connections
spring 2011 the city of lakewood

2011 Washington State High School Basketball Champions Clover Park Warriors (2A) and Lakes Lancers (3A) made Lakewood proud with their outstanding seasons and many victories during our otherwise wet, cold, and long winter. On March 21st, players and coaches joined the Lakewood City Council for a proclamation and celebration of their remarkable accomplishments.

Sign up now for Lakewood 101

Do you want to learn more about core city services such as streets, parks, and police or about the exciting challenges in economic redevelopment? Please consider participating in this new and informative “short course” in city government.

Lakewood Toastmasters now recruiting

Three years ago, Lakewood employees started a Toastmasters group. The mission of every Toastmasters club is the same: to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every individual member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Lakewood Toastmasters meets every Tuesday in the council chambers from noon-1pm and is now recruiting new members from the broader Lakewood community. If you want to learn more, visit www.toastmasters.org, call 983-7761, or simply stop by and observe.
City Council Highlights
The Lakewood City Council meets every Monday, 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 few months. The Council wants to hear from you. Please email your thoughts to council@cityoflakewood.us or leave a message at 589-2489.

December 2010-March 2011

- Updated Municipal Code to address connections to sanitary sewer systems.
- Approved a modified street profile for Tillicum’s Union Avenue.
- Granted Pierce County a nonexclusive franchise for twenty years to construct, maintain, operate, replace and repair a sanitary sewer system in the city public rights-of-way.
- Authorized a contract with Burxton Company to conduct retail analysis including medical services and tourism.
- Appointed Robert Zawilska to serve on the Planning Advisory Board through February 11, 2016.
- Authorized an agreement with Stewart, Beall, MacNichols and Harmell for Public Defender Services from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.
- Authorized a $612,189 contract with Northwest Cascade, Inc. for the Grant Avenue (Tillicum) Sewer Extension, Storm Drainage and Roadway Restoration, and Water Main Replacement Project.
- Established a Small Public Works Roster process for awarding contracts and consulting services for architectural, engineering and professional services.
- Authorized an interlocal agreement with the City of Fife for the continuation of jail services from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.
- Authorized a lease agreement with Pierce County at the Lakewood Community Center for the Lakewood Senior Activity Center through 2015.
- Reappointed Bill Harrison, Bradford MacGowan and Darrell Nelson to serve on the Landmarks and Heritage Advisory Board through December 2, 2013.
- Authorized execution of a grant agreement with the WSTIB in the amount of $2,768,000 for street improvements on South Tacoma Way from 512 to 96th St. SW.
- Accepted a $3,004,800 grant for street improvements on Bridgeport Way from 83rd St. SW to 75th St. SW.
- Authorized agreement with James O’Connor for Hearing Examiner services through January 17, 2013.
- Authorized a $150,000 agreement with Pierce County for maintenance at Fort Steilacoom Park in 2011.
- Authorized a $105,300 agreement with the Humane Society for animal sheltering services in 2011.
- Amended the Lakewood Municipal Code relative to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Maps.
- Appointed Kathy Flores to serve on the Arts Commission through October 15, 2013.
- Reappointed Edward Judie, Amy Nelson and Christine Turner to serve on the Human Services Funding Advisory Board through December 31, 2013.
- Appointed Haley Keene as a Lakewood Youth Council member for the 2010/2011 school year.
Doing business as usual is like not doing business at all...

It’s often acknowledged that the only certainty in life is that there will be change. In circles of government bureaucracy, at times there is frustration over the words, “we’ve always done it this way…” as a means of justifying a process that doesn’t always make sense. In the City of Lakewood, we don’t hang on to past practices if they don’t work well. And we’re open to change, when change can bring about improvement.

In the Public Works Department, we’ve seen a lot of change in recent months. The highlight of this newsletter is our “State of the Streets” and the way we manage and evaluate our pavement conditions. The department has transitioned from a contract-based service, with reliance on Pierce County, to an in-house streets maintenance service, providing more control and flexibility over our scheduling and manpower, and at a lower cost. The changes started with our ability to maintain our 70 traffic signals at the time we upgraded the controllers to provide a more modern and synchronized system. We’ve evolved beyond that to more control over general streets maintenance and landscaping services, including storm debris emergency response capability, using our own staff.

In the parks department, we’ve seen many changes in a few short years of transition from Pierce County’s maintenance of Fort Steilacoom Park to our own maintenance service, working hard to maintain several major improvements to the park, its playgrounds and ball fields. The department has also changed organizationally. Community Services programming, which manages 32 contracts for human services funding (1% of the general fund), was integrated into the new Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services. The synergy of combining our human services programming with our senior activity center, and youth recreation initiatives continues to make a lot of sense.

