



Interactive art creates inclusive approach

If art can reflect a community and its values, Lakewood’s exhibits and events are reaching further across the community this year than it ever has, with interactive and inclusive approaches.

Three Musketeers,” a production highlighting the fact that the author of this famous novel was of Black descent. A free public reception for this exhibit will be hosted 5:30–7:30 p.m. June 2 at the North Gallery,



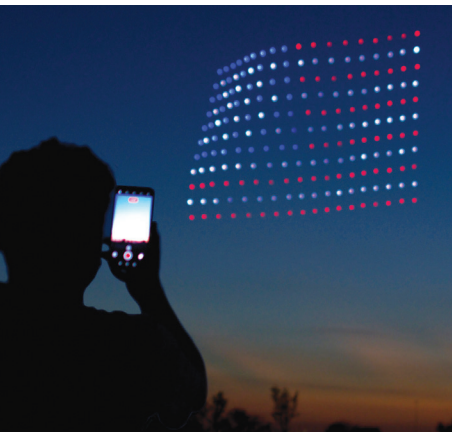
Starting with INSPIRE Arts Week, residents will move from the role of spectator to engaging directly with artists as they are creating their artwork. The essence of an exhibit opening on May 25 in the Lakewood Cultural Center’s North Gallery will be visitors discussing the mural process with a diverse panel of local muralists as they paint their pieces. “Recalibrated Reflections: Creative Mural Interpretations of Theatrical Themes through the Lens of Diversity, Inclusivity, and Community” will certainly be a departure from the artist’s normal creative process done alone or in a studio.

Kids can also get in on this activity during the free Color and Create event on May 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. when coloring sheets will be available for families to create their own artwork while the muralists are at work.

In an additional twist, these murals will be inspired by theatrical productions presented this spring at the Cultural Center including “The

with the exhibit running through mid-August. Following the exhibit, the murals will be installed in temporary public art locations across the city’s five geographical wards.

INSPIRE Arts Week is a weeklong annual arts and culture event that will run through June 3 celebrating the vast array of art and culture offered throughout Lakewood and providing residents the opportunity to get to know the resources available to them. During this year’s event, more than 20 Lakewood galleries, cultural centers, shops and other art venues will host free and low-cost arts and cultural experiences. The free events that the city will host include artist receptions, an open house and community activity at the Washington Heights Arts Center, and the Rockin’ Block Party with live music, food trucks and an outdoor movie. Check out all the offerings at Lakewood.org/Inspire.



For the summer, residents will also have a chance to choose one of the most unusual public art pieces for the city. Lakewood’s Independence Day celebration, the Big Belmar Bash on July 3, will come to a crescendo with Lakewood’s first drone show.

See **INTERACTIVE ART** page 6

We have a winner!

Lakewood resident Jeremy Fleming submitted this winning photo from the summit of William F. Hayden Park on Green Mountain for the bag design contest that was part of the city’s Bring Your Own Bag community support effort, which is helping residents manage the new state carryout bag fee. Reusable carryout bags with this photo on it will be distributed at the city’s festivals this spring and summer. Learn more at LakewoodTogether.org/FreeBags.



Short-term rental regulations approved

Lakewood City Council approved a new city law in March requiring licensing and regulation of short-terms rentals in the city after several years of research, discussion, community outreach and public comment.

Short-term rentals are most commonly known through companies such as Airbnb and Vrbo that connect people offering residences or rooms to those who want to rent them for short-term stays. Under the new city law, a short-term rental is any property, or any portion of a property, that is rented for no more than 29 consecutive days. Hotels, motels, and a bed-and-breakfast site are not considered short-term rentals regardless of the length of stays.

Starting on Sept. 1, all short-term rentals in the city must be licensed, and the law that City Council approved allows for an individual owner of a primary residence to obtain one license. The law doesn’t prohibit a commercial entity that owns a property from obtaining a license as long as the property is the primary residence of that commercial entity. The commercial entity and all its officers and directors will be limited to the one license for that company’s primary residence.

A primary residence can take several forms, including a single-family home, a condominium, or a unit within a duplex, triplex or multifamily residence. If a primary residence is in a homeowner’s association, the HOA must allow short-term rentals for a property owner to be eligible for a license. The licensing process will require property owners to provide documentation that establishes the home as the owner’s primary residence, and owners will have to provide notice by certified mail to all abutting property owners or occupants of their applications for a license.

The city is in the process of establishing the licensing process and all necessary application forms by May 1, which will allow owners four months until Sept. 1 to complete the licensing process.

For answers to frequently asked questions about the new law, please visit Lakewood.org/STR. If you have questions or concerns about this issue, please visit Lakewood.org/RequestLakewood, the city’s online customer service hub.



