most things, it was quite different from previous years due to COVID 19; however, it paid great honor to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. It's been a few weeks since Memorial Day, and the words of "America the Beautiful" have stayed with me. I am filled with great pride as I think of how our community has come together to navigate these challenging times; seeing the "good" and "brotherhood" throughout Lakewood makes me very proud, and it's something we need more of, now more than ever.

This is going to be one of the most challenging columns that I have penned in my tenure as mayor. As a leader, I feel that I must have an

answer or a response to just about everything. This time I don't. This time I am trying to listen, trying to learn and trying to understand. When Mr. George Floyd was murdered right in front of our eyes, I was horrified, angry and stunned. In a message to the Lakewood Police Department, Police Chief Dan McCasky said, "The death of George Floyd was outrageous, inexcusable, and appalling." Sadly, this wasn't the first incident, and it won't be the last. It seems like a broken record. This has brought me weeks of reflection on my life, my values, my leadership and the great divisions and systemic failures in our country.

The Lakewood Police Department was born in 1970 during another time of tremendous upheaval. It sought to be something different. It emphasized education by being one of the first to require a college degree. It promoted professionalism and "the concepts of a kinder, gentler and smarter police force," then known as the Department of Public Safety. The foundation and construct were built on the tenets of "law enforcement responsiveness, citizen involvement, education, and a commitment to do the right thing, thus leading to the motto Integrity, Intelligence, Initiative." This model has served the community well for 50 years. (Quotes are from "A Celebration of Excellence," a book about the department's history, p.5)

I am proud of the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department

who day in and day out serve with dignity and honor. Chief McCasky further 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." For those who have inquired, I want them to know that Lakewood Police are highly skilled and trained. Agents are trained in de-escalating techniques and crisis intervention techniques. I can say with great faith that they are always looking inward to see how they can do better and how they can continue to be leaders in policing. Their community policing model means that they are engaged and work to build relationships with all residents.

For true and lasting change, "work at it every single minute of every single day." Not only a week or two after a tragedy but daily. We must work through our thoughts, words and deeds. We can't continue to turn a blind eye to the ills of society or say that doesn't happen here. We can't turn away because it's easier or because we don't have an answer, which is where I was when I started to write this. We must look deeper than the police. We must look at ourselves, at our institutions and our way of life.

Love, respect and understanding are the foundation on which to build. Together, let's work for justice,

work for equality, and stand up and say racism is not welcome here. Let's unite to lift those in poverty, those struggling with mental health, those who are hard to love. Let's work to increase understanding, educational opportunities, housing options and job training. Let's build community and brotherhood, and let's embrace what we have said as a city, "Welcome to Lakewood, We are building an inclusive community." Let us all commit to saying no more, let us commit to loving our neighbors.

It's important for us to listen to you. I need to learn from you, I need to hear about your experiences in Lakewood, and I want to hear the good, the bad and the ugly. I want to serve you, and I want to see us be the generation that truly brings change. Email, call me, let's connect, let's organize and let's learn.

In closing, please wear your mask and make sure you've completed the 2020 census!

**Adam Paul**  
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## Council Corner

## Ward 2



Jacob LaBure



Sharon Vincent

### Council working on tough issues in a difficult year

2020 has proven to be a difficult time. Many residents have lost jobs, became ill or know people who have. Many of the things we do in normal times like going to restaurants and spending time with friends and family have been uprooted as a cautionary response to COVID-19. This year has also been marked by protests and calls for reforming many government institutions and practices that precipitate inequality and injustice. These issues would have been difficult enough. Combined, however, they have helped create a lot of anxiety and frustration within our community and our country. We know the

City of Lakewood can't solve these problems. However, we also know as a good community partner, we have an important role to play as does everyone. We are also committed to reviewing city policies and practices to ensure that we make Lakewood the best city it can be.

Just a few weeks ago, we authorized the city to utilize \$375,000 of federally provided funds to assist our nonprofits with helping families in need. This money will be used to help the homeless, keep residents from going hungry, aid residents with attaining housing, assist with mental health, and many other important community functions. Check the list of nonprofits that received grants at [Lakewood.org/CovidNonprofitGrant](https://www.lakewood.org/CovidNonprofitGrant). The council has also been working to utilize \$3 million provided by federal funds to execute a business grant program to assist with keeping businesses operating that have struggled during these difficult times. Council approved the business program on June 8, and we are gratified that these two grant programs will

provide federal funds directly to those in the community.

