



BUDGET, Mayor Jim Lauinger

POLICE, Councilmember Bob Sternoff

1. Neighborhood Safety -- house and car break-ins, drug use in parks.

Response: Officers continually conduct walk through patrols in the parks. There has been an increase in vehicle prowls due to valuable items being left in vehicles in plain view (GPS, IPOD, laptops). A press release was developed to educate the community about these thefts and provide them with crime prevention tips.

Crime stats from 01/01/08 – 05/13/08 in the North Rose Hill Neighborhood:

Burglaries - 23

Motor vehicle prowls - 51

Arrests or reported drug usage in the parks - 0

2. Would like a little more Police presence to deter speeders.

Response: Officers actively pursue traffic complaints from Kirkland citizens and they have been involved in a several speeding emphasis patrols. From 01/01/08 – 05/13/08, Officers have conducted **652** traffic stops in the North Rose Hill Neighborhood.

PUBLIC WORKS

Pedestrian safety and services, Deputy Mayor Joan McBride

3. We need for more sidewalks and streetlights in the neighborhood; allowing developers to fund sidewalks for just the "street house" when homes extend behind; lack of adequate public transportation; need for better enforcement of pedestrian right-of-way.

Response: The City can only require developers to improve their respective street frontage with sidewalks and street lights when they develop the property. Sidewalk funding for other street frontages becomes the City's responsibility via our Capital Improvement Program, or by future development. Each year, private development in the City installs 1.5 to 2 miles of new sidewalk.

4. Is there any plan to build sidewalks on 124th Avenue between 85th and 80th Street? There are so many LWHS students that walk home or take buses from there. It's necessary to have sidewalks there.

Response: The City will be installing sidewalks along 124th Avenue from NE 80th to NE 85th Street beginning as early as 2009. These sidewalk improvements, partially funded by Sound Transit, are being designed to connect to new sidewalks that will be installed along NE 85th Street from I-405 east to 132nd Ave NE; this project will also complete the sidewalks on 124th Ave between NE 85th Street and NE 90th Street. Due to the number of properties affected by the improvements, issues regarding easements, driveway reconfigurations, and property values must be resolved prior to final design and construction. However, the design is well underway.

5. Concern; sidewalks are for pedestrians – not for vehicles parking, sand/water filled basketball stands, no waste containers over 24 hour and storage. Recommendation: either mailed reminders or education, or strengthening of rules/ordinances and enforcement of such rules/regulations.

Response: Public Works Neighborhood Traffic Control can coordinate this issue. We've found that the best way to handle these situations is to work directly with those who do recurring blocking rather than send out general messages. We've had generally good luck in getting the sidewalk cleared when we've

made direct contact with the people who are doing the parking or who have the basketball hoop. So, if you find something blocking please let Noel Schoneman know at (425) 587-3870 or nschoneman@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

6. It would be great if we can continue the sidewalks on 124th Avenue all the way between 85th Street and 116th Street. There are lots of bus stops and it is a bit scary to walk there.

Response: Much of the sidewalk that exists has been built by developers that are required to install curb gutter and sidewalk when they build projects. There are several such sections in the process of being developed, but as you point out, there are still some sections where there are no sidewalks on either side of the street. As development continues these sections will be filled in, but sidewalk can also be constructed through our Capital Improvement Program. We have an unfunded project to fill in three lanes where there are two now; that would include construction of sidewalks and bike lanes. Also, in the upcoming CIP process we will rank the segments where there is some sidewalk already in place, but it is not complete on either side of the street. This will allow us to leverage existing sidewalk and close gaps.

7. What are the plans for sidewalks in the 90th and Costco area?

Response: The City will be installing sidewalks along both sides of 124th Ave NE from NE 85th to NE 90th Street beginning as early as 2009. Other planned improvements, currently not funded, include sidewalk along NE 90th Street from 120th Ave NE to 124th Ave NE.

8. Why are the "sidewalks" on Rose Hill such a mess? There is no place to push a stroller or walk safely on 85th or 128th.

