



CURRENTS

News from the City of Shoreline Volume 22 No. 1

February 2020

Shoreline Community Court and Resource Center opened January 7

Every Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Shoreline City Hall

COMMUNITY COURT is now in session in Shoreline! Community Court is an alternative problem-solving court. It differs from traditional court in that it seeks to identify and address the underlying challenges of court participants that may contribute to criminal activity.

For non-violent misdemeanants who experience mental health issues, substance abuse issues, and/or extreme poverty, the criminal justice system is not working. It is not working because the system does not address the root causes of the criminal behavior. These individuals are repeatedly arrested, booked, released, and the cycle repeats with no change in the behavior of the defendants.

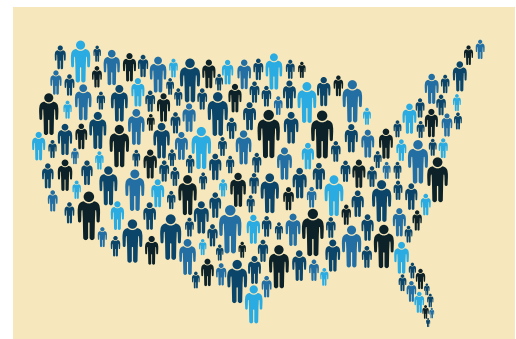
Community Courts provide services and accountability for those who are eligible and choose to participate. An assessment is conducted for all Community Court participants to identify their challenges and strengths. The assessment provides information to help determine what follow-up steps an individual will be required to take. In addition, Community Court participants will likely be required to perform community service.

Community Court is a function of King County District Court. The District Court has already worked with the Cities of Redmond and Burien in opening Community Courts and is looking to open more in other cities.

Community Resource Center

An integral part of Community Court is the Community Resource Center. The Resource Center consists of community partners who provide a wide array of services to help court participants. Some of the partners that will participate in the Shoreline Resource Center include Hopelink, DSHS, IKRON Greater Seattle, and Goodwill. The other great thing about the Community Resource Center is that it will be available to all members of the public, not just Community Court participants.

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

Councilmembers sworn in; Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected

ON JANUARY 6, Shoreline District Court Judge Marcine Anderson swore in returning Councilmembers Doris McConnell, Betsy Robertson, and Keith Scully. Following the swearing in ceremony, the Council selected Councilmember Will Hall as Mayor and Councilmember Keith Scully as Deputy Mayor.

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

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

MORE INFORMATION
shorelinewa.gov/council

Census 2020: What will the Census ask?

THE CENSUS IS, first and foremost, intended to be a count of every person in the United States and its territories. To that end, the Census is shorter and simpler than some other surveys you have taken, such as the American Community Survey. So, what will the Census ask about you and your family?

First, you will be asked how many people live in your home - be sure to include all children, even babies! Then, you will indicate if you own or rent your home and the type of structure it is, such as a house, apartment, or mobile home. Next, the Census will ask specific questions about each member of your household. You will indicate the name, race (and Hispanic/Latino origin), sex, and age of each person. If there is more than one person in your household, you will be asked to indicate each person's relationship to you.

The Census will not ask about the citizenship status of any member of your household. While there has been significant debate around the suggestion of adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, the Commerce Department (the federal agency that oversees the Census) has decided not to pursue that question this year.

Additionally, the Census will never ask for your social security number; for money or donations; for anything on behalf of a political party; or your bank or credit card numbers. Some scammers attempt to capitalize on the Census and steal your information. If you suspect fraud, you should call 1-800-923-8282 to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

Finally, we want all Shoreline community members to feel safe providing their personal data to the Census Bureau. Please know that the Bureau is bound by law to protect your family's information. The data can only be used for statistical purposes by other agencies once the identifying information has been removed.

MORE INFORMATION
shorelinewa.gov/census2020
City Manager's Office Fellow Emily Rankin
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Shoreline's Multifamily Property Tax Exemption Program and why it's important

ACROSS THE REGION, and the country, we are facing an affordable housing crisis. Much of that stems from the lack of housing availability. The City's Multifamily Property Tax Exemption (MFTE) Program is an important tool used to encourage the construction of new housing in Shoreline, including affordable housing.

