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LAKEWOOD

News from the
City of Lakewood

www.lakewoodcity.org
City Hall: (562) 866-9771



Living

City budget gets updated Park and water projects added

In June of last year, the Lakewood City Council passed a \$135 million balanced budget covering two fiscal years, from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016. On June 23 of this year, the council carried out a review at the mid-point of the two-year plan and decided to add a park project—a new playground for Del Valle Park—and several water-related projects, including drought-tolerant landscaping for roadway medians.

Highlights include:
■ **Keeping Lakewood safe.**

Lakewood will continue to make the extra investments that make it one of the safest communities in the region.

Lakewood will remain one of the few local cities to dedicate the resources to lift fingerprints from even non-violent crime scenes. Lakewood's team of Special Assignment Officers (see photo at upper right), who handle hot-spot issues, will continue, as will special Sky Knight helicopter support.

The city will maintain its investment in the license plate reading cameras of the Advanced Surveillance and Protection System, which has enabled the Sheriff's Department to identify and arrest dozens of criminals driving stolen or wanted vehicles in Lakewood. Adding to these public safety

steps are the efforts of Lakewood residents who are part of one of the largest Neighborhood Watch programs in the region.

■ **Enhancing parks and community centers.**

Del Valle Park's playground had to be removed earlier this year to make room for the expanded Veterans Memorial Plaza with its memorial bricks and renovated jet plane (see middle photo). In keeping with the theme of the veterans plaza, the new playground will have a theme of planes and aviation. Construction is expected to be completed by early 2016. The council also approved funding for a new elevator and other improvements to the Burns Community Center (see photo at bottom), used by many Lakewood seniors and others.

■ **Maintaining good infrastructure.** Following on the heels of successfully completing the repaving of 100% of all residential streets in 2013, Lakewood will continue with the repaving of major roadways that need more frequent attention. In the coming fiscal year, portions of Woodruff Ave. and Del Amo Blvd. will get repaved.

Lakewood will also continue modernizing the city water system so that it remains safe and reli-

able. Several miles of water mains will be upgraded, and a well and water treatment plant will be renovated. An increase to water rates of \$6.38 a month for the average customer was approved to continue the modernization work. However, residents who reduce their water use through conservation will see a smaller increase or none at all. Lakewood water rates remain in the middle of those charged throughout the region.

■ **Dealing with the drought.** The council approved work to begin redesigning the city's roadway medians to make them drought-tolerant and have them absorb stormwater runoff from the roadway. The city will also seek full funding from Caltrans for projects to safely irrigate Mayfair Park and Bolivar Park using stormwater runoff. These projects hold the promise of making Lakewood's community landscaping less vulnerable to drought and more environmentally sustainable.



Patriot Day commemoration Del Valle Park, Friday, September 11

Lakewood has commemorated Patriot Day every year since the tragic events of 9/11/2001. City residents stop to remember and honor those lost in the terrorist attacks on our nation and those public safety officers and military personnel who are still on the front lines in the struggle against terrorism.

This year's Patriot Day commemoration will take place on Friday, September 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the concert grove at Del Valle Park (Woodruff Avenue at Arbor Road).

A concert of patriotic music will be performed by the 300th Army Band of Bell, CA and the Golden Sands Chorus of Sweet Adeline's International, Lakewood's award-winning women's chorus.

Keynote remarks will be provided by Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell.

The event starts with a stirring presentation of American flags by hundreds of scouts and youth from the Lakewood area. A memorial candle-lighting and moment of silence help bring the memorable evening to a close.

Parking will be at a premium around Del Valle Park. Those who live near the park are encouraged to walk to the event. Parking will be available at MacArthur Elementary School (enter from Centralia Street).

- Food for sale will be provided by the Super Mex Catering Truck and Mr. B's Kettle Corn.
- Bring a blanket or low-rise lawn chair for seating.
- Dogs and alcohol are prohibited at all city parks.

For more information, call 562-866-9771, extension 2408.



After-School Activity Zone Free at parks for school-age children

Lakewood's After-School Activity Zone is a free drop-in program for school-age children and preteens. City parks offer the after-school activities Monday to Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning Monday, August 31.



Kids are provided with playground games, arts and crafts, and homework help. Parents can be assured that their children are properly supervised in a safe and creative environment. Each park has its own schedule of programs and activities.

The After-School Activity Zone closes at 5:00 p.m. weekdays. But there is supervision at all city parks, beginning on August 31, on weekdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sundays and school holidays from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. Starting November 1, supervision hours end at 5:00 p.m. for the winter season.

Teens have the option of using the Lakewood Youth Center at Del Valle Park or the Teen Resource Center at Bloomfield Park as their afternoon hangout. Both centers have computers, filtered Internet access for homework, game tables and video game systems.

For more information, call city hall at 562-866-9771, extension 2408 or go to www.lakewoodcity.org/recreation.

Helping our kids: Lakewood Education Foundation

Thanks to generous donations from Lakewood residents and businesses, the Lakewood Education Foundation (LEF)

has been able to give grants for hundreds of classroom improvement projects in Lakewood schools since 2003. This shows the importance that Lakewood residents and businesses place on our local schools...and the trust they place in LEF to select worthy projects.

In 2014, 106 Lakewood school projects received grants totaling \$42,325! The grants went to classroom projects in each of the public school districts in Lakewood as well as St. Pancratius School and Bethany Lutheran School.

LEF is a non-profit agency operated solely by local volunteers and, therefore, has low overhead costs.

