

# LFP Times

CITY OF  
LAKE FOREST PARK



City Hall rainbow photo by K. Zech

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## Mayor's Corner— Moving Forward



Mayor Johnson

We will be okay. This is my message to the Lake Forest Park community.

I understand the frustrations and want the City to reopen as much as anyone. We must do it the right way and follow the protocols for a safe, planned reopening. While none of us has experience going through a pandemic, I am confident everyone is doing their best. There is no

getting around that things will take time to open safely. My priority is the safety and security of Lake Forest Park residents, LFP business owners and their customers and employees, and City employees.

As we move forward, I ask everyone to please have patience. Patience with the process and patience with each other.

Despite the economic downturn going on right now and the impact of COVID-19 on our lives, we are fortunate to live in a caring, proactive community. As I drive around the city, I see signs of hope and consideration of others. Wearing masks, limiting trips, washing hands frequently, greeting our neighbors with a smile and hello (from an appropriate distance, of course) all contribute to how we

will come out of this together.

Let's all take a minute to be grateful and thankful for all that we have and for those protecting us on the front lines during this difficult time.

—Mayor Johnson

## Passport Services is Currently Closed

At this time, Passport Services is closed. Please sign up for notifications from the City or check the Passport page for updates.



## Summer Events Update

The City of Lake Forest Park regrets to announce the annual array of citywide celebrations and neighborhood events for summer 2020 are canceled in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and health precautions to ensure the safety of the community.

This was not an easy decision. Residents, the Mayor, City Council, and staff all look forward to these events. Keep your eyes open for other special opportunities with our partner organizations around LFP later this summer.

Stay tuned, stay home, and stay healthy.



Pfingst Animal Acres Park

## HealthierHere Governing Board

One of the benefits  
to being a Sound  
Cities Association



HealthierHere

(SCA) Member is access to regional boards that a city of our size would not have access to. I have had the pleasure of being appointed to the HealthierHere Governing Board for two years. HealthierHere is a non-profit organization that was created in response to Washington Health Care Authority's (oversees Medicaid as Apple Health in Washington) five-year agreement with federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to infuse \$1.5 billion federal dollars into our Medicaid programs. This infusion of money is intended to improve three areas: transform patient care to improve outcomes and use money more wisely, improve longer term services, and get and keep stable housing and employment.

HealthierHere is the King County non-profit that is working on the first area – improving patient outcomes. I feel my role as the only elected official on the Governing Board is to make sure all 38 SCA members are represented and to hold the board and the organization to the highest standards as we are using tax dollars. Our estimated five-year budget is just shy of \$100 million. That money will be used to staff the non-profit and fund clinical care providers, community care providers like behavioral health, and tribal care providers in specific areas that we believe will improve health outcomes. For example, we created a platform to promote Shared Care Plans, which has increased the number of behavioral health care providers co-located with primary care, so patients are treated for both medical and behavioral health concerns in one patient visit. More examples of how we are improving patient outcomes can be found on the HealthierHere website.

In the last two months, we have authorized emergency funding to support our partners in their response to the COVID-19 outbreak in our area. We have provided approximately \$5.1 million dollars to support our partners in the county. Of that total, \$3.6 million went directly to clinical and community partners to offset the increased costs they have experienced during this pandemic and \$615,000 has gone to supporting community navigators who directly assist patients in accessing care, housing, and other services when they are seen in a health care setting.

This important work is helping patients across King County and within Lake Forest Park to receive better healthcare, more support, and ultimately better health outcomes.

–Councilmember Semra Riddle

## City Hall Reopening Plan Update

As of this writing, we are in Phase 1 of the Governor's Plan for reopening businesses, looking forward to June 1 as a potential beginning to Phase 2. If these dates hold, the earliest employees will begin returning to work at City Hall would be June 22, as part of Phase 3. While employees continue to work from home, steps are being taken to ensure a safe workspace for employees and the public when City Hall reopens.



Physical barriers are being installed at workstations where there is interaction between employees and visitors, social distancing markers are being placed throughout City

Hall, hand sanitizer will be available, and disposable masks will be provided should a visitor forget theirs. In addition, increased cleaning of City facilities and high-touch areas was implemented early on and will continue. Due to the small size of the Council Chambers and social distancing requirements, future meetings will look very different. Many of the chairs have been removed from the Chambers to ensure compliance. How the Mayor and seven Councilmembers can be accommodated at a dais that does not allow for social distancing, and our nine-member Planning Commission around its U-shaped table configuration are other hurdles we must overcome.

