

Community Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

(These notes were generated by AI from a recording of the meeting and checked by a fallible human for accuracy. If you find an error, please notify us at acteam@alamedaconnects.org)

Alameda Connects Annual Meeting Vote

- Jeanine Maxey convenes the 2025 Alameda Connects Meeting to elect directors to the Alameda Connects Board of Directors for terms beginning in January 2026 and nominated Teri Romero, Joyce Rocha, and Katie Nicholson for an additional 2-year term, which passed unanimously.

City of Lakewood Update (Mayor's Report) 🏛️

The work of zoning reform is **critical to the city's future**.

- Zoning Code Overhaul: The comprehensive revision is being moved through in four separate increments. The first three have been successfully debated, amended, and passed.
 - Final Phase: The final, politically sensitive section—the zoning map—is scheduled to be addressed on October 13th.
 - Controlling Density and Structure Size: To preemptively address the potential for "mega mansions" following a state change allowing an unlimited number of unrelated adults to cohabitate, the city reduced the maximum size of new residential structures to between 4,000 and 5,000 square feet.
 - Protective Lot Coverage: The new code retains a crucial guardrail to maintain neighborhood character: no structure can be built on more than 50% of a lot. This calculation is comprehensive, including the house, sheds, and driveways.
 - Financial Stability: The city is in a strong financial position during budget season, attributed to "years of savings and responsible management." The city is not cutting services and is not planning any staff layoffs.
 - Fiscal Note: The city used cash savings to purchase a large Public Works campus and is managing the fiscal impact of a recent court case loss (Metro PCS B&O tax), with details on retail refunds pending.
 - Community Engagement: Love Lakewood Day was a major success, involving 400 people volunteering on 20 different service projects across the city.
 - Municipal Elections: City Council races are active and contested in Wards three, four, and five. Wards One and Two have uncontested races.
-

County Commissioner's Report 📌

- Emergency Alert System: Residents were strongly urged to sign up for Lookout Alert and share the registration information to increase local community coverage for emergency notifications.



Alameda Corridor Business
Improvement District

- Evergreen High School: Both young victims who were shot are much improved but remain hospitalized. The response from students, staff, the SRO, and first responders was lauded for mitigating the impact of the tragedy.
 - Community Support: Community funds, including a GoFundMe for one family, have been established for the victims.
- Election Integrity: The Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's office is offering tours of the election center to anyone with questions regarding the security of the mail-in ballot system.
- US Government Shutdown: Jefferson County Human Services confirmed they have operating funds and assured residents that critical services like Medicaid and SNAP will not be affected for the month of October.

Public Safety Report (Fire Department)

- Vacant Building Fire Protocol: The department is managing an increasing and dangerous problem of repeat fires in structurally unsafe vacant buildings, often occupied by people experiencing homelessness.
 - Safety Measure: To protect firefighters, they are adding "unsafe" caution notes to the dispatch system and will prioritize risk-versus-benefit when determining whether to send crews inside if no one is believed to be present.
- Incident Preparedness: The department's robust response to the Evergreen shooting (four ambulances, two engines, one chief) demonstrated the value of recent training drills held at the Federal Correctional Institute (FCI).
- Community Event: The Fire Department's main community event, the Fire Muster, is scheduled for this Saturday at 10 a.m., and will include an "after party" featuring an Assistant Chiefs' dunk tank.

Lakewood Economic Development Update (Marcus Johnson)

Marcus Johnson (MJ) provided updates on business support, real estate development, and arts initiatives.

- Business Support & Talent:
 - A celebration event for local businesses, nonprofits, and civic leaders is scheduled for October 22nd.
 - The McLean Community High School Job Fair is on October 7th, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., offering businesses a chance to recruit "homegrown talent."
- Real Estate Development & Blight Removal: focus on removing local eyesores.
 - Demolitions Underway: The demolition of the auto center at the Sears Building has started. Demolition permits have been secured for the former Arby's and other locations.
 - Redevelopment: The demolition of the former Valley Inn (on Wadsworth) is complete, and the site will be redeveloped into a Chase Bank.
- Lunch & Chat Sessions:
 - A real estate development "Lunch and Chat" is being held today (October 1st), focused on real estate issues and resources.
 - A second session on November 1st will focus specifically on nonprofits and the resources available to support them.
- New Business Tracking: tracking the permitting for a second location on Oak Street for Old 121's new location and encouraged support.



