Lakewood recognized for “Municipal Excellence”

In June, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) recognized the City of Lakewood for “Municipal Excellence” in public safety. The implementation of the Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT) was conceived by City Manager Andrew Neiditz, reviewed and fine-tuned by the Public Safety Advisory Committee, funded by the City Council, and implemented in early 2010. Neiditz remarked, “the success of the CSRT is a tribute to the professionalism of these highly committed employees and their service to make Lakewood a better place to live and work.” The CSRT is an interdisciplinary team of police, code enforcement officers, community services officers, and legal advisors under the leadership of police Lieutenant Steve Mauer. Among other things, the team establishes watch groups with neighborhoods and businesses, addresses blight and petty crime, and abates dangerous or nuisance properties when necessary. Each neighborhood in Lakewood has a CSRT liaison to assist citizens.
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.

May 2011-July 2011

• Ratified the performance evaluation of the city manager.
• Authorized an agreement with the American Federation of State County Municipal Employees (AFSCME) through December 31, 2012.
• Authorized a $1,000,000 grant with the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority through June 30, 2013.
• Adopted 6-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (2012 through 2017).
• Authorized the surplus and sale of Lakewood Police Canine Roger.
• Adopted the Tillicum Neighborhood Plan.
• Authorized an interlocal agreement with Pierce County, City of Tacoma, and West Pierce Fire and Rescue to create a new agency, South Sound 9-1-1, to provide public safety communication services.
• Authorized a $410,000 agreement with Pierce County for the third phase of the Woodbrook Sewer Extension Project.
• Authorized a $3 million agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the construction of the Lakewood Station Connection Project.
• Authorized a $375,000 grant with the Washington State Department of Ecology for drywell replacements.
• Amended the Lakewood Municipal Code related to signage.
• Appointed Sheri Badger to serve on the Public Safety Advisory Committee through August 6, 2012.
• Approved a sewer franchise with Pierce County.
• Appointed Phillip Raschke to serve on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee through November 1, 2013
• Appointed James Guerrero, Thomas James and Denise Yochum to serve on the Redevelopment Advisory Board from May 24, 2011 through May 23, 2014.
• Authorized a $87,136 agreement with KPG, Inc. for survey services for the design of Bridgeport Way SW from 83rd Street SW to 75th Street SW.
• Updated Lakewood Municipal Code to address aggressive begging and graffiti removal.
• Authorized a $640,000 grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce for Phase 3 of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Councilmember Column

This is the final year of my second term on the Lakewood City Council, so if you read only this one sentence, please accept my deepest thanks for the honor of serving you these eight years. If you read this sentence (and time is so precious, isn’t it?), let me thank you for reading this newsletter. Not everyone does. So now, here on the fourth sentence, I know that whoever you are, you care enough to read the newsletter articles and not just the headlines. That makes you special because you clearly care about Lakewood. So let’s talk.

These past eight years have seen a lot of action. We started our own police department, which has reduced crime throughout our city. We shared Nov. 29, 2009, the day four of our officers were murdered. We’ve shared agreements and disagreements about parks, roads, sewers, businesses, and more. As I wrote in the Lakewood Journal in 1995 when we chose cityhood, we will never all agree on everything. But in our city we have a place to meet and discuss and share. That’s what cityhood is for.

So are the time and resources that we invest in the city worth it? Let me tell you how I measure success. If you remember my columns in the Lakewood Journal about my then-little children, this story has more meaning. To help out my daughter and son-in-law, they’re living with Cindy and me. In this day, and age, the two of them have done something remarkable. They have jobs within a mile of their home. JoAnna is the smiling face who greets you as you enter Barnes and Noble. David works at Cartridge World. The two of them have something in the marriage that Cindy and I never enjoyed; they work within a couple minutes’ walk of each other. Yesterday, they pre-qualified for a mortgage. These smart young’uns could live anywhere in the Puget Sound area. Where do they want to live? Lakewood.

They like this place. Lakewood is a place to raise a family. That’s success.

