

CITY OF SHORELINE CURRENTS

January 2000 Vol. 2 No. 1

State of the City: The journey of defining our City has begun

As our young City enters the beginning of a new millennium, I believe the City of Shoreline is well prepared to meet its challenges and move forward to achieve additional success.

When the City of Shoreline incorporated just a little more than four years ago, we truly started from scratch in determining what we wanted to become. We inherited a set of roads, parks and drainage facilities that we knew

were inadequate in many ways. We also knew we were not a rich city. Still, we had a vision of a better community that would set its own priorities and work within its means to accomplish that vision.

This vision has guided our journey as a city. In 1998 we created the map for Shoreline that will lead us into the future. This map included documents such as the Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Program. With these basic policies to guide us we have begun the journey of making real changes in our community.

The guideposts of 1999 were details, definitions, design and dedication. With the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Program completed, we began to look ahead to the next step — implementation. But, we wanted to make sure that the community not only defined how projects would be done, how ordinances would be written, but how our City will develop into the kind of community we want.

Our commitment to open public access to the process of government touches nearly everything we do in our City. For example, we are the only public agency within

Shoreline that has committed to televising each of its regular and workshop meetings. This gives everyone in the community access to witness actions their City Council is taking, regardless of whether they want to attend a meeting in person.

During 1999, we also completed a preliminary redesign for our main street, Aurora Avenue. This process involved citizens at large, our neighborhoods, business people and key partner agencies outside the City, such as the state Department of Transportation. The design that was created will

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Scott Jepsen, Mayor
City of Shoreline

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Shoreline's 1999 Accomplishments

Key accomplishments for the City of Shoreline in 1999 include:

- The City has completed a yearlong review process that will lead to the adoption of a new development code.

- Shoreline has reached a solid con-

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sensus about redesigning and improving Aurora Avenue to increase pedestrian and vehicular safety, improve aesthetics and provide better public transit access.

- The City officially took the lead role in developing the Interurban Trail through Shoreline following the County's agreement, which included the transfer to the City of more than \$680,000 in grant funds for the project.

- The master plans approved by the Council for Paramount Park, the Shoreline Pool and the Richmond Highlands Recreation Center spell out what we can do to improve these important public facilities.

- \$15 million in grants have been awarded to the City for projects including Aurora Avenue, Interurban Trail, police officers, recycling, and traffic and pedestrian safety improvements.

- Shoreline continued to implement the Citizen Involvement and Communications Committee recommendations, including:

- quarterly City newsletter; bi-weekly column in Shoreline Enterprise; leadership training for neighborhood leaders; City web site; town hall-type meetings to provide information and get citizen feedback on key City issues.

- The City Council approved an enhanced program for code enforcement that continues the City's basic approach of working with residents and businesses to achieve voluntary compliance whenever possible. When property owners fail to comply, however, we have a three-strikes process that can eventually lead to court action and mandatory compliance efforts.

The first major code enforcement action was in November 1999 when the City removed from one Shoreline home several 20-yard truckloads of garbage and debris, 172 automobile tires, plus hazardous wastes and many tons of scrap metal and auto engines. The neighbors thanked us for this action.

- Since we've taken over responsibility for analyzing the conditions of our roads, the City has overlaid some 20 lane-miles of our road system. Our Council has committed the resources and has a long term plan to ensure our road system stays in good shape.

- The Council approved an additional \$50,000 in human services funding to bring our total funds, including Community Development Block Grants to \$216,000.

- More than 200 volunteers devoted their time during 1999 to various City offices and programs such as the Police Department, the Planning Commission, the Library Board, the Parks Committee, neighborhood organizations and the Citizens Planning Academy (a total of nearly 9,000 hours).

- The Council has set aside funds and begun the process of designing solutions for the chronic flooding problems at Ronald Bog and along 3rd Ave. NW. Design solutions are not expected until later this year. However, since both of these drainage projects must comply with new requirements imposed by the Endangered Species Act, they are far more complicated than they otherwise would have been. In each of these projects, of course, citizen involvement will be key in our final decisions.

