Historic Day for Lakewood as Governor signs “Offender Re-Entry” Bill

On May 15, Mayor Claudia Thomas hosted Governor Chris Gregoire, Senators Mike Carrell, Debbie Regala, and John Hargrove, Department of Corrections Secretary Harold Clarke, and numerous other state and local dignitaries at Lakewood City Hall. Governor Gregoire signed this bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senators Carrell (R-Lakewood) and Regala (D-Tacoma). This is believed to be the first time that a governor has signed legislation in Lakewood — before or since incorporation.

Lakewood Police Chief Larry Saunders spoke about what the bill meant for the community. As a key member of a Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Task Force, Saunders played a visible role in shaping this bill. It was the tenacity of Carrell and Regala, however, that eventually led to the bill’s success. The bill ensures “equitable distribution” in the siting of Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities. It requires DOC to site new work-release facilities in populous counties that currently lack them and to notify cities and counties in advance of a need to site work-release facilities. Secretary Clarke of the DOC assured Lakewood officials that he fully supported this legislation and looks forward to working with Lakewood and Pierce County in the future. Criminal justice officials predict a long-term reduction in the Pierce County crime rate as a result of this timely legislation.

Southern Lakewood Sewer Connection

It’s been a year since the City of Lakewood advertised and hosted a series of public meetings regarding the installation of sewers in the Tillicum and American Lake Gardens neighborhoods. What’s going on, how much will this cost, and who will pay?

The city was required to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the project. This EA was prepared and released for public comment and the city expects to begin construction in early 2008. The main construction will likely end in early 2009, though smaller connections will be added for years to come. The project will cost more than $8.9 million to install three pump stations and associated main lines. The city will fund $2.1 million with grant money and $5.3 million from a Public Works Trust Fund Loan, with 20 years of payments paid through a surcharge to all sewer customers. Finally, about $1.5 million will be funded through city revenues.

Again, why are we installing sewers?

The city advocated sewer installation to address environmental and public health degradation and to spur redevelopment. Simply put, these neighborhoods are home to a number of large apartment complexes and large mobile home parks — all

Preliminary sewer plans for Tillicum and American Lake Gardens

Continued on page 8
City Council Highlights

The Lakewood City Council meets every Monday evening except on federal holidays when meetings are generally postponed a day, and on fifth Mondays of the month. Your City Council took action on a variety of issues over the last two months. Activity from June will be highlighted in the next issue of Lakewood Connections. The Council wants to hear from you. Please email your thoughts to council@cityoflakewood.us or leave a message at 589-2489.

APRIL

- Modified Lakewood Municipal Code to punish those harming police dogs.
- Authorized agreement with Washington Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED) Department for a Lead Hazard Control grant to remove lead paint from low-income housing through October 2008.
- Directed Saaf to develop a Neighborhood Plan for the Tillicum community.
- Authorized $249K for additional design and construction services on Pacific Highway S.W. from Bridgeport Way S.W. to 108th Street.
- Awarded bid to Tucci and Sons, Inc., for $2.4M for the construction of street signalization improvements on Pacific Highway S.W. from intersection at Bridgeport Way S.W. and 47th Avenue to the Railroad Bridge.
- Extended moratorium on the filing of applications for licenses, permits, and approvals for card rooms (casino gambling) for an additional six months.
- Vacated a portion of the right-of-way on Fairlawn Drive SW for realigning the Steilacoom Boulevard and Gravelly Lake Drive intersection.
- Vacated a portion of the right-of-way on Gravelly Lake Drive SW for realigning the Steilacoom Boulevard and Gravelly Lake Drive intersection.
- Authorized $391K for engineering services for storm drainage and roadway restoration relative to the American Lake Gardens/Tillicum Sanitary Sewer Extension project.

MAY

- Modified Lakewood Municipal Code to allow recovery of emergency response costs expended as a result of negligence of intoxicated person(s).
- Conducted public hearing and authorized use of public funds for abating a dangerous building at 6902 146th Street S.W.
- Adopted 2007 Joint Tacoma and Lakewood Consolidated Annual Action Plan, the Second Amendment to the FY 2005 Consolidated Plan, and the proposed use of funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Act Programs.
- Confirmed reappointments of Kurt Graff and Louis Imhof to serve on the Redevelopment Advisory Board for three-year terms.
- Named the public meeting room in the Gary and Carol Milgard Boys and Girls Club HOPE Center facility the “Chief Leschi Room.”

