



# CURRENTS

News from the City of Shoreline Volume 19 No. 1

February 2017

## Black History Month: *A time to honor and reflect on the African American experience*

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH in the United States. On Monday, Jan. 30, the City Council officially proclaimed February as Black History Month in the City of Shoreline. It is a time to honor the role African Americans have played and the contributions they have made in our community and in the history of our country. It is also a time to reflect on and acknowledge the struggles African Americans have had to endure and engage in throughout our nation's history and, in many cases, that they continue to face.

During the last year, our awareness of racial tensions and bigotry has been heightened. We have seen and heard of increased harassment and intimidation of diverse communities around the country and closer to home. As we mark the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Black History Month, let us remember the generations of African Americans who have worked tirelessly to ensure this country never forgets its true ideals, that every person has a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As part of the City's efforts to honor Black History Month, the City will host a visual art exhibition devoted to African American history and identity. The exhibition will run from February 9 through April 21 at City Hall. The City will host an opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Ijeoma Oluo, a Shoreline writer, speaker, Editor-At-Large at The Establishment, and named one of Seattle Magazine's most influential people will provide a reading.

FOR AFRICA TO ME... IS MORE THAN A GLAMOROUS FACT.  
IT IS A HISTORICAL TRUTH.  
NO MAN CAN KNOW WHERE HE IS GOING UNLESS HE KNOWS  
EXACTLY WHERE HE HAS BEEN AND  
EXACTLY HOW HE ARRIVED AT HIS PRESENT PLACE.

*Dr. Maya Angelou  
author and poet*




Photo: Adria Richards



State legislative priorities

Page 2



Neighborhood spotlight: Ballinger

Page 4



Home improvement workshops

Page 7

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**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:**  
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
Shoreline City Hall, Council Chamber  
Agendas: [shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings](http://shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings)

# City's legislative priorities for state legislature

ON DECEMBER 5, the City Council approved the City's legislative agenda for the 2017 state legislative session. The priorities provide policy direction to guide staff in determining support or opposition to specific legislation.

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

Below are some of the City's legislative priorities approved by Council. For a full list, visit [shorelinewa.gov/council](http://shorelinewa.gov/council).

## Local Government Financial Sustainability and Flexibility

The City is advocating 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% property tax cap. The cap does not keep pace with inflation and restricts cities' ability to maintain services. Setting a limit that is tied to tangible numbers, such as inflation and population growth, which drives costs, would allow cities to better maintain existing services.

## Affordable housing, homelessness, and a strained mental and behavioral health system

Cities throughout the state are struggling with increasing homeless populations. The lack of affordable housing and a poorly-funded mental health and substance abuse system have only exacerbated the problem. Shoreline, like many cities, struggles to address these problems with very limited resources.

Washington has a high prevalence of mental illness compared to the rest of the country, but has a fairly low level of access to care. As a result, it often falls on our Shoreline Police and Fire Departments and the court system to address mental health problems that threaten public safety. This is very expensive and does not address the underlying mental health issue, ensuring that the problem not only persists, but potentially gets worse. The City is asking the legislature to provide the resources needed to address these issues or provide cities with more options for addressing the issues themselves.

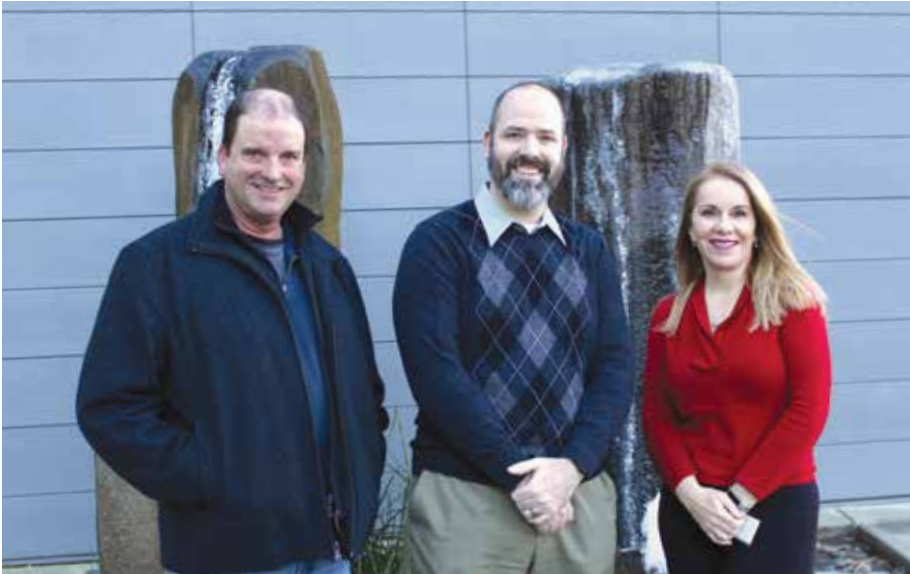
## Revise Public Records Act

The City supports open and transparent government; however, public records act laws have not kept up with changes in technology and they do not account for the growing number of broad, voluminous, commercially driven, or retaliatory requests that utilize a disproportionate amount of city resources. Last year, for the first time, Shoreline had to hire staff just to keep up with records requests. This isn't just a Shoreline issue, but is one impacting cities across the State. Cities need additional tools to address the increasing pressure on city resources.

