



Looking@Lakewood



View of the Porter family property at 731 Tabor St. that the city recently purchased for parkland in northwest Lakewood.

Lakewood purchases land for 113th park

The Porter family has turned their memories of picking wildflowers, raising fruits and vegetables and living next to a dairy farm and horse stable into a legacy as one of the largest pieces of parkland in northwest Lakewood.

On Dec. 13, Lakewood City Council approved the purchase and naming of Porter Park, a 7.77-acre property at 731 Tabor St. for park and open space in Ward 1.

"I realized I had a 70-year relationship with Lakewood. It began in 1951 when my mom and dad moved to 731 Tabor when I was 5 years old. In thinking about it, Lakewood raised me with its schools, its parks, its libraries and its landscape," Jo Anne Kiser said during the Dec. 13 City Council meeting as the family spoke about selling their parent's property to the city. "It really warms my heart that Lakewood is interested in preserving some history. ... It means a lot to our family."

Kiser is the eldest of five children who Daniel Wilson Porter and Phyllis Porter raised on the property that provided the grounds for her father to become a master gardener and her mother a keen canner of the produce they raised. The couple decided to move west from Illinois after World War II to begin their life together. Initially buying a house on Cherokee Street in Denver, they found the Tabor property one Sunday when they were exploring the western outskirts for a place that provided more of a buffer from neighbors.

At the time, the Tabor property had a "basement" house, which were promoted as affordable housing for veterans returning from the war, according to History Colorado. The roof supports were designed as sub-floors so that a second or main level could be built as funds permitted. The houses were characterized by their raised basement configuration, rectangular plan and flat or gently pitched gable roof.

"Finding this property and moving to this property allowed Mom and Dad to fulfill their American dream of raising fruits and vegetables, horses and, of course, children," said Amy Plummer, the youngest of the five siblings. "May you all come to love this land as we have and may you meet the challenge of designing a park that honors this special site including connecting to the many trails that lead to this property."

Over the numerous decades that the family lived in Lakewood, Daniel and Phyllis played an active role in their community. Daniel served on the boards of High View Water District and Golden Canal and Reservoir Company. He was a

Police shift focus with new program



In this era of changing policing, the Lakewood Police Department has been at the forefront of using new approaches for responding to calls arising from substance abuse, mental illness and extreme poverty.

The latest program the Police Department has launched is the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) initiative. Started in July last year, LEAD is designed to provide resources to those committing low-level crimes to address what is causing them to commit those crimes. Unmet mental needs, addiction and homelessness can often give rise to persistent cycling in and out of the criminal justice system, and LEAD's goal is to make the community safer while improving the quality of life for those with these underlying challenges.

things, not being afraid to step out and say, 'This isn't working. The status quo is not working. Let's try something new.'"

Sgt. Alesch helps lead the department's Community Action Team (CAT), which has been in place for several years to focus on homelessness and other community challenges. Through the LEAD program, the team collaborates with civilian case managers to work with these residents, build their trust and get them resources that address their needs. Instead of agents giving someone a ticket, they send them to a LEAD case manager. These cases are then diverted from the criminal justice system, and probation officers, prosecutors, public defenders and others collaborate in regular meetings to discuss the progress of LEAD participants.

This approach has been described as reversing the undue criminalization of people who use drugs, experience poverty or face mental illness. It's also an effort to improve public health and equity across the community.

"I think one of the best parts of our LEAD program is that it is built within the Community Action Team as a whole, and it's part of the comprehensive suite of programs we've developed to address some of the social issues that so many in our community are asking for help in changing — both change in policing and in how the community addresses these issues," Alesch said.

In addition to LEAD, CAT has two civilian homeless navigators who have been in place since 2020 to help residents end their

"That's why the city and our chief of police recognize the importance of trying new things."

– Sgt. Jonathan Alesch

"Let's be honest. If they have had 30 tickets for shoplifting, trespassing, drinking in public, do we really think that the 31st ticket is going to be that magical step that solves the problem?" said Lakewood Sgt. Jonathan Alesch. "We recognize that is probably not the case. That's why the city and our chief of police recognize the importance of trying new

See **LEAD** page 7

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LONGMONT CO
PERMIT NO. 16

POSTAL PATRON

See **PORTER** page 4

SUMMER
CAMPS ARE
COMING SOON!

Turn to page 5
FOR MORE INFO!

Lakewood.org/Camps

Lakewood
Community Resources

MAYOR



Adam Paul

Dr. King said, “Only when it’s dark enough can you see the stars.” This is one of my favorite and most meaningful quotes. As I write this on MLK Day, it feels appropriate for the first newsletter of 2022. Over the last two years, together we have endured some very dark, challenging and unprecedented days. Just

when we think we have all the answers, another shoe drops — in some cases leading to further division. Please be easy on one another, showing care and kindness while striving for the greater good. There will be plenty of opportunity in the years to come to reflect and learn about what we did right and what we did wrong. Remember, there are forces that want to see us divided and relish in dysfunction; let’s not give them that opportunity. Through this darkness we see the stars, which shine bright and are filled with hope and opportunity. Let’s carry that into 2022.

I’m excited for 2022. We have six new council members with many great ideas, and we will be convening our annual planning session in mid-February. Please reach out to us. We would love to

hear from you as we plan for the future. Goals from the previous two years include addressing homelessness, sustainability, business vitality, city infrastructure and housing affordability. I am hopeful many of these will carry forward with actionable outcomes that bring improvements.

