



Police tackle auto theft with innovative approach



The Lakewood Auto Theft Reduction & Recovery program team helped stopped nearly 4,000 auto thefts in the yearlong program.

What do Apple Air Tags and auto thieves have in common? One can repel the other through an unconventional program operated by the Lakewood Police Department.

Known as the Lakewood Auto Theft Reduction & Recovery program, this yearlong effort provided residents with a tracking device, which was either an Apple Air Tag for Apple phones or a Tile for Android phones. Participants installed the devices in their vehicles and used the “Find My” app to pair them with their smartphones, allowing them to track their cars' location. Now, if their vehicles are ever stolen, residents can voluntarily share the location data with the Lakewood Police Department to assist with the vehicle's recovery.

The program also provided the participants with a steering wheel locking device known as the Club and small warning stickers for the windows on both front doors of the vehicle, letting thieves know the car has a tracking device.

In its first six months, LATRR helped prevent the theft of more than 1,500 vehicles, and in the

one case where a vehicle that was part of the program was stolen, the car was recovered in less than 24 hours — and in good condition. Over the full year, none of the nearly 4,000 cars in the program have been stolen since.

During the first phase of the program, Lakewood Police assisted residents with installing the tracking devices and pairing

them with participants' phones during appointment slots that residents signed up for online. Calling on technology to manage the appointments, the department used the automated Bookings app. Promoted through the department's social media, the city's website and a video picked up by news stations, the program received an overwhelming response of 400-plus appointments submitted in the first week. The department completed about 80 appointments weekly, including during special Saturday appointment events.

In the second phase of the program, residents could pick up do-it-yourself kits that included the tracking device, instructions on how to set them up, the Club and the stickers from the Police Department's front desk during public hours.

The program was free to participants, thanks to a Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority grant. Another important aspect of the program is that the Police

Department cannot access the information from the tracking devices until the participant shares it to protect the participant's privacy.

The program's funding ended in June, and the supply of trackers for the do-it-yourself kits has been depleted. Although the one-year program is now over, the success has inspired other agencies in Colorado and the nation including the Aurora Police Department, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and Atlanta Police Department to look into starting similar programs.

Zeroing in solutions

When the FBI's National Crime Information Center data showed that Colorado was the worst state in the country for reported auto thefts, Lakewood Police's command staff asked the Theft Investigation Team to find a way to reduce the number of auto thefts and increase the chances of quick recovery of stolen cars.

See **AUTO THEFT** page 7

Safer streets for all

New residential speed limit in Lakewood

The pace of life just got a little slower in your neighborhood because Lakewood has a new 20 mph speed limit for residential streets. Whether you're a student walking to school, a kid out riding your bike or a driver backing out of your driveway, the slower speed limit should help make your neighborhood more livable and safer.

City Council voted to reduce the residential speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph in September after consultation with city staff, research from the Lakewood Advisory Commission and public engagement in the form of an online survey.

City crews have been replacing more than 475 speed limit signs at the entry of neighborhoods to alert everyone to the change. But don't wait for a sign. With or without a sign, the speed limit is 20 mph on neighborhood streets unless posted otherwise.

The change means Lakewood joins neighboring cities such as Denver and Golden in reducing the residential speed limit to 20 mph, making it easier for everyone to know to drive slowly in neighborhoods regardless of the city.

Residential streets are the local streets in your neighborhood that directly serve homes and encourage walking, social connections and

a sense of community. This new speed limit does not apply to larger collector and arterial streets that carry more traffic.

In addition to the new speed limit signs at the entry to neighborhoods, city crews have installed 21 signs at Lakewood's major entry points displaying the new law and removing more than 550 signs with the old residential speed limit. Remember, even if no sign is posted on your street, the new default speed limit still applies in neighborhoods.

The city also has launched efforts to help spread the word, including designing and producing yard signs for you to use that remind drivers to travel at 20 mph on your neighborhood street. Visit [Lakewood.org/SafeStreets](https://lakewood.org/SafeStreets) to learn about when you can pick up a yard sign at the Civic Center.

Of course, 20 mph feels slow. That's the whole point. Safer streets start with you. You can do your part to make Lakewood's neighborhoods quieter, calmer and safer for all.



The Public Works Department uses scaled-down snowplowing equipment to keep Lakewood's new separated bike lanes on Garrison Street, Denver West Parkway and Harlan Street usable during the winter. For more information about snow clearing on shared-use paths and bike lanes, visit [Lakewood.org/SnowPlan](https://lakewood.org/SnowPlan).

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POSTAL PATRON

MAYOR



Wendi Strom

Happy New Year and THANK YOU voters!

With the holidays behind us and 2025 now solidly under our feet, I’m looking forward to the work that we have in front of us this year. And with that, I want to start my column with a big **thank you** to Lakewood voters for passing last year’s Ballot Issue 2A, which extends the previously approved lifting of the TABOR revenue limits that were set to expire at the end of this year. By approving this

measure, you sent a clear message to city leadership that continuing our commitment to parks and providing city services such as street improvements and public safety are important to you.

