

LFP Times

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City Hall rainbow photo by K. Zech

Mayor's Corner – Let's Wrap up the Year Safely



Mayor Jeff Johnson

As we move into winter, we have all heard about the increasing numbers of COVID cases in Lake Forest Park, our state, and the nation. During our holiday celebrations, let's please all keep this in mind. I encourage the community to join me in adjusting expectations and celebrating safely, in small household groups.

If we all take measures to protect ourselves and our families, those measures will also help protect our neighbors. I look forward to resuming our community events and programs in 2021, as we move into subsequent phases of the state's reopening plan. Together, we will make it through to better days and a

FEWER. SHORTER. SMALLER. SAFER.

A Guide to Gathering



better 2021.

I know the Lake Forest Park community is a caring one that will continue to support our local businesses and remember those less fortunate. If you are able, please consider donating to a charity of your choice.

In whatever form they take for you and your family this year, I wish you happy holidays.

–Mayor Johnson

Council Corner – Salmon Recovery News

One of the regional organizations I serve on is the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC). Here's an update on the SRC and some of its recent work.

Washington is divided into 62 Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs). We live in WRIA 8, which includes Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, the streams that flow into them, plus Lake Union and the Ship Canal. The SRC, of which I am currently Vice-Chair, coordinates salmon recovery work in this area.

The SRC awards about \$4 million each year for habitat restoration, monitoring and education projects. It also sponsors salmon recovery research, and two major concerns have recently emerged: warm water and predation.

As water warms, it holds less dissolved oxygen, which can alter salmon migration and interfere with developmental processes. All the salmon in WRIA 8 migrate through Lake Union and the Ship Canal

twice – when leaving for the ocean, and when returning to natal streams. We know there are areas of warmer temperatures in those waters that are affecting salmon movement. The Army Corps of Engineers has tried extra lock openings to introduce cold water from the Sound, but the benefits have been very localized. Other solutions may include planting trees to increase shade and drilling wells to introduce cooler water.

Predation of juvenile salmon, especially by growing numbers of non-native fish, is emerging as another threat to salmon. Studies are underway to determine the magnitude of the problem and possible solutions.

However, there is an important way that lakeside residents can help now – by carefully managing lighting along the shoreline and on docks. Migrating juvenile salmon closely follow the lake shore, where nighttime lighting makes them more visible to predators. Lakeshore residents can help by using shoreline and dock lights only when needed and ensuring lights are aimed only where needed, not diffused.

–Councilmember Mark Phillips



Migrating juvenile salmon find refuge in mouth of Lyon Creek

Town Center Code Update Progress Report

Over the summer and fall, the City Council reviewed proposed amendments to the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code (LFPMC) pertaining to the Town Center zone recommended by the City's Planning Commission in April 2020. Most of the amendments are intended to govern parking structures such as the one that is being planned by Sound Transit for the Town Center site. The parking structure is part of the implementation of the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) high-capacity transit system expansion approved by voters in November 2016. The City Council has been reviewing code amendments addressing the following:

- **LFPMC 18.42.090 Freestanding parking structure** – setbacks, facade alignment, footprint, base height, bonus height, exceptions to base height and bonus height, pedestrian access and safety, parking decks, parking ramps, stall dimensions, bicycle use, elevators and stairwells, lighting, signage, mixed use development, and public benefits.
- **LFPMC 18.42.100 Town Center design guidelines** – guidelines for freestanding parking structures to blend with other nearby buildings, integrate public use and explore new building technologies, ground floor active use, stairwells and elevators as architectural features.
- **LFPMC 18.42.110 Administration** – new processing procedures for Design Review in the Town Center zone.
- **LFPMC 18.42.170 Development Agreement use in Town Center** – provisions in Chapter 18.42 LFPMC that may not be amended by a Development Agreement.
- **Chapter 18.72 LFPMC Development Agreement** – inclusion of general development agreement provisions including terms and conditions, a requirement for a public hearing, amendments, consistency and flexibility, and police powers.
- **Chapter 2.41 LFPMC-Design Review Board** – the creation of a Design Review Board to review and make recommendations regarding Major and Minor Town Center Design Review applications.

Council discussions of the Planning Commission's April 2020 recommendations have led to new draft amendments addressing the following issues: changing guidelines to 'shalls' that had been 'shoulds' and articulating some of the guidelines with more details; creating a non-voting Council liaison for the Design Review Board; adding provisions and definitions regarding electric vehicle charging stations; limitations on commercial uses; clarification of parking structure height limitations; clarifying bicycle storage provisions; adding pedestrian safety and security provisions; clarification of the types of



proposals that require Major or Minor Town Center Design Review and activities that are exempt from Design Review; and potential options for Council involvement in the review or appeal of larger mixed-use proposal for Town Center redevelopment.

After the Commission made its recommendation on Town Center code updates pertaining to the parking structure in April this year, there was discussion of moving on to consideration of updates that would address all types of development in the Town Center. However, due to the pandemic, the Commission shifted to virtual meetings in the spring and summer and agreed to put consideration of specific code sections and language on hold because of barriers to public involvement.

In September, the City Council adopted another six-month moratorium ordinance regarding accepting permit applications for development at the Town Center with a specific end date of March 10, 2021. Soon after, Deputy Mayor Phillippa Kassover and Council Vice-Chair Tom French sent a memorandum to the Planning Commission expressing their reluctance to extend the moratorium beyond March 10, because it might put the City in legal jeopardy. They requested that, by November 10, the Commission make recommendations on two key issues: maximum residential density and requirements/incentives for open space. They went on to state that recommendations on these issues will "...inform our [the Council's] final decisions on the entirety of the code."