Over the last few months, I have served on a Colorado legislative subpanel that will present recommendations to the Legislature related to \$400 million in federal funds for affordable housing. This is such a critical issue, not only in Lakewood, but throughout the state. Solutions lie not only in dollars but in well-thoughtout state and local policies.

In closing, I want to share thoughts, prayers and love with our neighbors who have been

devastated by the Marshall fire. Such a tragic situation and one that we all must learn from as these vulnerabilities exist throughout the metro area. I also want to acknowledge Lakewood Police Agent Ashley Ferris who heroically stopped an active shooter, putting her life at risk while being wounded in the process. With sincere gratitude, we as a city thank you and share our love and sympathies with the victims of this senseless tragedy.

Adam Paul
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We are building an inclusive community.

WARD 1



Charley Able

The need for sidewalks across Ward 1 and across the entirety of Lakewood is significant, and Public Works Department funding for construction of paths has grown thanks to grants and voter approval of lifting the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits on the city’s budget.

In 2018, Lakewood voters approved temporarily lifting the TABOR limits to enable the city to direct TABOR refund dollars to park, police and transportation



Jeslin Shahrezaei

needs. This allowed the city to retain \$12,536,504 in TABOR-limited revenue collected in 2017, plus all such “excess” TABOR revenues that otherwise would have been refunded through 2025 for the three uses.

The city’s “Shared Use Paths/ Sidewalks” budget, bolstered by the voter’s approval and outside grants, funded construction of two pathway projects providing enhanced protection for youngsters heading for school.

One, an \$800,000 project, resulted in a new sidewalk along West First Avenue from Garrison Street westward to Creighton Middle School. That project took advantage of a \$435,000 Safe Routes to School grant. Another project completed in 2021 provided a long-needed sidewalk on the west side of Independence Street from the West Sixth Avenue Frontage Road to Lakewood High School.

Before the voter-approved revenue-retention measure, Lakewood budgeted \$500,000 annually for such projects. Current projections indicate the 2018 vote and grants will provide more than \$10 million for sidewalks and shared-use paths through 2025.

But that falls well short of the current need to address about 59 miles of sidewalks that have been requested, according to Public Works Director Jay Hutchison, who estimates that the cost would be between \$75 million and \$230 million.

“Additional and improved sidewalks are a common interest throughout the community. A prioritization process is used to select locations for sidewalk construction,” Hutchison said in a recent email to City Council members.

“Factors considered include street classifications, proximity to commercial areas, transit facilities, schools, elderly housing and recreational amenities. As sidewalk construction funding becomes available, all the requested missing segments of sidewalk throughout Lakewood are considered. Over 190 locations are on the list.”

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WARD 2



Sharon Vincent

Ward 2 has started 2022 with “new” at the forefront. What’s new is that Council member Sharon Vincent has been elected mayor pro tem, which means, among other duties, serving when the mayor is unavailable to preside over meetings and sign documents. Ward 2 also has a new council member who will introduce herself here:



Sophia Mayott-Guerrero

I was raised to believe that it is all of our responsibility to invest in our community in any way we can to make it as good as it can be. I will bring my community centric values in my new role as your Ward 2 City Council member and leverage my background in policy and community organizing to help support Lakewood’s progress.

I adore northeast Lakewood. It is beautiful and filled with potential, but it is often neglected. As a Latina who rented in this area for five years before recently purchasing a home, I can represent many voices not always heard in the past. I am honored to take on the fight to make this ward, and all of Lakewood, as sustainable, affordable, and vibrant as it can be.

I have heard many different points of view while talking with residents, but I also find out what we share — values of sustainability and inclusivity and a vision for a Lakewood that works for us all. Based on what I am hearing from the community, in 2022 I will focus on connecting sidewalks and bike lanes, better trash management, improved response to the increasing number

of people who are homeless, and affordable housing access.

I believe so fully in the potential of our city, but I also want to ensure any new plans support the community that is already here. If you want to hear more about what is happening in the city, or tell me what you would like to see, reach out to me directly, or attend our monthly Ward 2 community meetings.

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Sophia Mayott-Guerrero
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WARD 3



Anita Springsteen

It is time to end the divisiveness over the Strategic Growth Initiative and work together for our common goals. Often misrepresented as “anti-growth,” the goal was smart managed growth to counteract greed — championed by middle-class single moms: a Jewish teacher and myself, a Hispanic attorney from the Denver barrio. We wanted to protect families from displacement by powerful developers, encourage

real sustainability, provide the first Lakewood ordinance to incentivize affordable housing, and encourage homeownership — a powerful tool for marginalized people to build wealth.
Money interests are orchestrating divisiveness through false self-serving narratives (i.e. National Association of Realtors — a primary donor against SGI that supported Lakewood progressives but conservatives elsewhere — recently apologized for racist practices.). We tried something. Nothing is perfect, but SGI is a nonpartisan protection from Big Money. A unique grassroots citizen achievement chosen by Lakewood voters. Let’s make it even better. TOGETHER! @ASpringsteenEsq.

