

# CITY OF SHORELINE CURRENTS

February 2004 Vol. 6 No. 1

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### Meet Your City Council

New and re-elected City Council members were sworn in January 5 and the Council selected a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

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## State of the City: Stable finances and a promising future

Shoreline is still a relatively new City, but one with an established community and aging infrastructure. While we've had to deal with the challenges of bringing our infrastructure up to standard – making long overdue repairs to our street, surface water and parks systems – the established community has been our strength in helping create a vision for the future. And in just over eight years, we have laid the foundation for a promising future.

One of the strongest parts of this foundation is the City's financial security and stability. Since incorporation, the City Council has been committed to a conservative approach to budgeting our limited City resources. We've lived within our means. This philosophy has served us well during the downturn in the economy.

The City of Shoreline's financial position is sound and the state of the City is stable.

From the beginning, we have been selective about providing services that are the most valuable to the community. And we've been careful about expanding those services. We only use funds from stable resources for ongoing ex-

penses. Funds from less stable revenue sources are set aside to reinvest in the community through projects that improve our parks, roads and drainage systems. These capital improvement projects are investments that will serve us well many years into the future.

While the lagging economy and voter initiatives limiting revenues resulted in dramatic service cuts for other government jurisdictions, the City of Shoreline's programs and services have remained stable. We have maintained a healthy reserve balance and kept property and other taxes at a reasonable level. And we have no General Fund long-term debt obligation.

But the City of Shoreline faces the same increased costs many of you are experiencing at home and at work and nearly stagnant revenue growth. Although we have

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Shoreline Mayor  
Ron Hansen

## Interurban Trail construction continues

Shoreline's portion of the Interurban Trail is taking shape with the completion of the South Section from N. 145<sup>th</sup> to 155<sup>th</sup> Streets this month. Construction is also underway on the first half of the North Section of the trail between N. 192<sup>nd</sup> and 200<sup>th</sup> Streets near Echo Lake.

"Completing the first section of the Interurban Trail is a major step for the City of Shoreline," says Shoreline Mayor Ron Hansen. "We are looking forward to seeing the first section of the Trail open and in use this spring



**During the second week of February, crews worked on the drainage along the Interurban Trail near N. 192nd St.**

as warmer weather brings people outdoors."

This summer, construction will begin on the second half of the North Section from N. 200<sup>th</sup> to 205<sup>th</sup> Streets at the same time

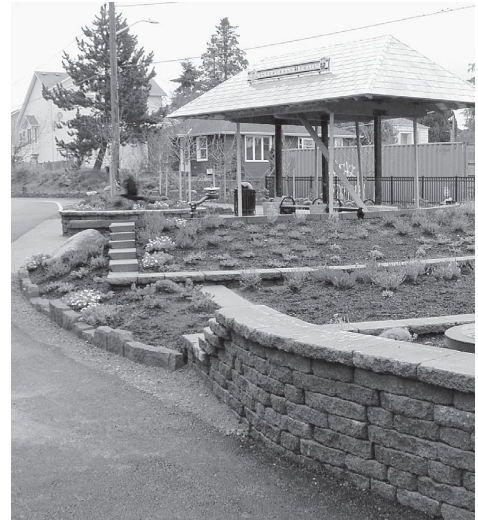
work begins on the South Central Section from N. 160<sup>th</sup> to 175<sup>th</sup> Streets.

"Despite a few delays due to harsh winter weather, we're very pleased with the progress made by our contractor Paul Brothers, Inc.," said Capital Projects Manager Kris Overleese.

The trail section between N. 155<sup>th</sup> and 160<sup>th</sup> Streets includes two pedestrian bridges. The City Council approved the "Loop Ramp Option" in Fall 2003 that provides a truss bridge over N. 155<sup>th</sup> Street, just west of Aurora Ave. N. and a bridge across Aurora Ave. N. at about N. 158<sup>th</sup> Street. The bridge project is now in the environmental review, permitting and design phase. The City Council will review the award of the bridge design contract the end of February.

The bridge design contractor will be responsible for bridge and urban design, geotechnical and environmental work, surveying, and coordination with affected agencies such as Seattle City Light and the Washington State Department of Transportation. The bridge project – fully funded by local, state and federal grants – is estimated to cost \$3.6 million including design, environmental work, permitting and construction.

