



Looking@Lakewood

Helping kids and families

When David Martin, a Lakewood father of two, takes a moment to think about what his kids get from participating in the city's recreation, sports and art programs, it only takes him a moment to zero in on the most important aspect.

"They get a lot of joy out of it," he said recently while attending the city's annual Family Health and Fitness Day, which promotes the importance of parks and recreation in keeping communities healthy and active.

For mom, Kate Martin, her list of what her children learn covered what many parents look for in these important programs, particularly for the youngest children: consistency, routine, structured activities, getting used to instructions from someone

other than their parents, and one other rock-solid element.

"A lot of self-confidence," she said of her son Matthew, 5, and daughter Madison, 3, who recently started taking rock climbing classes. "I think it was three sessions it took to finally ring the bell (at the top of the rock-climbing wall). We didn't give up. We just kept persevering," she said.

The Martin family is just one of the nearly 125,000 participants annually in the wide range of programs that the Community Resources Department manages. Its mission is to provide high-quality park, recreation, family and cultural services and facilities that inspire enjoyment, learning and wellness in the lives of those who live, work and play in Lakewood.

The department offers more than 3,900 programs, and swimming lessons, dance and gymnastics are popular choices. But there's also junior ranger programs, painting, sport leagues, family hikes, junior golf, campfire programs, robotics, acting, cooking and a range of camps for school breaks in the summer, winter and spring.

The city's four recreation centers — Carmody, Green Mountain, Link and Whitlock — are among the most popular services the department provides. The centers see more than 342,000 visits annually from residents who lift weights, play pickleball, participate in youth and adult basketball or volleyball leagues and more. An additional 17,135 visited the city's outdoor pools last year.

On the arts side, Lakewood Cultural Center sees nearly 116,000



Participating in the city's Creative Movement class spurs children's imagination.

visitors annually for its events and performances that include local, national and international performers along with exhibits and classes.

These services also match the arch of life by providing programs for toddlers and young children, then getting middle school students involved in sports and supporting schools with field trips and before- and after-school programs. Adults can stay in shape or become artistic, and older adults are supported through the Clements Community Center, where art classes, social excursions, movies, dances and hot meals keep seniors engaged and active.

Community Resources continually works to ensure that its offerings are inclusive and innovative. Recreation Inclusion Services for Everyone (R.I.S.E.) serves children and youth with disabilities through dances, summer camp, the Feel the Beat vibrating dance floor and more. The city's unified sports leagues

include those with and without disabilities. The city also has the Universal Playground at Carmody Park for children of all abilities including a communication board to help bridge communication gaps.

The Lakewood Possibilities Fund provides economic accessibility through financial scholarships for families in need to participate in programs, serving 768 individuals last year.

The department adapts to trends to create new programs such as the Teen Room at Green Mountain Recreation Center, providing youth ages 13-18 a place to play games and attend special events. The array of classes also changes based on current exercise trends or hot topics like Ninja classes or skateboard deck design.

The department recently completed a visionary, long range planning effort to better understand residents' needs. Learn more and view the plan at LakewoodTogether.org/ImagineTomorrow.



This young dancer is practicing his leaps in the Creative Movement class.

New Two Creeks Park bringing connection to nature, play

The Two Creeks neighborhood is one of the oldest in Lakewood, and it's getting a much-needed park that will better serve residents with a trail connection, creek access, a playground, garden area and more.

When completed, the park will enhance the neighborhood's access to nature, outdoor recreation and safer bicycle and pedestrian connections. It will include a boulder creek crossing, a picnic area with a terraced view of Dry Gulch, the main unifying element in the park. A step stone path will intrigue children, and an open lawn area will provide a place to toss a ball or Frisbee. All the amenities will create a space for respite and play for the neighborhood, which lies north of West Sixth Avenue and is bounded by Wadsworth Boulevard on the west and Sheridan Boulevard on the east.

With money from what are known as TABOR funds that Lakewood voters designated for parks, the city was able to purchase more than a ½ acre from a carwash at 1080 Wadsworth Blvd. in 2021, creating a new opportunity to provide accessible park facilities along Wadsworth

and expanding the land for the new park to nearly 4 acres.