The City uses the MFTE Program to encourage population growth around transit in certain targeted areas of the city. By concentrating population growth in those areas, we can achieve the development densities required to stimulate a healthy, diverse economic base. The City has identified nine residential targeted areas for its MFTE Program. See a list of areas at shorelinewa.gov/MFTE.

The MFTE program provides a 12-year property tax exemption on new housing construction and improvements in exchange for at least 20% of the units qualifying as affordable housing. The tax exemption does not apply to the land valuation or non-housing-related improvements.

The MFTE provides the trade-off necessary to allow for 20% of the units to be rented at below market rates. The below market rental rates are to help provide housing options for those mak-

ing less than 80% of the local median income. While programs vary from city to city, MFTE is now so commonplace that some multifamily homebuilders do not consider investments in areas where it is not available.

For multi-family investors, MFTE is an important incentive. Despite strong demand for housing, rents are currently too low in most areas outside of Seattle to justify the high cost of construction. MFTE reduces expenses in a way the investor can count on.

Although the MFTE provides for an exemption of property tax on the newly constructed units, it does not exempt the developer or the residents from paying several other taxes and fees to pay for public services, such as parks and streets, needed by those who will live in the new units. A developer must still pay park and transportation impact fees of approximately \$7,400 per unit. Additionally the City receives sales tax from the construction of the development. On an on-going basis those who live in the new units will pay sales tax, utility taxes, and the City will receive revenues from the State for each new resident. These are funds that will pay for the public services for the City's new residents.

Since the first MFTE project in 2007,

eight buildings with a total of 820 units, including 278 affordable units, have enrolled in the MFTE program. Seven more buildings currently in design and permitting are expected to enroll in the program soon. This will add approximately 1,354 additional MFTE units, with 272 of them being affordable units.

The MFTE incentivizes construction that would most likely not occur without it. And, at the end of the exemption period, the property tax collected will be significantly more than before the new construction. For example, on a typical development site with an existing 24-unit apartment building, the City would collect roughly \$3,200 in annual property tax on the improvements. Now say a developer builds a new 125-unit apartment building on the site. At the end of the 12-year exemption period, they would pay approximately \$43,000 in annual property tax on the improvements.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/MFTE

Economic Development Manager

Nathan Daum

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SECTION 8 APPLICATIONS OPENING SOON

King County Housing Authority will accept applications for potential placement on its Section 8 Waiting List.

Application period:

7:00 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12, to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25

Details:

Applying is free. Apply only at kcha.org/lottery.

Applications will be chosen randomly by computer when the application period ends. The chances of being selected for the waitlist are the same no matter when you submit your application. There is no advantage to submitting an application on the first day.

APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION

kcha.org/lottery, 206-214-1300



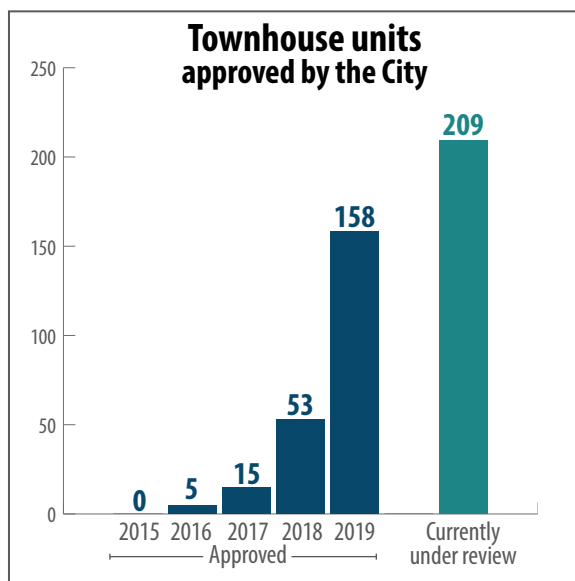
Townhouse Design Standards adopted by Council

IN JANUARY, after extensive research and public outreach, Council adopted new design standards for townhouses. The new standards ensure townhouses will fit into the desired look of our neighborhoods.

