

CITY OF SHORELINE CURRENTS

Winter 2006 Vol. 8 No. 10

State of the City: Shoreline moves into second decade

The City of Shoreline celebrated its 11th year of incorporation this year. As we move into our second decade as a City, it's a good time to look back at the accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to what the new year will bring.

We spent the first 10 years establishing a strong foundation

and presence for our City by putting in place policies and procedures to guide us. We concentrated on building the infrastructure for future growth, and creating a fiscally sound organization with reserves for capital projects such as city hall and stormwater system improvements. In addition to the revenues that must be spent on infrastructure, since 2001 the City has invested \$19.8 million of general purpose revenues to improve transportation and park systems along with \$9.9 million for street operations. The City has also been able to set-aside resources to establish general reserves to address unexpected emergencies.

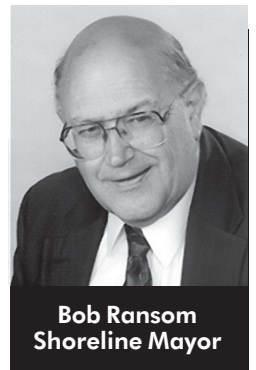
These efforts and conservative financial policies have allowed us to launch new and exciting projects and programs which will serve us well in coming years. In fact, we celebrated a number of major milestones on our largest projects this year.

As always, these endeavors required teamwork between the City and its residents through public meetings, workshops and

committees. I continue to be impressed with the level of public participation shown by Shoreline residents. We need and count on this input to make sure our services and projects truly meet the needs of the community.

One of the ways the community spoke loudest this year about what it wants for Shoreline's future was when the \$18.795 million Park Bond levy was approved by a 70% vote. These bonds will pay for 25 acres of

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Bob Ransom
Shoreline Mayor

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Aurora scoping period extended

The deadline for submitting comments to the City about the environmental scope of the Aurora Corridor Project, N. 165th to N. 205th Streets, has been extended to Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. Please send comments to Kris Overleese, City of Shoreline, 17544 Midvale Avenue N., Suite 100, Shoreline, WA 98133. Comment forms are also available at www.cityofshoreline.com.

Shoreline bonds receive low interest rate

"Shoreline's conservative financial polices over the years are paying off for the City in the form of a lower than anticipated interest rate for the voter-approved Park Bonds," said Shoreline City Manager Bob Olander.

On November 29, Shoreline City Council held a special meeting and awarded the bond bid to UBS Securities, LLC of New York, offering an average interest cost of 3.9%. The City is scheduled to receive the proceeds on December 13.

"Since most of what we do as a Council are everyday kinds of activities, it's a rare occurrence to pass motions that in 100 years will matter a lot to our citizens," said Deputy Mayor Maggie Fimia following the bid award. "This is a very, very exciting and very positive action we can now take because the community came together to make it happen. We're looking forward to being able to sell those bonds and then purchase nearly 25 acres of additional open space for the public and improve our existing parks."

In May, Shoreline voters approved \$18.795 million in bonds to finance a series of park improvements and open space property acquisitions. This is the first general obligation debt the City of Shoreline has taken on since it incorporated in 1995.

In early November, Shoreline received an AA- bond rating from Standard and Poor's following a visit and presentation to the bond rating company by Shoreline Mayor Bob Ransom, City

Manager Bob Olander, Finance Director Debbie Tarry and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Dick Deal. The Standard and Poor's report says Shoreline's rating reflects the City's underlying economy; above-average wealth and income indicators; good financial performance, with strong general fund position; and strong financial management policies and practices.

"Standard and Poor's was very pleased with the City's financial control, fund balance maintenance and forward planning. Because of this, it launched Shoreline into the double A category, which is a very high rating category," said Shoreline Financial Advisor Steve Gaidos. "That is very good news with regard to interest rates the City will get on its debt now and into the future if it maintains those kinds of activities."

Once Shoreline received its

bond rating, bond underwriters were invited to submit bids to buy the City's bonds. The bids are evaluated based on the interest rate they offer for buying the City's bonds. The lower the interest rate, the less it costs to pay back the bonds, thus saving money for taxpayers.

