Lakewood is Proud to be Home to the Military

Lakewood is proud of the military and its role in protecting our freedoms. The City supports the military families that call Lakewood home. The Army’s I Corps, Fort Lewis, Madigan Army Hospital, McChord Air Force Base and the Washington National Guard Headquarters at Camp Murray, all border the city limits. These bases house over 30,000 active duty and reserve personnel and employ over 10,000 civilian and contract employees.

Many Lakewood residents serve in active or reserve jobs. Many others provide professional support in the Department of Defense and other related contract positions, while residents teach children of service members. Over 20,000 active-duty soldiers from Fort Lewis, Madigan, McChord and Camp Murray have served in Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters of conflict related to the current war.

Lakewood has a special relationship with the U.S. Military via community connector programs that link active duty units with local communities. The 4th Brigade, 2nd Division is Lakewood’s Army Connector Unit and has been active in the community since arriving from Fort Polk, LA. This regiment, along with other service personnel from McChord, helped build the playground at Fort Steilacoom Park. In July, Ft. Lewis won the “Defense Installation of the Year” award from the Association of Defense Communities. Deputy Garrison Commander Bill Crane, who accepted the award for the fort, said the base has “one of the strongest community connector programs in the Army.”

Lakewood’s Police Department and other City departments employ many veterans in addition to those currently serving on both active and reserve duty. They have used their civilian skills to help with such things as training deploying Stryker Brigade soldiers in community-oriented policing, which currently is being put into action in Iraq.

Air Force and Army service members and their spouses are involved in Lakewood’s education, business and cultural life, from volunteering on school committees, acting in the local theater, and operating local businesses.

It is no coincidence that Lakewood’s first two mayors, William Harrison (retired) and Douglas Richardson, are both Army generals who made Lakewood their home of choice and have worked hard to connect the bases to the community and visa versa. Current Mayor Claudia Thomas also has personal links to the Air Force and Army as a former military spouse and Defense Department teacher.

As a community, we constantly look for ways to show support for our troops. Lakewood residents have created a Union of Flags and a Freedom Bridge across Interstate 5 in Tillicum. Many residents fly American flags from their front porches. Others display magnetic ribbons on the backs of their vans or SUVs. Many businesses offer discounts for their products to service members and their families.

The most important thing we can do for any service member is to be sure his or her family is being taken care of. The City of Lakewood is committed to protecting those left behind, providing support and focusing on ways to improving the quality of life.

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Let’s make a blueberry park!

Tacoma has one. Bremerton has one. Now Lakewood has TWO acres of luscious blueberries hiding in plain site – the old Fleet Blueberry Farm. Join us at City Hall Tuesday, October 24th at 7:00pm to learn more about this area and how we can turn an abandoned farm into a community resource.
New task force created to answer citizens' concerns

Lakewood’s “Task Force for Residentially Based Personal Care Facilities and Home-Based Businesses in Residential Zoning Districts” was created by the city council in response to concerns expressed by Lakewood residents during a hearing of the planning advisory board.

The task force’s goal is to foster communication and seek collaborative solutions to issues that can arise as personal care facilities, such as dementia- and developmentally-disabled housing, and in-home businesses are situated within residential areas.

Among other functions, the task force is charged with:
- Reviewing the regulatory and business environment for such activities
- Facilitating cooperation and coordination between service providers and residential neighbors
- Developing reasonable accommodations and guidelines
- Developing a “best practices” manual for residentially based personal care facilities and in-home businesses
- Assessing the feasibility of “fair share” group home allocations

The nine-member task force consists of members of the Planning Advisory Board and representatives of the general public, neighborhoods, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, adult family home operators, and patients’ rights/developmentally disabled advocate groups.

Task Force meetings are open to the public, and public testimony is always welcome. For more information, contact staff at 253-512-2261.

