



Police force to grow with proposed 2018 Annual Budget

The proposed 2018 Annual Budget will allow the Police Department to add four sector liaison agents and one sector liaison sergeant, which will increase this specialized unit to 10 agents in the Patrol Division.

The Sector Liaison Unit focuses on crime prevention, intervention, enforcement and mediation of community issues to improve the quality of life for Lakewood residents and business owners. These additional agents will focus on the challenging community issues of homelessness, mental health and sex offender registration, allowing this unit to expand its efforts in these areas.

"Homelessness has been on the increase in Lakewood and surrounding communities. Yet at the same time, calls involving mental health issues are some of our most difficult to handle, while tracking where sex offenders live is extremely important to residents," said Police Chief Daniel McCasky. "Adding these agents to concentrate our efforts on these concerns will help the department better serve the community."

The annual budget for the last two years has added 16 agents to the Police Department, and the proposal for next year would bring to 21 the number of positions added to the department in the last three years.

The proposed 2018 budget would add a DNA analyst who would be assigned to the Jefferson

County Regional Crime Lab, an auto theft investigative technician and additional patrol cars for the increased police force.

The proposed budget also includes critical building repairs at Washington Heights Arts Center and the Glennon Heights Pool facilities. Older, aluminum traffic



signals — some that are 50 years old — would begin to be replaced with safer, more visible signals, and an additional left-turn lane on southbound Kipling Parkway for eastbound Hampden Avenue would be added. Funding to build sidewalks would increase to \$500,000 a year in 2018, which would be a two-thirds jump from the \$300,000-a-year level of the last several years.

The Community Resources Department would be able to increase its Lakewood Possibilities Fund, which provides scholarships

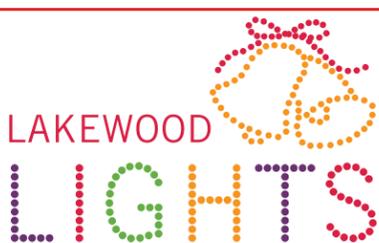
for families in need to participate in the City's recreation and cultural programs. The City's sustainability efforts would be bolstered with Community Resources putting 70 "Big Belly" waste and recycling bins in the parks, as recommended by a citizen's committee, and improving the

in revenue from sales tax resulting from the Colorado Mills closure, the City will use some of its "savings account" to help pay for important items in the 2018 proposed budget including the added police agents.

The City has built up a sound savings account over numerous years, mostly by not spending all of the City's approved annual budget. In the last five years, the City has spent less than the annual budget by an average of 6.5 percent. The most that was saved was in 2015 when the budget was "underspent" by 8.4 percent. The savings account allows the City's finances to weather economic fluctuations such as the Great Recession and the destructive May 8 hailstorm.

The General Fund is the largest part of the City's annual budget, accounting for 64 percent of the overall budget. This fund pays for services such as police patrols, parks maintenance and snowplowing provided to residents, and sales and use tax collected from shoppers provides 66 percent of the "income" that pays for these City services. The proposed General Fund budget for 2018 is \$123 million. The overall budget is \$202 million, which includes restricted funds that can only be spent for specific purposes.

The second and final public hearing on the proposed 2018 Annual Budget will be at the City Council's Special Meeting on Oct. 30. The budget is available at the City Clerk's Office or online at Lakewood.org/Budgets.



5:30-8:30 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
December 1 & 2

The mayor's official tree lighting is
Friday only, 5:45 p.m.
Lakewood.org/HolidayLights

PHOTOS WITH SANTA • TRACTOR PULLED HAY-WAGON RIDES • ORNAMENT MAKING • MUSEUM TOURS • HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES AVAILABLE

Make your plans now for holiday recycling events

Halloween might be what's on your mind now, but it's not too early to make plans for the holiday season, particularly when it comes to your recycling efforts.

