CITY OF SHORELINE

CURRENTS

News from the City of Shoreline Volume 17 No. 4

May 2015

20 years as a City - Past to Present

Public safety and traffic services

When Shoreline became a city in 1995, public safety and improved traffic services were among the issues cited by residents for wanting to incorporate. At the time, the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) was providing police services for the area. However, as an isolated part of unincorporated King County, Shoreline residents did not always feel they were getting the dedicated service they felt they ought to have. Response times could be long as KCSO patrols were stretched across north King County. Shoreline residents wanted a Shoreline police force dedicated to Shoreline.

Residents also were looking for solutions to road and traffic issues they felt the County was not adequately addressing. Again, as an isolated part of unincorporated north King County, residents felt that the County was not addressing their needs in the way they felt they deserved.

Today, even though the City contracts with KCSO for police services, we have 52 full-time Shoreline Police Department staff members dedicated to Shoreline.

In addition, by contracting with KCSO, the City also has:

- Mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies in Washington State
- A large pool of officers if back-up help is necessary
- Coverage if City officers are away
- Expertise of specialized units to assist officers
- Experienced officers to select from for City staffing
- Cost sharing throughout the department to keep City costs down

In 2003, the City established the Traffic Services Division. Traffic Services is responsible for addressing and enhancing traffic and pedestrian safety. Early on, residents identified neighborhood traffic issues as a priority. Traffic Services established the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP) to respond to residents' concerns about speeding, cut-through traffic, accidents and pedestrian safety on residential (non-arterial) streets. Through a combination of education, enforcement and engineering solutions, the City has been able to address many concerns neighbors have had and which would not have been addressed before incorporation.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Shoreline City Hall, Council Chamber
Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings

Council Goal #5 Update:
Promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs and initiatives

Maintaining a safe community is one of the City's highest priorities. In the 2014 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 80% of residents responded that they felt safe in Shoreline, with 92% responding that they felt safe in their neighborhoods during the day. Creating a safe community requires the cooperation of residents, Police, City staff, and community partners. Council Goal #5 calls for the promotion and enhancement of the City's safe community and neighborhood programs and initiatives.

In 2014, work on Goal #5 engaged residents, volunteers, the Police, and City staff from virtually every department. Below are some highlights of action taken to further Goal #5.

Safe Neighborhoods Safe Community

One of the best ways residents can help prevent crime in their neighborhoods is by getting to know their neighbors and forming a Shoreline Watch group. Neighborhood watch groups promote safety and communication. Shoreline Watch engages neighbors, police officers, and City staff in crime prevention strategies and help to address specific law enforcement issues, such as mail theft or persistent traffic enforcement issues. Through the Shoreline Watch program, Shorleine Police officers attended 52 community events in 2014 engaging with groups as varied as the Cub Scouts and the Council of Neighborhoods.

To start your own Shoreline Watch Group, contact Officer Steve Perry at steven.perry@kingcounty.gov or (206) 801-2764.

Safe Parks

Over the past several years, the Parks Department and the Police have been working closely together to ensure residents feel safe in our parks. In 2014, Shoreline Police began closing parks and locking park restrooms at night. Having a nightly presence and check of activity brings an extra measure of security to parks across the City.

Another joint project of Police and Parks has been to conduct Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) surveys in City parks. In 2014, Parks staff, Police, and neighbors surveyed Northcrest Park in the Ridgecrest neighborhood. As a result, in 2015 the City will construct a new, more visible play area, Parks' crews will install better signage, and volunteer work crews and Parks staff will trim vegetation to improve sight lines in and around the park. The City completely rebuilt another CPTED surveyed park, Echo Lake Park, in 2014. The City upgraded the restroom, and improved lighting and sight lines from the street based on the results of the survey. Now neighbors, park users, and Police are able to see into all parts of the park.

The City will continue to use the CPTED approach to assess and improve the safety in our Parks and facilities in the coming years.

Addressing chronic issues

The City Council adopted two measures in 2014 that will improve the City's ability to address some nagging quality of life issues. The Chronic Nuisance Ordinance gives Police and the Code Enforcement/Customer Response Team tools necessary to effectively address properties that have a history of frequent calls for Police Services and repeat code violations. The City is now able to intervene to either help or to compel a property owner to eliminate the nuisance and return the property to a standard that is more of an asset than a liability to the surrounding neighborhood.

