

LAKEWOOD LIFE

Winter 2024



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A Note From Mayor George

I hope your 2024 is off to a happy and healthy start. Earlier this month, I was honored to be sworn in for another term as Mayor of Lakewood. I look forward to working together with Lakewood City Council and our talented team at City Hall to provide our residents with the excellent city services and amenities they expect and deserve. I would also like to congratulate Councilpersons Kyle Baker, Cindy Marx, and Jason Shachner, who are all returning to continue serving on Lakewood City Council for Wards 1, 2, and 4 respectively. Also, a warm welcome and congratulations goes out to Cindy Strebig, who joins council after winning the open seat for Ward 3.

As I look ahead to what we have in store for 2024, I am proud of the hard work and commitment of our team to ensure that Lakewood is an ideal place to work, live, play, and raise a family. In 2023, our city was able to keep building on the high quality of life available in Lakewood. That included investing holistically in our safety services with efforts like our Neighborhood Paramedic Program and the new Safe Place Initiative of

Lakewood Police to revitalizing the beloved recreation assets of Winterhurst Ice Arena and Foster Pool. It also included long-term infrastructure investments through strategic upgrades and repairs to Lakewood's aging municipal facilities like our recycling center, wastewater treatment, and our main sewer interceptor. These are just a few examples of how the last 12 months have provided great momentum as we head into the new year.

While we are proud of the work of the past year, there is always much to be done, and we are ready for it. I hope you will join us by engaging with your community. Whether it is participating in your block club, applying to be on a City of Lakewood committee or commission, or simply continuing to look out for your neighbors, each of us are a key part of what makes Lakewood a special place to live.



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Winterhurst Re-Opening

On November 18th, 2023, Mayor George and County Executive Chris Ronayne dropped the puck at center ice as the City of Lakewood and its operating partner, Lakewood Community Ice (LCI), hosted a grand re-opening of the Winterhurst Ice Rink. This event marks the culmination of the initial efforts to reposition this important city facility to maximize its benefit to the Lakewood community. The City's overarching goal continues to be to make Winterhurst an affordable, inviting, community-focused ice rink that first and foremost serves the needs and priorities of the people of Lakewood.

Some of the recent changes in operations and investment to Winterhurst have included both operational changes and capital investments. On the operations side, public skating and educational opportunities are now back and seen as a primary function of the facility. This includes programming for Open/Public Skate, Parent-Tot Hockey, Adult Drop-In Hockey, and Adult Skate. There are also excellent new concessions (Zamboni's of Lakewood) and pro shop

(Perani's Hockey World) operators in place to serve the needs of users.

Initial physical improvements include a refresh (e.g., new paint) for the lobby, concessions, and lounge areas, as well as a 100% replacement of the skates (both hockey and figure) available for the public rental use. The City has also have ensured the designation of a girls' locker room and made necessary repairs to several areas of the facility.

Moving forward, the City and LCI will continue with additional elements of the long-term capital plan to increase the long-term health and maximum community benefit of the facility. In the near term, you can expect to see new furniture for all facility spaces, new brighter and more efficient LED lighting, and additional restroom upgrades. Longer term, the plan includes items such as replacing the ice plant and a much-needed locker room renovation over the next 12 to 24 months.

For more information and the calendar of programs, visit: <https://www.winterhurstice.com/>

Departmental Recognition

The City of Lakewood achieved the prestigious Auditor of State Award with Distinction. To earn this award, a government entity must achieve a “clean” audit report. This is the fourth consecutive year that the City of Lakewood has achieved this award from the Ohio Auditor. Congratulations to the Finance Department (pictured left, top) and Law Department that lead these efforts.



The City of Lakewood also recently received a Silver Level award for Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. This award recognizes a community’s exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Congratulations to the entire Planning Department. Pictured below on the right is Mayor George, City Planner Amanda Cramer, and Planning & Development Director Shawn Leininger.

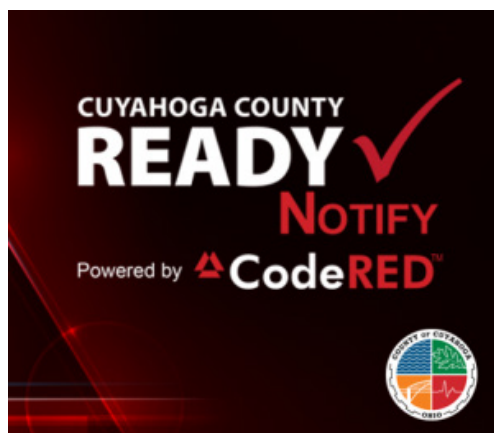


Snow and Ice Control Plan

Now in its second year, the Snow and Ice Control Plan prioritizes increasing the City’s overall capacity to proactively plan for and respond to harsh winter weather. In addition to policy changes to increase coverage on holidays and weekends, the plan also includes revisions to the City’s snow removal priority routes and maps, updated signage regarding snow streets, and additions to our communications protocols during inclement weather to ensure that the public is advised of any parking bans.

The free salt program has also returned for a second year. The City will provide Lakewood residents up to five gallons of rock salt at no cost. Residents can pick up the rock salt at five locations throughout the City: Madison Park North Parking Lot; Lakewood Park Skate

House; Cove Park; Kauffman Park; and Lakewood Dog Park. The program is for residents only. Interested residents must bring their own shovel and bucket to load material themselves.



ReadyNotify Alerts

Have you signed up for ReadyNotify? The City of Lakewood utilizes this service through Cuyahoga County to send important Public Works alerts and emergencies such as water main breaks, snow parking bans, and emergency refuse changes. If you have previously registered, we encourage you to re-register and make sure all your contact information is up to date.

To sign up, visit <https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/readynotify/>.



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