COUNCIL MEMBER COLUMN

Maybe I’ve got spring fever or something, but my mind sure has been wandering lately. I’ve been outside enjoying the sunshine as much as possible, shedding the scales that grew during the monsoon season, and I see color everywhere — bright colors. We’re lucky in Lakewood to have natural beauty around us, and I’m thankful for all of the opportunities we are provided to enjoy ourselves. But I wonder, what if …?

While tuning up my golf game, I noticed how many people are hitting the links now. Terrific. But what if … Lakewood had an amateur golf tournament? Wouldn’t that be fun? I wonder which woman would win a long-ball competition? Who’s the best putter under 16? Or what about some kind of tennis event? Or skateboarding? Or horse shoes? Would people come out more to mingle in Lakewood?

My lawn and shrubs have been growing like crazy lately. So as I’m pushing my mower, I wonder if people in Lakewood would like to open their gardens for others to see? I wonder who has the biggest rhodie? The coolest lawn? Most beautiful flower beds? The most elaborate water feature? Would people come together for something like that?

I put my kayak in Puget Sound one recent 80-degree day. After a glorious paddle, I wondered why people can’t rent kayaks on Lakewood’s lakes? We are Lake-wood, aren’t we? Why don’t we have some kind of water festival to celebrate our lakes? What if we had rowboat races? Wakeboard competition? An air mattress swim-in? A boat parade? Would that be fun?

I walked the new 3-1/2 mile trail around Chambers Bay Golf Course the other day. It is fantastic! Lakewood has trails around Ft. Steilacoom Park and elsewhere. But what if we had more of them, say around Gravelly Lake? Or an interconnected set of trails for bikers/skaters/walkers that you could jump... 

Continued on page 3
Values, Reorganization, and On-line Comment System

Values. Our management team began its recent retreat with a discussion of values. A few years ago, the Army’s top officer remarked, “Our values are sacrosanct, but everything else is on the table.” All successful organizations must have that attitude to survive and thrive in our ever-changing world. City of Lakewood employees have long practiced the traditional values of public service, but we haven’t fully defined or elaborated on those values for the benefit of new or existing employees — or our citizens, for that matter.

Our citizens expect and deserve a city government that is “value-driven.” In order to ensure full employee ownership in this process, I’ve asked a group of employee representatives to participate in developing our values statement around three key areas: “Service, Integrity, and Family.” The first two are largely self-explanatory, and the third relates to the reality that most employees have two families, those they spend up to 40 hours a week with on the job and those they cherish at home. These two are not irreconcilable, and this fact has helped us retain good people through the years.

The end state in this process will be a full understanding — by citizens and employees alike — of those values our employees are expected to work and live by. More will come on this matter.

Reorganization. To help the organization better excel in “service,” I recently restructured reporting relationships of city staff to improve communication and coordination. No new positions were added to implement the plan.

David Bugher was appointed as Assistant City Manager for Development with responsibility for Community Development, Public Works, Economic Development, and Parks and Recreation. He served as Lakewood’s Director of Community Development for 11 years and under his leadership, the city created a Comprehensive Plan with citizen input, established business licensing standards, developed an active code enforcement program, and managed the city’s significant growth since incorporation.

Choi Halladay was appointed Assistant City Manager for Finance and Administration with responsibility for Finance, Information Systems, Human Resources, and General Services. Until recently, he served at Wenatchee Valley College for over ten years in a variety of leadership positions, including chief financial officer. His personal history is remarkable. He was sent to an orphanage in South Korea as a toddler, where he lived for several years before being adopted by a Tacoma couple. This orphanage’s practice was to expel orphans on their 14th birthday to fend for themselves. Choi has acknowledged that this intense experience has shaped his values with his commitment to public service and his devotion to family.

