Meet Your Shoreline City Council

On January 4, new City Councilmembers Will Hall, Chris Roberts and Shari Tracey and returning Councilmember Keith McGlashan were sworn into office by Superior Court Judge Richard Eadie. The first meeting of the year followed where Council selected Keith McGlashan as Mayor and Will Hall as Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor presides at Council meetings and represents the City at ceremonial functions and inter-governmental meetings. The Deputy Mayor presides in the Mayor’s absence.

Shoreline operates as a code city under the laws of the State of Washington with a Council-Manager form of government. As the City’s governing body, Shoreline’s seven elected part-time City Councilmembers establish City policies and laws, adopt an annual budget, approve appropriations, contract for services and grants franchises. The Council hires a City Manager to carry out its policies.

Council meetings are held on Monday evenings. Study Sessions are the first and third Mondays at 6:30 p.m. On the second and fourth Mondays, Workshop Dinner Meetings are at 6:00 p.m. and Business Meetings are at 7:30 p.m.

Visit Shoreline’s website or call the Agenda Line at (206) 801-2236 for the latest meeting information. The website also features agenda packets, meeting video archives, Councilmember biographies and Council contact information.

**Council adopts resolution supporting School District propositions**

At its January 25 meeting, the Shoreline City Council adopted a resolution supporting the three propositions on the ballot for voter approval at the February 9 special election.

The District’s Proposition 1 levy replaces an existing operations and maintenance levy which expires in 2010. The Proposition 2 bond issue will provide resources to modernize both local high schools. The Proposition 3 capital levy provides for technology improvements and support.

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Shoreline celebrated the official beginning of construction on the second mile of the Aurora Corridor Project, N 165th to N 185th Streets, on January 15. Current and former Shoreline City Councilmembers including new Mayor Keith McGlashan (fourth on left), King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson (third on left), representatives from U.S. Senators Cantwell and Murray’s and Representatives Inslee and McDermott’s offices, WSDOT officials, business leaders and many other hearty souls from the community turned out despite traditional Northwest weather. Construction on this mile is expected to be completed summer 2011.

Construction is officially underway on Shoreline's middle mile of Aurora from N 165th to N 185th Streets. Another section, from N 185th to N 192nd Streets will head to construction later this year. Both will be done in 2011.

Crews have been given a lot of flexibility to get the job done. They can work 8:00 a.m. Sunday through 5:00 p.m. Friday. Typically night work will occur when tasks span multiple lanes of traffic. The contractor is required to keep two lanes of traffic open in each direction unless otherwise approved by the City. On side streets like N 175th and N 185th Streets expect lane closures between 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please drive safely in the construction zone and plan for delays.
Police Citizen’s Academy begins March 4

Shoreline, Kenmore and Woodinville Police Departments and the King County Sheriff’s Office are sponsoring a Citizen’s Academy Thursday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Academy runs March 4 through May 6 at the King County Sheriff’s Precinct Two, 18118 73rd Ave NE, Kenmore.

The Academy is a great way to gain a better understanding of police work and resources available to them. Those who complete the course are eligible to sign up to ride with an officer during part of a patrol shift.

The 10-week course covers a variety of topics, including: Defensive Tactics, K9, Major Accident Investigations, Drug Investigations, Homicide and Major Crimes, Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), Guardian One Helicopter and Marine Patrol.

Registration and an application are required. Applications are available on the police page at www.shorelinewa.gov. To have an application sent and to register, contact Shoreline Police Officer Leona Obstler at (206) 546-3636, Leona.Obstler@kingcounty.gov.

License now required for Shoreline businesses

The City has established a business license that is required for most profit and nonprofit businesses. Businesses that are operated in a home, but have annual gross receipts less than $12,000 and do not include any retail activity are exempt as are federal, state and local governments. The business license fee is $40 with nonprofits exempt from the fee.