City Council Highlights

AUGUST
- Authorized agreement for insurance, claims management and risk management services.
- Adopted Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (for yrs 2007-2012).
- Approved Chambers Creek Properties Master Site Plan Update.
- Approved tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds for Blade-Tech Industries to finance acquisition and construction of a manufacturing facility at Lakewood Corporate Center.
- Appointed new members to the Public Safety Advisory Committee.
- Awarded bid for construction of traffic signal induction loops.
- Authorized agreement for design and right-of-way improvements on Bridgeport Way from Steilacoom Boulevard to 83rd Street SW.
- Amended city’s fee schedule.
- Adopted code amendments to comply with the Public Records Act and follow model rules for public records disclosure.
- Established Lakewood Arts Commission.
- Declared Tara Williams as Lakewood Idol.
- Declared September 4-8, 2006 as National Payroll Week.
- Recognized the Clover Park Rotary Club for its support in the construction of a picnic shelter at Ft. Steilacoom Park.

SEPTEMBER
- Authorized execution of a three-year collective bargaining agreement with Lakewood Police Independent Guild.
- Amended the Employee Classification and Compensation Plan relative to classifications governed by collective bargaining agreement.
- Appointed new members to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Appointed new members to the Community Development Block Grant Citizens’ Advisory Board.
- Adopted code amendments related to zoning for work-release facilities.
Citizen Theodore Roosevelt said: “It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without terror or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”

I agree with President Roosevelt. In Lakewood, let’s work hard with great enthusiasm and watch our city grow in a positive way. Keep up the good work volunteers and leaders. Thank you for what you have already done and for what you will do in the future.

Mayor Thomas’ e-mail address is atother@cityoflakewood.us.
High-resolution photos can be emailed to Sara Millbauer at smillbauer@cityoflakewood.us.

**Truck & Tractor Day**

Hey, Kids! This is your chance to climb up in big trucks, make a photo frame and receive a hard hat! After you’ve seen all the big rigs, take a tour of the park on our hayride! Parents, bring your cameras! Our first annual Truck & Tractor Day will be held Saturday, October 21st at Fort Steilacoom Park from 9am-Noon. Cost is just $5.00 per child. For more info, call 589-2489.

**Summer Day Camp 2006 a Huge Success!**

Woodbrook Middle School was the site of eight weeks of games and activities for 112 local youth who participated in Lakewood Parks and Recreation’s Summer Camp. Great weather allowed the camp to utilize indoor and outdoor spaces for a wide variety of recreation games and activities.

A group of great partners worked together to make this camp a success. The Girl Scouts lead special “girl-specific” activities twice weekly as part of their outreach program. The Tacoma Astronomical Society provided a science-based curriculum looking at sunspots and one of the favorite projects: stomp rockets. McNeil Island not only provided a putt-putt golf course for the camp to use, but also hosted a field trip to the island to fish in a small, stocked lake. Clover Park School District provided the facility, custodial support and a free lunch program for all campers. The weekly field trips were a big hit, whether it was going to the Clover Park Swimming Pool, a trip to Point Defiance Zoo or out to Pioneer Farm in Eatonville.

Day Camp staff display a commemorative quilt of campers hand prints.

For only $2 per day, this affordable camp was one of the best bargains of the summer!
Attention developers and other interested parties:

We need your input!

The City of Lakewood is working to update portions of its municipal code related to development standards, specifically those dealing with frontage and road improvements, as well as overall site development regulations.

The codes need revisions to do the following: reflect both current construction and development practices; changes in regulations within other referenced codes; and to generally make the codes more user-friendly.

The Lakewood Municipal Code was initially adopted in November 1995, and these sections, which were largely drawn from the previous Pierce County Code, have not undergone major revisions since adoption.

The Public Works Department has formed an ad-hoc technical advisory committee made up of local developers, engineers and planners to help build consensus for adoption of new guidelines. The City has hired BERGER-ABAM Engineers to assist with this work, which is expected to be complete by next summer. If you would like to get involved in this process, contact Greg Vigoren in the Public Works Department at 983-7795.

Building permits issued

From the beginning of the year through August 2006, the Community Development Department processed 1,102 building permits. Here is a look at some noteworthy projects:

Rivendale Plat – Construction has started on a 20-lot single-family subdivision at the northwest corner of Butte Drive SW and 104th Street SW.

Wal-Mart – Construction activity continues with building and road improvements. About 65 percent of the project has been completed. Two traffic signals will be installed later this year. Wal-Mart is located at 7001 Bridgeport Way SW.

Lakewood Ford – Tucci Will proposes a new Ford dealership adjacent to I-5, at the northeast corner of Pacific Hwy. SW and 47th Avenue SW. Land-use permits have been issued and building plans submitted for review.