In Police, we’ve recently initiated a special emphasis on vehicles operated by drivers with suspended licenses. While this has a major positive impact on traffic safety, it also serves to remove these vehicles from the street at least temporarily. We’ve programmed our revenues so that the proceeds from impounded cars will go directly to support the training of our police officers — again with safety as a priority.

Another major change in recent months in how we do business is our Community Safety & Resources Team (CSRT), which was formed early last year with the merging of our code enforcement program, our community service officers from the neighborhood policing program, and legal support. At a time when we had reduced overall general fund staffing by 19 positions, we were able to provide a more concerted neighborhood problem-solving capacity with our combined CSRT program.

What these changes have in common is the organizational willingness to look at new ways of operating, including innovative approaches and occasionally taking chances. While we don’t “experiment” with the safety of our community, we do encourage taking risks in an organizational sense to improve our service delivery. It means we occasionally make mistakes, but our openness to change allows us to correct them and move on with stronger direction and worthwhile experience.

At each weekly management team meeting, our agenda includes words to encourage reflection on our mission. More often that not, we remind ourselves: “Doing business as usual is like not doing business at all…”

COUNCILMEMBER COLUMN — Continued from page 2

corners. We welcome back our military friends and neighbors from long deployments and life changing experiences.

The challenge ahead is to build economic development and transportation solutions, arts and culture, and to allow us to serve many community needs. We are a community coming into our own, solidifying our gains, overcoming our challenges, and building unity in neighborhood communities.

Let me congratulate and thank you for past engagement and partnership. Stand with us as we continue building the “unity” in our community.

In closing, I have made a decision not to seek re-election this year. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my 15+ years on the city council and I’ve been truly blessed to represent Lakewood. I am convinced that our best days as a city are still ahead.
The $2.4 million Bridgeport Way upgrade project currently underway (Steilacoom Boulevard to 83rd Street), should be completed in May. This very busy roadway was long overdue for curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and a new center turn lane.

Many people understand that large portions of the nation’s road infrastructure, such as bridges and highways built since the 1950s, need repair, replacement, or expansion. Interstate 5 through Lakewood is a good example of the latter requirement, but there is more to the problem. To the untrained eye, almost all of Lakewood’s streets appear to be in good shape with the exception of the occasional pothole. Unfortunately, potholes can be an indicator of a failing road structure. It is true that some of our roads are in very good shape such as the recently paved Pacific Highway and portions of Gravelly Lake Drive and Steilacoom Blvd. The long term prognosis in Lakewood, however, is worrisome due to projected shortfalls for funds dedicated to road maintenance.

Since incorporation in 1996, Lakewood has been very successful finding grants ($31+ million) to upgrade our road system. Our success can in large part be attributed to the fact that Lakewood inherited an urban traffic network built to largely rural (unincorporated) standards. Our needs have made us very competitive when pursuing grants for all of the road projects you’ve seen over the years (such as the ongoing Bridgeport Way project in the photo above). The City’s concern is that grant opportunities will be more difficult to come by as we move forward.

Simply put, grants are not sustainable revenue sources and will be even more competitive as state and federal governments continue to tighten their belts. Furthermore, declining tax revenues, such as the Real Estate Excise Tax...
As you can see, Lakewood is toward the “middle of the pack” (these figures are based primarily on available 2008 data):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Average PCI*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redmond</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Way</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*PCI = Pavement Condition Index

Unfortunately, pavement only has a lifespan of 20 years.

One available option that a number of cities have implemented is a “Transportation Benefit District” or TBD. TBDs established by a vote of the city council can be assessed at $20 per licensed vehicle. Alternatively, the council could ask voters to consider a TBD assessment of $20 or more per vehicle. The council will be considering the voter-based option but more work must be done to define such a proposal by prioritizing projects and establishing a fee level. The City intends to conduct informational workshops on the subject in the coming months and those workshops will be advertised at www.cityoflakewood.us.

Learn how to save money and time in your yard while learning about vegetable gardening, natural lawn care, garden pest management, soil basics, backyard composting, sustainable landscape design, and water management.

The City of Lakewood and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department are offering a series of fun, informative and free natural yard care workshops.

Workshops will take place from 6:30 to 8:30pm May 3, 17, and 31 at Lakewood City Hall, Council Chambers.

Each workshop series will feature a different yard care topic with different speakers each evening. The workshops are free, but space is limited. To register, or for more information, contact Geoff Rinehart at (253) 798-4587 or grinehart@tpchd.org. Door prizes and refreshments are provided at each workshop!
Lakewood Senior Activity Center’s Annual Open House – Join us “Under the Big Top!”

Come One, Come All! Step right up and join us for the “Greatest Show on Earth” at the Lakewood Senior Activity Center’s Annual Open House — Thursday, June 2nd from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm — FREE admission! The Senior Activity Center is located at 9112 Lakewood Drive SW. This is one of the Center’s biggest events so you won’t want to miss it! Enjoy refreshments and entertainment, meet new friends and win a prize. For more information, call 798-4090.