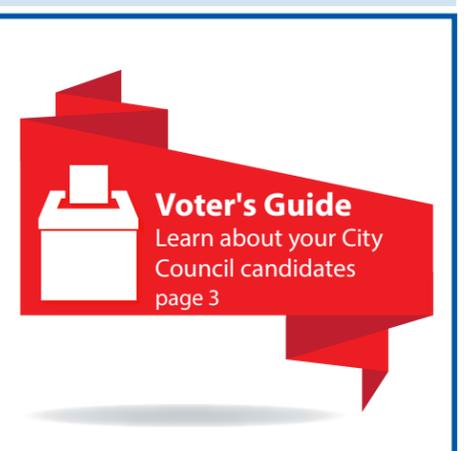
Lakewood will have its innovative annual holiday recycling events at Quail Street Recycling Center, 1068 Quail St., beginning with the vegetable cooking oil event, which will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving. On Nov. 25, you can bring your used vegetable cooking oil to pour into the designated barrel at the center, and the oil will be recycled into locally used biodiesel by Clear Ecos, the City's recycling partner on this effort. This one-day event allows you to dispose of the vegetable cooking oil you've used

throughout the year — or just on Thanksgiving — preventing it from ending up in the landfill or in the sanitary sewer system if it's washed down the drain.

As you dig out your holiday lights for decorating, if you find strings of broken lights bring those or any unused incandescent or LED holiday lights to Quail Street for recycling. Beginning Nov. 24 and running through Jan. 21, the center will take holiday light strings, without other ornamentation. MeTech Recycling, Lakewood's electronics recycling partner, will responsibly recycle the lights, diverting them from the landfill. New holiday lights that are still in the box can be donated to

the Family Tree Treasure Trunk thrift store at 5892 W. 44th Ave. in Wheat Ridge.

For more information, call 303-987-7190 or visit Lakewood.org/recycling.



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Letter from the mayor



Development Dialogue, budget and elections make it a busy fall

I have written in my last couple of columns about the opportunities and challenges we face in a growing metro area. To better understand the issues, the Lakewood Planning Commission has launched the Lakewood Development Dialogue and hosted three community open houses in September to seek feedback on what is working, what isn't, what needs to change and what should stay the same. The dialogue also includes a website for residents to contribute their thoughts online. Thanks to all of you who took time to participate. The meetings were well attended, and the website has been visited many times. You provided welcomed and valuable input. The Planning Commission will now have study sessions where your feedback will help shape the commission's next steps and its recommendations to City Council. It is very important to stay

involved because this process works best when many voices are part of the conversation. To keep up with the dialogue, please visit Lakewood.org/LDD.

One of the best things about Lakewood is our great parks, cultural events and recreational opportunities provided through our Community Resources Department. We continue to look for opportunities to add more parks and open space because it's an important way to look ahead and plan for the future. The department has finished the Imagine Lakewood Master Plan and a master plan for Lakewood Heritage Center, the City's 20th century museum. These community driven plans will set the course for improvements for arts, parks, culture, history and recreation opportunities in Lakewood for the next several years. I encourage you to check them out at Lakewood.org/Imagine and Lakewood.org/LHCPlan.

The changing of the leaves means it's time for important city matters including the budget and elections. Let's start with the budget. I am pleased to say that Lakewood will continue to utilize your dollars responsibly and in a manner that is consistent with your priorities. Next year's investments for the proposed 2018 budget include new police agents, energy-efficient upgrades at City facilities that will save tax dollars, locker room and other upgrades at Glennon Heights Pool, traffic signal

updates and much more. (Read the budget story on page 1 or visit Lakewood.org/Budgets.) What is unique to this year's budgeting process is a significant loss of revenue. The devastating May 8 hailstorm temporarily shuttered the Colorado Mills Mall, the City's largest source of sales tax revenue. This creates a unique challenge for the 2017 budget because the mall's closure is expected to lead to a \$2.7 million loss. Because of years of strong financial management, the City has a "rainy day fund" that will allow us to continue to move forward without major impacts to the critical City services you expect and depend on. We are hopeful the mall will reopen for the holiday season and that things will get back on track.

