

CITY OF SHORELINE CURRENTS

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2013 budget keeps City moving in the right direction

A balanced 2013 Proposed Budget was presented to the Shoreline City Council at its October 15 meeting. City Manager Julie Underwood emphasized that next year's \$67 million budget maintains service levels desired by Shoreline's citizens.

Budget Challenges

As we all know, the past few years have been very difficult economically. Municipal governments have not been spared the impacts of the worst recession since the Great Depression. Declining tax revenues and property values have created a "perfect storm" that has hit the City hard. The City depends on taxes and other revenues to balance its budget and provide services. When risky mortgages collapsed the mortgage market, home repossessions increased dramatically. This decreased property values. Property values control the amount of property taxes cities receive. In 2013, Shoreline's property tax revenues will decline by 6.4% (about \$650,000) even though Shoreline voters approved a six-year levy in 2010 that allowed property taxes to increase at the rate of inflation.

Added to the decline in property values is the continuing problem associated with unemployment. Higher unemployment and the uncertainty it creates has meant people are spending less, which means lower sales tax revenues. While employment has started to recover and sales tax revenues are beginning to rise, sales tax collections are still near 2006 levels.

In spite of these challenges, the City continues to provide the quality services our community has come to expect and demand.

Continued on page 2

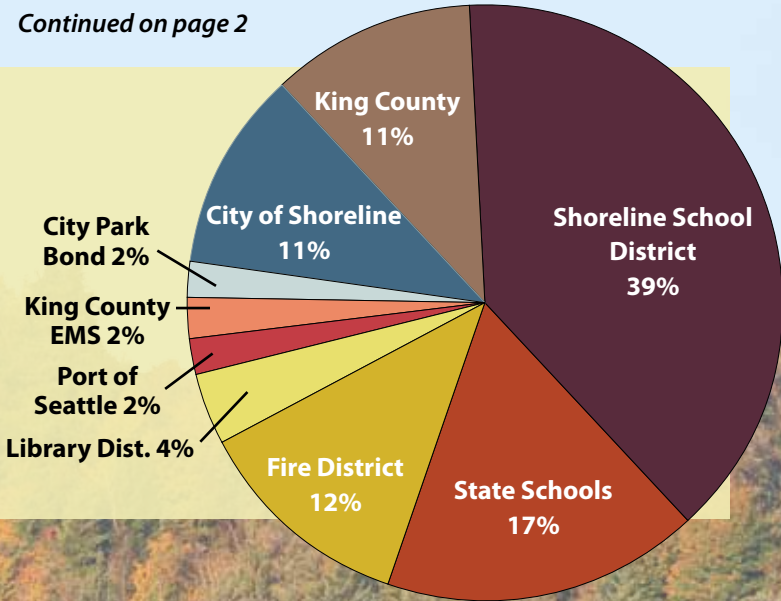
Shoreline's Financial Stewardship

- Clean audits for the last 12 years
- AA+ Bond Rating
- Standard and Poor's Financial Management Assessment Rating of Strong
- GFOA Distinguished Budget Award every year since 1999
- Reserves to address unanticipated needs

Where do your property taxes go?

There are a number of taxing districts that collect property taxes from Shoreline property owners. One piece of property may fall under the jurisdiction of as many as 10 separate districts, each with its own levy rate.

The City of Shoreline receives 13% of the total property taxes paid. This includes the City's regular levy used to fund City services and the 2006 voter approved Park bonds. The bond proceeds were used to acquire open space and make a variety of park and trail improvements throughout the City.



Shoreline 2013 Budget (continued from page 1)

Capital Projects

The only significant increase in the 2013 Proposed Budget comes in the area of capital spending. This year the City was able to secure \$10.9 million in additional grant funding to complete the final section of the Aurora Corridor Project from N 192nd to N 205th Streets. After more than ten years of planning and construction, the end is in sight. Construction will begin in early 2013 and be completed in late 2014.

Surface water capital projects are budgeted at \$1.9 million for 2013. The Aurora Corridor Project and surface water projects account for the majority of the \$14.6 million increase between the 2012 budget and the 2013 Proposed Budget.