Alameda Corridor Business Improvement District

- Arts and Culture: A series of exciting exhibits are coming to the cultural center:
 - "The Power of Public Art": A multimedia exhibition by a regional artist.
 - "Altered Lenses": An exploration of the city and construction through altered photography.
 - Lakewood Arts Council Members Show: Running now through January 3rd.
 - A collaboration with Burning Man's Colorado Community on the "future of art and expression."
 - The LCC Winter Salon: A large group show featuring small, accessible art.
-

Nonprofit & Community Partners Showcase 🍷

- Spay Today: The organization's mission is to end pet overpopulation by providing low-cost and no-cost services for dogs, cats, and rabbits in the metro area. They have performed over 100,000 surgeries since 2009.
 - The Action Center: Demand has surged, with the center now serving up to 300 households per day (up from 80 pre-COVID).
 - Integrated Service Hub Vision: The center is pursuing the purchase of the Emory Elementary School building to create a single-location hub for integrated services, collaborating with partners to provide healthcare, mental health, workforce development, and early childhood education.
 - Secure Attachment (Mental Health Services): Focuses on helping individuals achieve secure attachment to address generational trauma.
 - Teen IOP: Offers a 10-week, 9-hour per week Intensive Outpatient Program for adolescents ages 13-18, using experiential, relational, and body-based therapies (e.g., IFS, EFT).
 - Groups: Provides a Parent/Caregiver Group focused on emotion coaching and boundary setting.
 - Accessibility: Accepts Medicaid and most major insurance providers.
 - Event: An Open House is scheduled for October 17th (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) at their Harlan and Alameda location.
-

Alameda Connects/ACBID & Library Announcements

- ACBID Fundraising: Alameda Connects/ACBID will be utilizing its Colorado Gives Day page this year to raise funds for its Community Grants Program, which funds local nonprofits, public schools, and small businesses. Funds raised through this campaign stay 100% in Lakewood.
 - Grant Impact: Since 2002, the program has issued over 50 grants for diverse needs, from buying brewery equipment to purchasing after-school supplies.
- Upcoming Events:
 - A Sustainability Workshop is set for October 16th.
 - A Haunted History Tour is scheduled for October 23rd.
- Library Programming (Spooky Season): The library is holding "spooky-themed" programming in October, including:
 - Adult practice programs on the 16th and 18th.
 - A Costume Exchange on the 19th (donations being accepted now).
 - Bonkers Story Time and Costume Parade on October 31st.
- Trivia Note: The meeting concluded with trivia, revealing that the organization's predecessor, the Alameda Gateway Community Association, was founded in 1997.



Alameda Corridor Business
Improvement District

- Next Meeting: The next monthly gathering in November will be the "Annual Show and Tell," where Alameda Connects will provide a comprehensive update on all their year's work.

Upcoming Events

- October 1st
 - The expansion of early childhood services in Lakewood through Head Start funds.
 - Real Estate Development Lunch and Chat.
 - Welchchester Elementary Ribbon Cutting for a new raised pedestrian crosswalk.
- Saturday, October 4th
 - The Firemuster event hosted by West Metro Fire (starting at 10 a.m.).
 - The music stage for Lakewood Cider Days (runs through October 5th).
- October 7th
 - McLean Community High School Job Fairs (from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.).
- Wednesday, October 8th
 - Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day.
 - Crime Prevention Roundtable ("Perceptions and Realities of Crime along Alameda") with Lakewood Police (10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.).
- October 13th
 - City Council Zoning Map Decision (final zoning increment hearing).
- October 16th
 - Sustainable Business Workshop at the Valkyrie Gallery from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m..
 - Library Spooky Season Program: Adult practice program.
- October 17th
 - Secure Attachment Open House (runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., including yoga sessions and networking).
 - Spay Today's "Spay-Ghetti, No Balls" Fundraiser at Rockley's Event Center on Colfax.
- October 18th
 - Library Spooky Season Program: Adult practice program.
- October 19th
 - Library Spooky Season Program: Costume Exchange (taking donations now).
- October 22nd
 - Business Celebration Event (to celebrate local businesses, non-profits, and civic leaders).
- October 23rd
 - Haunted History Tour.
 - A mentor event, held jointly with the Belmar Library.
- October 31st
 - Library Spooky Season Program: Bonkers Story Time and Costume Parade.
- November 1st
 - Nonprofit Lunch and Chat.
- November (General)
 - Badass Coffee opens (New business opening).
 - ACBID Annual Show and Tell (The next monthly meeting).
- Before the end of the year
 - Kp Korean barbecue opens (New business opening).
 - Spavia opens (New business opening)