



CURRENTS

News from the City of Shoreline Volume 20 No. 1

February 2018

Becoming a Welcoming Community

OVER THE PAST YEAR in our Neighborhood Spotlight series, community members have shared what they love about our 14 unique neighborhoods. From their favorite parks to public art pieces, from neighborhood events to unique shops, each of our neighborhoods has something to offer. We also learned a lot about the history of our city.

Today, our neighborhoods pride themselves on being open and welcoming communities. However, that has not always been the case. This community, along with many other communities in the Pacific Northwest, has not always been a welcoming place for people of color, indigenous people, and religious and ethnic minorities. The racial covenants that began appearing in housing developments in our area in the 1920s are prime examples.

As our area developed, many housing developments included exclusionary covenants to keep racial, ethnic, and religious minorities out. People often point to Innis Arden and the racial covenants that first appeared there in 1941 prohibiting any property within the development from being “sold, conveyed, rented or leased...to any person not of the White or Caucasian race.” However, the first racial covenant in Shoreline actually appeared in Briarcrest in 1928. What many people do not know is that similar racial covenants and other exclusionary covenants existed in neighborhoods throughout Shoreline, including in Ballinger, Briarcrest, Echo Lake, Hillwood, North City, Richmond Beach, Richmond Highlands, Ridgecrest, and Westminster Triangle. In fact, restrictive covenants existed in almost every neighborhood north of Seattle’s ship canal.

February is African-American History Month. As we celebrate the contributions made by African-Americans in our community and around the nation, it is important to also reflect upon the history of segregation and exclusion in Shoreline. While the Supreme Court ruled in 1948 that racial covenants could not be enforced, realtors and property owners could still discriminate based on race until passage of the Housing Rights Act in 1968. Because of this history of formal and informal segregation, it was not until the 1980s and 1990s that minorities felt more comfortable moving into communities where restrictive covenants formerly existed.

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

Meet your new Council

ON JANUARY 4, Shoreline District Court Judge Douglas J. Smith swore newly elected Councilmember Susan Chang into office. Judge Smith also swore in returning Councilmembers Will Hall, Keith McGlashan, and Chris Roberts. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the Council selected Councilmember Will Hall as Mayor and Councilmember Jesse Salomon as Deputy Mayor.

As the City's governing body, Shoreline's seven elected part-time Councilmembers establish City policies and laws, adopt an annual budget, and approve contracts for services. Council meets most Monday evenings at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend meetings. Those wishing to track Council decisions, but who are unable to attend, can watch the meetings online at shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings.

In addition to Council meetings, Councilmembers represent the City at community events; in meetings with community members; and on national, state, and regional boards and committees. The Council directs City policy based on input from residents, staff, and other stakeholders. In order to receive as much input as possible, Councilmembers are available by email and phone, and often meet one-on-one with individuals and community organizations.

Visit shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings for the latest meeting information.

City's state legislative priorities

ON DECEMBER 4, the City Council approved our legislative agenda for the 2018 state legislative session. The priorities provide policy direction to guide staff in determining support or opposition to specific legislation.

Why do we care so much about what happens in Olympia? Because many decisions made in Olympia have direct and indirect impacts on our ability to provide services to the Shoreline community.

Below are some of our legislative priorities approved by Council. For a full list, visit shorelinewa.gov/council.

Local Government Financial Sustainability and Flexibility

We are advocating for a more self-sufficient model where cities have more control over their revenue streams. Cities need to be able to plan for funding from one year to the next; providing cities more local financial flexibility allows each jurisdiction to make their own choices of how to fund local services. An example is the 1% annual property tax increase cap. The cap does not keep pace with inflation and restricts cities' ability to maintain services. Setting a cap that is actually tied to economic conditions that drive costs, such as inflation and population growth, would allow cities to better maintain existing services.

Support Human Services Safety Net

We want the legislature to enhance the provision of needed human services programs to address issues that drive increased homelessness and public safety costs. Over the past few years, we have seen significant increases in homelessness; large funding cuts to services for seniors; and continued underfunding of behavioral and mental health services. The lack of funding at the state level impacts vulnerable populations here in Shoreline.

