

LACEY *Life*

Shaping our Community Together

Lacey's parks provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation offers a variety of virtual events and programs. To view options, visit: ci.lacey.wa.us/RecGuide and ci.lacey.wa.us/Events.

Mar 27 "Virtual" Cultural Celebration

"Live" Event: Saturday, March 27 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Access virtual event through April 27
See article on back for more details.

FREE! HISTORY TALKS! with the Lacey Museum

To register for History Talks! events, visit LaceyMuseum.org and click on "Events" in the left column to find the list of dates and topics.

Feb 22 History Talks! A People's History of the Seven Inlets of the Southern Salish Sea

Monday, February 22, 6 p.m.
Online: Zoom

Mar 10 History Talks! The FBI and Candy Man

Wednesday, March 10, 6 p.m.
Online: Zoom

COMMUNITY INPUT REQUESTED! VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE ON HOMELESSNESS IN LACEY: FEBRUARY 15 – MARCH 1

Lacey's Community Workgroup on Homelessness invites you to participate in a virtual open house from Monday, February 15 – Monday, March 1, at your convenience. The two-week event provides the opportunity to:

- Discover what the Workgroup has learned about homelessness, and our community's concerns and desires related to this topic.
- Share your insights to broaden the Workgroup's learning and understanding.
- Give feedback on the draft guiding principles and goals the Workgroup is developing, based on what they have learned.



Your input will help the Workgroup develop a homeless-response plan that makes sense for Lacey, specifically. The plan will take the strengths, weaknesses, and character of our community into account. It will also consider the needs, experiences, hopes, and concerns of all its members, including housed residents, unhoused residents, and local businesses.

How to Participate



Starting Monday, February 15, you can access a link to the Open House on Homelessness in Lacey at ci.lacey.wa.us/CWH. The online open house will mimic an in-person event, as much as possible. When you visit the site, you can freely browse through the information and materials that interest you. However, to provide input, you must register with your name and email address. (We believe this is an important and necessary step to have a productive discussion on this sensitive community issue.)

Following registration, you can:

- Comment on materials at a variety of "stations."
- Ask questions and get responses from Workgroup facilitators, Workgroup members, and City staff.
- Add missing content or information.
- React to, comment on, or ask questions about items shared by other participants.
- Give input on the Workgroup's draft guiding principles and goals.

Throughout your open house visit, we encourage you to listen to and consider other community members' input, and think about how our community can address homelessness in a way that creates a positive change to the things that matter most to all of us.

What are Stations?

Within the open house site, you can visit a variety of subject-matter areas, or "stations," to learn more about the topic and provide comment. The stations will likely include topics such as: Current Conditions (who and how many are experiencing homelessness in Lacey), Causes (of homelessness), Local Business & Community Life (safety, cleanliness, and sense of community), Steps to Success (resource information and access), and more.

Each station will have a "host" who will check-in at least once a day to interact and respond to participants' questions.

Get Assistance

If you need help while visiting the open house, you can click on the "support" link on the bottom of the page.

More Information

To get more information on the Lacey Community Workgroup on Homelessness, visit ci.lacey.wa.us/CWH.

2021 LACEY CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Andy Ryder
Deputy Mayor Cynthia Pratt
Councilmember Lenny Greenstein
Councilmember Michael Steadman
Councilmember Carolyn Cox
Councilmember Ed Kunkel
Councilmember Malcolm Miller

To learn more about Lacey's response to homelessness, visit ci.lacey.wa.us/HomelessResponse.



LPD ACCREDITED FOR HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF POLICING

Recently, the Lacey Police Department (LPD) successfully completed a rigorous accreditation program, administered by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), that certifies it is operating under best practices and standards for law enforcement. The LPD has maintained accreditation since 1996, and is the only law enforcement organization in Thurston County that has achieved WASPC accreditation. Statewide, the LPD is 1 of 59 (approximately 20 percent of the total) law enforcement organizations currently WASPC accredited.



