



Spring 2015



## City News

[www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com)  
206-368-5440

### Mayor's Message: *Important Year for Lake Forest Park*

One constant in this newsletter for the past three years has been status updates on two key projects for Lake Forest Park – Lyon Creek Flood Mitigation and NE 178th Street Improvements. Both projects are out to bid at this time and we hope that, with good bid results, the year of construction has arrived. Also, as a part of the Lyon Creek project, we will see completion of the second phase of Whispering Willow Park.

This provides us a good point in time to look at these projects from a citizen's perspective. The periodic flooding of Lyon Creek is a short-term, but critical, event for many houses in the Sheridan Beach neighborhood and Town Center properties. Much of that area is listed as a flood zone on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps. The project design will retain a 100-year flood event inside the banks of Lyon Creek. As a part of the design, updates were submitted to FEMA, and the floodplain is due to be drastically reduced, leaving only a few tiny areas in the flood zone. No homes will be in a flood zone.

It is a long time since the City has been able to invest in infrastructure. The six blocks of sidewalks being built under the NE 178th Street Improvements project leading to Brookside Elementary School will also have flashing signs at two marked crossings. Safe Routes to Schools, a state program, contributed to the scope of the project and also provided part of the funding. The City recognizes the value of our schools, our school children, and the existence of a state program that helps provide safe access for children walking to school. The City Council has placed multi-modal transportation on its goals. As the staff analyzes the next steps to

recommend in pedestrian connectivity, it is a "safe" bet that the walking needs radiating out from our schools and the Safe Routes programs will be part of the conversation.

Whispering Willow Park is three benefits in one to our citizens. First, it provides a flood-control berm to keep floodwaters off two properties to the south that have historically been impacted

by flooding. Second, that wide berm will host a path leading to the Town Center area, thus creating a new neighborhood connector in our community; and, third, it offers a good sense of place to enjoy nature once the plantings grow in.

A final perspective is to remind our citizens that construction projects can be disruptive to normal patterns. There will be

**"Citizens are encouraged to continue patronizing Town Center businesses throughout the Lyon Creek project construction."**

access closures and detours.

For one weekend in July, a complete closure of State Route 522 is planned, with traffic routed around it. Not only do we ask you

forbearance during these temporary disruptions, we ask you to help our businesses. The main retail area in Lake Forest Park will be open during construction, and counting on all of us to keep patronizing these businesses. You may have to change your route sometimes, but please don't stay away.



Mayor Mary Jane Goss

### Whispering Willow Park Grand Opening Announced



The grand opening event for Whispering Willow Park coincides with *Kids to Parks Day* – May 16. It will be a great

time to stop by this new park, or any of the City parks,

and, with some luck, the sun will be shining! If you haven't already, take a walk through the park. Additional details about the grand opening will be posted to the City website as they become available. Check it out at [www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com).

*This newsletter is a publication of the  
City of Lake Forest Park, 17425 Ballinger Way NE,  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155*

## Flood Reduction Efforts Continue—Construction Anticipated June - September 2015



*Town Center Flooding—December 2007*

Following the severe flood event in December 2007, the City embarked on its journey to reduce flooding in lower reaches of Lyon and McAleer Creeks. Using grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, King County, and a partnership with WSDOT,

the City has completed project design, and construction is anticipated for this summer. The project has been carefully designed to minimize impacts to traffic on State Route 522

while providing numerous benefits to the community including:

- Replacement of four aging culverts, removal of barriers to fish migration, and restoration of two wetlands;
- Flood protection for numerous homes, the Town Center, Northshore Fire Department station, and Bothell Way.

As construction approaches, the City will notify travelers of schedules and closures by way of message boards, website newswatches, and future articles in this publication. Visit the City website for more information: [www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com): Home > Departments > Engineering > Capital Improvement Program > Lyon Creek Flood Reduction Project.

## City Council Holds First City Council Town Hall Meeting, Next Planned May 7

**4/20/15 Note: the May 7 Town Hall Meeting is being rescheduled to a date and time yet to be determined; watch website for further information**

On Thursday, February 5, the Lake Forest Park City Council hosted its first City Council town hall meeting at Lake Forest Park City Hall. An estimated 60 citizens came and discussed with Councilmembers key council initiatives, including stream restoration, transportation, strategic planning, and community vitality. The Council listened to citizens' concerns and suggestions about a wide range of issues affecting Lake Forest Park.

One citizen who attended the meeting said, "A big thank



*City Council Town Hall Meeting—February 5, 2015*

you to all Councilmembers. Sharing your goals and objectives with the citizens of the city and listening to our concerns brings us all together."