SummerFEST 2011

Join us Saturday, June 25th at Fort Steilacoom Park for a FREE all day celebration! The day begins at noon and includes youth sports clinics and a three-on-three basketball tournament sponsored by the Seattle Storm. There will be a car show, motorcycle rally and poker ride, Army Strong Fitness Expo, KIDZ Zone inflatable area ($5) which includes a petting zoo, well over 150 food and art vendors, two stages of entertainment and a movie at dusk, How to Train Your Dragon (rated PG) presented by Comcast. On Sunday, June 26 we’ll host a FREE 5K fun run and more Army Strong Fitness Expo activities.

For more information or to be a vendor at the public market visit lakewoodsummerfest.com or call 983-7887.

Park Rentals – Shelters/Fields/ Special Events – Sign Up NOW!

The City accepts requests for shelter and field reservations throughout the year. The demand for park facilities is greatest in the spring and summer and we have a first-come first-served policy. The only way to guarantee that a shelter or sports field will be available for your use is by reserving it! Application forms may be downloaded from the City’s webpage, but you should call 983-7887 to make sure the shelter or field is available first. Our staff is happy to help you plan a small party for ten people or a large event for over 2,000 guests.

Summer Camps for Kids!

Summer is just around the corner; are you ready for some fun? The City is proud to offer a variety of opportunities for your kids. We’ll have wild adventures, out of this world fun and play some crazy games with our creative and energetic staff. Sign up today for Camp CREATE and KinderKamps. Visit lakewoodparksandrec.com or call 983-7887 for more information.

American Lake Boat Launch Passes on sale now!

Annual Boat Launch Passes for use at the American Lake Park Boat Launch are available for purchase at City Hall. Passes are valid through December 31, 2011, and allow for an unlimited number of launches. Pass fees vary for resident, non-resident and commercial users. A single one day launch fee is $10 (except on holiday weekends when the fee is $15 per launch.) Please call 253-983-7758 for more information.

Legacy Plan Update

The 18-member community based Legacy Team continues their work on the Lakewood Legacy Plan, a 20-year strategic park and recreation plan. You can learn more about the Legacy Plan (review the reports and the survey findings) on the City’s website. If you have not yet expressed your opinions and would like to do so now, please follow the links to complete an on-line survey. Your voice is important to us and will help us develop a plan that will meet you and your family’s needs.

Leash Reminder

Dogs, pets, or domestic animals are not permitted off-leash on any designated swimming beach, picnic area, play areas, in any building, or any place else in city parks, except in those areas specifically identified by signage. These same rules apply to Clover Park School District playgrounds. This law does not apply to service dogs. If you want to give Fido some off-leash time, consider Fort Steilacoom Park’s dog park.

Summer Concerts in the Park

Enjoy FREE outdoor entertainment this summer at American Lake Park. The Lakewood Summer Concert Series is held rain or shine on the dates listed below beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own chair, blanket or picnic dinner and enjoy the show! Hosted by the Lakewood Arts Commission.

July 5: Locust Street Taxi – Fifth-generation ska, pop and swing with trombone
July 12: Danny Vernon – Tribute to Elvis
July 19: Lakewood’s Brightest Star – Local Talent Competition finals
July 26: Golden Band of the West – Mobility – Travis Air Force Base Rock Band but call 983-7887
August 2: National Night Out – No concert – Get involved with your neighborhood (visit www.cityoflakewood.us for more information)
August 9: Blues Brothers Revue – Rhythm & Blues from Jake & Elwood
August 16: David Correa & Cascada – Latin Guitar World Fusion

Basic Needs Provided to Lakewood Citizens

The City dedicated over $366,000 in 2011 to support the most vulnerable members of our community. Caring for Kids provides low-income schoolchildren with new shoes and clothes so they can focus on learning. The Emergency Food Network (EFN) supports qualified families through seven different Lakewood food banks. EFN supplied Lakewood food banks with 2,047,339 pounds of food in 2010; a 30% increase over the 1,573,348 pounds supplied in 2009. The need continues to increase and we are thankful to the many community partners who support these efforts.

For more information on available resources in Lakewood, please call 983-7756.
With the arrival of spring, property owners should be aware that weeds and vegetation can quickly get out of control if left untended. If that happens, they may be contacted by a member of the Community Safety Resource Team to bring the property into compliance with city codes. For additional information please visit www.cityoflakewood.us.

Emergency Preparedness

With the recent earthquakes in Japan and other nations, it should be apparent to all that citizens need to take steps to prepare their families for emergency situations. It can happen here! Living in the northwest means we live in a seismic zone and are at risk for major earthquakes. Each of us has a personal responsibility to prepare ourselves, our loved ones, homes, pets and neighborhoods for an emergency. You could be on your own for several days before first responders are able to assist. You should gather a minimum of seven days of supplies for your family.