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Adam Paul

Spring is an amazing time of the year, and I encourage you to get outside and enjoy all the wonderful things that Lakewood has to offer. In my last column, I spoke about our annual planning session, which is City Council’s process to bring forth priorities based on the feedback from the community for putting goals into action for 2023. Council focused on six areas, and I will highlight a few. To learn

more, please go to the City Council dashboard at Lakewood.org/CouncilDashboard. Affordable housing and homeless response were a top topic, and we will review processes and challenges with developing affordable housing as well as adding inclusionary zoning to the Housing Policy Commission’s agenda. We will continue to look at short-term and long-term policies relating to residents who are unhoused. For the short term, we’ll focus on increasing extreme weather sheltering, safe overnight parking for those living in their cars and potential opportunities for pallet homes or alternative structures. Public safety was another priority, and we will brainstorm innovative crime prevention strategies, focusing on actionable items in 2023. I often write about our co-responder

program of mental health providers and others in the Police Department, and we will look for options to expand it. Having recently hired our new Police Chief Philip Smith, we welcome him and look forward to working with the department on forward-thinking ways to best serve the community through public safety. Rounding out the list, we continue to focus on sustainability and a healthy economy. We will create and implement a turf replacement incentive program and budget more dollars to focus on our sustainability plan to reduce energy, water and waste. As we are mainly funded through sales tax dollars, we will also look at ways to attract and retain businesses, study future approaches to fund city services and evaluate our aging infrastructure to look for ways to replace and enhance it.

We will also have upcoming discussions about distressed retail properties, building code updates, the Community Resources Department’s master plan and grant programs geared toward youth programs and neighborhood projects. Transparency is key for us, so please always feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Also know that you can find in-depth information at .



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We are building an inclusive community.

WARD 1



Charley Able

Lakewood’s single-family neighborhoods could become a relic of the past if pending state legislation is enacted, according to the Colorado Municipal League, which represents 270 of the state’s cities and towns. Senate Bill 23-213 would remove constitutionally granted local zoning authority and place it in the hands of state agencies, primarily the Department of Local Affairs,

through a mandate compiled by a working group. The bill would allow up to six units on any lot in the R-1 zones, which cover the single-family housing options in Lakewood. SB213’s objective reputedly is to provide more affordable housing, especially in the Denver metro area. Instead, the proposal “doesn’t require affordability at all and ... may inhibit existing authority to plan communities and ensure affordability,” according to Kevin Bommer, CML’s executive director. The proposal would allow developers to opt out of the requirement that 8 percent of units be “affordable” if the developer claims that would create “a hardship” or be unduly burdensome. **Charley Able**
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Jeslin Shahrezaei

The Feb. 13 City Council meeting provided a six month look back at the Colorado Safe Parking Lot Pilot initiative. The pilot allows for up to five organizations across Lakewood to provide safe overnight parking for community members experiencing homelessness. Council agreed to a two year pilot in an effort to promote and complement housing goals by providing extra supports to increase successful outcomes

for the unhoused members of the community. Currently, there is only one organization participating in this program, Lakewood United Methodist Church (LUMC). In the first six months, LUMC has provided safe parking to 24 individuals, of which 16 have moved on to find more secure housing. The needs for collaboration, humanity and commitment to community are tremendous in modern times. I hope other faith-based organizations consider this citizen-led initiative to encourage safe legal parking locations on their property. **Jeslin Shahrezaei**
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WARD 2



Sharon Vincent

Many acknowledge that Ward 2 is the most diverse and eclectic ward in Lakewood. From In-N-Out Burger, O’Kane Historical District to Lakewood Country Club and, of course, West Colfax Avenue, Ward 2 encompasses art, history, original neighborhoods and quirkiness.



Sophia Mayott-Guerrero

The ward has its challenges, but there are positive elements that are enlivening and renewing this part of the city. While many folks know that Casa Bonita will be opening in May, there are many other mentions and awards that should be highlighted.

The 40 West Arts District continues to gain popularity, attracting more than 1,500 folks even on a recent cold First Friday. You might not know, however, about the Benchmark Theater, which is also part of the arts district. This well-reviewed theater is home to new shows that are often topical and thought provoking. Just outside of the district is the Furnace, an original fine-glass artisan shop. Two local coffee shops, award-winning Sweet Bloom and Mint and Serif, have been mentioned in multiple publications. On the opposite end of drink of choice, WestFax Brewery was named the best small business this year by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Westword just published its 100 best restaurants in the Denver metro area. Three are located right here in Ward 2. At West First Avenue and Wadsworth is Farmhouse Thai. On West Colfax, Hits the Spot Diner and the outpost of the original Lechuga from north Denver all made the list. While we keep on addressing issues that happen in our piece of Lakewood, we thought we would focus on some of the positive happenings in the neighborhood. **Sharon Vincent**
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WARD 3



Anita Springsteen

Patricia Dilworth was a dignified member of the Lakewood community for 20 years, loved by all who she encountered. She had a master’s degree in phlebotomy and was living independently at 69. She was an African American single parent who reared four girls and taught them their worth.