Anita Springsteen
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Rebekah Stewart

First of all, I would like to again recognize and thank Agent Ferris for her incredible bravery and actions that no doubt protected many others from further harm the evening of Dec. 27. Our thoughts are with all those in our community who were affected by the tragic events that evening.
Second, we continue to hear from residents about the importance of sustainability to our community and

the desire to get involved and learn more ways to reduce our impact on the environment. With that in mind, the topic of our virtual Feb. 12 Ward 3 meeting will feature guest speakers and community education around both curbside composting and hard-to-recycle pickup programs available to our residents in Lakewood. Bring your curiosity and questions; all are welcome!
Additionally, check out the Safer and Sustainable at Home Workshop Series button at Lakewood.org/Sustainability for even more educational opportunities. Click on the “previous workshops” bar to watch previously recorded workshops.

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WARD 4



Barb Franks

The horrific mass shooting in Denver and Lakewood and devastating fires to our north have been weighing heavily on our minds. So too is the quote that Fred Rogers said his mother always told him, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”
We are beyond grateful for the heroic acts of Agent Ferris and were



Rich Oliver

thrilled to watch the video of her being discharged from the hospital. All our best to her for a speedy and full recovery! We are also grateful to live in a community that bands together to support those in need. It is heartwarming to hear and read about people taking in families and pets that have been displaced by the fires and donating dollars, food,

clothing and other desperately needed items.
Now we turn to planning for the future. If you haven’t signed up to receive warnings about dangers and hazards from Lakewood Police or the Jeffco Sheriff’s Office, please watch for the launch of a new warning system starting this month and sign up to receive them. If you haven’t already registered for Smart911, which gives first responders the information they need to help you fast, please consider doing so.
The Ward 4 newsletter contains details about Smart 911 and other information to keep our community informed. Use this link to read the latest newsletter edition, subscribe or read past issues: tinyurl.com/2p9banj3.
Additionally, we encourage you to read West Metro Fire Rescue’s

Community Wildfire Protection Plan and visit the Firewise Toolkit and Ready Set Go sites, which detail actions you can take to prepare and reduce the risk of your property becoming fuel for a fire and to help you create a safety evacuation plan. These are available at WestMetroFire.org/978/Wildfire-Safety.
We are looking forward to the possibilities that 2022 brings and encourage continued gifts of grace to yourself and others when difficult times arise.
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WARD 5



Wendi Strom

Greetings! Ward 5 has two new council members this year, Wendi Strom and Mary Janssen. Both of us are excited to quickly start working together to begin addressing some of the concerns we’ve heard from our community. The big three so far have been concerns about Wadsworth between Jewell Avenue and Morrison Road, crime in our Ward 5 community, and most recently after the Marshall

fire, the risk of fire spreading into our neighborhoods from our open spaces.
As a body, City Council is getting ready to head into our planning session, so please let us know what’s important to you.
In closing, we’d also like to announce that Carmody Recreation Center recently installed some new workout equipment. The staff at Carmody are committed to helping us all feel comfortable with this new equipment, so help is available. You can get more information at Lakewood.org/Carmody or ask staff at Carmody’s front desk.
Wendi Strom
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Mary Janssen

Hello! I’m honored to be one of your representatives and working with Wendi.
In order to get more feedback and engagement, I’d like to create a Councilor’s Cabinet comprised of two representatives from each precinct in Ward 5. Cabinet representatives would be asked to keep current on council items. Periodically, we’ll provide a polling link regarding a topic, which the

Cabinet representatives would share with the neighborhood by Nextdoor or other means to get feedback.
Submit your name for a Cabinet position by visiting MaryforLakewood.com. Otherwise, reach out to me if you have city concerns or suggestions.
Another matter I’m working on is viable and cost-effective brush mitigation in open space to evaluate best methods to reduce the fire hazard including goat grazing, which has pros and cons.
Hope to see you at our Ward Meetings on the first Saturday of the month, and details about these are available at Lakewood.org/WardMeetings.
Mary Janssen
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scoutmaster, election judge and a Kiwanis member. Both Daniel and Phyllis were church volunteers and preservationists with a love for farming.

The new park will be an important addition to Ward 1, which has been identified as underserved in park space, according to a Conservation Fund Gap Analysis completed by the city’s Community Resources Department in 2019.

In early 2021, Community Resources staff began conversations with the Porter siblings about preserving their parent’s property for park space to support future generations and retain its long heritage as a farm. The siblings hope the new park can be used in some way that represents the “urban truck farms” similar to their parent’s property that populated the area in the years before Lakewood became a city.



Daniel Porter

Funding for the \$2 million purchase of the farm came from money the city was able to keep when Lakewood voters approved lifting the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights limits on the city’s budget from 2017 to 2025. City Council designated \$8.5 million for park purchases from the first installment of TABOR funds the city was able to retain in 2020. In addition to purchasing Porter Park in 2021, the city has used this initial installment to purchase additional acres adjacent to the Bear Creek Greenbelt, Two Creeks Park and Walker-Branch Park.

Prior to creating the park, residents will have several opportunities to provide input on the vision for the future park space through surveys and public meetings, and the park design work will be funded through the city’s Capital Improvement Plan and its Open Space Fund. [A](#)



Photo by History Colorado.

Economic Development

2021 economic development year-end recap

Lakewood has experienced robust business development and redevelopment over the past few years, and 2021 was another strong year for the community. There were 32 development projects completed in 2021, and 50 projects are already under construction for 2022. New businesses, from startups to national tenants, chose sites across Lakewood for their new locations — all bringing jobs and vibrancy to our local economy.