## Infrastructure Funding

Over the past few years, the Legislature has diverted funding for City infrastructure programs to the state's general fund. The Public Works Trust Fund allowed cities to utilize low interest loans or grants to complete infrastructure projects at a significantly lower cost due to lower interest rates than could be obtained elsewhere. Without this support, it will be more difficult for Shoreline and other cities to maintain our infrastructure. Local taxpayers will pay significantly more in financing costs for the same work, if the City can afford it at all.





Left to right: City employees Brett Abernethy, Rick Kirkwood, and Susana Villamarin

## 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 2016 Employee of the Year is Budget Supervisor Rick Kirkwood. The two other finalists are Parks Department's Rental & System Coordinator Brett Abernethy and Public Works' Senior Management Analyst Susana Villamarin.

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 2016. The winner was the Max Galaxy Team. The Team was responsible for implementing the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department's new recreation registration software, "Max Galaxy." The new system dramatically improved the registration process for City recreation programs, activities, and picnic shelter rentals. Online registrations increased by 91% after implementation of the new system saving time for both staff and participants.

## Sign up for: **ALERT SHORELINE**

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Alert Shoreline. The system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as a police alert for your neighborhood, unexpected road closures, and traffic. It will also allow us to alert you to community news you are interested in receiving, such as Council agendas, Parks facility closures, City Hall news or crime prevention tips and alerts.

You can choose the news categories you would like to receive.

**Sign up or manage your current subscription at:**  
**[shorelinewa.gov/alert](http://shorelinewa.gov/alert)**



## Become a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services/Tree Board Member

**THE CITY IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** for volunteers to serve on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services/Tree (PRCS) Board. Board Members must live, work, or own property in Shoreline. The City Council appoints members to serve four-year terms.

The PRCS/Tree Board advises the City Council and City staff on a variety of parks, recreation, public art, and environmental issues. Board meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month from January through October and the first Thursday in December, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at City Hall.

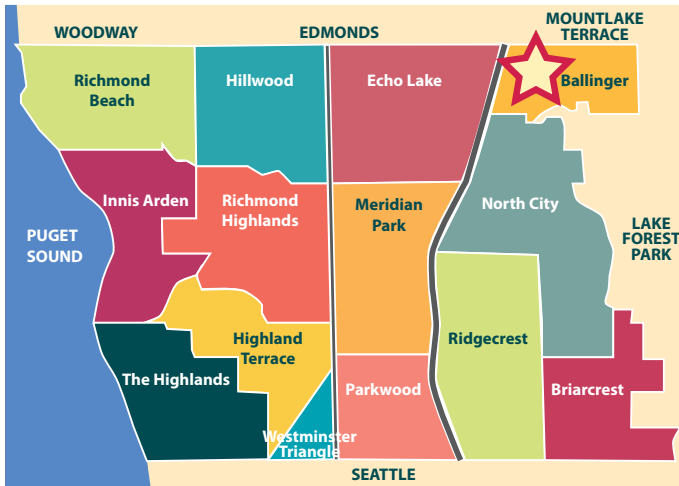
Applications will be accepted to fill three (3) adult positions. Each of the three incumbent members is eligible to

reapply. The term of service begins in April 2017 and ends in March 2021.

All applicants must complete a Shoreline Community Services Application available in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall (17500 Midvale Avenue N) or at [shorelinewa.gov/parkboard](http://shorelinewa.gov/parkboard). Completed applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17.

For more information, visit [shorelinewa.gov/parkboard](http://shorelinewa.gov/parkboard) or contact the Parks Department at (206) 801-2602 or [shorelineparks@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:shorelineparks@shorelinewa.gov).

# NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT



## Ballinger Neighborhood

PERCHED IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER of Shoreline, the Ballinger neighborhood borders Mountlake Terrace, Lake Forest Park, and the North City neighborhood. The neighborhood takes its name from Richard A. Ballinger, who built his home on the island in the lake bearing his name, Lake Ballinger. Mayor of Seattle in 1904, and later Secretary of the Interior in 1909, he acquired vast acreage. Over time, his property was carved into tracts, eventually becoming part of Shoreline.