With this purchase, the city engaged neighborhood residents to update a vision for what should be included in the new park. Nearly 500 residents participated in two surveys, and more than 1,000 residents reviewed the draft plan.

The park site meanders between West 12th and West 10th avenues just east of Wadsworth, with Dry Gulch bisecting the site from northwest to southeast. The overall goal is to provide much-needed neighborhood park space, amenities and an off-street trail connection from West 10th to West 12th.

The city has entered into a unique partnership with Mile High Flood District on this project to deliver gulch and park improvements in one seamless effort. The partnership will allow both agencies to engage with a contractor, which will create an efficient and cost-effective approach to building the

park. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

Besides the city's TABOR funds, the project is supported by federal dollars that are designated to be used in ways that benefit neighborhoods with residents who have low or moderate incomes. Jefferson County Open Space funds are helping as well as funding from Mile High Flood District, which focuses on designing and building effective flood control measures along with open spaces and regional paths.

 View the approved site plan for the park and learn more about the community feedback received by visiting LakewoodTogether.org/TwoCreeksParkPlan.

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MAYOR



Wendi Strom

I recently read an article about psychologist Dacher Keltner who is on a mission to help others fill their lives with more “awe” (also known as a feeling of child-like wonder). After spending two decades studying awe, he is now sharing the positive health benefits with the world and encouraging all of us to step out to seek more awe.

His research brings to light that when we find ourselves in

a state of “awe,” thoughts about checklists, among other things, are quieted in our minds. It slows our heart rate, aids in digestion and ultimately opens us up to the awareness of things that are bigger than us. Experiencing awe has been found to improve both our physical and mental health.

So how do we experience more awe? It’s as easy as getting outside and taking an “awe walk.” During this time of year, those of us in Colorado can probably quickly identify one way of taking an “awe walk,” which is a simple walk outside to check out the beautiful changing fall leaves.

Coincidentally, as of this writing, we have also just wrapped up the Mayor’s Park Challenge that I recently launched. With one-quarter of the land in our city dedicated to parks, trails and open space (that’s more than 7,400 acres, 240 trails and 114 parks to be exact!), I created the Mayor’s Park Challenge to give me, and those eager to join me, a fun way to get out this summer and discover new

parks across our great city. While I still have yet to make it to EACH Lakewood park, with the Park Challenge this summer, I’ve now had the pleasure of visiting 51 of our 114 park spaces. Much of my awe on these walks was finding some of the hidden jewels that I hadn’t previously known about.

Like the new labyrinth walk at Cottage Park.

Or the Free Little Library at Belmar Park.

Or my favorite, spotting all of the baby trees across our city. I loved being able to witness firsthand the work that our arborists have been doing across Lakewood in an effort to replenish and grow the tree canopy.

Thank you to all our community members who took on this challenge with me this summer. It was great to hear from you about your adventures and to see so many pictures of you all out there enjoying your time outside. With 180 photos posted at LakewoodTogether.org/MayorsParkChallenge, the response was fantastic.

For me personally, and as your new mayor, it was such a great time to get outside to visit some places that I had not yet seen in Lakewood. It’s interesting how, when we stop, get out of our cars and walk the city we live in, we can see so much more than what we’ve noticed for years as we drive back and forth to the many places we go. I hope that you had the chance to get out to find some of Lakewood’s hidden jewels as well.

If you’d like more opportunities to find this awe, I would also invite you to join us for one of the shows this season as we look forward to celebrating the 25th year of the Lakewood Cultural Center. Please visit Lakewood.org/LCCPresents to learn more.

As you move around Lakewood this fall, whether it’s visiting parks or something else,

...I wish you an abundance of “awe”!

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WARD 5



Paula Nystrom

To our wonderful residents:

The temperatures heading into fall are not as cool and crisp as most people would hope or expect. This is an unfortunate result of climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions. As members of council, we are working to enhance sustainability, create new regulations on fuel stations, address our affordable housing challenges and are pushing to buy more parkland and open space in Lakewood. We both also believe strongly that the City of Lakewood needs to be a leader in sustainability.