Shoreline has partnered with the State Department of Licensing Master License Service (MLS) to handle applications for and renewal of the new business license through the state’s combined-licensing process.

Businesses will receive information about their first City business license in mid-March and will need to make payment to MLS by April 30. Businesses must renew their license annually.

For more information, contact the City Clerk’s Office at (206) 801-2230.

TBD fees now in effect for vehicle license tabs

If your vehicle tab renewal is due this month, you should have received a notice in December indicating the amount due. You may have noticed a new $20 fee.

In July 2009, the Shoreline City Council passed an ordinance that set an annual $20 per vehicle registration fee to help pay for the City’s pavement maintenance program. Shoreline’s new Transportation Benefit District (TBD) allows it to use these fees to replace transportation funding that has been lost over the years and to preserve the City’s transportation infrastructure into the future. This continued investment ensures that our roads will remain safe and in good condition.

The $20 fee takes effect on license tabs that expire on or after February 1, 2010.

For more information, visit the TBD page on Shoreline’s website or contact Shoreline’s Finance Department at (206) 801-2302, shorelinetbd@shorelinewa.gov.

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According to a notice on the School District’s website, “The District has paid off many of its previous bond commitments, creating the capacity to sell additional bonds without increasing payment obligations for taxpayers. The District projects that the passage of all three measures will not increase the tax bills for our average resident of Shoreline or Lake Forest Park.”

Recently the Shoreline School District and Shoreline Historical Museum came to an agreement regarding the Ronald School Building. The agreement allows the Museum to continue in the building once it is relocated at the School District’s expense, to a site adjacent to Shorewood High School that the Museum will purchase. The agreement is dependent on the passage of the school bond.

For more information about the Shoreline School District Proposals, visit www.shorelineschools.org.
Parks Maintenance keeps City parks safe, clean and green

The next time you enjoy lunch at a picnic shelter or cheer for a Little League team at a baseball diamond, thank the Shoreline Parks Maintenance crew for keeping it in good condition.

This hard-working team takes care of the City’s 381 acres of open spaces and athletic fields which include 28 parks, 13 restrooms, 15 playgrounds, 14 baseball fields, 10 soccer fields, two recreation centers, one swimming pool, one skate park, Kruckeberg Botanic Garden and many miles of trails.

Parks Maintenance is one of the City’s service areas that most visibly impacts Shoreline’s quality of life. Parks Superintendent Kirk Peterson says the crew considers Shoreline’s parks and open spaces an extension of each resident’s backyard. “We take care of the property the way the community expects,” says Peterson. “Maintenance keeps the parks safe and protects the investment residents have made as taxpayers over the past 15 years of Shoreline being a City.”

From goal post installation at Paramount School Park to welding a backstop at Hillwood Park, the tasks vary from day to day. The Parks Maintenance staff handles drainage and irrigation repair, litter removal, tree care, carpentry, welding, construction projects, park upgrades and even provides support to the annual Christmas Ship celebration at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. The staff lends a hand at Ivy Out and Earth Day events, too. If a resident or recreation group is planning an event, staff will be there to assist.

Like Shoreline’s other divisions, Parks Maintenance continuously looks for ways to do more with less. With seven full-time staff, several seasonal workers and plenty of volunteers, the team gets it all done. Adding seasonal workers when needed rather than full-time, year-round staff keeps the crew working efficiently. They also balance the workload with annual service contracts and the help of many generous volunteers.

For more information about the Shoreline Parks Maintenance Crew, or to provide feedback, contact Kirk Peterson at (206) 801-2611, kpeterso@shorelinewa.gov.

Park construction continues at Cromwell and Hamlin Parks this winter. Although there have been some winter weather delays, crews are working to complete upgrades for opening celebrations this summer.

Cromwell Park, at 18009 Corliss Avenue N, is closed during construction. Storm water structures are complete and work is under way on storm water swales to control erosion and water runoff from flowing downstream to Ronald Bog.