Her dead body was found in a ditch at Sixth and Wadsworth on Feb. 1 after she had been missing for three weeks. But there are questions. A man reported a dead body in that field on Jan. 24, yet she was not “found” for another week. A neighbor has a video that appears to show Patricia’s abduction Jan. 7, yet police say no criminal activity is suspected. The city originally billed the family \$1,400 for the investigation, creating delays and barriers. Is this how we treat our elderly — or just those who are Black? This devastated family needs help and public involvement. They need the federal Department of Justice. What if it were your mom?

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Rebekah Stewart

At the March 20 City Council study session, the sustainable transportation team in the Public Works Department gave a presentation on the status and feasibility of creating more protected bike lane corridors in Lakewood. As an advocate for increasing safe routes for all forms of active and alternative transportation in our city, I am thrilled that this topic has come to the forefront of our discussions.

The question for action now becomes: “What are the factors for prioritization of projects and connectivity?” Do we prioritize multiple lower-cost and easily implemented projects or should we look at higher impact routes that will affect more travelers and also factor in historical investment inequities? City staff will be putting together options for the Budget and Audit Board to take a look at as we head into budget season this summer and fall. I’d encourage everyone to watch the March 20 presentation at Lakewood.org/CouncilVideos and let me know what you’d like to see prioritized!

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WARD 4



Barb Franks

Short-Term Rentals

On March 13, City Council voted to approve a short-term rental licensing ordinance that restricts the rental activity to dwelling units that are the primary residence of their owner. Thanks to everyone that participated over the years, through many forums, to ensure your voices were heard. Your voices were also heard loud and clear after a motion was made and approved during the council’s

Feb. 13 meeting that would have radically altered the ordinance to permit non-owner-occupied STRs. This change did not align with the vast majority of resident input council received over the years about our housing market, neighborhood character, and zoning regulations, and thus my opposition. Ultimately, after conversations with my fellow council members to convey the ways in which the amendment language could be exploited and negatively impact available housing stock and neighborhood character, the amendment was removed before the final vote. Visit Lakewood.org/STR to read the ordinance and answers to frequently asked questions.

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Rich Olver

If your partner wanted to spend beaucoup bucks on a property purchase, would you ask the following?

- 1) How much do we have saved up?
- 2) What’s our projected future income?
- 3) What makes this property our best bang for the buck? (i.e., Have we looked at other options?)
- 4) What is the property’s future value?

I believe that the city should answer these questions before City Council votes on property acquisitions. Council approved spending millions on park acquisitions in early 2022 without knowing any of the above. I asked for #1 and 3, but that was never provided. Just recently the Lakewood Reinvestment Authority on which all council members serve as commissioners voted to buy a property on Alameda for \$3 million. In this case the money is to buy an old motel, demolish it, and sell off the dirt lot — to fight blight. Again we weren’t informed of any of the above. I need to know these things if I’m to make an informed decision, or I have to vote against the acquisition.

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WARD 5



Wendi Strom

Last month our City Council had an exciting opportunity to serve Lakewood from outside of our city boundaries at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington D.C. A delegation of our council members ventured to our nation’s capital to connect with our U.S. senators, and Lakewood’s U.S. congresswoman to advocate for issues important to our city like Bear Creek Lake Park, the future

of the property at the Federal Center at Kipling and West Sixth Avenue, and the much needed renewal of the interchange of Sixth and Wadsworth Boulevard. This trip also afforded us the opportunity to connect and exchange ideas with other municipal leaders from across the country. With so many communities experiencing the same challenges such as homelessness, housing affordability and infrastructure needs, it was a welcome and productive chance to hear what others are working on to address these issues and build relationships that can help in creating solutions in the years to come.

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Mary Janssen

Upcoming council discussions April–July:

1. New Commercial Limited Zone
2. City Council Censure Policy and Code of Conduct
3. Annexation Hearing
4. Proposition 123 calculation to review housing commitments.