Since the bond issue was approved, the City has been developing a schedule for bond projects and negotiating with the owners of the open space properties. It is anticipated that the 25 acres of open space property will be acquired within the next few months.

For more information about the bonds, contact Shoreline Finance Director Debbie Tarry at (206) 546-0787. For more information about the Park Bond projects, contact Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Dick Deal at (206) 546-2072.

Keep sidewalks safe

With the icy weather last month, the City of Shoreline would like to remind you to keep the sidewalks adjoining your property clear of ice, snow and other obstructions such as signs.

Shoreline Municipal Code 12.05.020 reads: "It shall be the responsibility of the owner of property abutting upon a public sidewalk to maintain the sidewalk at all times in a safe condition, free of any and all obstructions or defects, including but not limited to ice and snow."

But don't do it just because it is the law. Do it because part of being a good neighbor is looking out for everyone's safety. For more information about the Shoreline Municipal Code, visit www.cityofshoreline.com.

Residents rate Shoreline a great place to live

According to Shoreline's 2006 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 92% of the 500 people who responded said Shoreline was an excellent or good place to live, up from 87% in 2004. Residents also rated feelings of safety, quality of City services, communications and City parks high.

"The 2006 results were consistent with the findings in our 2004 survey, indicating that for the most part the City is on the right track," says Shoreline City Manager Bob Olander. "The results are one tool we use to determine where to focus in the coming years to better meet community needs. By comparing the results with the 2004 survey, we can identify trends that need to be addressed."

Shoreline City Council reviewed the results of the latest survey at its Dec. 4 meeting and much of it was good news. Residents reported increased satisfaction with the value they get from City taxes, street maintenance and stormwater control systems.

In November, over 2,500 surveys were sent to Shoreline residents asking for their opinions on topics such as services and facilities, public safety, customer service, communications, City leadership, quality of life in Shoreline, City finances and transportation. The goal – which was met – was to have 500 completed surveys. The results of this statistically valid survey have a plus or minus 4.4% margin of error.

The survey also asked residents to rank what areas

should receive the most emphasis in the next two years. The top City services chosen for emphasis were flow of traffic and congestion, street maintenance and quality of police services.

The survey presentation is available at www.cityofshoreline.com. The complete findings report is

available for review at local libraries and at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, 17544 Midvale Avenue N. For more information about the 2006 City of Shoreline Citizen Satisfaction Survey, contact Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Director Joyce Nichols at (206) 546-0779.

2006 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Highlights

- 92% of the people responding feel that Shoreline is a good or excellent place to live (up from 87% in 2004) and 90% feel that Shoreline is a good or excellent place to raise children (up from 86% in 2004).
- 50% of residents feel they receive good or excellent value from City taxes, significantly higher than the 35% in 2004.
- Residents are significantly more satisfied with street maintenance (62% in 2006, up from 54% in 2004) and stormwater management systems (62% in 2006, up from 55% in 2004).
- Of the 41% of people who said they contacted the City of Shoreline, 80% said it was easy to contact the person they needed to reach, 89% said staff was courteous and polite and 79% said they received prompt and complete answers to their questions.
- 90% of respondents said they received their information about City issues, services and events from the City newsletter, "Currents" (up from 78% in 2004). Residents are also more satisfied with City communications including the quality of Currents, the Web site and programming on the cable channel.
- 92% of residents feel safe in their neighborhoods during the day and 82% report an overall feeling of safety in Shoreline.
- Residents are slightly less satisfied with the quality of customer service in 2006 (64%) than in 2004 (66%).
- Residents are slightly more satisfied with the quality of City parks, programs and facilities in 2006 (81%) than in 2004 (79%).
- Residents are less satisfied with the enforcement of City codes and ordinances in 2006 (46%) than in 2004 (50%).

What's burning in your fireplace?

With temperatures dropping and recent power outages, now is the time many of us get cozy around our fireplace or wood stove. With the Transfer Station closed, it may be tempting to burn garbage and recyclable materials but there are many dangerous chemicals that can be produced when a product is burned. Children, the elderly and people with preexisting respiratory conditions can be especially vulnerable.