West Colfax corridor

Redevelopment and reinvention moved forward rapidly in the Colfax corridor. Ziggi’s opened a new coffee shop at 9190 W. Colfax Ave., 7-Eleven built a new convenience store and gas station, and the White Swan Motel was renovated into the Sursy at 6060 W. Colfax Ave. Colorado Mills continues to thrive and renovate, adding more stores including Columbia Sportswear and Wetzel’s Pretzels. Five Below also completed a tenant finish for a new location at 14500 W. Colfax Ave. The openings of Axis West Flats, a 56-unit multifamily building, as well as a 19-unit apartment complex at 1091 Carr St. and the Brickhouse at Lamar Station, a 293-unit apartment building, provided important housing options and added a surge of additional shoppers to the market. A group home at 995 Reed St., an assisted living facility and home memory care at 990 Saulsbury St. as well as Porchlight Family Justice Center at 11100 W. Eighth Ave. all provided new amenities and needed services for our community.



Union corridor

The Union corridor continues to be an employment hub for Lakewood. The corridor experienced growth with both existing businesses and new businesses that chose to make Lakewood their home. The corridor benefited from business renovations and expansions of business operations. Tallgrass Energy, 370 Van Gordon St., completed a 4,688-square-foot remodel of its existing facility. St. Anthony Hospital opened eight additional operating rooms at its location at 11600 W. Second Place. Finally, Mesa Labs completed a multimillion dollar renovation of its corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility at 12100 W. Sixth Ave. Residents, visitors and employees along the corridor have a new place to eat with the opening of Coyote Table at 2950 S. Bear Creek Blvd., Suite E, and Woodward Barbers opened a new location at 13701 W. Jewell Ave.



Alameda corridor

New national and local tenants chose to make Lakewood their home in the Alameda corridor this year. Lakewood opened the state’s fifth In-N-Out Burger location in July at 150 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Jets Pizza opened a new location at 98 Wadsworth Blvd., Unit 129. A new Sherwin Williams store opened at 100 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Bank of America at 120 S. Wadsworth Blvd. and Living Water at Belmar Car Wash at 130 S. Wadsworth Blvd. also provide services to the community. Existing employers also completed remodels of existing spaces, including Dick’s Sporting Goods at 7313 W. Alaska Drive. Finally, the Lakewood Reinvestment Authority’s Alameda Streetscape Project has been completed, bringing landscaping, sidewalks and improvements to address traffic congestion for the corridor from Sheridan Boulevard to Carr Street.



South Lakewood

Business development was robust south of Mississippi Avenue, and many notable projects brought activity to south Lakewood. Residents and visitors can now shop at Sephora inside the existing Kohl’s store at 3150 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Current Lakewood businesses also updated their spaces. The Fairfield Inn at 3605 S. Wadsworth Blvd. completed a remodel of guest rooms and hotel, and Colorado Academy at 3800 S. Pierce St. built a 17,924-square-foot performing arts building on the school’s campus. The community also benefits from the completion of the 46 senior independent living units in The Ridge at Pinehurst, Phase II, at 7255 W. Quincy Ave.



2021 was an exciting year, and the Economic Development Office is looking forward to what 2022 will bring. Want to know more about development projects as they happen? Check our Development Highlights Map at Lakewood.org/DevelopmentHighlightsMap. [A](#)



Lakewood Economic Development Office
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ARTS, PARKS & Recreation

CALENDAR

ACTIVE	ARTS & HISTORY	OUTDOORS
<div></div> <div>CAMPS LAKEWOOD 2022 SUMMER CAMPS Lakewood.org/Camps</div>	<div>LCC Presents ETHEL’s Documerica February 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$22. Purchase: Lakewood.org/LCCPresents</div> <div>LCC Presents TAKE3 March 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$22. Purchase: Lakewood.org/LCCPresents</div>	<div>Parks Volunteer Open House February 23, 5-7 p.m. Bear Creek Lake Park Visitor Center More information: Lakewood.org/BCLPEvents</div> <div>Earth Day Volunteer Project April 23, 8 a.m.-noon; registration required. Join us for a volunteer project at Bear Creek Lake Park. Registration available in April at Lakewood.org/BCLPEvents.</div>
<div>General Admission Fitness Classes Weekly Price included with cost of admission at Lakewood Recreation centers and Clements Community Center. Class listings: Lakewood.org/Fitness</div>	<div>LCC Presents The Lao Tizer Quartet featuring Nelson Rangell March 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$22. Purchase: Lakewood.org/LCCPresents</div>	<div>Arts, Park and Recreation Summer Programs Registration opens April 28 at 10 a.m. SAVE THE DATE! Preview catalog April 4 at Lakewood.org/CommunityConnection.</div>
<div>New BODYPUMP and Les Mills Core Release April 10, 9-10:45 a.m.; registration required. Carmody Recreation Center; no cost. Register: Lakewood.org/Strength</div>	<div>LCC and Performance Now Theatre Company present “1776” March 18-April 3, Fridays-Sundays. Tickets start at \$20. Purchase: Lakewood.org/LCCPresents</div>	

THE LATEST NEWS



Hours expand at Charles Whitlock Recreation Center

On January 3, Lakewood Recreation expanded hours at Charles Whitlock Recreation Center. Located at 1555 Dover St., Whitlock is open Mondays-Thursdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., and Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Whitlock is a great location for strength training, cardio and drop-in activities. Drop-in options include pickleball, basketball, volleyball, badminton and racquetball. Popular programs include sports leagues, fitness classes and personal training. Due to a staff shortage, the pool and sauna continue to be closed. View more details at Lakewood.org/Whitlock or 303-987-4800.