Sound Transit Parking Structure – Building and site development permits have been reviewed for a 620-space parking structure adjacent to the planned commuter rail station, along Pacific Hwy. SW at approximately 47th Ave. SW. Construction is scheduled to take place this fall.

Lakeview Elementary School and Lakeview Boys & Girls Club – Clover Park School District is in the early stages of procuring site development permits for the construction of the new Lakeview Elementary School, located at Pacific Street SW and 47th Avenue SW.

In addition, building permits have been issued to construct a new 31,000 square-foot Boys and Girls Club adjacent to Lakeview Elementary School.

Tacoma Country & Club condominium development – Applications for shoreline permits have been received for a 20-unit condominium development located directly adjacent to the existing facilities at Tacoma Country & Golf Club, near American Lake.

American Lake North Park improvements – The City’s hearing examiner approved new docks and other related improvements at American Lake North Park, located at 9222 Veterans Drive SW. Building permits will be submitted in the upcoming months.

MJR development – Construction drawings have been submitted for a 40,000 square-foot office building next to City Hall at 5712 Main Street SW.

Traffic signal induction loops

What are traffic signal induction loops? These are the sensors installed in the pavement at intersections that help control the traffic signals. For instance, if there are no cars waiting to turn at a signal with an induction loop, the loop is usually programmed to skip the left turn portion of the signal cycle.

Unfortunately, the loops are broken and malfunctioning at quite a few intersections throughout Lakewood. The City has hired a contractor to replace the broken traffic signal induction loops. This work will help the traffic signals operate efficiently and assist in improving traffic flow. Repairs should be completed by the end of fall.

American Lake Gardens (ALG)/Tillicum sewer extension project

The City is moving ahead with the design and associated environmental review of the ALG/Tillicum Sewer Extension Project. This $9.25 million project will provide a “backbone” sewer system for these two neighborhoods, currently served only by septic systems. The new sewer infrastructure will provide a foundation for new development in these areas, including some potential redevelopment.

During August, three informational meetings were held in the area to provide project updates and seek feedback from the residents and property owners most directly impacted by the project. For more information about this project, contact the Public Works Department at 512-2261.

Pacific Highway improvements

Most of the construction work on the Pacific Highway Improvement Project (Bridgeport Way to 108th) was wrapped up in September. Street light installation and street tree planting will take place in November. Additionally, the traffic signal at Pacific Highway SW and 108th Street SW will be upgraded. The next phase of the project is slated to begin in spring 2007. The road will be improved to the south, in front of the future Sound Transit Station, and at the intersection of Bridgeport Way SW and Pacific Highway SW.

Don’t “leave” all the fall cleaning to us!

Help prevent flooding in your neighborhood this fall by clearing leaves and other debris from the storm drains and ditches near your home. Our maintenance crews do their best to keep Lakewood’s many storm drains clean, but they can’t clear off all leaves before the rain starts. You can help out by doing a little fall cleaning of your own. By using a shovel, rake or broom to clear away leaves and debris from storm drains in front of your home or business, you can quickly solve the problem.

Please don’t rake or blow leaves into the roadway – bag the leaves or put them in your yard waste container.
Local pastors receive “Caught in the Act” Award

Lakewood’s Community Collaboration, made up of over 100 human service organizations, service clubs, businesses, individuals and public entities presents each month a “Caught In The Act – of Keeping Lakewood’s Promise” Award to an individual or organization that has quietly performed an outstanding deed for a family/child in the City of Lakewood.

The September recipients are Pastor Walt Kelley, Senior Pastor, and Dan Spoon, Youth Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lakewood. These two gentlemen have been leaders in the community when it comes to responding to youth needs.

For the last 10 years, the First Baptist Church in Lakewood has opened its doors on Friday nights, providing a safe place with mentoring adults for junior high and high school aged youth in the Lakewood community. On many Friday nights you will find as many as 30 youth showing up for open basketball play.

Last year, local youth needed a place after school to hold art activities. Pastor Kelcy immediately offered a portion of his church’s facility, providing an alternative to those youth who do not turn out for sport and have an interest in the arts and a safe place to go after school.