According to Overleese, the goal is to build the first phase of the Aurora Corridor Project and



**The Interurban trailhead at N. 145th St. features a kiosk, benches, landscaping and a drinking fountain with a dog bowl at the base.**

the bridges at the same time to save money and streamline construction.

Over the next year, final plans, specifications and estimates will be prepared and right-of-way acquired for construction, which is expected to begin in 2005.

Visit the City's Web site at [www.cityofshoreline.com](http://www.cityofshoreline.com) for more information about the project. On the project's Web page, you can sign up to receive project updates via email. If you have questions about the project, contact Overleese at (206) 546-0791 or Interurban Trail Project Manager Kirk McKinley at (206) 546-3901.

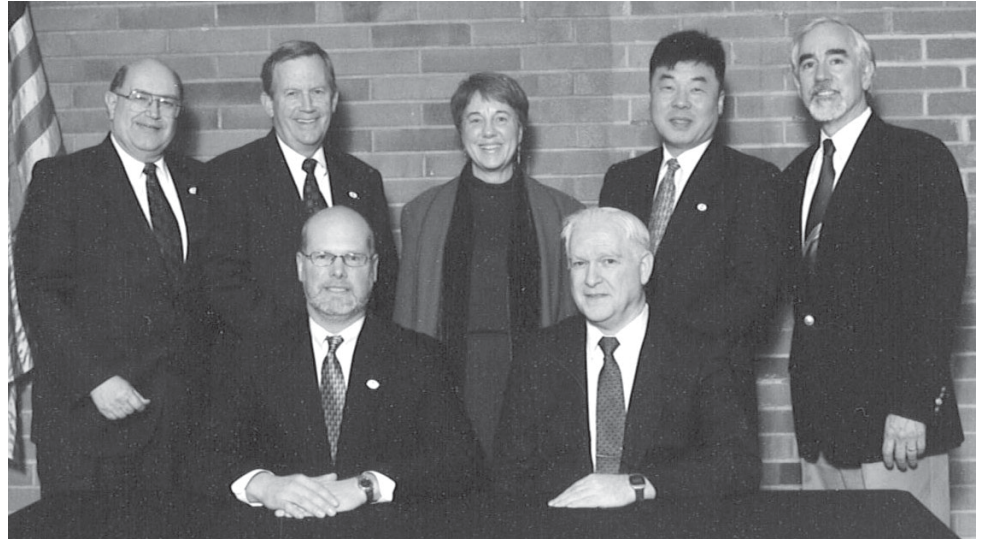
## New Shoreline City Council members sworn in

New and re-elected Shoreline City Councilmembers were sworn in by Judge Richard Eadie at the first City Council meeting of 2004 on Jan. 5.

Councilmembers Rich Gustafson and Bob Ransom were re-elected to four-year terms in positions #2 and #6 respectively, and Maggie Fimia was elected to the Council in position #4. Paul Grace was appointed to position #3 by the City Council in December to fill the unexpired term of Linda Montgomery who resigned.

Councilmember Fimia has lived in Shoreline for 16 years and was a member of the King County Council from 1994 to 2001. She served on the Regional Transit Committee, Transportation Committee, Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation, Operations and Executive Committees, the HOV Task Force, and represented the County on the Association of Counties Legislative Steering Committee. Fimia is married and has two daughters. She enjoys cooking, hiking, biking and dancing. Her term expires Dec. 31, 2007.

Councilmember Grace is a 17-year resident of Shoreline. For the past 10 years, he has managed Sea-Tac Airport's conveyance systems for baggage handling. Councilmember Grace has more than 30 years experience in labor relations and is a certified mediator and arbitrator. He volunteers for county Dispute Resolution Centers and the Better Business Bureau. He was a member of the Shoreline School Board from 1996 to 2001, serving as both president and vice president. He is married



**Shoreline City Council: front row, from left, Deputy Mayor Scott Jepsen and Mayor Ron Hansen; back row, from left, Bob Ransom, Rich Gustafson, Maggie Fimia, John Chang and Paul Grace.**

and has two daughters – both graduates of Shorewood High School. Grace enjoys kayaking, gardening and gourmet cooking. His term expires Dec. 31, 2005.

At the Jan. 5 meeting, Councilmembers also selected Ron Hansen as Mayor and Scott Jepsen as Deputy Mayor. Councilmembers elect a mayor and deputy mayor for two-year terms on even-numbered years.