The city is not on track to meet our emission goals for 2030. It is going to take political, and community, will to get there. Lakewood has a goal to reduce emissions by 60 percent by 2030. We have so far reduced those emissions by only 9 percent. Together, we are working to ensure sustainability is at the forefront of decision-making within the city.

We are working to identify strategies to fund green initiatives and increase efficiency of buildings, vehicles and equipment within the city. We want to work with the city administration to ensure public awareness information regarding sustainability is communicated to residents, and we want to work to address our poor waste diversion rate in Lakewood. City Council reaffirmed many

of these objectives at our most recent annual planning session in March 2024; however, now we must do the hard work to ensure a plan is in place to meet these goals. A number of federal and state grants are available to help fund these efforts, and they will help improve our air quality in Lakewood and contribute to our national strategy for mitigating rising temperatures.

You can get involved in supporting these efforts by providing your ideas at LakewoodSpeaks.org, attending City Council and sustainability meetings or reaching out to your council members.

We encourage all neighborhoods to consider participation in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program (Lakewood.org/SustainableNeighborhoods) to increase awareness of what we all can do to help mitigate climate change, reduce water consumption, improve our air quality and promote community relationship building. There are currently 10 neighborhoods involved in this program. Are you the next leader to step up and initiate this program in your neighborhood?

This program gives residents the opportunity to become active partners in making Lakewood a vibrant and sustainable community. Neighborhoods participating in this unique

certification program use guidance from city staff to organize workshops, projects and events that enhance the livability of their neighborhoods and reduce residents’ ecological footprint. Neighborhoods earn credits for their efforts, and depending on the number of credits earned in a given year, they may receive city designation as a Participating Sustainable Neighborhood or an Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood.

As we head into fall and the holidays, there are a number of community cultural events on the horizon, such as Holiday Pop Up Market, Lakewood Lights, etc. To see a full lineup, please visit Lakewood.org/ArtsandCultureEvents.

We encourage your participation in Ward Meetings and to apply for and attend board and commission meetings. Your ideas and your voice are integral to the success of important initiatives going forward. For more information, visit Lakewood.org/BoardsAndCommissions.

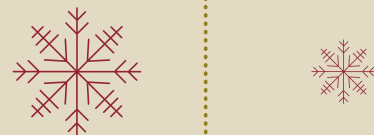
Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you.

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Jacob LaBure



Holiday Calendar

Looking to get out and enjoy the seasons? Discover a variety of fall and holiday events for all ages and interests to celebrate, connect and commemorate this joyous time of year.

Nov. 1-Dec.22

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING
Heritage Lakewood
Belmar Park
Lakewood Cultural Center

Nov. 8-9

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STOCKING STUFFERS:
Lakewood Cultural Center

Nov. 16

TURKEY DAY CRAFT-TEA
Heritage Lakewood
Belmar Park

Nov. 18

TURKEY TALK
Bear Creek Lake Park
Visitor Center

Nov. 25-27

THANKSGIVING BREAK ART AND DANCE CAMPS
Lakewood Cultural Center

Dec. 5

LAKWOOD LIGHTS
Heritage Lakewood
Belmar Park

Dec. 6-22

LCC PRESENTS IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS
Lakewood Cultural Center

Dec. 14

ART AND POTTERY SALE
Washington Heights
Art Center

Dec. 21

WINTER SOLSTICE HIKE
Bear Creek Lake Park

Dec. 30 - Jan 3

WINTER BREAK CAMPS
Heritage Lakewood
Belmar Park

Looking for more festive fun? Browse these themed classes and programs on Lakewood.org/Register.

- Family and Friends Art Night: Winter Wonderland Painting
- Sweet Sensations: Holiday Cooking
- Soapmaking: Gingerbread
- Soapmaking: Candy Cane
- Retro Crafts & Creations, The Art of Pie



Celebrate the seasons!