Council Goals

The fundamental purpose of the City's budget is to allocate resources that support the community's vi-

sion and priorities. To achieve this, the City Council has established four goals as part of the 2012-13 City Council Work Plan. The 2013 Proposed Budget includes operating programs to meet each of these goals.

Goal 1: Strengthen Shoreline's economic base

Goal 2: Improve Shoreline's utility, transportation, and environmental infrastructure

Goal 3: Prepare for two Shoreline light rail stations

Goal 4: Enhance openness and opportunities for community engagement

"I am very proud to present a balanced 2013 Proposed Budget to the City Council that provides funding to further the Council's goals and our community's priorities," stated City Manager Julie Underwood. "To continue to find ways to address the

Budget Summary

Operating Budget	\$36.7 million
Capital Budget	\$22.1 million
Debt Service	\$3.3 million
Surface Water Utility	\$4.4 million
Other	<u>\$0.5 million</u>
Total	\$67.0 million

Adoption of Budget and Property Tax Levy

Monday, Nov. 26, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

Call the Agenda Line at (206) 801-2236 or visit the City's website for details.

community's other growing needs, the City is committed to focusing on efficiencies, partnerships that leverage tax dollars, and hearing from our residents."

To learn more, visit the City's website at shorelinewa.gov/budget.

Serving our community through quality of life partners

One of the ways the City maximizes taxpayer money is to partner with outside organizations that provide services to Shoreline residents. The City would not be able to fund all of these programs on its own.

The 2013 budget provides funding for a number of partners that provide a variety of services to Shoreline residents in the areas of human services, natural environment, public safety, recreation and neighborhood programs and cultural services.

Without these partnerships, many of the programs that contribute to the great quality of life that people experience in Shoreline would not be possible.

The City's major partners include:

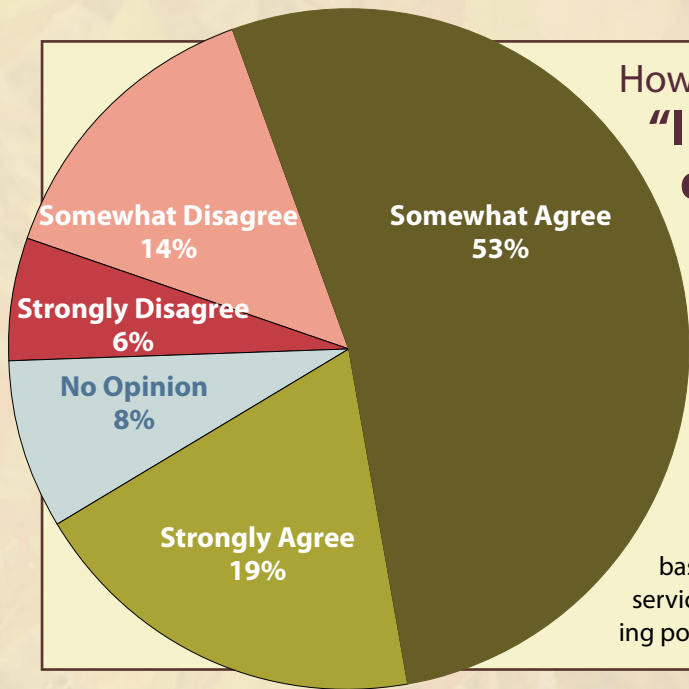
- Center for Human Services
- Hopelink Shoreline
- Senior Services
- New Beginnings
- Shoreline-LFP Senior Center
- Kruckeberg Botanical Garden Foundation
- Shoreline Historical Museum
- Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Arts Council

As an example, one of the City's major human services partners is the Center for Human Services (CHS). Shoreline's human services partners are instrumental in provid-

ing much needed resources to the neediest residents. Services include food and housing assistance, substance abuse counseling, adult education, senior services and shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

Many of CHS's clients are immigrants or refugees, and most are economically disadvantaged. CHS helps integrate these families and individuals into the larger Shoreline community.