Public Safety Update: Crime rates in the metro area continue to move in the wrong direction. Senate Bill

23-097 Motor Vehicle Theft has passed through the state Senate but hasn’t yet gone through the House. This bill would reverse recent changes and reestablish motor vehicle theft as a felony. I’m happy to report that our legislative committee has approved a strong support position for the bill. Far too many crimes go unreported, which means we do not have accurate information. For nonemergency crimes, you can file a report online at Lakewood.org/PoliceReport or call the nonemergency dispatch at 303-980-7300. I look forward to working with our new Police Chief Philip Smith as we work on these crime challenges as a community.

Mary Janssen
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Economic Development



Opening of the small business consultant in Jeffco Economic Development Office.

Resources to help Lakewood businesses thrive

Collaboration between industry, government and community stakeholders is key for successful economic development. Staff members of Lakewood’s Economic Development team work closely with organizations across Lakewood and Colorado that help support small businesses and entrepreneurs. Whether it is providing connections to financing, technical assistance or support for entering a new market overseas, these organizations provide resources to ensure Lakewood businesses and entrepreneurs thrive.

Small Business Development Center

The Colorado Small Business Development Center provides free and confidential consulting and no- or low-cost training programs to help existing and new businesses grow and prosper. The Colorado SBDC has locations around the state, including the Denver Metro SBDC. Last year, staff partnered with Jefferson County Economic Development Corp., Arvada, Golden and Wheat Ridge to create the Jeffco SBDC Network. Jeffco EDC hosts an in-house SBDC consultant to support business owners and entrepreneurs in Jefferson County. The consultant is available 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Fridays at the Jeffco office, 1667 Cole Blvd., Suite 400. These SBDC staff members are ready to help businesses create and retain jobs, secure loans, increase sales, win government contracts, obtain certifications and more. Website: [ColoradoSBDC.org](https://coloradosbdc.org).

Small Business Administration

This agency is the only cabinet-level federal agency fully dedicated to small businesses, and it works to ignite change and spark action so small businesses confidently start, grow, expand or recover. The agency’s Colorado district office provides services such as funding programs, counseling, federal contracting certifications and disaster recovery. The SBA offers loan programs such as the 7(a) loan and

microloans for short- and long-term working capital, refinancing current business debt and purchase of furniture, fixtures and supplies. The SBA also provides a business guide for individuals at every stage whether they are starting out with a great idea or ready to grow their business. The SBA can assist with registering businesses as a small disadvantaged business, women-owned or veteran-owned business to win a fair share of federal contracts. The agency can also connect businesses with partner organizations, lenders and other community groups that help small businesses succeed. Website: [SBA.gov](https://sba.gov)

Colorado Enterprise Fund

The fund’s mission is to accelerate community prosperity by financing and supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses. It offers eight specialized loan programs starting at \$1,000 that offer flexible, low-barrier and low-interest terms. The staff will work with borrowers that have a startup business, a lower credit score, tighter cash flow or limited collateral. The loan programs include the Black Business Loan Fund, Community Loan Funds, Creative Industries, Healthy Food Access, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number Loans (for those with no social security number), Minority Owned

Businesses Loans, Transforming Safety and VALOR for Veterans. It helps borrowers for free throughout the entire journey of their small business loan, including with accounting, making key decisions based on financial statements, hiring employees and legal guidance. Website: [ColoradoEnterpriseFund.org](https://coloradoenterprisefund.org)

SCORE

The Service Corps of Retired Executives is the nation’s largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors who are dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals. SCORE offers free mentoring and can pair entrepreneurs with a mentor at the Denver SCORE local chapter. Free online events on topics ranging from startup strategies to marketing and finance are offered regularly. Entrepreneurs can access SCORE’s extensive collection of guides, templates, checklists, blogs and videos, all to help businesses no matter what stage they are in. The Denver office also provides in-person workshops on a variety of topics including how to price your products and services. Website: [SCORE.org](https://score.org)

Jefferson County Business and Workforce Center

This center provides resources to create successful connections between job seekers and businesses in Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin counties. For job seekers, the center offers a range of free job and career services including training opportunities and job fairs. Online workshops on how to improve a resume, how to land an interview and more are also available. For businesses, the center has a range of free services to enhance recruitment and training efforts across all industries. On-the-job-training grant



Small Business Administration specialist presenting resources for women-owned businesses.

program, an apprenticeship program and customized trainings for specific business needs are also offered. Website: [Jeffco.us/4157/Business-Workforce-Center](https://jeffco.us/4157/Business-Workforce-Center)

Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade

This state agency works with statewide partners to create a positive business climate that encourages dynamic economic development and sustainable job growth. It provides a host of programs and services tailored for business retention, business relocation and business funding and incentives. It has multiple divisions including the Minority Business Office of Colorado, Business Funding and Incentives, Colorado Creative Industries and more. The Minority Business Office offers technical assistance to minority, women and veteran-owned businesses for international trade, procurement, consulting, business foundations and more. Another division, the Colorado Startup Loan Fund, provides loans under \$150,000 to small businesses and entrepreneurs who are not able to obtain a loan from traditional lenders and is the product of a partnership with mission driven lenders. Website: oedit.colorado.gov

Economic Development team
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Google Fiber update

Google Fiber has been preparing the engineering and design for its Lakewood network, and the company has been working closely with Lakewood staff on this process. The city anticipates that Google Fiber will be submitting the first permit applications soon, with construction of the network targeted to begin this summer.

When construction begins, Lakewood residents can expect to see crews in the roadways and adjacent softscapes and yards that are part of the city’s rights of way and easements. Google’s crews will notify residents and businesses ahead of construction through door hangers, street signage, cones and other safety and informational efforts.

Last November, the city reached an agreement with Google Fiber to bring its fiber-to-the-building network to Lakewood residents and businesses, making it the first city in Colorado to receive this 100-percent fiber optic network. Google Fiber expects to begin offering service to its first Lakewood customers early next year.

To learn more, including contact information for the company, please visit [Lakewood.org/GoogleFiber](https://lakewood.org/GoogleFiber).



Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

City Manager
Kathy Hodgson

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ARTS, PARKS & Recreation

ARTS & EVENTS



Sounds Exciting

Summer concerts are hosted every Wednesday night June 21–July 26 at Heritage Lakewood.
April 20 – Ticket sales open!

Lakewood.org/SummerConcerts

INSPIRE Arts Week

Celebrate the vast variety of art offered throughout the city at events, galleries, cultural centers and shops during a week of free and low-cost cultural experiences.

May 27–June 3

Lakewood.org/Inspire

Rotating Art Exhibitions

The artwork of exceptional Jeffco middle school students kicks off the summer season of exhibitions in the galleries at Lakewood Cultural Center and Civic Center. This robust, group show is on display through May 5.
FREE. No reservation necessary.

Lakewood.org/Exhibitions

Rockin' Block Party

Go retro with a concert from Ronnie Raygun and the Big Eighties followed by an outdoor showing of "Back to the Future" at the amphitheater at Heritage Lakewood.

5:30 p.m. music and 9 p.m. movie | June 3

Lakewood.org/RockinBlock

Big Belmar Bash

Save the date! Community celebration at Belmar Downtown Lakewood.

See page 6 for more information.

5 p.m.–10 p.m. | July 3

Lakewood.org/BBB



PARKS



Free Mulch Pickup

Lakewood residents can pick up free mulch from the city's greenhouse. Mulch has been recycled from tree trimming operations and is ready for use in home landscaping for water retention, weed barriers and overall beautification.

7 a.m.–3 p.m. | May 6 and 13

720-963-5240

World Migratory Bird Day

Celebrate the area's migratory birds at Bear Creek Lake Park with activities, crafts, and demonstrations of live birds to learn how to conserve and protect our feathered friends.

10 a.m.–2 p.m. | May 13

Lakewood.org/Migratory-Bird-Day



Porter Park Open House

Help design the new Porter Park located at 731 Tabor St.

5:30–7 p.m. | May 17

LakewoodTogether.org/PorterParkPlan

National Trails Days

Volunteer to help improve trails at William F. Hayden Park.

8 a.m.–noon | June 3

Lakewood.org/TrailsDay

Campfire Programs

Register for FREE programs about local animals, ecosystems, and conservation hosted by our naturalists and special guests each week at the amphitheater at Bear Creek Lake Park.

7:30 p.m. every Saturday, June 17–July 29

Lakewood.org/BCLPevents

RECREATION



Older Adult Wellness Fair

Learn about local resources and services for adults ages 55+ at this free fair of over 60 vendors at Charles Whitlock Recreation Center.

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | May 12

Lakewood.org/WellnessFair

Summer Fun Pass

Get unlimited general admission to all city pools, splash parks and recreation centers. Purchase your pass online, by phone or at any Lakewood recreation center. All outdoor pools and splash parks are scheduled to open Saturday, May 27. See Lakewood.org/Pools for updates. **Pass sales begin May 15.**

Lakewood.org/SummerFunPass

Fitness in the Park

Join free fitness classes hosted in the parks on Saturday mornings. Class focus and park location rotates weekly.