The Shoreline City Council meets the first four Mondays of the month in the Mt. Rainier Room at the Shoreline Conference Center, 18560 First Ave. NE. Workshop Meetings on the first and third Mondays begin at 6:30 p.m. and Regular Meetings on the second and fourth Mondays begin at 7:30

p.m. Council meetings are broadcast on the government access cable channel 21 Wednesday through Sunday at 6:00 a.m., noon and 8:00 p.m.

For the latest information about upcoming meetings, visit [www.cityofshoreline.com](http://www.cityofshoreline.com) or call the Agenda Line at (206) 546-2190.

### Contact the Council

17544 Midvale Ave. N.  
Shoreline, WA 98133  
(206) 546-1700  
[council@ci.shoreline.wa.us](mailto:council@ci.shoreline.wa.us)



## 2003 City highlights and accomplishments

- Completed the environmental review process for the Aurora Corridor Project;

- Celebrated the groundbreaking for the first segment of the Interurban Trail between N. 145th and 155th Streets and completed 90% of construction on that segment;

- Began construction of the north segment of the Interurban Trail between N. 192nd and 200th Streets;

- Selected a bridge design for the Interurban Trail to cross Aurora;

- Completed pedestrian and traffic safety improvements around local schools including in pavement flashing crosswalks, radar speed signs, street print crosswalks with ramps and audible pedestrian signals;

- Installed pedestrian signals

to replace the “roving eyes” on Aurora Ave. N.;

- Began offering online registration for recreation programs;

- Adopted the future right-of-way needs map for Central Shoreline in the Comprehensive Plan;

- Ballfields at Paramount School Park and Shoreview Park were opened and maintained for the first full year since construction;

- Began construction of the west N. 175<sup>th</sup> Street gateway at the Ronald Bog Park ponies;

- Adopted the City’s emergency operations plan;

- Four neighborhoods including Innis Arden, Richmond Beach, North City and Echo Lake completed Neighborhood Mini-Grant Projects;

- Completed design for North City improvements including sidewalks, lighting and underground

utilities; and

- Completed design for Phase II of Spartan Gym Improvements.

### Facts and Figures

City services include much more than the high-visibility projects. Each day City staff work for you answering the phone, paying bills, filling potholes, testing water quality in local streams, adding information to the Web site, sending out agendas and processing employment applications. One way to put this in perspective is to look at some of the numbers from last year:

- Staff assisted with 414 response letters from the Mayor and City Council (an increase from the previous year’s total of 219);

- Staff processed 157 public disclosure requests and provided

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## Improvements begin in North City

The North City Business District/15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Corridor Project will begin construction this spring. Last month, the re-stripping from four lanes to three was completed on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, and more changes are on the way.

The North City Project includes improvements to the busi-

ness district, traffic and safety enhancements along the 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE corridor, and neighborhood traffic mitigation. The project is part of the 2004-2009 Capital Improvement Program. Approximately \$3.3 million is earmarked for the North City Business District portion of the project this year.

“We have received final plans and specifications for the project and are currently working with property owners for the property rights to construct,” explained Economic Development Coordinator Jan Knudson. Construction plans include wider permanent sidewalks, underground utilities and decorative street lighting.

During the one-year construction phase, the City of Shoreline is committed to maintaining access to local businesses. Knudson encourages Shoreline residents to continue shopping in North City during construction. Special “businesses are open” signs have been developed for North City businesses to help alleviate any confusion. And the annual Celebrate Shoreline parade will still take place on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE on Aug. 15, as usual.

For more information about the project, contact Capital Projects Manager John Vicente at (206) 546-8903, or visit [www.cityofshoreline.com](http://www.cityofshoreline.com) and click on “projects.”



## Serpentine drainage improvements on track

Construction on the Serpentine Place Drainage Improvements began in December, and, with the exception of delays due to weather, the project is on schedule and proceeding well, according to Capital Projects Manager John Vicente.

"The contractor, Pivetta Brothers Construction, has done an excellent job of maintaining the existing drainage system while constructing the new. We've had no additional flooding as a result of this project, which was a concern given a winter construction period," Vicente said.