This spring, work will begin on landscaping, paved trails, picnic tables and benches as well as a stage in the amphitheatre. The play area and swings will be installed last. The lawn and field areas will remain closed until sometime next spring. A dedication is planned for early summer 2010.

Volunteers are needed to plant native vegetation at the park wetlands February 20 and March 6 (see the Volunteer story on the next page for details).

At Hamlin Park, 16006 15th Avenue NE, fields have been irrigated and seeded and will remain closed until the lawn is well established sometime later this year. Lighting, pathways and a new picnic shelter with tables and benches are all complete, with play areas scheduled for installation this summer. The park is open outside of the construction areas. Limited parking is available at the 15th Avenue NE entrance. Additional parking at the 25th Avenue NE entrance provides access to fields 5 and 6 and the park’s system of trails, which are open during construction.

Improvements to both parks are funded by the 2006 Park Bond. For more information, go to www.shorelinewa.gov or contact Park Project Coordinator Maureen Colaizzi at (206) 801-2603, mcolaizzi@shorelinewa.gov.

The construction crew works on the concrete base for the Hamlin Park picnic shelter before benches and tables are installed.

Looking southwest from the main pathway towards Meridian Avenue shows the footing for the project’s public art piece, “Rain Tree” within the storm water detention pond at Cromwell Park. The public art piece will celebrate water in our environment. The storm water improvements at Cromwell are designed to reduce potential flooding impacts at Ronald Bog and further downstream.
Native plant volunteer events

Saturday, Feb. 20, and Saturday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Cromwell Park, N 179th Street and Meridian Avenue N

Join the City, the Meridian Neighborhood Association, Richmond Little League, Hillwood Soccer and Earth Corps to revegetate Cromwell Park. As part of the King County Waterworks and Youth Sports Facility Grants, volunteers will be installing native plants in the wetland areas. Dress for comfort and wet weather. Site may be muddy. Tools and gloves will be provided. Minors 14 to 18 years old need a liability waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Minors under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who needs to directly supervise their activities.

For more information, contact Shoreline Parks Project Coordinator Maureen Colaizzi at (206) 801-2603, mcolaizzi@shorlinewa.gov.
Seattle City Light rate increase

Shoreline residents will notice a rate increase in their Seattle City Light (SCL) bills this winter. The increase took effect January 1 following the Seattle City Council approval of a 13.8% rate increase in November 2009.

The rate increase reflects escalating costs since the last rate review in 2006 and a significant drop in revenue generated from the sale of surplus power. SLC has already reduced its budget by $28 million and is working with the Seattle City Council to develop a strategic plan for future funding.

This rate increase may come at a difficult time for families and individuals who are struggling financially. The federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists low income renters and homeowners with their winter heating bills and furnace-repair costs and the Puget Sound Energy HELP Program (PSE HELP) assists low income renters and homeowners with their PSE bills.

The LIHEAP Program typically runs from November through May, or as funds remain available. PSE HELP operates year-round, or as funds remain available.

To apply for assistance, please call Hopelink’s Energy Assistance at (800) 348-7144 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are required and are located at the Hopelink food bank, 15809 Westminster Way N.

Visioning Process Continues: Tour Sunset/Boeing Creek Open Space

Take a tour of the proposed Sunset Park and Boeing Creek Open Space sites to determine the future use of these sites. Two opportunities are offered: February 23 at 4:30 p.m. and then again on March 6 at 8:00 a.m. Meet tour guides at the main parking lot of the First Lutheran Church located at 18354 8th Avenue North.

Do you know who to call in a NON-emergency?

New County service provides zip code-based numbers

9-1-1 should only be used for emergencies involving police, fire or medics, not for power outages or traffic reports. King County launched a new service, LinksByZip, to provide the correct numbers and resources for non-emergency situations based on your zip code. Visit the website www.kingcounty.gov/LinksByZip to find phone numbers for your specific location. Print it out and keep it by the phone for future reference.