June 3–September 2

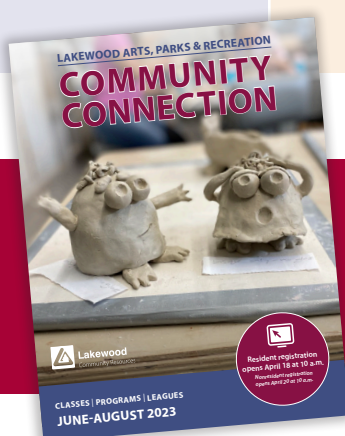
Lakewood.org/SummerFitness

Family Health and Fitness Day

Free activities, demos, food and fun at Addenbrooke Park!

9 a.m.–noon | June 10

Lakewood.org/FamilyFitness



Summer Registration

Registration is now open for all summer activities. View the activity guide posted at Lakewood.org/CommunityConnection or pick one up at any Lakewood facility.

For financial assistance, apply at Lakewood.org/PossibilitiesFund.



Continued from page 1

Interactive Art

Beginning in May, residents will be able to vote on a drone formation to be included in the show. Subscribe to the page for updates.

Don't think drone shows are related to art? Think again. As the impressionism era of art in the 1800s evolved into postimpressionism, artists developed pointillism, a technique using small, distinct dots to form an image. Today, a similar dot technique combined with drone technology can create large-scale, breathtaking visuals — a form of art, you might say.

These interactive art experiences follow a spring art season in which the city hosted inclusive performances and exhibits that provided ways to experience art though all the senses.

The cornerstone of this inclusive approach is “Blind Visionaries,” a multimedia musical and visual experience this month at the Lakewood Cultural Center inspired by the work of visually impaired photographers. The photographers’ light paintings are projected on the screen and interwoven with music, along with recordings of the photographers speaking about creating their work and their experiences being blind in the world. It’s a performance exploring what it means to truly see.

The “Seeing Requires Not Sight” exhibit in March at the Cultural Center added to the city’s inclusive art experiences by bringing together Blind and sighted artists to allow viewers to explore sensory and touch-friendly artwork such as ceramics embedded with Braille.



Rounding out this interactive and inclusive approach is the “Sensing Lakewood Restaurants” exhibit at Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park. This is a multisensory experience where visitors can smell, touch and listen as they move through culinary history in Lakewood from early beverage stands to modern eateries. This exhibit runs through October, with more information available at Lakewood.org/Sensing-Lakewood.

All these programs are part of the city’s wider effort to make arts and culture accessible to all of Lakewood’s diverse population.



New Police Chief’s Letter to the Community

Dear Lakewood Community,

I am honored and humbled to have been chosen as the chief of police for the City of Lakewood. It is my privilege to serve such a beautiful, progressive-thinking community. As the chief of police, I will commit to building and maintaining public trust, and further, I will commit to engaging with the Lakewood community, via transparency and legitimacy. It is my promise to maintain Lakewood’s reputation as a safe place to live, work, play, and visit.

The recent national police climate has been challenging for law enforcement across our nation. Numerous events have created the impetus for change and police reform revolving around race, equality, equity, and fairness throughout the criminal justice system. It is apparent the Lakewood Police Department is well ahead of the current reform movement in many areas. My priorities will be focused in several areas, most notably overall service, clarity and openness with our community, diverse practical training, and community guardianship.


Effective communication includes not only information release but also gathering feedback as an essential component toward building public trust. The Lakewood Police Department will always strive to be open, transparent, and engaged with the community to ensure our community members are heard and their words valued. I strongly believe that every life should be protected, and every person, no matter what their status, is valued because each life is cherished.

The job of a police agent in Lakewood can be extremely difficult, and in a split second, could be life-threateningly dangerous, especially in these ever-changing times that as of late, invariably feature desensitized, emboldened offenders. Police agents in Lakewood, as in all communities, must have the support of their community and their police chief to be successful to accomplish their daily mission. Lakewood agents will always have my support while they are professional, adhere to department policy, and treat everyone they encounter with dignity and respect.

Together, along with city leadership and the support of the community, the Lakewood Police Department will strive to be the model for excellence, not only in the greater Denver metropolitan area but all across the great state of Colorado.

In closing, I submit I will be working diligently to get to know the Lakewood community, and I look forward to introducing myself and having discussions with residents and community members. I invite you to join our agency and become an active participant, through quality feedback that will contribute to the creation of a unified long-range vision for both success and the improvement of the quality of life for all Lakewood community members.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Smith Jr. Ph.D.
Chief of Police



Join us for a community celebration of Independence Day!

July 3 **Belmar Downtown**
Lakewood



Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.



Event kicks off at 5 p.m.
Drone light show approximately 9:15 p.m.