Passing 2A will ensure for years to come that we have a permanent revenue stream dedicated to investing in, maintaining and improving our park system. Lakewood loves our parks! Since 2018, when this revenue stream was first dedicated, we’ve been able to complete nine parkland purchases, with the most recent a 9 acre purchase at West 20th Avenue and Quail Street. With these funds now set to continue, I’m excited for the opportunity to continue investing in parklands. In my time serving you, no vote has been more fun than voting to purchase land to add to our park system. The dollars the city receives through the TABOR fund allow us to be intentional about adding park spaces across our city, with an eye especially on areas that need more green space, like Wards 1 and 2.

It also means funds will continue to be dedicated to public safety and

infrastructure, which will further the progress we’ve been making to help increase the safety of our streets for all users. In fact, as of last fall, 7,170 feet of sidewalks were in the design process, with construction expected throughout 2025.

For our Police Department, these TABOR funds will be used to add a Real Time Crime Center, technology that will centralize information, integrate multiple data sources and provide timely information to agents in the field in an effort to support coordination and improve public safety. Using this resource will help increase efficiency in the department, allowing for a reduction in response time to calls for service and supporting crime prevention — all with the goal of increasing safety for our community *and* for our agents on the street.

In 2025, the additional revenue that is estimated to go toward these three dedicated areas is \$8.3 million.

Now, directed by your vote, Lakewood will be able to continue to utilize these critical dollars to prioritize funding public safety, well-maintained sidewalks and

roads and investments in our parks and open space, all of which improve the quality of life for our residents, our businesses and all of our other community members.

In closing, I have a huge thank you and congratulations to our now former City Council member Rebekah Stewart. This month, she resigned to join the state legislature as House District 30’s new representative. I’m grateful for Council member Stewart’s partnership during her time on City Council and for now having another advocate for local government under the Capitol dome as the legislature starts the 2025 session. Council member Rich Olver also recently resigned from his position, deciding to move out of Ward 4.

With that being said, if you live in **Wards 3 or 4**, please keep an eye out for ballots in your mailboxes in March because we will be holding a special election, as directed by our City Charter, to fill those vacant seats. Election day will be March 25.

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WARD 5



Jacob LaBure

The start of the new year is rejuvenating and inspiring. As council members, it’s a time for us to reset priorities and reflect on how the past year went. The good and the bad. In 2024, we had a new council, a new mayor, and a new opportunity to learn, grow, and work together to try to navigate challenging waters in Lakewood. There is no doubt that some will notice areas where the council succeeded and where the council fell short. What’s important, however, is that we all have a little grace and recognize that we’re all neighbors. We all have individual visions of what our community should look like and the best way forward.

It’s exciting that with the passage of Ballot Issue 2A, Lakewood will continue to have additional resources to fund parks, police, and infrastructure. This means newer sidewalks and shared-use paths like the soft-surface one in the Bear Creek Greenbelt, or maybe you’re noticing the extensive work starting to break ground on West Colfax between Wadsworth and Sheridan. Body cams, police radios, and other equipment for our first responders. New park spaces are coming online like Wright and Two Creeks parks. We unfortunately don’t have

enough space in this newsletter to highlight all the items to be excited about, but it’s important to reflect on all the good things about our community.

Needless to say, we wouldn’t choose to serve on City Council if we were content. There’s more to do. We need Lakewood to be more sustainable, and we need to improve the air quality and preserve our mature trees and green spaces. We need a revitalized beautification effort, as well as investments from companies who want to call Lakewood home.

It is imperative that we offer a diverse range of housing options and ownership opportunities not only for new residents, but also for those who are interested in moving out of their condo into a new house or elderly residents who are looking to downsize. There are many reasons people choose the housing they do, and it’s important that we deliver housing options that meet their needs.

We must do more to address the homeless crisis in Lakewood. While keeping in mind that Lakewood didn’t create this crisis, and Lakewood can’t solve it alone, we also know that Lakewood needs new processes to ensure community voices are heard and responded to. We should

be realistic. We won’t be able to avoid every conflict or frustration. But we can create a process that is fairer and more responsive to community concerns.

We are excited to address community concerns regarding fuel stations and car washes. With new regulations, your home can be better protected from harmful emissions and soil contamination. But we are also thinking about the future. As California is reminding us, dry conditions are becoming more and more common, making fires more and more likely. As a community, we need to be investing in strategies to reduce the likelihood of a rapid fire spreading in Lakewood. It’s our opinion that we’re currently not doing enough, and it would be a mistake not to do more. These are just a few of the challenges ahead, and with your support we can grow while ensuring steps are taken to prepare for an uncertain future.

Thank you for taking the time to read our column, and we look forward to hearing from you.

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WARD MEETINGS: Council members in each ward have monthly meetings in an informal setting for residents to share ideas and learn more about their community. Find out when your council members are having meetings and sign up to receive alerts about those meetings at Lakewood.org/WardMeetings.