State law prohibits burning the following:

- Garbage
- Excessive amounts of paper (you may use small amounts to start your fire)
- Plastic and plastic products
- Treated wood
- Rubber products
- Waste petroleum products
- Paints and chemicals
- Any substance which emits dense smoke or obnoxious odors other than paper to start the fire.

To minimize the amount of smoke produced by burning manufactured logs and dry, seasoned wood, create small, hot fires with plenty of air available to the fire.

Burn bans will alert everyone to times when any burning, even with approved fuels, could cause health problems. Unless your fireplace or uncertified wood stove is your sole source of heat, it is illegal to burn during a burn ban. During a stage 2 burn ban, it is illegal to use even a pellet stove or

certified wood stove.

For more information visit www.pscleanair.org/actions/

woodstoves and www.epa.gov/epaoswer/nonhw/muncpl/backyard/health.htm.

Shoreline City Council adopts 2007 Budget

At its Dec. 11 meeting, Shoreline City Council adopted the 2007 Budget totaling \$68.2 million.

The 2007 Adopted Budget is nearly 24% less than the 2006 Adopted Budget, largely due to a decrease in the capital budget that reflects completion of two major capital projects. North City and Aurora were completed or had a major portion of their construction completed this year. No money was taken from reserves to fund ongoing projects.

"The City continues to maintain a stable financial position, but we have entered a time in which the expenditures needed to maintain basic community services are projected to outpace annual revenue growth," explains Shoreline Mayor Bob Ransom. "In early 2007 we will begin work on a strategy to address potential 2008 budget gaps."

The City Council made two amendments to the proposed budget. The first created an Environmental Education Mini-Grant program and the other provides funding for initiating a planning process with the community and the State of Washington on the future use of the Fircrest campus.

The City Council adopted the property tax levy at its Nov. 27 meeting, with an estimated rate of \$1.13 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The 2006 rate was \$1.17.

Shoreline's 2007 Proposed Budget is available for review at www.cityofshoreline.com, City Hall and local libraries. The adopted budget will be available this spring once it has been updated with final 2006 expenditure and revenue numbers. For more information, contact Shoreline Finance Director Debbie Tarry at (206) 546-0787.

Shoreline Police Holiday Crime Stopper Tips

Criminals love the holidays as much as everyone else, mainly because it provides many opportunities to commit crime. This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers or pickpockets a chance to do their dirty work. Keep these tips in mind for a safe and happy holiday season.

If you're shopping...

- Don't let your guard down just because you are rushing.
- Stay alert and be aware of everything around you at all times.
- Park in well-lit areas. Lock your car doors and hide packages in the trunk or under a seat. Thieves have been known to watch for this activity so do it *before* you get to the stores/mall. Visible valuables including mail is an open invitation to thieves.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not in the baby seat of a shopping cart, and not dangling by the strap.
- It's best to simply take your wallet with you while you shop, carrying it in your front pocket.

If you're out for the evening...

- Turn on lights in your house and a radio or TV so it appears that someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows while you're out, even if you'll be gone for only a few minutes.
- Don't leave packages or gifts near windows or in other visible areas.

If a stranger comes to the door...

- Stay alert for suspicious-looking couriers delivering packages to your or your neighbors.
- Many con artists take advantage of holiday generosity by going door-to-door seeking donations. Shoreline's Municipal Code requires all solicitors to register with the City. Contact the Clerk's Office at clk@ci.shoreline.wa.us or (206) 546-5042 for a list of registered solicitors or for more information.

For more information on crime prevention, call one of the Shoreline Neighborhood Police Centers:

Westside: 624 NW Richmond Beach Road, (206) 546-3636

Eastside : 521 NE 165th Street, (206) 363-8424

Shoreline receives United Way Award

City of Shoreline employees achieved another record year of giving to the 2006 United Way Fund Drive Campaign. In total, City employees donated over \$25,000 in direct donations and in-kind gifts to the King County United Way foundation, surpassing its goal by over 8% from the previous year. That number averages to \$183 per employee, which means Shoreline is one of the top per capita giver among all King County public sector agencies.

Emergency preparedness

The City of Shoreline and Shoreline Fire Department are hosting an Emergency Preparedness Class Tuesday, February 6, 2007, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Shoreline Library, 345 NE 175th Street. Learn how to be better prepared for an emergency at home, work and in your car.