Response: The City now funds approximately \$1 million worth of sidewalks per year throughout the City based on a consistent set of selection criteria. Elements evaluated include traffic volumes, existing conditions, proximity to schools or parks, and the like. Although this appears to be a large amount of funding, construction costs have continued to escalate. Over the last few years, while general inflation has been 3-4% per year, construction costs have gone up from 15-20%. Sidewalks were installed along the west side of 128th Ave from NE 85th Street to Mark Twain Elementary School in 1998, and the City recently considered a grant application to provide for sidewalk along the west side of 128th Ave NE between NE 80th Street and NE 85th Street. NE 85th Street will have continuous sidewalks between I-405 and 132nd Ave NE in the next couple of years – the project is currently under design and is funded in the City's CIP. Spending in the North and South Rose Hill neighborhoods for sidewalks accounts for approximately one half of total spending on sidewalks over the last 10 years.

Street Lights:

9. The lights on the public walkway in Lake Kirkland Park Condominium has been burnt out for years and we are unable to get anyone from the City to provide an answer on when it will be replaced.

Response: The Street Department handles street light requests and will follow-up on this item. If you have additional questions, please contact John Hopfauf, Street Division Manager at 425-587-3911.

10. How do I get the street light bulb fixed above our mailboxes on 101st Place in front of 2nd cul de sac?

Response: The Street Department has forwarded this request to Puget Sound Energy's subcontractor, Intolight, for repair.

Traffic, Councilmember Dave Asher and Councilmember Jessica Greenway

11. Traffic Issues -- cut-through traffic from 85th into neighborhoods (that current speed humps, etc. don't eliminate), additional potential cut-through personal and delivery traffic from 85th islands, current traffic on 124th Ave. N.E. between N.E. 85th & N.E. 116th with more planned development adding to it.

Response: Public Works will work with the NRH Neighborhood to identify streets of concern and conduct traffic counts (speeds and volumes) on those streets before and after the median islands and other revisions are made on NE. 85th Street. We will use that information to work with the neighborhood to

develop any neighborhood traffic control strategies that may be needed. Our recommendation will be to focus on managing traffic speeds and not on diverting traffic. Meanwhile, the current speed humps and speed cushions seem to be working well:

- 128th Ave NE at about NE 87th St (3 speed humps)
 - o 24.8 mph and 1340 vehicles per day in March 2005
- NE 90th St east of 124th Ave NE (2 speed cushions and 2 speed humps)
 - o 26.8 mph and 375 vehicles per day in March 2005
 - o 26.7 mph and 420 vehicles per day in June 2007

12. The portion of 124th Avenue NE between NE 85th Street and NE 116th Street is now heavily residential. The speed limit needs to be lowered from 35 to 30 as was done on 132nd Avenue NE south of 85th.

Response: Public Works will investigate to see if the speed limit can be lowered. We will make a speed study as a first step to see what the data shows. There are two tricky, often misunderstood and counterintuitive elements to setting speed limits. First, on streets like 124th Ave, lowering speed limits doesn't make any significant change in how fast people drive. This has been proven by several national studies and by experience in Kirkland. The second confusing fact is that the speed limit is based on how fast people are driving in the first place. If a study of the speeds shows people are driving relatively fast, the speed limit is set higher. With development on 124th Avenue, the speeds may well support a lower speed limit, just like they did on 132nd Avenue. If you have questions about this request or speed limits in general, contact Iris Cabrera at (425) 587-3866 or icabrera@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

13. We are having a problem with excessive speeding down 132nd Avenue NE. It is scary to turn into our driveway as I think I will get rear-ended by a speeder. Can you please drop the speed limit to 30 mph?

Response: Please see response to number 12. The process for 132nd Avenue north of NE 85th would be the same.

14. I have lived on Slater for 35 years. I think there should be a speed bump, round placed between NE 100th and NE 104th not at each end. This is the drag strip, all you are doing is placing a starting point and finish line.

Response: The plan to install a traffic circle, median islands, and curb bulbs was developed by a Task Force of 9 residents along Slater Ave NE. One of their objectives is to address the high speed, racing traffic as you noted, by breaking up the long stretches of Slater Ave NE. This Task Force considered speed cushions, but felt that they would not be accepted by the larger community. Their plan will be brought to a neighborhood vote this month, so it will be important for you to consider their whole plan, to vote, and to express your opinions on that ballot.

15. Do we have any info on traffic volumes on 124th and 124th since the 128th O/P project was completed? Or, do we have plans to do that to compare before and after 128th construction.

Response: We do counts every other year and since we did our count program in 2007, we will not do it until 2009. But, in a way, it is better to wait a while so traffic patterns get settled.

16. If the signals at 124th Ave NE and NE 116th street were better coordinated w those near the freeway and others then traffic would move a lot smoother.