So now you’ve read almost 28 sentences. You’re the person I ran to represent; the person I tried my best, sometimes well and sometimes badly, to serve. In front of you special people, I have a tear in my eye. Thank you for the honor of representing you on the Lakewood City Council.
**Community partnerships based on trust**

It was with great pride that we viewed a video of our Community Safety & Resource Team (CSRT) program at the annual Association of Washington Cities conference in Spokane on June 23, and accepted their award for municipal excellence. In a banquet room full of city officials from around the State, we watched our staff and citizens on the large screen extolling the virtues of a community partnership process that aims to solve problems and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

The success of CSRT lies in its partnership with members of the community. Not only does it rely on the citizens to bring forward the problems that need addressing, but it is also the citizens who work with CSRT staff to define and implement the solutions. There are numerous venues utilized for community improvement; support comes from the active “LOCAL” (Lakewood Organization of Community Active Landlords), from tavern owners and bar managers in the “Raising the Bar” program, from neighborhood associations, and from the hotel/motel partnership program. The willingness of the business community and our neighborhood associations to work together with City staff and to “roll up their sleeves” to solve problems brings tremendous value to our efforts and keeps the City government “grounded” in its approach to community services. Our abatement program has become more aggressive over the last several years, and is successful because of community support.

The photo below of the Partners for Parks group presenting a check for $100,000 for a Fort Steilacoom Park restroom is a major example of effective community partnership, where citizens are willing to make a significant contribution to a City government effort to implement a desired outcome (in this case a new restroom facility adjacent to the playground which was also built as a community project), with enough confidence and trust between the parties to see a project through to completion. Our parks look much better today thanks in large part to the volunteers who step forward in efforts like “Parks Appreciation Day” to take ownership of our parks through “sweat equity.”

As difficult as the Camp Murray gate issue had become, rest assured that the City staff heard loud and clear the concerns of citizens about maintaining the residential character of Tillicum. The extensive mitigation requirements are a direct result of that concern, and the plan there is to direct traffic along Berkeley as well as the commercial corridor at Union.

Another avenue of community partnerships is reflected by our ten citizen advisory boards and committees (CABC’s). Our CABC’s cover areas from Arts to Transportation, from Youth to Public Safety, and they provide an opportunity for citizens to work in the policy development arena by assisting and advising the City Council on key policy issues ranging from “traffic calming” on neighborhood residential streets to false alarm management. Citizens can apply for consideration by the Mayor and Council for appointment to these CABC’s as vacancies occur.

While not everyone will always agree on a solution to a community problem, the quality of the debate is always stronger when citizens engage in civil and spirited debate.

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**Spotlight on Staff**

Ellie Chambers-Grady has served as the City’s Economic Development Manager for three years.

**Can you tell us about your career before Lakewood?**

Economic Development has been my career since I graduated from college. In that field I’ve worked for two non-profit organizations such as Economic Development Councils, a federal agency, a utility, and two cities. Each organization focuses on different segments of economic development and it is truly a life-long learning profession.

**Can you describe your current job?**

We have a great team working in economic and community development and we focus on businesses in Lakewood and those thinking about locating here. I enjoy working with businesses and learning more about them. Knowing their industry’s needs enables us to provide better solutions. Since our outreach efforts are very client and customer driven, each day is unique.

**Can you tell us about your life outside of work?**

I spent my last vacation fishing on a river outside Forks, WA. I enjoy container gardening, working on the house, reading, travel — I enjoy exploring new places. The last book I read was “Heaven is For Real.” My mother and siblings live in Eastern Washington and Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. I’m married, with two lovely daughters, their great husbands, and five wonderful grandchildren — truly a gift, each and all.
Local artist Pat Graham featured in City Hall display.

Pat Graham is the featured artist in the City Hall Art Display located on the first floor. Her favorite focus is painting realism, primarily portraiture and figurative works. Pat endured a period in which she experienced a loss of visual clarity. Years later, her vision was surgically restored and she was able to return to painting and drawing again. Since that time, Pat has been creating paintings with more focus than ever before, entering contests and selling work for others to enjoy. Her goal is to paint to the best of her ability the beauty she sees in the world.

Please enjoy the exhibit in the first floor elevator alcove at City Hall.

*The Lakewood Arts Commission*

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**SummerFEST 2011 Recap:**

Saturday, June 25th the City hosted our 8th Annual SummerFEST event at Fort Steilacoom Park.

There were many activities to enjoy including live entertainment on two stages, the Partners for Parks Car Show, Lakewood Police Department Motorcycle Safety Rally, KIDZ Zone play area, Army Strong Fitness Expo (with special appearances by professional sports teams), a Public Market with over 120 vendors, community displays and a showing of the movie *How to Train Your Dragon* at 10:00 p.m. We also hosted a two day soccer tournament and free 5K fun run on Sunday.