In 2014, many grants were for tablets that allow teachers to control slide presentations while they walk around their classrooms and interact with students. Grants also covered science equipment; books of all kinds and reading levels; art and PE supplies; a new theatre stage for Mayfair Middle School; and educational field trips.

You can donate by making out a check to the Lakewood Education Foundation and mailing it to LEF, c/o Lakewood City Hall, 5050 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712. Donations are tax deductible.

For information about LEF's Columbus Day golf tournament, including sponsorship opportunities, call 562-496-3559 or 562-866-9771, extension 2404. See a video and learn more at www.lakewoodcity.org/LEFvideo.



Back to school – safely

Drivers and students need to be careful



Lakewood's back-to-school effort has four elements: (1) Suggested Route to School maps, (2) classroom instruction, (3) Sheriff's traffic enforcement and (4) safety reminders for the public.

Suggested Route to School maps shows the location of traffic signals, stop signs and crossing guards. Suggested Route to School maps and other safety tips for students are at www.lakewoodcity.org/backtoschool.

Safety tips for children:

- Always stop, look all four ways and listen before crossing the street.
- Cross streets only at corners and crosswalks, not between parked cars.
- Walk or ride with a group of people; there is safety in numbers.
- When walking on sidewalks, look out for cars pulling out of driveways.
- Always wait for a crossing guard to control traffic before

starting to cross the street.

- Bicycles must be ridden on the right side of the road, in the direction of traffic.
- Wear a secure-fitting, safety-approved helmet when riding a bicycle, skateboard, scooter, or skates. It's for your safety...and it's the law!

Safety tips for drivers:

- Don't let your children exit a car on the traffic side of your vehicle. Be aware, drivers can be cited for unsafely loading or unloading children near schools.
- Double parking for a quick drop-off is very hazardous for small children, who are invisible behind an SUV or a van until they dart in front of oncoming traffic.
- The only safe way to drop off your youngsters is to pull up to the curb in front of the school or at a safe location where youngsters can walk to the end of the block and cross to school through an intersection controlled by a stop sign, signal or crossing guard.
- Reduce vehicle speed to 25 mph or slower when driving in school zones.

Good time to remember bike safety

Back-to-school season should remind us that cyclists and motorists need to share the road.

Key points for drivers:

- Pass a bicyclist as you would a slow-moving vehicle. Pass with caution, and only when safe. Do not squeeze the bicyclist off the road. If road conditions and space permit, allow clearance of at least three feet when passing a bicyclist.
- Look carefully for bicyclists before opening doors next to moving traffic.
- Do not overtake a bicyclist just before making a turn. Merge first, then turn. Most bicyclists are aware of basic safety, but the basics are not enough.

Bicycle safety reminders:

- At night, wear reflective clothing.
- Always wear a helmet. It's the law for children under 18 when riding a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or skates.
- Ride in the same direction as auto traffic.
- Always look over your shoulder to make sure the

lane is clear before turning or changing lanes and always signal before changing lanes.

- Bicyclists must obey STOP signs and signals. It's a good idea to stop for yellow lights—rushing through one may not leave you enough time to make it across the intersection before the light changes.



Tips for reducing water use

Tip #1: Follow Lakewood's watering rules

■ The rules are designed to help each household and business reduce water use by Lakewood's assigned target of 20%. If you follow the rules, your usage should drop...and you'll be helping your community reach its goal.

- For Lakewood water customers, during June through September you can water only twice a week for 10 minutes in each area of our yard.
- Watering days are your trash day and then three days later. For example, if your trash day is Friday, you can water on Friday and then three days later on Monday.
- Watering is limited to before 8:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m.

• During the cooler months of October to May, you can

water only once a week for 10 minutes in each area and only on your trash day. Watering then is limited to before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.

• If you live in Lakewood east of the San Gabriel River and are a Golden State Water Co. customer, you have similar rules but different watering days and some other variances. For details, go to www.gswater.com or call 800-999-4033.

Tip #2: To water more often under the rules, use water-wise sprinklers and methods

■ If you are a Lakewood water customer, you can water any day or time and without time limits IF you use the following water-wise methods:

- Water-wise rotor sprinklers that meet a 70% efficiency standard (labeling on the sprinkler will indicate if is "water wise");
- Drip irrigation emitters producing no more than two

gallons per hour;

- Hand-watering of lawns and landscaping with a hose with a shut-off nozzle or a water bucket.

Tip #3: Use rebates to save money installing water-wise devices or landscaping

■ Learn about rebates for water-wise sprinklers, irrigation devices and landscaping at www.lakewoodcity.org/water or call 562-866-9771, extension 2140. Lakewood offers over \$1,300 in rebates per customer.

Tip #4: Dethatch and aerate your lawn

■ These two essential steps to maintaining a healthy lawn can be done any time of the year, but are most effective in fall or

spring. They help your lawn make the most of limited watering, especially important during a drought. They remove dead grass and open up the soil to let your turf breathe and get the proper nutrients. See an informative video at www.lakewoodcity.org/dethatchvideo.

Tip #5: Keep your trees healthy

■ Your trees are

getting stressed during the drought and need watering to stay healthy. Many people incorrectly think the best place to water a tree is right at the base of its trunk. Instead, the best method is to saturate the soil at the "dripline" (the outer edges of the tree's branches). Get more information and tips on how often to water trees at www.lakewoodcity.org/treecare or call 562-866-9771, extension 2140.

Tip #6: Get more water-saving tips by going to...

■ www.lakewoodcity.org/WaterWise or by calling 562-866-9771, extension 2140