Shop Lakewood.

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING
Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
Hours vary, Tues.-Sun.

Shop unique gifts with historical and holiday themes in the Museum Store.
Lakewood.org/MuseumStore

Lakewood Cultural Center
Hours vary, Mon.-Fri. and select weekend evenings

Shop artisan gift items at the Holiday Pop Up Market in the Corner Gallery.
Lakewood.org/HolidayPopUp

It's time to talk turkey!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STOCKING STUFFERS: Home For The Holidays - Thanksgiving Too!

Lakewood Cultural Center
7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 8
2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9
Catch the holiday spirit early this year when the Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers gather some of the region's finest bluegrass, country and cowboy musicians for an unforgettable evening.
Lakewood.org/LCCP

TURKEY DAY CRAFT-TEA
Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 16

Bring your little ones to enjoy a turkey-themed craft followed by morning "tea" and a snack. Activities best suited for ages 3-12. \$10 for child's admission, includes one adult.

Lakewood.org/Register, search keyword "turkey."

TURKEY TALK
Bear Creek Lake Park Visitor Center
3-5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18

Learn nature's Thanksgiving story and discover the habits and calls of the fascinating world of wild turkeys while participating in turkey-themed activities and crafts. FREE.

Lakewood.org/Register, search keyword "turkey."

THANKSGIVING BREAK ART AND DANCE CAMPS
Lakewood Cultural Center
Nov. 25-27, see camp schedules

When school is out, Lakewood camps are in. Join an art-tastic time of drawing, painting, sculpture, collage and more, or dance your way through the break with dance camp learning new techniques and moves.

Lakewood.org/Register, search keyword "break."

Holiday Hoopla.

LAKWOOD LIGHTS
Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
5-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5

Celebrate the brightness of our community with the mayor and City Council members during this classic holiday event at Heritage Lakewood. Visit with Santa, plus enjoy colorful lights, festive treats and a holiday craft. Historic buildings will be open. FREE.
Lakewood.org/HolidayLights

LCC PRESENTS IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS
Lakewood Cultural Center
Dec. 6-22
7:30 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays

Based on the classic movie, this heartwarming musical about WWII vets, who follow singing sisters to a Vermont lodge owned by their former commander, features a dazzling score of beloved standards like "Blue Skies" and "White Christmas." This production is co-presented with Performance Now Theatre Company.
Lakewood.org/LCCP

ART AND POTTERY SALE
Washington Heights Art Center
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14

During this annual art sale, shop for one-of-a-kind gifts such as mugs, bowls, jewelry, scarves, ornaments and more handmade by students and professional artists.
Lakewood.org/Holiday

WINTER SOLSTICE HIKE
Bear Creek Lake Park
6-8 p.m., Dec. 21

Celebrate the first day of winter with a guided night hike then gather around the campfire for a marshmallow roast that includes the traditional burning of the Yule Log. Bring your own mug to enjoy a hot beverage. \$5 registration fee.
Lakewood.org/Register, search keyword "solstice."

WINTER BREAK CAMPS
Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Weekdays, Dec. 30-Jan. 3

The weather outside can be frightful, but Winter Wonderland camp is delightful! Celebrate the holidays with winter-themed crafts, activities and festive fun.
Lakewood.org/Register, search keyword "camp."

Shopping in Lakewood shapes your community



One of Belmar's main streets.

As the end of the year approaches, consider the impact of choosing to shop locally in Lakewood. Your shopping decisions play a significant role in shaping the community in which you live and ensuring the availability of high-quality services for all residents.

The Lakewood Economic Development Team encourages you to make Lakewood your first choice for holiday shopping. When you shop locally, you contribute to supporting essential city services such as police patrols, park maintenance, recreational amenities and cultural events like Cider Days, other festivals and local performances.

Supporting economic development and city services

Lakewood's economic development initiatives aim to retain, expand, promote and attract all types of businesses within our community. A diverse business landscape strengthens the local economy, helping the city to remain on a solid financial foundation. By fostering a healthy mix of both local businesses and national retailers, Lakewood can better navigate economic cycles while continuing to provide consistent services for our residents.