This was the first of three City Council town hall meetings scheduled this year. One of the five Council goals established in 2014 was to "develop a strong communications program" based on "two-way communication strategies with the public." The Council subsequently formed an Ad Hoc Communications Committee to develop and implement a communications strategy. In a report to the Council in September 2014, the Communications Committee recommended quarterly City Council town hall meetings. Based on citizen feedback, the Council may increase the number of town hall meetings, if this continues to be an effective communication tool.

The City Council is currently updating its strategic goals and working with the Administration to refine and prioritize the Citywide work plan. This will provide great topics for the next town hall, which is scheduled for May 7, 2015. Additional details will be available on the City website as they become available.

## McKinnon Creek Trail Update

McKinnon Creek Trail is a 40-year-old neighborhood pedestrian trail located on public right-of-way connecting NE 184th Street to the 4700 block of NE 187th Place.



*McKinnon Creek Trail*

Many Lake Forest Park residents use it throughout the year to both enjoy nature and link to the Town Center, and the City has planned safety improvements, such as a new layer of gravel and installation of split-rail type fencing near wetlands and streams.

In addition to serving Lake Forest Park residents, this area also includes a service road used daily by the Lake Forest Park Water District to access water facilities and another used by the City for annual utility inspections. The City is determined to balance environmental and neighborhood connectivity concerns and, this year, a third-party environmental consultant will review potential impacts and opportunities in this area. Stay tuned for more information.

## Tree Board Public Meeting

Public Meeting at City Hall, Sat., April 25, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., regarding potential amendment recommendations to the current Tree Ordinance, LFP Municipal Code 16.14. The Tree Board, is a sub-group of the LFP Environmental Quality Commission.

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## Comprehensive Plan Update: Next Steps



Reflecting the community's vision and providing a blueprint for how the City will evolve over the next 20 years is the intent of the Comprehensive Plan update that is currently underway. The update provides guidance that will influence the City's capital investments and land use development. All Puget Sound jurisdictions are required by the Washington State Growth Management Act to complete a periodic update this year. The process began in spring 2014 and is scheduled for completion late this summer. The update builds on the existing Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2005 and will bring the Plan into consistency with other City plans adopted since the last update (Legacy Plan, Community Forest Management Plan and Southern Gateway Sub-area Plan).

Citizen input is critical to the update process. The City has heard from many people through the community conversations that started last summer to aid in the creation of a new vision for the City. The outreach process so far includes:

- \* *Community conversations* - Over 250 people participated in a series of informal, but structured, outreach activities intended to invite comments on the City's future.
- \* *Phone survey* - 150 Lake Forest Park residents participated in a statistically significant survey which included questions focused on overall satisfaction with the City, key priorities for public services and funding strategies.
- \* *Web page* - [Lakeforestpark2035.com](http://Lakeforestpark2035.com) was developed to describe the visioning and Comprehensive Plan update purpose, process, and to

provide opportunities to participate. There were over 4,000 website visits and over 1,000 people signed up for email updates.

- \* *Visioning workshop* - A public workshop was held to invite citizens to help craft the vision statement.

Concurrently, the City's Planning Commission has met twice a month since last May to guide the update by reviewing information, making recommendations on policy direction and working directly with other City commissions to develop policies in certain areas. The Commission developed a draft vision statement based on ideas and input shared during the visioning process. It is intended to reflect community direction, and is a starting point that will continue to be refined through the plan update process. Here is the Planning Commission's current draft of the statement:

### *DRAFT Vision Statement: Lake Forest Park 2035*

*In 2035, our balanced approach to environmental preservation, economic vitality and attractive residential character has allowed Lake Forest Park to flourish. We have preserved and enhanced our natural environment and unique residential neighborhoods as defining features of our city. A vibrant Town Center is the cultural heart of our community and, together with other neighborhood centers, fosters a resilient economy and provides a diversity of shopping and entertainment opportunities that appeals to all ages. Our neighborhoods are safe and connected to each other and to community gathering places by well-designed paths, sidewalks and bike lanes. Our legacy of collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions has inspired solutions to our regional needs and issues.*

The City welcomes continued conversation. Within a couple of months, the Planning Commission will complete its review and send a draft to the City Council, followed by a public workshop for the Council to receive input on the draft. The Council will then begin its review of the update and work toward adoption by the end of summer or early fall of this year. Schedule information: [www.Lakeforestpark2035.com](http://www.Lakeforestpark2035.com).

