



Lakewood Cultural Center Presents heritage, holiday fun and dining deals



The Lakewood Cultural Center (LCC) has launched the 2023-2024 LCC Presents season with an exhilarating lineup of performances and a new element to satisfy patron's appetites.

The Presents season opens with performances that commemorate the heritage of two significant cultures. For National Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrate with the Oct. 14 performance by the Villalobos Brothers. One of today's leading contemporary Mexican ensembles, the brothers' masterful arrangements and original music flawlessly blend the richness of Mexican folk music with intricate harmonies of jazz and classical music.

For November's Native American Heritage Month, experience a multicultural jazz performance Nov. 4 featuring the Delbert Anderson Quartet. Anderson, a critically acclaimed trumpet artist, intertwines Dine (Navajo) spinning melodies with improvisational jazz and funk for a unique and unmissable performance.

Looking forward to the holidays? Tickets are available now for three

new holiday productions coming to the LCC. On Nov. 30, award-winning singer and songwriter Kat Edmonson performs familiar cabaret, vintage classics and original songs with disarming candor and humorous anecdotes.

On Dec. 2 and 3, the Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers return with a fresh collection of new songs and old favorites to celebrate the season. Three of Colorado's most honored acoustic performers join the rest of the Stocking Stuffers to perform Americana music filled with gorgeous vocals and holiday joy.

Cap off the season on Dec. 22 with all things holiday and completely ridiculous with "The Queen's Cartoonists: Holiday Hurrah — Yule Love It!" This fantastic ensemble plays music from classic cartoons paired with video projections of classic and contemporary cartoons. The multi-instrumental mayhem and comedy that result are fun for the whole family. For all of the city's holiday happenings, visit Lakewood.org/Holidays.

Complement your theater experience by dining with one



Feeling good about recycling.

This Lakewood resident is excited to drop off recyclables at Lakewood's Quail Street Recycling Center, 1068 Quail St., where residents can recycle metal cans, cardboard, paper, glass bottles and jars, aluminum beverage cans and plastic bottles. Learn more by calling 303-987-7974 or visiting Lakewood.org/QuailStreet.

of LCC Presents preferred partners before the show. Select restaurants in Belmar, Downtown Lakewood are offering dining deals when you visit before the show and present your LCC Presents ticket. Visit Lakewood.org/LCCP for a list of restaurants and offers.

LCC presents world-class performances with the farthest seat just 12 rows from the stage. Patrons

also enjoy free parking, on-site refreshments and a fully accessible experience. Individual tickets and create-your-own packages of four or more LCC Presents performances are now available at the Lakewood Cultural Center Box Office at 470 S. Allison Parkway, 303-987-7845 and at Lakewood.org/LCCP.

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POSTAL PATRON

Free leaf recycling

To keep leaves out of the landfill and off city streets where they can block storm drains, Lakewood is offering free residential leaf recycling.

Drop-off details

- Saturdays, Nov. 4 and Nov. 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff will be available to assist.
- Monday-Friday, Nov. 6-10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location:

- Lakewood Greenhouse, 9556 W. Yale Ave.

Things to Know:

- Proof of Lakewood residency may be required.
- Only leaves are allowed; branches, woody brush or tree stumps will not be accepted. Jefferson County offers slash collection. Visit Jeffco.us/Slash.
- No drop-offs from commercial businesses allowed.
- Leaves must be emptied on the pile. No bags, even compostable ones, are accepted.
- More information is available at Lakewood.org/LeafRecycling.

It is a violation of Lakewood Municipal Code to sweep or blow leaves or any other debris into the street. Piles of leaves clog the storm drain system and damage street sweepers. Thank you for helping us keep Lakewood streets clean.



MAYOR



Adam Paul

Dear Lakewood,

It is challenging to summarize my thoughts on my years as a public servant in this last column to you. I have had the tremendous honor of serving you for over 20 years. I started my service on the board for the Green Mountain Water & Sanitation District followed by eight years as your council member, and now I am coming to the end of my second term as your mayor.

Lakewood is a great city, and we have incredible people. Our location is ideal, and our city staff is the best. We seek to be innovative and look for unique ways to address the concerns facing our community.

Together, we have accomplished many beautiful things; in 2011 and 2016, we were named an All-America City. We have partnered with our faith and nonprofit organizations to help those most in need. We are piloting our first-ever day work program for residents who are unhoused. We have added 14 parks to our inventory during my time with the city, which pencils out to almost 200 acres of preserved and protected parkland. We created an arts district on West Colfax. We continue to make strides in our sustainability plan and look for unique ways to address issues related to our housing crisis and need for affordable housing.

