



I N S I D E

Council Connections	2
City Manager's Clipboard	3
Community Update	4
Housing Assistance	4
Parks & Recreation	5
Police Report	6
Community News	7
Community Calendar	8
Frequently Called Numbers	8



winter 2004

the city of lakewood newsletter

The City of Lakewood website is a great place to learn more about what is happening in our community. Check out Lakewood online at www.cityoflakewood.us.

To keep up on the latest happenings in Lakewood, sign up to receive City Happenings. City Happenings is the City's bi-weekly mini-newsletter published every other Friday. You can subscribe on-line at www.cityoflakewood.us in the News section.

FORT STEILACOOM PARK IMPROVEMENTS UNDER WAY

Improvements are coming to Fort Steilacoom Park. After months of conducting community meetings and listening to hundreds of comments from residents, the City and Pierce County are ready to move some dirt at Fort Steilacoom Park to make way for improvements to the athletic fields. The City of Lakewood and Pierce County are partnering to make these improvements possible at Fort Steilacoom Park, a park that is used by residents from throughout Pierce County.

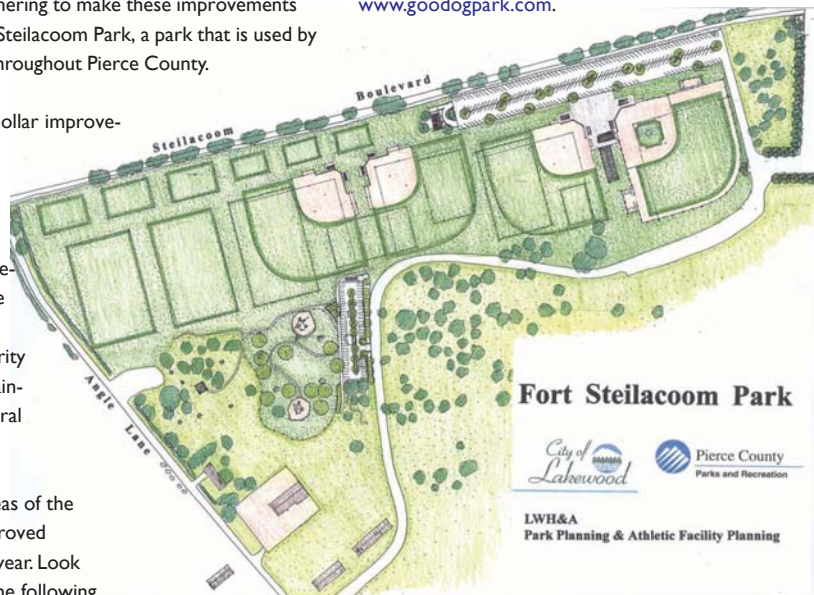
Issues discussed included fencing, access to water, removal of animal waste, safety, rules and regulations and parking. The only way this facility will work is if a citizen's group is responsible for helping manage and monitor the site. If you are interested in supporting this effort please check out this local website, www.goodogpark.com.

The \$2 million dollar improvement project will focus on the land adjacent to Steilacoom Boulevard. Special care will be taken to ensure the majority of the park is maintained in its natural state.

Only specific areas of the park will be improved during the next year. Look for changes to the following areas:

Sport Fields: improvements will include rehabilitating the two existing baseball diamonds, creating two new baseball diamonds and updating the open field areas. The open areas will be enhanced so a variety of sports can be played on the fields, everything from soccer to lacrosse. It will also remain open and available for kite flying and other non-organized use by park visitors. Other improvements include beautifying the entry, updating the children's play area, the picnic area and building a restroom at the park. The restroom will be paid for by a \$100,000 + contribution from the Partners for Parks Organization.

Off Leash Dog Park Area: A number of citizens met in late January to set goals and design an off leash area near the Angle Lane entrance to Fort Steilacoom Park. Metro Parks Tacoma is also supporting this venture.



Thanks to a partnership between the City and Pierce County, Fort Steilacoom Park improvements will include new sports fields, parking area and children's' play area.

CONTACT US

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web: www.cityoflakewood.us

LAKEWOOD CONNECTIONS

Lakewood Connections is the official newsletter of the City of Lakewood. Connections is published quarterly and mailed to all residents and businesses in Lakewood. Watch for future issues in your mailbox in May, August and November. For more news about Lakewood, visit www.cityoflakewood.us.

COUNCIL CONNECTION

LAKWOOD WELCOMES NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS, MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR

In December Lakewood saluted Larry Humphrey for his service as a Council member. Larry Humphrey chose not to run for City Council again after serving on the Council for six years. During his time in office, Larry was an extremely dedicated servant of the City of Lakewood.