Odd number years mean City Council elections. A seat is open in every ward, which means half of the council is up for election or re-election. Please be cautious of negativity and misinformation. Websites, blogs and social media can be great tools, but as we know, they can also be nonfactual. I encourage you to reach out to all the candidates, get to know them and why they are running. In this issue, you will find good information, and you can watch the League of Woman Voters forums at Lakewood.org/CandidateForums. Running for office is not easy, and I applaud all who have thrown their name in to run and wish them all the best of luck.

I would like to take a moment to recognize three members of council who will not be returning. Scott Koop is term limited and will end a run of having a Koop on council for the last 16 years, which includes Scott's wife, Debbie, serving before him. Scott is a kind and caring man with a great sense of humor. His passion for the neighborhoods he served will be missed, and I want to thank him and Debbie for all they've done, especially for working on all things O'Kane. Shakti has served four years and will be moving on to serve the community in other ways. She is smart, compassionate and quiet, but don't be fooled. She has a passion for youth and seniors and has been a champion for both. She has also worked hard for parks and open space. Dave Wiechman is ending a tenure of service that started many years ago as a neighborhood advocate. Dave has been a great ambassador of the Sister Cities program, traveling to all of the cities representing and sharing a bit of Lakewood. Dave was incredibly instrumental in the vision, creation and success of the Foothills Field of Dreams sports field project for Foothills Elementary. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our great city. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve with you. Best of luck.

Adam Paul
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COUNCIL CORNER

WARD 2



Momentum bringing positive changes to Ward 2

For my last Council Corner article, I would like to thank Council member Sharon Vincent for the opportunity to start this column.

Even though the momentum of my tenure as your City Council representative is quickly coming to an end, I'm proud and happy to see the momentum of positive change in Lakewood and specifically Ward 2.

The most visible changes that have occurred are the building of apartments near the W Line. The market rate and attainable housing have provided opportunity for more people to call Ward 2 home. While the new buildings have received the majority of attention, many smaller complexes throughout Ward 2 have undergone extensive redevelopment.

These projects do not go unnoticed. Broad Street Realty from Bethesda, Maryland, saw the momentum along West Colfax Avenue in Lakewood and invested millions in purchasing the former JCRS shopping center that has been the longtime home of Casa Bonita.

Now new neighbors, Ross Dress for Less and Dutch Brothers Coffee, will soon be joining the updated and renamed Lamar Station Plaza.

Not to be outdone, Tuesday Morning will soon be joining the first Sprouts Farmers Market in Lakewood and others in Fairfield Commons at Wadsworth Boulevard and West First Avenue.

One organization that has generated a tremendous amount of momentum in a very short period of time is the 40 West Arts District. Its success is well-known outside of Lakewood, and the latest success is the ARTline project to create a unique walking and bicycling art experience.

The momentum of the City's reserves or savings account has changed. At first this may sound like a negative, but the reason it is happening is actually a positive. City Council voted to put some of the reserves back into the community. Some of the projects that the savings have been spent on include new and improved playgrounds in parks around the city. Over 20 additional police agents will be added over three years to help our Police Department better handle everyday challenges in our community. Additional money has been made available to our neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Participation Program grants. These are just a few of the ways your money is being put back into your community to keep the progress of positive changes moving forward.

Many are aware that Ward 2 is a bit different than the other wards.

Ward 2 is the only one where the majority of residents are represented by a neighborhood organization. Five large groups in Ward 2 provide representation through the O'Kane, Two Creeks, Northeast Lakewood, Morse Park and Eiber neighborhood organizations. Thanks to all of these groups for your efforts in preserving historical buildings, expanding park space and initiating community garden and sustainability efforts. Congratulations to everyone, and I hope you never stop striving to make each of your neighborhoods better for all.

These are just a few examples of why we should feel positive about the direction Lakewood is moving. There are many more examples around Lakewood — much more than the space of this article will allow me to cover. I hope we will all stop for a moment and realize the many reasons we are fortunate to live where we do. Let us find ways to work toward our collective future together.