**Some basic preparedness steps:**

- Identify safe places indoors (like sturdy furniture) where you might be more protected during an earthquake
- Ensure you have extra cash and supplies of prescription medicine and eye glasses
- Store three (3) gallons of water for each person in your household
- Make arrangements to have an out-of-area friend/family member be your phone contact and provide your family members with that person’s contact information (they should have it in their wallet, purse or backpack)
- Keep your vehicle filled with fuel
- Make copies of your important documents and store them in sealed plastic bags with your emergency supplies
- Plan for your pets

There are numerous websites available that can help you set up emergency kits and get items for those kits that may not be available at local stores. You can just type in “emergency supplies” into a search engine or visit the official emergency management websites for county, state, and federal governments:

- [www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/dem/abtusdem.htm](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/dem/abtusdem.htm)
- [www.emd.wa.gov/index.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/index.shtml)
- [www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm)

In February, Police Chief Bret Farrar was recognized by the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs as the state’s “Law Enforcement Leader of the Year.” Chief Farrar was chosen for the agency’s first-time award for his outstanding leadership in the aftermath of the November 2009 tragedy. Chief Farrar is a finalist for the America’s Most Wanted law enforcement “2011 All Star Award.” Visit [www.amw.com](http://www.amw.com) to learn more or vote for your favorite.

On March 15th, Mayor Richardson cut the ribbon to the new Pasado (mobile) Pet Spay Station. They offer pet spaying and neutering services at low or no cost to those who qualify. Visit [www.pasadosafehaven.org](http://www.pasadosafehaven.org) for more information about scheduling and services.
### Advisory Boards & Committee Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOARD/COMMITTEE</th>
<th>MEETS MOST MONTHS ON THIS DAY – PLEASE CALL &amp; CONFIRM</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION AND/OR CONFERENCE ROOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizens’ Transportation Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>City Hall Council Chambers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Karen Devereaux – 983-7767</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Service Commission</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>First Floor – 1E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Dawn Avcular – 983-7849</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Advisory Board</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Third Floor – 3A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Jeff Gumm – 983-7773</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Services Funding Advisory Board</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday (only when needed)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Third Floor – 3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Kim Dodds – 983-7756</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakewood Arts Commission</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>Third Floor – 3A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Suzi Riley – 983-7758</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakewood Community Collaboration</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday (none in July/August)</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>City Hall Council Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Kim Dodds – 983-7756</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakewood Sister Cities Association</td>
<td>3rd Thursday</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>First Floor – 1E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Melody Perrussel – 983-7769</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Landmarks &amp; Heritage Advisory Board</td>
<td>4th Thursday (every other month)</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Third Floor – 3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Staci Yukovich – 983-7716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging Tax Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Melody Perrussel – 983-7769</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>First Floor – 1D (next to Chambers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Suzi Riley – 983-7758</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Advisory Board</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Wednesdays (or more frequently)</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>City Hall Council Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Staci Yukovich – 983-7716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Safety Advisory Committee</td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
<td>5:15pm</td>
<td>Police Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Joanna Nichols – 830-5000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9401 Lakewood Dr, SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redevelopment Advisory Board</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>Third Floor – 3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Melody Perrussel – 983-7769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Council</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays when needed (none in summer)</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Third Floor – 3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Dennis Higashiyama – 983-7835</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Other Phone Numbers

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

- Lakeview 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
- Qwest Communications: 1-800-244-1111
- Safe Streets: 584-0404
- Tacoma Public Utilities: 383-2471
- Tiltlicum Library: 588-1014

Note: 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 meeting with the sponsoring contact or city department.

### City of Lakewood

- City Hall: 589-2489
- Abandoned Vehicles: 830-5080
- Animal Control: 830-5010
- Building Inspectors: 512-2269
- 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: 983-7785
- Human Services: 983-7756
- Information Line (automated): 512-2264
- Job Line (automated): 512-2265
- Garage Sale Permits: 512-2261
- Municipal Court: 512-2258
- Noise Complaints: 798-4721
- Parks & Recreation: 983-7887
- Police Licensing – Main Desk: 830-5000
- Non-emergency only: 798-4721
- Drug Tip Hotline: 830-5049
- Sex Offender Info: 830-5005
- Public Works Department – Main Desk: 983-7795
- Potholes/Street lights: 267-1628
- Street signage: 531-6990
- Senior Activity Center: 798-4090
- Traffic Complainst: 830-5072
- Traffic Infractions: 512-2258
- Vehicle Licensing: 588-7786
- Zoning: 512-2261

### Community Calendar

& Frequently Called Numbers...