Gustafson, Grossman and Ransom begin new term

Returning City Councilmember Rich Gustafson is sworn in by King County Superior Court Judge Richard Eadie as new Councilmember Kevin Grossman (center) and returning Councilmember Bob Ransom await their turn. All three begin a four-year term this year. The ceremony at the Dec. 13 City Council meeting shared the spotlight with the farewell salute to Councilmember Connie King.



Connie King Fund established for parks

Although Shoreline's first mayor, Connie King, retired from the City Council last year, her legacy will live on with the new Connie King Fund.

"Connie had mentioned at previous meetings that it was too bad there was no way people could donate to the City for programs or improvements in the community," explains Shoreline Mayor Scott Jepsen. "So a number of Councilmembers discussed her point and decided to create a new fund for this purpose, named after Shoreline's first mayor. It pays tribute to all of her hard work, dedication and service to the City."



The new Connie King Fund debuted at the Dec. 13 City Council meeting as a surprise to celebrate Councilmember King's final

meeting. Tax-deductible donations to the fund will help finance scholarships for recreation programs. The City will also accept donations for park improvements.

"There are a lot of generous people in Shoreline and they just need a place to give," says King. "I am thrilled that this fund has been established and am especially delighted with its potential to expand opportunities for kids in Shoreline."

For more information on the Connie King Fund, please contact the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at (206) 546-5041.

Draft development code released this month

Shoreline is on track to have a new development code that reflects its community values by this summer.

The draft code, released Jan. 6, represents a yearlong effort by citizen members of the Shoreline Planning Academy, staff and three consultants. The new code is the implementing tool for the Comprehensive Plan and for regulating development within the City. Besides reflecting Shoreline's unique vision the new code is also presented more graphically than the existing zoning code. The new code has many diagrams and drawings, clarifies the intent of each requirement and includes the engineering standards and the Engineering Development Guide, which details public works requirements for storm drainage and streets.

The public is encouraged to review the draft code and submit amendments on a special form available at Shoreline's Planning and Development Services Department. The amendments are due by the end of the day Monday, Jan. 31.

Once the staff has compiled the amendments, they will be presented to the Planning Commission, which is expected to begin public hearings by the end of February. The Planning Commission will then make a recommendation to the City Council and the Council will consider adoption of the new code.

The draft code has also been submitted to the State of Washington for review as required by the Growth Management Act. While the revision has been a yearlong process, Anna Kolousek, Assistant Director of

Planning and Development Services points out that most jurisdictions take much longer to adopt a new code. She credits the Planning Academy, a diverse group of citizens, for helping the City revise the code in one year.

"The Planning Academy members were extremely well-organized. They worked really hard on their homework to give us feedback on what they wanted us to understand about the community and to translate into the code," Kolousek says. "Their attendance and commitment to all those sessions was tremendous."

Copies of the draft code are available at the Planning and Development Services Department, 1110 N. 175th St., Suite 105. Copies are available for review at the Shoreline and Richmond Beach libraries, the east and west Neighborhood Police Centers and City Hall. Please call (206) 546-1700 for more information.

Meet new Councilmember Kevin Grossman

Welcome to Shoreline's newest City Councilmember, Kevin Grossman. Councilmember Grossman was sworn in Dec. 13, 1999, and attended his first meeting as a member of the City Council Jan. 3, 2000.

"I'm looking forward to my tenure on the Council. I believe my involvement in the community and experience in policy making roles prepares me to be a valuable member of the Council," says Councilmember

Grossman. "I look forward to working with each of the Councilmembers in the years to come."

Councilmember Grossman has been very active in Shoreline since moving to the area eight years ago. He is a Trustee of Shoreline Community College, President of the Board of the Center for Human Services and Chair of the Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges Legislative Advisory Committee.