Many different organizations help stretch Shoreline taxpayer money to provide much needed services to our residents. Our quality of life partners truly make a difference and improve the lives of all Shoreline residents.



How much do you agree with the statement: “I trust the City to spend my tax dollars responsibly?”

According to the 2012 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 72% of residents agreed that they trust the City to spend their tax dollars responsibly.

The City takes its responsibility for financial stewardship of tax dollars very seriously. We've received clean audits of our finances for the past 12 years and have been awarded the Government Financial Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award every year since 1999, in addition to receiving a AA+ bond rating and Standard and Poor's rating of strong.

Shoreline taxpayers entrusted the City with a levy to maintain basic services in 2010. While other cities have been forced to cut services, Shoreline has been able to maintain basic services including police and human services safety nets.

Controlling costs are a priority

The City of Shoreline continues to look for ways to provide our residents with quality services efficiently and cost effectively. These continuing efforts allow the City to maintain service levels during times when other cities have to cut services. The following items are a few examples of what the City does to control costs.

Staffing: Since 2008 the City has reduced staffing by 9.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Part of this total includes a 2013 reduction of 2.7 FTEs. Staffing levels will be 6.6% lower in 2013 than in 2008.

Jail Costs: The City began contracting for jail services with Snohomish County in 2011. This contract is significantly less expensive than fees charged by King County. By the end of 2013, Shoreline will have saved over \$1.4 million by contracting with Snohomish County.

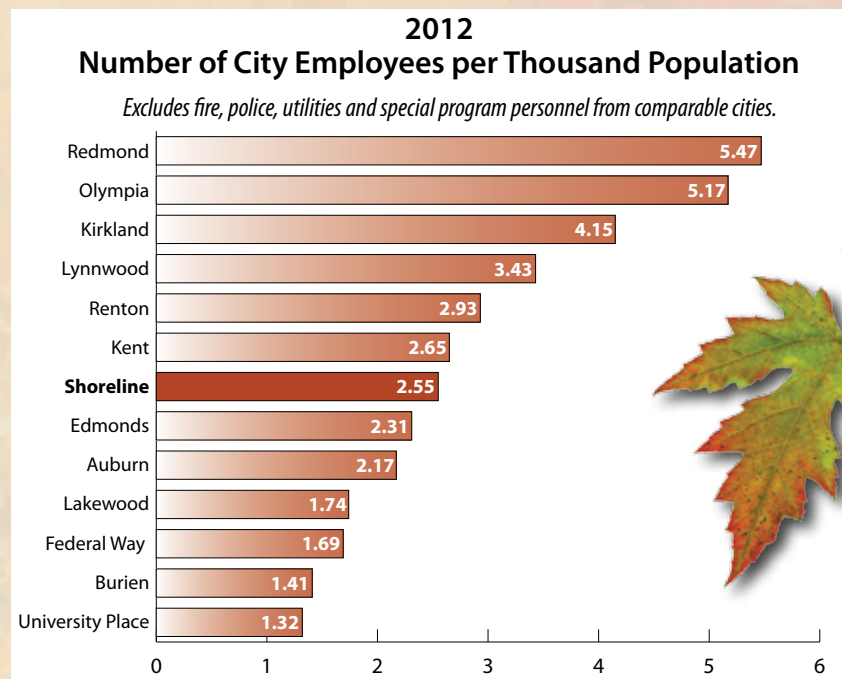
Police Contract: For the last two years Shoreline has provided joint supervision services for the City of Kenmore. This agreement, combined with the cooperation of the

King County Sheriff's Office, will save Shoreline over \$300,000 by the end of 2013. Kenmore realizes similar savings as a result of these efforts.

Health Benefits: Changes at King County have decreased health insurance benefits costs for our Police

Department by over \$100,000 per year.

These are just a few examples of the City's efforts to control costs and provide citizens with an efficient budget. The City continues to seek out additional service delivery efficiencies.