**What is a Vision Statement? A vision statement...**

- Communicates what the City wants to be like in the next 20 years
- Provides overall "big picture" guidance for the entire Comprehensive Plan
- Is supported by the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan
- Is often formatted as a short paragraph

## Residential Burglary Suspects Arrested

Did you know Washington state ranks highest in the nation in property crimes? While this ranking is supported by a recent increase in residential burglaries in our community, the Police Department wants residents to know that addressing this trend is a priority. In 75 percent of burglaries in town, the back or sliding glass door was broken and most of the homes did not have alarms. Of those with alarms, the alarm had not been set.

What can you do? The City website contains info about the Block Watch, Crime Watch, and Vacation Check programs; consider installing alarms; improve/increase exterior lighting; fortify/use locks on all doors/windows; and trim bushes/shrubs to make entry points more visible. Residents are also encouraged to utilize the City's Vacation Check program. Call the Police Department at 206-364-8216 for more information.

In late March, detectives caught and arrested two suspects—one in the act of burglarizing a home in North Seattle, and the other who was attempting to gain entrance to a Lake Forest Park residence.

## Ceremony at Pfingst Animal Acres Park on June 12, 2015

The Lake Forest Park community is invited to a ceremony at Pfingst Animal Acres Park on June 12, 2015 to commemorate Peruvian Admiral Miguel Grau Seminario. As of the date of this publication, the Peruvian Naval



Band will be in attendance. Check the City website in late May for more info.

## 12 Degrees North

Explore our new webpage devoted to the 12 Degrees North neighborhood development at the former Elk's location. Inspection reports are regularly posted, along with a construction schedule. Let us know if there's additional information you'd like to see! From the Home page, Departments/Planning & Building Department/Twelve Degrees North Neighborhood.

## Sidewalks, Pedestrian-activated Crosswalks, and Other Non-motorized Safety Improvements Planned for the NE 178th Street Improvements Phase 2 Project

Construction of the NE 178<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements Phase 2 Project is anticipated to be underway in late May, with completion targeted for early November 2015. This approximately \$2 million project in the vicinity of Brookside Elementary School features much-needed non-motorized safety improvements, including curb, gutter and sidewalk; bicycle lane; pedestrian-activated crosswalk signals; low-impact development construction features, including permeable cement concrete sidewalks; and replacement of the McAleer Creek culvert under NE 178th Street.

Residents are advised that NE 178<sup>th</sup> Street, through the project limits, will be closed to through traffic during the construction period. Traffic will be detoured around the work zone onto NE 180<sup>th</sup> Street and 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE. Access within the work zone will be provided at all times to residents, emergency services, postal and delivery services, and garbage service. Pedestrian access will also be maintained.

This project is made possible by grants from the Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program, the state Transportation Improvement Board, and the state Department of Ecology.

### ***Veteran Police Officer Retires***



*Officer Ron Huston*

After 25+ years of service to the City, Officer Ron Huston retired at the end of February. Hired in 1990, he went on to serve as Police Officer, Detective, Motor Officer, and various other roles within the Police Department. Ron's dedication to the City and its citizens is appreciated and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

## Community Emergency Response Training—Free for Lake Forest Park Residents

- ⇒ 4-hour workshop, May 9, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Northshore Fire Station #51, 7220 NE 181st Street, Kenmore
- ⇒ 24-hour Certification Course, Thursdays from April 2—May 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Brier City Hall, 2901 228th Street SW, Brier

Registration: [Vickie@esca1.com](mailto:Vickie@esca1.com), or call 425-776-3722

**LFP sewer goes paperless! Coming in summer 2015, paperless billing and online payments for your LFP sewer account.**

### **Live Video Streaming of City Council Meetings!**

Beginning this month, Lake Forest Park citizens can watch City Council Regular Business meetings from the comfort of their homes by live streaming during the meeting or watching it on-demand at a later time. Those with Comcast cable may also watch it live on Channel 21. Check our website ([www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com)) for more details!

### **Recreation Program Update**

Live in Lake Forest Park? Interested in recreation? Take advantage of recreation programs offered through the City of Shoreline. Lake Forest Park residents are eligible for a 24-hour early registration period prior to the start of each season's programs!

To receive timely notice of the early registration dates, sign up for reminders through the City's website, [www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com). From the Home page, select Notify Me and enter your email address where indicated. Scroll down to News Flash and select the icon to receive notification by email, text, or both. For more info about programs and registration, visit the City of Shoreline website: [www.cityofshoreline.com](http://www.cityofshoreline.com)