Pass the Capital Budget

The Capital Budget funds many critical community projects that cannot move forward without funding. One example is the Housing Trust Fund, which helps support affordable housing projects throughout the state. Without it, addressing homelessness issues in our community becomes even more difficult. The legislature needs to pass a capital budget

Infrastructure Funding

The legislature has diverted funds for infrastructure programs that benefit cities to the state general fund over the past few years. These programs allow cities to utilize low interest loans or grants to complete infrastructure projects at a significantly lower cost due to lower loan repayment rates than market value.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS INCLUSIVENESS



UNDER OUR SKIN VIDEO AND DISCUSSION

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Shoreline City Hall – Council Chambers

Explore The Seattle Times' *Under Our Skin* video project around race and inclusiveness. Discussion will challenge your assumptions, and inspire you to think and talk about issues of race in a deeper way and help build common ground.



SHORELINE SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP

The Shoreline Social Justice Book Group will be a rich opportunity to meet neighbors and build community by reading and discussing books written from diverse perspectives. Books selected will focus on the experiences of people of color, people who are LGBTQ, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, as well as social issues such as immigration and poverty. Potential books include *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez; *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue; *The Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyen; *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas; and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

The group will hold discussions on the second Sunday of each month at Shoreline City Hall. The first meeting will be on Sunday, February 11 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at Shoreline City Hall. The first meeting will focus on choosing which books we would like to read.

RSVP

If you are interested in participating in either of these activities, please RSVP to King County Library System Regional Manager Denise Bugallo (206) 362-7550 or dbugallo@kcls.org.

Welcoming Community

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While we have much to be proud of, we should never become complacent and forget our history. We should strive to never repeat it. Today, we take pride in the growing diversity of our community. We know it to be a source of creativity, innovation, and strength.

On January 23, 2017, the City Council passed a resolution proclaiming Shoreline to be a welcoming community. Below is an excerpt from Resolution No. 401:

"The City is committed to ensuring that Shoreline remains a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for all who live, work, and visit here. The City recognizes and upholds the rights of individuals to be treated fairly and to live their lives with dignity and respect and free from discrimination or targeting because of their immigration status, faith, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, age, ability, ethnicity, housing status, economic status, or other social status."

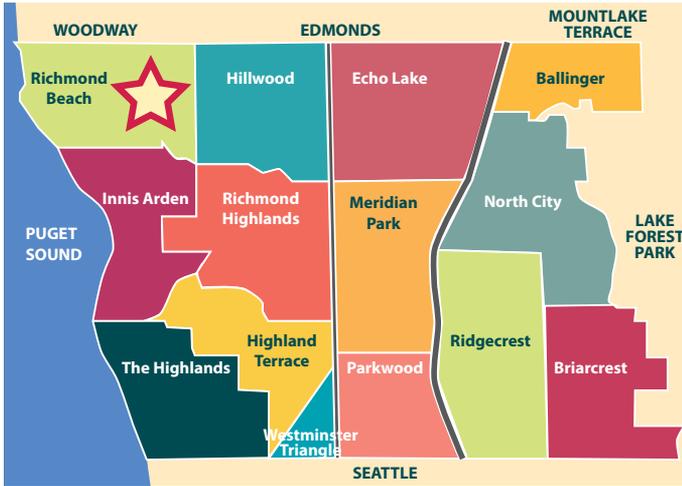
Scholarship opportunity

WE ARE CURRENTLY accepting applications for the Association of Washington Cities' Center for Quality Communities Scholarship fund. Scholarships are available through a statewide competitive process. Shoreline students* who are actively engaged in city government and/or our community and plan to attend post-secondary school in the fall of 2018 should apply. We will nominate one of the Shoreline applicants to compete with students from across the State.

Find information and application materials at cfqc.org/scholarships. Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28. Submit completed materials to Communications Program Manager Eric Bratton at ebratton@shorelinewa.gov.

*Must be a Shoreline resident to apply.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT



Courtesy Shoreline Historical Museum



Strawberry Festival at Richmond Beach Community Park

Richmond Beach

NEXT TO PUGET SOUND, at the northwest corner of King County, the Richmond Beach neighborhood boasts sweeping views and rich history. In the early 1860's, the United States government opened the area for sale, settlement, and logging. A decade later, George Fisher bought 60 acres. It was platted as Richmond Beach in 1890 by C.W. Smith, a librarian from Seattle. The name honored an early immigrant from Richmond, England, and referred to "the fine bathing beach" along the Sound.

With well-advertised opportunities along the new Great Northern railroad line, Richmond Beach quickly grew into a residential area with resort amenities. An emerging business triangle with hotels and general stores offered services and goods to residents and tourists alike. The first post office opened in 1889. Telegraph lines accompanied railway expansion and, in 1907, Richmond Beach got its own telephone company and a real railroad depot. Growth made the area less attractive to illicit enterprise. Occupants of one of the area's first buildings, a cabin on what is now Apple Tree Lane, felt the need to move their opium smuggling business somewhere more secluded.