He is past chair of the Echo Lake Neighborhood Association and served on the Council of Neighborhoods. In 1996, he received the Grace Cole Volunteer of the Year Award.

After completing a Navy enlistment, Councilmember Grossman earned a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Washington. While his background was in commercial and corporate real estate brokerage, he recently made a career change and now is the Manager of Technology for the Shoreline School District.

Councilmember Grossman and his wife, Dawn, live in the Echo Lake Neighborhood with their three children. His children have been active in Hillwood Soccer and Richmond Little League. He enjoys gardening, photography, hiking, bike riding, cooking, reading and activities he can do with his family.



City Councilmember
Kevin Grossman

Parks Master Plans enter design phase

Following City Council approval of master plans for Paramount School Park, Richmond Highlands Recreation Center and Shoreline Pool, Shoreline is beginning the design of improvements for these three park properties.

"People won't see a lot of physical changes this year as we do the design work," explains Shoreline Parks Director Wendy Barry. "But by next year these projects should be ready for construction."

Each master plan was created with the help of public input during a series of open houses. Alternatives were presented to the City Council which chose a preferred option for development.

Following is a brief synopsis of each of the selected master plans:

Paramount School Park

Phase one construction for Paramount School Park includes irrigation and additional improvements for the ball fields, path and parking improvements and adding a restroom for a total project cost of \$1,125,000. The ballfield improvements respond to the many complaints on the condition of the turf in summer. The preferred alternative included additional improvements that were deferred due to budget restrictions.

Richmond Highlands Recreation Center

The preferred option for the Recreation Center includes the addition of ADA accessible

restrooms and replacement of the electrical and mechanical systems to extend the life of the facility. The estimated budget is \$700,000.

Shoreline Pool

The Shoreline Pool preferred alternative includes extending the life of the facility's mechanical, plumbing, boiler and pool filtering systems by 20 years, replacing the roof, improving and replacing deteriorated fixtures, upgrading interior finishes, enlarging the women's dressing room and lobby, and adding work/storage space for a total project cost of \$1,231,000.

Barry says once construction on these three sites is near completion, the master planning process will begin again for the next park property on the list, Twin Ponds.

New pool parking nearly completed

Visitors to Shoreline Pool will soon enjoy a long-anticipated improvement: additional parking. While a majority of the construction for the new parking was completed in January, paving may be delayed due to weather. The parking lots will be open as soon as possible.

The new parking increases the number of spaces from 19 to 57 including the addition of a passenger load/unload zone and two new handicap spaces for a total of four. Besides re-striping the existing parking area, two lots — one to the north and one to the south — have been added. Safety improvements to the area also include sidewalks on the east side of First Ave. from the Shoreline Conference Center north to 193rd and a crosswalk adjacent to the pool.

"Parking has always been a major impediment for our pool users and this will be a huge improvement," says Shoreline Parks Director Wendy Barry. "It will not only add convenience, but will make the whole stretch of the road and access to the pool much safer for pool users."



With construction on the Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Bluff Trail complete, visitors enjoy more benches and seating areas, an extension of the trail into a loop at the southern end, a drinking fountain and — the location's biggest attraction — the view. Temporary fencing will be removed when newly seeded grass matures.

New park ordinance signs debut in Shoreline parks

To help increase the awareness and safety of Shoreline park patrons, the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department has invested in new bright blue ordinance signs that have been appearing in Shoreline Parks over the past few months.

Last May, the Shoreline City Council adopted a permanent City of Shoreline Park Ordinance to replace the previously adopted King County Park Ordinance.

The new ordinance is designed to provide a safe and respectful environment for all park users. One of the park ordinances addresses dogs in our parks. This ordinance states that dogs must be on leash at all times in all parks.

"This is not a new law," explains Shoreline Parks Director Wendy Barry. "There was also a leash law under the King County ordinance previously used by the City."

Dogs are welcome in Shoreline parks. However, keeping dogs on leashes helps protect salmon, wildlife and stream organisms, decreases erosion (particularly

around creeks and streams) and helps protect the safety of children and adults, as well as the safety of the dogs.