We have heard from many residents about their concerns regarding homelessness, development and crime. We want you to know that we hear you and are working with state and local officials to address these issues. Last year, we directed our City Manager Kathy Hodgson to work on homelessness issues, and she has worked closely with Jefferson County and surrounding municipalities in regional cooperation to assist those in need with getting connected to county services. The city also has been able to add two new "navigator" positions focused on addressing homelessness by helping those residents navigate to situations with stable housing, and a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation has helped fund these positions.

Lakewood can also be proud that tax credits have been awarded for a project to expand a development along the W light rail line that will provide needed housing in Ward 2. We are also working with city

management to ensure that our hotel-motel licensing program is beginning to yield results in helping our community reduce crime in the West Colfax Avenue corridor and other parts of our community.

There's a lot going on and a lot to be proud of. We need your help, so please continue to share with us your thoughts and perspectives. It's an honor to serve you.

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**Lakewood**  
Full of Possibilities.

**City Manager** Kathy Hodgson

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

## Economic Development team in high gear to help businesses pivot

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we work, shop, eat and interact with one another, and many Lakewood businesses had to pause their services or drastically modify their operating models. Takeout, drive-thru, curbside and virtual services have served as ways to operate in a COVID-19 world. The City of Lakewood and the Economic Development team want to acknowledge and express their appreciation for the tremendous creativity and patience shown by our businesses. Businesses have worked to remain open, retain jobs, provide services and remain a vital part of the community while still keeping our community safe.

As the impacts have rippled across the metro area, the Economic Development team has been working in high gear to help and promote businesses because that's our job in good times and in challenging ones. Since businesses were ordered to close and then began to reopen, we have pivoted to address every new set of circumstances, reaching out to ask what businesses need, to share updates, to connect businesses with resources as they become available and to serve as a reliable, credible source of information on everything from loans to cleaning procedures. Soon after the closures, we launched a resource page on the city's website with the most up-to-date public orders, financing programs, employment resources and information for businesses, and we have continued to update and adapt this page. Having a centralized location has assisted businesses with finding information quickly and helps them have accurate and trustworthy information. [Lakewood.org/ResourcesForBiz](https://lakewood.org/ResourcesForBiz) is updated regularly to ensure Lakewood businesses have the information they need to operate successfully. In the latest update, this webpage contains all the materials needed for businesses to temporarily expand into outdoor spaces. Economic Development also has worked with the planning team to create a streamlined process for businesses to rapidly expand outside while meeting safety codes and health guidelines. We encourage restaurants and businesses to expand safely outside and to call on us for their temporary site modifications and temporary liquor license modifications.