The second measure, Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA) Ordinance allows the Police, in conjunction with the District Court, to more effectively address problems associated with the sale of street drugs. The City effectivley used a similar tool to address prostitution issues shortly after incorporation. The SODA extends along the Interurban Trail and Aurora Avenue from 145th to Echo Lake Park and the Transit Center.

Together all of this work supports a Safe Community built upon Safe Neighborhoods.

Improving our critical areas regulations

Every ten years, cities and counties are required by the State, under the Growth Management Act (GMA), to review and update their environmentally critical areas regulations. Shoreline is required to do so this year.

Critical areas include the following areas and ecosystems: wetlands, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water (none identified in Shoreline), fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas (City updated in 2012), and geologically hazardous areas. All critical areas must be designated and their functions and values protected using the best available scientific information - known as best available science or BAS.

Critical areas are present in all, except one, neighborhood in Shoreline, as well as in approximately 2/3rds of the City's Parks. Managing properties that include critical areas and their buffers can be complex and expensive for both private property owners and city departments that manage city property. Additionally, tree regulations differ in critical areas and associated buffers.

However, critical area regulations are necessary to protect human life and safety, and to help preserve our natural environment.

Regulations are intended to:

- Protect public health, safety, and welfare;
- Allow for reasonable uses;
- Maintain beneficial functions and values of critical areas, such as:
  - water quality protection
  - fish and wildlife habitat
  - flooding reduction
  - erosion control
  - recreation
  - natural beauty
  - air quality protection
- Reduce overall negative impacts of lots of small changes; and
- Meet the State Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements.

The City intends to add both clarity and predictability to the regulations during its review, in addition to updating standards to align with BAS. To do this, the City expects to improve standards for critical area reports and to clarify City requirements.

The Planning Commission will review draft regulations early this summer with a public hearing occurring in July. Council will consider Planning Commission recommendations and potentialls adopt any proposed changes later this summer.

For more information, visit shorelinewa.gov/critical-areas.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

There will be two opportunities for residents to provide their thoughts and suggestions on the critical areas regulations:

Tuesday, May 5
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Richmond Beach Library
19601 21st Avenue NW

Thursday, May 14
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
North City Water District
1519 NE 177th Street

DID YOU KNOW?

May is "Puget Sound Starts Here" month.

May is Puget Sound Starts Here month. Puget Sound is in trouble. It may look pristine on the surface, but below the surface, water tests and photos tell a very different story. Puget Sound Starts Here in Shoreline and in all areas where water runs downhill into the Sound. Learn how your actions affect the quality of water in our streams, lakes and Puget Sound, by participating in one of the events listed on the May calendar at pugetsoundstartshere.org.

Council adopts 2015-2017 Goals

Every year the City Council holds a strategic planning and goal setting retreat to monitor progress and determine priorities and action steps for the coming year. The result is the establishment of the Council's goals and workplan. This workplan, which is aimed at improving our ability to fulfill the community's vision, is then reflected in department workplans, in the City's budget and capital improvement plan and through special initiatives.

The Council's goals support achievement of the City's long-term vision embodied in Vision 2029 and being a sustainable city in all respects. This includes:

- **Sustainable neighborhoods** – ensuring they are safe and attractive;
- **Sustainable environment** – preserving our environmental assets and enhancing our built environment so that it protects our natural resources; and
- **Sustainable services** – supporting quality services, facilities, and infrastructure.

On April 6, Council adopted their 2015-2017 City Council Goals and Workplan. The five goals are a continuation of the Council's previous goals:

1. **Strengthen Shoreline's economic base to maintain the public services that the community expects;**
2. **Improve Shoreline's utility, transportation and environmental infrastructure;**
3. **Prepare for two Shoreline light rail stations;**
4. **Enhance openness and opportunities for community engagement; and**
5. **Promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs and initiatives.**

For more information visit shorelinewa.gov/council.

