

Currents – News from the City of Shoreline

October 2021 – Volume 23 No. 8

Best Start for Kids levy funds help Shoreline youth

Four years ago, our Youth and Teen Development Program received a grant for over \$500,000 through King County's Best Start for Kids levy. The grant has allowed us to reach underserved youth through our Youth Outreach Leadership and Opportunities Program (YOLO) and a full-time mental health therapist, contracted through the Center for Human Services.

YOLO is a job-skills, leadership development, and youth outreach program. The City pays participants to cultivate connections with peers who have traditionally been tough to reach or are underserved. The peer-to-peer connections help to remove barriers to engagement in the community. YOLO youth staff help connect youth to each other as well as to needed services.

In typical times, YOLO's outreach is done largely through organized events and activities. At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, we relied on YOLO staff to engage with participants virtually and to market those programs through creative social media campaigns. We held "drop-in" virtual teen center check-ins with our participants and Zoom meet ups with our mental health therapist for youth in our community.

More recently, YOLO staff have put on several socially distanced safe events so that youth have an opportunity to engage in person. These events included scavenger hunts, obstacle courses, and an end of the school year celebration. In addition, both the YOLO staff and our mental health therapist have been working at our Youth and Teen Development remote learning and summer camps. This has greatly increased our staffing team's ability to connect and serve the youth in these camps. During the last year, our team has noted how much the pandemic has affected youth in our community. We have seen a large increase in youth with a wide variety of needs. Having the ability to connect and share resources with them and their families has made a difference to everyone involved in our programs.

The larger portion of our Best Start for Kids grant funds support a full-time mental health therapist. She is actively engaged with approximately 90 youth and works informally with all the participants in our programs. Her role is to interact daily with youth in our programs and be available when needed for more formal intervention. She has been crucial in the past year as our staffing team has worked with many youth who have needed services they were not receiving or were struggling to get during the pandemic. Not only can she provide direct services as needed but can refer youth and families to other resources. She has worked with youth who are experiencing homelessness, struggling with attending school or engaging at all, facing abuse, and identifying as LGBTQ+.

In August, King County voters voted to renew the Best Start for Kids levy. We intend to seek additional grant funding through the renewed levy so we can continue these very important programs for Shoreline youth.

More Information

shorelinewa.gov/teens

kingcounty.gov/beststarts

City considering restrictions on fossil fuels in new commercial buildings

The City's 2019 community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory showed a 1.3% increase in emissions compared to 2009. This trend is not on track to meet the City's goals to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, as compared to 2009. Fossil fuels – such as oil and gas – used in the built environment were responsible for approximately 30% of community-wide emissions in 2019, with 28% from natural gas used in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.

Increasing concerns about the environmental and public health impacts of fossil fuels used in buildings have led some cities, such as Seattle, to ban fossil fuel hookups in new construction. While Washington State prohibits local governments from banning fossil fuels in new residential construction, local cities and counties can limit the use of fossil fuels for new commercial construction and multi-family projects over three stories in height.

This fall, based on City Council direction, City staff will propose updates to Shoreline Municipal Code SMC Title 15 to prohibit the use of fossil fuels and electric resistance heating for space and water heating in new commercial construction, and to promote increased energy efficiency and renewable energy. We are currently talking with Puget Sound Energy and other stakeholders about potential impacts associated with such a code amendment.

More Information

Ray Allshouse, Building Inspector
rallshouse@shorelinewa.gov, 206-801-2541

November is National Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month, also known as National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, which takes place in November, recognizes and honors the significant contributions, achievements, sacrifices, and continuing legacy of the original inhabitants of this land. We would like to work with community members to plan safe and enriching opportunities to learn about the history, arts, and continuing culture of local indigenous people. If you are interested in participating, contact Equity and Social Justice Program Coordinator Suni Tolton at stolton@shorelinewa.gov or 206-801-2556.