Lakewood City Council

Pictured left to right. Top row - Pad Finnigan, Helen McGovern (Deputy Mayor), Doug Richardson (Mayor), Walter Neary. Bottom row - John Arbeeny, Bill Harrison, Claudia Thomas.

In January two new Council members took office, Walter Neary and John Arbeeny. Walter Neary takes the position previously held by Larry Humphrey and John Arbeeny fills the position vacated by former Council member Jose Palmas.

Additionally in January, the Council chose a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Doug Richardson was selected to serve as Mayor and Helen McGovern was chosen to serve as Deputy Mayor for the next two years.

LAKWOOD GOVERNMENT DAY CityTalk rescheduled to Thursdays

Lakewood has created a Citizens' Government Day on Thursday mornings when both the City Council member and Pierce County Council member Dick Muri will have office hours at Lakewood City Hall. Lakewood Government Day seeks to make access to City and County government easier for Lakewood residents. So please stop by Thursday mornings to meet with your elected representatives.

Beginning in February, City Talk moved to Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at Lakewood City Hall. City Talk is your opportunity to meet with the Mayor or another Council members to discuss ideas and concerns about the City. No appointment is needed - citizens can just drop by.

Additionally, Lakewood's representative to the Pierce County Council, Dick Muri, has office hours at Lakewood City Hall on Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and noon. You do not need to set an appointment. For more information, you can contact Dick Muri's office at 798-3308.

BILL HARRISON HONORED AS LAKWOOD'S FIRST MAYOR

In 2003, Bill Harrison, who has served as Lakewood's Mayor for eight years, announced that although he would remain on the City Council he would not be available to serve again as Mayor in 2004. Bill Harrison had been Lakewood's only Mayor since being first elected in 1995. The Lakewood City Council chooses from amongst its members for a Mayor and Deputy Mayor. For the last several years Bill Harrison and Claudia Thomas have been chosen unanimously by

their fellow Council members for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

In honor of his service as Lakewood's First Mayor, the City held a tribute ceremony at the last Council meeting of 2003 to honor and thank Bill Harrison for his service and guidance to the City.

As part of this tribute, the City Council created the Bill Harrison Volunteer of the Year Award to honor his tradition of service to our community. The Council will begin soliciting nominations for the 2004 Volunteer of the Year honoree in March. Nominees should be Lakewood residents who demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism in our community. Nomination forms will be available at City Hall or on our website, www.cityoflakewood.us.

We wish to once again thank Bill Harrison for his outstanding service as Lakewood's first Mayor and urge the citizens of Lakewood to carry on his tradition of service by volunteering in our community.

LAKWOOD THANKS CLAUDIA THOMAS

The City Council thanks Dr. Claudia Thomas for serving as Lakewood's Deputy Mayor for the last eight years. Her leadership has been greatly appreciated and is part of the reason for Lakewood's success as a city. Dr. Thomas's finest contribution to our community continues to be the development of collaborative efforts that benefit Lakewood's youth. Thank you Claudia!

LAKWOOD'S FLOWER - THE CAMELLIA

Lakewood official City flower is the camellia. Camellias are an evergreen shrub originally from Japan and China. Their beautiful blooms brighten many Lakewood gardens. With hundreds of different species, the camellia is truly representative of the beauty and diversity of Lakewood. We hope that residents will plant a camellia in their yards this spring to symbolize the City that we are all so proud to call home.



City Talk - Your chance to talk with the City Council every Thursday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The Mayor or another Council member is available to meet one-on-one with Lakewood residents. You don't need an appointment, so just stop by City Hall and share your ideas and suggestions with the City Council.

You can e-mail Council members at council@ci.lakewood.wa.us.

Coffee with the Mayor Please join us for Coffee with the Mayor the second Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at the St. Clare Hospital Resource Center. Coffee with the Mayor is a great way to find out about the latest developments in Lakewood. Coffee with the Mayor is an informal forum that lasts an hour. Coffee with the Mayor occasionally features a guest speaker and always includes time for questions and comments.

CITY MANAGER'S CLIPBOARD

CITIZEN SERVICE

Citizen service is the City of Lakewood's term for customer service. It is your Lakewood City staff's goal to provide the highest level of citizen service possible. We place great importance on being timely and courteous in our responses and service to Lakewood's citizens. To that end we encourage all visitors to City Hall to complete a Citizen Service Survey available on each floor of City Hall or on our website, www.cityoflakewood.us. These surveys provide great feedback for our employees and help us to do a better job of serving you.