On-line Comment System. It has been three months since the city launched the Lakewood Online Citizen Comment and Request System (LOCCRS). As the name suggests, the intent of this system is to make it more convenient for citizens to make inquiries, comments, or complaints on the city’s website (www.cityoflakewood.us). Furthermore, an automated system like this makes it possible to capture trends, evaluate service levels, and in some cases, provide training and coaching for employees. So far, the system has been well-received, and just this week we received a compliment from a LOCCRS user who had complained about a very neglected property in her neighborhood: “On behalf of my family and the rest of my neighbors who care, I want to extend my deepest, most sincere gratitude for taking care of what was an extreme embarrassment to our neighborhood. I will admit that I was somewhat skeptical that anything would be done, but I see that we have an excellent staff working for our city and no longer have any reason for doubt. Again, thank you so much for what you have accomplished for your neighbors. If you please, forward this to anyone else involved that deserves a huge thank you!”

I want to add my “thank you” in this case to Dave Bugher and Code Enforcement officer Randy Richards for living the values of Service, Integrity, and Family. I also want to thank many other city employees for their devotion to service and to restate the commitment of all city employees as they serve the citizens of Lakewood in a variety of ways.

Council Member Column

continued from page 2

Do you daydream about Lakewood, too? Send me your “What ifs.” Perhaps we can create some fun, new traditions in Lakewood.

—Pad Finnigan, pfinnigan@cityoflakewood.us

Spotlight on Staff

Brian Hinkle has worked for the city’s Parks and Recreation Department for five years as a Maintenance Worker.

“I enjoy working for the City of Lakewood and its citizens because I was given the opportunity to assist in developing and improving all of Lakewood’s parks since the city incorporated a parks maintenance department in 2002. As one of the original maintenance workers for our department, I enjoy seeing how much all of Lakewood’s parks have improved as well as how much the citizens enjoy visiting them. I always enjoy operating heavy equipment such as backhoes, tractors, and skid-steer loaders. There’s just something enjoyable about digging and pushing thousands of pounds of earth. Fly fishing and golfing are my two favorite hobbies.”
Mount St. Helens Climb

When: August 9 & 10
Time: Leave 9 a.m., August 9; return 5 p.m., August 10
Location: Leave & return: City Hall
Age: 18 & older
Cost: $65

Scale an active volcano and check out the new lava dome! We’ll start the trip by exploring Ape Cave, a lava tube on the slope of Mt. St. Helens, before hefting our packs and heading to high camp. If weather permits, the Perseid meteor showers will be visible from high camp. An early morning start and a 3-mile trek will get us to the crater rim. Climbers should be in good physical shape, able to carry a 45-pound pack at least 2 miles (to get to base camp). Hikers will camp outside one night. The city can provide tents if you don’t have your own. Call Dennis for a packing list and other details.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Dennis Higashiya at 589-2489.

Lakewood Idol

Compete for $500 cash (courtesy of Brenda Leech of Countrywide Home Loans and Kelly Norman of Windermere Realty), the opportunity to advance to Washington’s Battle of the Idols at the Puyallup Fair with a $1,000 cash prize, and the title of Lakewood Idol 2007.

Auditions for Lakewood Idol will be held Thursday, July 12, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Lakewood City Hall. Singers must bring a karaoke/back-up disc without vocals. A $10 audition fee will be due at this time. No duets or group performances. Ages 12 to adult.

Eight finalists will be selected to advance to the final competition, which will be held Tuesday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m. at American Lake Park.

This is your chance to become the next big star! For more information, call 589-2489.

Senior Center Annual Summer BBQ

The Lakewood Senior Activity Center will be celebrating the season with our Annual Summer BBQ Thursday, August 2. This year’s event is a Western hoedown theme. There will be plenty of great food, entertainment, and good company. This knee-slapping good time starts at noon. This celebration is free to members and only $4.00 for non-members. Please register and bring a side dish.

Register now for Lakewood Parks & Recreation’s summer offerings!

The Activity Center is offering some great trips, tours and hikes this summer. We will be taking a stroll down Ruston Way, hiking the Gold Creek Basin, attending the Scottish Highland Games, celebrating with “Tuesday Tea” at the Museum of Glass, listening to world-class chamber music in a turn-of-the-century barn, and more. Call for more information.