Lakewood.org/BBB



BIG BELMAR BASH

RAIN or SHINE

Your Money at Work photo contest begins again

It's time to get your cameras dusted off for the return of the monthly photo contest for Your Money at Work, which is the city's project updating you on how your tax dollars have been put to work for the city's outdoor green spaces.

Each month, you can participate in the photo contest of the park projects featured for the month at LakewoodTogether.org/MoneyAtWork. Submit a photo to be entered in a drawing for city prizes including a free recreation pass.

For April, the featured projects are the Bear Creek Trail improvements and the Sculpture Walk. When submitting a photo, remember to tell us your story about how you use these amenities, what memories you have made there or how they contribute to your quality of life. Check out what else is available on the project's website:

- List of completed projects.
- List of in-progress projects.
- List of parkland purchased in recent years.
- Project videos and Mayor Paul's "Thank you" message.
- Winning photos for October–December in the news feed.
- Story map to see the projects in an accessible way if you can't get there in person.
- Previous months' trivia.
- Section for asking us a question.

One of the main funding sources for the city's parks and open space in the last five years has been available as result of a ballot measure that Lakewood voters approved in 2018. Residents approved allowing the city to keep city revenues that were above the budget limits set by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights in state law. The ballot measure also allowed the city to spend part of that money on buying open space as well as maintaining and making improvements to the city's parks. Watch the "TABOR in 90 seconds" video to learn more about TABOR on the Your Money at Work project site.



Lakewood opens Extreme Weather Overflow Shelter

This winter during severe cold weather, Lakewood opened its first-ever Extreme Weather Overflow Shelter to address a critical need in the community for those who are vulnerable to a lack of heat or shelter during cold winter weather.

The shelter will also be able to operate during extreme hot temperatures this summer for those who lack air conditioning or need cooling. For information on when this shelter is operating, visit Lakewood.org.

This overflow shelter has a capacity limited to 50 beds, and it is designed to supplement other shelters already available in Lakewood through the Severe Weather Shelter Network and support provided by vouchers for short-term sheltering at lodging facilities. The city's shelter is located in a portion of Lakewood's Whitlock Recreation Center.

The city worked to open this shelter as an important step to get as many residents moved indoors during extreme weather as possible. Lakewood will activate this short-term shelter when weather conditions pose a significant threat to the health and safety of vulnerable residents.

Safe Parking Initiative

An update on the city's pilot program for the Safe Parking Initiative provided to City Council recently showed that the program provided 24 residents who were living in their cars a safe place to spend the night. Of those, 16 individuals were able to move from the safe lot to more secure housing. City Council approved this pilot project in June 2022, and the update was provided in February. The Safe Parking Initiative operates in several cities in the metro area, and Lakewood currently has one location in this program.



Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

WHO INSPIRED YOU?

It's once again time to recognize the inspiring work and commitment of Lakewood residents and organizations with the 2023 edition of the Mayor's Inspiration Award. This award highlights contributions in engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness, diversity, innovation and community impact.



"To inspire is to ignite passion for community."
- Mayor Adam Paul

Nominations can be submitted online at Lakewood.org/MayorsAwards and will be accepted through July 15. Learn more in this video: bit.ly/41aAxqG.

Multiple awards could be given in categories for youth, which is anyone under the age of 18; individuals, which is anyone age 18 or older; or organizations, which is any business, association, service organization, nonprofit, team or group.

Winners will be selected by a committee in August and recognized at a City Council meeting this fall.

The Lakewood Advisory Commission, which consists of residents who advise City Council on issues important to Lakewood, recommended the creation of the award as a way to recognize those having a significant impact in the community.

QUESTIONS? Contact Dan Stoutamire at **303-987-7050** or dstoutamire@lakewood.org.



Lakewood
Community Resources



APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER JOBS!

Lakewood arts, parks and recreation is now hiring.

SUMMER CAMPS (Age 16+)
Join our summer camps team!

Choose from arts, history, sports, gymnastics, climbing, teen and day camps.

CAMP PAHA (Age 16+)
Work with individuals with disabilities from ages 6-25.

We will focus on FUN with a range of activities and field trips.

POOLS (Age 15+)
Be a lifeguard or cashier at our pools.

Three indoor pools are open year-round, and outdoor pools and splash parks are open Memorial Day–Labor Day.