Help us Imagine Tomorrow!

The Community Resources Department is embarking on a yearlong planning process to create a bold vision for the future of Lakewood arts, parks and recreation. Imagine Tomorrow! Arts, Parks and Recreation for All will engage the community, evaluate current and future trends in parks and cultural asset planning and determine future priorities. We want to hear from you! How do you spend your leisure time? What programs and services are most important to you?

Visit LakewoodTogether.org/ImagineTomorrow to join the conversation and subscribe for updates.



Financial aid available to residents

All Lakewood residents should have access to the city’s programs and facilities, regardless of income. Through the Lakewood Possibilities Fund, residents can apply for financial aid to be used toward arts, parks and recreation programs, services and events. Apply for financial assistance online at Lakewood.org/LPF or at any Lakewood recreation center.





City’s snow plan establishes plowing priorities

Get ready for the season’s snowiest months of March and April by learning how Lakewood tackles snowplowing during snowstorms and blizzards.

The focus of Lakewood’s snow plan is to provide a transportation network that’s travelable and as safe as possible for the conditions. To accomplish this, the city first plows and maintains the major streets that belong to the city known as Priority 1 routes so that higher traffic volumes are able to flow and emergency vehicles have access throughout the city.

Lakewood deploys its 26 snowplows to operate on a 24-hour schedule on 160 miles of Priority 1 streets as soon as any measurable snow accumulates on the pavement. Priority 1 streets are the city’s arterial and main collector streets such as Union Boulevard, Bear Creek Boulevard, West Alameda Avenue and West Jewell Avenue.

Crews can also spray a light application of liquid anti-icing material that is similar to magnesium chloride in certain conditions on some arterial streets such as Union in preparation for a storm. This anti-

icing material reduces the potential for snow to bond to the pavement and makes plowing more effective.

Crews remain on Priority 1 streets until snow accumulation has slowed, these streets are cleared as much as possible and deicing material for traction and melting has been applied where necessary.

Priority 1 streets do not include the state highways running through the city such as West Sixth Avenue, Interstate 70, U.S. 285/Hampden Avenue, C-470 and Wadsworth and Sheridan boulevards. The Colorado Department of Transportation plows these highways as well as West Colfax Avenue, Morrison Road and Kipling Parkway. To report concerns about snow conditions or plowing on these state highways, please visit [CODOT.gov/TopContent/contact-cdot](https://www.codot.gov/TopContent/contact-cdot) to submit a request or chat with an agent.

Once Lakewood crews have ensured that the Priority 1 streets are as clear and maintained as possible, they move on to Priority 2 and 3 streets, which are 125 miles of minor collector streets, hilly areas and school and shopping areas. Crews might have to stop plowing these streets to return to Priority 1 routes in certain weather conditions. A map is available of the Priority 1, 2 and 3 routes at [Lakewood.org/SnowPlan](https://www.lakewood.org/SnowPlan).

The city spends about \$1.3 million during a typical winter on snow removal — or about \$8 per resident.

During major snowstorms or blizzards, residents can report concerns about unplowed city streets online through the winter storm page featured on the home page of [Lakewood.org](https://www.lakewood.org) or by calling 303-987-7950. Because of the volume of calls during large snowstorms, the phone number only takes messages, and calls are not returned.

Lakewood has about 204 miles of residential streets that are not part of the priority routes, and these streets are plowed only when snow depths are seriously impeding vehicle mobility and melting is not expected to occur quickly. Plowing residential streets costs a minimum of \$88,000 for each snowstorm, and the city considers the conditions and weather forecast before deciding whether to plow residential streets.

Lakewood requires owners and tenants of properties adjacent to sidewalks and business driveways to clear them within 24 hours after the end of a storm. Snow should be shoveled into yards, not into the street, sidewalk, bikeway or against any fire hydrant or official traffic control device. Sidewalks that aren’t shoveled create icy conditions that are hazardous to pedestrians, children walking to school and those in wheelchairs. Residents can report unshoveled sidewalks at [Lakewood.org/RequestLakewood](https://www.lakewood.org/RequestLakewood), the city’s online customer service hub, or at 303-987-7975. 📍

Save the Date!

EARTH DAY

APRIL 23

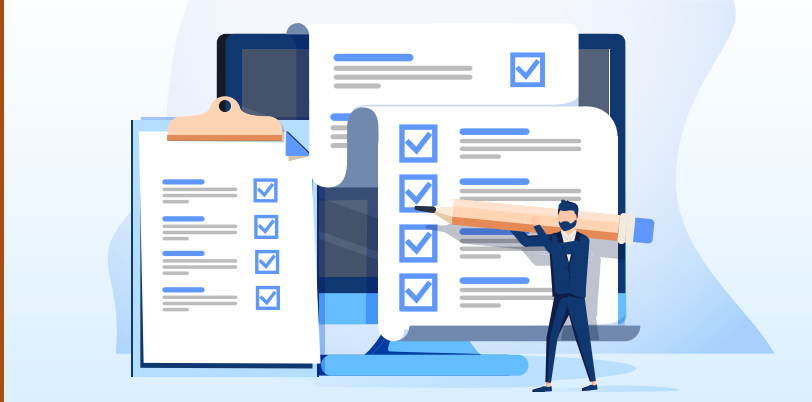
HERITAGE LAKEWOOD BELMAR PARK
801 S. Yarrow St.