As youth pastor, Dan Spoon has developed youth programs involving community service. The Summer Youth Mission (where youth from local churches spend a week working at various sites in Lakewood to help those in need), Kid Reach (after school, one on one tutoring in local elementary schools) and SHAG (Senior Housing Assistance Group where about 20 youth per year are linked with a Lakewood senior citizen) all provide hours where youth can learn the value of community service. According to Dan: “Most young people don’t believe they have anything to give to the community, but after getting involved in these activities, they realize how good it feels to help others and that they really do have something valuable to give.”

Pastor Kelcy and Dan Spoon are examples of a Caring Adult in a child’s life. Both receive the traveling Red Wagon, a symbol of Lakewood’s Promise of people pulling their weight to help the youth in our city. Lakewood’s Promise Mission is to mobilize citizens from every sector of life in Lakewood to build the character and competence of our youth by fulfilling these Five Promises:

- Caring Adults – Provide ongoing relationships with caring adults - parents, mentors, tutors and coaches
- Safe Places – Provide safe places with structured activities during non-school hours
- Opportunities to Serve – Provide youth with opportunities to serve in their community
- Healthy Start – Provide all the elements leading to good physical/mental health for a healthy future
- Marketable Skills – Provide marketable skills through effective education

FALL into fun at the Senior Activity Center!

Fall is here and we have many exciting activities and trips in store at the Lakewood Senior Activity Center! Here is a look at what we offer:

FITNESS

We continue to offer our popular exercise classes and are introducing our new Strength Training class. This class focuses on balance, coordination and muscle toning specifically for older adults. The SAIL (Staying Active and Independent for Life) class has ongoing sessions along with Exercise with Elizabeth and Fit Happens, which run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Each of the exercise classes is helpful in assisting older adults to maintain their active and independent lifestyles, along with working on other necessary movements to help prevent falls and improve movement and balance. The center also has Line Dancing and Hula for those interested in dance classes!

ARTS AND CRAFTS

We offer many arts and crafts classes including Woodcarving, Mixed Media, Photography, Oil Painting, and Scrapbooking. Special Corsage and Wreath Making classes are available for those who are interested in preparing some decorations for the holiday season.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Join us for our celebrations and social events! We are hosting a Halloween Party and Pumpkin Carving Contest October 31st. Wear your orange and black and join us for a hat contest and treats. Don’t miss our Harvest Dessert Share November 9th. Bring a dessert to share and reflect on the things for which you are thankful. November 8th, we will honor and remember those who served our country at a Veteran’s Day Celebration. Refreshments provided; just bring your photos and stories to share. Please call 798-4090 to RSVP for these special events.

VOLUNTEERS

The activities and operations of the Senior Activity Center would not be possible without our volunteers. We will honor their efforts November 6th with a Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Our theme is Garden of Thanks: Volunteers Plant the Seeds of Kindness. We would like to thank all who have contributed time to the Center in the last 12 months. Volunteers need to pick up their free tickets and guests may purchase a ticket for just $2 at the front desk prior to November 1st.

TRIPS & TOURS

For those interested in taking a trip and doing some holiday shopping, we will attend the Holiday Gift Show at the Tacoma Dome and take a trip to Tulalip Casino and Seattle Premium Outlets. Call for times and details.

Other fall activities of interest at the Lakewood Senior Activity Center include an Open Computer Lab, Cake Day Birthday Celebrations and a Thursday Canasta group that always welcomes new players.

Even with so many activities and trips happening this fall, we are never too busy for any questions about our activities provided at the Center! Please feel free to call us at 798-4090 for more information or to arrange a tour of the facility.
**Prepare your vehicle for hazardous driving conditions**

The kids have headed back to school and fall is fast approaching. The daily fixture of inclement weather is on the horizon. Take a few minutes one Saturday to prepare your vehicle for the upcoming winter months. Make it a habit to check your tire pressure each time you fill up with gas; this will not only increase your gas mileage, it will help with overall traction during bad weather. Check your windshield wipers; replace them if needed or make sure they are clean. Worn wipers on a rainy night is a real safety risk. If you can’t see past road spray and light glare, you are putting yourself and passengers in potential danger. Make sure all fluids are topped off and your brakes are in working order.