It was a great event, with wonderful weather and over 13,000 attendees. People came to the event earlier and stayed longer. This successful event was made possible by a lot of hard work and cooperation from many city departments and our community volunteers.

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**Truck and Tractor Day**

Don’t miss Truck and Tractor Day — a fun, FREE, family event presented by the City of Lakewood, Saturday, October 29 at beautiful Fort Steilacoom Park (8714 87th Ave. SW). Last year over 500 people joined us for these Fall festivities. This annual event features many activities for the whole family to enjoy including a Hay Ride, Face Painting and Pumpkin Decorating. Best of all, the activities are FREE! Halloween costumes are encouraged.

The main attraction of the event includes lots of trucks and tractors of all different sizes including a cement truck and a fire engines. Children will have the opportunity to climb on these big rigs and see what it looks like from the driver’s seat. Each child will receive a FREE hard hat (while supplies last).

Stick around after the main event for the first ever Haunted Hay Ride! For more information contact the City at 983-7887, or visit us online at *www.lakewoodparksandrec.com*.

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**Lakewood's Brightest Star**

On a blustery Tuesday evening, four finalists competed for the title of “Lakewood’s Brightest Star” at American Lake Park. With a mixture of songs from popular artists and a few original works, the four finalists wowed the crowd with their vocal talents while singing a three song set. The judges for the event included Dr. Ben Keller, choral director for the award-winning Lakes High School Choir, and Shirley Petersen, current chairperson of the Lakewood Arts Commission. This year’s winner was Lakewood resident Sammi Bradley, a St. Frances Cabrini student who took home $100 in prize money. Sammi sang two original songs and a Taylor Swift song and accompanied herself with the guitar. Congratulations to Sammi Bradley, *Lakewood's Brightest Star for 2011*. (She is pictured above with Dr. Keller).
June 6th, the Lakewood City Council hosted a hail and farewell to the incoming and outgoing Lakewood Youth Council members. The Youth Council is pictured with Councilmember Claudia Thomas, who has long served as a special mentor to Lakewood’s youth.

On the 67th anniversary of D-Day, the Lakewood Council dedicated the Merchant Marine flag in the council chambers alongside all the other flags of our armed forces. Mayor Richardson is pictured with Mr. Jim Feltrup, a 1946 Merchant Marine Academy graduate and World War II veteran. During WWII, the Merchant Marines lost a higher percentage of members than any other military service.

The Lakewood Sister Cities Association’s 12th Annual INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL will be held Saturday, September 24, 2011 - 11:30 am-5:30 pm at the McGavick Student Center at Clover Park Technical College. To learn more about this exciting event, visit www.cityoflakewood.us.

Friday, June 24th, local elected and military officials signed a “Military Community Covenant” to formally affirm community support for local Active, Guard, and Reserve servicemembers and their families. In the photo above, Mayor Doug Richardson speaks with Colonel Mike Getchell (left) while JBLM Garrison Commander, Colonel Tommy Britian talks with Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy and Steilacoom Mayor Ron Lucas. Photo courtesy of JBLM Public Affairs Office.
This fall, road construction work will begin along Bridgeport Way (see project area in photo above) from 75th to the north City limits at Leach Creek. This project will tie together improvements that were made as part of the Wal-Mart development as well as the turn pocket and wall improvements at Flanagan Road. Associated with this project will be improvements to the “North Gateway” across from the north Wal-Mart entrance. The work will include bike lanes, curbs, gutters, street lighting, utility undergrounding, rock walls and sidewalks along both sides of the road. The project will last about nine months and cost $2 million — financed by state grants and City matching funds. During the construction period there will be times it’s reduced to one lane in each direction.

This fall, one of the busiest portions of 100th Street SW (shown in this photo between Gravelly Lake Drive and 59th Ave SW — just north of Towne Center) will get a makeover. The project will include a new bike lane, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks along both sides of the road, a new signal at the intersection with Gravelly Lake Dr., and a new asphalt overlay. The project will last about six months and cost $1.3 million — financed by state and federal grants.
Lakewood Police Lieutenant Steve Mauer (center) provided a tour of the Lakewood police station to visiting officers from Afghanistan’s army and police forces in early June. The visitors were escorted by U.S. Army and Air Force officers as part of a short stateside training program.