Today's Ballinger Neighborhood is a blend of single-family homes, apartments, and condominiums, with a commercial area along both sides of Ballinger Way NE. Neighbors are proud of the increasing diversity that characterizes their neighborhood. It is home to the Islamic Community of Bosniaks mosque and community center, and Ballinger Homes, a King County Housing Authority complex with affordable apartments serving largely immigrant and refugee populations.

A unique neighborhood feature is Bruggers Bog, mentioned by early residents as being a springy cranberry bog, most likely a historic picking area for Native Americans of the Duwamish tribe living along Lake Washington. Today, dedicated neighbors host regular work parties to clear blackberries and ivy and plant native species along Ballinger Creek's edge at Bruggers Bog Park at 19533 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Self-described as "passionate about all things green that take root and grow," Ballinger community members transformed a blackberry slope behind then-closed Aldercrest Elementary School into a thriving community garden. Each year since they started in 2010, the gardeners add new raised beds and increase their donations of fresh food to Hopelink. With the reopening of the school this school year, students will get to participate in planting the garden this season.

Active and welcoming, the Ballinger Neighborhood Association started a Shoreline tradition with its first Outdoor Movie Night in 2009. This family friendly event grows every year, with face painting, crafts, robotics demonstrations, and, of course, a movie classic. As crowds have expanded, so has the presentation. In 2016, guests watched *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* on a 40' screen in the middle of the grass field at the Aldercrest Annex.

The Ballinger Neighborhood Association hosts regular meetings on the first Monday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m. at the North City Water District, 1519 NE 177<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [ballingerneighborhood.org](http://ballingerneighborhood.org).



Bruggers Bog Park, 19533 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE



Community garden at Aldercrest Annex

# Light rail progressing towards final design in 2017

BY THE END OF 2017, Sound Transit hopes to reach 90% design of the Lynnwood Link Extension Light Rail through Shoreline. The community will have a number of opportunities throughout the year to participate in the design and permitting processes. Sound Transit will host public meetings in the spring to present its 60% design, including the two Shoreline Stations at NE 185<sup>th</sup> and NE 145<sup>th</sup> Streets. The 60% design will build on information received from the 30% design open houses held in November. More detailed neighborhood meetings related to anticipated impacts to Ridgcrest Park and critical areas are also anticipated this spring. In the fall or early winter, Sound Transit plans to hold meetings to present the 90% design of the project.

Meeting details for the 60% design public workshops will be available in early 2017.

## For more information from Sound Transit:

### Contact Community Outreach

Phone: (206) 398-5300

Email: [lynnwoodlink@soundtransit.org](mailto:lynnwoodlink@soundtransit.org)

### Sign up for alerts online

[soundtransit.org/LLE](http://soundtransit.org/LLE)

### Connect with Sound Transit social media

[twitter.com/soundtransit](https://twitter.com/soundtransit)

[facebook.com/SoundTransit](https://facebook.com/SoundTransit)

The City anticipates 2017 will also see the first land use permit applications and early work permits submitted related to the Lynnwood Link Extension. Sound Transit is required to submit a special use permit application. The City will review the application to determine if the project is compatible with the adjacent land uses and is consistent with the Council adopted Guiding Principles for Light Rail Design.

Opportunities for public comment in the Special Use Permit process include a public comment period following submittal of the permit application in March and a public hearing this summer in front of the Hearing Examiner, who makes the decision on whether to issue the special use permit. In 2017, the community can also expect to see some early demolition and utility relocation work in preparation for construction of light rail in Shoreline.

## For more information on the criteria for the special use permit or other light rail permitting requirements:

### Contact Shoreline's Light Rail Review Team

Phone: (206) 801-2525

Email: [lightrail@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:lightrail@shorelinewa.gov)

### Explore information online

[shorelinewa.gov/lightrailpermits](http://shorelinewa.gov/lightrailpermits)

## DID YOU KNOW?

When mandatory solid waste collection starts on March 1, 2017, new customers will receive a black cart for solid waste, a blue cart for mixed recycling, and a green cart to help you recycle your food scraps and yard debris. Current customers will also receive a green cart, if they do not have one. By recycling your food scraps and yard debris in the green cart, and mixed recycling in the blue cart, you may be able to reduce your garbage cart size,



which can save you money. To learn how to sign-up or change your current level of service, visit [shorelinewa.gov/trashtalk](http://shorelinewa.gov/trashtalk) or call (206) 763-4444.

## MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Safely dispose of unwanted and/or expired medications in a new disposal kiosk located inside of Shoreline Police headquarters at 1206 N 185<sup>th</sup> Street. Police Headquarters is open Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Prescription and over-the-counter medications, including controlled substances are accepted in original containers or a sealed bag.