Summer Capital Improvement Update

The City was busy with numerous construction projects this summer. Below is a summary of the construction projects we have completed or will soon complete as part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

- 1st Avenue NE Sidewalks – This is the first of the 2018 voter-approved sidewalk projects. We installed sidewalk between NE 193rd and NE 195th Streets.
- N 195th Street Sidewalks – Funded using grant money from the Transportation Improvement Board Complete Streets program, this project provides sidewalk and bicycle facilities connecting the 195th trail from 5th Avenue NE to the 195th pedestrian bridge.
- Stormwater Pipe Repair, Replacement, and Small Drainage Projects – We completed work in over two dozen locations, primarily in the northwest portion of the city, to repair existing pipes and catch basins, and to fix small drainage issues.

- 2021 Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST) – This year’s BST (chip seal) program covered over forty street segments, mainly located in Richmond Beach but also in Innis Arden and Hillwood. Chip seal is the primary and most efficient method the City uses to maintain and preserve our street system before turning to more costly treatment, such as asphalt overlays.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/projects

shorelinewa.gov/budget

Conversations with the Chief

To help answer questions the community may have around policing in Shoreline, beginning October 1, we will post videos with Shoreline Police Chief Shawn Ledford and other members of the Shoreline Police Department who will talk on a variety of topics about policing in Shoreline and answer community questions. Shoreline residents will be able to submit questions they may have after watching one the videos or suggest topics for future videos. Chief Ledford will then address those questions in future videos.

Go to shorelinewa.gov/police and follow the link to Conversations with the Chief.

198th Affordable Housing Project Update

The City, in partnership with King County, has been supporting a 100-unit permanent supportive housing project at the corner of 198th and Aurora Ave. Although the project experienced delays due to COVID-19 and other factors, it is now moving toward a start of construction later this fall.

“Permanent supportive housing” is an innovative approach to providing homes to some of the most vulnerable in our community—individuals who have been homeless or are a great risk of homelessness due to underlying behavioral health challenges. By providing on-site services and other support, these residents can find stability, keep a roof over their heads, and make progress in rebuilding their lives.

Catholic Housing Services (CHS) is developing the project. CHS has a proven track-record of successfully building and operating similar housing programs across western Washington. This is a demonstration project that will utilize a modular construction method, where the modules are fabricated at a manufacturing facility and then assembled on-site. CHS has applied for building permits with the City of Shoreline and State of Washington Division of Labor and Industry. Once construction starts, it will take approximately 13 months to complete. Site clearing and development work will proceed while the modular units are constructed off site. The development team includes Synergy Contracts and Bazan Architects.

Funding for the project comes from a variety of sources, including federal tax credits through the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, as well as funding from the State of Washington and King County. The City is providing the site through a long-term lease agreement.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/198th

Tree Regulations

The City’s tree regulations aim to balance private property rights with the community’s desire to preserve trees and their inherent functions and values. Among the goals of our tree regulations is to

ensure there is no net loss of the City's tree canopy coverage. One way of doing this is by regulating the rate of cutting and requiring replacement trees to be planted.

Trees in Critical Areas

If a tree of any size is in or near an area such as a stream, wetland, or steep slope, then the tree may be in a critical area or its associated buffer. These trees are protected and regulated under the City's Critical Areas Ordinance. City review is required to determine whether property owners can remove or prune these trees.

Trees of Significant Size

Outside of critical areas or buffers, the City's tree regulations only apply to significant-sized trees on private property, unless the area cleared exceeds 3,000 square feet. Significant trees are defined as eight inches in diameter or larger for evergreen conifers, and 12 inches in diameter for other trees.

Removal of any significant tree requires notification of City staff. A permit is required for removal of trees greater than 30 inches in diameter (94.2" in circumference). Property owners may remove some significant trees with a diameter of less than 30 inches without a permit during a 3-year period based on property size. Property owners may remove up to three significant trees on lots up to 7,200 square feet and one additional significant tree for every 7,200 square feet of lot area.