Would you like to learn more about our Center and the many activities we offer? You’re invited to visit us on Welcome Wednesdays/Dessert of the Month. Join us on the second Wednesday of every month for a tour and introductions to our programs as well as a taste of decadent delights. You can drop in for Dessert of the Month from 10 a.m.-noon, and the Welcome Wednesday tour is at 11 a.m. For more information or to register for programs, please call 798-4090.

Lifeguards

Lifeguards will be on duty at Harry Todd Park and American Lake Park beginning June 30 and will conclude the summer swim season on Labor Day, September 3. They will be on duty from noon until 8 p.m. everyday unless weather conditions dictate otherwise. All lifeguards are certified with both lifeguard and water safety instructor certification. They are there for your safety and require your cooperation for a safe swimming environment. Please remember that lifeguards are not a substitute for parental supervision.

Historical Photograph Contest Winner

See page 10 for more about this 1914 Lakeside Country Club photo
Meet Mrs. Lakewood

Carla Richards was selected as Mrs. Lakewood by the State Director of the Mrs. Washington America Pageant. She will be competing against 28 other contestants from all over the State at the Mrs. Washington America Pageant on July 14 in Moses Lake. Carla has been a Lakewood resident 10 years. She is a stay-at-home-Mom and community volunteer. She has been married to Jeffrey Richards for 15 years and has two young sons ages 9 and 6. Her platform is “Marriage, Mothering, and the Military; Honoring the Wife of an American Soldier!” After 22 years of combined active and reserve service in the Air Force, Jeffrey now serves as an officer in the Naval Reserve and has deployed twice over his career. Carla serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors with Operation Homefront (a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting our troops and helping the families they leave behind) and a host of other volunteer activities including Cub Scouts, PTA, and teaching Sunday School. Lakewood wishes her well!

New Lakewood Arts Commission Up and Running

The newly formed Lakewood Arts Commission was developed from a grassroots group of citizen volunteers interested in raising the awareness of arts in the Lakewood community toward various facets.

Consistent with guidance from the Lakewood City Council, the Commission’s overall purpose is to assess needs and make recommendations for enhancing Lakewood’s cultural vitality through the arts and art-related projects.

The goals of the Commission:
- Promote the visual, performing, and literary arts
- Encourage the creative contribution of local artists
- Make recommendations for public art to the City Council
- Support community-building of art-related events

Initial activities of the Commission have centered on creating and approving by-laws and providing a courtesy review of the proposed artwork for the new Sound Transit Station now under construction.

The current Arts Commission consists of 11 community members appointed by the City Council for terms of one to three years. Commission Chair is Chris Finnigan, and the Vice Chair is Lisa Ikeda. The Arts Commission meets on the first Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in Lakewood City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Music From Around the World

Lakewood Summer Concert Series

At American Lake Park
(9222—Veterans Dr. SW)

July 3: African All Stars...a blend of music from Africa
July 10: Shamba Youth Marimba Ensemble...high energy marimba music by youth
July 17: Incendio...Latin guitar world fusion
July 24: Lakewood Idol...local talent competition finals
July 31: Mariachi Mi Tierra...traditional Mariachi music
Aug 7: National Night Out...no concert-get involved with your neighborhood
Aug 14: Navy Band Northwest...patriotic & big band music
Aug 21: Seattle Kokon Taiko...Japanese-American drumming

All concerts begin at 6:30pm, except for Aug. 21 which will begin at 7:00pm

Sponsored by: City of Lakewood, HomeStreet Bank
Great neighbors. Great bankers.
Message from the Executive Director

It’s exciting to be involved with Lakewood’s Promise as America’s Promise recognizes Lakewood as one of America’s 100 Best Communities for Youth a second time.

The 100 Best Community awards recognize how well Lakewood services and organizations are connected and coordinated. They equally recognize the tremendous gains in test scores and graduation rates achieved by our youth and the Clover Park School District.

Our new partnership with Habitat for Humanity is one example of creative collaboration that provides all Five Promises to involved youth and creates a better community for all.