Aurora Corridor construction update

With the recent shift in traffic to the west side of Aurora, the Aurora project is visibly taking shape. Over the next six months, the major areas of construction are the work on the roadway on the east side of Aurora and the structural sidewalk and rebuild of N 200th behind Costco.

The profile of the new road section on the east side of Aurora is lower in many places than it is currently. To meet the new grades, the road must be excavated below the existing pavement, graded, backfilled, and then paved. This requires many trucks to haul material off and deliver new material to the site.

Work on the structural sidewalk has begun on the west side of Costco. It will proceed to the south side of N 200th Street. Drill rigs have been drilling shafts for the columns, which will support the "cantilevered" sidewalk. Crews will put pre-cast concrete girders on top of the columns and the sidewalk will be built on top of the girders. The sidewalk is scheduled for completion by the end of July. Completion of the entire project is expected in early 2016.

Drivers are urged to drive safely through the work zones.

If you have questions or concerns during construction, contact the Aurora hotline 24/7 at (206) 801-2485 or aurora@shorelinewa.gov.

LIGHT RAIL

Sound Transit releases FEIS for Lynwood Link Light Rail Extension

On April 1, Sound Transit officially released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Lynnwood Link Light Rail Extension. The Final EIS examines project route and station alternatives, including the preferred alternative identified by the Sound Transit Board. It also provides information about project alternatives, potential impacts on the natural and built environment, possible mitigation measures, and responds to public comments received during the Draft EIS comment period, which ended on September 23, 2013.

Included in the Final EIS is analysis of the two stations proposed for Shoreline at NE 145th and NE 185th Streets, and the route that light rail will take through the City.

To review the Final EIS and to get more information visit soundtransit.org.

City honors the service of our volunteers

Shoreline City Council honored City volunteers with a reception at City Hall on April 14 during National Volunteer Week. City volunteers donated 12,834 hours of service in 2014.

Neighborhood volunteers worked with City traffic engineers to discuss and help implement traffic safety ideas to help make neighborhoods safer. They request aids like radar carts and traffic flags near school crossings, to enhance pedestrian safety.

GIS volunteer interns assist City staff with making neighborhood maps to be used by neighborhood associations, map registered National Night Out parties throughout the city, and provided related mapping support.

Individual volunteers assist instructors at Spartan recreational center in classes so teachers can provide more one on one attention to students.

Volunteers enjoyed a performance by Esencia at the Volunteer Soiree

Volunteers serve on citizen advisory groups, staff the Police Community Outreach office at City Hall, beautify our parks, support emergency operations, assist with recreation programs, and many other valuable projects.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the City, visit the City's website at shorelinewa.gov/volunteers.

Phase Zero Renewal at Aurora Square

"Imagine an open, green plaza in the center of Shoreline, filled with sunbathing and studying students, young families watching their children run and play, an elderly couple enjoying a Central Market picnic, dogs wagging their tails, actors practicing their lines, and the sound of college-age buskers singing with an occasional clink as coins fall into a hat."

This opening sentence of the Aurora Square Renewal Plan, adopted by Council in 2013, launched the City's continuing efforts to renew this sleeping giant of a shopping center and to realize a wonderful vision for the center. While the work to date has largely been behind the scenes, renewal will start to be very tangible this summer.

The City is planning to utilize creativity, programming, and tactical urbanist strategies to launch "Phase Zero Renewal." This summer's goal is to create a pop-up venue full of events and people. Using paint, signs, storage containers, canopies, and barricades, Phase Zero will be able to quickly transform a generic parking lot into a safe place for events and families.

The venue is designed to revitalize interest in Aurora Square and gauge community interest in various ways of utilizing the space. The most frequent event will be the Shoreline Farmers Market, which will use the space each Saturday beginning June 20.

The effort is made possible through the support of the Shoreline Sears, which is providing the area and the use of restrooms and utilities free of charge. The space will be on a 100' x 150' section of the upper Sears parking lot adjacent to Central Market., which is also supporting the Farmers Market move.

"We are so happy to partner with the City," stated Bobbi Martinez, Sears store manager, "and we are absolutely thrilled that the Shoreline Farmers Market will be here each Saturday. We can't wait for June 20th!"