Two other classes are also scheduled next year on April 16 and September 25.

For more information, contact Shoreline Emergency Management Coordinator Gail Marsh at (206) 546-7873.

Coming soon: City Council meetings online

Beginning in January 2007, Shoreline City Council meetings will be available for viewing via streaming video on the City's Web site. The meeting broadcasts will be available for viewing the day after the Council meetings.

Council meetings will be automatically archived and saved, allowing the public access 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"There's been a lot of interest in having the meetings broadcast over the Web," says Shoreline City

Manager Bob Olander. "We're looking forward to providing this new service to our residents."

Special software called Granicus packages the meeting for online viewing. It also offers a dropdown menu of the meeting agenda so users may pick and choose the topics they would like to watch. Eventually, City Council meetings will be archived with a search tool that allows users to pick a topic and view stored presentations on that topic from the past two years. The software also streamlines minute-taking for the City Clerk with features like vote tracking and tagging items.

City staff gave the system a trial run at the Nov. 27 Council meeting. It is being tested internally before being offered to Shoreline residents.

The link for the video will be grouped together with City Council minutes and agendas for easy navigation on the City Web site.

Granicus software is also used by the Cities of Bellevue, Olympia and Kirkland.

Once Shoreline's new City Hall is built, Council meetings may be broadcast live and posted on the Web site for viewing. The current meeting location does not have live internet feed capabilities.

For more information about the Granicus system, contact City Clerk Scott Passey at (206) 546-8919.

Christmas tree recycling event Jan. 6 and 7

Shoreline residents have several options for Christmas Tree disposal over the holidays, including recycling the trees as wood chips. The City of Shoreline is hosting a Christmas Tree Recycling Event on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 6 and 7, at Hamlin Park, 16006 15th Ave. NE, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Since this free event is open to Shoreline residents only, please bring proof of residency.

This is the only Christmas tree recycling event in the City. Youth groups offering tree pickup service as a fundraiser often bring the trees to the Shoreline event. Trees will be chipped on-site, and the wood chips offered to residents who bring a container.

Remaining chips will be taken to Cedar Grove Compost Facility.

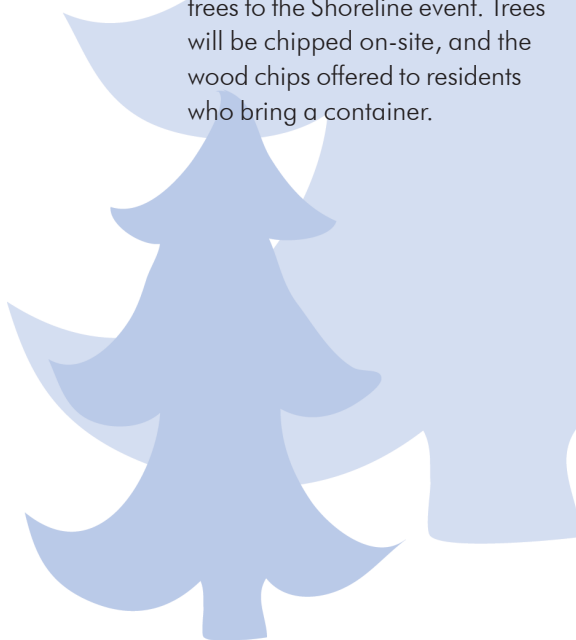
Remove all hooks, ornaments, tinsel and tree stands before bringing your tree to be recycled. No flocked trees, wreaths, swags or artificial trees will be accepted.

If there is snow or ice on the road that weekend, call (206) 546-0614 on the day of the event to find out if it is cancelled.

If the event is cancelled or you cannot make it to the event, other options for disposal of holiday trees include:

- If you subscribe to curbside yard waste recycling, cut your tree into manageable pieces that fit into the container to have it hauled off.
- Recycle your tree at the Southwest Transfer Station in Mountlake Terrace at 21311 – 61st Pl W. for \$5. Call (425) 388-3425 for special tree recycling dates.