# 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:

## Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

This Federal tax credit is for families that pay for child care or for care of a disabled adult while they are working. The credit is worth up to \$2,100 per qualifying individual.

## Child Tax Credit

This federal tax credit is for families raising children, is worth up to \$1,000 per child, and is refundable for families earning at least \$3,000.

## Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Designed to boost the wages of eligible families, EITC is a refundable credit worth up to \$6,143 and is available to married couples with earned income under \$52,427 and to singles with earned income under \$46,997. The average refund in Washington in 2013 was \$2,145.

If you earned less than \$64,000 in 2016, you can save even more money by using United Way of King County's free tax preparation services. No appointment is needed. To the right 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](http://freetaxexperts.org).

## In Shoreline:

### Ronald United Methodist Church

17839 Aurora Avenue N

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

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

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

### Shoreline Goodwill

14500 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE

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

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

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

## What to Bring:

- Social Security card/ITIN letters 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
- Bank account number and routing number for direct deposit of refund
- Last year's tax return

## FREE AUTO LEAK WORKSHOPS

Every year, oil and other automotive fluids wash into Puget Sound and other waterways, hurting wildlife and habitat. Petroleum from vehicle oil and grease is the single largest pollutant entering Puget Sound. You can help prevent this pollution, and save yourself money, by having your car checked for leaks. To make checking for such leaks easier and cheaper, the City is working with more than 80 local jurisdictions, non-profits, and businesses to support the Don't Drip & Drive campaign.

Improve your car's safety and reliability by checking for vehicle leaks. Visit any participating repair shop and get a free visual leak check, at a value up to \$80. And if repairs are needed, it's 10 percent off (up to \$50). That's total savings up to \$130. See participating shops in your area at [fixcarleaks.org](http://fixcarleaks.org).

Shoreline Community College is also offering FREE auto leak workshops – a \$125 value! Workshops are taught by certified automotive instructors and include a two-hour class about basic automotive systems, maintenance, and information about the impacts of leaks. You can also have your vehicle inspected by the class instructor. To register for a workshop, visit [fixcarleaks.org/workshop-events](http://fixcarleaks.org/workshop-events).

The longer you wait, the more you lose. Take advantage of this limited offer—it's free and it's easy! Visit [fixcarleaks.org](http://fixcarleaks.org) to find a participating mechanic near you!





# BAT LANES

## Business Access & Transit

The right hand lanes on Aurora Avenue are reserved 24 hours a day for buses. Drivers may use the BAT lane only when making the next right turn or to enter the driveway for a business.



# Free workshops for your home improvement projects

**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? The City is offering free workshops in Spring 2017 to help with your potential project. You do not want to miss this opportunity to take advantage of staff resources in a more relaxed setting in the evening. The workshops will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on:

- Tuesday, March 28, 2017
- Tuesday, April 25, 2017
- Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Visit [Shorelinewa.gov](http://Shorelinewa.gov) 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. Depending 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 residential drainage improvement grant funder. 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](mailto:jlewis@shorelinewa.gov).

# BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Shoreline's boards and commissions are made up of citizen volunteers who work to provide guidance and direction to City Council. Members of the public are invited to attend all of the City's board and commission meetings.

## Planning Commission

1st & 3rd Thursdays of month  
7:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chamber  
[shorelinewa.gov/plancom](http://shorelinewa.gov/plancom)

## PRCS/Tree Board

4th Thursday of the month  
7:00 p.m.

City Hall Room 303  
[shorelinewa.gov/parkboard](http://shorelinewa.gov/parkboard)

## Library Board

First Thursday of  
odd-numbered months  
6:30 p.m.

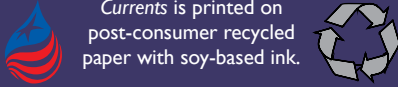
Location alternates between  
Richmond Beach Library and  
Shoreline Library  
[shorelinewa.gov/libraryboard](http://shorelinewa.gov/libraryboard)



February 2017 Vol. 19 No. 1  
**CITY OF SHORELINE**  
**CURRENTS**

Currents is produced by the  
Shoreline City Manager's Office  
Contact the City:  
(206) 801-2700

**Alternate formats  
available upon request**



Currents is printed on  
post-consumer recycled  
paper with soy-based ink.

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# Shoreline Walks



## **Volunteer Walk Leaders Wanted for 2017!**

Have a great walking route you  
want to share with others?  
Contact us for more information  
about becoming a walk leader  
and leading free community  
walks around Shoreline.

### **More Information**

[ShorelineWA.gov/ShorelineWalks](http://ShorelineWA.gov/ShorelineWalks)

206-801-2638

New walks start in April 2017!