

CITY OF SHORELINE CURRENTS

February 2003 Vol. 5 No. 1

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Aurora to be surveyed
Survey crews will be working on Aurora north of N. 165th Street over the next few weeks to establish the existing right-of-way.

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2003 State of the City

Shoreline is stable and sound but needs to keep an eye on the future

This past year has been financially challenging for everyone. The City of Shoreline is no exception to that. But careful planning has left our City in a more stable position than many other jurisdictions in our region. Because of this, the state of the City is currently very sound.

But we need to keep an eye on the future. Even with our conservative financial planning, it may be tough to maintain services at the level the community desires. 2003 is the first budget year where general fund revenues are projected to be lower than the previous year. What's more, we're projecting slow revenue growth for at least the next two years.

Some of this reduction in revenue is due to the downturn in the economy. Annual sales tax collections in Shoreline are expected to grow by only one percent for 2003, compared to annual average growth of 13 percent in previous years. We are also seeing a few areas of dramatically rising expenses, such as healthcare increases of over 30 percent over the past two years. As a result,

we've reduced our expenditures for 2003 by about four percent.

But what's hit us and other governmental agencies hardest is the handful of voter-approved initiatives over the past few years. It's especially frustrating to have these affect direct services to our neighborhoods when a majority of our residents voted against them.

We've all heard about some of the dramatic cuts the County and other cities have had to make. I must congratulate this Council and those before it. Due to their conservative budgeting, we've been able to avoid that in our 2003 budget.

We did have to reduce ongoing operating expenditures by \$187,000 and change the way we provide some services to reduce costs and improve efficiency. But, judging by what some of our neighboring cities went through, it could have been much worse.

See *State of the City* page 2



Shoreline Mayor
Scott Jepsen

2003 Shoreline efficiency improvements

As mentioned in the State of the City, Shoreline developed ways to save money and provide services more efficiently for 2003. Below are a few examples of some of the productivity and efficiency improvements and revenue impacts reflected in Shoreline's 2003 budget.

- Jail services contracts with Renton and Yakima may save the City up to \$84,000 annually.
- Reduced 2003 ongoing operating expenditures by \$187,000 primarily by eliminating subarea plan development and a reduction in technology plan implementation costs.
- Increased annual pool revenues by \$52,000 through better programming and increased attendance.
- The revised canine services portion of the King County Police Contract saves the City \$117,000.
- The City will save \$25,800 each year since replacing half the traffic signal bulbs with LED lights. The City will finish replacing the green signal bulbs in 2003 and the remaining bulbs in following years.
- Saved nearly \$80,000 through efficiencies in janitorial contract.
- The City now provides nearly twice the street crack sealing and tree maintenance service by purchasing the needed equipment and using existing City staff for the same amount of money it paid King County to provide these services.
- Privatization of street sweeping is projected to save \$35,000 annually.
- Private vendor storm system cleaning is projected to save \$21,000 annually with an increase in service.

State of the City *from page 1*

We're a lean city. Adjustments in the future will not be as painless. It's clear that with our current revenues, we can't keep providing the same level of services and maintain the same level of capital spending.

Over the next year, Shoreline City Council and staff will take a very close look at our budget. I anticipate that we'll have some tough choices to make. We'll need to find the balance between reducing services and increasing resources based on the community's priorities.

As we make these tough choices, you'll have a critical role to play in helping to determine the City's priorities. Expect to be asked to discuss the future direction of our City. I hope that you will take that responsibility seriously with an eye toward the good of our community.

The thing I'm looking most forward to this year is a final design for Aurora. The project reached a major milestone last year when the City Council adopted a preferred design alternative. The adopted alternative represents compromise on all sides while maintaining the community's goals for improving Aurora.

As a major transportation

"Despite an uncertain economic atmosphere, we've laid a great foundation and will continue building on it."

Scott Jepsen
Mayor

corridor running through the center of our City, the future of Aurora is truly a community-wide concern. We have been hearing since incorporation that improving Aurora is a top priority.