The Commission made additional recommendations on November 10, which included retaining restrictions on residential uses (density) that are in the current code and clarifying the open space requirement that is included in the existing Town Center Framework Design Guidelines. Any density above seven units per acre would require the developer to enter into a development agreement with the City, which would require a public hearing before the Planning Commission and approval by the Council before the application for redevelopment is approved.

On November 12, the City Council held a public hearing. The Council heard from five individuals on topics including concerns about the role of the Design Review Board, sections of the draft code amendments that were thought to be too restrictive or too flexible, and the need for more protection for critical areas around Town Center. The Council is scheduled to hold another public hearing in January 2021, once a complete draft of the proposed Town Center code update is ready for review and possible adoption.

A Look Back

Well, there we have it, 2020 is nearly in the books. While this year will most certainly be remembered as the year people wish to forget, some truly great things have happened in the City of Lake Forest Park, despite 2020. To name a few:

- The culvert at NE 178th Street and 44th Avenue NE was completed on budget, providing access further upstream on Lyon Creek for spawning salmon;
- The picnic shelter at Pfingst Animal Acres Park was completed on budget, providing shelter for park visitors wishing to read a book, enjoy a picnic or just enjoy a serene setting;
- The City entered into a purchase agreement with Forterra, a Washington-based nonprofit, to acquire two acres of beachfront property at the north end of Lake Washington, which will provide the City's only public waterfront park;
- The City pivoted to efficiently working remotely beginning March 26, providing resiliency that will be beneficial in the event of future storm events, etc.;
- The Administration and City Council worked tirelessly to adopt a 2021-2022 biennial budget that is balanced and relies very little on reserves, even in a weak economy.



Lake Washington from Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve

While it's difficult to know "what's next," as 2020 continually seemed to have dismal answers, know that the City is positioned well, and the Administration and City Council are ready and capable of

continuing to provide exceptional service to the residents of Lake Forest Park.

Leaves, Rain, and Public Works

As we move into the rainy season and leaves fall, the Public Works Department turns its attention to the City's drainage system. Street sweeping is one component of drainage system maintenance. However, with close to 1,800 storm drains in town, we could use your help to keep the storm water flowing! The City is encouraging residents to clear any blocked storm drains that are adjacent to or in front of their property, keeping in mind the following:

- Please do not create piles of leaves expecting the sweeper to sweep them away. Use your yard waste tote so they can be composted.
- DO NOT rake leaves and debris into the street, ditch-lines, or rights-of-way.
- If the sweeper encounters large piles of leaves, the driver must drive around them or the pile of leaves could damage the street sweeper and the process could come to a screeching halt.
- Municipal Code 16.25.025 makes it illegal to collect lawn clippings, leaves or branches and discharge them into the path of surface water.
- Never try to clear a storm drain or culvert if there is moving water greater than knee deep, and always be wary of traffic when working near a roadway.

Wet leaves are surprisingly heavy, so be careful not to overexert yourself. Debris from storm drains should be placed in yard waste containers. If flooding is severe, or you find evidence of dumping, please call 206-368-5440. If you need to report an after-hours public works emergency, please call 206-296-8100.

This is also a good reminder to keep an eye on vegetation encroaching into the right-of-way. This affects the City's ability to sweep streets, and creates sightline hazards for pedestrians, bikers, and vehicles. Please help us by keeping trees and shrubs trimmed to no more than 12 feet above the walkway and street surface so the community can enjoy the walkways and have a clear sightline of traffic.



Street Sweeper

For more information on flood protection, go to:

<https://www.cityofflp.com/417/Flood-Preparation>

Power Outage Season is Here!

While most power outages only last for short periods of time, major outages from stormy winter weather can leave you without electricity for several days. Report outages to Seattle City Light and only call 9-1-1 if there is a life safety or emergency issue, such as a downed power line. Find out how you can be ready. For more tips, head to: <https://www.cityofflp.com/431/Wind-Power-Outages>.

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

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.**

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

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 City of Lake Forest Park • Lake Forest Park PD

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 @city_of_lake_forest_park • @lakeforestparkpd

Sewer Rate Increase for 2021

Your sewer bill is made up of two parts. King County assesses a fee for the cost of the disposal of the sewage – the operation of sewage treatment plants and the maintenance of the facilities. The county portion is the largest part of the bill. In 2021, the county charge will increase from \$45.33 to \$47.37 per month; the City portion will remain the same for 2021, at \$19.02 per month for single family residences. As a result of the increase by King County, a residential bill will increase from \$128.70 every two months to \$132.78.

For more information, visit the City website: <https://www.cityoflfp.com/276/Sewer-Rates>

Lake Forest Park Recreation Opportunities with the City of Shoreline

Lake Forest Park Residents have the opportunity for early recreation registration and receive an 8% discount on all program fees (not rentals) through the entire year! To receive timely notice of the early registration dates, sign up for reminders through the City's website, Facebook and Twitter.

The City offers scholarship reimbursements for eligible youth and specialized recreation participants who reside in the City and are registered for and attend cultural, recreation, or aquatic programs and camps.

You may also find more information on how to register, scholarship opportunities, or the partnership with City of Shoreline at <https://www.cityoflfp.com/396/Recreation-Partnership-with-Shoreline>; or, call City Hall, 206-368-5440.

City Council Meetings

City Council Regular Business Meetings

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

City Council Work Session Meetings

2nd 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