Since adoption of new zoning in the light rail station subareas, we have seen an increase in the demand for new townhouses (see graph). However, our previous design standards for townhouses were better suited for apartment buildings. The goal for changing the design standards was to ensure quality townhouse developments that were not just functional but fit in with the surrounding neighborhood.

Some of the changes include ensuring townhouse developments have frontage to the sidewalk and are not just blank walls as we have seen in some of the early developments in the area. We also strengthened requirements for landscaping and buffering, setbacks, and variation in design.

Townhouse developments are a critical part of expanding housing choices in Shoreline. Since January 2015, we have approved 231 townhouse units. Most of those were approved in 2019. We expect this trend to continue. That is why establishing new design standards now is so important.



MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/townhousedesign

Associate Planner Cate Lee

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PORTLAND LOO AT ECHO LAKE PARK

IN JANUARY, Shoreline installed a new restroom at Echo Lake Park. This restroom is different than other restrooms in our park system. Known as the Portland Loo, this restroom has several features that we believe will help cut down on vandalism and criminal activity in the restroom.

The former restroom facility at Echo Lake Park was frequently vandalized and, due to its design and location in the back part of the park, it became a magnet for criminal activity. We finally had to close it down completely after it experienced extensive fire damage. In looking for an alternative, we wanted something that would be tougher to vandalize and discouraged criminal activity. We finally decided on a single-occupant, modular toilet known as the Portland Loo.

We chose the Portland Loo for several reasons. Because of its small size, we can locate it within the street right-of-way without interfering with power line clearance requirements. Locating it closer to the street allows the police and other park patrons to better monitor it for any illegal activity. The design of the Portland Loo also makes it harder to vandalize with much of its plumbing hidden from sight and its metal construction. Its louvered panels at the top and bottom make it semi-private, helping to discourage illegal activity.

We will assess the functionality of the new restroom over the next year. If it proves successful, you may see similar restrooms in other parks around Shoreline in the future.



Portland Loo in a park in Portland, OR

MORE INFORMATION

Fleet and Facilities Manager

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Photo: "Portland Loo" by Graywalls License CC BY-SA 4.0

Council adopts a preferred option for the 185th Street Corridor

OVER THE PAST YEAR, we have engaged the community in developing a vision for the 185th Street corridor. The goal has been to have a corridor that meets the needs of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit. The 185th Street Corridor is anchored by the future light rail station on the east side of Interstate 5 and includes N/NE 185th Street, 10th Avenue NE, and NE 180th Street.

We looked at existing conditions and received initial community and stakeholder input during fall 2018 outreach meetings. We then developed several draft roadway options and shared them at spring outreach meetings and through an online survey. Staff used input along with technical analysis to develop final concepts that reflect the best mix of elements from the draft options.

On October 28, City Council selected a preferred option for mid-block cross sections of N/NE 185th Street, 10th Avenue NE, and NE 180th Street. You can view the preferred cross sections at shorelinewa.gov/185corridor.

We are preparing the final 185th Street Multimodal Corridor Strategy (185th MCS) report. Currently, there is no money for improvements to the corridor. Changes to the 185th Street Corridor will happen incrementally over time as redevelopment occurs. The 185th MCS will serve as a guide to ensure that future public and private development projects contribute to a cohesive vision. It will also help the City in competing for grant funding opportunities.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/185corridor

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Community Court begins

Continued from page 1

Shoreline Community Court and Resource Center

Every Tuesday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Avenue N

Security

State law mandates weapons screening in all courthouses. Because Community Court is a function of King County District Court, a Shoreline Police officer will be on duty during Community Court hours to do weapons screening. This will require using a wand to scan individuals and check bags before entering the courtroom.