Aggressive Begging and Graffiti Update

In light of business, citizen, and commuter complaints, the City of Lakewood decided to take a tougher approach to “aggressive begging.” The new law has been in place since early July. Citizens are encouraged to report aggressive panhandling and businesses are encouraged to report and/or trespass panhandlers that regularly approach or harass customers. The non-emergency number to report aggressive panhandlers is 798-4721 but citizens may also call 9-1-1 when the situation warrants.

Panhandlers cannot:
• approach those waiting in line
• follow others while soliciting money or goods
• give false or misleading information about their problems
• provide unsolicited services and then demand payment (e.g. clean one’s car windows near an intersection)

Begging is specifically prohibited:
• at interstate ramps
• along major arterials
• at bus stops
• within 25 feet of an ATM or financial institution entrance (e.g. bank or credit union).

The City also amended its anti-graffiti ordinance:
• Tagging and possession of graffiti materials with the intent to tag is now a gross misdemeanor — meaning it can be punishable by up to a year in jail, up to a $5,000 fine, or both.
• Property owners are required to remove graffiti or face a $500 fine.
• The new law also holds parents and guardians accountable for cleanup costs.
• The city will continue to immediately remove all graffiti from public property and encourages citizens to immediately report graffiti on either public or private property.
• Citizens are also encouraged to take photos of graffiti and email them to the City before removing it.

The City will begin posting this signage at various locations as a reminder that those convicted of driving under the influence will likely get their license suspended. Furthermore, Lakewood law now requires police to impound the vehicles of those suspected of driving with a suspended license.
**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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizens’ Transportation Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>City Hall Council Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Karen Devereaux – 983-7767</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Service Commission</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>First Floor – 1E</td>
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<td>Contact: Dawn Avcular – 983-7849</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Board</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Jeff Gumm – 983-7773</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Services Funding Advisory Board</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday (only when needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Kim Dodds – 983-7756</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakewood Arts Commission</td>
<td>1st Monday</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>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Kim Dodds – 983-7756</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakewood Sister Cities Advisory Board</td>
<td>3rd Thursday (every other month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Staci Yukovich – 983-7716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging Tax Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Melody Perrussel – 983-7769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
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<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>
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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>
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<td>Contact: Joanna Nichols – 830-5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redevelopment Advisory Board</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Dennis Higashiyama – 983-7835</td>
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**City of Lakewood**

- City Hall ........................................... 589-2489
- Abandoned Vehicles ......... 830-5080
- Animal Control ................. 830-5010
- Animal Licensing ................ 512-2269
- Building Inspectors ........... 512-2261
- Building Permits ................ 512-2261
- Business Licenses .............. 512-2261
- City Council ......................... 589-2489
- Code Enforcement ................. 512-2261
- Community Development Department ........................................... 512-2261
- Economic Development ......... 589-2489
- Finance Department ............. 512-2269
- Housing Programs ................. 983-7785
- Human Services ...................... 983-7756
- Information Line (automated) .... 512-2264
- Garage Sale Permits .............. 512-2261
- Municipal Court ...................... 512-2258
- Noise Complaints ................. 798-4721
- Parks & Recreation ................. 983-7887
- Police Department – Main Desk .................................................. 830-5000
- Non-emergency only ................ 798-4721
- Drug Tip Hotline ...................... 830-5049
- Sex Offender Info ..................... 830-5095
- Public Works Department – Main Desk ........................................... 983-7795
- Potholes/Street lights .......... 267-1628
- Street signage ....................... 531-6990
- Senior Activity Center .......... 798-4090
- Traffic Complaints ................. 830-5072
- Traffic Infractions ................ 512-2258
- Vehicle Licensing ................... 588-7786
- Zoning ..................................... 512-2261

**Other Phone Numbers**

- In an Emergency , call 911 for Police, Fire and Paramedics.
- Burn Ban ....................... 1-800-595-4341
- Cable TV (Comcast) ............. 1-877-824-2288
- Clover Park
- School District ................ 583-5000
- Domestic Violence Helpline . 798-4166 or 1-800-764-2420
- Earthquake/Floods .......... 798-7470
- Electric Companies – Lakeview Light ........ 584-6060
- Puget Sound
- Energy ................................... 1-888-225-5773
- Gas Leaks .............................. 1-888-225-5773
- Humane Society ...................... 383-2733
- Lakewood Chamber ................ 582-9400
- Pierce County Sheriff .......... 565-3440
- Qwest
- Communications ............. 1-800-244-1111
- Safe Streets ......................... 584-0404
- Tacoma Public Utilities .................. 383-2471
- Tillicum 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.