We have received hundreds of completed surveys and I am proud to say that almost all are extremely positive. Residents and visitors alike tell us that our staff is very helpful and a pleasure to work with. I encourage you to stop by City Hall to meet some of our terrific employees and I encourage you to fill out a Citizen Service Survey and let us know how we are doing. We strive to provide the best service possible to the citizens of Lakewood and your feedback helps us do just that.

LAKWOOD SUMMERFEST 2004 - JULY 10

Don't miss Lakewood Summerfest 2004 on July 10 at Fort Steilacoom Park. The City is working with Pierce County Parks, a variety of local service organizations and businesses to host a community festival that will include music, games and activities for children of all ages and an outdoor movie. Mark your calendar now for this great community event.

LAKWOOD CREATES POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

The City of Lakewood created its first Civil Service Commission in preparation for a City operated Police Department. We received 18 applications and were very pleased with the interest. Seven candidates were interviewed and three candidates selected.

The new Commissioners are; David Boyd serving a six year term, Bonnie Boyle serving a four year term and Stephen Bisson serving a two year term. The Commissioners' first order of business was election of a chair. Bonnie Boyle was unanimously elected.

The duty of the Commission is to make rules and regulations regarding the manner in which examinations may be held; appointments, promotions, transfers, reinstatements, demotions, suspensions, and discharges shall be made; and general personnel administration relating to the new City Police Department are handled. The Commission may participate in matters such as the enforcement of related state statutes, conduct hearings and investigations, hear appeals or complaints, establish a roster of eligible candidates, and provide for; formulate and hold competitive tests to determine qualifications of various classifications.

The Commission will generally meet monthly however, during the start up process meetings will be held more frequently.

SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Each year the City is required by law to update its Six Year Transportation Improvement Program. This process starts early each year and culminates in the adoption of an updated program in June.

The updating process is led by the Citizens' Transportation Review Committee. This committee needs the input of Lakewood citizens to identify the highest priority transportation projects for inclusion in the Six Year Program.

Because of the passage of state initiatives 695 and 776, which eliminated the motor vehicle excise tax and the \$15.00 vehicle license fee, funds available for transportation improvements have been reduced drastically. Remaining funds need to be used for only the most important projects. The City needs your help in identifying the projects considered most important by its' citizens.

You can provide input to the Citizens' Transportation Review Committee through the Public Works Department. Input can be made by email to publicworks@ci.lakewood.wa.us; by mail to City of Lakewood, Public Works Department, 6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood, WA 98499; or you can provide your input by telephone to Mr. Larkin, Public Works Director, at 983-7795.

LAKWOOD HIRES FIRST TWO POLICE OFFICERS FOR NEW DEPARTMENT

Lakewood has hired the first two police officers for the new department that will become operational by the end of this year. They join Larry Saunders who was hired as the City's first Police Chief in December. The first two officers will help with a number of transitional duties including recruitment and hiring of the rest of the department staff. Lakewood anticipates hiring 95 commissioned officers and 9 community service officers during 2004.

The first two officers to join the new Lakewood Police Department are Sergeant Dave Guttu and Officer Mark Eakes. Both come to Lakewood from Pierce County and have a combined 30 years experience. They also possess some special skills that will be very valuable to the recruitment process, which began at the end of January.



Scott Rohlfs,
City Manager

CITIZEN FEEDBACK

The City is always interested in citizen feedback. To encourage citizen input on a variety of subjects, the City regularly posts survey questions on our website, www.cityoflakewood.us.

The City Council and staff rely on the questionnaire responses to give them an idea of how the residents of Lakewood feel about certain issues. The questionnaires are not scientific, they are just general surveys to gain some understanding of the sentiment of Lakewood residents.

Some questions elicit greater interest and response than others. Some questions have had as few as 20 responses while others have generated more than 100 responses.

We also post the results of the surveys on the website, so that everyone can benefit from knowing how people feel about issues in Lakewood. Individual survey responses are kept confidential.

The City encourages everyone to take some time to visit the website and complete the current survey questionnaire. New questions are posted about every other month depending on the rate of response.

In the past we have asked questions about shopping in Lakewood, automated traffic enforcement, summer concerts, fireworks, Lakewood Connections, our website and public safety.

The City is always interested in citizen feedback. In addition to completing our online questionnaires, citizens are encouraged to provide feedback by attending Council meetings, writing, e-mailing and calling the City Council and taking part in City Talk and Coffee with the Mayor.

You can write to City Council at 6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood, WA 98499.

E-mail the Council at council@ci.lakewood.wa.us. Call the Council at 589-2489. City Talk is held every Thursday between 9 and 10:30 a.m. at City Hall. Coffee with the Mayor is the second Friday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the St. Clare Hospital Resource Center.