Live Music • Kids Activities • Beer Garden
Bicycle Valet • Art Stations



For event details and vendor applications, please visit [Lakewood.org/EarthDay](https://www.lakewood.org/EarthDay)

COMMUNITY SURVEY



Your chance to evaluate the city

We want to know how you think your city is doing and where you think we can improve. The 2022 Community Survey is an opportunity for residents to provide feedback on the quality of life in Lakewood, how well the city is delivering services, how effectively we are communicating with you, and what priorities and concerns you think need attention.

You’ll have a chance to fill out an online survey later this month at [Lakewood.org/Survey](https://www.lakewood.org/Survey), so keep an eye out for the announcement that the survey is open through the city’s social media ([Lakewood.org/SocialMedia](https://www.lakewood.org/SocialMedia)) and website.

In January, a printed version of the survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly selected residents. If you are one of those who received the printed survey, please participate by filling it out.

As with the city’s Community Survey in previous years, the 2022 survey asks you to evaluate the quality and importance of services you receive from the city. It also covers some current topics or issues facing Lakewood. These results will help City Council and staff make important planning decisions.

For questions about the 2022 Community Survey, please contact Dan Stoutamire at 303-987-7050 or dstoutamire@lakewood.org.

Brief City Updates

Body-worn camera program beginning

In the coming weeks, the Lakewood Police Department will begin distributing body worn cameras to all sworn employees. "We at the Lakewood Police Department welcome the utilization of body-worn cameras as a way to increase transparency and to further our mission to serve and protect with integrity, intelligence and initiative," said Police Chief Dan McCasky. "We are eager to share with our community what our agents face on a daily basis and the professionalism shown by our agents." While the distribution is underway, Chief McCasky has provided answers to the most commonly asked questions surrounding the use of the cameras in a recent city video. Watch it on the city's Lakewood8 YouTube channel or on cable channels 8 and 880.

.....
"We are eager to share
with our community what
our agents face."
.....

– Chief Dan McCasky



Get important neighborhood projects built

Grants of up to \$60,000 are available for neighborhood projects such as a new playground, picnic facility or community garden through the city's 2022 Neighborhood Participation Program. A total of \$160,000 will be awarded this year, and organized neighborhood groups can apply for the funds online at [Lakewood.org/NPP](https://lakewood.org/NPP). Projects must benefit the entire neighborhood and be located on public property. The application deadline is 5 p.m. on March 1.

Annual outdoor siren test in May

Lakewood will conduct a test of its outdoor siren system at 11 a.m. May 11. During the test, all 26 sirens in the system will be activated with a long wail, followed by a test voice message over the public address portion of the system. The test will then conclude with one long siren wail. For additional information about the outdoor sirens, please visit [Lakewood.org/sirens](https://lakewood.org/sirens).



Quail Street
**RECYCLING
CENTER**

Drop in to recycling center

The Quail Street Recycling Center is open for drop-in recycling from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and 1:15 to 4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. No appointment is necessary. Visit the center at 1068 Quail St. to recycle cardboard, scrap metal, glass bottles and jars, aluminum beverage cans, paper and plastic bottles. For a full list of what can be recycled at the center, visit [Lakewood.org/recycling](https://lakewood.org/recycling).

Pet clinic

Bring your friendly, leashed dog to the Vaccination and Dog License Clinic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 16 at 1401 Ammons St. The clinic will offer low-cost vaccines to keep your pet healthy and happy. Learn more at [Lakewood.org/PetClinic](https://lakewood.org/PetClinic).



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VACCINATION
& DOG LICENSE
CLINIC

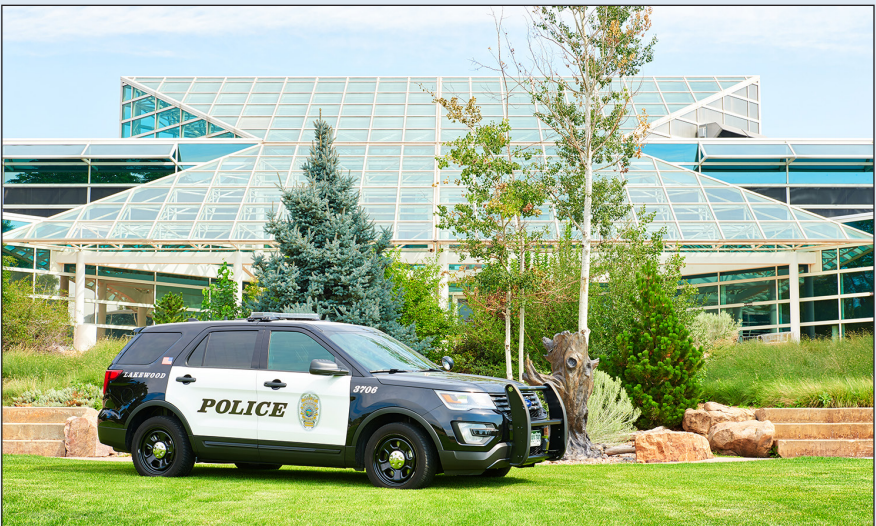
All friendly, leashed dogs
and their families are welcome!