Response: Ideally the traffic signals on NE 116th Street should be synchronized, but the problem is that at present there is no conduit/wire/fiber along the corridor between the northbound off ramp and 124th Ave NE. Eventually, as part of the I-405 Interchange reconstruction, the signals will be interconnected and will be able to coordinate them.

17. The offset intersection at 90th and 122nd is a big problem – even without Costco – can we do something about overall safety, driveways and sight distance.

Response: We will check into the accident history and see what can be done.

Miscellaneous Public Works:

18. How far does the sewer extend from 124th Avenue up the road of NE 104th Street?

Response: Rob Jammerman, Development Engineering Manager, called the requestor on May 8th and discussed the location of the sewer on NE 104th Street. Most of 104th Street now has sewer with the exception on short section between 129th Ave. NE and 130th Ave. NE.

19. I would like to have open storm drainage covered at street in front of my house. This would provide better walking next to street as I have no sidewalk. This is needed in several locations in area.

Response: The Public Works Department does not have a ditch filling program (installing culverts in the ditch) unless it is associated with a street improvement project such as new sidewalk installation. Public Works will contact the requestor to see if they are interested in engineering and installing the culverts themselves and if so, will discuss the permitting process as well as the environmental benefits of leaving the ditch as is.

20. What are your plans to cut back trees from power lines located on 124th Avenue NE?

Response: This particular area is the responsibility of Puget Sound Energy, as the City is not permitted to trim trees near power lines.

21. How and when will the storm water and silt problem running into Forbes Lake be taken care of? If this problem is not addressed and taken care of, eventually there will be no lake and many more property owners will be drowning in the run off.

Response: City staff is currently in a mediation process with property owners in the vicinity of NE 90th/120th NE to explore potential solutions that would improve the aesthetics and function of this area for the community. Staff and Council understand that in it's current state the area is an eyesore due to trash and older structures. This issue is complex as it requires balancing wetland preservation, stormwater management practices, and property rights with community needs. The wetlands around Forbes Lake were ditched/drained in the approximately the 1900's to make way for agriculture – the area contained truck gardens until approximately 1970. Once ditching stopped, the area reverted to its wet and marshy state. In addition, the amount of water reaching this area has grown, as much of the 375 acre upstream watershed was developed prior to requirements for storm water detention facilities. Solutions developed through mediation will be presented to the neighborhood and then to the City Council for consideration.

22. What happens to the area around Forbes Creek Lake – it is so ugly now.

Response: See above.

23. Proper maintenance of public pathways.

Response: The total budget for path maintenance is \$25k per year. We dedicate 50 manhours to this task and augment this with approx 900 seasonal manhours. We have just over 180 path/trail sections in the inventory. Most of them are maintained by Public Grounds, some are maintained by the Parks Dept., and a few are privately maintained. Public Grounds strives to visit each of their path sections two times per year. Questions about paths/trails or maintenance concerns can be sent to Wendy Kremer at 425 587 3908.

PLANNING

Potential Costco gas station, Council members Mary Alyce Burleigh and Tom Hodgson

24. Potential Costco Gas Station -- concerns regarding impacts on air quality, wetlands, pedestrian safety and cut-through traffic.

Response: As part of the 2007/2008 City of Kirkland Comprehensive Plan amendment process, Costco proposed a plan amendment and rezone to allow the construction of a gas station on the Costco parking lot north of NE 90th St (note: zoning regulations already allow a gas station to be built south of NE 90th St.). At that time, the City Council delayed consideration of the proposal and instead initiated a series of meetings between Costco and interested neighbors. The intent of the meetings was for all parties to better understand Costco's proposal and to identify issues of concern. The meetings were recently concluded. Within the next month, the meeting facilitator will send a report to the City Council, at which time the Council will determine whether the Costco proposal will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for further consideration.

25. Many people come to Kirkland to shop at Costco and spend a lot of money. At 120th and 90th, what do you think of the visual impacts and safety hazards posed by stagnant water, floating rubbish, etc.?

Response: Many of the properties north and east of Costco (near Forbes Lake) contain wetlands. City, state and federal laws limit development activity in and near wetlands due to their value for protecting fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. It is unfortunate that wetlands and other undeveloped areas may collect rubbish. The City encourages all property owners to pick up litter and maintain their property in good condition.

26. Kirkland keeps trying to reach a compromise with Costco on the proposed gas station. Many of us don't want it because of environmental and traffic concerns. Why can't we just say no?