Lakewood is proud of the work our Neighborhood Associations are doing throughout the community. Neighborhood Associations are a great way to get involved in your community to make a difference.

Lake City

The Lake City Neighborhood Association meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Lake City Fire Station (8517 Washington Blvd.).

Lakeview

The Lakeview Neighborhood Association meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall (6000 Main Street SW).

Tillicum/Woodbrook

The Tillicum/Woodbrook Neighborhood Association meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Tillicum American Lake Gardens Community Center (14916 Washington Ave. SW).

Springbrook

The Springbrook Neighborhood Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at CenterForce (5204 Solberg Drive SW).

Southgate

The Southgate Neighborhood Association recently formed and meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Southgate Elementary School.

If you would like information about Neighborhood Associations contact the Community Relations Department, 589-2489 or e-mail cbock@ci.lakewood.wa.us.

If you are interested in forming a blockwatch in your area, please contact Joy Brown, Safe Streets Coordinator, at the Lakewood Police Department, 798-4200.

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Up to \$5,000 as a **GRANT** is available, on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified applicants, to be used towards down payment and closing costs in buying a home in Lakewood. The **GRANT** funds do not have to be repaid!

The maximum allowable property value/sale price has been raised to \$262,295.

- The borrower must pay 1/2 the required down payment, and gift funds are OK to meet this requirement.
- Borrowers must have reasonably good credit in the past 12 months.

Income limitations are based on U.S. Housing and Urban Development median income guidelines below:

Qualifying Income Limits for Lakewood's Housing Programs		
	Major Home Repair	Housing Rehabilitation
	Down Payment Assistance	Emergency Minor Repair
Family Size	Maximum Income	Maximum Income
1	\$34,800	\$21,750
2	\$39,750	\$24,850
3	\$44,700	\$27,950
4	\$49,700	\$31,050
5	\$53,650	\$33,500
6	\$57,650	\$36,000
7	\$61,600	\$38,500
8	\$65,600	\$41,000

Income Limits effective March 1, 2003

When the one-time GRANT funds of \$25,000 have been exhausted, Down Payment Assistance LOAN funds are available. The loan program allows up to \$5,000 towards down payment and closing costs in buying a home in Lakewood. The interest rate for the loan program is 0% and payments are deferred for up to 20 years.

EMERGENCY MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM CHANGES

Beginning July 1, 2004 the City of Lakewood's Emergency Minor Home Repair Program for qualifying low-income owner-occupied homeowners will be changed. Due to limited federal funding and to assist as many households as possible, the following changes are being made:

Maximum lifetime limit: The maximum grant amount that can be spent on the first visit to the home after July 1, 2004 is **\$3,500 with a lifetime maximum of \$5,000** per homeowner for needed emergency minor home repairs. These changes are effective July 1, 2004. If you have received assistance under the Emergency Minor Home Repair Program prior to July 1, 2004 that assistance does NOT count towards the \$5,000 maximum lifetime limit.

MAJOR HOME REPAIR

Major Home Repair funds are available to qualifying low-to-moderate income owner-occupied homeowners in Lakewood. Up to \$8,000 in a 0% interest loan with payments deferred for up to 20 years, plus a GRANT of up to \$2,000 can help you with needed repairs such as a new roof, or plumbing repairs, or a new heating system.

HOUSING REHABILITATION

If you have more extensive home repair needs, our Housing Rehabilitation Program will provide up to \$60,000 towards needed repairs. This is structured as up to \$48,000 in a 0% interest loan with payments deferred for up to 20 years, plus a GRANT of up to \$12,000. Qualifying low-to-moderate income homeowners in Lakewood are encouraged to apply. Homeowners must own and occupy the home in need of repair.

QUESTIONS? Call the City of Lakewood Housing Specialist at 253-589-2489.

SNOWSTORM 2004

During the January snowstorm, there were concerns about the removal of snow from City streets.

Whenever a snowfall occurs, the city plows and sands streets according to established priorities. The highest priority is clearing main arterials and primary emergency response routes. The last priority is residential streets.

If a snowfall is not too intense and of a fairly short duration, the main arterials can be cleared quickly and snow removal equipment can then work on minor arterials and residential streets. However, when snowfall is intense, as it was in the January storm, maintenance crews only have the capability of plowing and sanding the main arterials. It was only after the snow let up, and the arterials were cleared, that work could begin on the other roadways. Generally no snow removal is performed on fairly flat residential streets.

When snow plows clear the street, snow can end up blocking driveways. We regret this inconvenience, however, when snow plowing is performed, it is necessary to pile the snow on the sides of the road in windrows, which can block driveways. Clearing away these snow windrows from the roadways would be extremely costly. It would also slow the entire process of clearing the City's roads. Safety is our number one priority, so we do the best we can to clear roads as quickly as possible.

PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Lakewood has started the process of updating the Park and Recreation Plan. The City must update this Plan every five years to be eligible for county, state or federal grants. The process includes inventorying and assessing the condition of City owned park and recreation resources while working with the community to establish core values and develop a long-term vision, goals and measurable objectives. When complete, the Plan will be a working document that guides both day-to-day and long-range decision making.

We hope that the process of creating this Plan will help educate the community regarding the future of our park and recreation system. If you would like more information regarding this process or want to contribute to the Plan please contact the Parks Department at 589-2489.

PARKS APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 24, 2004

Parks bring so much enjoyment to our lives and add value to our community. Join your friends and neighbors in celebrating Park Appreciation Day, Saturday, April 24, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This event brings people together as a community to beautify the parks and help prepare them for the spring/summer season. Each year we have over 400 volunteers from local community groups, churches, businesses and neighborhoods who support this event.

This year the City will focus our community efforts at five different park sites. Special projects will occur at Wards Lake, Active, Fort Steilacoom, Harry Todd and American Lake Parks.

The City is looking for donations to support our event. We need refreshments for our volunteers, landscaping materials, hand tools and other types of event support. Call Mary Dodsworth at 253-589-2489 if you would like to be a part of this event.

SPRING RECREATION PROGRAMS

Tillicum After-School Program: The Parks & Recreation Department in partnership with the Clover Park School District and with funding through a federal Weed & Seed grant will continue to provide **FREE** after school recreational activities for **3rd, 4th and 5th graders attending Tillicum Elementary** this spring. Sports, athletics, arts & crafts and games will all be offered to keep everyone busy. Registration is required and the forms are available in the school's main office.

Where: Tillicum Elementary
When: Tuesday & Thursday
Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

President's Week Recreation Camp: The City of Lakewood, Clover Park School District and the Lakewood Police Department are combining their resources to provide a recreation camp **for Woodbrook students only** during mid-winter break.

Activities will include: open gym, board games and arts & crafts projects. A morning snack will be available when student arrive and a lunch snack will be served. Register for the program at City Hall or at the school office. This **FREE** program is made possible by funding through a federal Weed & Seed grant.

Where: Woodbrook Middle School
When: February 17 – 20
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Track & Field Program: This program is open to all children age Kindergarten through 6th grade to build their skills in a variety of track & field events. The program will be held every Wednesday evening beginning April 21 and will conclude on May 26. All-comers track meets will be held: April 21, May 5, and 26. Training, conditioning and practice for the various events will be held: April 28, May 12 and 19. Ribbons will be awarded at all the track meets. The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will end by 8:00 p.m. This program is an excellent opportunity for your child to participate in a low-cost healthy activity that promotes physical fitness. There will be a onetime \$5 fee to register your child for the program. You can register your child at City Hall or through the Lakewood Boys & Girls Club. The program is sponsored by the Clover Park School District and the City of Lakewood Parks & Recreation Department.

2nd Annual Father/Daughter Dance: This year's dance will be held at Clover Park High School in the "Gathering Hall" on Saturday, March 27th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. This new site will allow us to increase the number of participants to 200 couples. The theme will be "Dancing Under the Stars". Join us to celebrate the special bond that daughters have with their fathers – grandfathers – uncles – or special friends. Let the "little girl" in your life know how special she is and what joy she brings to your life. Refreshments and prizes are included. A photographer will be on hand so you can purchase a treasured memory of this day with your daughter. The cost is \$8 per person and **registration is required.**

Register at City Hall or by calling 589-2489 and watch for a flyer in your elementary school newsletter. Space is limited – reserve your spot as soon as possible!



Recreation Instructors Wanted!

Do you have a skill or talent you would like to share? The City is developing a new community recreation program. We are looking for experienced instructors to work with youth, adults and seniors. Contact Dennis Higashiyama, 589-2489, to discuss this exciting new opportunity in Lakewood.



Everyone had a wonderful time at last year's Father Daughter Dance



POLICE REPORT

LAKEWOOD PARTNERSHIP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCORES BIG SUCCESS IN 2003

Recent crime data from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Crime Analysis Unit indicates that Lakewood violent crime dropped another 5.3% in 2003.

Much of that drop can be explained by a 23.3% decrease in felony domestic violence assault. We think that this decrease can be credited in large part to the Lakewood Partnership Against Domestic Violence (LPADV)

Police Officers, victim advocates, social service professionals, Lakewood City prosecutors, medical and health representatives, and representatives from the military are continu-

ing to work cooperatively to strengthen their partnership against domestic violence in Lakewood. LPADV is committed to promoting community awareness and education about the causes of domestic violence as well as providing effective resources for the victims.