Fishing, farming, woodcutting, barrel making, and sand and gravel operations built the economy. Oil distribution at Point Wells eventually provided jobs for nearly half the men in Richmond Beach. Along with enterprise came the first library, schools, and churches. Richmond Beach remained a summer destination until World War II. Although most of the hotels and boarding houses were gone by the 1930's, beach cottages and auto camps remained available for tourists until Highway 99 drew them away. Many of the small businesses closed. The train depot was removed in the 1950's, and the sand and gravel operation became what we now appreciate as Richmond Beach Saltwater Park.

The early settlers of Richmond Beach addressed day-to-day challenges through cooperation and the formation of the first community clubs. The spirit of their collaboration lives on through the Richmond Beach Community Association (RBCA), incorporated over a century ago. RBCA provides educational opportunities so residents can stay aware and informed of current issues. It also hosts an impressive array of social events to bring neighbors together through the seasons. When leaders say their neighborhood is "event-full", they mean it, starting with the annual Strawberry Festival in May and ending with the Halloween Carnival and winter holiday celebrations.

In 2017, RBCA presented the community with a public art project celebrating orca whales –notable visitors occasionally seen from Richmond Beach. RBCA chose twenty-two artists to embellish blank orca whale sculptures. Their colorful, diverse contributions, grouped into pods and displayed throughout the neighborhood, will delight residents and visitors during the spring and summer.

RBCA meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Beach Congregational Church. To learn more about meetings and events, visit richmondbeachwa.org.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Sidewalk repair, retrofit, and maintenance for ADA compliance

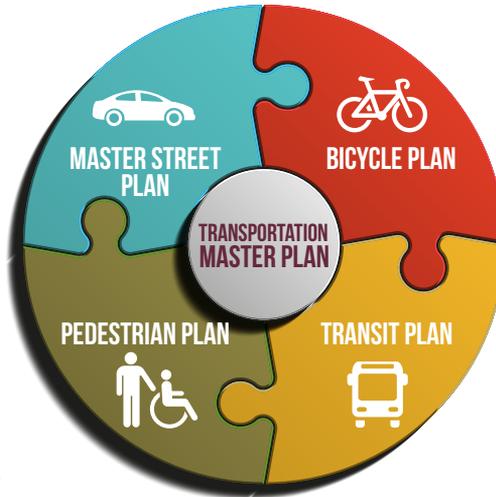


IN 2016, we started developing an American Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. The purpose of the Transition Plan is

to identify what may keep people with disabilities from using our facilities or participating in our programs. We will also look at how best to prioritize the improvements that will help make them more accessible.

As part of the process, we have inspected all of our sidewalks, curbs, and ramps to see if they meet ADA requirements. We looked at sidewalk widths, slopes, and conditions. Overall, only 11.1 miles (15.4%) of the 72.3 miles of sidewalk in the City are fully ADA compliant. Our initial estimate for sidewalk, curb, and ramp repair and replacement is \$64.4 million to \$118.6 million.

We currently use a pay-as-you-go strategy to maintain our existing sidewalk infrastructure through the Curb Ramp, Gutter, and Sidewalk Maintenance Program. This annual program, in place since 1998, has helped us address some ADA requirement issues and other pedestrian improvements throughout Shoreline. Historically, we have spent about \$152,000 per year of general fund money on sidewalk repair and maintenance. We have recently increased that amount to \$190,000 for 2018 and 2019. It will increase again to \$200,000 for 2020 through 2023. We have been able to supplement some of that money with grant funding



through the years. However, at this incremental rate, it will take several centuries before we can meet our current sidewalk infrastructure needs.

Our Sidewalk Citizen Advisory Committee has studied our sidewalk infrastructure. They have looked at how best to prioritize and fund the maintenance and repair of current sidewalks and the construction of new sidewalks. On October 17, 2017, we held our first open house to present the findings of the committee to date. Approximately 30 people from neighborhoods throughout Shoreline attended.

Presentation materials from the first open house are available on the web at shorelinewa.gov/sidewalks.

We will host a second open house in March to review the draft Sidewalk Prioritization Plan and provide residents with an opportunity to provide input.

Intersection improvements for Westminster & 155th

Public Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 28
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chamber

WE HAVE REACHED 30% design for the intersection of Westminster Way N & N 155th Street and we want to know what you think. Join us for a public meeting to comment and provide your input.