Enforcement of the leash law portion of the park ordinance is the responsibility of King County Animal Control. To report a dog off leash at a Shoreline Park, call (206) 296-PETS. The Shoreline Police can assist when there is a danger to people or property and can be reached by calling 911.

Check your cable upgrade

The City wants to confirm whether Chambers Cable has fully complied with requirements to upgrade its service. If you are a Chambers Cable customer, please perform a simple test by tuning to Channel 42. If you have received the upgrade this should be the History Channel. Only if you are not receiving this channel, please call the City at 546-1620 and leave your name, phone number, and address. (AT&T customers, please don't call. We are working on improving your service as well.)

Shoreline City Council priority addressed in Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program

Since a high priority of the City Council is to improve traffic safety on Shoreline's neighborhood roads, the City is creating the Shoreline Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program. The program will guide the City's response to citizen concerns about speeding, traffic volume, accident rates and cut-through traffic in their neighborhoods.

During preliminary planning, the Technical Advisory Committee and five-member Citizen Advisory Committee have been jointly discussing the merits of a phased approach program that would include education, enforcement and engineering. The Technical Advisory Committee includes representatives from the Shoreline Police and Fire Departments, School District, King County METRO, and

City staff. The Citizen Advisory Committee includes two members from the Council of Neighborhoods and three citizens representing the community at large.

Residents were invited to meet their citizen representatives, learn more about program development, and share their neighborhood traffic concerns at the Shoreline Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program Open House held Jan. 19 at the Shoreline Conference Center.

"We wanted to check in with citizens to make sure we had all the issues on the table before we continued with program development," explains Project Engineer Kristen Stouffer-Overleese.

The Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees will review the feedback received at the open

house and continue drafting the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program. A second public open house will be held within the next few months to present the draft program.

For more information about the program, contact Stouffer-Overleese at (206) 546-1700.

Shoreline Neighbor Appreciation Day February 12

Pick up your free thank you postcards to send to the neighbors who make your community a better place to live at the Shoreline Office of Neighborhoods. Call (206) 546-1700 for more information.

Those in need offered utility tax relief

In December 1999, the Shoreline City Council adopted a utility tax relief program for low income families and individuals in Shoreline. The program exemption applies to natural gas and

sanitation services for people who qualify under low income guidelines established by the federal government. For example, a family of four would need to have an income of \$1,740 a month or less and a family of two would need an income of \$1,152 a month or less to qualify. (See table at left for income and family size eligibility criteria.)

Shoreline adopted the Utility Tax Ordinance in October that imposes utility taxes on natural gas, telephone/cell phone, sanitation and cable TV to replace lost state revenues. When the ordinance was passed, the City Council emphasized the importance of

providing tax relief to those in need for two utilities critical to public health: natural gas and sanitation.

Many of those who qualify for the program will be placed on it automatically thanks to help from Seattle City Light. City Light has similar programs using identical income criteria and is allowing Shoreline to forward its certified list to the sanitation and natural gas providers.

To find out more about utility tax relief, contact the City of Shoreline Finance Department at (206) 546-1700.

Program eligibility criteria

Family Members	Max. Family Income
1	\$ 858 / mo.
2	\$1,152 / mo.
3	\$1,446 / mo.
4	\$1,740 / mo.
5	\$2,034 / mo.
6	\$2,328 / mo.
7	\$2,621 / mo.
8	\$2,915 / mo.

State of the City *continued from page 1*

become the plan for transforming Aurora Avenue so that it will be safer for pedestrians and vehicles. This plan will also help create a more attractive and functional economic engine for our retail business community.

Shoreline was awarded more than \$15 million in grants last year. These funds will allow us to design and construct the first stage of Aurora's redesign from 145th to 165th and begin the north and south ends of the Interurban Trail.

