

CITY OF SHORELINE CURRENTS

February 2002 Vol. 4 No. 1

2002 State of the City: Good & Stable

Inside



Richmond Highlands Recreation Center Opens Renovations give this aging facility new life inside and out.

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What each new year will bring is a mystery. We dream, then plan, then work to make of it what we can. In six years as a City, Shoreline has had big dreams balanced by careful planning — conservative budgeting, responsible service growth and reasonable tax levels. This balance will serve us well as we go into the new year. I am happy to report that the state of the City is good and stable.

While each new year is a mystery, last year was one of the most unpredictable. National and regional events touched all of us in one way or another. But Shoreline has been fortunate in many ways.

Our community was relatively untouched by the Nisqually earthquake in February. Instead of a lesson in damage recovery that so many of our fellow Puget Sound cities had to endure, Shoreline translated the experience into better emergency preparedness. The tragedy of September 11 reminded us again about the sheer unpredictability of disasters. Emergency response providers in Shoreline assessed where our community might be vulnerable, and we will continue to work to remain prepared.

One implication of Sept. 11 which is most likely to affect us as a City is the economy. We've reduced our 2002 revenue projects to reflect the changes we've al-

ready seen in the economy, but unstable revenue resources are still one of the biggest challenges facing us. This year's budget was also created based on the provisions of Initiative 747, passed last November, which limits property tax increases to one percent per year. Over the long term, I-747 will reduce the City of Shoreline's revenue by millions of dollars.

Another revenue uncertainty we face is with the money the Washington State Legislature appropriated in 2000 for cities to provide partial relief from the elimination of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. Although it was intended to be ongoing, the legislature hasn't found a way to continue to fund this and are now talking about eliminating it. This would reduce Shoreline's revenue by \$1.5 million per year.

Shoreline already operates on a conservative budget for a City of its size and service levels. Declining revenue may mean we have to make tough choices about what services we offer and begin to look for other sources of revenue. But the City Council has been careful not to let the service levels grow beyond our means and this should help us through uncertain times.

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Shoreline Mayor
Scott Jepsen

Meet your newest Councilmember, John Chang

The first Shoreline City Council meeting of the year on Jan. 7 was also the first meeting for



Shoreline Councilmember John Chang

Shoreline's newest Councilmember, John Chang. Chang was sworn in Dec. 10 along with re-elected incumbents Scott Jepsen, Linda Montgomery and Ron Hansen. Jepsen, Montgomery and Hansen are all original members of the

Shoreline City Council. The other three Shoreline City Councilmember's — Kevin Grossman, Rich Gustafson and Bob Ransom — terms expire Dec. 31, 2003. Ransom is also an original City Councilmember.

As the governing body of Shoreline, the seven elected part-time City Council members establish City policies and adopt laws. The Council also adopts the annual budget, approves appropriations, contracts for services and grants franchises.

Chang says he's looking forward to learning about the Council and how he can contribute. "As the newest councilmember, I am going in as a listener with an open mind. I have tremendous respect for Shoreline residents. They are the greatest asset to our community. I will do my best to understand them and be compassionate to their concerns," he said.

A Shoreline resident since 1982, Chang brings many perspectives to his council seat: he is a business owner, a parent of students enrolled in the Shoreline School District, and because he is legally blind, he vows to represent

the many disabled residents of Shoreline.

Chang and his wife Pia own the Quest Inn on 148th Street. Their children, Rosa and Andrew, attend Shorewood High School. Chang took supplemental classes at Shoreline Community College while earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Finance and International Trade from the University of Washington.

He is an avid Husky football fan, with the Mariners coming in a

close second. "That was one of the things I missed most during the campaign — not keeping up with my teams!" Chang said.

At the Jan. 7 meeting, the City Council selected Scott Jepsen as Mayor and Kevin Grossman as Deputy Mayor to serve for two years. The Mayor presides at City Council meetings and represents the City at ceremonial functions and intergovernmental meetings. The Deputy Mayor presides in the Mayor's absence.

Renovated Rec opens Feb. 11



The Richmond Highlands Recreation Center has an all new look inside and out, but some of the most significant improvements are to the structure itself.

"I was thrilled by how it turned out," says Richmond Highlands resident Naomi Hardy. "It looks fantastic."