The Serpentine improvements are part of the larger Ronald Bog Drainage Improvement Project to repair or replace pipes on NE 175<sup>th</sup> St. between 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE and to install new pipes on Serpentine Place from 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE to NE 175<sup>th</sup> St.

The improvements will provide some relief for area homeowners who often experience flooding in the Thornton Creek Watershed area.

The project includes installation of: 2,500 linear feet of storm drainage pipe; 600 feet of electrical conduit; pavement overlay; sidewalk, curb, gutter, driveways, hand rail and rock walls on NE 175<sup>th</sup> St. and a new pump station on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE.

Vicente says the project has taken some unexpected turns over the past few weeks. The challenges include identifying utilities that were not where the City understood them to be or not on the City plans, carefully removing a tree that had a gas line running



Part of the work for the Serpentine Place Drainage Improvements included replacing a catch basin on N. 175<sup>th</sup> St.

through its massive root cluster and a group of water pipes that were no longer in service but still pumping water.

"This project has been fraught with the unexpected, unusual and unknown which is pretty typical for an established community with older utility infrastructure," Vicente said. "But the contractor has taken it all in stride and has done an excellent job of getting the work completed. We are on track to have the improvements finished by the end of April."

The Ronald Bog Drainage Improvement Project previously approved by the City Council has been put on hold until the City completes the Surface Water Master Plan that is expected to be adopted by the City Council by the end of this year. In the meantime, short-term improvements such as the Serpentine project are under way to provide some relief from flooding. Additional improvements are also being designed.

For more information about construction on the Serpentine Place Drainage Improvement Project, contact Vicente at (206)

546-8903. For more information about the Ronald Bog Drainage Improvements, contact Capital Projects Manager Kris Overleese at (206) 546-1700.

## 2003 highlights from page 4

thousands of pages of public records to Shoreline residents and others;

- Staff responded to approximately 5,000 customer service requests and answered over 25,000 telephone calls;

- The City received 1,850 permits valued at \$56,904,991;

- Westside Police Storefront volunteers worked over 2,382 hours, handled over 1,200 phone calls, fielded 836 walk-ins, completed 439 vacation house checks and 307 park checks; and

- Staff cleaned 12,742 linear feet of storm water drainage pipeline and swept 921 lane miles of street.

## Ponies Gateway ribbon-cutting March 1

The City of Shoreline is celebrating completion of "The Ponies" Gateway at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, March 1, at 3:00 p.m. at N.175<sup>th</sup> St. near Ronald Bog Park.

The City received the distinctive ponies sculpture from an anonymous donor, and the art was dedicated in September 1998. With the addition of a new sign, rock wall and planter, the ponies

are a well-known landmark welcoming Shoreline visitors as they exit I-5.

"The ponies have become an icon for the City, so it's appropriate that this art is part of the first gateway constructed by the City," said Shoreline Mayor Ron Hansen. "This gateway helps strengthen the sense of community here in Shoreline."

Developing City Gateways is a City Council goal, and \$100,000 is included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the construction of two gateways this year.

City staff identified a total of six locations for the gateways based on public input and site analysis. The second gateway will be built at N. 175<sup>th</sup> St. on the southeast corner of the intersection of I-5.



## Draft Master Plan, Comp Plan ready in spring

The City is moving closer to meeting its twin goals of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan and developing master plans for transportation, surface water facilities and parks, recreation and open space.

This spring, a preliminary draft of the Updated Comprehensive Plan and Master Plans will be ready for public review and comment. City staff and consultants Berryman and Henigar, Inc. will coordinate an open house, public hearings and presentations to both the Planning Commission and City Council.

The Comprehensive Plan Update project includes reviewing

and updating the existing Comprehensive Plan goals, policies and text, and the creation of master plans for surface water, transportation and parks. Master plans are used by the City to identify problems, prioritize needs and develop long-term solutions that match community priorities and the City budget. Master planning is necessary to keep systems such as roads, parks and water operating effectively today and in the future.

Planning Commission workgroups provided input on the master plans through a series of nearly 20 public workshops late last year.

"We look forward to presenting the draft plans to the community," said Project Manager Andrea Spencer. "The public meetings this past fall were well attended and the comments we gathered helped to shape the draft goals and policies of the new plans."

For the latest project information, including a summary of public comment from previous meetings, visit [www.cityofshoreline.com/cityhall/projects/masterplan/index.cfm](http://www.cityofshoreline.com/cityhall/projects/masterplan/index.cfm).