One service we are working diligently to restore is that of Passports. With this being a service that, in the past, has been contact intensive, we must reimagine this service, giving consideration to how to maintain compliance with US Department of State passport application processing requirements while limiting physical contact between the passport agent and applicant. We are discussing options and may consider using an appointment system. Updates will be provided here, as well as through social media and the City's website.

When King County does enter Phase 3, returning employees will be limited to a rotation of two days per week in City Hall to limit interaction and ensure social distancing, as many of the work areas are combined spaces. These rotational schedules will ensure that services are provided to the public while allowing for telework as strongly encouraged in the Governor's Plan.

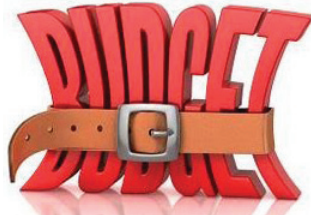
Please be safe and know that while the doors of City Hall are closed, the City continues operating.



## Budget Update

The current economic uncertainty has presented some financial challenges for the City's current budget. The Administration is continually working to understand the magnitude of the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. The following actions were implemented to ensure that the City remains in a healthy financial position:

- Any vacant positions will not be filled until further notice.
- All travel and training are suspended until further notice, unless this would impact critical services or required certifications.
- All discretionary spending is suspended until further notice.
- Seasonal workers will not be hired until further notice.
- Contracted work will be evaluated and may be suspended as appropriate.



Additionally, the Administration is continually monitoring revenue sources and evaluating the impacts to the City's budget. At this time, the Administration anticipates that the City could realize as much as a 12 percent impact to General Fund revenues. We will be working with the City Council Budget and Finance Committee to identify opportunities to offset revenue losses while continuing to provide exemplary services to the community.

The City will start the public budget meetings at the end of July, discussing the update of expenditure and revenue projections as the foundation for the 2021/2022 Biennial Budget. The upcoming budget will have numerous challenges, such as the passage of Initiative 976 where the City lost over \$430,000 in annual road maintenance, and the uncertain economic future due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the economy will respond. The finalized budget calendar will be posted on the City's website.

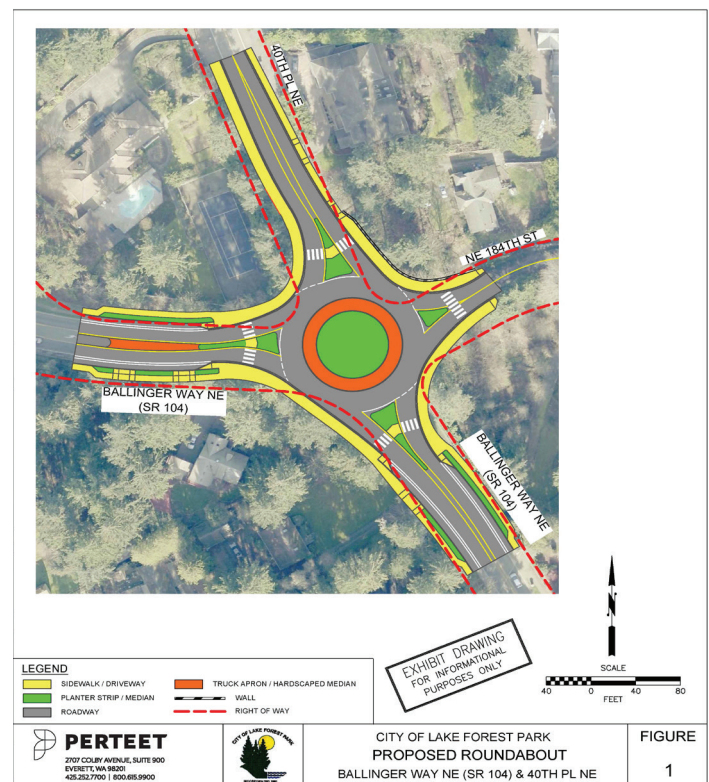
The budget process will be open and transparent, with departmental presentations and community partner presentations in August. At the first Council meeting in September the Administration will present the Mayor's Proposed 2021/2022 Biennial Budget to City Council. Following that meeting, the Budget & Finance Committee, City Council, and public will all provide input for consideration. The City will then hold multiple public hearings in October and November on the property tax levy, utility rates, and other budget-related items. The City Council and City Administration are dedicated to adopting a balanced budget during these uncertain times.