Following extensive renovations, the Richmond Highland Recreation Center (16554 Fremont Ave. N.) opens its doors Feb. 11 for regular parks programs including the Teen Program.

Improvements to the Center include a single-stall unisex bathroom built to Americans with Dis-

abilities Act (ADA) standards; seismic upgrades, including a new foundation; new windows and entry; upgraded finishes including a refinished basketball court; and electrical and plumbing upgrades.

An open house is planned for March 26. For more information, contact Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at (206) 546-5041.

Shoreline Police Department needs volunteers

The City of Shoreline is recruiting volunteers to help at the two Neighborhood Police Centers and at the main police station.

Last year, Shoreline police volunteers donated more than 2,000 hours and handled over 2,300 citizen inquiries. These volunteers help in a variety of ways including answering inquiries, assisting with neighborhood crime analysis, administering the vacation house check and court reminder programs and providing handicap parking education, among other things.

One innovative program that volunteers will be helping with is the Victim Call Back Program. The program will focus on victims of residential and commercial burglary, car prowls and larceny. Westside Neighborhood Police Center Officer Leona Obstler said the program will perform follow-up work for detectives and provide crime

prevention services to victims.

"Volunteers are invaluable to the Police Department," says Shoreline Police Chief Denise Pentony. "Every hour they assist with inquiries and other work around the station means an hour of officer time that can be spent on police work."

Applications for police volunteers are available at the Shoreline Police Station (1206 N. 185th St.), the Eastside Neighborhood Police Center (521 NE 165th St.) and the Westside Police Center (630 NW Richmond Beach Rd.). Applicants must successfully complete a background investigation.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, contact Officer Obstler at the Westside Neighborhood Police Center at



Volunteers use a new VW Bug donated by Campbell Nelson Volkswagen for programs such as vacation check. Last November, the Shoreline City Council accepted the one-year donated use of the vehicle on behalf of the volunteers.

(206) 546-3636, Eastside Neighborhood Police Center Officer Charlie Akers at (206) 363-8424, or Kimberly Roybal at the Shoreline Police Station (206) 546-6730.

Review Central Area designs March 5 and 6

What is your vision for the center of Shoreline? Residents, business owners and developers began answering that question last October at a design charrette for Shoreline's "Central Area." The charrette was the first step in creating a subarea plan for this commercial district along Aurora from N. 175th St. to 192nd.

Besides looking at an overall plan for the Central Area, architects worked with those attending the charrette to come up with designs for four demonstration sites: OFC, Fred Meyer, the City Hall office buildings and "the Wedge," the area north of 175th between Aurora and Ronald. Now the City is bringing these designs back to

the community for more refinement.

On March 5 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., the City will present the work that has been done on the designs created in October. Comments from the meeting will be incorporated into the designs the following day during a day-long workshop with demonstration site owners. Results from that workshop will be presented March 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Highland Room of the Shoreline Conference Center, 18560 First Ave. NE, and are open to the public.

The next step is to create a draft subarea plan that will be presented in a joint meeting of the City

Council and Planning Commission. After review, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council about adoption of the plan.

A subarea plan eventually becomes part of Shoreline's Comprehensive Plan and guides future development. It can be a catalyst for economic development because it removes some of the risks for developers, making the area a more attractive investment.

For more information about the Central Area Subarea Plan, please call Kirk McKinley at (206) 546-3901.

Paramount Park construction delayed, but Phase II begins earlier than planned

"We're disappointed that Paramount won't be open as soon as we planned," says City of Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Wendy Barry. "But we are looking forward to having a park — including a skate facility — that the community can be proud of when it does open."

Originally scheduled to be completed in November 2001, construction at Paramount School Park was delayed by a number of unforeseen factors: two months of appeals over the grading permit, unexpected debris buried on the site and a record-setting wet fall.

"There are unforeseen factors with every construction project and so we make allowances for them," explains Project Engineer John Vicente. "But the types and number of delays at Paramount were beyond what you would normally expect and out of anyone's control."

The buried debris coupled with the wet weather particularly affected work on the skate park. A large amount of construction debris — bricks, concrete, pipe pieces — were buried under the site of the skate park. After this was discovered, heavy rains began which saturated the soil. The City placed crushed rock over the surface to help prevent additional water from accumulating.