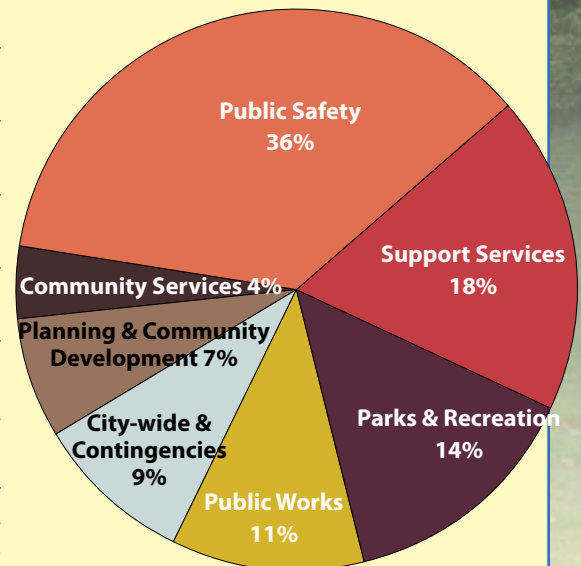


Your resources at work in the City

The City's 2013 Budget totals \$67 million. Over 54% of the total (\$36.7 million) is spent on the City's operating budget. The operating budget represents the cost of providing services to the Shoreline community on a day-to-day basis:

- **Public Safety:** police services, domestic violence assistance, prosecuting attorney, public defender, municipal court and jail services.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Parks and open space maintenance, recreation programs and cultural services.
- **Planning and Community Development:** Code enforcement, permitting, zoning and Comprehensive Plan updating.
- **Public Works:** Street and right-of-way maintenance, traffic management and environmental services.
- **Community Services:** Customer Response Team, emergency management, neighborhoods coordination and human services.
- **City-Wide and Contingencies:** Liability and property insurance, equipment and vehicle maintenance, operations and replacement.
- **Support Services:** Budget and financial reporting, accounts payable/receivable and payroll, grant writing, maintaining network, computer and telephone systems, administration, legal services, communications, records management.

Operating Budget Allocations



Business in the City: Economic development update

Improving economic development opportunities in Shoreline has been a long-term Council goal and community priority. The City is actively working to promote new development and population growth.

- In early September, the Shoreline City Council designated the 70-acre area that makes up Aurora Square and the surrounding area as a Community Renewal Area (CRA). Creating a CRA is the first step in a process designed to bring economic renewal and investment to Aurora Square. For more details, please see the Aurora Square CRA FAQs on the City's website.
- In August, Veolia Transportation, which operates ACCESS buses for Metro, moved into the old Cascade Bingo Hall in Ridgecrest. As part of the building and property improvements being made for Veolia, the property owner will be upgrading the water system and fire flow for the entire 165th and 5th Ave NE area.
- Nearly 60% of the Artiste Apartments' 148 units are leased after only 2 ½ months. We welcome each of the new residents to their Shoreline home at 20221 Aurora Avenue N, across from Costco.
- Congratulations to Aurora Rents on its beautiful new building, which is a wonderful way to celebrate 50 years of serving Shoreline at 175th and Aurora.
- Aero Construction worked hard to clear away a layer of rock-like dirt to build an impressive storm water management system for Inland's 165-unit North City Family Apartments located at the old YMCA site in North City.
- In a clear indication of Shoreline's investment in education, Shorecrest, Shorewood, and King's High Schools all have new buildings under construction.
- International Community Health Services (ICHS) is moving to Shoreline! ICHS, a non-profit community health center, purchased the property at 16549 Aurora Avenue N and recently demolished the existing structure. ICHS plans to open its 20,000 square foot, \$12 million medical and dental clinic in 2014.
- New businesses are popping up all over Shoreline such as Menchie's Frozen Yogurt in the Gateway Center and CBO Kickboxing in Aurora Square. Patronizing Shoreline businesses rewards business owners who invest in Shoreline and encourages other businesses to make Shoreline their home as well.

Shop Shoreline!



What does light rail mean for Shoreline?



Over the past year there has been a lot of discussion about light rail alignment through Shoreline, framework goals for station area planning, and Sound Transit's environmental review process. But what is it all about? Light rail is not supposed to come to Shoreline until 2023. Why are we talking about it now?