Careful spending has also allowed us to set aside \$10 million over the last four years for capital improvement projects. We are protecting our investments in streets, drainage facilities and parks. As we assemble the resources and plan the development of these projects, we are making the kinds of changes that we have heard from citizens that they want.

By completing 36 drainage improvements since 1997 we have significantly reduced chronic flooding in many areas of the City. We also have another 15 flood control projects that will be completed by the spring of 2000.

To bring our roads up to a standard that both improves the driving surface and reduces long-term maintenance costs, we've more than doubled the investments for our annual road maintenance. By investing in our roads before they begin to seriously deteriorate we're able to make improvements that avoid major reconstruction and skyrocketing costs.

Another important highlight during 1999 was the development of master plans for Paramount Park, the Shoreline Pool and the

Richmond Highlands Recreation Center. Both citizens at large and our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Committee helped to outline plans for these park improvements.

As a means for stretching the public investments in parks and recreation programs, we have established the Connie King Fund in honor of the City's first Mayor who retired from her Council seat at the end of 1999 and who was a tireless advocate for youth in our community. Through this fund we will receive tax-deductible donations that will allow the City to provide equal access to recreation programs and classes through scholarships for low-income youth. We are also positioned to take donations for park improvements such as benches, picnic tables and playground equipment.

Another strength is Shoreline's ability to do more with less. Conservative budgeting has allowed us to operate on a fraction of the budget of most cities our size. For example, we have approximately one-half of the number of police officers that other cities have.

The calls we receive from our neighborhoods have told us that our citizens want to set basic standards in our community, some rules we all can live by. As a result, we have created a Code Enforcement Program to reflect the community's values.

These types of changes and the control over setting our own priorities were two of the motivations for incorporating as a city. Now, we are beginning to see the results of local control as chronic flood problems are alleviated, traffic safety issues are addressed and

deteriorating roads are paved.

However, as the public participates in setting priorities for our City, we are not simply paving roads. We are building a sense of who we are as a community.

When we mark our fifth anniversary as a City later this year, we will have much to celebrate. As Shoreline citizens you should be proud of what you have accomplished in this relatively short period of time — proud not only of the tangible results, but also of the path you have laid for the future and the role you play in defining the City of Shoreline.

There is no way to quantify everything that we've accomplished. We can use numbers to show that our investments are

creating real changes to improve our roads and our drainage systems. However, the real proof of how we're doing is in the perceptions of our community members.

It is a truism that we in government cannot please all of the people all of the time. Yet, from what I've heard from many of our citizens we are headed on the right path. At the start of the year 2000, my assessment is that the state of the city is excellent and continuing to improve. I believe we are on a road that will take Shoreline where we want it to go, and I'm proud to be on this journey along with all of you. In fact, I can hardly wait to see what lies around the next corner for our community

Scott Jepsen, Mayor of Shoreline.

"I believe we are on a road that will take Shoreline where we want it to go..."

Who, what, where in the City of Shoreline

City of Shoreline

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17544 Midvale Avenue N.
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Fax (206) 546-2200

City Hall Annex

Home of: • Planning and
Development Services Department
• Public Works Department
Highland Plaza
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Shoreline, WA 98133


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City Council

City Councilmembers

Mayor Scott Jepsen
Deputy Mayor Ron Hansen
Kevin Grossman
Rich Gustafson
Cheryl Lee
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

- Tues. and Thurs. at noon
Chambers Cable Channel 47.
- Continuously from Wed. at 9 a.m.
through Sunday on AT&T Cable
Services Channel 42.

Shoreline Police

Emergency: 911

Shoreline Police Station

Chief Sue Rahr
1206 N. 185th St.
Shoreline, WA 98133
(206) 546-6730

Westside Neighborhood Police Center

Officer Darren Young
630 NW Richmond Beach Road
Shoreline, WA 98177
(206) 546-3636

Eastside Neighborhood Police Center

Officer Kurt Lange
521 NE 165th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155
(206) 363-8424

City of Shoreline Website

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

www.cityofshoreline.com



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