Volunteering

The success of Community Court and the Resource Center depends a lot on the hard work of community volunteers. Volunteers help set-up and take-down the court and the resource center; greet people; help connect people with service providers; and answer questions. If you would like to volunteer, contact King County District Court Community Court Coordinator Ericka Cooley at Ericka.cooley@kingcounty.gov or 206-409-0212.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/communitycourt

Management Analyst Christina Arcidy
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Carmen Murrell

Employee and Team of the Year

EVERY YEAR, Shoreline employees nominate peers for Employee of the Year for going above and beyond in practicing the organization's values, providing exceptional service to the community, and promoting a positive image of the City. The 2019 Employee of the Year is Recreation Supervisor Carmen Murrell.

In addition to the Employee of the Year, the City also honors the Team of the Year. The 2019 winner was the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Save the Date!

Home Improvement Workshops and Vendor Fair

March 31, April 28, and May 19
6:00 to 8:00 p.m., City Hall Lobby

SUMMER is just around the corner! Do you have a home improvement project in mind, but need some guidance to get started? Our technical reviewers can help with projects like house remodels, the subdivision of property, driveway alterations, site drainage changes, deck replacements, and more.

MORE INFORMATION & RSVP
shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement



PREVENT BLUE BIN BLUNDERS

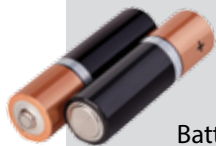
Liquids

Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, glass jars, and metal cans should be given a quick rinse to make sure they are empty and clean. Give these items a few taps in your kitchen sink to dry before tossing in your recycling bin. A few drops of liquid here and there are okay in your recycling cart, but more liquid will cause paper to mold and render it nonrecyclable. In our wet climate, it's also important to prevent rain from spoiling materials. Be sure to keep the lid closed on your recycling cart and save any extra recycling that doesn't fit in your cart for dry days.

MORE INFORMATION

Recology Cleanscapes
recology.com, 206-763-4444

did you know?



Batteries have toxic, heavy metals in them and are not allowed in the trash. You can recycle your household batteries for free at locations around Shoreline, including City Hall, Walgreens Stores, Bartell Drugs, and the Recology Store.

Next time, consider purchasing rechargeable batteries to save money, reduce waste, and protect the environment!

MORE INFORMATION

recology.com, 206-763-4444

Shoreline's 2020 Legislative Priorities

CITY COUNCIL has approved their legislative priorities for the 2020 state legislative session. The priorities provide policy direction to guide staff in determining support or opposition to specific legislation.

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

Below are some of the legislative priorities approved by Council.

Issues the City supports:

Pursue a comprehensive set of transportation policies that provide new financial resources and local funding options for cities and metropolitan planning organizations. The recent passage of Initiative 976, along with expected legal challenges, will cloud the immediate future of transportation funding. However, with the City and other local jurisdictions at risk of losing significant locally generated transportation funding, it will be important to work with the Legislature to create new transportation specific revenue options for cities. Also needed is a statewide transportation package that could help Shoreline tackle key local transportation priorities, including the I-5 interchange at N 145th Street and the nearby N 148th bike/pedestrian bridge.

Continue to address homelessness and opportunities to increase affordable housing at the state and local level through incentives and support, while avoiding mandates. Last session saw significant strides toward tackling issues related to homelessness and affordable housing. But there remain significant opportunities to make additional progress. These range from additional incentives and City tax authority to new tools to attract/preserve multifamily development. It is important to avoid mandates that constrain City efforts or create unintended issues.

Continue to advance a watershed-based approach and strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts, and provide significant local funding. Many critical fish runs are blocked by a series of fish-blocking culverts that are both state and locally owned. Funding that is focused solely on state culverts creates risk that the work won't yield results. A shared strategic vision and local funding are both essential to making progress that helps our threatened fish runs.