Response: As noted above, the City Council wanted to open a dialogue between Costco and neighbors before deciding on whether to allow further consideration of a plan amendment and rezone. The City respects the interests of both neighborhoods and businesses and would like to see if there are ways for both to be accommodated. It should be noted that the City increasingly depends on sales taxes collected by businesses to provide basic City services to neighborhoods. Costco is the single largest sales tax generator in the City.

27. What are the City's plans to remedy the surface/storm water problem at 90th and Costco?

Response: There are no firm plans at this point in time. However, representatives of the Public Works and Planning departments have entered into discussions with property owners on the south side of Forbes Lake to see if solutions are possible.

28. Can you promise that there won't be any more Honda incursions into the neighborhood? That was a breach of faith.

Response: Businesses, like Honda, are limited to commercial zones consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The boundaries between commercial and residential zones in the Comprehensive Plan are intended to provide long term stability. Although there is a process every other year that allows property owners to propose amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, the City Council has no intention of adjusting commercial/ residential boundaries in the foreseeable future.

Change in neighborhood character, Council members Mary Alyce Burleigh and Tom Hodgson

29. Large houses on small lots and loss of trees, environmental impact of losing pervious soil from large houses and garages on small lots, loss of trees from commercial development such as N.E. 85th & 126th.

Response: City regulations set limits on all of the above aspects of development. Many of these regulations have been updated in recent years. An update to tree regulations is planned for later this year.

30. We have enough high density housing on 130th Avenue NE and near it. The street feeds into Mark Twain school, it is a narrow street with sidewalks on one side only. The city is issuing noncompliant (w/minimum lot size) building permits, despite the City's denials.

Response: Density is governed by zoning. Properties along NE 130th Ave NE near Mark Twain Elementary are within a single family zone which establishes a minimum lot size of 7200 sq. ft. In limited circumstances defined by the City's subdivision ordinance, lots may be slightly smaller than 7200 sq. ft.

The City also recently adopted regulations that allow cottage housing in single family neighborhoods. Cottage housing may have more units on a piece of property than normal single family houses, but cottages are more limited in size and the total amount of floor area within a cottage development is less than a development of normal single family homes.

31. Rose Hill Development is too much. 124th Street is congested now. You have a park (Woodland with playground) and no parking but 2 crosswalks that hold up traffic and you keep approving development. People always wonder if the City officials are bribed.

Response: Parking for North Rose Hill Woodlands Park is available on the street on NE 95th as well as NE 100th streets. Due to width and traffic safety issues, parking on 124th Ave. NE is not feasible. The overall development plan for the park does not currently allow for a parking lot within the park itself, and any new parking would come at the expense of existing meadows and open space. Parks staff will continue to monitor the parking situation at Woodlands Park to determine if any further parking improvements are required.

With regard to the amount of development, people have a right to build on their property as long as they conform to zoning and other development regulations – and there are many such regulations. Long range transportation plans predict that traffic will continue to get worse – both due to growth in Kirkland and growth in neighboring cities. Even so, the City invests millions of dollars to improve roads. Fees are collected from new development to help offset the cost of such improvements.

See also the answer to question 30 about state requirements for the City to accommodate growth.

32. Stop the insanity, no more building! My neighbors and I are sick to death of the City approving every single building request regardless of the negative impact. Traffic is horrible in Kirkland. My friends refuse to come here anymore. The traffic has become ridiculous. Everywhere trees are being pulled up to put in more condos, townhouses, shops, etc.

Response: See the responses to questions 25 - 27 and 29.

33. Kirkland residents do not want the growth that is currently happening. What makes Kirkland special is the small town feel. More condos and taller buildings are ruining our wonderful town. Please stop this.

Response: Growth is not unique to Kirkland; it is happening throughout the Puget Sound area and is forecasted to continue for years to come. According to the Puget Sound Regional Council, another 1.7 million people are expected within King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties by 2040, plus another 1.1 million jobs! Under the state Growth Management Act, cities must plan to accommodate this growth and the preferred location is within existing cities, particularly within and close to City centers. Every 10 years, growth projections are updated and each city is assigned growth targets that we are required to plan for. Kirkland's current growth targets are for 5,480 new housing units and 8,800 new jobs between the years 2001 and 2022. Our targets will be updated in 2010. Growth in Kirkland is expected to occur both by the continued infilling of vacant land and through redevelopment at higher densities. Although the greatest amount of growth planned near our business centers – Totem Lake, Downtown and along NE 85th St., new single family homes can be expected within our neighborhoods. New growth will inevitably change the character of the City. However, it is a high priority for the City to manage growth and accommodate higher densities in a way that maintains and enhances the livability of our neighborhoods.