"We are proud to be accredited by WASPC," said Robert Almada, Interim Chief of Police. "It means our department has achieved the highest professional standards for policing. It is a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to excellence."

Accreditation, a multi-phase process over several months, ensures the following benchmarks: administrative and operational effectiveness; fair recruitment and employment practices; better records management; improved use of technology; consistent health and safety standards; rigorous training standards; transparent codes of conduct; enhanced prisoner security and treatment; and following current best practices for other important law enforcement tasks.

"The Lacey Police Department worked hard to obtain this achievement," said Steven Strachan, WASPC Executive Director. "The community should be proud of local law enforcement for taking direct and tangible steps to earn the public's confidence in their operations."

The Washington Legislature originally called for the development of standards and goals for law enforcement in 1976. However, the WASPC accreditation program is continually updated and strives to guide law enforcement with best practices and accountability measures, and heightens organizational discipline.

To learn more about WASPC and its accreditation program, visit waspc.org/accreditation.

LACEY'S FOOD PANTRY: COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATE

The 4th Annual Compassionate Community Project, benefitting Lacey's Food Pantry, is well on its way! As of mid-January, our amazing community has contributed nearly \$25,000 to this much-needed resource! THANK YOU! The Compassionate Community Partners (City of Lacey, North Thurston Public Schools, and Lacey South Sound Chamber) set a \$100,000 fundraising goal for the project.



The food pantry, the final phase of the Thurston County Food Bank's new Lacey site, will function much like the service center in downtown Olympia.

How to Contribute

Lacey utility customers can add a donation to their bill when paying online or by mail. You can also visit nthurston.k12.wa.us/compassion to contribute.

For more information about Lacey's Food Pantry, visit ThurstonCountyFoodBank.org.



SAVE THE DATE! LACEY "VIRTUAL" CULTURAL CELEBRATION: SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Lacey's Cultural Celebration is going virtual and you're invited! Join us "live – online" on Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Experience the sights, sounds, and heritage of the diverse cultures of the world with dance, music, costumes, cooking demonstrations, and more! The online platform allows you to take part from wherever you are — using your phone, computer, or other mobile device. The event also provides the opportunity to shop with cultural vendors, "chat" with members of cultural clubs and organizations, and play interactive games, designed for all ages. In addition, local Lacey restaurants will offer special promotions during the live event.

If you are not able to make it on March 27, no worries! The virtual event will remain open through April 27. You can even visit multiple times! Watch for more information in next month's newsletter or visit ci.lacey.wa.us/CulturalCelebration.

We care!

HAVE A COMMENT OR SUGGESTION FOR US? LET US KNOW!

The "We Care!" form serves as your access point to the City. When you complete and submit a Citizen Request Form, staff will review it on the next regular business day.

You can submit items including traffic concerns, street and road issues, landscape maintenance needs, graffiti, and general suggestions, comments, or concerns.

Visit ci.lacey.wa.us/WeCare to provide feedback.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2006, the City of Lacey has successfully used an automated system to read water meters. Each water meter throughout the City has a radio transmitter that sends a



low frequency radio signal to a Data Collection Unit (DCU). The DCU relays meter data back to the City for processing. The DCUs, mounted to street light poles, are strategically placed around Lacey to provide coverage for all the water meters in the system. They have solar charging panels that provide power to operate and transmit data.

SYSTEM UPGRADES

Until a few years ago, the solar panels worked well and provided adequate power to run the system. However, recent software updates to the meter system require more electricity to process information. Unfortunately, we do not get enough daylight during the winter months to adequately charge the DCU batteries using the solar panels, causing the system to slowly fail. To resolve this issue, in 2020, the City began converting the DCU's power source from solar panels to street light power.

So far, Lacey staff has successfully converted 21 sites. In 2021, the 10 remaining locations will be converted to street light power to complete the project.