The most recent efforts include creating and staffing the Victim Wrap Around Group designed to provide support services to the victim that may not be otherwise available because of barriers with language, transportation, culture or fear. Counseling, job training, long term shelter, child care issues, safety planning, relocation, substance abuse treatment and counseling, and medical treatment are some areas that will be addressed. Participation by victims is voluntary and confidential.

The LPADV is also awaiting the installation of the Protection Order Computer Kiosk at Lakewood's City Hall this spring. The kiosk allows domestic violence victims to apply for and receive a domestic violence protection order from Pierce County Superior Court without having to travel to downtown Tacoma. The kiosk will be staffed with a domestic violence advocate to help victims complete the process, answer questions and work with the victim on a safety plan.

Lakewood has had a 24% reduction in overall crime and a 40% reduction in violent crime rates since incorporation.

Anyone interested in a position with the Lakewood Police Department should contact the Human Resources Department at 589-2489 or hr@ci.lakewood.wa.us.

For information about joining or creating a Blockwatch or Neighborhood Association, contact Safe Streets representatives Joy Browne at 798-4239 or Robert Young at 272-6824.

NEW LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lakewood continues work on the transition from a contract police force to an internal Police Department. In December the City Council formally took action to create a Police Department and the City hired Larry Saunders as the first City Chief of Police. Lakewood has recently begun the process of recruiting officers.

In January, the Council reviewed the draft 2005 operating budget. The new department is tentatively projected to have an annual operating budget of about \$12.6 million which includes 110 staff (95 officers).

The new Police Department will be operational by January 2005 when the current police services contract with Pierce County expires.

For more information on the new Department, please attend the community meeting on February 24.



The City of Lakewood's first Police Chief, Larry Saunders is "pinned" by his wife, Sally.

LAKEWOOD POLICE FEATURED IN CHAMPIONS OF INDUSTRY VIDEO

Pat Summerall Productions featured the Lakewood Police Department as part of its Champions of Industry series. Champions of Industry highlights businesses and organizations across the Nation which demonstrate best practices and innovative programs. Other law enforcement agencies that have been selected for recognition include the Philadelphia Police Department and the Reno Police Department.

Lakewood was selected from among a number of other police departments around the State. Lakewood drew the attention of the producers of Champions of Industry because of its success in lowering crime and the unique crime fighting programs the City has implemented in partnership with the community.

For a copy of the video, contact the Community Relations Department at 589-2489 or cbock@ci.lakewood.wa.us.

LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, February 24

6:30 p.m.

Lakewood City Hall Council Chambers

Come and talk about the future of the Lakewood Police Department.



COMMUNITY NEWS

DON'T MISS THE FUN AT THE FREE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL - MAY 1

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 1, 2004, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., for the fifth annual International Festival hosted by the Lakewood Sister Cities Association (LSCA) at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom Campus, 9401 Farwest Drive SW, Lakewood, WA 98498.

LSCA is seeking entertainers, performers, musicians, arts & craft vendors and food vendors. Applications can be obtained on the City's website under City Directory, General Services Department, Sister Cities Program.

The festival is FREE and open to the public. Bring your families to sing and dance to international music and entertainment. Come and taste a variety of ethnic foods and see traditional costumes. There will be international arts, crafts, children games and activities, displays and much more! Enjoy this fun-filled day to celebrate multi-cultural diversity in our community. There will be raffle prizes to help sponsor the Lakewood sister cities program. If you are interested in learning more about the international festival and the sister cities program, call City Hall, 589-2489, and ask for Alice Bush.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY GROWS

2003 was a strong year for building activity in Lakewood. Building permit activity for 2003 totaled \$54,500,492 in project assessed valuation, this is above our annual average of about \$47 million. Given the local and national economy, this is a good sign for Lakewood.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE NEARS

State law requires that Lakewood review its comprehensive plan and development regulations in 2004. As a new city, Lakewood just adopted its comprehensive plan in 2000 and accompanying development regulations in 2001. However, despite their short life span, the City is required to review them this year. Lakewood's Planning Advisory Board (PAB) has endorsed the approach of reaffirming the foundation principles of the plan and its basic policy intent. At the same time, staff will be updating technical information in the plan, such as Census numbers and population forecasts. Together with public input, these will be merged with yearly amendments to form the required review.