A taste tour of Lakewood

As the new year begins, many of us reflect on ways to refresh our routines, try new things, and most satisfyingly of all, explore new flavors! The easiest way to do that is by discovering local, lesser-known grocery stores, specialty shops, and markets that bring unique products to your kitchen. Whether you're aiming to eat healthier, try new cuisines, or support local businesses (our favorite!), these Lakewood gems offer the perfect starting point for your 2025 culinary adventures.

Andre's & Lana's Market

305 S. Kipling St., Unit E

A delightful new addition to Lakewood's food scene, this market brings a taste of Eastern Europe with a selection of high-quality fresh and dry goods from Ukraine, Russia, and beyond. The market boasts pickled treasures, ranging from beets to herring as well as an array of sweets, delicate pastries, dumplings, cheeses, sausages, cold cuts, caviar, and much more. The inviting aroma of freshly baked bread welcomes you the moment you step inside.



Carmine Lonardo's Specialty Meats & Deli

7585 W. Florida Ave.

Westword said it best: "Since 1976, the family-owned Italian market and deli that is Carmine Lonardo's has been a community staple for an assortment of goods, including imported pasta of all shapes and sizes, olive oil, canned goods, frozen foods such as house made sausages, and so much more. But this is one place where you should shop hungry because it also has some of the best sandwiches around — huge, messy masterpieces made on freshly baked rolls that you can custom order with that Italian sausage and a variety of other hot or cold meats." Hungry yet?

Chicago Market

1477 Carr St.

With the cozy season upon us, have you been craving the comfort of Polish food lately? Chicago Market is a grocery store with a wide selection of fresh and frozen specialty Polish and European foods, including meats, cheeses, pierogi, sweets, baked goods and much more. As importantly, the friendly staff are there to help you navigate the range of choices.

De Mi País Market

105 S. Sheridan Blvd., #226

Whether you're yearning for the comforting tastes of home or looking to embark on a culinary adventure, this market provides an extensive selection of imported goods specializing in a diverse range of Central and South American offerings. From traditional staples to unique delicacies, the market brings the vibrant and authentic flavors of these regions right to your doorstep.

European Market & Bistro

1990 Wadsworth Blvd., Units 7 & 8

Welcome to a taste of Europe in Lakewood, where you'll find a delightful selection of Eastern European treats and authentic European cuisine. The bistro serves freshly prepared dishes, perfect for a quick snack or a relaxed meal. Enjoy the cozy dining area or conveniently order through popular food delivery apps.



The Fleischer Family Farm

2005 S. Zephyr Court (May-October)

"Building Community Through Food" is the family's motto. The Fleischer Family Farm is an urban farm dedicated to offering the local community access to fresh, nutrient-dense produce, vibrant flowers, cage-free eggs, honey, and other cottage food products, all grown without pesticides or synthetic chemicals. Committed to sustainable practices, the family works hard to provide high-quality farm products while inspiring ongoing education about the journey of food from farm to table. Whether it's through the seasonal Saturday farm stand, the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, garden consultation appointments or floral needs for special events, come get to know the farm today!

Flower Street Farm

848 S. Flower St.

Flower Street Farm is a charming pollinator haven in Lakewood that raises bees, distills essential oils and hydrosols, and cares for chickens and ducks. The farm's products, sourced from the hive



The Fleischer Family Farm.

and the garden, are carefully handcrafted locally using all-natural ingredients. Beyond delicious Colorado honey, the farm also offers beeswax candles, lotion bars, balms, soaps, essential oils, eggs, caramels, logo wear, and more. Your visits are an easy way to support a local business.



Gourmet Meat & Sausage Shop

9168 W. Jewell Ave., #2

Living in Colorado means grilling season is year-round. Gourmet Meat & Sausage Shop offers high-quality, cut-to-order beef, pork and poultry ranging from prime steaks to Colorado lamb as well as over 50 varieties of favorite and rare house-made sausages. It's your one-stop shop for all things meat and grilling — who doesn't love that?

Jasmine Market

1050 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Unit K

There's no better way to experience the essence of a different culture than through its cuisine. Jasmine Market brings the rich flavors of the Mediterranean and the Middle East to your table, offering a wide variety of authentic products, including halal meats such as lamb, goat, beef, and gyro, as well as feta cheese, falafel, grape leaves, olives, aromatic spices, pitas, dates, henna, international teas, and traditional Turkish coffee. It's a gateway to the vibrant tastes and traditions of these regions, all in one place.

Tom's Seafood and Market

767 S. Xenon Court

This market is a gourmet specialty store offering fresh, never

frozen, premium seafood and specialty meats, all responsibly sourced. It receives daily shipments of fish from around the globe, featuring a diverse selection of sushi-grade options, shellfish, and more, with a rotating variety of options. Tom's also offers dry goods, hand-cut meat and in-house prepared Grab-N-Go items. Be sure to try the green chili seafood chowder today!



Viet Hoa Supermarket

225 S. Sheridan Blvd., Unit #B

Viet Hoa Supermarket is a neighborhood grocery store offering an extensive variety of Asian products. Whether you're looking for fresh seafood, meats, and produce, or a diverse selection of spices, sauces, noodles, dumplings, desserts, and teas, this local market has everything you need to explore the rich flavors of Asia.