The City requires a property owner to obtain a permit to remove more than the number of trees outlined above. Please contact Planning and Community Development prior to any tree removal or pruning activity to verify code permit requirements. (Contact information below.)

Street Trees

Trees located in the City rights-of-way are classified as street trees and are subject to different regulations than trees on private property. If a property owner wants to plant or remove a street tree in the rights-of-way adjacent to their property, they must first obtain a right-of-way permit.

In commercial zones, tree removal is exempt unless within a critical area or buffer, or if the existing trees were included as required landscaping within the previous three years.

Pruning

Pruning less than 25% of a tree's canopy is allowed without a permit. Excessive pruning, including topping, stripping, coppicing, or creating imbalances are not allowed unless necessary to protect life and property. When a tree is in a critical area, a qualified arborist must complete the pruning.

Hazardous Trees

A property owner can remove a tree that is an active threat to life or property (falling or about to fall) immediately without a permit. However, documentation of the hazardous condition prior to removal, such as photos or an arborist's evaluation, is required. Property owners should follow-up with the City after-the-fact for review to determine whether a permit and possibly replacement trees are required.

Tree Removal Checklist

Before removing a tree on your property, check the list below to see if you need a permit.

- Is the tree on or near a stream, wetland, or steep slope? (Trees of any size)
- Is the tree greater than 30 inches in diameter (94.2" in circumference)?

- Are you planning to remove multiple trees?
- Is the tree located in the right-of-way? (City right-of-way extends beyond the edge of the paved road)

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you most likely need a permit.

Tree Removal Permits

City of Shoreline Planning & Community Development

206-801-2500

pcd@shorelinewa.gov

17500 Midvale Avenue N, 3rd Floor

Shoreline, WA 98177

More information

shorelinewa.gov/trees

Mid-Biennium Budget Schedule

In 2019, the City of Shoreline moved from an annual budget to a biennium budget. Every even year, we adopt the budget for the following two years. In every odd year we do a mid-biennium budget amendment to address any budgetary issues that have arisen after adoption of the biennium budget. Below is the schedule for this year's mid-biennium budget amendment.

- November 1 - Introduction and Discussion of Mid-Biennial Budget Amendment
- November 8 - Public Hearing on 2022 Property Tax Levy and Continued Discussion of Mid-Biennial Budget Amendment
- November 15 - Adoption of Mid-Biennial Budget Amendment, Property Tax Levy, Fee Schedule, and Impact Fee Schedule

More information

shorelinewa.gov/budget

Election Day is November 2

Return your ballot:

- By mail with a postmark on or before Tuesday, Nov. 2 (no stamp needed), or
- To a secure ballot drop box, open 24/7 from October 14 until 8:00 p.m. on November 2.

Shoreline Drop Box Locations:

- Shoreline Library, 345 NE 175th Street
- Shoreline Park & Ride, 18821 Aurora Avenue N

There is still time to register or update your registration:

- October 25: deadline to register online or by mail.
- Election Day, November 2: last day to register in person at a vote center.
- In-person assistance available at vote centers in the days leading up to November 2.

More information

kingcounty.gov/elections

Washington State plastic bag ban

Washingtonians will begin to see fewer plastic bags littering the state's roadsides, parks, and streams beginning Oct. 1 when the statewide plastic bag ban goes into effect. The bag ban prohibits the distribution of single-use plastic carry-out bags by restaurants, retail, small vendors, and grocery stores.

Originally scheduled to begin Jan. 1, 2021, the limited availability of compliant bags caused Governor Inslee and the Legislature to delay the ban until now.

Plastic bags are a common form of pollution that threatens human health, wildlife, and the environment. Harmful chemicals are released when plastics are produced, used, incinerated, or slowly disintegrate into microscopic particles. Plastic bags are also a major contaminant in Washington's recycling system, clogging sorting machines and putting worker safety at risk.

BYOB — Bring Your Own Bag

Just as Shoreline residents have been doing for years, all Washington State residents are now encouraged to invest in reusable bags for groceries and other take-out items.