The PAB will host a public meeting on February 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall. If you would like to receive additional information about the review process, contact Deborah Johnson at 512-2261 or djohnson@ci.lakewood.wa.us.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS UPDATE

Construction began after the first of the year on the San Francisco Avenue – Lincoln Boulevard project, which includes sidewalks on the south side of San Francisco Avenue from Bridgeport Way to Lincoln Avenue, and on the east side of Lincoln Avenue between San Francisco Avenue and Chicago Avenue. This project requires construction of a traffic circle at the intersection of Lincoln and Chicago Avenues. Project completion is anticipated by the end of the spring.

Construction starts soon on following projects:

- Improvements at the intersections of Gravelly Lake Drive and Steilacoom Boulevard and Steilacoom Boulevard and Lakewood Drive.
- 108th Street Swale Revisions between Cronin Drive and Kline Street.

Construction is anticipated to begin late this summer on the following projects:

- Kline Street Sidewalk Improvements will include curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the west side between 108th Street and Pacific Street, providing pedestrian access to the Boys and Girls Club and Lakeview Elementary.
- Stormwater Filtration Project for Gravelly Lake Drive and Nyanza Road.

For more information on any of these projects contact the Public Works Department at 983-7795.

Lakewood New Building Permit Valuation	
2000 - 2003	
2000	\$39,120,306
2001	\$40,118,094
2002	\$53,049,759
2003	\$54,891,511

2004 HUMAN SERVICE FUNDING

The City Council has made a commitment to support human service agencies and the work they perform on behalf of Lakewood residents. To that end, the City has formed the Human Services Collaboration, a partnership of local agencies that works together to provide much needed services in our community and support Lakewood's Promise.

In addition, the Council also provides funding for human service programs. For 2004, the City has committed \$275,600 for these programs. The City accepts applications annually from agencies. Volunteers from the Human Services Steering Committee have the difficult task of evaluating the applications. Requests often total two or three times the amount of funding available. Visit Lakewood's website, www.cityoflakewood.us, for a complete list of organizations the City supports with human service funding.

LAKWOOD PETS

Pet Licensing

If you haven't already, it is time to license your pet. All dogs and cats over eight weeks of age need to be licensed. Animal licenses must be renewed each year by February 28.

Pet Licenses are \$10 for altered animals (spayed or neutered), \$50 for unaltered animals and \$4 for pets under 6 months of age. If you are licensing your pet for the first time, you will need to provide documentation that your pet has been spayed or neutered. To get a pet license you can fill out and return the license application from the website, www.cityoflakewood.us or visit the first floor Finance Counter at City Hall. For more information about licensing, please contact the Finance Department at 512-2269.

Animal Control

Lakewood Animal Control focuses on community safety by responding to concerns about dangerous dogs, strays and injured animals. Animal control also responds to concerns about barking dogs and enforces the City's licensing and leash laws. For animal control assistance, call the Animal Control Hotline, 983-7800.

Leash Law

Lakewood has had a leash law in place since incorporation. However, until recently the City lacked the resources to enforce the law. Earlier this year, Lakewood's Animal Control Officer began preparations to enforce the leash law and discovered that the fine for a first violation was \$250. The City determined that the fine was too high for an initial violation and the City Council opted to lower the fine to \$75 for an initial violation with higher fines for additional violations.

Lakewood requires that all animals be on a leash anytime they are outside the confines of their yard. This means that all animals must be on a leash anytime they are on public property such as a park.

For everyone's safety, please keep your pet on a leash.

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

City Hall.....	589-2489
Abandoned Vehicles.....	798-4249
Animal Control Hot Line.....	983-7800
Animal Licensing.....	512-2269
Building Inspectors.....	512-2261
Building Permits.....	512-2261
Business Licenses.....	512-2261
City Council.....	589-2489
Code Enforcement.....	512-2261
Community Development Department.....	512-2261
Economic Development.....	589-2489
Finance Department.....	512-2269
Housing Programs.....	589-2489
Information Line (automated).....	512-2264
Job Line (automated).....	512-2265
Garage Sale Permits.....	512-2261
Municipal Court.....	512-2258
Noise Complaints.....	798-4721
Parks Department.....	589-2489
Potholes.....	983-7795
Police Department non-emergency only.....	798-4200
drug tip hotline.....	798-4206
sex offender info.....	798-4216
Public Works Department.....	983-7795
Street Light Outages.....	983-7795
Traffic Infractions.....	512-2258
Zoning.....	512-2261