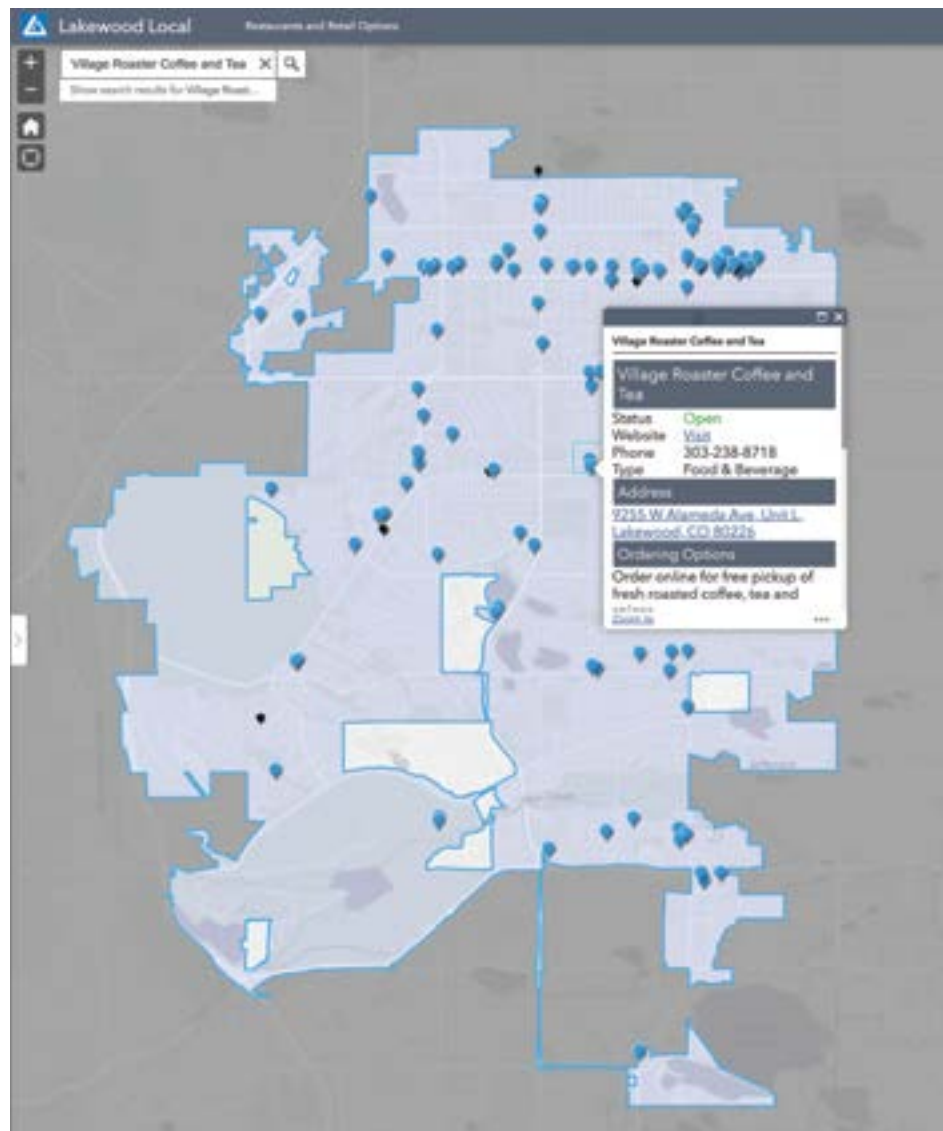
The team has also been involved in helping businesses work on their Small Business Administration and other loans and ensuring that the state executed a disaster declaration before the end of March, which is required for Economic Injury Disaster Loans to be made available for businesses. As the federal Paycheck

Protection Program funds ran out, the team launched the Lakewood Economic Recovery Task Force and a digital community conversation at [Lakewood.org/EconomicRecovery](https://lakewood.org/EconomicRecovery) to get the community's input on the best ways for restarting Lakewood's local economy.

The Lakewood Economic Recovery Task Force consists of representatives from the city's top employment industries and is navigating and setting the pace for recovery within our business community. It is working to create short, medium and long-term strategies for economic recovery. Collaboration across all these industries has resulted in strong, actionable approaches for businesses to adopt to create stronger organizations and workforces. The task force's strategies include creating new business and marketing plans to prepare for future operations, implementing efficient online platforms to reach customers, and cross training employees to create an evolving workforce that is more able to adapt to new jobs and tasks. The task force also has played a role in designing the city's COVID-19 Business Relief and Recovery Program (see front page). Read the summaries of the task force's meetings and see additional information at [Lakewood.org/EconomicRecovery](https://lakewood.org/EconomicRecovery).



Shopping local has always had a tremendous impact on local economies even before COVID-19, and now shopping local businesses is a year-round theme. We're dedicated to encouraging residents to support their favorite Lakewood locations. In just over a week after businesses had to close their physical locations, we launched [Lakewood.org/SupportLocalBiz](https://lakewood.org/SupportLocalBiz), an interactive platform and map that makes finding and supporting local organizations easy for everyone. This platform allows Lakewood businesses to showcase how their operations have adapted during the pandemic and continue to evolve by displaying the services they have available and how customers can connect with them. The mapping feature enables residents to search for business services near them by entering their address. Nearby restaurants, retailers and service providers are displayed. We encourage all of you to support local — buy from our businesses,



The interactive platform and map at [Lakewood.org/SupportLocalBiz](https://lakewood.org/SupportLocalBiz) makes finding and supporting local businesses easy for everyone.

show support online, write positive reviews, purchase a gift card for later use or just connect with your favorite businesses to let them know you're excited to visit again soon.

Businesses across Lakewood have also shown incredible strength these past few months, and they continue to work, serving the community during these trying times. Owners and employees have shifted quickly in a situation most of us have never seen in our lifetimes. The Economic Development team applauds their resiliency, and we're proud of our businesses.