Lead from page 1

living on the streets, and for several years mental health staff members from the Jefferson Center have responded with police agents to calls involving mental illness. The LEAD program is a partnership with Jefferson County Public Health and the Community Connections Center, a hub for connecting to existing resources to better serve those in need. Staff from JCPH and Community Connections who are experts in working with those using drugs or have similar issues helped develop the LEAD program. To ensure the program's success, the LEAD National Support Bureau provided several days of in-person training to the program's staff and Police Department patrol agents,

and the bureau continues to provide support. Not every case involving low-level crimes, however, is eligible for the LEAD program. Those who have committed a sex offense or been involved in using violence are not eligible for the program, and the victim of the crime must also agree to allow the case to be diverted from the court process. "LEAD is a victim-centered program, so the victim has to agree to let the diversion occur," Alesch said. "If you want the normal criminal justice route as the victim, you have that right. If you think this is an opportunity to get that person help, you can request that as well. It's always victim first." Lakewood's LEAD program is the first in Jefferson County, and it follows a national model of best practices. [A](#)



West Colfax beautification

Exciting news! Funds are available to make West Colfax Avenue more attractive with items such as small sculptures, special bus shelters, benches, bike racks and murals. Let us know what you'd like to see by taking a survey by March 6 at LakewoodTogether.org/ColfaxBeautification.

Winter Bike to Work Day

Join the City of Lakewood on Feb. 11 to celebrate Winter Bike to Work Day. Stop by with your bike at the east entrance of Addenbrooke Park from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. for hot coffee from Village Roaster, breakfast burritos from Santiago's Mexican Restaurant, and of course the company of your fellow winter cyclists. Find more breakfast stations and pledge to ride at BikeToWorkDay.co. If you have questions or need winter cycling advice, please contact Jenny Gritton, Lakewood's alternative transportation coordinator, at 303-987-7985 or jeagri@lakewood.org.



Lakewood
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Making neighborhoods better

The highlights of the city’s 2022 annual budget include strengthening neighborhoods, building sidewalks and restoring staffing to provide more support for core services to residents.

To assist neighborhoods, the city is launching the Neighborhood Support Team, which will provide mediation assistance for neighbor disputes, support neighborhood organizations and homeowner groups by identifying resources for them, facilitate small projects and help solve neighborhood concerns. The team’s mission is to help neighborhoods build stronger relationships and support within communities.

Lakewood will also be able to make investments in sidewalks such as a new segment along Sheridan Boulevard between Iowa and Jewell

avenues because of more than \$20 million in federal funds provided during the pandemic. The funds are replacing lost revenues, which will allow Lakewood to catch up on maintenance and replacement of bridges, paths, sidewalks and similar items.

This year’s budget also includes upgrading the city’s emergency radio communications system, addressing homelessness, making fire and safety improvements to city facilities and conducting a renewable energy study.

City Council approved \$237 million for the 2022 budget, which is significantly larger than last year’s budget primarily because of the federal funds. The largest portion of the total budget is the General Fund, which pays for the services residents

receive such as police patrols, park maintenance and street repair. It will be \$140 million in 2022.