The Police Department is reaching out to youth we used to lose to incarceration with the GREAT program, Gang Resistance, Education, and Training even as they invite struggling youth to make a fresh start through ROY, Reclaiming Our Youth. These services will be provided in the new super safe place, the Gary & Carol Milgard Family HOPE Center at the new Lakeview Elementary.

Lakewood’s Promise has gone beyond community awareness to celebrating a community of caring. Our youth are achieving greater things week by week.

– Eric Renz

The Mission of Lakewood’s Promise

To mobilize the community to build the character and competence of our youth by providing greater access to these Five Promises:

• Ongoing relationships with CARING ADULTS
• SAFE PLACES with structured activities during non-school hours
• HEALTHY START leading to physical and mental health
• An EFFECTIVE EDUCATION leading to marketable skills
• OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACK through community service

WHAT IS LAKEWOOD’S PROMISE?

Lakewood’s Promise (LP) works for better outcomes for the youth of Lakewood. In 1997, Lakewood formally created Lakewood’s Promise, an adjunct of America’s Promise.

LP is a mobilizer, a connector, a systems-builder, not a program provider. We currently have over 120 partners, including Institutions of Promise, Schools of Promise, Faith Community Partners, and community/service organizations. There are over 275 individuals representing numerous agencies affiliated with the Lakewood Promise movement by supporting and/or delivering the Five Promises or attending monthly collaboration meetings. Thousands of people who live and work in Lakewood serve youth through our partners.

The community consists of many organizations that touch the lives of youth. LP puts them all in focus and on the map and serves as the network that connects them all.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike Block, Vice-President, Columbia Bank
Cameron Boyd, Student, Lakes High School
Alice Bush, General Services Director, City of Lakewood
David Flentge, CEO, Community Health Care
Andrea Gernon, Co-Chair, Lakewood Community Collaboration
Carole Jacobs, Director, Clover Park School District
Michele Johnson, Chancellor, Pierce College
Ria Johnson, Student, Youth Representative
Joseph Lehman, Asst. for Administration, St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church
Doris McEwen Harris, Superintendent, Clover Park School District
Helen Myrick, Executive Director, Greater Pierce County Community Network
Carol Owens, Coordinator, Governor’s Council on Drug Abuse
Neel Parikh, CEO, Pierce County Library System
Tony Robinson, Vice President, Clover Park Technical College
Debbi Saint, Regional Manager, Franciscan Health Systems
Larry Saunders, Chief, Lakewood Police Department
Claudia Thomas, Mayor, City of Lakewood
Dick Towell, CEO, Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare
Fred Willis, Treasurer, Clover Park Foundation
EXPENSES

- Executive Director - $50,000
- Operations – $10,000

DEVELOPMENT OF LAKEWOOD’S PROMISE

- Recruited new business partners to help sustain the movement
- Hired a full-time Executive Director in September
- Recruited an Executive Board of 19 community leaders to guide the movement

COMMUNITY SUCCESS IN 2006

- Lakewood recognized again in 2007 (as in 2005) as one of the 100 Best Communities for Youth by America’s Promise.
- Violent crime in Lakewood is down 40% since 1997.
- Juvenile cigarette smoking decreased 34%.
- Juvenile drinking decreased 35.5%.
- 4th graders improved their reading achievement by 25% from 2000 to 2005.
- At all grades tested students surpassed the state’s reading targets in 2005.
- Assisted with planning a very successful Lakewood’s Community Summit held in February.
- Youth involvement in Lakewood’s first Habitat for Humanity home.

RESOURCE PARTNERS

- City of Lakewood and Clover Park School District
- Businesses, including Puget Sound Energy, St. Clare Hospital – Franciscan Health Care, Columbia Bank, Harborstone Credit Union, Mountain View Funeral Home
- Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Greater Pierce County Community Network
- Clover Park Rotary and many individuals
- 100% of the Board made financial contributions

THE FUTURE

- The 2007 focus is Promise 4, an EFFECTIVE EDUCATION leading to marketable skills, addressed in collaboration with Clover Park Schools, all of our partners, and the people of Lakewood.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Eric Renz, Executive Director, 302-1698 or see www.lakewoodspromise.org

LAKEWOOD’S PROMISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Show your civic pride and contribute to a cleaner, more attractive environment!