Among those showing resiliency, Ballmer Peak Distillery, at 12347 W. Alameda Parkway, quickly shifted to making hand sanitizer for the public and frontline workers. The sanitizer is made from leftover rum and whiskey byproducts, making a powerful and much needed item.

In another example, LED Supply Co., at 12340 W. Cedar Drive, mobilized its Puro UV Disinfection Lighting technology to provide to entities across the nation. This UV light is designed to kill 99.9 percent of bacteria and viruses. Puro is made to be versatile and can be installed in a fixed position or used as a mobile system to disinfectant any room or facility, and it's being used for mass transit, hospitals, recreation centers, office spaces and more.

We also have learned of stories of tremendous business support throughout our community. Pinkard Construction donated personal protective equipment, Village Roasters offered free coffee to health

care professionals, and Jose O'Shea's restaurant offered groceries in-to-go orders for items such as milk, avocados and even toilet paper!

Locally owned businesses are the lifeline of our community. They are what give us our character, our favorite places to spend time and the vibrancy that makes Lakewood unique. Our team has pivoted to help your team pivot. Lakewood Economic Development will continue reaching out, and we ask you to connect with us. Let us know how we can help you adapt and become even more resilient. Thank you for doing business in Lakewood. Thank you for working with us to help keep our community safe. We look forward to seeing you all again soon. 📍



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# Arts, Parks & Recreation

## Help us document this time with your photos and stories

Someday, these hardships will quite literally be history. Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park is collecting images of Lakewood during COVID-19 as we connect this time period to the past, present and future.

Do you have a photograph of your favorite restaurant or store that was closed, an empty street, a hectic hospital scene or grocery store, or a crowded park? How about an activity your household is participating in at home? Upload your photos and related stories under the "History Photo Project" tab at [Lakewood.org/VirtualArt](https://Lakewood.org/VirtualArt).

The museum is also selectively collecting 3D artifacts, like a temporary closed sign from a Lakewood business, a handmade mask with a compelling story, or similar items.

If you would like to donate an object or just tell a quick story about how COVID-19 has affected you, your family or your job, please contact Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park at [cailew@lakewood.org](mailto:cailew@lakewood.org) or 720-256-6178. [A](#)



Alexis' daughter practiced social distancing but was still able to connect with best friends and play "Guess Who?"



Molly, pet therapy dog at St. Anthony's Hospital, helped owner and friend Bonnie make over 1,700 masks.



Jonna's son is all dressed up with no place to go. They ordered his matching mask and bow tie from a local company (Knotty Tie) and took this photo on the day of what would have been his senior prom.

## Parks in progress



Playgrounds have reopened after a temporary closure due to COVID-19. Use is limited to 10 or fewer people, and hand sanitizing is encouraged along with other health precautions.

Kids can test their strength and imaginations when they try out Addenbrooke Park's new playground that includes a three-deck play structure, twisting slides, saucer swings and a climbing spinner.

The large blue structure is approachable for multiple age groups and is surrounded with rubber safety surfacing that provides wheelchair accessibility. It is also the playground design that Lakewood residents picked from five options they could review on [LakewoodTogether.org](https://LakewoodTogether.org), the city's digital engagement platform that provides residents an opportunity to comment on a variety of upcoming city projects.

The Community Resources Department has assessed all the playgrounds in the city's park system and ranked them based on the need to replace them, using factors such as the age of the equipment and wear and tear on the structures. The playground at Addenbrooke Park, 600 S. Kipling Parkway, ranked as a top priority for replacement, and the Sun Valley Neighborhood Association also submitted a grant application to the city's Neighborhood Participation Program requesting that the playground be replaced.

The grant provided part of the funding for the new playground, which was completed in February. In addition to the rubber safety surface, the playground meets Americans

with Disabilities Act requirements, as did the other design options that residents reviewed. Learn more about the designs at [LakewoodTogether.org/Addenbrooke-Playground](https://LakewoodTogether.org/Addenbrooke-Playground).

The new playground is just one of several improvements in the last year at Addenbrooke, which is one of the city's large community parks. The concrete walking path in the park has been replaced, and a free Fitness Court has been added that also offers classes during warm weather as shown at [Lakewood.org/OutdoorFitness](https://Lakewood.org/OutdoorFitness).

The artwork "Echoes and Reflections" has been installed to commemorate the city's 50th anniversary of becoming a city, and Addenbrooke was selected for the commemorative piece because of its connection to one of Lakewood's pioneering families.