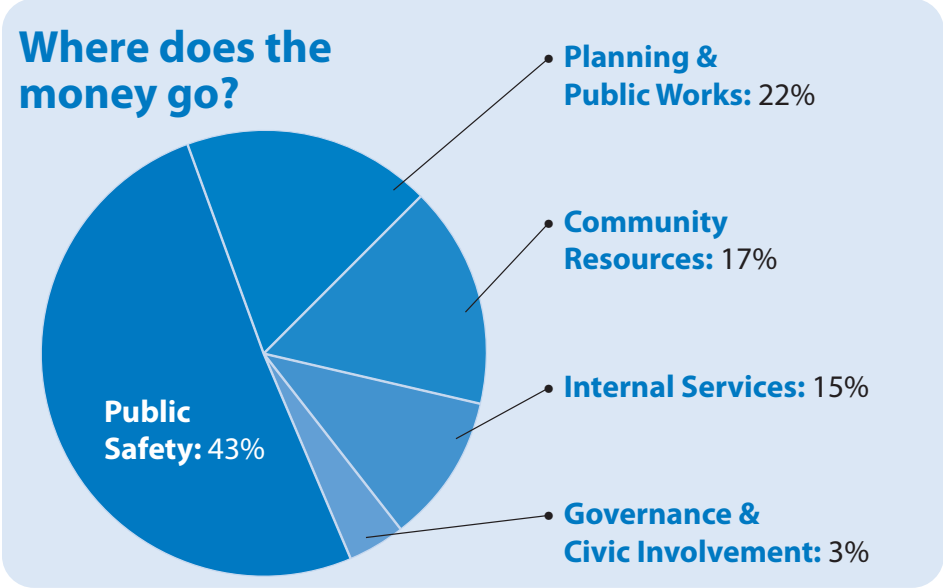
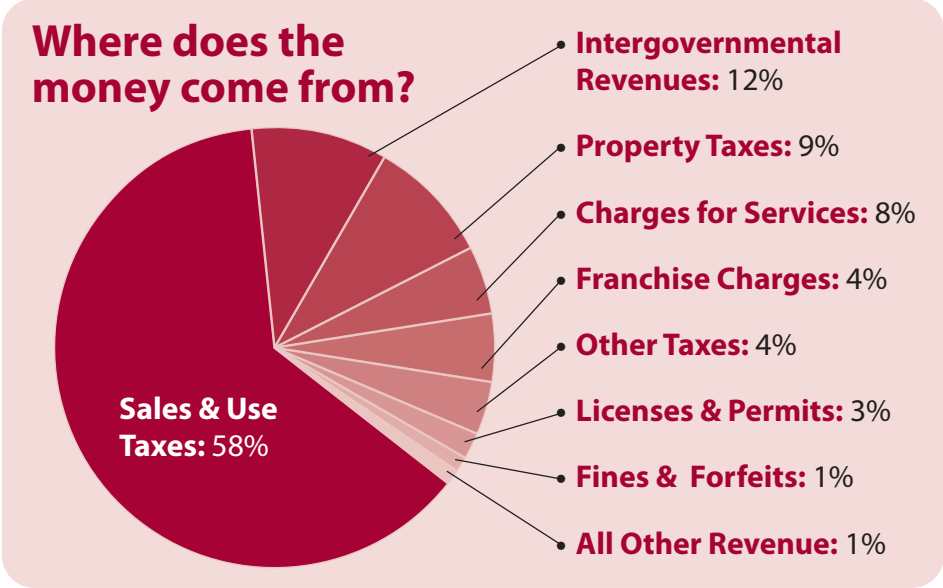
In addition to the new neighborhood support, the city will restore 13 full-time positions in 2022 in areas where staffing had become too lean following a hiring freeze in place since 2019 and two years of budget cuts amounting to \$17 million. The city, however, will keep 36 positions vacant.

“Lakewood has always exercised great discipline in its budgeting over the years, and this year is no different,” said City Manager Kathy Hodgson.

In a separate budget for the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR), the city will continue to use the funds to support police, transportation and park and open space needs. Lakewood voters approved lifting the TABOR limits on the city’s budget through 2025. Park acquisitions using

these funds include additions to Walker-Branch Park, the Bear Creek Greenbelt, Two Creeks Park and the most recent purchase, Porter Park (see front page story).

Sales taxes collected from shoppers pay for city services for residents. These revenues have rebounded during 2021, but they can fluctuate widely and unpredictably. The city estimates it will have \$46 million in its savings account known as the “General Fund balance” at the end of 2022, and a portion of the savings will be used to pay for the city’s expenses this year. Lakewood’s budget also continues to face long-term financial challenges because the amount of revenue that sales taxes generate can’t keep up with the increasing needs for city services. City Council and staff continue to evaluate ways to address this gap. [A](#)



Based on the city’s General Fund

News from our partners in government



Zola is with his owner firefighter/paramedic Paul White.

Cold nose, warm paws — therapy dogs help firefighters with stressful calls

West Metro firefighters respond to nearly 40,000 calls each year — an average of one call every 13 minutes. Some of those calls are difficult, even for experienced crews because of situations such as the young age of the patient or the incident ends in a fatality.

First responders see and experience hundreds of traumatic situations during a career, which can leave a lasting impact. To help crews with processing some of those tough calls, West Metro has launched a certified therapy dog program, and the dogs are as varied as the firefighters themselves.

At Station 3 at the intersection of Garrison Street and First Avenue, Remmey is waiting at the door whenever firefighters return from a call. She is a 3-year-old Irish setter, and her owner is Capt. Reed Norwood.

“She’s our family dog. I’ve also trained her to be a bird dog so she can hunt pheasants and other game birds with me in the fall,” said Norwood. “And her disposition has just kind of led her down this path to becoming a therapy dog. She’s just a very mellow, kind of chill dog that does very well at the fire station.”

Across Lakewood at Station 1 near West 14th Avenue and Lamar Street, a 2-year-old goldendoodle named Captain has earned his place with the crew. He often naps in the recliners in the station’s day room and is underfoot in the kitchen while meals are being prepared, but he’s there when he is needed.

His owner is firefighter/paramedic Victoria (Torie) Digiannantonio. She established the fire district’s therapy dog program based on her family’s animal rescue, rehabilitation and therapy nonprofit.

“With the volume of calls and the acute nature of calls that we run, it’s really nice having him around,”

said Digiannantonio. “We’ve run some difficult pediatric calls that kind of hit home with some of our firefighters because the children we were running on were the same age, same gender as their own children. And having him around really just kind of diffuses and decompresses the situation.”

There are two other therapy dogs in the program. River, a 16-month-old mini-goldendoodle, and Zola, a 1-year-old German shepherd. The goal is to have three therapy dogs working on every shift so that they can cover all 17 stations in West Metro’s district. There is no breed restriction, but every dog must be trained and certified to make sure they can handle a high-energy and stressful environment.

“I don’t know the science behind it, but there’s no doubt that a dog recognizes when you’re struggling, and they’ll sit down and struggle with you,” said Norwood. “They know when you’re happy, and they wag their tail and they’re happy with you. They just have a sense of people and what they’re going through, and they’re just really good at responding to that.” [A](#)