Now that we have deter-

mined the final configuration for Aurora and completed the environmental analysis, I call upon all of you to commit to working together to make these sorely needed improvements an outstanding success.

I'm also looking forward to seeing other capital improvement projects take significant steps this coming year. These include beginning construction on the Interurban Trail and the North City Business District. We're also looking forward to playing ball on two new fields at Paramount School Park and seeing City entrances enhanced with two gateway projects.

Last year we completed several projects that are already paying off in a big way for the community. These include the Skate Park at Paramount School Park; the new Little League playfield and other improvements at Shoreview

See **State of the City** page 7

Interurban Trail construction begins this year

Imagine walking or riding your bike from one end of Shoreline to the other without having to worry too much about the noise, distraction and danger of traffic rushing by you. Picture this corridor linking neighborhoods, businesses and parks, forming a connection through the whole community. Along this trail would be places to rest and decorative kiosks explaining the history of the path.

This has been a long-time vision of the community and it will take a giant step forward this summer as the City of Shoreline begins construction on the Interurban Trail.

When completed, the Interurban Trail will be a three-mile non-motorized transportation system developed along the former Interurban Rail Line. Owned by Seattle City Light and used as an electrical power transmission corridor, the 100-foot-wide former rail corridor runs from Seattle to Everett, roughly parallel to Aurora Avenue.

"When the community was discussing incorporation as a City, the opportunity to develop the Interurban Trail was on the top of the list along with improving Aurora," says Mayor Scott Jepsen. "It will be satisfying to see construction begin because it represents the delivery on one of the promises the City made upon incorporation."

Shoreline and Seattle have agreed on the benefits of adding a trail to the transmission right-of-way corridor. The City is working on design and funding with a regional committee of public agen-



Top Foods built a portion of the Interurban Trail adjacent to its site near N. 175th St. as part of its construction.

cies that are developing sections of the Interurban Trail through their jurisdictions.

Snohomish County has completed about 80 percent of its Interurban corridor from Everett to just north of the King-Snohomish County line. Seattle is in the planning and design stages on its section between N. 108th and 129th Streets.

"With neighboring cities building their portions of the Interurban, it has the potential to become a major trail tying several communities together. It will be exciting to be a part of that and watch it take shape," says Mayor Jepsen.

The Interurban Trail's close proximity to Aurora Ave. N and the economic core of Shoreline will provide access to nearby shopping, services and employment, plus access to transit centers

Interurban Sections

For design, construction and funding purposes, Shoreline has divided its portion of the Interurban Trail into five sections:

- South Section: N. 145th to 155th Streets;
- South Central: N. 155th to N. 175th Streets;
- North Central: N. 175th to 192nd Streets;
- North: N. 192nd to 205th Streets; and
- Bridge over Aurora: Between N. 155th and 158th Streets.

See **Interurban** page 7

City of Shoreline's year in review...

Paving, permitting and parks programming ... these are just a few of the services the City provides throughout the year to the Shoreline community. Although Shoreline is a lean City in terms of budget and the number of employees per capita compared to many cities its size, the list of accomplishments for last year is anything but lean. Following are just a few of last years' highlights for the City of Shoreline:



- **Opened the renovated Richmond Highlands Recreation Center on Feb. 11.**

- Created the Shoreline Emergency Management Council, comprised of local special service districts such as the Shoreline Fire Department and City staff, to address issues of common concern related to emergency management.

- Enhanced two-way communication with residents and key audiences by expanding the City's Web site, producing an updated version of the Owner's Manual and conducting a citizen's satisfaction survey.

- Began final design on the North City Project.

- Completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Aurora Corridor Project 145th – 165th followed by Council adoption of a preferred design.

- Published the preliminary draft Central Subarea Plan for public review.

- Completed the Permit Process Improvement Project.

- Police developed and implemented a Crosswalk Education and Enforcement

Program in conjunction with the Shoreline School District which included creating crosswalk safety bookmarks for all Shoreline children.

- Targeted DUI offenders and arrested 216 violators, a seven percent increase over 2001.