In 2008, Central Puget Sound voters overwhelmingly approved Sound Transit 2 making extension of light rail north from the University of Washington to Lynnwood possible. As you can imagine, a project of this scope takes a long time to plan and construct. It will allow for improved connections and commute times between Shoreline and other Puget Sound destinations; it will change transportation patterns throughout the City as areas around stations develop and grow; and it will bring more people, more businesses and more opportunities to Shoreline.

Before the first shovel breaks ground on the two stations in Shoreline, it is essential for residents to participate in planning for the sta-

tions and service into our community. The station areas need to reflect Shoreline residents' vision for current and future residents, workers and visitors using light rail.

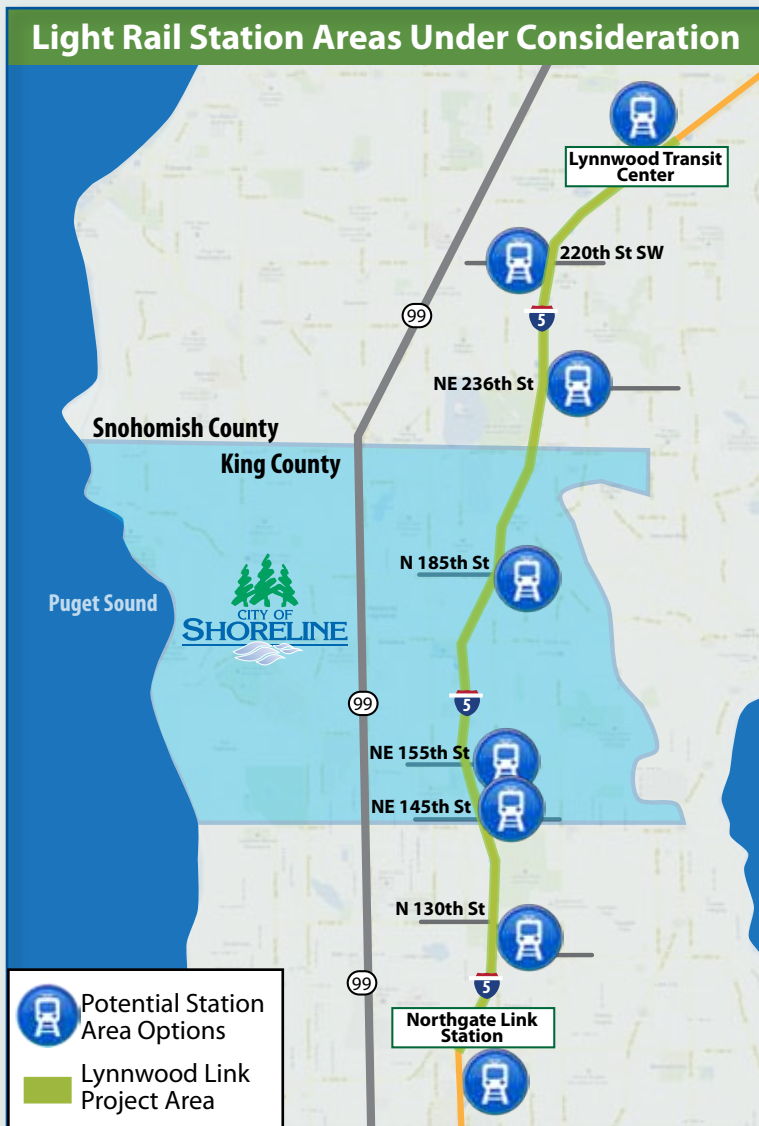
It is also important to have policies in place regarding future land use and zoning decisions to improve Sound Transit's competitiveness for receiving federal funds. In other words, in order to have a better chance of having your federal tax dollars spent here at home instead of on a light rail project in another part of the country, we need to plan now.

We know there will be a stop at I-5 and NE 185th Street and another one will be built at either I-5 and NE 145th or NE 155th Street. This means Shoreline residents will be able to travel to Lynnwood, the University of Washington, downtown Seattle, SeaTac Airport, or downtown Bellevue without having to make any transfers. They will also be able to avoid traffic congestion and help reduce greenhouse gases. In addition, light rail will allow more people to conveniently travel to Shoreline for work, school and/or shopping.