OTHER PHONE NUMBERS

Burn Ban.....	1-800-595-4341
Cable TV (AT & T).....	1-877-824-2288
Clover Park School District.....	583-5000
Domestic Violence Helpline.....	798-4166 or 1-800-764-2420
Earthquake/Floods.....	798-7470
Electric Companies Lakeview Light.....	584-6060
Puget Sound Energy.....	1-888-225-5773
Tacoma Public Utilities.....	383-2471
Gas Leaks.....	1-888-225-5773
Humane Society.....	383-2733
Lakewood Chamber.....	582-9400
Lakewood Fire District non-emergency only.....	582-4600
Lakewood Library.....	582-6040
Lakewood Refuse.....	588-1705
Lakewood Water District.....	588-4423
Marriage Licenses.....	798-7435
Pierce County Sewer.....	565-3440
Tillicum Library.....	588-1014

In an Emergency, call 911 for Police, Fire and Paramedics.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Every Thursday
Every Thursday

Thursday 6 - Sunday 29
Thursday 12
Friday 13
Tuesday 24

Lakewood United Forum, Cafe 99, 7:00 a.m., 584-1867
City Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 589-2489
County Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - noon, 798-3380
Lakewood Players presents Something's Afoot, 588-0042
Lakewood Sister City Association, Lakewood City Hall, 5:30 p.m., 589-2489
Coffee with the Mayor, St. Clare Hospital, 7:30 a.m., 589-2489
Lakewood Police Department Community Meeting, Lakewood City Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m., 589-2489

MARCH

Every Thursday
Every Thursday

Monday 1
Thursday 4
Thursday 11
Friday 12
Saturday 27

Lakewood United Forum, Cafe 99, 7:00 a.m., 584-1867
City Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 589-2489
County Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - noon, 798-3380
Keep Lakewood Beautiful, 7:00 a.m., Burs Restaurant
Lakewood Chamber Lunch, 11:30 a.m., 582-9400
Lakewood Sister City Association, Lakewood City Hall, 5:30 p.m., 589-2489
Coffee with the Mayor, St. Clare Hospital, 7:30 a.m., 589-2489
Daddy Daughter Dance, Clover Park High School, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., \$8, 589-2489

APRIL

Every Thursday
Every Thursday

Thursday 1
Monday 5
Thursday 8
Friday 9
Saturday 24

Lakewood United Forum, Cafe 99, 7:00 a.m., 584-1867
City Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 589-2489
County Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - noon, 798-3380
Lakewood Chamber Lunch, 11:30 a.m., 582-9400
Keep Lakewood Beautiful, 7:00 a.m., Burs Restaurant
Lakewood Sister City Association, Lakewood City Hall, 5:30 p.m., 589-2489
Coffee with the Mayor, St. Clare Hospital, 7:30 a.m., 589-2489
Parks Appreciation Day, 9:00 a.m. - noon, 589-2489

MAY

Every Thursday
Every Thursday

Saturday 1
Monday 3
Thursday 6
Thursday 13
Friday 14

Lakewood United Forum, Cafe 99, 7:00 a.m., 584-1867
City Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 589-2489
County Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - noon, 798-3380
Lakewood International Festival, Pierce College, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., 589-2489
Keep Lakewood Beautiful, 7:00 a.m., Burs Restaurant
Lakewood Chamber Lunch, 11:30 a.m., 582-9400
Lakewood Sister City Association, Lakewood City Hall, 5:30 p.m., 589-2489
Coffee with the Mayor, St. Clare Hospital, 7:30 a.m., 589-2489

JUNE

Every Thursday
Every Thursday

Thursday 3
Monday 7
Thursday 10
Friday 11

Lakewood United Forum, Cafe 99, 7:00 a.m., 584-1867
City Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., 589-2489
County Talk, Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m. - noon, 798-3380
Lakewood Chamber Lunch, 11:30 a.m., 582-9400
Keep Lakewood Beautiful, 7:00 a.m., Burs Restaurant
Lakewood Sister City Association, Lakewood City Hall, 5:30 p.m., 589-2489
Coffee with the Mayor, St. Clare Hospital, 7:30 a.m., 589-2489

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information; however, the City assumes no responsibility for omissions, errors or changes. Please confirm any event with the sponsor. If you have an event that you would like to submit for the Calendar, send the information via fax at 589-3774 or cbock@ci.lakewood.wa.us.

CITY TALK - YOUR CHANCE TO TALK WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

Every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., the Mayor or another Council member is available to meet one-on-one with Lakewood residents. You don't need an appointment, so just stop by City Hall and share your ideas and suggestions with the City Council.

If you would like to make an appointment with a City Council member outside of City Talk, call 589-2489. You can also e-mail Council members at council@ci.lakewood.wa.us.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public is welcome at all Council meetings. Council meetings are held at the Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main Street SW, unless otherwise publicized.

Regular Council meetings are the first and third Mondays of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. At each regular Council meeting there is a public comment period where you may address the Council on City issues. Council study sessions are the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. For more information on Council meetings, call 512-2264 (recorded message) or visit www.cityoflakewood.us.