Do call 9-1-1 for:

1. A serious medical emergency (chest pains, seizures, bleeding, etc.)
2. Any type of fire (structure, vehicle, brush, etc.)
3. Any crime in-progress (robbery, burglary, prowler, fights, etc.)
4. Any other life threatening situations (traffic accident with injuries, etc.)

Police and Fire would rather have you call 9-1-1 than not when you are unsure.

Do not call 9-1-1 for:

5. A power outage: Call your utility company.
6. Traffic information: 5-1-1 is the number for traffic information in Washington.
7. Social services: 2-1-1 is available in Washington to help with health and human service needs.

Need more information to be prepared?
Check out the Emergency Management page at www.shorelinewa.gov

Reverse 9-1-1: Messages you don’t want to miss

You know to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. But did you know that the 9-1-1 system can be used to call you in an emergency?

It can. It’s called Reverse 9-1-1.

The City of Shoreline encourages everyone to register their phone numbers with Reverse 9-1-1. It allows for residents and businesses to receive an alert in the event of hazardous materials spill, evacuations, severe weather conditions, flood, crime, boil water advisories and other critical notifications -- messages you, your family and your business don’t want to miss.

To register, visit www.norcom.org/reverse911.cfm to fill out an online form or call the Emergency 911 Dispatch Center—NORCOM during regular business hours at (425) 577-5700.
Free Tax Preparation Help

Keep more of what you work for

United Way of King County and AARP provide free tax preparation for seniors and households making less than $42,000. IRS-certified, multilingual volunteers help prepare your return and help you claim all eligible tax credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is for working families earning less than $48,279 and may be worth as much as $5,657. Additionally, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is worth up to $1,000 per child.

Electronic filing for quick refunds is available. The Free Tax Preparation Campaign allows people to keep more of their hard-earned money and avoid paying unnecessary fees for commercial tax preparation and “rapid refund” loans. All sites have limited capacity; please arrive early to sites that don’t require an appointment. Service ends April 15.

**Hopelink/Shoreline**
January 13 through April 10, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Shoreline Library**
February 3 through April 14, Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and every Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. Bring last year’s tax return. Electronic filing will be available. No pre-registration or appointments.

**Richmond Beach Library**
Fridays February 4 through April 15. Individuals can schedule appointments by calling the Shoreline Senior Center at (206) 365-1536. Walk-ins will be accommodated as time permits.

**WHAT TO BRING:**
- Last year’s income tax return
- End of year tax statements from all sources of income for all members of household (W-2, 1099, etc.)
- Social Security or Tax I.D. Number for every member of the household
- Birth date of each person claimed
- Child care provider name, address and Tax I.D. Number
- Mortgage interest statement and property tax statement if you own a home
- Checking or savings account number for direct deposit of refund

For more information, visit United Way’s website at http://www.uwkc.org/ or call 211 or (206) 461-3200 or (800) 621-4636.

Recycle household batteries in Shoreline

Shoreline residents and businesses can drop off household batteries for recycling in the City Hall lobby, the Richmond Beach and Shoreline Libraries and the Shoreline Police Station.

In 2009, residents recycled 6,481 pounds of batteries, diverting them from the landfill and protecting the environment from hazardous waste. Household batteries, such as alkaline, nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium, lithium ion and small rechargeable lead batteries less than two pounds are accepted.

Recycled alkaline batteries are added to steel to be made into rebar for use in new construction, and the hazardous waste is re-used.

Did you know that many salt-based products used to de-ice your driveway and sidewalks can kill vegetation and aquatic life, make your pet sick and possibly irritate your pet’s paws? Look for – and use – products that say pet-friendly or water-safe. Typically, these contain more glycols, sugar and corn byproducts. For more information contact Environmental Programs Assistant Tina Han at (206) 801-2433, than@shorelinewa.gov.