For more information about the Christmas Tree Recycling Event, call (206) 546-1700. For more information about recycling and environmental stewardship opportunities in Shoreline, visit the City's website at <http://www.cityofshoreline.com/cityhall/projects/water/>.



City from page 1

open space, a variety of park improvements and trails throughout the City. In November we got the good news that the City's history of conservative financial policies paid off in an excellent bond rating and, in return, very low interest bonds (3.9%). This saves money for taxpayers because the lower the interest rate, the less it costs to pay back the bonds. And in December, the City Council ratified the purchase agreement for the South Woods property.

Other exciting news in November was when the City closed on property for a civic center/city hall. The City purchased two pieces of property totaling nearly three acres on the corner of N. 175th Street and Midvale Avenue N: one where the current City Hall Annex building is located including the garage on the corner; and the other parcel immediately adjacent to the east, not including the Grease Monkey site. Next year we will begin the planning stages of this project that will become the center and focus of our City. It will be important for the community to participate in this process so we have a civic building that reflects Shoreline.

We made great progress on capital projects in 2006. In August, we celebrated the completion of our North City Project. Sidewalks, street lights, underground utilities, benches and new signal poles now line 15th Avenue NE as part of the commercial district and neighborhood transformation.

In just a few months, Shoreline's first mile of the Aurora Corridor Project will be complete with new business access/transit lanes, sidewalks, underground utilities, improved lighting, U-turn pockets and landscaped medians. The environmental process for the next two miles of Aurora is now under way.

The Aurora and N. 155th Street Bridges for the Interurban Trail are also on track for completion early next year. When these bridges and the central section of the trail are complete, the vision of a linked trail system through Shoreline will be a reality. These are just a few of the events we have to look forward to next year.

We also worked hard over the past year to improve the City's infrastructure by completing drainage improvement projects to protect residents from flooding. When Shoreline incorporated in 1995, flooding was a huge concern. Nearly 200 calls for flooding assistance were logged that first year. November brought us some of the wettest weather on record, but the City's Public Works Department had no reports of major flooding or property damage. This is due to recent capital improvement projects completed over the past year as part of the Surface Water Master Plan at 3rd Avenue NW, 10th Avenue NE, NE Serpentine Place, Carlyle Hall Road and 17th Place NW. These capital projects, along with numerous smaller projects and a significant increase in maintenance, provided relief to residents and business owners who have experienced flooding problems for many years.

Other infrastructure improvements this year included building sidewalks near schools and adding flashing light signs at three school zones to increase pedestrian safety. The signs were paid for with a grant from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

We also resolved the long-term street light issue by assuming financial responsibility for all street lights located in the public right-of-way – an infrastructure problem that we inherited from King County when we incorporated 11 years ago.

We resurfaced two of our most popular soccer fields at Shoreline Park this year with synthetic turf, completing the job ahead of schedule. We welcomed Shoreline soccer teams back to the facility with a special dedication event and game in September.

We took a big step toward making Shoreline's streets safer with the installation of traffic calming devices on residential streets around the City. Traffic circles and speed humps are helping to reduce speeding on some of Shoreline's problem streets. We're monitoring the success of the devices and will make changes and adjustments where needed.

These are just a few of the highlights among a long list of accomplishments this year. As we embark on our second decade as a City, we will continue to focus on the goals set by the City Council and the community to improve safety, infrastructure and the quality of life in Shoreline.

Who, what, where in the City of Shoreline

City of Shoreline

Shoreline City Hall
17544 Midvale Ave. N., Suite 100
Shoreline, WA 98133-4921
(206) 546-1700
Fax (206) 546-7868

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

CURRENTS

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City Council

Mayor Bob Ransom
Deputy Mayor Maggie Fimia
Rich Gustafson
Ron Hansen
Keith McGlashan
Cindy Ryu
Janet Way

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
Cable Channel 21
Tuesday noon and 8 p.m.
Wednesday through Sunday
6 a.m., noon and 8 p.m.

Shoreline Police

Emergency: 911

Shoreline Police Station
Chief Tony Burt
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.
521 NE 165th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155
(206) 363-8424

City of Shoreline Web site

Information about meetings,
projects and programs is
available online.

www.cityofshoreline.com



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