Having a variety of businesses also ensures that the community has access to a broad range of options from beloved mom-and-pop stores to large retailers offering the latest trends. This diversity is crucial not only for the city's economic resilience but also for meeting the unique needs and preferences of its residents.

The impact of shopping locally on small businesses

Shopping in Lakewood has a direct and meaningful impact on local businesses, particularly small ones. Buying locally also has a ripple effect. According to a recent article published by SCORE, the national small-business mentoring organization, "For every dollar you spend at a small business, 67 cents stays in the local community, and a majority of that (44 cents) goes to the small business owner and

the wages and benefits of their employees. The benefits don't stop there, either. Small businesses reinvest 23 cents of every dollar into other local businesses." Local businesses pay taxes, support charities and schools, and employ residents, all of which strengthen the local economy. Additionally, these businesses often source their supplies and services locally, further circulating money within the community.

Stabilizing employment and strengthening neighborhoods

By purchasing goods and services in Lakewood, you help stabilize local employment. These businesses hire your neighbors, friends and fellow residents, contributing to a healthy job market. Moreover, supporting businesses that choose to rent or own property in Lakewood keeps the city's commercial areas vibrant and thriving.

Shopping locally can also save you money by reducing fuel costs, as you don't need to travel long distances to access quality goods and services. Spending less on transportation means you can put more of your budget toward gifts, food or other holiday essentials, all while contributing to a sustainable community.

The value of both local and national businesses

Lakewood's economy benefits from both small, family-owned shops and larger national retailers. Iconic local businesses, like Front Range Lumber on Wadsworth Boulevard and Casa Bonita on West Colfax Avenue, have been community mainstays for decades. Similarly, companies like Natural Grocers, which was started in Lakewood, and Christy Sports, with its national headquarters in Lakewood, continue to anchor the local economy.

On the national front, major shopping centers like Colorado Mills Mall, Belmar, Denver West Village and Promenade at Denver West attract regional visitors, bringing new money



Whale's Tale Two, 7273 W. Alaska Dr., with another location in the Colorado Mills Mall.



Vitamin Cottage, 9030 W. Colfax Ave.

and revenue into the city. These large shopping districts often stabilize real estate values and encourage redevelopment in underserved areas, transforming vacant storefronts into new stores, restaurants and other businesses.

Keep your dollars in Lakewood

By choosing to shop in Lakewood, you are making an investment in your community, helping to fund vital services and ensuring the city's long-term prosperity.

This holiday season presents a perfect opportunity to support your neighbors, local businesses and the broader community. Your decision to shop locally in Lakewood helps shape the city, strengthens its economy and enriches the quality of life for everyone.

Economic Development Team
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Jason's Deli, 204 Union Blvd., in the Union business corridor.



City Manager
Kathy Hodgson

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It is distributed to all households and businesses in the city. Alternative formats of this publication are available upon request.

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Lakewood.org



**ANNUAL FREE LEAF
RECYCLING EVENT**
November 16-25 | 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

9556 W. Yale Ave.
Residents only.

Lakewood.org/LeafRecycling



EMERALD ASH BORER

Found in Lakewood | Kills ash trees

Resources to protect your trees:
Lakewood.org/InvasiveInsects

Celebrating 25 years as a cultural community hub

For 25 years, the Lakewood Cultural Center has been a vibrant hub for discovery, entertainment, and lifelong enrichment, drawing over 100,000 attendees each year. Live performances, classes and camps, exhibitions and community engagement programs have fostered a sense of connection, making LCC a true “center” for the community.

This milestone will be celebrated with a year of special events including captivating performances, inspiring exhibitions, engaging arts programs and much more from September 2024 to July 2025.

Exhilarating performance

From the first LCC Presents season in 2000-2001, the center has taken great pride in providing unique opportunities for the

Lakewood community to see outstanding, often world-renowned artists on this intimate, hometown stage. The 25th LCC Presents season features fan favorites, artists new to LCC and the start of revitalized family programs. With a diverse mix of vibrant, multicultural programs from exceptional artists in dance, theater, jazz and classical and world music, there is something for everyone. Learn more and purchase tickets at Lakewood.org/LCCPresents.