Information: 303-987-7800
Lakewood.org/SummerJobs

Street maintenance season beginning



Lakewood’s street maintenance program for 2023 will roll out this spring and summer as the weather allows, and more than \$11 million will be spent to repair, repave and maintain streets owned by the city. The program will include the following:

- 46 lane miles of concrete repair and asphalt repaving.
- 6 lane miles of asphalt repaving only.
- 84 lane miles of Reclamite® sealcoating.
- 13 lane miles of HA5™ sealcoating.
- 24 lane miles of concrete repair only.
- 8 city parking lots repaved including at Bear Creek Lake Park and the Rooney Road trailhead for William F. Hayden Park on Green Mountain

A lane mile is one mile covering one, 12-foot lane width on one side of a road. Lakewood has about 1,400 lane miles of roadway.

Keeping roads in good condition is important to residents and businesses, so it’s critical to slow down while crews are working. After all, they are taking care of city streets so community members can take care of what’s important to them.

It costs about \$140,000 a mile to repave an average two-lane street, and this yearly maintenance is funded primarily by a 1/2 cent of the city’s 3 cents sales tax paid by shoppers.

The complete list of the roadways in the 2023 maintenance program is available at [Lakewood.org/StreetRepairs](https://lakewood.org/StreetRepairs), which also includes a map of the streets to be maintained. A video on the page also explains Lakewood’s street maintenance program including pothole repair and crack sealing.

- The categories of maintenance include the following:
- **Concrete repair**, which removes and replaces badly deteriorated sections of curb, gutter, sidewalk and drainage crosspans.
 - **Asphalt repaving**, which is performed on streets approaching failure or having poor ride quality. The roadway is rotomilled, or scraped, to remove the existing asphalt surface to allow for a new layer of asphalt without causing excessive build up or crowns in the roadway.
 - **Reclamite® sealcoating**, which is preventative maintenance used to rejuvenate the top layer of existing asphalt that is in fair condition and has few cracks. This helps recover streets that are suffering from oxidation and protects streets against the effects of weathering. This product is a semi-clear penetrating oil that is sprayed on the pavement, then covered in sand to prevent cars from picking up the oil. After 24 hours, the oil is absorbed into the pavement, and the streets are swept to collect loose sand.
 - **High Density Mineral Bond (HA5) sealcoating**, which extends the life of asphalt by applying a thin layer that serves as a barrier to moisture, deflects ultraviolet sun rays and helps prevent cracking. This product is sprayed on roadways, which requires their closure for 24 hours after it’s applied. Prior to road closures, each affected property owner is provided with the time frame for the closure and the contact information for the contractor performing the work.

Some major projects this year include:

- Concrete repair and repaving**
West 20th Avenue from Youngfield to Simms streets.
Carr Street from West Sixth to West 20th avenues.
Garrison Street from West Jewell to West Mississippi avenues.
Kipling Parkway from West Quincy to Hampden avenues.
- Repaving**
Quincy Avenue from Wadsworth Boulevard to Pierce Street.
- Concrete repair**
Garrison from West Mississippi to West Alameda avenues.
Jewell from Garrison to Wadsworth.

Annual outdoor siren test set for May

Lakewood will conduct a test of its outdoor siren system at 11 a.m. on May 10, which is when Denver will also test its outdoor sirens. 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).

Older Adult WELLNESS FAIR

MAY 12
2023

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Charles Whitlock Recreation Center / 1555 Dover St.

WHO YA
GONNA CALL?



If you have questions or concerns about city services or programs, our online customer service hub provides you the easiest and fastest way to let us know of an issue, and you can even attach a photo if you need. [Lakewood.org/RequestLakewood](https://lakewood.org/RequestLakewood) is available any time of day or night for your convenience, and it also has answers to frequently asked questions covering all sorts of topics that can often provide the information you need.

We also know there are still times you need to talk with someone. To help with that, the city’s frequently requested phone numbers are below.

Main city number:
303-987-7000

Nonemergency police services: 303-980-7300

Barking dog complaints:
303-987-7173

Report a pothole:
303-987-7950

Fence permits: 303-987-7571

Mayor and City Council information: 303-987-7040

Street maintenance:
303-987-7950

Unshoveled sidewalks and driveways: 303-987-7975

Report an abandoned car on a city street: 303-980-7300

Snowplowing concerns:
303-987-7950

Water and sewer bills:
303-987-7615

New business questions:
303-987-7730

Weeds and junk concerns:
303-987-7566

Traffic signal issues:
303-987-7980

Preschool and school-age services: 303-987-2490

Animal control questions:
303-987-7173

Lakewood Cultural Center tickets: 303-987-7845

Park and recreation information: 303-987-7800

Dog licensing: 303-987-7080

Picnic shelter reservations:
303-987-7800

Bear Creek Lake Park:
303-697-6159

Older adult programs:
303-987-4820

Services for those with disabilities: 303-987-4867

Streetlight issues:
1-800-895-4999

Voter registration:
303-987-7080