As you embrace the new year and look to refresh your routines, exploring new flavors through local markets and specialty stores offers an exciting opportunity to expand your culinary horizons. Lakewood is home to a variety of unique grocery stores and markets that provide diverse, high-quality products from around the world, and there's something for everyone. By shopping at these unique stores, you'll not only discover new ingredients but also support the local community and the diverse cultures represented in Lakewood.

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Lakewood

Full of Possibilities.

City Manager
Kathy Hodgson

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Snow Plow Quiz



Take the snow plan Quiz!

Plowing the city's streets in the winter is one of the most important services the city provides to residents and businesses. Find out how much you know about Lakewood's annual snow plan by taking this quiz.

1

What kind of streets does the city plow first?

- A** Residential streets **B** Highways
C Hilly streets and shopping areas **D** Major collector and arterial streets

2

How many snowplows does the city have to operate during a snowstorm?

- A** 15 **B** 45 **C** 27 **D** 39

3

How much money does the city typically spend on snowplowing annually?

- A** \$1.3M **B** \$800K **C** \$250K **D** \$2.3M

4

How many of the major roadways in Lakewood are the state's responsibility to plow?

- A** 3 **B** 15 **C** 25 **D** 9

5

Does the city plow residential streets in every snowstorm?

- A** Yes **B** No

6

How many miles are there of Priority 1 streets?

- A** 160 **B** 240 **C** 92 **D** 341

7

How many miles are there of Priority 2 and 3 streets?

- A** 79 **B** 232 **C** 125 **D** 179

8

Do I have to shovel the sidewalks in front of my house right away during a storm?

- A** Yes **B** No

SNOW PLAN QUIZ ANSWERS

- D)** The city first plows arterials and collector streets such as Union and Bear Creek boulevards and West Alameda and West Jewell avenues, which are known as Priority 1 routes. This allows higher traffic volumes to flow and provides access to emergency vehicles. When crews complete Priority 1 routes, they begin plowing Priority 2 and 3 routes. To see a map of the snowplowing priority routes, visit Lakewood.org/SnowPlan.
- C)** The city has 27 snowplows that operate on a 24-hour schedule during storms.
- A)** Each year, Lakewood spends about \$1.3 million on snow removal, which amounts to about \$8 per resident.
- D)** The Colorado Department of Transportation is responsible for plowing West Sixth Avenue, West Colfax Avenue, Morrison

Road, U.S. Highway 285/Hampden Avenue, Kipling Parkway, Wadsworth and Sheridan boulevards, Interstate 70 and C-470. To report unsafe driving conditions or unplowed state highways, please use CDOT's website, Codot.gov/topcontent/contact-cdot.

- B)** Lakewood has about 204 miles of residential streets that are not part of the priority routes, and these streets are plowed only when snow depths are seriously impeding vehicle mobility and melting is not expected to occur quickly. Plowing residential streets costs the city an additional minimum of \$75,000 for each snowstorm, and the city considers the conditions and weather forecast before deciding whether to plow residential streets.

- A)** Plows will remain on Priority 1 routes until snow accumulation has slowed, streets have been cleared as much as possible and deicing material has been applied where necessary.
- C)** Priority 2 and 3 streets are minor collector streets, hilly areas and school and shopping areas. Plows don't begin plowing these streets until the Priority 1 routes are finished and remain in drivable conditions. In some weather conditions, snowplows have to leave plowing Priority 2 and 3 streets to return to Priority 1.
- B)** Lakewood requires sidewalks and business driveways to be cleared within 24 hours after the end of a storm.

Police on the watch

Lakewood Police have two great programs that work in partnership with the community to prevent and reduce crime, and residents, businesses and community members are encouraged to join them to become part of important crime prevention efforts.



Business Watch

Police launched this program in early 2024 to help businesses look out for each other, and it's modeled after the well-known Neighborhood Watch Program, which was created in the 1970s.

The idea is straightforward: Your business can take control of what happens in your business and the community around you to lessen your chances of becoming a victim of crime. To join, you can submit an application at Lakewood.org/BusinessWatch. Once you submit your application, the program coordinator will contact you and provide some valuable information to help you get started.



Neighborhood Watch

While this program suffered during the COVID pandemic, police are reenergizing the program by recruiting new neighborhoods and working to rejuvenate previously formed Neighborhood Watch groups. The program

also has created a new program logo and is starting quarterly captain's meetings and providing presentations by the Police's Community Action Team to new and existing groups. Learn more, download an information packet or contact the program coordinator by visiting Lakewood.org/NeighborhoodWatch.

Lakewood grant programs

The city offers a variety of grants to build stronger neighborhoods and community, and the application process for these starts in the spring.

Neighborhood Participation Program

Whether it's a new picnic area, waterwise trail, small park amenity or similar physical improvement on public property, the Neighborhood Participation Program provides grants of up to \$60,000 for a project, with a total of \$160,000 available in 2025. Organized neighborhood groups can submit applications March 1-May 1 at Lakewood.org/NPP.