If customers choose to use compliant plastic or paper bags offered by a merchant, the law requires the business to charge 8 cents per bag. That 8-cent-charge is not a tax; it is a sale kept entirely by the merchant to provide an incentive for customers to bring their own bags and to recoup the costs for the more durable compliant bags.

Food banks and pantries, and individuals receiving food stamps, WIC, SNAP, or other government assistance, are not subject to the 8-cent charge. Some single-use plastic bags are exempt from the law, including plastics to wrap meats and produce, bags for prescriptions, and newspaper or dry-cleaning bags.

MORE INFORMATION

ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban

Safe Shoreline Month

Every October, Shoreline City Council proclaims Safe Shoreline Month as a way of highlighting the proactive and innovative work the City does in the areas of emergency preparedness and policing and crime prevention in Shoreline. Programs such as Ready Shoreline, Map Your Neighborhood, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Shoreline Watch, and R.A.D.A.R. bring staff, police, and community members together to focus on building trusted relationships and strong, prepared neighborhoods. We encourage community members and businesses to implement preparedness and prevention measures and to participate in City sponsored programs.

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Emergency Preparedness

Beyond the emergency kit: Continuing disaster preparedness

When disaster strikes, you may have to survive on your own for days without access to power, food, or transportation. You also may not be in “just the right place” when it happens. It is important to understand the needs of your family, your neighborhood, and your workplace beyond just the supplies needed to survive.

Here are some tips on how to stay safe:

- Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place. It is important to have small bills on hand because ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel, or food.
- Document the valuables in your house and office by taking pictures of the items with your phone (front, back and information stickers) and storing them on a flash drive. Put the drive in an airtight bag or container and place it in your emergency kit.
- Create and practice emergency plans. How will you contact loved ones? Does your family know what to do if you are not home? What if you cannot get home for an extended period of time? Who will take care of your pets? These are just some of the questions that you should consider when creating a plan.
- Have an emergency communications plan in place for your family, neighborhood, and office.

Organize your neighborhood into teams ready to assist each other in the event of a disaster with the Ready Shoreline program. We can provide disaster preparedness presentations to your neighborhood, social group, church, or office.

The truth is that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution to being ready for disasters and emergencies. When preparing, make sure you pay attention to the individual and collective needs that may be unique to your situation.

Build a basic emergency kit

Catastrophes can happen at any time. In an emergency such as a major storm or earthquake, it will likely be three to five days before rescue crews can get to you.

To assemble a basic emergency kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

Food and water should be your highest priority when you begin putting a kit together. You probably already have many of the other recommended items. Make a list of those you don't have and add one or two of them to your weekly shopping list until you have them all.

Download a recommended supplies list at: ready.gov/build-a-kit.

Crime Prevention

One of the goals of the Shoreline Police Department is to promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood programs. It's our goal to work with residents on crime prevention efforts and improve interaction and communication from the police department. By working together, we can do a better job of preventing crimes of opportunity and apprehending criminals.

A strong community bond is our most effective tool in accomplishing these goals. Forty percent of the burglaries are committed by the suspect entering through an unlocked door or window. In most vehicle break-ins, the suspect is after a visible item(s) of value. We encourage residents to report suspicious activity immediately by calling 911. A police officer patrolling your neighborhood may not recognize a stranger in your yard, but your neighbor will. We've had good success at catching burglars in the act when residents call 911 immediately to report suspicious activity.

One of the single most important ways to reduce crime in your neighborhood is to know your neighbors and watch out for each other. Shoreline Police encourage you to start a Shoreline Watch group to bring your neighbors together and promote safety and communication.