"The only way to fix this problem is to remove and replace the debris with good soil," explains Vicente. "Before we can place the good soil, though, the ground below needs to dry out so the new

soil can be compacted properly to provide a solid foundation. Which is why we need to wait for the warm, dry weather that we typically get in late spring to complete the skate park."

Improvements to the park were designed with the help of the community during a master planning process involving a series of public meetings.

"Paramount School Park is another example of the partnership between the City and Shoreline School District dedicated to making better use of publicly owned facilities and land," says Barry. "The School District is providing the land — which is a former school site — and the City is providing the improvements. Together we are able to provide more to the community than we would be able to do alone."

The improvements were divided into two phases so the funding could be spread over several years. Phase I improvements include: a skate park; improving the ball field and soccer field and adding a new backstop and benches; realignment of pathways leading to the fields to improve access for people with disabilities. New benches will be installed along the pathways; a larger play area; a new restroom; paving the gravel parking lot; and adding four picnic tables for a total of six in the park.

Phase II improvements include: additional picnic facilities, irrigation and pathways; additional improvements to the sidewalks, curbs and gutters along the park frontage; additional parking improvements; and a new baseball back-

stop in the northeast corner.

Shoreline City Council decided to take advantage of the construction delay to accelerate design and construction of Phase II improvements. Originally scheduled to be complete in 2003, Phase II now is expected to be finished by the end of this year. Construction will resume once design is complete, probably in late spring. The park will not open between now and when construction begins again because of the dangers posed by an unfinished construction project.

Shoreline will be concentrating on completing all the improvements in the northeast corner of the park where the skate park is located. If possible, the City would like to open the skate park once it is complete while improvements to the rest of the park are finished.

For more information about improvements to Paramount School Park, contact Project Engineer John Vicente at (206) 546-8903.

Master Recycler Composter training

The next annual training for King County's Master Recycler Composter (MRC) program will be held in Shoreline on Tuesday evenings March 5 through April 16, 2002. Four Saturdays will also be included. The training is open to all King County residents outside of the City of Seattle. Visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/ResRecy/mrc.htm> or call Karen May at (206) 296-4353 for additional information and an application form. The application deadline is Friday, March 1, 2002.

Ask CRT

Q: How do I report streetlight problems?

With more than 100,000 streetlights to maintain, Seattle City Light appreciates your help in finding lights that are out or are malfunctioning. You can either report them electronically, using their Web site form at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/streetlight/> or you can call them in directly to (206) 684-7056. They will ask for your name and telephone number in case they have questions and need to follow up with you. Crews will repair the light as quickly as possible. The following information will help Seattle City Light correctly identify the problem:

- Address number of the house/building closest to the light.
- Street name.
- Direction in the street's name.
- Is this a streetlight (lighting a city street) or a floodlight (lighting an area such as a playground or a park)?
- Number on pole.
- The type of problem: damaged, glare problem, flickering, out, pole down, etc.
- Cause of the problem (if you know), ie: accident, burned out, storm damage, vandalism, etc.

If you have any questions concerning streetlight service, please call Shoreline's Customer Response Team at (206) 546-1700.

February is Neighbor Appreciation Month in Shoreline

Is there someone in your neighborhood who never fails to offer a smile and wave? Is there someone who is always ready to help? Someone who just makes your neighborhood and community a better place to live? Shoreline's Council of Neighborhoods encourages you to let them know just how much they are appreciated.

The Shoreline City Council has proclaimed February 2002 as Neighbor Appreciation Month. For the past three years, Shoreline has celebrated Neighborhood Appreciation Day in February. The Council of Neighborhoods requested that this year Shoreline designate February as Neighborhood Appreciation Month to allow more opportunities to celebrate.

The City of Shoreline is providing free "Thank you, neighbor" cards to help you show your appreciation. Cards and envelopes are available at Shoreline City Hall (17544 Midvale Ave. N.), Shoreline Library (345 175th St.), Richmond Beach Library (2402 NW 195th Pl.), the Westside Neighborhood Police Center (630 NW Richmond Beach Road) and the

Eastside Neighborhood Police Center (521 NE 165th St.).

"We hope everyone will take this opportunity to make sure those special people in the community know someone has noticed how good they are," says Council of Neighborhoods Chair Darlene Feikema. "Everybody likes to be recognized and appreciated."

The Council of Neighborhoods is also encouraging the community to look for other ways to celebrate such as hosting a neighborhood potluck, open house or work party. For more information about Neighbor Appreciation Month or to find out if there are any events scheduled in your neighborhood, contact Neighborhoods Coordinator Sandy Chastain at (206) 546-8564.



Parks program registration moves to Spartan Gym

"Moving registration to the Spartan Gym allows us to offer more hours for people to come in or call to register," explains Shoreline Recreation Coordinator Bill Bettinger.

All registration for Shoreline Recreation Programs will now be taken at the Spartan Gym, 18560 First Ave. NE, (206) 418-3383. The gym is located in a separate

building on the south end of the Shoreline Conference Center campus between the Senior Center and Shoreline Stadium. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

City Council approves adjusted 2002 budget

After three budget workshops and three public hearings to hear citizens' comments, the City Council approved the 2002 budget Dec. 10. Based on feedback from the public meetings and Council's direction, adjustments were made to the proposed budget, decreasing it by \$333,052.

According to City of Shoreline Finance Director Debbie Tarry, the City's proposed 2002 budget assumed the passage of Initiative 747 which limits property tax increases to one percent per year. Over the next six years, the City will have \$1.7 million less in revenue available for operations as a result of I-747.

"This means that critical decisions will need to be made about the level of services that the City can provide in the future," Tarry explained. "The impacts of I-747 will be felt more deeply over time because the loss of revenue compounds."

Property tax represents approximately 25 percent of the City's General Fund and 13 percent of all operating revenues. Sales tax collections represent another 25 percent of General Fund revenues and 13 percent of operating revenues. The City's tax base is primarily based on consumer goods purchases. With the exception of car sales, there is no major mall or

significant specialty shopping areas in Shoreline susceptible to economic downturns.

The 2002 budget appropriates \$48,257,270 to 14 separate funds. The adjusted budget is based on conservative revenue projections, including a property tax levy compliant with I-747 and adjustments to reflect inflation. The budget also contains modest service level increases and one-time investments. The City has made conservative revenue estimates and will continue to monitor revenue sources, especially sales tax, over the next few months in response to the economic downturn.

"The 2002 budget is balanced in all funds and represents a 25 percent overall decrease from the 2001 budget," said Tarry. "Shoreline is in excellent financial position as a result of conservative financial policies and budgeting, although it will be a challenge to maintain this position. Our projections show expenditures growing faster than our revenue base over the long-term."

The 2002 budget is available at the Shoreline City Hall (17544 Midvale Ave. N), Richmond Beach Library (19601 21st Ave.), Shoreline Library (342 NE 175th), the Eastside Neighborhood Police Center (521 NE 165th) and Westside Neighborhood Police Center (624 Richmond Beach Rd.). For more information about the budget, please call Finance Director Debbie Tarry at (206) 546-0787.

Shoreline audits utility taxes

In December 1999, the City of Shoreline adopted a six percent utility tax on telephone (wireless and landline), natural gas and garbage. Although the tax is actually on the utility providers, the Utility Trade Commission (UTC) allows utility companies to pass this tax on to the consumer which means this tax shows up on your utility bills.

In 2000, the City contracted with a company called Microflex to perform audits of the utility providers to assure that the correct amount of utility tax was remitted to the City. During the audit, Microflex compares addresses to which the utility provider is assessing the tax to actual addresses in the City. This

comparison allows Microflex to identify addresses that are being incorrectly assessed.

Audit results for the time period of December 1999 through mid-2000 show that providers have not been collecting utility taxes correctly. Once the City notifies the providers of these errors, some Shoreline residents may begin to see collection of back utility tax on their bills for the first time. The audit will help utility tax providers correct their records so that the utility tax is properly charged in the future.

If you have questions, please contact the specific utility or call the City of Shoreline at (206) 546-1700.

2002 State of the City continued from page 1

Despite unsettling events, the City of Shoreline accomplished a lot in 2001. If you drive around Shoreline, you will see a renewal taking place. These projects represent a major step in the transformation that our residents envisioned during incorporation.

One of the main motivations for incorporation as a City was to have a more direct influence on how our infrastructure — our parks, roads, sidewalks and drainage system — were maintained and improved. Shoreline inherited from King County aging and, in many cases, inferior and neglected infrastructure. In the first few years we were able to complete many of the repairs that were long overdue — to reduce flooding, resurface roads and add sidewalks. By completing many of the smaller projects first, we are able to turn our attention to larger, more ambitious projects such as the Ronald Bog and Third Ave. NW drainage improvements which will bring flood relief to dozens of homes in Shoreline.