Other park improvements are in the works including a new playground at Idlewild Park at 10300 W. 14th Pl.; plans to construct Quail Street Park and design work on Cottage Park, both of which are new city parks; and a review of plans for improvements to Bear Creek Trail in the Bear Creek Greenbelt.

Love your parks? Learn more about upcoming park improvement projects and share your thoughts and ideas under the "parks and open space projects" tab at [LakewoodTogether.org](https://LakewoodTogether.org). [A](#)

## Facility closures and reduced services

Lakewood's Community Resources Department is continuing to review public health orders from the state and Jefferson County to ensure that arts, parks and recreation facilities and programs are in compliance. As a result of those orders, along with significant budgetary and staffing constraints, programming and services have been reduced and facilities are closed temporarily. The city's outdoor pools, recreation centers, Clements Community Center, Lakewood Cultural Center, Heritage Lakewood and Washington Heights Arts Center are currently closed but are offering certain services such as Lakewood Rides and virtual programs.

Updates are posted on the "latest updates" tab at [Lakewood.org/CovidResourceCenter](https://Lakewood.org/CovidResourceCenter).



Eva borrowed a second sewing machine so she could teach her husband how to sew a seam. They joined the Denver Mask Task Force "Stitch Ninjas" who have provided over 7,000 cloth masks to help caregivers and frontline warriors in the battle against COVID-19.



Abby, age 8, taking a break from home schooling in Green Mountain.



Dr. Polly took a photo of one of her grandkids who visited, in her driveway only, for her birthday.



Cassandra's home project of making masked cupcakes.



Jean works as a nurse in a rehab/long-term care facility with COVID-positive residents. It is heartbreaking for the families who are not able to see them but trust that the staff is doing their best to care for them.

## Save the date for 2021

The difficult decision has been made to cancel community celebrations hosted by the city this year due to restrictions on large gatherings as well as the continuing recommendations to practice social distancing. These include Big Boom Bash on July 4, the Sound Exciting! Summer Concert series and the annual fall festival Cider Days. We look forward to celebrating with our Lakewood community next year. 📅

## Lakewood Rides and meal delivery available

Although the Clements Community Center is currently closed, Lakewood Rides transportation service continues to be available to Lakewood residents ages 60 and older, as well as residents of any age with a disability. Transportation is available for nutrition, medical, post office and banking needs. Call 303-987-4826 with questions or to schedule a ride. Learn more at [Lakewood.org/LakewoodRides](http://Lakewood.org/LakewoodRides).

Meal delivery is available via the Volunteers of America Seniors' Nutrition Program. To request a meal, please call 303-987-4833. 📞



# VIRTUAL



# SUMMER CAMPS & CLASSES

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[Lakewood.org/Register](http://Lakewood.org/Register)

# Hunger council working on improving city's 'food system'

Children going hungry and families struggling to have enough food are most often associated with inner city neighborhoods, but hunger and food insecurity is as much a suburban problem, including in Lakewood, as anywhere else.

That is why the Council to End Hunger in Lakewood (CEHL) formed in June 2018 with more than 40 community and government organizations involved in food security issues in Lakewood. The council formed as part of Mayor Adam Paul's Lakewood Linked initiative, and its goal has been focused on collaborating and coordinating to create systemwide solutions to end hunger in Lakewood.

CEHL's work has involved getting a complete and clear assessment of the "food system" in the city to determine what services are available as well as the gaps in service and the hurdles residents face in getting help. Based on the assessment, CEHL plans to develop an action plan to address the needs and gaps that leave children, families and older adults struggling to ensure they have enough food.

While work has been underway on the assessment, the COVID-19 epidemic in the metro area created a food emergency that became the focus of CEHL's work in recent months. CEHL has been meeting weekly during the emergency, and its members have focused on finding ways to meet the demand on food pantries and organizing food distribution as efficiently as possible. They have also provided food delivery to those unable to leave their homes or with no one to help. CEHL members also conducted "connectedness calls" with residents to check in with them, determine what needs they have and provide human contact.

As CEHL continues addressing the food issues caused by COVID-19,

it also continues to work on the assessment and action plan. Benefits in Action, a member of CEHL, received a \$74,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to pay for developing the assessment and the action plan. CEHL is also seeking additional grants, including in conjunction with Jefferson County Public Health, to support developing additional coordination across organizations in the city, with neighboring cities and across the county.