Shoreline-Specific Priorities:

- Pursue funding for a non-motorized pedestrian/bike bridge to connect to the Shoreline South/145th Street light rail station.
- Continue to highlight the N 145th Street/I-5 Interchange as a strong candidate for any state transportation funding package.
- Partner with State agencies to develop a Master Development Plan for Fircrest that supports the City's goals and long-term vision for the property.
- Seek passage of legislation that would enable Shoreline and other similarly situated cities to annex unincorporated areas using cooperative interlocal agreements.
- Restore to Transportation Benefit Districts the authority to impose license fees to fund local transportation projects.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/council
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ROUNDAABOUTS

What's to like about roundabouts?

PLENTY. As states, counties, and cities are continually challenged to maximize traffic safety and efficiency, roundabouts have started showing up throughout our region. In fact, given their many benefits, State and Shoreline guidelines require that roundabouts be analyzed as an option to standard signalized intersections with any new intersection improvement project.

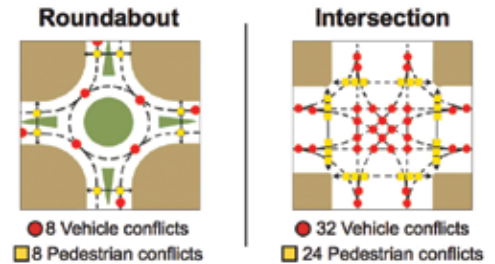
One of the best advantages of a roundabout is that they significantly reduce serious injury collisions. Roundabouts accomplish this through their geometry:

- Curved lanes and one-way travel eliminate head-on and right angle (T-bone) contact. Roundabouts also have lower design speeds, typically 15-20 mph, so if a collision does occur, it tends to be minor.
- Potential conflict points are fewer. The diagram at right compares a single lane roundabout with that of a signalized intersection.

A multi-lane roundabout would have additional conflict points, but still fewer than its comparable signalized counterpart.

There are additional benefits all roundabouts have in common:

- Faster. Reduction in travel delays and vehicle stops.
- Greener. Less idling and stopping/starting means less fuel consumption.
- Cost effective. Though similar initial construction costs, there are no ongoing signal maintenance and electrical costs.



- Pedestrian safety. Crosswalks are set back from the vehicle intersection simplifying the driver and pedestrian task by allowing drivers and pedestrians to focus on one conflict point and one direction at a time.

Where might Shoreline see its first roundabouts?

There are several locations in Shoreline currently planned or being analyzed for a roundabout.

185th Street and 10th Avenue NE

Sound Transit will likely be constructing a temporary compact urban roundabout at the intersection of NE 185th Street and 10th Avenue NE to mitigate temporary long-term construction closures of 5th Avenue NE. This mitigation will help to keep traffic moving through the arterial intersection, minimizing the spillover of rerouted traffic to local streets.

NE 185th Street and 8th Avenue NE

Sound Transit will be constructing a compact urban roundabout at the NE 185th Street/8th Avenue NE intersection as part of their mitigation for the future Shoreline North/185th Station.

185th Street and 175th Street Corridors

Roundabouts will be considered for any future intersection improvements

along 185th Street and 175th Street (from Stone Avenue to I-5).

145th Street/I-5 Interchange

Two roundabouts on 145th Street, one on each side of the I-5 overpass, are currently being analyzed. Visit the project page at shorelinewa.gov/145corridor for more information and watch the "Roundabout Rodeo" to see an innovative approach to testing design.

Roundabout at Five Corners in the City of Edmonds



Shoreline Community College

A roundabout is being analyzed for the intersection at the entrance to Shoreline Community College with N 160th Street and Greenwood Avenue N.

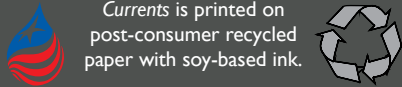
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CITY OF SHORELINE
CURRENTS

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Shoreline Walks

Volunteer Walk Leaders Wanted for 2020!

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
(206) 801-2638

New walks start in April 2020!

CITY OF SHORELINE PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

SUMMER CAMPS

- ~ Over 120 camps for ages 3-16
- ~ New payment plan options!
- ~ Register early, camps fill FAST

Registration Starts

March 10 - Shoreline Residents

March 12 - LFP Residents

March 13 - Everyone

Shorelinewa.gov/RegisterNow