More information

Officer Paula Kieland
Community Outreach Problem Solving Officer
paula.kieland@kingcounty
206-801-2764

Autumn leaves are garden gold

Fall leaves aren't just pretty – they're also a gardener's best friend. These nutrient dense blankets restore garden beds by smothering weeds and fertilizing soil with nutrients. That's right, these Instagram worthy red, orange, and yellows can make gardening easier for you, while setting your yard up for a show-stopping springtime bloom. Nutrient-dense leaves feed soil microbes and promote beneficial insects like ladybugs, butterflies, and earthworms. This also invites birds looking for a winter snack!

Sweep leaves from your driveway, sidewalk, and street into your yard. You'll be keeping storm drains clear of debris, which helps prevent neighborhood flooding and keeps stream life healthy too.

Make those beauties work:

- Throw your lawnmower on the mulch setting and mow over the leaves on your lawn.
- Spread leaves out over garden beds and around established plants for a great mulch.
- Feeling especially DIY? Mix leaves and grass clippings at a 1:3 ratio and make some powerful compost (thanks to our friends at gardenhotline.com for this tip.)

Natural Yard Care can be easy. Using fall leaves as mulch and compost is arguably the easiest way to give your garden the nutrients it needs, while reducing the amount of work required by you.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/naturalyardcare

We're looking for Adopt-A-Drain volunteers!

Leaves are falling! Volunteer to "adopt" a storm drain on your street and keep it clear of leaves and trash to help:

- prevent nearby flooding,
- keep your neighborhood clean, and
- protect Shoreline's streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.

Storm drains and ditches flow directly to Shoreline's streams, lakes, and to Puget Sound. Any leaves, trash, or debris picked up along the way flows straight to those natural waters, too. Even natural debris, like leaves, pine needles, and dirt, can smother fish eggs and important stream bugs. It also can pollute natural waters with nutrients, like phosphorus.

When too much debris builds up in storm drains and ditches, they get clogged. Clogged drains and ditches can cause flooding that can affect you and your downhill neighbors.

Join Shoreline's Adopt-A-Drain volunteer program and commit to keeping a storm drain near your home clear of leaves and other debris.

Have a storm drain that is already clogged?

Call 206-801-2700.

More information

Sign-up at shorelinewa.gov/adopt-a-drain

Questions? Christie Lovelace

Surface Water Program Specialist

clovelace@shorelinewa.gov, 206-801-2420

Reduce the impact of wasted food

Composting food scraps is a great way to reduce your impact on the climate! When food scraps are thrown in the garbage, they are sent to the landfill where they waste space and produce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. When food scraps are composted instead, they become nutrient rich soil that helps reduce emissions, capture carbon, and support healthy farms, gardens, and orchards. Compost service is included with garbage service for Shoreline single-family residents at no additional cost.

Learn how to compost at ShorelineClimateChallenge.org.

Shoreline Farmers Market Harvest Market

Saturday, Oct. 30th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

15415 Westminster Way N

Dress up in your Halloween costume!

Trick-or-treating for kids!

Farm vendors, crafts, live music, food trucks

More information

ShorelineFarmersMarket.org

Hamlin Halloween Haunt (COVID-safe)

Friday, Oct. 22, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Hamlin Park – 16006 15th Avenue NE

Hamlin Haunt returns with a modified COVID-safe format!

Join us for some not-too-spooky fun for the whole family.

Please visit shorelinewa.gov/haunt for all of the details.

Contact your Shoreline City Council

- Mayor Will Hall, 206-373-1630, whall@shorelinewa.gov

- Deputy Mayor Keith Scully, 206-735-9030, kscully@shorelinewa.gov
- Susan Chang, 206-373-1639, schang@shorelinewa.gov
- Doris Fujioka McConnell, 206-731-9323, dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov
- Keith McGlashan, 206-330-3948, kmcglashan@shorelinewa.gov
- Chris Roberts, 206-391-2733, croberts@shorelinewa.gov
- Betsy Roberston, 206-396-5807, brobertson@shorelinewa.gov
- Contact all Councilmembers, (206) 801-2213, council@shorelinewa.gov

City Council Meetings

Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meetings via Zoom

Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings