



Winter 2015



City News

www.cityofflp.com
206-368-5440

Mayor's Corner: It Is the Season for Thanks

When I took the oath of office four years ago, it was with a sense of mission and purpose. As I prepare to leave after four years of serving as your Mayor, it is with a sense of gratitude.

It has been a satisfying experience to have led the administration through many positive changes. As the City has transitioned to a new normal, with fewer staff and resources, the Mayor's goals focused on increased transparency in City government, broadened reflection of community interests, and a heightened sense of fiscal responsibility to citizens as well as improving the City's financial future.

Some of the changes which have occurred are listed here. Key positions of City Administrator, Chief of Police and Finance Director were filled to fit the new paths to be taken. Action was taken to balance City Commissions to reflect our diverse community, geographically and promote positive discussion. Many processes were scrutinized to increase efficiency and work flow, as well as to provide opportunities for citizen input. The Economic

Development Commission was actively recruited, the City newsletter was restored and distribution was increased to reach our multifamily residents. The block watch program was expanded. The first Citizens Academy was initiated.

Two major infrastructure projects draw to a close—the Lyon Creek Flood Reduction Project, and the NE 178th Street Sidewalk Improvement Project. Our City has undertaken some major steps toward reducing flooding, and long needed safety improvements to a busy arterial leading to Brookside School.

These past four years of success were built with the help of many hands, hearts and efforts on the part of the Mayor, the City Council, City staff, our many volunteers and community members and supporters and partners along the way, to whom we all owe our thanks and gratitude.



Mayor Mary Jane Goss

City Announces Completion of Lyon Creek Flood Mitigation Project

Lake Forest Park residents and business owners in the Town Center/Sheridan Beach area can breathe a collective sigh of relief. The City is proud to announce the Lyon Creek Flood Mitigation Project will provide flood protection for the 100-year flood event in time for the 2015/2016 storm season and on into the future.

The four undersized culverts are replaced and berms/walls are completed. All that remains to be done by the end of the year is restoration of native plants adjacent to the creek to provide shade for the open channel.



Lyon Creek Open Channel and Bothell Way New Sidewalk

The City is also collaborating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to

update the 100-year flood zone map to reflect the smaller floodplain area, which will result in reduced flood insurance costs for residents/businesses in the area. Through a stroke of luck, the City was also able to incorporate into the project area 600 feet of sidewalk on the north side of Bothell Way.

The project was recently featured on King County's *Take Winter by Storm* series to raise awareness about preparedness and local flood reduction efforts. The



Culvert Near Bank of America—Lyon Creek

The Lyon Creek Flood Mitigation Project is a great success for the City and the region, with funding provided by FEMA, King County, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Citizens Academy Gives Residents Inside Look at City Government

On five evenings this fall, residents of the Lake Forest Park community participated in the City's first Citizens Academy—meeting government leaders and department directors and receiving a first-hand look at city departments. Officials are encouraged by the high level of interest in the Academy—and indica-



City Council Meeting Role Play

tions are good that it may be offered again.

Departments took turns presenting information about

operations and maintenance, service delivery, and prioritization of projects and funding. One of the most popular features was the audience participation exercises, which included a mock City Council meeting with public testimony, a hands-on look at the Police Department, and a project prioritization scenario from the Public Works Department.

City staff learned a great deal about producing the program—from general organization of the academy

Emergency Management Update

The City's relationship with the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA) ends at the end of 2015. Over the past 15 years, ESCA has provided emergency management services to several cities in North King and South Snohomish counties. Due to a combination of staff reductions, loss of available grant funding, and new Washington Administrative Code changes, ESCA could not provide adequate services to the City into the future.

This unfortunate set of circumstances provided an opportunity for the cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park, the Northshore Utility District, and the Northshore Fire District to collaborate on bringing emergency services to our citizens. Formation of the Northshore Emergency Management Coalition provides the citizens of both cities with an opportunity to receive the best possible emergency management services in a regionally coordinated effort. The new coalition will provide federally required planning services, volunteer development and

to developing and presenting their department's information; and, most

importantly, from evaluations submitted by the participants. In short, the 2015 Citizens Academy experience lends itself to development of similar programs in the future.

“Presenting to the Citizens Academy was a fun opportunity to step out from behind my desk and meet with the people I serve. Hearing their questions gave me a new perspective on how I can keep the front-end customer experience in mind during my daily tasks.” — Citizens Academy presenter



Project Prioritization—Public Works Department Activity

We hope this year's participants enjoyed the classes as much as the staff enjoyed giving their presentations.

Watch for word in the newsletter or

on the website about whether an Academy will be scheduled in the future.

coordination, training and exercises applicable to the region, and many other topics related to emergency management.

Top items on the list for the coalition are updating the City's Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan, creating emergency volunteer organizations (Community Emergency Response Teams and the Ham Radio Group), creating a joint emergency operations center, planning and carrying out staff/community training and exercises, developing a comprehensive emergency resource list, and ensuring coordinated communication systems are developed. The new group also plans to conduct two emergency preparedness workshops and participate in the annual resource fair that was successful earlier in the fall.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, email northshoreEMC@gmail.com.





Q & A for Online Sewer Account Bill Service

Did you know you can now view and pay your sewer bill online? Using the City's online bill service lets you view and pay your sewer bill, go paperless, set up recurring payments (auto-pay), and receive notifications when your sewer bill is due. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

- ⇒ *How can I make payments online?* Payments can be made by electronic check from your bank (EFT) with no service fee charged or by credit/debit card. When using a credit or debit card, a fee of \$3.95 is assessed by the online service provider (Invoice Cloud);
- ⇒ *Is there a limit to the amount I can pay using a credit/debit card?* Yes, there is a limit of \$250 per transaction for credit/debit card payments. If your bill is more than \$250, consider paying by electronic check;
- ⇒ *What information do I need to access my online sewer account?* You will need the name on the account (last name is enough) and the account number.

To get started, visit the City's website, www.cityofflp.com, and click on the Utility Payments button.

NE 178th Street Roadway Improvements Phase 2 Project Update

Construction continues on the NE 178th Street Improvements Phase 2 project. Curb, gutter and sidewalk are steadily being installed, and placement of



New Sidewalk on NE 178th Street

pervious sidewalks on the project's north side occurred in November. East of 37th Avenue NE, underground utility work has commenced, which will be followed by curb and gutter, sidewalk, and asphalt paving similar to improvements already installed. Project completion is scheduled for the end of December 2015.



Clear Leaves from Neighborhood Street Drains

Despite the City's best efforts to sweep the streets and construct flood reduction projects, your help is needed. Please:

- ◇ Don't blow or sweep leaves into the street;
- ◇ Do remove leaves from your neighborhood street drains before storms to reduce localized flooding.

Council Looks Toward Finishing Comprehensive Plan Update

Following a September handoff from the Planning Commission and an October open house, the City Council has continued the Commission's extra meetings approach with an eye to completing the required Comprehensive Plan update by the end of the year. This two-plus-year effort has involved our community, Citizen Advisory Commissions, consultants, staff, and the City Council.

The City Council used three extra meetings to delve into the subject matter, and then had a joint meeting with the Planning Commission to pose questions and cement its understanding of the document. The Council took an exhaustive look at every policy in the nine elements of the plan. "It has been important to us to examine every policy and to take deliberative care with every concept," noted Councilmember John Resha. "For us, it is even important to understand the difference between 'Town Center' and 'town center' and to assure that our decisions are intentional."

The Growth Management Act sets up the Comprehensive Plan to be the backbone of all planning and land use documents in each city. Every other document must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. "Many thanks to all who have been engaged in this process from the beginning. We have a viable perspective on our community's 20-year vision," said Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford. "Our next step is to begin work on our five-year strategic plan to forge specific initiatives that will move our City forward."

The Comprehensive Plan can be reviewed at: www.lakeforestpark2035.com



These seemingly small acts can help protect you and your neighbors from serious damage caused by flooding. Your assistance is appreciated!

Winter Weather = Early Preparation for Snow & Ice

The Public Works Department begins preparing early for winter by getting snow equipment ready, stockpiling supplies, training staff for emergency response and updating the snow response priorities map. During a snowstorm, city crews work around the clock. Designated citywide priority routes are cleared first to accommodate emergency response, main arterials, and bus routes. If snowfall is continuous, those arterials may require repeated plowing and sanding before crews can work to clear neighborhood streets.



Use Caution in Winter Conditions

Ice and Snow? Take It Slow! Driving in ice and snow, combined with Lake Forest Park's steep hills, can make for hazardous driving conditions. Please remember to use safe driving tactics in winter conditions.

- * Check conditions before leaving home or work;
- * Allow extra time;
- * Keep a basic winter survival kit in your car;
- * Take it slow; allow room to stop; keep your fuel tank full;
- * Give snowplows room to work.

A great tool to assist you is the *Take Winter by Storm* website. From preparedness on a budget to a family communication plan to a pet preparedness checklist, the site has comprehensive information and tips to help you get ready now for the inevitable winter storms we experience here in Western Washington: www.takewinterbystorm.org

Commissions Need Volunteers

Are you interested in a role in improving your community? Perhaps the recent Citizens Academy caught your eye and has you thinking about ways you can interact with your local government, shape future services or policy and give back to your community. If so, consider a role on a City commission.

Commissions play an important role in city

government. Commissioners represent the views, needs, and values of the community in making recommendations on programs and policies to the Mayor and City Council. If you are interested in serving on a City Commission, please contact Mayor Mary Jane Goss at 206-368-5440.

Current vacancies exist on the City's Economic Development Commission, Community Services Commission, and Transportation Commission, and seats are also available from time to time on the Planning Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, or the Civil Service Commission.

Learn more about the Commissions under the heading "City Hall" on the City's website.

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

Printed on
recycled
paper