34. Have you traveled on the roads (124th, 85th and 132nd) during rush hour? They are extremely congested, yet you allow extremely high density buildings to continue.

Response: See responses to questions above.

35. Big houses crammed onto tiny lots leaves no room for trees or sense of neighborhood. High density housing can be arranged aesthetically, not the case along 124th Avenue NE north and south of 85th.

Response: There are numerous regulations governing the construction of housing, including limits on lot coverage (the amount of structures, pavement and hard surfaces on a site) and floor area (based on a percentage of lot area). Trees are required to be saved where feasible and new trees are required to be planted to meet a specified tree density. Even so, new construction typically results in greater lot coverage

and fewer trees than existed prior to development.

36. Empty properties or not maintained: There are places on 90th Street, 128th Ave, etc where blackberry bushes periodically block the sidewalks or the views down the street for cars. Is the city in charge of cutting branches etc back?

Response: Property owners are responsible for maintaining their property to prevent safely hazards in the abutting roads. Vegetation should be trimmed away from sidewalks and out of sight lines at intersections. Please report properties of concern to Noel Schoneman in the Public Works Department at nschoneman@ci.kirkland.wa.us or 425-587-3870.

37. We are not sure how the "City of Trees" can allow existing houses to be torn down and replaced by 3,000 square foot houses that occupy a foot print of 95% of the lot. Green? How?

Response: See the answer to question 31 above. In single family zones, houses and other impervious surfaces are restricted to no more than 50% of a lot. The remaining 50% is available for planting trees or other vegetation.

PARKS

38. More (some) parking is needed off 124th Avenue and Woodlands Park. Parking could be in ROW or on Park Property.

Response: Parking for North Rose Hill Woodlands Park is available on the street on NE 95th as well as NE 100th streets. Due to width and traffic safety issues, parking on 124th Ave. NE is not feasible. The overall development plan for the park does not currently allow for a parking lot within the park itself, and any new parking would come at the expense of existing meadows and open space. Parks staff will continue to monitor the parking situation at Woodlands Park to determine if any further parking improvements are required.

MISCELLANEOUS

39. Are there any plans to have free city WIFI in Kirkland?

Response: We have free wi-fi available in Peter Kirk Park, including at the pool, and all the way west to Marina Park. We often have thirty or forty users on the system at any given time. This covers much of the downtown. We looked at city-wide wi-fi and found it was too expensive. With the current budgetary challenges, we are hopeful that we can continue to offer the current service, and we don't expect any expansion in the next two years.

40. Power lines which cut through 90th Street: there are heaps of garbage and trash under these power lines, causing quite an eyesore. Is this city land or do we need to contact the electric company to get it cleaned up? |

Response: The City does not own or maintain land beyond City right of way within power easements and under transmission lines. The power lines that run through North Rose Hill belong to Seattle City Light. You report illegal dumping to Seattle City Light at 206-684-7587 or call Brent Schmidt at (206) 386-1902 concerning the condition of the right of way.

41. Is there a neighborhood cleanup day for picking up trash and tree branches? I'm sure many people would participate if this were organized twice a year.

Response: The North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association is a very active neighborhood and may be interested in organizing this type of event. Please contact your neighborhood association to pursue this idea.

42. Why do you allow so many illegal (not legal) people to rent and live in the Shawnee Village Apartments (12821 126th Way, NE).

Response: Enforcement of U.S. immigrations laws is generally the responsibility of federal law enforcement. If the Kirkland Police Department learns of suspicious activity which may involve an undocumented immigrant, the Department contacts U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

43. Using orange construction signs to inform residents of City events is not the most aesthetically pleasing way to accomplish this.

Response: We do limit the duration and use of the electronic reader board for the purpose of announcing events. However, this method of communication is much less expensive and more effective than direct mailings. In the future we hope to have attractive/permanent reader boards at local fire stations.

44. Do away with 2 year home remodel permits go back to 6 month permits.

Response: The City never had a 6 month permit. We had a permit that was good for 12 months but could have 6 month extensions. It turned out to be a lot of clerical work giving out and tracking deadlines and extensions. Our current process does not allow for any extensions.