Many partners have contributed to establishing LCC as “the” spot for quality arts, culture and entertainment in the city. Lakewood audiences have forged a special bond with resident performing groups who grace the stage each year, and the organizations consider LCC their artistic home, returning for multiple performances. A few of these “regulars” include Augustine Classical Academy, Illuminar Aerial, Lakewood Symphony Orchestra, Performance Now Theatre Company and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. View schedules for these partner performances at Lakewood.org/LCC.

Inspiring art

Throughout its first 25 years of operation, LCC’s galleries have showcased a broad spectrum of artists. More than 7,000 local, regional and national artists have presented their unique artworks,



This collage shares memorabilia from LCC’s 25 years.

providing about 15 exhibitions each year. LCC galleries partner with local arts and culture organizations annually to present group exhibitions by artists of all ages while hosting more than 35,000 visitors annually.

Visit the North Gallery at LCC through Jan. 3, 2025, to tour “Collective Reflection: Honoring the Past, Present and Future Community of the LCC.” This commemorative exhibition shares a collection of artifacts, portraits and memorabilia from past and present performances and programs. For more information visit Lakewood.org/Exhibitions.

Guiding the future

A building is not what makes a cultural center a hub. It is the people who bring this beautiful space to life with artistry, creativity

and community. The center annually hosts more than 200 camps during school breaks, and it offers classes at all levels of dance, painting, drawing, digital and other artistic expressions for an average of 24,000 attendees of all ages. Visit Lakewood.org/Register to sign up.

You are invited to visit LCC during these activities to reflect on the past 25 years and to be a part of its future. Register to learn a new skill, attend an art reception or experience a performance that might surprise you. This multifaceted destination welcomes return patrons and new guests alike.

To learn more about the offerings, view the city’s arts and culture publication, BRAVO magazine, by visiting Lakewood.org/BRAVO or stop by to pick up the fall edition at any Lakewood facility.



EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCES.

Convenient location.
Great group rates.

Ask about discounted ticket pricing for groups of 10 or more.*

LAKEWOOD CULTURAL CENTER
BOX OFFICE
303-987-7845 or
Tickets@Lakewood.org

*Discounts vary for specific shows.

CITY SERVICES QUIZ

1

How many projects has the Neighborhood Participation Program (community gardens, playgrounds, picnic shelters, etc.) funded since the start of the program in 1992?

- A 93 and \$300,000 B 240 and \$1 million
C 167 and \$4 million

2

How many visitors did Bear Creek Lake Park have last year?

- A 43,985 B 1,020,340 C 716,396

3

How many meals were served to older adults at the Clements Community Center last year?

- A 7,200+ B 4,000+ C 9,800+

4

How many feet of streets does the city maintain?

- A 3,706,560 B 7,392,000 C 5,385,600

Test your knowledge of city services!

Take this quiz to find out how much you know about the services your city provides to you and your fellow Lakewood residents.

(Answers are below, but don’t cheat!)



5

How many trees have residents been able to buy at a discount during the city’s annual tree sale to plant at their homes for the last two years to help expand the city’s tree canopy?

- A 600 B 97 C 240

6

Does the Lakewood Police Department have mental health professionals who respond to calls with agents for handling mental health and other crises?

- A Yes B No

7

How many visits are there to the city’s recreation centers in a year?

- A 202,000+ B 342,000+ C 420,000+

8

How many dump truck loads of leaves dropped off by residents were kept out of the landfill because of the city’s leaf recycling event last year?

- A 900 B 334 C 234

CITY SERVICES QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. (C) 167 2. (C) 716,396 3. (C) 9,800+ 4. (B) 7,392,000 5. (A) 600 6. (A) Yes 7. (B) 342,000+ 8. (B) 334



National Public Lands Day.



Coaching kids in sports leagues.