The project will create a more walkable and inviting space at the intersection and along Westminster Way. It will maintain efficient access to Aurora Square, Aurora Avenue, and future developments in the Community Renewal Area. The current project schedule anticipates the design to be complete in summer of 2018 and anticipate construction to begin in spring of 2019.

To learn more, please contact Project Manager Alisa Arment at aarment@shorelinewa.gov or visit shorelinewa.gov/projects.

Shoreline walk leaders wanted

WE ARE SEEKING new volunteer walk leaders to join our Shoreline Walks team. Walks take place April through November with volunteers leading on average 1-3 walks.

If you know of great walking routes around our city and would like to lead a group walk, please contact Marianne Johnson, Recreation Specialist at mjohnson@shorelinewa.gov, (206) 801-2638.



Sidewalk Prioritization Plan/ADA Transition Plan Project Open House #2

Thursday, March 22, 2018
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chamber & Lobby

Council adopts a B&O tax

ON DECEMBER 4, the City Council adopted a Business and Occupation (B&O) tax in Shoreline. The B&O tax will apply to all businesses operating in Shoreline, except 501 (C) (3) non-profits, effective January 1, 2009. The rate will be set at 0.001 of gross receipts over \$500,000 for all businesses operating in Shoreline, except for businesses classified as services. Services will have a tax rate of 0.002.

Adoption of a B&O tax was the final strategy to be implemented from the City's 10-Year Financial Sustainability Plan (10-YFSP). The 10-YFSP, accepted by the City Council in 2014, prioritizes seven target strategies to reduce projected future revenue and expenditure gaps. The 10-YFSP recognizes that we must be sensitive to the balance between the need for services and our ability to raise fees, charges, and taxes to support those services. We strive to keep a total revenue mix that encourages growth and keeps Shoreline economically competitive and a city of choice for people to live and do business.

Get more information about the City's budget and taxes at shorelinewa.gov/finance

TAX CREDITS CAN PUT MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

DID YOU KNOW that many families are eligible for valuable tax credits every year? To get these credits, you must file a tax return (even if you do not owe any income tax). When you file your taxes make sure you ask about these credits:

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for 2017

The Earned Income Tax Credit is designed to boost the wages of eligible families. This refundable credit is worth up to \$6,444 and is available to married couples with earned income up to \$54,998, depending on number of qualifying children and to single filers with earned income up to \$49,298, depending on number of qualifying children. The average refund in Washington State for tax year 2016 was \$2,177.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

This Federal tax credit is for families that pay for the care of a child or a disabled adult while they are working or looking for work. The credit is worth up to \$3,000 for qualifying individuals or \$6,000 for two or more qualifying individuals.

Child Tax Credit

This federal tax credit is for families raising children, is worth up to \$1,000 per qualifying child, and may be refundable for families earning more than \$3,000.

Free tax preparation services

If you earned less than \$66,000 in 2017, you can save even more money by using United Way of King County's free tax preparation services. Below is a list of locations in Shoreline. For a list of all tax sites in King County and or to find sites serving non-English speakers, call 211 or go to freetaxexperts.org.

Shoreline Library

345 NE 175th Street

Thursdays 3:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Goodwill

14500 15th Avenue NE

Mondays 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hopelink

17837 Aurora Avenue N

Mondays 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shoreline Community College

16101 Greenwood Avenue N

PUB (9000) Bldg

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Richmond Beach Library

19601 21st Avenue NW

Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Schedule an appointment for this location: (206) 365-1536. Walk-ins will be accommodated as time permits.

What to Bring:

- Social Security card/ITIN letters and birthdates for everyone on the return
- Photo ID
- All tax statements (W-2 forms, 1099 forms, SSA-1099 forms, etc.)
- Health insurance forms 1095-A, 1095-B, or 1095-C

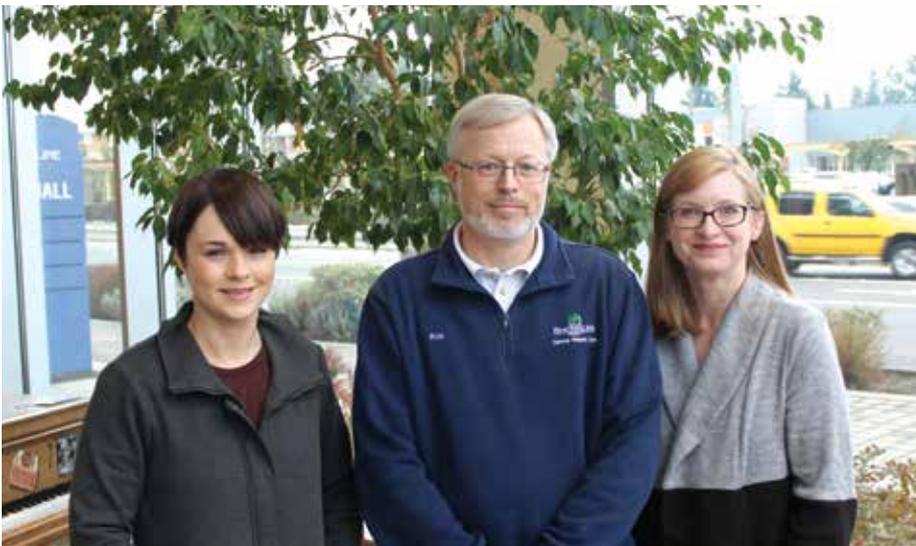
Note: If you are filing jointly with your spouse, you both must be present to e-file.