- Successfully met the goal of expanding the number of Shore-

line Blockwatch groups by 40 percent.

- Received alignment approval from Seattle City Light for the south section of the Interurban Trail and tentative approval for the north section.

- Began preliminary design on the 3rd Ave. NW Drainage Improvement Project.

- Completed predesign work on the Richmond Beach Railroad Overcrossing Bridge.

- Completed the first year of the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program which includes monthly data collection at 16 monitoring sites within the City's major drainage basins.

- **Opened the renovated Shoreview Park on July 20.**



...a look at what we accomplished in 2002

- Dredged approximately 720 cubic yards of sediment from the forebay of Hidden Lake.

- Resurfaced 13.5 lane miles of City streets as part of the annual Overlay Program.

- Repaired 6,574 square feet of sidewalk and 132 feet of curbing as part of the annual Sidewalk Repair Program.

- Sealed 16 lane miles of cracks in Shoreline streets through an in-house program that cost less and provided more than King County's service level.

- Installed flashing crosswalk lights and advanced warning signs at three locations.

- Installed 17 catch basins and 800 feet of storm pipeline to eliminate localized flooding.

- Worked with 11 residential areas through the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program, and provided program information to over 60 other residential areas.

- Adopted new Sister City program and policies.

- Evaluated local impacts of the proposed Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Facility.

- Processed 136 public disclosure information requests.

- Approved five Neighborhood Mini-Grants.

- Provided neighborhood notification mailers and meetings about eight sex offenders moving into Shoreline.



- **Opened the new skate park at Paramount School Park on Oct. 11.**

- Responded to approximately 5,000 customer service requests and answered over 25,000 telephone calls.

- Resolved 31 code enforcement cases.

- Volunteers donated 13,935 hours including 4,414 hours by Police Explorers.

- Issued 1,638 permits valued at \$28,628,567.

- Approved more than 495 right-of-way utility permits and private development permits.

- Began a Victim Call Back Program for cases that are not assigned to detectives due to lack of suspect information or evidence.

- Developed the "Take A

Stand Against Bullying" school program now being offered nationwide.

- Removed 34 dead and/or hazardous trees and planted 35 trees in the right-of-way.

- Purchased and improved 2.6 acres of park open space near Richmond Beach Saltwater Park from Linda Jo Pym.

- Successfully relocated the Celebrate Shoreline Parade and Festival to North City.

- Doubled summer swim class attendance and the final count for overall pool attendance in 2002 exceeded 100,000 for the first time in the pool's history. The pool exceeded revenue projections by \$52,000.

- Scheduled over 8,218 events on Shoreline playfields (through October).

City to replace railroad overcrossing bridge

The City of Shoreline begins preliminary engineering this year for a replacement to the aging Richmond Beach Overcrossing Bridge.

Built in 1923 and rebuilt in

1956, the timber bridge is the sole access over the railroad tracks to 27th Ave. NW (Apple Tree Lane). The typical lifespan of a timber bridge is 45 to 50 years. Based on inspections and load analysis, the

City of Shoreline imposed weight limits on the bridge for safety reasons in 1999, which is common for older timber bridges.

In 2001, the City of Shoreline was notified that it will receive Federal Bridge Funds to replace the bridge. The grant mandates that construction must begin by June 2006. The replacement structure will be designed to fit the space available with the present location being the most likely place for the new bridge.

Based on preliminary estimates, the total project cost for the new bridge adjusted for inflation

would be \$1,797,000. Shoreline will match 20 percent of that amount. Burlington Northern has expressed interest in contributing to the City's match in exchange for being relieved of further maintenance obligations on the bridge.

The City is currently hiring a consultant for the design engineering phase of the project. This process is expected to take two years and will include the preliminary engineering, design, public involvement and permitting. Construction is scheduled for 2005-2006.

For more information about the Richmond Beach Overcrossing Project, contact Project Manager Jon Jordan at (206) 546-1678 or visit the City's Web site at www.cityofshoreline.com. On the project page of the Web site, you can subscribe to receive project updates via email.



Survey crews on Aurora

Over the next few months, you may see survey crews along Aurora Ave. N. in Shoreline north of 165th St.

These crews are working for the City of Shoreline to establish the existing rights-of-way on Aurora for planning purposes and future environmental review processes. The surveying is not linked to any specific planned construction but is a preliminary step in planning for future projects.

For more information, contact Shoreline Aurora Corridor Project Manager Kirk McKinley at (206) 546-3901.

Brightwater begins geologic test borings in Shoreline

Drilling crews working for King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks are working in areas of Shoreline near the Snohomish County border. These crews are gathering soil and groundwater data for Brightwater, the new regional wastewater treatment system that will serve north King and south Snohomish counties.

During the next nine months, crews will be collecting soil

samples and installing groundwater observation wells throughout King and Snohomish counties. The wells will be used to sample water and will be mounted flush with the ground. The borings are for planning purposes only and do not indicate any specific construction activities.

Those living near sites where crews will be drilling will receive notice before work begins. For more information, call King County's drilling information line at (877) 950-9995.

Police Citizen's Academy

The Shoreline Police Department is taking applications for the spring session of its Citizen's Academy.

The Citizen's Academy was developed with assistance from the King County Sheriff's Office to increase the understanding between citizens and their police department through education. The goal of the program is to provide a better understanding of law enforcement's role in the criminal justice system, and an appreciation for the challenges facing law enforcement today.

The class is open to anyone who lives or works in the City of Shoreline at no charge. The spring session begins Tuesday, March 25, and will be held every Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for 10 weeks.

Class size is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Applicants will be required to undergo a basic background check. Disqualifying criteria are felony and misdemeanor convictions.

Applications are available at the main Police Station (1206 N. 185th St.), the Eastside Police Neighborhood Center (521 NE 165th) and the Westside Police Neighborhood Center (624 Richmond Beach Rd.).

For more information, call Sgt. Kain at (206) 546-6730, Officer Akers at (206) 363-8424 or Officer Obstler at (206) 546-3636.

Interurban Trail *from page 3*

at Aurora Village and the Shoreline Park and Ride. The trail project, when completed, will also include rest stops, interpretive historical and natural features, and directional signs.

Shoreline secured federal grant funds for preliminary and final design, and construction of three of the five segments of the trail. The City will likely also receive funding from the State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) for the project.

The current estimated cost for the entire three-miles of trail is approximately \$8.8 million in 2001 dollars. The South, South Central and North sections are fully funded. The bridge is close to full funding depending on the legislature adopting the IAC recommendation in its budget this spring. The only section that is not funded is N. 175th to 192nd Streets. The Top Food project at N. 175th and Midvale includes construction of a section of the trail, which is nearly complete.

Construction will begin on the South Section of the trail from



Above is the site of the future Interurban Trail as it appears now at about 147th St. looking north.

N. 145th St. to N. 155th St. late this summer. Construction on the North Section from N. 192nd to 205th Streets will also begin this year. The N. 155th to 175th Streets section will begin construction in 2004.

For more information, contact Shoreline Interurban Trail Project Manager Kirk McKinley at (206) 546-3901 or visit the City's Web site at www.cityofshoreline.com.

State of the City *from page 2*

Park; and the updated amenities at Richmond Highlands Recreation Center.

Many residents have told us they appreciate the investments we've made to make the City look better. It makes them proud to live in Shoreline. I wonder how much of this would have been done if we were still in unincorporated King County?

I'm proud to be a part of this

City. We've accomplished a tremendous amount and we have so much to look forward to. Despite an uncertain economic atmosphere, we've laid a great foundation and will continue building on it. We will continue to make the City's solid financial condition a top priority. I'm very optimistic about our City's future. I ask all of you to celebrate with us in the next year as the improvements we have planned together take shape.

Who, what, where in the City of Shoreline

City of Shoreline

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City Council

City Councilmembers
Mayor Scott Jepsen
Deputy Mayor Kevin Grossman
John Chang
Rich Gustafson
Ron Hansen
Linda Montgomery
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 Pentony
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 Charlie Akers
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



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