Last year we also completed or began construction on a number of parks that will expand the lifespan of community facilities and even provide new facilities. Renovations to the Shoreline Pool and Richmond Highlands Recreation Center are complete, and improvements to Paramount School Park and Shoreview Park are under construction. We also celebrated a new community recreation and sports facility last year when the Spartan Gym opened its doors in October. This gym is a prime example of how partnerships between the City and School District can better serve the entire community.

Shoreline has three other very large projects underway as well: improvements to the North City Business District, the Interurban Trail and Aurora Avenue North. While these projects are still in the engineering and environmental phases, they represent the biggest changes Shoreline is likely to see in the coming years.

Although these improvements are exciting, I must admit that there have been frustrations, too, particularly with the slow progress of some of the projects. These frustrations are actually a driving force for the City Council. The community has invested a lot of time and effort into planning these improvements, and we want to keep these projects on track so the community's dreams can be realized. I am confident that we can do that and I look forward to seeing these changes in our City.

One of the things that makes me the most proud of living here and serving as a Councilmember in Shoreline is the dedication of our volunteers. These people are in many ways the lifeblood of our community, providing services and support that we otherwise wouldn't have. They deserve our thanks and continuing gratitude.

Communication with the public continues to be a priority for the City Council. We continue to look for ways to make better use of our communication tools and to make it easier for you to fully participate in your City government by providing useful information. If you have any suggestions on how we can do this better, please let us know.

One of the big lessons we learned during last year's events was the importance of our sense of

community. I am proud that the people of Shoreline are so involved in their community and local government. This is what gives us such a sense of community and makes Shoreline a great place to live. We have accomplished a lot in six years and have a lot to look forward to. As we move into the new year, I encourage each of you to stay informed, get involved and help us create an even better

Shoreline.

High Points of 2001

- Hiring our new City Manager.
- Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program which is off and running, providing a way for Shoreline residents to improve traffic safety on their streets;
- One of the lowest crime rates for a Puget Sound city of our size;
- The new Economic Development Program
- The Central Shoreline Design Charrette

Many of our yearly accomplishments are the result of the daily City business of providing quality services to the public. Last year the City:

- Responded to nearly 5,000 customer service requests about things such as potholes, flooding and code enforcement issues;
- Answered over 20,000 customer service phone calls;
- Dispatched almost 14,000 calls for police service;
- Issued over 1,400 permits;
- Processed 62 requests for public documents and 48 pieces of legislation;
- Issued almost 350 pet licenses;
- Approved seven Neighborhood Mini-Grant Projects;
- Inspected 221 private and 70 City storm water retention facilities;
- Resurfaced almost 25 lane-miles of streets.

Who, what, where in the City of Shoreline

City of Shoreline

Shoreline City Hall
17544 Midvale Avenue N.
Shoreline, WA 98133-4921
(206) 546-1700
Fax (206) 546-7868

City Hall Annex
Home of: • Planning and
Development Services Department
• Public Works Department
Highland Plaza
1110 N. 175th St., Suite 105
Shoreline, WA 98133



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City Council

City Councilmembers
Mayor Scott Jepsen
Deputy Mayor Kevin Grossman
John Chang
Rich Gustafson
Ron Hansen
Linda Montgomery
Bob Ransom

Meeting Location
Shoreline Conference Center
18560 First Ave. NE
Mt. Rainier Room

Workshop Meetings
First and third Mondays
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meetings
Second and fourth Mondays
beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Line
(206) 546-2190

Televised City Council Meetings
Channel 21
Wednesday through Sunday
6 a.m., noon and 8 p.m.

Shoreline Police

Emergency: 911

Shoreline Police Station
Chief Denise Pentony
1206 N. 185th St.
Shoreline, WA 98133
(206) 546-6730

Westside Neighborhood Police Ctr.
Officer Leona Obstler
624 NW Richmond Beach Road
Shoreline, WA 98177
(206) 546-3636

Eastside Neighborhood Police Ctr.
Officer Charlie Akers
521 NE 165th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155
(206) 363-8424

City of Shoreline Web site

Information on agendas,
minutes and how to partici-
pate is now available online.
www.cityofshoreline.com



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