

Lakewood Index

City of Lakewood Economic Development Newsletter

Aug/Sept 2016



Motor Avenue Project Moves Forward

On July 18, 2016, the Lakewood City Council unanimously approved “Alternative 2” as the design for the future Motor Avenue Project, which calls for development of a new street corridor plan for Motor Avenue between Whitman Avenue Southwest, and the intersection of Gravelly Lake Drive Southwest and Bridgeport Way Southwest. The City conducted four public meetings to collect resident feedback and retained the services of Studio KPG as the lead firm on the project.

The design selected by the Lakewood City Council – which is expected to cost \$2.2 million, which is cheaper than what designers originally estimated - includes development of a plaza up to the Colonial Theatre, street parking on both sides of Motor Avenue and a redevelopment at Gravelly Lake. Learn more about the project by [visiting the City's website](#).



**LAKWOOD
MOTOR AVE**
street improvements

More Information at
cityoflakewood.us



Did you know?

Following the Great Depression, the first phase of the Lakewood Colonial Center was built in 1937 making it one of the first suburban shopping centers in the nation? Lakewood grew in the 1930's and 1940's as a summer retreat area and later a wealthy suburb of Tacoma.



Restaurant Scene

More Dining Options Coming to Lakewood

Hungry for more food options in Lakewood? If so, here's some great news: the City of Lakewood is set to welcome a host of new restaurants over the next two years. Here is a rundown of projects that have been confirmed with the City

- **Chick-Fil-A:** The building permits have been issued for a Chick-Fil-A at the current Schooner's Pub location. The plan is to break ground October 2016 and open in June 2017.
- **Chipotle Grill and MOD Pizza:** Premier Centers Management, property managers for LAKHA Properties in Lakewood Towne Center, has submitted building, mechanical, plumbing, design review, and site development permits for a new 4,895 square foot building adjacent to the Panda Express. The new tenants will be Chipotle Grill and MOD Pizza. The restaurants expect to be open summer 2017.
- **Biscuit House:** Permits were issued last week for a new restaurant at 9702 South Tacoma Way. Expected to open August, 2016. "Our All-American Breakfast is off the charts! Try our specialty: House-made Buttermilk Biscuits straight out of the oven paired with our sausage gravy. So good!"
- **Black Bear Diner:** Known for great family dining, Black Bear originated in Mt. Shasta, California about 20 years ago and has expanded throughout the Western United States. Their new location in Lakewood will be in the Great American Casino. Estimated 2017 opening.
- **Jamaica Mike's:** Permits are pending on a home-grown restaurant at 12826 Pacific Highway. Estimated 2017 opening.
- **Papa John's:** New location at 8813 Edgewater Drive SW. Opening late 2016.
- **Happy Teriyaki:** The client is ready to rebuild following a fire. Anticipated 2017 opening.
- **Hop Jacks:** A lease agreement has been signed with RPAI (Lakewood Towne Center) to site north of City Hall in the former G.I. Joe's parking lot. Hop Jacks has announced that it is expected to open in Lakewood, June 2017.
- **Chronic Taco:** A lease has recently been signed and this new California franchise is branching out nationally. This is their first Washington store and they intend to add a patio for outdoor dining. They wish to be open ASAP, southeast corner of the building where Dollar Tree is.
- **Jimmy John's (possible expansion):** The owner of the location on Steilacoom Boulevard has expressed an interest in opening a second store Lakewood. The store on Steilacoom exceeded their revenue expectation by 100%.

Did you know?

Lakewood has a winery, ([Stina's Cellars](#)), a distillery ([Mastrogiannis Distillery](#)), and a country meats manufacturer, ([Outlanders Keep](#)).



Business Showcase

Diamond Designs Unlimited, Bite Me! Inc.

Diamond Designs Unlimited

Few things are guaranteed for small, independent business owners. But in the case of Lakewood's Diamond Designs Unlimited – where each piece of jewelry is unique and crafted to the finest quality - owner Shawn Luvaas keeps a promise for new and longtime customers.

It's a promise that has helped Diamond Designs build and maintain a loyal following for nearly 25 years. "I guarantee you'll see something you've never seen before," he says.

For years, customers walked through Diamond Designs' doors at 6111 100th St. SW, Ste A, looking to purchase an array of unique jewelry showcasing loose diamonds, pearls, gems and other sparkling, colorful centerpieces. It also repairs and appraises jewelry. In fact, Luvaas has performed more than 27,000 jewelry repairs in his lifetime. From the mundane to the exciting, Diamond Designs can boast that it's one of the best jewelry stores in the South Sound, and one of the only ones to win awards for its designs.