In closing I would be remiss if I didn't thank my family once again for their

support and understanding these past eight years. Thank you. I also want to express my appreciation to City staff and volunteers who strive to provide every resident of Lakewood a wonderful quality of life. That high quality is why we choose Lakewood as the city we want to call home. I am very proud of the residents and businesses of Ward 2 and believe the progress made will continue to gain momentum. Ward 2 remains open for business and continues to build an inclusive community.

Scott Koop
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I want to thank Scott for all of his support and mentoring for the last two years. His support has been immeasurable, and I wish him well in his new adventures. I hope that I can offer the same level of support to the new council member. Thanks Scott.

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City Manager Kathy Hodgson

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Lakewood.org

VOTER'S GUIDE

City Council elections Nov. 7

Electing your representative for Lakewood City Council is as easy as going to your mailbox. This Nov. 7 election will be by mail ballot.

Active, registered Lakewood voters will receive a mail ballot at home listing the City Council candidates for their wards. Absentee ballots are available, and voters can also vote in-person at Voter Service and Polling Centers, where you can register to vote, drop off your mail ballot or get a replacement ballot.

Lakewood Civic Center has an outdoor ballot box on the west side of the south building at 480 S. Allison Parkway to drop off your ballot instead of mailing it through the U.S. Postal Service. If you mail your ballot at the post office, mail it early enough before the election to ensure that it is received by the 7 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Important dates

Oct. 16-20 – Mail ballots sent to all active, registered Lakewood voters. You can check the status of the mailing of your ballot at VoterLookup.jeffco.us.

Oct. 30 – Early voting Voter Service and Polling Centers open. Find locations by calling 303-987-7080 or visiting Jeffco.us/elections/voting-and-registration.

Oct. 30 – Last day to submit an application to register to vote through the mail. To find all the ways you can register, visit Jeffco.us/elections/voting-and-registration.

Nov. 7 – Election Day. Mail ballots must be received by 7 p.m.