We like to joke that local government is focused on police, parks and potholes. While that might sound like a simple mission, these are critical to the everyday quality of life you expect. I’m proud of our Police Department, which continues to innovate with homeless navigators and mental health co-responders. Our Municipal Court focuses on providing service and truly helping by bringing the court into the

community with its Community Outreach Court and other specialized programs. Our parks and public works programs are top-notch. The city is embarking on two major infrastructure plans related to West Colfax, and funding has finally been secured to have the interchange at Sixth Avenue and Wadsworth redone.

These are just some examples; there is so much more we have accomplished together through your support and the hard work of City Council and our dedicated staff.

It has not always been easy; we endured and worked through a pandemic together. We’ve had controversial and challenging land-use issues. We temporarily lost one of our key economic drivers because of a hailstorm. And, like the rest of the country, we had to reexamine how we police and provide services to those most in need.


I have had the honor of a lifetime to be your mayor. But there is no guide to this role, and I have celebrated successes and endured downturns. I have learned so much

from you and the Lakewood team. I’m a better person today than when I started, and I know that change can be tricky and challenging for everyone.

I’ve also learned that good prevails, and while not necessarily in the time frame we want to see it, it will happen. It will happen when we continue to strive to be better and to care for one another.

I love Lakewood, and there are brighter days ahead. Please support your next mayor, as this can be a challenging job. The goal to focus on is for all of us to succeed, which starts with the elected officials and the city staff.

I wish this fantastic community all the best and will forever be grateful for the opportunity you allowed me to be your leader. Godspeed.


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

We are building an inclusive community.

WARD 1



Charley Able

The Nov. 7 election (*please vote!*) will see the end of the longtime service from many on City Council including my co-Council member Charley Able. While he and I have not always agreed, I have never underestimated his commitment



Jeslin Shahrezaei

to Lakewood. His career as a reporter with the Rocky Mountain News, covering Lakewood stories, provided historical context to many conversations we participated in during our time together on City Council.

His work on the city’s Campaign Finance Committee created a more equitable path for parents to run for City Council by allowing campaign dollars to support child care. His leadership as chair of the city’s Head Start Committee ensured Lakewood continues to invest in the youngest school-aged children’s success. Most remarkably, he was awarded the police’s Citizen Citation for Distinguished Service in 2020 for his bravery in protecting a mother and her 4-year-old daughter from an armed murder suspect who fled into his neighborhood and confronted his next-door neighbors.

I look forward to working with the next City Council and keeping

the same commitment that my term-limited colleagues have led with. They have showcased the importance of listening to community members, staying informed and a willingness to get to work for Lakewood. I have no doubt we will still hear from them as they return to their roles as community leaders.

Jeslin Shahrezaei
303-987-7728
jshahrezaei@lakewood.org

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

WARD 2



Sharon Vincent

This is my last Council Corner column for the city’s newsletter, and I first want to acknowledge those who have worked tirelessly to improve the neighborhoods. Thank you to the O’Kane Park Neighborhood Association, Two Creeks

Neighborhood Organization, Morse Park Sustainable Neighborhood, and Eiber Neighborhood Association. These groups have accomplished much. There have also been “pop-up” groups that came together to clean up trash along Colfax before the marathon, support demolition of the dilapidated shopping center at 10th and Sheridan, collect funds for a speed sign along First Avenue, or provide input on the 40 West ArtLine.

One of the major opportunities for residents to be involved in a meaningful way is to participate in the upcoming update of the Comprehensive Plan. One of the frequent complaints from residents

is, “How can something like that be built?” The Comprehensive Plan creates the vision for what residents want to see in their city, so stay tuned to LakewoodTogether.org/CompPlanUpdate to participate.

After eight years on council, I had hoped to accomplish more, but often personal agendas of council members affected decision-making and slowed the process. I believe residents have been disgusted by this, which is reflected in their lack of participation in elections and volunteering for the city’s boards and commissions. While we all come with our passions and beliefs, I hope council members remember that they represent all of Lakewood,

which means first-time residents, those age 65 or older, and those in apartments or single-family homes for over 40 years.

In parting, I wish the new council good luck. It’s often a frustrating job that is much more than part time. Thank you to my co-Council members Scott Koop, Jacob LaBure and currently Sophia Mayott-Guerrero. When I was faced with important decisions on council, please know I believe passionately in northeast Lakewood, and I’m confident progress will continue.

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

WARD 3



Anita Springsteen

This is a reflection of my service on Council, as I will be moving onto actual effective ways to serve my community.