CEHL members include numerous agencies that provide support to residents and families struggling with food insecurity including The Action Center, Jefferson County Public Health, Benefits in Action, Hunger Free Colorado, Jeffco Public Schools, Lakewood and several other organizations.

The group's efforts support the goal of Mayor Paul's Lakewood Linked initiative, which is built on the foundation that the impact of one organization can be amplified when combined with efforts of other organizations working on the same issue. The Lakewood Linked initiative also includes the Lakewood Faith Coalition of more than 35 faith-based groups, which focus on literacy and reading improvements for students in need. It also includes the Lakewood Service Organizations Coalition, which has raised funds for musical instruments and other educational gaps in Lakewood elementary schools. [▲](#)



Learn more at [Lakewood.org/LakewoodLinked](https://Lakewood.org/LakewoodLinked).

## FOOD PANTRY MAP

With the help of the city's Council to End Hunger in Lakewood, the city has posted a link to a map of food pantries, food banks and other food resources in Lakewood as well as across the metro area at [Lakewood.org/CovidResourceCenter](https://Lakewood.org/CovidResourceCenter). Click on the "resources, assistance and donations" button and look under the "food and other assistance" section.

## FOOD TASK FORCE AT WORK

The Integrated Food Task Force in Jefferson County launched as the COVID-19 crisis began in the metro area, and it has established distribution sites for all areas of the county and worked to ensure that food from the Food Bank of the Rockies and fresh food pickup has been available for everyone including homebound households. The task force includes numerous nonprofit organizations, local governments and business organizations. Watch a video about its work at <https://bit.ly/2X9DjOE>.

# Sustainable Neighborhoods Program expands

Lakewood's innovative program to bring sustainability to the grassroots level has added two neighborhoods under an expansion of the program for the first time since 2017.

Weir Gulch Gardens and O'Kane Park, both in central Lakewood, will join the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, which began in 2012 to encourage resident-led sustainability initiatives. With the addition of the two new neighborhoods, the program now has 10 sustainable neighborhoods stretching from northwest Lakewood and Green Mountain to central and southern Lakewood.

Neighborhoods participating in this unique certification program use guidance from city staff to organize workshops, projects and events that enhance the livability of their neighborhoods and reduce residents' ecological footprints. These grassroots efforts bring new ideas, enriching programs and community cohesion for residents. Participating neighborhoods earn credits for their efforts, and depending on the number of credits earned each year, they may receive city designation as a Participating or an Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood. The



neighborhoods also receive a sign to put up in the neighborhoods showing their certification.

For a map of the Weir Gulch Gardens and O'Kane neighborhoods, as well as the other sustainable neighborhoods, visit [SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org/Lakewood](https://SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org/Lakewood).

The two neighborhoods were chosen after applications were opened for neighborhoods to join the program. An evaluation committee consisting of staff from a variety of city departments assessed the applicants based on the potential impact of projects the neighborhood proposed, the level of neighborhood support, the potential impacts on community cohesion and engagement and the ability to advance equity and inclusiveness in the neighborhood.

If you live in or near one of the newly added neighborhoods and want to get involved, email [SustainableNeighborhoods@Lakewood.org](mailto:SustainableNeighborhoods@Lakewood.org). [▲](#)

## 2020 Sustainability Awards Winners

### City of Lakewood Sustainability Awards



### Community Sustainability

- **Recycled Mat-ters:** This business creates new products from the 1,200 floor mats thrown away each week in the metro area while also providing work experiences for Lakewood high school students.
- **Ballmer Peak Distillery:** This business conserves more than 400,000 gallons of water and prevents more than 24,000 pounds of waste going to the landfill with its byproducts going to feed wildlife.
- **Everett Court Partners:** This developer creatively converted the historic Hospice of Saint John into 49 energy-efficient, affordable apartments for seniors while also salvaging, reusing and recycling buildings, fixtures and other items.
- **Compost Colorado:** This company collects and composts more than two tons of organic waste each week from 112 subscribers in Lakewood through its weekly curbside service and provides a way for those subscribers to buy zero-waste products.