The City of Lakewood Adopt-A-Street Program is in full swing and looking for more volunteers. You’ve probably seen our blue and white logo signs around the city and wondered how to get involved. The application process is easy – choose the street you’d like to adopt and request approval based on very basic criteria.

Once approved, the city will erect a sign with your organization’s name at both ends of your designated street clean-up area. How often you schedule clean-ups is your choice, but it should be often enough to keep your street looking good and your name in good standing.

The program is free to you. You simply call in advance, and the city supplies the trash bags, safety vests, gloves, and hard hats along with the “road crew working” signs for your convenience. Once you have completed a trash pick up, simply call in the location, and the Public Works Department will make arrangements to have the full trash bags removed from the roadside right-of-way.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 983-7795 or look us up on the city Web site at www.cityoflakewood.us. Scroll down to the Volunteer tab to find the Adopt-A-Street Litter Control Program Application. Once completed and signed the application can be mailed or faxed back for consideration. Download the Adopt-A-Street application to get started.

This is a rewarding opportunity for clubs, schools, churches, businesses, and families to show their civic pride and feel great about a contribution they can make!

McChord’s 7th Airlift Squadron volunteers on their first litter pick-up on Bridgeport Way S.W. from Pacific Hwy. to 111th Street S.W.

Southern Lakewood Sewer Connection continued from page 1

on septic systems. Experience shows us this combination leads to contaminated soil and water. Also, many larger, desirable businesses cannot and will not invest without sewers.

What does the city envision for these neighborhoods?

Lakewood’s Comprehensive Plan zoned American Lake Gardens (ALG) for a combination of high density residential homes (namely, apartments or condominiums) and industrial uses. Industrial and commercial firms of national stature have actively inquired about doing business in ALG. ALG is large enough to accommodate these different uses and is attractive for investment with its close proximity to major military bases and I-5, as well as land that is relatively inexpensive. With additional investments in infrastructure, Tillicum is also ideally situated for redevelopment to enhance its current residential and commercial character. The private sector has already acknowledged the significant potential of Tillicum. For example, at its own cost, the architectural firm BCRA recently met with Tillicum residents and formed an impressive vision (visit www.architectsbcra.com and search for “Tillicum”). This vision has generated a positive reaction from many in Tillicum as well as many in the business community.

What is the long term benefit for Lakewood?

These southernmost neighborhoods form a first impression of Lakewood for tens of thousands of military service members and many, many others passing through the area every day. These impressions are then spread not only throughout the state, but the nation. Tillicum and American Lake Gardens form a major part of Lakewood’s “front door”; improved public infrastructure will spur additional private investments that in turn will improve living and business conditions and expand housing opportunities for people of all incomes. Lakewood Police have done a noteworthy job reducing crime in these neighborhoods, and we need private and public commitment to set the proper conditions for sustaining that success. We must also acknowledge and encourage the impressive efforts of organizations such as “Keep Lakewood Beautiful” and the “Tillicum/American Lake Garden Neighborhood Association,” which have long invested their time in these isolated communities before others paid any attention.
Spotlight on Redevelopment

*What is Redevelopment?* Redevelopment is a process by which local government works with the private sector to enhance the social, economic, physical and environmental vitality of a city. Since Lakewood is built-out, redevelopment is a major goal. It spurs new investment, provides for a wider range of jobs, increases shopping and recreational options along with public infrastructure improvements. *Any new projects I should know about?* From time to time, *Lakewood Connections* will highlight new redevelopment projects such as those featured below.

City Hall gets New Neighbor

The new tenants of the “old Safeway building” next to City Hall expect to be open for business this month. HomescapePro indicates it is “integrating some of the area’s finest contractors/subcontractors, wholesalers, and specialty product suppliers (exhibitors) under one roof to make the home construction process simpler, easier, faster, and less expensive. You will find cabinets, countertops, floor covering, hot-tubs and spas, saunas, landscaping products and services, home entertainment, specialty furniture, playground equipment, outdoor kitchens, siding, roofing, custom products, and much more.” They are located at Lakewood Towne Center at 6010 Main Street. You can visit their website at [www.homescapepro.com](http://www.homescapepro.com).