## **State of the City of Shoreline** from page 1

been able to maintain, and, in some cases, even improve services, our long-range forecasts indicate that this may become more challenging in the future.

Revenue growth is expected to be below the projected inflation levels for the next several years. Shoreline may have some tough choices to make about what ongoing services the City provides, at what levels those services are provided and how we as a community pay for them.

The City will continue to look for ways to do more with less. Two examples of cost savings in the 2004 budget include a savings of approximately \$160,000 annually by changing the employee benefits policy and a savings of \$105,000 annually in the cost of jail services through an interlocal agreement with other cities.

Besides finding ways to stretch our dollars, the City of Shoreline had many other accomplishments last year worth celebrating. These included watershed events such as the groundbreaking for the Interurban Trail, as well as daily victories such as finding better ways to serve the community.

Last year's groundbreaking for one of Shoreline's largest projects – the Interurban Trail – marked a new phase for the City. For years, Shoreline residents have been helping the City plan a variety of projects throughout our community to make it a better place to live. Now the people of Shoreline are beginning to see their ideas become reality.

This year, three sections of the Trail will be built, with the bridge and north central section slated to

begin construction next year. When complete, the Interurban Trail will provide a corridor linking neighborhoods, business districts and parks the entire length of Shoreline. Someday, it will also link Shoreline to our neighbors to the north and south in Edmonds and Seattle. This is a vision the community has worked on since incorporation and it is exciting to see it become a reality.

Besides the Interurban Trail, we can also look forward to seeing construction of the North City Business District get underway this year. Changes have already been happening in North City.

In anticipation of the infrastructure improvements the City has committed to investing in, many business and property owners made improvements and completed some new construction last year. It is encouraging to see these changes taking place and I look forward to seeing the transformation of this neighborhood commercial area. This is another vision that many people in the community have dedicated long hours to making a reality and they should be proud of their accomplishment.

Another major transformation on the horizon is for Aurora. If all goes well, this time next year construction should begin on the first mile between N. 145<sup>th</sup> St. and N. 165<sup>th</sup> St.

Over the past few months, City staff has been meeting with individual property and business owners to work out the final details

of the design. They are talking about items such as where driveways are located, how the sidewalks about the property and how parking will be affected. This is the stage where the design really comes into focus.

When this project is complete it will represent hours and hours of hard work by the people of Shoreline who dedicated their time to researching, studying and recommending a plan to make our main street not only safer, but a more viable transportation and economic corridor for vehicles, transit, pedestrians and businesses.

This year we can also look forward to the completion of Master Plans for transportation, surface water and parks, recreation and open space as well as a major update of the Comprehensive Plan. These plans will help guide how Shoreline invests its money on public assets in the future. Thank you to all the people who are taking the time to participate in this important planning process. Your ideas and suggestions will serve us well in keeping the focus on the good of our community as a whole.

As we move further into this new year, it is important that we keep this focus on the goals set by the community for improved infrastructure, safer streets and a quality community. Many people in Shoreline have taken the time to attend meetings and share ideas during the planning stages of these projects to tell us what they want. We're working to carry out the vision and to continue the promising foundation we have built as a community.



## Who, what, where in the City of Shoreline

### City of Shoreline

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

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

### **CURRENTS**

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available upon request.

### City Council

City Councilmembers  
Mayor Ron Hansen  
Deputy Mayor Scott Jepsen  
John Chang  
Maggie Fimia  
Paul Grace  
Rich Gustafson  
Bob Ransom

Meeting Location  
Shoreline Conference Center  
18560 First Ave. NE  
Mt. Rainier Room

Workshop Meetings  
First and third Mondays  
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meetings  
Second and fourth Mondays  
beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Line  
(206) 546-2190

Televised City Council Meetings  
Cable Channel 21  
Wednesday through Sunday  
6 a.m., noon and 8 p.m.

### Shoreline Police

#### Emergency: 911

Shoreline Police Station  
Chief Denise Turner  
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.  
Officer Angela Holland  
521 NE 165th St.  
Shoreline, WA 98155  
(206) 363-8424

### City of Shoreline Web site

Information about meetings,  
projects and programs is  
now available online.

[www.cityofshoreline.com](http://www.cityofshoreline.com)



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