Shoreline Farmers Market opens June 20

Saturdays, June 20 - October 3
Aurora Square Parking Lot
15300 Westminster Way N

The 2015 Shoreline Farmers Market season kicks off on June 20 in a new location. The market will be located at Aurora Square, adjacent to Sears and Central Market.

Enjoy your favorite local foods, flowers, artisan vendors, fresh food stands and, new this year, food trucks! In its new space, the market has been able to add more vendors, so come check out what's new!

RecycleFest

Saturday, May 16
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sears Upper Back Parking Lot
15711 Aurora Avenue N

Shoreline's spring RecycleFest offers residents the opportunity to conveniently recycle items that are not accepted at the curb. Styrofoam, carpet, and a variety of construction materials will be accepted, as well as bicycles in any condition, which will be donated to Bike Works.

RecycleFest is free for all Shoreline residents. Event flyers providing a detailed list of accepted items will be mailed to all residents. Bring the event flyer or your driver's license with a Shoreline address as proof of residence. Note that only pick-up trucks or smaller vehicles will be allowed to enter. If you are hauling items on behalf of a neighbor or want to bring a trailer to the event, you must call (206) 801-2455 for approval prior to the event.

The event is sponsored by the King County Solid Waste Division and the Washington State Department of Ecology. For more information, contact the Shoreline Customer Response Team at (206) 801-2700 or visit shorelinewa.gov/environmentalservices.

Annual Traffic Report guides City priorities

Every year, the City's Traffic Services section issues its Annual Traffic Report, which summarizes collision, speed, and traffic volume data collected over the previous year and highlights noteworthy trends. The data guides the City in prioritizing resources, applying for grants to help finance capital improvement projects, and identifying target enforcement areas for the Shoreline Police Department.

Council reviewed the 2014 report at their March 30 meeting. The report shows that pedestrian and bicycle collisions, injury collisions, and total collisions within the City of Shoreline were all up in 2014 compared to 2013. The number of total and injury collisions related to distracted and inattentive driving has risen sharply over the past 3 years. In addition, injury collisions related to speed are also on the rise. Results highlight the need for continued engineering, education, and enforcement efforts to improve roadway safety.

Over the last year, Shoreline Police have effectively targeted speeding locations identified by Traffic Services. In comparison to 2013, targeted streets show a marked improvement. Traffic Services and Shoreline Police will continue to work together in an effort to reduce injury collisions related to speed. Traffic Services has also recommended additional enforcement for cell phone use while driving.

Pedestrian and bicycle collisions hit an all-time high in 2014, which may be in part due to shifting modes of transportation. Transit ridership has increased significantly over the past year, which would account for more walking trips. Still, this increase is notable and warrants additional analysis. The report includes a list of recommendations for locations with three (3) or more pedestrian and/or bicycle collisions over a five-year period.

In the 2014 report, Traffic Services analyzed locations with high collision rates and prioritized recommendations based on the total number of collisions instead of the collision rate as had been done in the past. Focusing on locations with the highest collision numbers provides the best opportunity for mitigating the most collisions.

While traffic volumes in 2014 were down when compared to 2013, possibly due to shifting modes of transportation, the five-year average weekday daily traffic is up slightly by 0.47%.

State of the City Breakfast

Wednesday, June 3
7:00 to 8:30 a.m.
Shoreline City Hall Council Chamber

You are invited to join the City Council for the State of the City Breakfast. Residents and civic and business leaders are all welcome to attend.

This event will be an opportunity to celebrate the City's 20 years of progress and a look forward to the future.

The event is free, but space is limited. Please RSVP to Heidi Costello at hcostello@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2214 by May 27.

For more information, visit shorelinewa.gov/stateofthecity.

2014 Annual Police Report now available to review

The 2014 Police Service Annual Report will be reviewed with the City Council on May 4. The report contains information on crime statistics, police data, and cost comparisons to other police agencies in the region. Overall, Shoreline is a safe community with Part 1 (violent) crimes remaining steady at 34 per 1,000 residents. This is down from the peak of 48 in 2005.

Unfortunately, Shoreline is experiencing an increase in property crimes, which is similar to a trend other cities in the region are experiencing. Burglaries increased by 6.81% with 455 in 2014 compared to 426 in 2013. And while car prowls decreased by 22%, auto thefts increased by 19%.