Harborstone Builds New Corporate Campus in Lakewood

Excitement is building for the opening of Harborstone Credit Union’s new 29,000 sq. ft. Corporate Campus on Gravelly Lake Drive. It is a community-based cooperative that has served the South Puget Sound for over 50 years. Harborstone’s 200 employees support 50,000 members in communities from Federal Way to Olympia and Gig Harbor to Bonney Lake.

Investments in the local community are one of Harborstone’s hallmarks. Employees regularly contribute time and resources to local causes and the City hopes their decision will spur other corporations to consider Lakewood for their home.

City recognizes 4-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team

At the June 4 regular Council meeting, the Lakewood City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing the 4-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). The city has an ongoing relationship with this Brigade as part of the Fort Lewis Community Connections Program. The brigade has been deployed to Iraq since early May and has already suffered 13 battlefield deaths through mid-June. Mayor Chad Sundem (Rear Detachment Commander), Mrs. Stacey Lehr (wife of Brigade Commander Colonel Jon Lehr), First Sergeant Max McLaughlin (acting Sergeant Major) accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the brigade. Councilman Doug Richardson and Mayor Emeritus Bill Harrison awarded the Proclamation and expressed their gratitude for the service of the brigade and the importance of the Community Connections Program.

59th U.S. Girls’ Junior Championship in Lakewood

Lakewood is excited to host the 59th U.S. Girls’ Junior Championship July 23-28 at Lakewood’s beautiful Tacoma Country & Golf Club. This event is one of only 13 official national golf championships held in the United States. This is a big coup for Lakewood, and will show the region and the nation a different and very positive side of our City.

Many volunteers will be needed to make the event successful: caddies, marshals (working crowd control), parking, transportation, scorers, grounds assistance, practice area assistants, etc. To ensure a uniform positive appearance, volunteers are being asked to purchase the quality shirt and hat with logo — combined price of $35. It will make a great souvenir of the event!!!

The Monday and Tuesday rounds will whittle a total of 156 players down to 64, with Wednesday’s and Thursday’s...
Girls's Junior Championship
continued from page 9

first-, second-, and third-round matches bringing the number of players down to four. Friday has semi-final matches between those four players, and Saturday completes the Championship with two matches between the last two players as well as the presentation of trophies. The Championship is free and the public is invited to walk alongside the beautiful greens to watch players at any of the 18 holes.

Event organizer, Tom Hosea, is looking for up to 400 volunteers; please visit www.2007usgirlsjunior.org for more information.

5th Annual Latino Festival

This annual event is presented by the Pierce County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the City of Lakewood’s Fort Steilacoom Park, Saturday, August 18, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Second- and third-place participants were Elizabeth Poinsett and Beth Julian, followed by honorable mentions for Carol Seeburger and Paul Webb (retired Lakewood Fire Chief). The Society’s new History Museum is located at 6211 Mt. Tacoma Dr. S.W. Information is available on their Web site: www.lakewoodhistorical.org.

Historical Photograph Contest

The Lakewood Historical Society sponsored an Historical Photograph Contest focusing on historical images tucked away in local family albums. Winners of the competition were announced at the Society’s History Museum open house on May 30. Mayor Claudia Thomas presented the awards, many of which were provided by the contest sponsor, Robi’s Camera Shop of Lakewood. The first place winner was Carol Seeburger. Facts about the 1914 photo: “Lakeside Country Club leased a 40-acre tract, known as Chaplain Stubbs Place, to build a golf course. The property, located across Veterans Drive from the Club, bordered Interlaken Drive SW. Women of the Lakeside Club met daily at 9 a.m. for a round of golf. Both the women’s and men’s teams made credible showings in all of their competitions. The ladies are unidentified.”

See page 4 to view this award winning photo.

A Day in the Life of a City of Lakewood Prosecutor

It is a Thursday and the courtroom is starting to fill up with people. The 8:30 a.m. calendar has 11 cases set for those who are requesting that warrants for their arrests be recalled (dismissed). Prior to the hearings, I review the police reports, the criminal history, warrant history, and the prosecutor’s notes on the case. At the hearing, each defendant has an opportunity to explain why they failed to appear for a scheduled hearing. I look at all the circumstances surrounding the failure to appear and make my recommendation to the judge. If the warrant is recalled, the defendant gets a new court date. If the warrant is served, a Lakewood Police officer escorts the defendant out of the courtroom to await transport to the Pierce County jail.