### Defenders of the Planet

- **Dunstan Middle School Planet Patriots:** This passionate group of students reduced emissions, improved air quality and increased recycling at its school through a campaign to have parents turn off their car engines while waiting to pick up students and by instituting recycling during lunch periods.
- **Cris Sorency's Fifth Grade Class at Lakewood Elementary School Styrofoam Stoppers:** This class convinced the school to stop the use of Styrofoam trays at lunch and persuaded Jeffco Public Schools to begin to transition away from them across the district.
- **Deviny Elementary Environmental Club:** The club's determined efforts to reduce waste through recycling and reuse diverted nearly 6,400 pounds of waste from the landfill including hard-to-recycle items.

### Bruce Peoples Eco-Employee

- **Lynn Coppedge:** As a sustainability planner, Lynn played an integral part in developing the city's sustainability program, composting at city facilities, Lakewood's communitywide greenhouse gas inventory, the employee commuter rewards program and the annual Earth Day Celebration.

For more details, visit [Lakewood.org/SustainabilityAwards](https://Lakewood.org/SustainabilityAwards).



## Paintings make good neighbors

**D**ick Berry takes his painting seriously. The longtime Lakewood resident, who moved to the city in 1969 after falling in love with winter in the mountains and skiing, has painted more than 100 oil paintings since retiring 40 years ago, and he has been displaying a selection of his works along the fence surrounding his yard in southwest Lakewood.

Close neighbors have long enjoyed the outdoor paintings —

covered by waterproof covers at night and during rainstorms. But the recent COVID-19 pandemic and coverage by a local TV station has brought new meaning to his outdoor gallery.

One resident and his two children came by the house after seeing the story. “His two kids, (aged) 7 and 4, showed me their paintings. Wanted to get my ideas,” Berry said. 📸

## West Colfax entry features return

**T**wo iconic West Colfax Avenue features have returned to signal the entry into Lakewood along this famed roadway.

The reinstallation of the 26-foot tall entry features in February marks the completion of several months of renovations to update and rejuvenate the towers. New brighter light-emitting diodes (LED) lights have replaced the former neon fixtures at the top of the towers and along the rings of the towers’ legs. The renovation also included using more modern colors for the towers’ structural elements.

The entry features were installed 20 years ago on the northwest and southwest corners of West Colfax and Sheridan Boulevard as part of a West Colfax revitalization effort. “Lakewood” in neon topped one of the towers and “Colfax” the other one, with the words readable from the east and west. That wording remains on the refurbished towers, minus the neon lighting.

Using neon on the original entry features reflected the historical neon signs that once lined West Colfax during the 1940s and 1950s. But neon lights don’t last long and require frequent maintenance and replacements. It also has been difficult to find maintenance and repair services for this dated technology.



Refurbishing these entry features is part of a citywide effort to tailor the city’s entry signs to reflect the unique areas of the city. In addition to the entry towers, 13 updated “Welcome to Lakewood” signs were installed throughout the city along with new distinctive stone entry features on West Alameda Avenue. 📸

## 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 seven 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.

**H**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 FEMA 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). 📸

# Get Involved

## Know Your City Council Members



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### Ward 3



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### Ward 4



**Barb Franks**  
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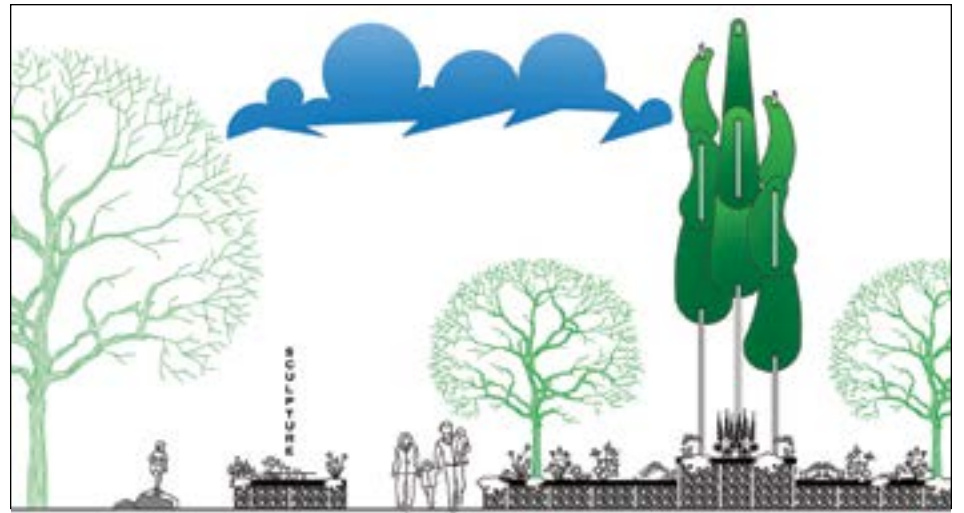
**Karen Harrison**  
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kharrison@lakewood.org

### Ward 5



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



## Sculpture walk to transform historic corner

The city's history runs through the intersection of Wadsworth Boulevard and West Colfax Avenue, where the city's first stoplight was located and its central location made it perfect for housing a school and a church. Now, that history will encompass a sculpture walk for local public art.