Drop-off locations

Lakewood Civic Center

480 S. Allison Parkway
Open 24 hours through Nov. 6
Until 7 p.m., Nov. 7

Jeffco government campus

100 Jefferson County Parkway or
3600 Illinois St.
Open 24 hours through Nov. 6
Until 7 p.m., Nov. 7

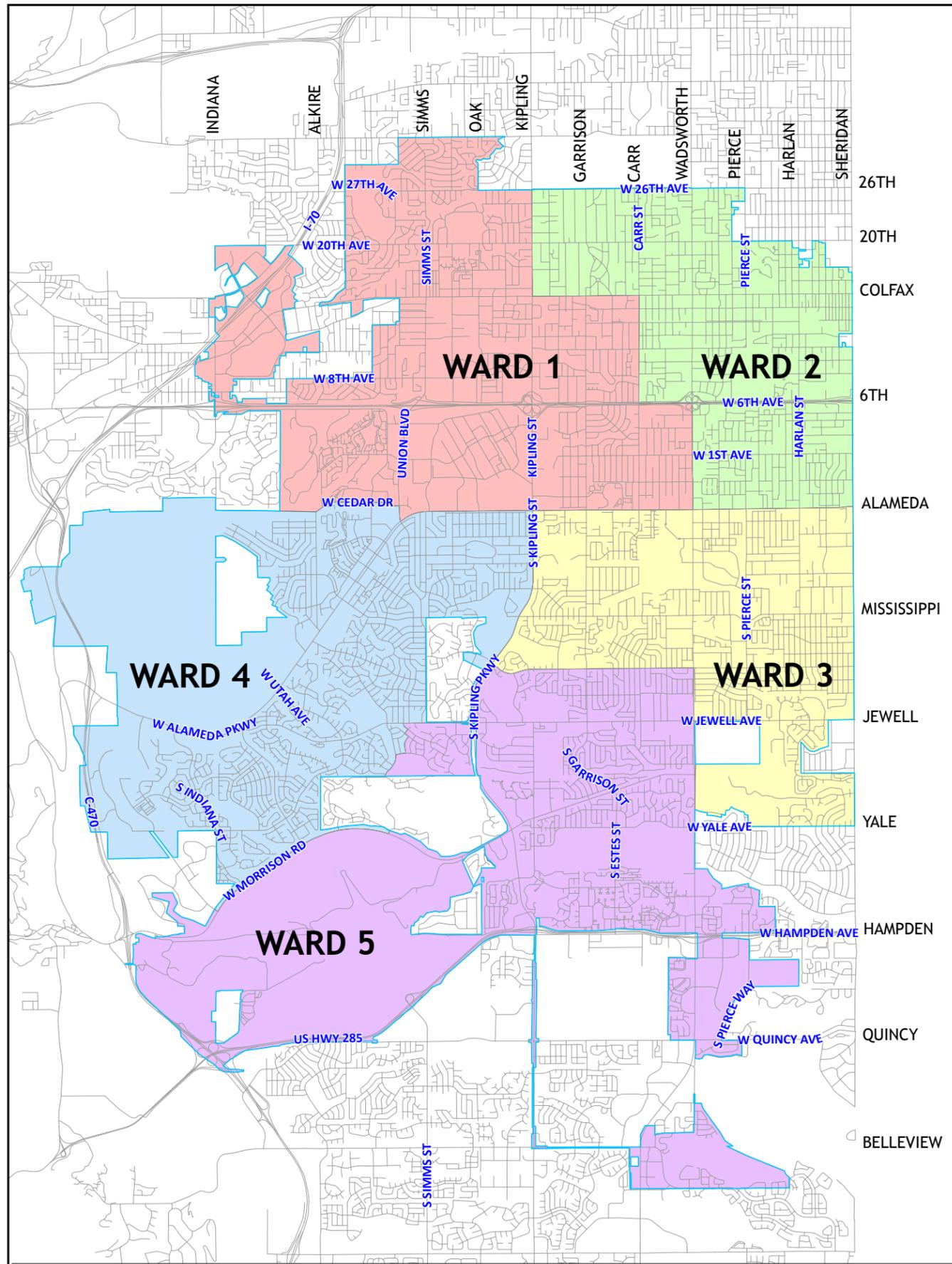
Lakewood Motor Vehicle Office

2099 Wadsworth Blvd., Suite K
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, through Nov. 6
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Nov. 7

Voter Service and Polling Center in Lakewood

Jeffco Public Health

645 Parfet St.
9 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 30-Nov. 6
8 a.m.-noon, Nov. 4
7 a.m.-7 p.m., Nov. 7



Learn more by watching candidate forums

The League of Women Voters in Jefferson County sponsored forums for candidates for Lakewood City Council. The forums will air on Lakewood8 cable channels 8 and 880 through election day at the times listed below. Watch them on-demand at Lakewood.org/CandidateForums.

Ward 1

8 a.m., Sunday
4:30 p.m., Monday
7:30 p.m., Wednesday
9 a.m., Thursday
5 p.m., Friday
7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday

Ward 3

9 a.m., Sunday
5:30 p.m., Monday
8:30 p.m., Wednesday
10 a.m., Thursday
6 p.m., Friday
8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday

Ward 5

10 a.m., Sunday
6:30 p.m., Monday
9:30 p.m., Wednesday
11 a.m., Thursday
7 p.m., Friday
9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Saturday

Ward 2

8:30 a.m., Sunday
5 p.m., Monday
8 p.m., Wednesday
9:30 a.m., Thursday
5:30 p.m., Friday
7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday

Ward 4

9:30 a.m., Sunday
6 p.m., Monday
9 p.m., Wednesday
10:30 a.m., Thursday
6:30 p.m., Friday
8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., Saturday

VOTER'S GUIDE

2017 City Council Candidates & Judges

Ward 1

- [Read candidate profiles](#)
- [Watch candidate forum](#)

Ward 2

- [Read candidate profiles](#)
- [Watch candidate forum](#)

Ward 3

- [Read candidate profiles](#)
- [Watch candidate forum](#)

Ward 4

- [Read candidate profiles](#)
- [Watch candidate forum](#)

Ward 5

- [Read candidate profiles](#)
- [Watch candidate forum](#)

Lakewood Municipal Court Judges

- [Read judge profiles](#)