This sounds the alarm that Lakewood leadership staff attempt to castrate and control your elected officials at every turn. Anybody who questions this is villainized and viciously attacked, in what I believe are criminal ways. My experience is

that leadership staff is willing to ruin people’s lives if they do not fall in line. The staff create endless barriers to obtaining information and despise transparency. You DO NOT live in a democracy. I believe it is a dictatorship run by people who are not elected, but who make puppets of most elected officials through intimidation or bribery. I think the City of Lakewood is a dark machine of manipulation and pretense that citizens matter — when all is driven by the almighty dollar and developers. I believe this City is a disappointing and corrupt scam, plotting against the average citizen. Their darkness opened my eyes to the sad reality, and I am relieved to come back into the light.

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



Rebekah Stewart

Last month, Lakewood embarked on the planning and public input process for the city’s new Comprehensive Plan. Our first open house was a huge success, and I’d like to thank the community for showing up in such large numbers to have input into what we want our city to be as we look toward the future!

The Comprehensive Plan is a once-in-a-decade opportunity for our community to envision the type of city we aspire to be and what our long-term priorities are when it comes to items like housing, parks and open space, neighborhood character, economic development, sustainability, etc. In our ward meeting a few weeks ago, I urged everyone there to please engage in this process and have a voice in shaping our new Comprehensive Plan. You can get updates on future meetings and provide input at LakewoodTogether.org/CompPlanUpdate. Let’s use this opportunity to build a brighter future for our city together!

Rebekah Stewart
303-987-7740
rstewart@lakewood.org

WARD 4



Barb Franks

Thanks to each and every one of you that reached out over the past eight years with your questions, concerns, constructive feedback and kudos. It has been an honor of a lifetime to serve our community.

Dave Rein is the sole candidate on the ballot this fall to represent Ward 4. We’ve spoken before and during his candidacy; I appreciate his outreach, that he came to every conversation well prepared, and

sought to deepen his understanding through active listening and thoughtful follow-up questions. Preserving open space led me to public service, so it feels like a full circle moment to tell you about the amazing views that visitors experience from the parking lot and walking the trails of the city’s most recent open space addition, Peak View Park, at 2350 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Hats off to City Manager Kathy Hodgson for all the conversations over the years with the Taylor family that ultimately opened the doors to the acquisition of this stunning property.

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



Rich Olver

A lower speed limit will be coming to Lakewood. The City is contemplating lowering the 25 mph limit to 20. This is in response to complaints about speeders. However, it’s worth noting that this change may not address the core issue, as most complaints likely involve drivers going significantly faster than 25 mph. I’ve test driven at 20 mph. As of this writing I’m almost home. My

challenge is that the next time you see a 25 mph sign, throttle back to 20, to experience the future, and maybe tell the City your view. It’s evident that the city has broader goals than annoying speed demons, including encouraging smaller and more environmentally friendly vehicles. A separate piece of that plan is the narrower travel lanes you see after repaving. That’s also supposed to slow us down, and smaller cars will fit there easier. However narrower lanes have unintended consequences, such as increased stress from rigidly staying in your lane, and increased side-swiping risks.

Rich Olver
303-987-7748
rolver@lakewood.org

WARD 5



Wendi Strom

Election season is here. The election for your City Council and your Jeffco school board will take place this year on Nov. 7. In Colorado, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to vote, if desired, by mail. Ballots will begin to be mailed and drop boxes will open Oct. 16. In-person voting opens Oct. 30. Check the national website Vote411.org or local VoteJeffco.com to see what’s on your ballot, to get

registered to vote, or to check your registration status. While many voters may choose to skip voting in these local elections, these are the elections that affect decisions that can matter most in our day-to-day lives. If you have ever been concerned about an issue in Lakewood, like housing, public safety, homelessness, or green spaces, then this is the election to vote. Once you’re ready to start learning about the candidates running in Lakewood, you can learn more in this edition’s Voter’s Guide starting on the next page or by watching the League of Women Voters candidate forum at Lakewood.org/VoterInformation. **Wendi Strom**
303-987-7767
wstrom@lakewood.org



Mary Janssen

City Council, with a 7-2 vote, approved a resolution to implement statewide Proposition 123, which will require the city to increase subsidized housing by 9 percent over the next three years. I believe adding more subsidized housing shifts the property tax burden to those who aren’t subsidized. City Council determines the city’s property tax mill levy at the budget hearings that will be Oct. 9 and

Oct. 23. Double-digit tax increases are expected in January 2024 due to the spike in property valuations. The state Legislature failed to present solutions, so it’s an ideal time to lower Lakewood’s property mill levy. I’ll be presenting a motion at the budget and mill levy hearings to lower the city’s mill levy, and I invite you to join the discussion. **Mary Janssen**
303-987-7776
mjanssen@lakewood.org