Volunteers pump up the city

An essential part of the historic Peerless Gas Station's story at Heritage Lakewood has come to life solely because of a dedicated Lakewood volunteer. Chuck Houser took broken-down gasoline pumps to his home workshop, where he took them apart piece by piece—the tops, sides, electric motors, air eliminators and metering units. That way, he could meticulously sand, repaint, fix and reassemble the pieces of the pumps to create something that many might see as a work of art.

"I grew up working on gas pumps. I mean I can't tell you how many I have worked on over 15-20 years," he said in a recent city video available at [YouTube.com/LakewoodColoradoGov](https://www.youtube.com/LakewoodColoradoGov). "I just think it's so much fun and gives people a glimpse, you know, of what it was like in the '40s and '50s."

He is just one of hundreds of volunteers who provide invaluable service to the city ranging from the Police Department to the City Clerk's Office. In 2023, volunteers donated 15,806 hours to the Community Resources Department alone, which provides arts, parks, recreation and older adult programs as well as special events and family services.

Here's just a glimpse of some of those volunteers at work.



Clements Center for older adults.



Love Lakewood Day.



TEEN TIME



Lakewood resident Jacob Pfeifer, 17, participates in Lakewood's Teen Court, one of several city programs designed for middle and high school students.

"Every time I participate in a trial for Teen Court, I know I made a difference by providing an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for the offender. This restorative justice program allows me to learn empathy and professionalism," he said of his experience. "The student volunteers learn respect for others even though the defendants have been charged with a crime. Becoming acquainted with the judicial system through Teen Court allows teens to engage in an altruistic culture and truly understand justice."



Teen Court

"This Municipal Court program allows teens from the community to understand and become acquainted with the justice system," Pfeifer said. "By serving

as a defense attorney, prosecutor, jury member or judge, students expand their public speaking skills and serve their peers. Each defendant has the opportunity to receive justice through this diversion program, and it fosters an environment

for the community that promotes growth, empathy and service through research and knowledge of the law and the defendant." Learn more at Lakewood.org/TeenCourt.

Teen Art Night

Pizza and art! What could be better than that? These fun and engaging studio nights provide instruction and space for creativity and artistic voices. Upcoming nights: Oct. 25 - Paint Your Friend Challenge, where participants paint each other's portrait, with no peeking for a big reveal; Nov. 8 - Bad Art Night, a wildly creative and silly night without pressure

to create art. Register at Lakewood.org/Teen.

Teen Room

Green Mountain Recreation Center offers a hang out space for teens ages 13-18, where they can play games, read, socialize and attend special events. Activities include video, board and card games including Pop-a-Shot, Dungeons and Dragons and more. Special upcoming events include a Halloween Party, Gift Exchange, Karaoke and more. Learn more at Lakewood.org/TeenRoom.



Teen Pottery and Sculpture

Teens new to clay artistry will dig into more challenging hand-built sculptures, throwing on

the wheel and experimenting with various glazing techniques. Classed offered Oct. 28-Dec. 9. Register at Lakewood.org/Teen.

Middle School Sports

Lakewood coordinates sports at Carmody, Creighton, Dunstan and D'Evelyn middle schools. Registration opens Nov. 5 for winter/spring sports including basketball, soccer and track. Learn more at Lakewood.org/MSSP.



Lakewood
Colorado



Scan the QR code or visit Lakewood.org/Teen to learn more.

Know Your City Council Members



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To learn more about City Council, visit Lakewood.org/CityCouncil

ELECTION INFORMATION

Lakewood voters will be receiving ballots in the mail to vote in the Nov. 5 election, which will include electing county, state and federal representatives. Ballots in Lakewood will also include Lakewood Ballot Issue 2A, which asks voters about the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits for the city.

Only active, registered Lakewood voters will receive mail ballots, which began to be mailed on Oct. 11. Military and overseas ballots were mailed on Sept. 21. Residents can track their ballots by signing up for Ballottrax at VoteJeffco.com. Absentee ballots are also available.