## Project Update – SR 104 (Ballinger Way NE)/40th Place NE/NE 184th Street Roundabout

The City is beginning design work for a roundabout at the SR 104 (Ballinger Way NE)/40th Place NE/NE 184th Street intersection. This is a skewed, four-legged intersection that is problematic for many users, including misaligned legs that lead to confusion over which route is SR 104 (Ballinger Way NE), and lack of sight distance which makes turning left onto SR 104 and pedestrian crossings hazardous. Moreover, the intersection lacks amenities for those choosing to walk or bike.

Safety shortcomings and solutions at the intersection were identified in the City's *Safe Highways* study which was completed in 2018. An outcome of this study was identifying and ranking proposed safety improvements at several SR 104 intersections. A roundabout was deemed the best solution that achieved safety goals with the least effect on traffic operations.

Design for the roundabout will begin in the second half of 2020, with construction scheduled for summer 2022. Funding for this project includes a \$2.56 million grant from the state Transportation Improvement Board and a \$650,000 grant from the state's transportation fund.



Roundabout Vicinity Map



## Letter from Planning Commission Chair and Planning Director

In April and May, the Planning Commission held virtual meetings using the Zoom meeting platform. City Council has been doing the same, requesting email public comments and reading them during the meeting. Prior to the May Planning Commission meeting, 16 email comments were received. Many of the comment emails raise the concern that city staff and consultants were taking advantage of the pandemic to make code writing decisions without review by the public and the Planning Commission.

For those who will take the time to visit the [Town Center Process](#) page of the City website there is ample evidence that the draft code that is being written is also being reviewed by the Planning Commission and the subject of numerous public comments. You will see that the Commission has recommended some code changes to the Council for consideration. In order for any new regulation to be implemented, though, it has to be adopted by the City Council. That cannot happen until the Council can resume regular meetings and conduct public workshops and hearings.

In September 2019, Council adopted a moratorium on development in the Town Center and then extended it another six months in February. The moratorium was adopted to put a hold on applications for development while the City prepares code changes that implement the vision for Town Center and foster better development than could have been achieved through the current code. State law requires that, when a moratorium is enacted, a city must have a plan for what it is going to do to address the issue that created the need for it. When it extended the moratorium, the Council included the following language in its ordinance: "The Planning Director and/or his designee is authorized and directed to continue to develop appropriate Comprehensive Plan and development regulation pursuant to Washington

law, for review and recommendation for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan and LFPMC regarding Town Center."

If the Council decides to extend the moratorium again, it will be important to show that the City is making progress in its planning and code writing. With that in mind, the Planning Commission asked City staff to develop a work plan for the rest of the code update once it had recommended the first installment of regulations and design guidelines to Council. A draft work plan for the second phase was sent to the Commission on May 6 and posted on the webpage listed above for public review. At the May 12 meeting, the Commission discussed the draft work plan and found it to be too aggressive. Commissioners asked for a revised work plan that emphasized providing more information up front on the factors that need to be considered when making the important decisions about residential density, allowable building height, and open space requirements. At the June and July virtual meetings, the Commission will be reviewing the revised work plan and discussing these important topics. We invite you to join us.

Joel Paisner  
Planning Commission Chair

Steve Bennett  
Planning Director





## City Communications

Stay in touch with the City in between the quarterly print newsletter by signing up for the new monthly eNewsletter.

We encourage all who are interested in receiving updates and timely information to subscribe to one or more of the subscriber lists [here](#).

- City Council Agendas (regular meetings & work sessions)
- City eNewsletter
- Early Recreation Registration
- LFP Times (quarterly print newsletter)
- Planning Announcements
- Town Center Vision
- Emergency Alerts
- Bid/RFP Postings
- News Flash
- Events Calendar
- Meetings Calendar



## Natural Lawn Care – Puget Sound Starts Here

Spring is here, summer is approaching, and it's a great time to get your grass back into shape. Whether it is brown and needs some rejuvenation or you just want to give it a bit of extra vibrancy, be sure to take the proper steps to enhance your lawn as well as protect the environment.

When the rain comes around, use a slow release fertilizer, but be careful. Pay close attention to the recommended amounts for application. Too much fertilizer can lead to pollutant runoff, where excess fertilizer not absorbed in the soil flows into the nearest waterway. Also, be aware of hard surfaces like sidewalks, driveways and roadways near your application area. Sweep all fertilizer granules from hard surfaces to prevent pollutant runoff from entering the storm drains.