The general business approach he still adheres to today? Price. Quality. Honesty. Something visitors will not find at Diamond Designs is the same cookie-cutter creations typical of a mall jewelry store. That's because Luvaas doesn't subscribe to those kinds of products. Instead, he regularly updates his unique selections. He also works with customers who have conceptualized a piece of jewelry and want to turn that idea into reality.

For its commitment and success, the City of Lakewood recognizes Diamond Designs Unlimited as its [July 2016 Business Showcase](#).



Bite Me! Inc.

The sweet, buttery, melt-in-your mouth creations of Bite Me! Inc. can be found in grocery stores and shops nationwide. But the passion that goes into every cookie – from Flower Power shortbread to Butter Grahams to football-shaped Seahawk cookies - can be found nearly every day here in Lakewood. That's where owner Deborah Tuggle and her staff of nearly 20 people produce the treats that many of us buy at Metropolitan Market, Whole Foods and other popular stores. Bite Me! specializes in sweet and simple. Currently, crews work with three different cookie companies that she owns. However, each cookie is then specialized for the customer. According to Tuggle, that simple approach is the foundation of her company's quality.

"We don't skimp on anything," she said recently while chatting with the City of Lakewood in her office at 3827 100th St., Bite Me's headquarters since 2015. "We use only the best domestic nuts. We use only the best butter. We use only made- from- scratch cookie dough. I won't compromise the product."

Today, Tuggle's company produces 14,000 to 17,000 cookies an hour. In 2015, Tuggle moved her operation to Lakewood, in an unassuming location that masks the magic that goes into creating her cookies. These days, Bite Me! Treats can be found in stores across the country. "We're shipping to Rhode Island every week," she says.

Bite Me!'s products are GMO-free, and each package reads "colored by nature." It has more products under development while sticking with time-tested favorites. For its commitment to our community, the City of Lakewood recognizes Bite Me! Inc. as its [June 2016 Business Showcase](#).



Did you know?

Lakewood has no development impact fees, no local B&O tax, offers a multifamily tax exemption program in residential target areas and a free construction watch program for new development



Pacific Medical Centers' Lakewood clinic is located at 7424 Bridgeport Way W, Suite 201.

Lakewood Economic Indicators

General Demographics



Population: 58,800
 Median Age: 37.2 years old
 Avg. Family Income: \$75,681

[Click for the Full Report](#)

Real Estate (June 2016)



Median Sales Price: \$329,000
 Avg. List Price: \$278,542
 Active Residential Listings: 134

Avg. Daily Traffic Volume



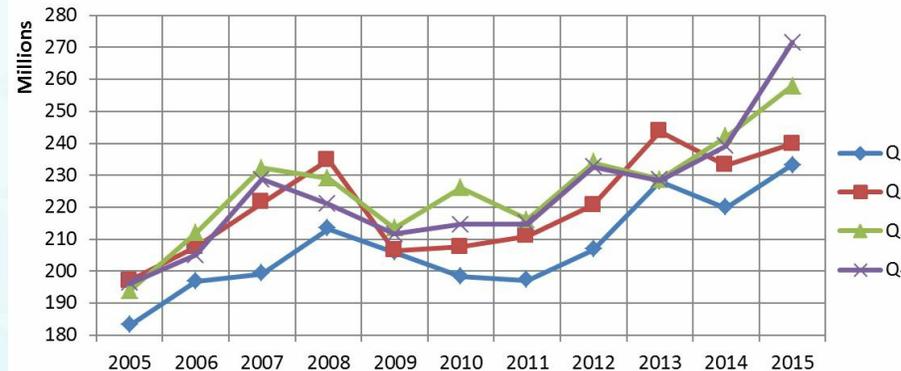
Bridgeport & 100th St: 23,881
 Pacific Hwy & 108th: 23,802
 S. Tacoma Way & Steilacoom Blvd: 26,874
 Interstate 5: 143,000

New Business Licenses



	2014	2015	2016 (June)
General	329	343	197
Contractor	282	256	220
Home-Based	24	32	18

Taxable Retail Sales (5.3-pct increase)



Worker Inflow/Outflow



PacMed Opens Lakewood Clinic

In May, Pacific Medical Centers opened its Lakewood clinic to better serve the health care needs of the South Sound community. The Lakewood clinic includes two family medicine physicians, one Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), one psychotherapist and a physical therapist. The Lakewood clinic also offers same-day primary care appointments for patients. In addition to serving the general Lakewood community, the clinic also provides greater access to health care for military families located at nearby Joint Base Lewis-McChord. PacMed is the only West Coast provider of US Family Health Plan (USFHP) and has been serving the local military community for more than 30 years. USFHP provides the region's active duty family members and retired military personnel with a civilian option to health care at no added cost, improving both access to health care and the overall quality experience. Learn more at pacificmedicalcenters.org.

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