Residents can register to vote or update their registration online at VoteJeffco.com, in person at city and county clerk offices, or at Voter Service and Polling Centers even on Nov. 5. These centers allow residents to vote in person, get a replacement mail ballot, drop off a mail ballot or use voting equipment accessible for those with disabilities.

Residents must mail their ballots by Oct. 28. After that date, residents must put their ballots in a drop box by 7 p.m. on Nov. 5.

Ballot drop-off locations in Lakewood

Oct. 11-Nov. 4, 24 hours
Nov. 5, until 7 p.m.

- Belmar Library
555 S. Allison Parkway
- Carmody Recreation Center
2200 S. Kipling St.
- Foothills Fieldhouse
3606 S. Independence St.
- Green Mountain Recreation Center
13198 W. Green Mountain Dr.
- Jeffco Public Health
645 Parfet St.
- Lakewood Civic Center
West side of building
480 S. Allison Parkway
- Lakewood Library
10200 W. 20th Ave.
- Lakewood Link Recreation Center
1295 S. Reed St.

- Leprino Hall
Colorado Christian University
8787 W. Alameda Ave.
- Ray Ross Park
680 S. Harlan St.
- Red Rocks Community College
Environmental Technology Building,
13302 Fox Run Road

Where to go or call for voting information

Jefferson County Election Office
3500 Illinois St., Suite 1100
303-271-8111
VoteJeffco.com

Lakewood Voter Service and Polling Center

Oct. 21-Nov. 4, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Nov. 5, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Belmar Library
555 S. Allison Parkway

2024 Mayor's Inspiration Award winners

These individuals, organizations and businesses received the 2024 Mayor's Inspiration Awards for their contributions to the Lakewood community.

Thinh Tran

A Reflection of Energy

As a student at Alameda International High School, he has been instrumental in ensuring that some lesser-known activities at his school, such as tennis, stayed vibrant. With his efforts, the team went from two to 13 players, bringing a diverse group into that sport and helping new players excel on and off the court.

Lakewood High School Theater Company

A Reflection of Inclusiveness

The company's unified program brings together neurotypical and

neurodivergent students in a cooperative and encouraging environment, culminating in annual sold-out shows in the nearly 500-seat theater.

Mary Hatlestad

A Reflection of Enthusiasm

Truly representing what it means to be an inspirational resident, she has been a stalwart of her neighborhood for years and encouraged others to get involved. She has also served as a volunteer at Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park for more than 27 years, logging well over 2,000 hours of service.

Niki Worthan

A Reflection of Recovery

She has been dedicating her professional life and personal time to helping those struggling with addiction, domestic

violence and related problems for 20 years. She also volunteers at the Food Bank of the Rockies and even gives free haircuts at treatment centers.

Maddie Nichols

A Reflection of Neighborhood

When you need something done in the Two Creeks Neighborhood, this local legend is the one to call. She has been instrumental in community efforts such as the Two Creeks Neighborhood Plan, West Colfax 2040 Plan, 40 West ArtLine Plan and more.

Ronald and Trisha Cooper

A Reflection of Selflessness

This couple is a pillar of the community. From shopping for elderly neighbors to using their handy know-how to

fix things around those neighbors' homes and always being ready to lend a hand with a snow shovel, the Coopers help unite their community.

Firefly Autism

A Reflection of Service

This Lakewood organization has been working to improve the quality of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families since 2003. Firefly allows families to get their needs met in a single place including finding jobs and raising autism awareness.

Jefferson Center for Mental Health's Solid Ground Apartments

A Reflection of Stability

Opened earlier this year, these apartments reflect an investment in some of the area's most vulnerable people who have experienced homelessness

and mental health or substance use disorders. In addition to these units designed for their needs, residents also receive job training and support around the clock from on-site staff.

NationScapes

A Reflection of Generosity

This local small business has organized food drives including a Blowout Hunger food drive, collecting more than 8,000 food items for donations, with half of them from the company's employees.

Vrtrum

A Reflection of Opportunity

As a Lakewood small business, this company has gone above and beyond to highlight local retail vendors, particularly minority-owned businesses, at its specialty pop-up markets.