For helpful information, additional resources, and answers to your questions, check out the [Garden Hotline](#).



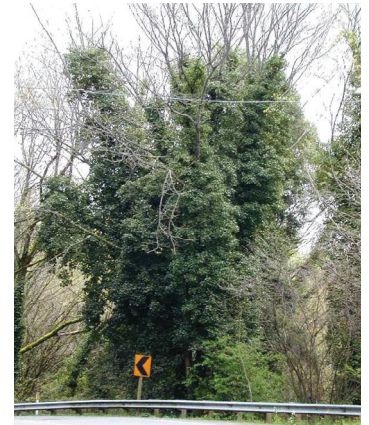
## Participate in the Tree Board's Ivy Out Contest This Summer!

Up for a challenge?

Looking for a new gardening project? Let's see how much English Ivy Lake Forest Park residents can remove this summer!

English Ivy is an invasive plant that threatens the health of our urban forest ecosystems. You can help our ecosystems thrive and win a monthly plant prize by helping remove invasive English Ivy from your property. The Ivy

Out contest, brought to you by the Lake Forest Park Tree Board, will last throughout the summer months (June through September). To participate, submit pictures of your ivy removal to the [Assistant Planner](#) before the end of each month and the Tree Board will pick winners at their monthly meetings. The Tree Board looks forward to receiving your submissions!



*Invasive Ivy takes over a tree*

Wondering how to remove ivy safely? The [King County Noxious Weed Board](#) has tips on how to identify ivy (page 2) and recommend manual removal practices (page 3). You can also [click here](#) to learn about long-term maintenance ideas and why ivy removal is important for our urban ecosystems.

Please note that removal of invasive plants is considered to be exempt from permitting requirements, unless the invasive plants are located within a steep slope hazard area or its buffer. If you are unsure whether the proposed removal area is located within a steep slope hazard area or have other questions, please contact the [Assistant Planner](#) for more information.

## City Council, Planning Commission, and Other City Meetings to be Held Virtually

Due to the closure of City Hall during the COVID-19 pandemic, City Hall has been closed to the public, but the City Council and Planning Commission have been holding virtual meetings, via Zoom. Beginning in June, the Tree Board and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board may also hold virtual meetings until such time as in-person meetings can safely resume.

Information on how to participate in virtual meetings is included on each agenda. If you have questions, please call City Hall at 206-368-5440.

## DIRECTORY

### CITY HALL

17425 Ballinger Way NE  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155  
M-F: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Phone: 206-368-5440  
Fax: 206-364-6521  
Web: [www.cityoflfp.com](http://www.cityoflfp.com)

### PERMIT COUNTER

Mon-Fri: 9:00am - 12:00pm  
1:00pm - 3:00pm

### PASSPORTS

M, Th & F: 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Sat: 10:00am - 3:30pm  
Phone: 206-957-2834

### MUNICIPAL COURT

M-F: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Phone: 206-364-7711  
Fax: 206-364-7712

### POLICE

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: 206-364-8216  
Domestic Violence  
Victim Advocate: 206-417-8267

**CITY HALL is CLOSED  
TO THE PUBLIC, until  
further notice.  
Please CALL if you  
have any questions.**

 Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this newsletter.



City of Lake Forest Park  
17425 Ballinger Way NE  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Connect with the City on social media and stay up to date on news & events in Lake Forest Park:

 City of Lake Forest Park • Lake Forest Park PD

 @CityofLFP • @lfpd\_police

 @city\_of\_lake\_forest\_park • @lakeforestparkpd

## Recreation Partnership with City of Shoreline

Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on government and other services, please check the **City of Shoreline** website for the latest information on program offerings and registration updates for the recreation partnership between the City of Lake Forest Park and City of Shoreline.



## No Wipes Down Pipes

Flushable wipes are not really flushable! They do not break down and can cause expensive plumbing problems in your home and damage the sewer system. Put wipes in the trash. Please only flush toilet paper! For more information:

[www.kingcounty.gov/flush](http://www.kingcounty.gov/flush)

## City Council Meetings

### City Council Regular Business Meetings

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

### City Council Work Session Meetings

4th Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

### City Council Committee of the Whole Meetings

Monday before the 4th Thurs., 6:00 p.m.

### City Council Budget & Finance Committee Meetings

3rd Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Please check our calendar online for the most current meeting updates.

[www.cityoflfp.com](http://www.cityoflfp.com)