Youth Program Grant

These grants of up to \$100,000 are for qualifying youth programs that make a positive impact on children in Lakewood. The \$400,000 funds in 2025 for this program come from proceeds distributed to area agencies following the sale of the Denver Broncos. Applications are open March 1-April 1 at Lakewood.org/YouthProgramGrant.

Community Grant Program

Administered in coordination with the Lakewood Legacy Foundation, these grants serve as the city's charitable giving program to nonprofits serving Lakewood residents. A total of \$100,000 is available in 2025, and applications are open Feb. 3-April 1 at Lakewood.org/CommunityGrant.



ARTS, PARKS & Recreation

ARTS & HISTORY



LCCP SPRING SEASON

Feb. 13 – April 5

Purchase tickets now for the Lakewood Cultural Center Presents 2024-2025 season of extraordinary performances including six spectacular features in February and March!

Lakewood.org/LCCPresents

GROUNDBREAKING HAPIST

Thursday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Maeve Gilchrist has revolutionized the Celtic harp by stretching its harmonic limits and improvisational possibilities. In February, she is joined by guitarist Kyle Sanna for a phenomenal experience during the LCC Presents series.

Lakewood.org/Tickets

SPRING EXHIBITIONS

FREE!

Lakewood Cultural Center and Heritage Lakewood

LCC galleries feature abstracts, watercolors, the talent of apprentices and an investigative display titled “Instrumental.”

At Heritage Lakewood, tour “Engaging History” in the windows of the outbuildings or “On a Roll,” a textile exhibit in the Visitor Center.

Lakewood.org/Exhibitions

SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars for the return of Lakewood’s signature events.

June 7 FREE! Rockin’ Block Party
June 18 Sounds Exciting! Concerts begin
July 3 FREE! Big Belmar Bash
Oct. 4 & 5 Cider Days

PARKS



BEAR CREEK PARK PASS

Have you purchased a 2025 Bear Creek Lake Park annual pass? Get access to the park for the whole year for just \$80. Available now.

Lakewood.org/BCLPPass

CAMPING RESERVATIONS OPEN

Bear Creek Lake Park offers a full-service campground just a few miles from your front door! With 47 campsites, 3 cabins, 2 yurts and 1 group site available, make your reservation now to get outdoors!

Lakewood.org/Camp

Host your next event at a *Lakewood venue!*



Whether you are looking for a location to have a beautiful wedding or reception, performance, fundraiser, business meeting or family event, we have a variety of unique spaces to suit your needs.

Let us help you find the perfect venue.

Lakewood.org/Rentals



RECREATION



GET FIT

Looking to kick-start your new year’s goals? Lakewood Recreation centers offer personal training, nutrition classes and general fitness classes to get you moving. View offerings online or contact a recreation center for details.

Lakewood.org/Register

CHECK YOUR HEART

February is American Heart Month, a time when all people are encouraged to focus on their cardiovascular health. Lakewood Recreation centers will offer FREE blood pressure checks 8-10 a.m. on select days throughout the month. No registration required. Find your nearest location below.

Lakewood.org/Recreation

Tues., Feb. 4: Lakewood Link 8-10 a.m.
Tues., Feb. 11: Green Mountain 8-10 a.m.
Fri., Feb. 14: Clements 8-10 a.m.
Tues., Feb. 18: Carmody 8-10 a.m.
Tues., Feb. 25: Charles Whitlock 8-10 a.m.

SPECIALTY FITNESS CLASSES

Try something new this year! Specialty classes require prior registration.

\$6 Residents, \$7 Nonresidents

Barre Tues., Thurs. at Whitlock
Glide Fit Mon. at Carmody
RPM Sun., Tues., Wed. at Carmody

Lakewood.org/Register



LAKEWOOD 2025 SUMMER CAMPS

Register
Feb. 18

Unleash your inner artist! Stay active!
Explore the great outdoors!

Registration opens Feb. 18 for residents.

Lakewood.org/Camps



Apply for financial assistance: Lakewood.org/PossibilitiesFund

YOUTH PROGRAM GRANTS



Does your organization provide programs and services supporting youth activities? Apply for a grant from Lakewood’s 2025 Youth Program Grant beginning March 1.

Lakewood.org/YouthProgramGrant



**Lakewood
LOVES TREES**

Purchase a tree for your yard for just \$25 during the Lakewood Tree Sale!

March 3-31
or while supplies last.

Lakewood.org/TreeSale

YOUR DIGITAL PRIVACY MATTERS

Imagine your every move, every purchase and every thought being tracked and analyzed. In today's digital age, this is a reality. But you can take control of your personal information and safeguard your privacy.

Data Privacy Week is celebrated each year during the last week of January, so now is the perfect time to prioritize your digital security. By following these simple tips from Lakewood's Information Technology team, you can protect yourself from cyber threats like identity theft, social engineering scams and account takeovers. Let's build a more secure online future together with these best practices.

