
Community Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

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1) Jefferson County Updates

- Jefferson County Commissioner Dahlkemper provided several updates affecting the county and the region.
- Jeffco continues work on a unified land-use code and efforts to streamline permitting, including a goal of completing affordable-housing permitting within 90 days.
- Transportation and storm-drainage projects are being planned for 2027.
- The county is preparing its 2027 budget, with core infrastructure, roads, capital needs and employee compensation among the priorities.
- Changes at the state and federal levels are affecting programs such as TANF, SNAP and Medicaid. The county continues to look for ways to maintain services while dealing with changes in outside funding.
- A feasibility study is underway through the Economic Development Corporation to identify potential opportunities and partnerships.

2) Lakewood Police Department

- The Lakewood Police Department provided an update on police operations, mental-health response and neighborhood concerns.
- The department has experienced several leadership and staffing changes and is continuing to fill vacancies and backfill patrol and investigations positions.
- Lakewood's Community Action Team (CAT) pairs police officers with mental-health clinicians to respond to calls where behavioral health may be a factor. The department recently added another clinician and hopes to expand the program to two teams, with the possibility of eventually having four to six clinicians.
- Residents can request CAT assistance when a situation involves someone who may need mental-health or social-service support.
- Police continue working with outreach providers to connect people experiencing homelessness with available services rather than relying solely on traditional enforcement.
- The LEAD program provides an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system for certain youth offenses. School resource officers are involved in identifying young people who may benefit from diversion and support services.
- Residents raised concerns about speeding on Mississippi Avenue. Police encouraged residents to use the city's service-request system to report recurring traffic problems so they can be tracked and evaluated.
- Questions were also raised about e-bike and scooter use, including helmet and municipal-code requirements.

3) West Metro Fire Rescue

- West Metro Fire Rescue provided an update on staffing, wildfire response and recent emergency operations.

- West Metro continues to operate with minimum staffing requirements across its 17 stations. Recruiting and retaining qualified firefighters remains an important ongoing issue.
- A West Metro firefighter injured during a high-angle rescue is recovering and showing improvement.
- Wildland firefighting crews recently returned after spending approximately four months assisting with wildfire response outside the district.
- West Metro continues prescribed-burn work, including projects around Bear Creek Lake Park, to reduce wildfire fuels.
- The local wildfire season has been relatively light so far, but residents are encouraged to remain prepared.
- West Metro's 31st Annual Family Fire Muster was held September 26 at the Training Center. The free event included demonstrations and hands-on activities focused on fire safety, emergency preparedness, CPR, helmets and family escape planning.

4) Spotlight Speaker : Lisa Adams, Valkarie Gallery

- Lisa Adams, the new director of Valkarie Gallery, introduced the gallery and its programs.
- Valkyrie represents approximately 21 mixed-media artists ranging from their 20s to their late 80s.
- The gallery is in the Arts on Belmar area and occupies approximately 1,800 square feet.
- Lisa described the gallery as a place not only to purchase art but also to meet artists, learn and participate in the creative community. Valkyrie offers artist-led workshops and classes. The gallery also hosts rotating solo exhibitions, opening receptions and special events.
- Voodoo U: Vampires, Vamps & Villains — Saturday, October 24, 6–9:30 p.m.
- A second annual gala is planned for December, featuring pianist Tom Amand.
- The gallery is also launching a patron program and will have additional exhibitions and events in November.
- Lisa emphasized the gallery's interest in working with other Alameda-area organizations and helping make the Arts on Belmar area a destination for residents and visitors.

5) Featured Speaker: Front Range Passenger Rail / Colorado Connector

- Chris Nevitt provided an update on plans for passenger rail along Colorado's Front Range.
- The first proposed segment would connect Fort Collins and Denver, approximately 70 miles.
- Proposed stations include Denver, Westminster, Broomfield, Louisville, Boulder, Loveland and Fort Collins.
- Initial service is envisioned at approximately three round trips per day, with a travel time of about 90 minutes between Fort Collins and Denver.
- The initial project is estimated at approximately \$350 million, with a target of beginning service around 2029.
- The larger Front Range corridor would eventually extend from Fort Collins through Denver to Pueblo.
- The ultimate vision calls for significantly more frequent service, potentially reaching 10 or more round trips per day as the system develops.
- Pueblo service is currently envisioned for the early 2030s.
- Trains would initially use diesel-electric technology, with the possibility of moving toward zero-emission technology in the future.
- The system would operate on existing railroad corridors and would require agreements with freight railroads. Amtrak is being considered as a potential operating partner.

- The project could provide another option for people traveling along the Front Range without having to drive.
- Event-related service could eventually include special stops or service near major destinations, although those possibilities depend on agreements with the freight railroads.
- The project is intended to integrate with other transportation services and eventually provide coordinated ticketing with connecting transit.
- The project is exploring a dedicated sales-tax funding source as well as state and regional transportation funding. Federal funding is not being assumed as necessary for the initial project.