DID YOU KNOW?

Household batteries have toxic, heavy metals in them and are not allowed in the trash. You can recycle batteries free at Shoreline City Hall, Walgreens, Bartell Drugs, or the Shoreline Police Station! Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries to save money, reduce waste, and conserve our natural resources.

North City Post Office

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has relocated its retail services from North City to Gateway Plaza located at 18336 Aurora Avenue N. All of the services available at its old location are available at the new location. Mail carriers will operate out of the old Office Depot location at 6005 224th Street SW in Mountlake Terrace. The City has signed a lease with USPS to park postal vehicles on City-owned property located on Ballinger Way.



Left to right: City employees Kendra Dedinsky, Robert Staveskie, and Tavia Tan

Employee and Team of the Year

EVERY YEAR, SHORELINE EMPLOYEES NOMINATE PEERS as Employee of the Year for going above and beyond in practicing the organization's values, providing exceptional customer service, and promoting a positive image of the City. The 2017 Employee of the Year is Communications Specialist Tavia Tan. The two other finalists are Customer Response Team Representative Robert Staveskie and City Traffic Engineer Kendra Dedinsky.

In addition to the Employee of the Year, the City also honors the Team of the Year. The City's Leadership Team nominated three employee teams for 2017. The winner was the TRAKiT Development and Implementation Team. TRAKiT is our new online permitting tool that allows people to apply for certain permits online, schedule inspections, and submit service requests.

Home improvement workshops & vendor fair

Tuesdays, March 27, April 24, & May 22 ★ 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Shoreline City Hall

RSVP: shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement

SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! Do you have a home improvement project in mind, but need some guidance to get started? Is it a house remodel, subdivision of property, driveway alteration, site drainage change, deck replacement/repair, or tree project? We are offering free workshops to help with your potential project. Visit shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement to sign up for an appointment to meet with technical reviewers to discuss your potential project. Be sure to include your address so we can have maps of your property ready to discuss during your appointment. Technical reviewers will be available to help with questions regarding your house, property, land uses, and streets as well as City requirements and permit information. Depend-

ing on the scope of your project, you can meet with up to three technical reviewers.

In addition to appointments with technical reviewers, we will have several outside vendor and resources available to meet with to discuss your project. These vendors will include a local designer, local contractor, Master Gardener, material supplier, home loan agent, and a grant funder for residential drainage improvements. No appointment is necessary to meet with these vendors, so be sure to set aside extra time to discuss their services.

If you have any questions, please contact Permit Services Manager Jarrod Lewis at (206) 801-2521 or jlewis@shorelinewa.gov.



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CITY OF SHORELINE
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Contact the City:
(206) 801-2700

**Alternate formats
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Tell us how to improve your parks

Defining the future of Shoreline Parks

We have evaluated 13 Shoreline parks and are now beginning site concepts for 8 selected parks. Two to three design concepts for each park will be featured at each open house and online at shorelinewa.gov/parksdesign.

Plans will reflect community and City input, guide funding, and assist in defining the future of these parks.

Parks under consideration:

- Brugger's Bog
- Hamlin
- Hillwood
- James Keough
- Richmond Highlands
- Ridgcrest
- Shoreview
- Westminster Triangle

Open House Events

Tuesday, March 6

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Shoreline City Hall

Emphasis: Parks West of I-5
Hillwood, James Keough, Shoreview,
Richmond Highlands, Westmister
Triangle

Saturday, March 10

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Shoreline City Hall

Emphasis: Parks East of I-5
Ridgcrest, Hamlin, Brugger's Bog

*Each open house has an emphasis, but you may provide your input on any of the parks under consideration at either event.

Take the survey: shorelinewa.gov/parksdesign