Know your privacy settings

Dive into the privacy settings of your devices, social media platforms and email accounts to adjust the settings. Look for these features:

- Location sharing.
- App permissions.
- Targeted advertising settings.
- Limit the data you share and control who can access your information. You'd be surprised how much you can restrict without sacrificing functionality.

Read privacy policies

Before signing up for a new service, take the time to read the privacy policy to understand how your data will be used, stored and shared. Look for these topics:

- How long the data is retained.
- If data is sold to third parties.
- What your opt-out rights are.

Think before you share

- Be mindful of the information you post online because once it's out there, it's hard to erase.
- Avoid sharing sensitive or personal details like your home address, phone number or financial information. This makes you less susceptible to targeted scams and social engineering attacks.

Join the movement

Together, let's raise awareness about data privacy and build a more secure digital world. Share this article, discuss data privacy on social media and encourage others to take control of their online lives. Visit the National Cybersecurity Alliance for more data privacy tips: lkwd.co/2025DataPrivacyWeek.



By following these tips, you can significantly improve your online security and protect your valuable personal information. Remember, data privacy is a continuous process, so stay vigilant and keep yourself updated on the latest threats and best practices.



Lakewood
Information Technology

LookoutAlert

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

When an emergency happens,
be the first to know.

**Sign up for
LookoutAlert at**

Lakewood.org/Emergency

WHAT

Receive immediate emergency notifications for:

- Natural or man-made disasters
- Severe weather
- Evacuation or shelter in-place orders

WHERE

LookoutAlert Emergency Notification Systems serve:

- Jefferson County
- City of Lakewood
- Other cities in Jefferson County

WHO

All residents, workers, frequent visitors and those who formerly registered for CodeRed.

HOW

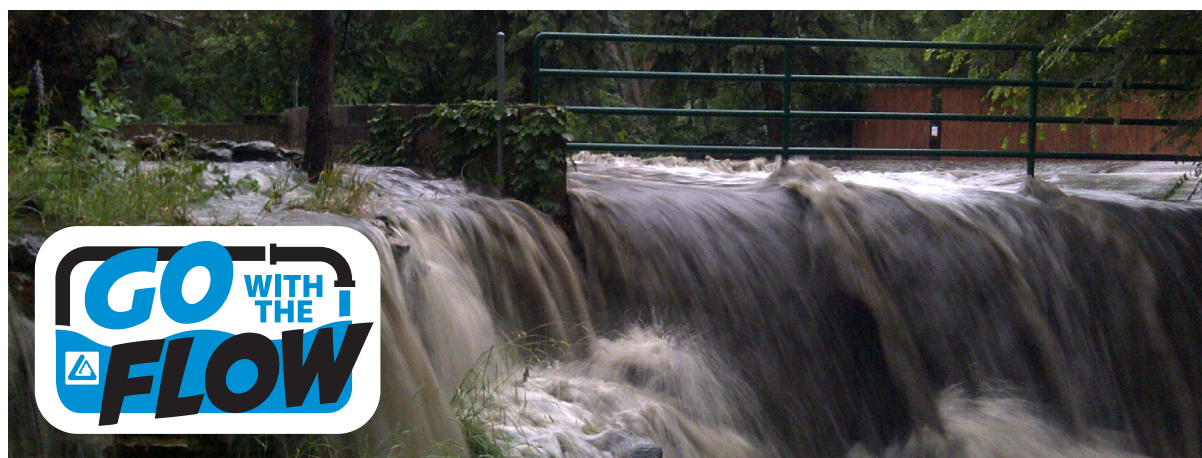
Users can register to receive alerts through:

- Text message
- Email
- Voice message



Lakewood

Emergency notifications are sent based on the type and location of each emergency.



Managing stormwater drainage

Stormwater is the runoff from rain and melted snow that enters the city's stormwater drainage system consisting of miles of gulches, ditches and underground pipes. The city must manage, maintain and continue to improve this system to prevent and reduce flooding throughout Lakewood, which helps protect lives, private property, public roads and other facilities that everyone uses.

Each year, all property owners pay a once-a-year service charge based on the amount of impervious surfaces on their properties such as roofs, driveways and other areas where

water isn't absorbed into the ground and runs off into the stormwater drainage system. This annual service charge then fluctuates each year based on the rate of inflation. For single-family homes and duplexes, property owners will pay \$59.88 this year. All other properties including apartment buildings and commercial properties also pay based on the amount of hard surfaces they have on their properties.

Property owners will have 90 days in which to pay. If you have questions about stormwater management, please visit Lakewood.org/Flow, where bills can be paid online.

Make a difference in your community

Become a leader in your community by serving on one of Lakewood's boards and commissions. It can make a real difference for just a few volunteer hours a month. Learn more and apply online at Lakewood.org/BoardsAndCommissions.

- **Board of Adjustment:** makes decisions on property owner requests for variances from development regulations.
- **Board of Appeals:** hears appeals of decisions made by the city's code administrator.
- **Budget and Audit Board:** serves as a financial oversight committee.
- **Historic Preservation Commission:** oversees historic designations and makes recommendations to City Council.