6) Lakewood Economic Development

- Marcus Johnson provided updates on business recruitment, employment and the incoming city manager.
- Jonathan Cane is scheduled to begin as Lakewood's new city manager on October 12.
- A city-sponsored job fair was held October 3 at the Sheraton Denver West. Approximately 20 businesses participated and roughly 150 job seekers attended.
- The city also helped high-school students with resumes and interview preparation.
- A Small Business Lunch & Chat is scheduled for October 13.
- The city continues to offer programs and resources to help small businesses with issues such as financing, growth and expansion.
- Because of geography and available staffing, the city is currently placing particular emphasis on the Union corridor and Colfax Avenue. City staff emphasized that the Alameda corridor remains an important part of Lakewood's business community.

7) The Action Center

- The Action Center is preparing for the holiday season. The organization's holiday gift program is moving toward the use of gift cards, giving families greater flexibility to purchase what they need. The Action Center is seeking donated gift cards as well as corporate sponsors.
- Businesses, organizations and individuals interested in helping with holiday assistance can contact The Action Center or visit its website for information about donation opportunities.

8) Belmar

- Belmar continues to add businesses and prepare for its busy holiday season.
- New businesses include Texas de Brazil and a new arcade/bar concept, along with additional businesses opening or preparing to open (Teso Life, 1 UP)
- Belmar is also rolling out a new website and updated branding.
- Holiday Tree Lighting: Saturday, November 20, 5–8 p.m. The event will include the lighting of the tree and the beginning of the holiday season at Belmar.
- The outdoor ice rink is scheduled to open November 20 and remain open through the end of January. Artisan markets will be held on select weekends in November and December.
- Alameda Connects and Old 121 Brewhouse are partnering with Belmar for holiday programming that will include polka music, dancing Christmas trees, a stilt walker and beer.

9) Lakewood Energy Benchmarking Program

- Danniell Tigreros, Building Performance Technical Specialist with the City of Lakewood, explained the city's new energy benchmarking requirements.
- The program applies to certain commercial, multifamily and public buildings of 10,000 square feet or more. Building owners must track and report annual electricity and natural-gas use.

- Benchmarking simply means tracking a building's energy use over time. The information can help owners identify opportunities to reduce energy use and operating costs. The city estimates that benchmarking can result in energy savings of approximately 7%.
- The first reporting deadline is December 31, 2026, for 2025 energy-use data. Future reporting will occur annually, with a June 1 deadline beginning in 2027.
- Building owners are responsible for submitting accurate information and can request an extension or exemption when appropriate.
- The city is offering training sessions and office hours to help building owners understand the requirements.
- Initial account setup is expected to take approximately one to two hours, with subsequent annual reporting taking considerably less time.
- Property owners that do not comply may be subject to a \$2,000-per-building fee.
- Important: This program is currently about tracking and reporting energy use; it does not require building owners to make specific energy upgrades.

10) **Performance Now Theatre Company**

- Performance Now Theatre Company is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The 25th Anniversary Gala is scheduled for November 5. VIP tickets include a pre-show reception; regular show tickets are also available. The evening will look back at the company's history and productions over the past 25 years.
- Cinderella will open in January. Auditions are also being planned for The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

11) **Alameda Connects**

- Haunted History Tour - Alameda Connects is partnering with Heritage Lakewood and the Belmar Library for a Haunted History Tour on Thursday, October 22, from 6:30–8 p.m.
- Alameda Connects is partnering with Belmar and Old 121 Brewhouse on a holiday event called Yule.
- A historic plaque that had apparently been sent to a scrapyard was recently recovered. The plaque survived, although it was somewhat warped and damaged.
- ACBID continues to offer grants of up to \$5,000, with no matching requirement
- Alameda Connects continues to provide information through its e-newsletter, meeting recordings and community calendar.

Community Calendar

October 2026

- October 12 — New City Manager Jonathan Cane officially assumes the role of Lakewood City Manager.
- October 13 — West Metro Fire Rescue Civil Service Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- October 13 — Small Business Lunch & Chat
- October 20 — West Metro Fire Rescue Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- October 22 — Haunted History Tour with Heritage Lakewood 6:30–8:00 p.m.
- October 24 — Valkyrie Gallery: “Voodoo U: Vampires, Vamps & Villains” 6:00–9:30 p.m.
- October 24 - Boo Bash



November 2026

- November 5 — Performance Now Theatre Company 25th Anniversary Gala
- November 7 — Valkyrie Gallery Opening / Daria Magazine Launch
- November 10 — West Metro Fire Rescue Civil Service Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- November 17 — West Metro Fire Rescue Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- November 20 — Belmar Holiday Tree Lighting 5:00–8:00 p.m.
- November 20–January 30 — The RINK at Belmar opens for the 2026–27 season.
- November–December — Belmar Artisan Markets open

December 2026

- December 5 — Belmar Yule Holiday celebration with Alameda Connects and Old 121 Brewhouse, including music, dancing Christmas trees and other holiday entertainment.
- December — Valkyrie Gallery Holiday Gala featuring pianist Tom Amand.
- December 31 — Lakewood Energy Benchmarking Deadline
First reporting deadline for covered buildings participating in Lakewood's Building Performance Program. Building owners must report their 2025 energy-use data or request an extension/exemption.

January 2027

- January — Performance Now Theatre Company: “Cinderella”
Performance Now's next major production following the company's 25th anniversary celebration.

February 2027

- February — Daylight Collective at the Former Emory Elementary School
The Action Center's new community resource center is expected to have its public opening in February.
Exact opening date to be announced.