Shoreline Police will continue to work with the community on how to address the increase in property crimes. One of the most effective ways to address it is through education. Crime prevention and education help reduce crimes of opportunity. Last year police conducted 52 community meetings to discuss crime prevention and services provided by the department. Vigilant residents calling 911 on suspicious activity, helps police capture offenders in the act and can often lead to successful prosecutions. Police are also working towards data driven policing to focus visibility and resources in areas experiencing criminal activity.

Other highlights from the report include:

- Shoreline officers responded to 14,873 dispatched calls for service (DCFS), which was a 13% increase from 2013.
- Traffic collisions increased by 22% with 477 in 2014 compared to 390 in 2013. In 2015, Shoreline Police will focus on high collision areas to address contributing factors such as cell phone use (rear end collisions) and seat belt use (injury accidents). DUIs will also be a focus.
- The number of traffic citations issued in 2014 increased by 13% with 2,810 citations issued compared to 2,492 the previous year. However, that number is significantly lower than previous years. Police will step-up traffic contacts in school zones, neighborhoods, and in areas identified in the speed differential map in 2015.
- The average response time to emergency calls is 3.92 minutes and 6.82 minutes to a priority call.
- Shoreline's cost per capita for police services is $194, well below the regional average of $293.

To view the full report visit shorelinewa.gov/police.

District Court and criminal justice

At their March 30 meeting, Council reviewed the City's use of alternatives to jail for people convicted of gross misdemeanors in Shoreline. As with most cities, Shoreline does not handle felonies but is responsible for providing municipal court services for misdemeanors. The City does this by contracting with the King County District Court system. District Court handles everything from parking tickets and traffic infractions to misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors, which are the highest level of crime for which the City is responsible for prosecuting.

Gross misdemeanors generally carry a sentence of imprisonment in the county jail for a term of up to 364 days, or a fine with a maximum of $5,000, or some combination of the two.

Council discussed alternatives to jail sentences and other judiciary tools that might be used in prosecuting defendants charged with misdemeanors. The City's various criminal justice programs account for about seven percent of the annual budget's general fund.

There are a number of alternatives to jail and the City supports use of these alternatives when appropriate. Work release, electronic home monitoring, King County's Regional Veteran's Court, the Regional Mental Health Court, and other alternatives are all used depending on the case. Costs for alternatives to jail sentences are often lower for the City and may find balance between community safety, punishment, and treatment. Sentences – jail or otherwise – are ultimately decided by a judge whose decision takes into account the facts of the case, the defendant's prior criminal record and the prosecution's recommendations.

However, jail sentences are statutorily required for some crimes. For instance, jail sentences are required for those convicted of Driving While License Suspended in the first degree and Driving Under the Influence. And, a jail sentence may be given if an offender has violated the terms of an initial non-jail sentence.

Since September 2014, the South Correctional Entity (SCORE) in Des Moines has served as the City's primary booking and jail facility.

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MAY 2015

MILLION STEP CHALLENGE

At Paramount School Park

How many laps can you walk around Paramount School Park in May? In partnership with Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association. Sponsored by CrossFit Hailstorm, Iora Healthcare and Fire and Earth Kitchen.

OPENING EVENT
Saturday, May 2nd, 9am
Ridgecrest Annual Plant Exchange directly follows event.

CLOSING POTLUCK & AWARDS
Sunday, May 31st, 6pm

MORE INFORMATION
shorelinewa.gov/STEPS

JUNE 2015

MILLION STAIR CHALLENGE

At Richmond Beach Saltwater Park

There are 188 stairs at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park and we want to know how many flights you can climb during the month of June. Challenge yourself, compete against others and win prizes in this month long event.

SAVE THE DATE
CLOSING POTLUCK & AWARDS
Wednesday, July 1st, 6pm
Picnic Shelter @ bottom of stairs

MORE INFORMATION
shorelinewa.gov/STAIRS

(206) 801-2700 Customer Response Team 24 hours/7 days a week
(206) 801-2485 Aurora Construction Hotline 24 hours/7 days a week

shorelinewa.gov