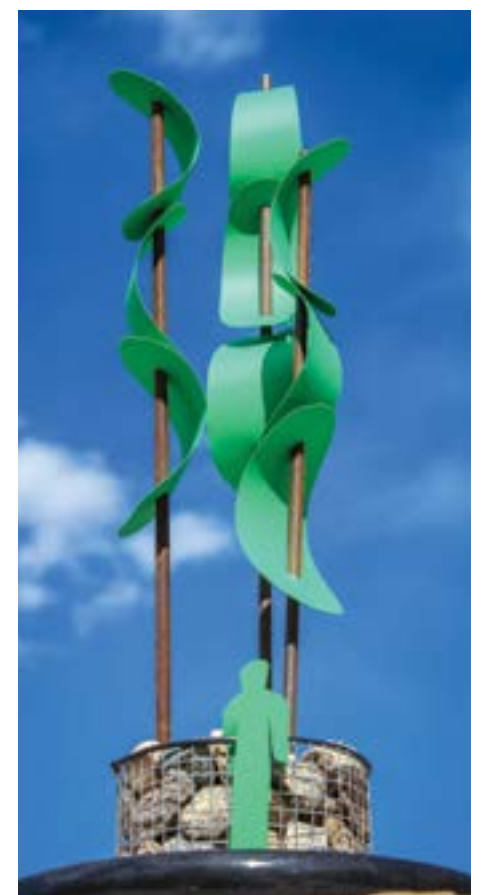
Later this year, a highly visible city-owned parcel on the southwest corner of the intersection will be transformed with the support of a city grant program, local businesses and volunteers. The West Colfax Sculpture Walk will consist of trees, plants and rotating sculptures created by local artists. The centerpiece of the walk will be a large, 28-foot tall permanent art installation called the "Evertrees" that evokes the idea of bringing the Rockies to the plains.

Lakewood Landscape Architect Nestor Fedak created the design for the sculpture walk as well as the "Evertrees" centerpiece to enhance opportunities for residents and visitors to interact with art while enjoying some passive recreation along West Colfax. Community partners and volunteers will play an integral role in constructing the walk. Opportunities for sponsorships and donations are available, and volunteers will be able to sign up for workdays to build the walk in the fall.

The neighborhoods that represent some of the most historic parts of Lakewood such as Two Creeks and Eiber strongly support the sculpture walk, noting it will transform a "dusty, unpleasant space" into a "people place and a source of civic pride."

"It is located right in the heart of the 40 West Arts District and only a block away from one of the busiest light rail stations in the area — the Lakewood Wadsworth Light Rail Station. This area has the potential to transform perceptions of the area itself," Liz Black, director of the 40 West Arts District, said in a letter of support for the project. "The transformation of this plot would act as a guiding light."

The idea for the walk grew from a partnership between the West Colfax Community Association (WCCA) and the Lakewood-West Colfax Business



Improvement District that submitted a concept for a sculpture walk to the city's Neighborhood Participation Program ([Lakewood.org/NPP](https://lakewood.org/NPP)). This long-running grant program encourages neighborhood organizations such as WCCA to apply to receive funding for projects they believe will make a difference in improving their neighborhoods. City Council approves the neighborhood projects that receive grants each year, and the sculpture walk was chosen in 2019, allowing work on designing and developing the project to get underway.

WCCA and the business improvement district are also providing funds to develop the corner into a unique space through the "placemaking process," which uses art and other community assets to create and rejuvenate public spaces to support a high quality of life, the physical attractiveness and social character of a neighborhood. The two organizations will also assist with ongoing maintenance after the site opens.

Learn more about the history of the site, view plans, volunteer or sponsor the project by visiting [Lakewood.org/SculptureWalk](https://lakewood.org/SculptureWalk).