It is also a good idea to have some type of emergency kit in your vehicle such as a fire extinguisher, first-aid supplies and road flares or warning reflectors. These triangular markers can be set up approaching a disabled vehicle similar to flares and may be found at most auto parts and safety supply stores. A set of good jumper cables should round out the items needed for most situations.

Have a safe fall season and take care while driving.

**The City of Lakewood proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Domestic Violence is an epidemic affecting Americans in all communities. It has a detrimental impact on survivors, their children and the community. The City of Lakewood urges all citizens to join us in recognizing domestic violence as the devastating problem that it is and to provide zero tolerance. Helen Keller once said, "He would never really hurt me." It hurts to believe that someone you love could hurt you. The reality is that, in the last two years, seven people have died in Lakewood from domestic violence incidents.

We encourage you to contact the Domestic Violence Helpline at (253) 798-4166 and ask what you can do to help your friend. If you see or hear evidence of abuse, call 911.

**Results of Fireworks Survey**

Currently Lakewood ordinances allow citizens to discharge fireworks on December 31st (until 1:00am on January 1st) and July 3rd, 4th and 5th (between 11:00am and 11:00pm). Currently Lakewood follows the Washington Administrative code for allowable fireworks. The WAC allows sparklers, cone fountains, illuminating torches, wheels, ground spinners, smoke devices, helicopters, roman candles, and artillery shells or mortars. It does not allow firecrackers, bottle rockets, M80’s or cherry bombs.

The Lakewood Police Department conducted a public survey on fireworks between March and May of 2006 to gauge public sentiment about current city rules governing the use of fireworks in Lakewood. The survey opportunity was broadly advertised. Respondents were polled in a series of community meetings and citizens were also able to access the survey on the City website. LPD received a total of 328 respondents. Results are summarized below and are available in more detail on the City website:

- 57% were against banning fireworks; 28% were in favor of banning fireworks and 13% were undecided.
- 55% were against adopting restrictions of legal fireworks more constraining than the WAC, such as forbidding mortars and artillery shells; 22% were in favor of more restrictive definitions of fireworks.
- 57% were satisfied with the number of days fireworks are currently authorized; 18% would favor limiting fireworks to December 31st and July 4th only.

In June 2006, the City Council reviewed the results of the survey. They opted to modify the city ordinance governing fireworks to underscore that fireworks may not be discharged in public right of ways, public parks or on school grounds. They also authorized LPD the use of a civil infraction, with fines beginning at $70, in addition to the criminal citations listed above as tools to enforce the ordinance.

Following the recommendations of staff, the Council made no change to the days or type of fireworks allowed in the ordinance.
**OCTOBER**

**Every Thursday**  
Lakewood United Forum – Burs Restaurant, 7:00 a.m.; 584-1867
City Talk – Lakewood City Hall, 9:00-10:30 a.m.; 589-2489

**Monday 2**  
Keep Lakewood Beautiful – Lakewood City Hall, 7:00 a.m.

**Thursday 5**  
Lakewood Chamber Membership Luncheon, 582-9400

**Wednesday 11**  
Community Collaboration – Lakewood City Hall, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; 589-2489

**Friday 13**  
Coffee with the Mayor – St. Clare Hospital Resource Center, 7:30 a.m.

**Saturday 21**  
Truck & Tractor Day – Fort Steilacoom Park, $5 per child, 9:00 a.m.-noon; 589-2489

**Saturday 28**  
Make a Difference Day

**Friday 3**  
Coffee with the Mayor – City Hall, Council Chambers (due to Holiday, Nov. 10th), 7:30 a.m.

**Monday 6**  
Keep Lakewood Beautiful – Lakewood City Hall, 7:00 a.m.

**Wednesday 8**  
Community Collaboration – Lakewood City Hall, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; 589-2489

**Thursday 9**  
Lakewood Chamber Membership Luncheon, 582-9400

**Thursday 16**  
Lakewood Sister Cities Association – Lakewood City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

**DECEMBER**

**Every Thursday**  
Lakewood United Forum – Burs Restaurant, 7:00 a.m.; 584-1867
City Talk – Lakewood City Hall, 9:00-10:30 a.m.; 589-2489
County Talk – Lakewood City Hall, 9:00 a.m.-noon; 798-3308

**Saturday 21**  
Lakewood Sister Cities Association – Lakewood City Hall, 5:30 p.m.