- **Judicial Review Commission:** investigates complaints against Lakewood municipal judges.
- **Lakewood Advisory Commission:** provides research and recommendations to City Council on issues important to residents.
- **Noxious Weed Local Advisory Board:** oversees management plans for noxious weeds on private property.
- **Planning Commission:** makes recommendations to City Council on development issues.
- **Victim Assistance Compensation Board:** reviews applications for compensation from crime victims.

Tackling flooding issues along North Dry Gulch

For the last year, construction on the North Dry Gulch Improvement Project has been underway to improve Lakewood’s infrastructure and mitigate storm flooding that affects the West Colfax Avenue corridor.

As a joint effort with the Mile High Flood District, the project is significant for the city’s stormwater utility, and it will help protect businesses, residents and visitors because when stormwater flooding happens, it affects everyone relying on the corridor.

North Dry Gulch is a major drainageway that runs for approximately 1.5 miles parallel to West Colfax through Lakewood. Like most of the other 17 gulches running west to east through the city, North Dry Gulch is dry — as its name indicates — most of the time. But when it rains, it fills with water as it drains storm runoff from a 1.3-square-mile area.

An issue older than Lakewood

Prior to Lakewood becoming a city in 1969 and before modern floodplain management, West Colfax Avenue was constructed, and development occurred on most of the private properties along North Dry Gulch. Unfortunately, the natural drainage channel was not preserved and was replaced with paved streets, parking lots and buildings where the water naturally flows.

Over the years, storm drains have been constructed to carry the runoff, but the existing systems are inadequate for larger storms, resulting in street flooding that creates hazards. Additionally, the 100-year floodplain for the gulch — a measure of where water would flow during catastrophic storms — encompasses many private properties, with more than



These large concrete conduits will help carry away stormwater runoff in the North Dry Gulch drainage, which will mitigate flooding in the West Colfax Avenue corridor.

100 existing structures currently affected by the floodplain. These property owners are at risk of damage from flooding and are limited in their ability to improve their properties.

Years of planning and public input

After several years of planning efforts, numerous discussions with Lakewood City Council and months spent talking with affected property owners, the project team designed an underground system of pipes, often called conduits. This new system will be able to handle storm runoff including from a 100-year storm. To view the timeline of all the work that led to this project, visit [Lakewood.org/NorthDryGulch](https://lakewood.org/northdrygulch).

Phase 1 of construction began in January 2024 along West 14th Avenue and was completed in December. Phase 2 will occur from the Lamar Pond located near the intersection of West

14th Avenue and Newland Street, cross and run along West Colfax, and onto Pierce Street. This work has started and will continue into the spring. Phase 3 will continue from Pierce to Teller streets along Lakewood Place and is expected to run from fall 2025

to summer 2026. Phase 4 will be from Wadsworth Boulevard to Dover Street along West 16th Avenue and other local streets and is expected to run from fall 2025 through 2027. To track the construction and receive updates, visit NorthDryGulch.com.

PROJECT BENEFITS

In addition to affecting anyone using the corridor, flooding can force businesses to close, which harms the local economy, damages business owners and deprives patrons of that business. This project is designed to accomplish the following:

- Replace inadequate storm sewer systems with a larger underground pipe known as a conduit capable of conveying water in a 100-year storm event.
- Direct storm runoff into the underground system, minimizing damage caused by runoff flowing across streets and through parking lots.
- Protect the city’s roads, parks, Whitlock Recreation Center and other public facilities.
- Minimize the economic impact associated with the loss of local businesses.
- Improve property owners' ability to use their properties on West Colfax by removing or reducing the floodplain on multiple properties.

Continued from page 1

Auto theft prevention

The team, which includes a sergeant, five detectives, a civilian technician and a crime analyst, brainstormed and developed the LATRR program, which has since been profiled in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin (leeb.fbi.gov/spotlights) for other departments to study.

“Auto theft has real and serious impacts for our community. On an individual level, it causes financial hardship and takes away the victim’s transportation,” said Lakewood Police Chief Philip Smith. “It also demands a great deal of law enforcement resources, and it affects premiums we all pay for auto insurance.”

With both prevention and recovery aspects as goals, the program has been successful in the following ways:

- Only one of the 1,508 vehicles in the first six months of the program was stolen, contributing to measurable success in achieving the prevention goal.
- None of the nearly 4,000 total cars in the program have been stolen since.
- In the case of the only vehicle stolen in the program, the victim shared the location data with Lakewood Police detectives, and the vehicle was recovered the next morning.
- During the first six months, 359 victims of auto theft were contacted. Of those contacted, 190 joined the program.
- It allowed the department and the community it serves to work hand in hand to reduce auto thefts.



“Auto theft has real and serious impacts for our community...it demands a great deal of law enforcement resources, and it affects premiums we all pay for auto insurance.”

— *Police Chief Philip Smith*

- The Police Department demonstrated its concern for the community and its willingness to reach out in an unconventional way to help residents protect their property.
- Participants showed their enthusiasm for the program while interacting with the detectives during the appointments, and participants encouraged friends and family to join the program.
- The installation events also provided participants with auto theft education, prevention tips, and the opportunity to ask questions. This time spent with the public facilitated a positive relationship between the department and residents.
- The community’s response has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants have expressed appreciation for this proactive program, which empowers participants to protect their vehicles with the technology provided.