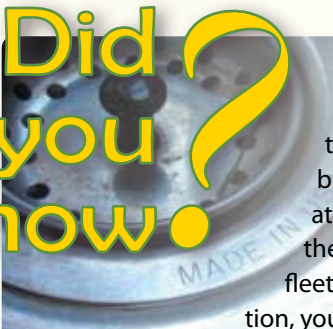
It also means that in the long-term, the areas around the stations will slowly see a shift from single family neighborhoods to a mix of multifamily communities and commercial areas designed to maximize access to and usage of public transportation.

While the stations are not scheduled to open until 2023, construction on the Lynnwood Link extension will begin in 2018. Over the next two years, the City will be working closely with Shoreline residents on station area planning. There will be numerous opportunities to provide input and participate in the process. The only way we will be successful in planning for the station areas is with the community's active participation and support.

Look for information in Currents about the station area planning process and opportunities to provide input. Visit shorelinewa.gov/lightrail to find out more.



Did you know?



Just as grease clogs your arteries, it can clog your home drains and sewer pipes. Instead of dumping the grease down your sink, recycle it in the black, biodiesel collection container outside Central Market at 15505 Westminster Way North in Shoreline. It will then be processed into bio-fuel for use in CleanScapes' fleet of vehicles. If you subscribe to food scraps collection, you can also absorb grease in a paper towel and place it in your food scraps container for recycling. If you only have garbage collection, you can mix grease in a container with kitty litter or sawdust and put it in your trash. For more information on cooking oil recycling, please contact Environmental Programs Assistant Tina Han at (206) 801-2455 or than@shorelinewa.gov. For problems with your sewer call Ronald Wastewater at (206) 546-2494.

Holiday happenings in the community

Christmas Ships Visit at Saltwater Park

*Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7:30 to 8:50 p.m. (Ships arrive at 8:20 p.m.)
Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, 2021 NW 190th Street*

It's a tradition on Richmond Beach! Listen to local school choirs sing around the beach bonfires while waiting for the Argosy Christmas Ships to arrive.

Breakfast with Santa

*Saturday, Dec. 8, Seating at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Shoreline/LFP Senior Center, 18560 1st Avenue NE
Adults \$8, Children \$5; Pre-registration is required*

Bring the whole family for a delicious breakfast with Santa. There will be games, prizes and activities for the entire family. Have your picture taken with Santa!

Tree Lighting Ceremony

*Saturday, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m.
Les Schwab, 180th and 15th Avenue NE*

Everyone will enjoy this annual event. Around the Sound Band will provide music and a sing-a-long while Santa hands out candy canes. Please bring a non-perishable food item for Hopelink. Sponsored by North City Business Association, Ridgecrest and North City Neighborhood Associations, Shoreline Water District and the City of Shoreline.

Saltwater Park Off-Leash Area now open

Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Seasonal Off-Leash Dog Area is now open. The off-leash area is on the south end of the beach and is open for use through March 15. The Shoreview Off-Leash Dog Area, located at 320 NW Innis Arden Way, is open year round.

Please keep your dog on leash until you are in the designated off-leash area. The success of the off-leash areas depends on the behavior of its users. Respect other park users and stop bothersome behaviors immediately.

Upcoming Events

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 22-23

City Hall, Spartan Recreation Center and Shoreline Pool will be closed in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thursday, Nov. 27

6:30 p.m.

Diggin' Shoreline community gardening group meets at City Hall, room 301.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

3:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Youth 12 to 18 years old are invited to "Skating, Cocoa and Lights" to celebrate the holiday season. Free event! Call Christy for more info: (206) 801-2645.

Friday, Dec. 14

7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Teen open mic night at the Rec. Come with a friend for coffee and entertainment. To share your talents or read your work, call Waldo (206) 801-2644.

Friday to Saturday, Dec. 21-22

9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Tween "Up All Night" event. Kick off winter break with an all night tween event for 5th and 6th graders at Spartan Rec Center. Sports, dancing, bouncy house, food and more. Call (206) 801-2600 for information. \$5/ person.