The next calendar starts at 9:00 a.m., and there are 67 cases set. These hearings are set to determine a defendant’s compliance with court-ordered requirements after sentencing on a criminal offense. Prior to the hearings I review the case files to determine compliance and what, if any, sanction might be appropriate. Sanctions can include community service, work crew, fines, electronic home monitoring, and jail time.

After court I head back to the office to work on an appeal brief that is due by 1 p.m. I intermittently eat my lunch and feverishly work on the city’s responsive brief for an appeal. After completing my brief, its time to go back to court!

The 1 p.m. calendar has 19 cases set for pre-trial conference. During the pretrial conference the prosecutor and the defense attorneys try to negotiate resolutions on criminal charges. When

Continued on page 11
School Zone Enforcement Information Including Summer School

Yes, school is out for most kids, but summer school is underway and the law is still in effect. In light of recent stories on enforcement at certain school zones and questions about enforcement during the summer, we thought it was important to restate this information for the benefit of all. The City’s goal as it enforces traffic laws isn’t to obtain more revenue, but to make our roads as safe as possible for pedestrians and drivers alike. The City of Lakewood is dedicated to protecting children from a danger they face every day — vehicles speeding near their schools.

A 2002 study of Lakewood School Zones found the average speed to be 35 mph. National safety standards encourage a speed of only 20 mph in school zones. Why? Because research has shown that a car vs. pedestrian accident at 20 mph has only a 5% predictability of fatality. At 40 mph the fatality predictability increases to 85%.

We are attempting to reduce average speed in school zones by heavy enforcement of school zones speeds and by changing the signage in school zones to better reflect the times that speeds are to be enforced, thereby reducing confusion and subsequent poor compliance, as well as resolving difficulties with enforcement of the signs in court.

We have worked closely on our school zone emphasis with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, upgrading school zone warning signs precisely as they recommended. For additional details, please visit www.cityoflakewood.us.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the best safety measure?
The Washington Traffic Safety Commission has found that the Yellow Flashing Lights are the best deterrent to speeding in school zones, but the cost is so high that it makes their use limited. The WTSC has stated that the next best alternative is a Time Frame sign. The WTSC discourages the wording “WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT,” which can be too subjective.

What if I enter a school zone in between the posted signs, how will I know I’m in a school zone?
All streets entering in a midpoint will be signed to show that you are entering a school zone. These signs have been funded and are now in the process of installation. They should be complete before the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

Will Officers be issuing citations to speeders in school zones seven days a week?
Officers will issue school zone citations on arterials only when yellow lights are flashing. They will issue citations on Time Frame signs only Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Will Officers issue citations in school zones on school holidays and during the summer?
Officers will only enforce in zones where children are attending summer school. We will not enforce on a school holiday. Clover Park School District does post their summer school hours at www.cloverpark.k12.wa.us.

How does photo enforcement work?
The Photo-vans have automatic high resolution cameras that are radar driven. The radars are certified and calibrated yearly. They are tested before and after each deployment. The radar is set to trigger the camera when a vehicle reaches a speed over the posted limit. The vehicles are occupied by a Community Service Officer who watches and verifies the violations. The camera only takes a picture of the rear of the vehicle. “Photo-violations” do not appear on your driving record and are half the fine of a (same speed) officer-initiated stop, with a maximum fine of $250.

We only work in zones where school is in session.

A Day in the Life continued from page 10

I make a pre-trial offer, I must balance the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history with the likelihood a jury will convict. After assessing the case and making an offer, the defense attorney will either accept the offer or set the case for trial. After court is over, I go back to the office to review the day’s cases and prepare for much of the same tomorrow.

Rocio Guerra has served as a prosecutor for the City of Lakewood for two years.
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, however please confirm events with sponsors. Occasionally, City board and committee meetings are cancelled or rescheduled. Please call City Hall to verify: 589-2489. Additional meeting information is located on the City’s Web site.