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To learn more about City Council, visit [Lakewood.org/CityCouncil](https://lakewood.org/CityCouncil)

Special Election for council seats

Calling all Ward 3 and Ward 4 residents to vote for their representatives on City Council. Resignations have left one Ward 3 and one Ward 4 seat vacant, and the city will have a March 25 Special Election by mail ballot to fill those seats.

If you are wondering whether you'll receive a ballot, you can find out which ward you live in by visiting [Lakewood.org/MyNeighborhood](https://lakewood.org/MyNeighborhood). You can also check the status of your voter registration or register to vote online at the Secretary of State's website, [SOS.state.co.us](https://sos.state.co.us).

Candidates for the seats were required to file by Jan. 27, and you can find out who the candidates are at [Lakewood.org/Elections](https://lakewood.org/Elections). More information about the candidates will be available in the March edition of this newsletter. In the meantime, check out the important information below.

Important dates:

- **March 3-7:** Ballots mailed to active registered voters in those wards.
- **March 25:** You can register to vote up until election day if you have lived in your ward for more than 22 days prior to the election.
- **March 25:** Ballots due by 7 p.m.

Ballot drop-off boxes (to open in March)

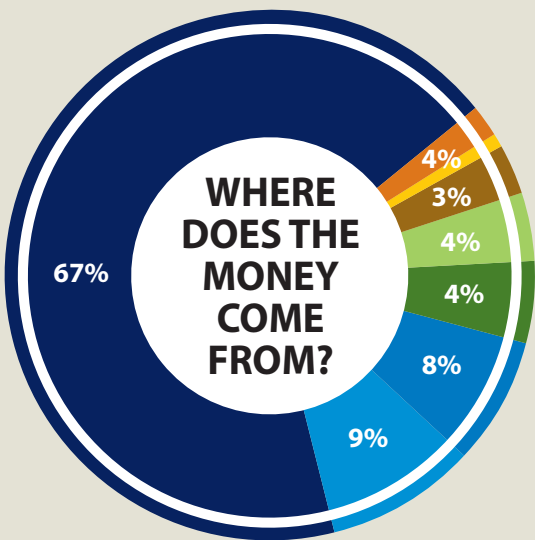
Ward 3

- Belmar Library, 555 S. Allison Parkway
- Lakewood Civic Center, 480 S. Allison Parkway
- Lakewood Link Recreation Center, 1295 S. Reed St.
- Ray Ross Park; 680 S. Harlan St.

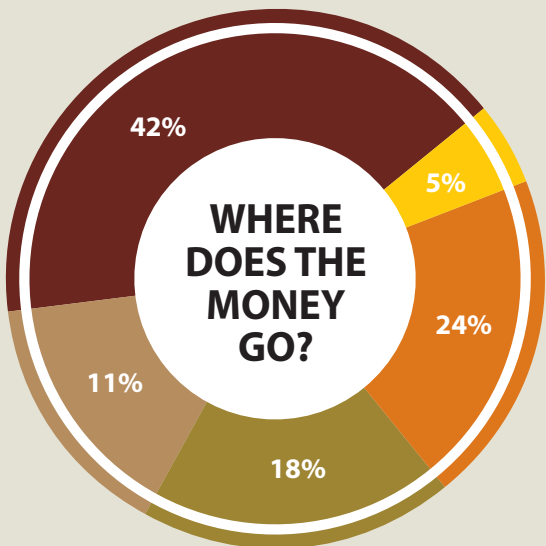
Ward 4

- Green Mountain Recreation Center, 13198 W. Green Mountain Dr.

For election or ballot questions, please contact the Lakewood City Clerk's Office at 303-987-7080 or CCO@lakewood.org.



Sales & Use	67%
Property Taxes	9%
Charges for Services	8%
Franchise Charges	4%
Intergovernmental Revenues.....	4%
Licenses & Permits	3%
Fines & Forfeits.....	1%
All Other Revenue & Refunds.....	4%



Public Safety	42%
Community Resources	11%
Planning & Public Works.....	18%
Operational Services & Finance..	24%
Governance & Civic Involvement..	5%

Based on the city's general fund

2025 Annual Budget

City Council approved \$312 million for the city's 2025 Annual Budget that reflects long-standing efforts to invest in services and programs important to residents. For the last several years, the city has been building up its savings so it could invest these saved-up dollars on improving the city's streets, stormwater drainage system, transportation network and similar items. Making these investments is a priority because the city's infrastructure is aging.

In November, Lakewood voters approved lifting the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits on the taxes and other revenue the city collects starting in 2026 and every year after that. Voters also designated these funds to be spent on parks and open space, police needs and transportation items. These TABOR funds will be tracked in a separate fund to provide transparency and accountability.

To review the budget and TABOR information, please visit [Lakewood.org/Budgets](https://lakewood.org/Budgets).