Tuesday, Dec. 25

City Hall, Spartan Recreation Center and Shoreline Pool will be closed for the Christmas holiday.

Quick Start

— — — ▶ **Shoreline**

Free Small Business Workshops

Tuesdays at Noon

City Hall Council Chambers. Visit the City's website for topics.

Check out programs and classes at shoreline.edu/programs

What gets you up in the morning? Whether it is a glorious August sunrise or a dark, cold and wet February morn, what does it take to get you out of bed and go to work?

How about reclaiming the American dream?

For employees at Shoreline Community College, it is nothing less than that.

"Community colleges are a huge part of the American dream by providing the education and training people need to achieve their dream," says Shoreline President Lee Lambert.

"But, the world is changing and changing fast. The path ahead is no longer clear, in fact, there is no path. We must be willing to look around us, to look ahead, to navigate on an open blue ocean of opportunities. When we do that successfully, we'll find new ways to do this critical work and meet the needs of our students, our communities and our country."

Lambert's comments came near the end of a recent staff retreat held at Shoreline City Hall for college di-

rectors and other managers. The aim of the meeting was to get employees thinking about change, the impacts of change and how they could anticipate and plan options for those potential outcomes.

Called scenario planning, the general idea is to think the unthinkable, then imagine ways to not just cope, but thrive under those conditions.

As part of the agenda on scenario planning, the group took a stark look at the challenges facing not only Shoreline, but all of higher education.

Two years ago, the college received \$23.8 million from the state. Today, the college receives only \$17.3 million.

In other states, some community colleges have been ordered to plan for loss of accreditation and closure, primarily due to not planning for and responding to reduced state funding.

Lambert said the downward trend in state support began decades ago, but really accelerated starting in 2008. "It will continue," he said.

Sign up for classes

Winter quarter registration for new students starts **Tuesday, Nov. 20.**

To get started at Shoreline, go to: www.shoreline.edu/steps

"The state of Washington will have less money for higher education. I believe we should plan for the day when we get nothing from the state. I don't want that to happen, but we should plan for it."

Despite that trend, since 2005 Shoreline Community College has strengthened its overall financial position. "We've been prudent and conservative and now we're in a position to do things that will help the college and its students," said Lambert.

Lambert noted that two key initiatives now underway at SCC, the virtual college and internationalization, are intended to help chart a course in that "blue ocean" environment.

David Cunningham, Dean of Workforce Education, commented: "We're redefining the American community college."

Lambert acknowledged that fear can come with the unknown and change, but also urged all to find hope in quoting the noted Chinese author, Lin Yutang: "Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence. We are all walking together."



November 2012 Vol. 14 No. 8
CITY OF SHORELINE
CURRENTS

Currents is produced by the
 City Manager's Office,
 (206) 801-2217, ebratton@shorelinewa.gov

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 available upon request**

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City of Shoreline

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 shorelinewa.gov

Spartan Recreation Center
 202 NE 185th Street, Shoreline 98155
 (206) 801-2600 Fax (206) 393-3380

Shoreline Pool
 19030 1st Avenue NE, Shoreline 98155
 (206) 801-2650 Fax (206) 362-8450

Shoreline Police
Emergency: 911

Shoreline Police Station
 Chief Shawn Ledford
 1206 N 185th Street
 Shoreline, WA 98133
 (206) 801-2710

Eastside Police Neighborhood Center
 Officer Leona Obstler
 521 NE 165th Street
 Shoreline, WA 98155
 (206) 363-8424

Westside Police Neighborhood Center
 Officer Leona Obstler
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City Council Meetings
 Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (no meetings on fifth Monday of month)
 Shoreline City Hall, Council Chambers
 Agendas: (206) 801-2236 or shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings

Televised City Council Meetings
 Comcast Cable Channel 21 & Verizon Cable Channel 37
 Tuesday noon & 8:00 p.m., Wednesday - Sunday 6:00 a.m., noon & 8:00 p.m.