

KIRKLAND CITY UPDATE

The Official Newsletter of the City of Kirkland, Washington | 2nd Quarter, 2009

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www.ci.kirkland.wa.us



Annexation Update: Council Decides Key Issues

Several key milestones and decisions have been made by the City and other agencies that have advanced the annexation process.

At its July 21 meeting, the City Council adopted zoning regulations (Ordinance 4196) for the proposed annexation area (PAA) that define land use designations, identify allowed uses within each land use zone and regulate such things as building height and setbacks. The Council also approved (Resolution R-4763) calling for a special election to be held in conjunction with the General Election on November 3, 2009 for the purpose of placing annexation on the ballot. On July 27, the King County Council passed Ordinance 2009-0417 establishing November 3, 2009 as the date of the annexation election. The City has filed a ballot title with

King County Elections Office. To view Ordinance 4196 and Resolution R-4763, go the Annexation webpage at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation.

In June, the City hosted three community meetings to share current information about the annexation process. More than 300 people attended and had the opportunity to receive answers to questions and concerns. Zoning, public safety and city finances were common themes of interest for attendees.

An informational open house was held in late June on proposed zoning regulations for the potential annexation area (PAA). The City Council received community comment on the proposed zoning at two public hearings and through emails and correspondence. At these hearings, the Council discussed

(See "Annexation" on page 7)

Bringing a New Meaning to Home Shopping Network

Thanks to the vision and synergy from local Kirkland businesses and funding from the State Community, Trade and Economic Development, Kirkland residents can now tap into a virtual home shopping network – www.KirklandFirst.org. "Kirkland First" is a free online business directory of Kirkland-based businesses that allows you to search

local and buy local while also keeping current on local events, information on how to green your business sales, networking, and educational opportunities.

For a free listing, businesses must have a Kirkland business address, a valid Kirkland business license, and accurate contact information so potential customers can find them easily.

Last year the City commissioned an assessment of the Kirkland economy to determine, among other things, the goods and services that Kirkland residents depend upon and want nearby. Through an online survey, more than 200 residents reflected that they want to shop in Kirkland but go outside the City for certain products and services such as automotive purchases and health and personal care services. This online directory will help residents find most of what they need close to home and keep dollars circulating in the local economy.

Registration is available for qualified businesses at www.KirklandFirst.org.



Neighborhood News: Council Meets with Neighborhoods



What do street lights, benches, park improvements, and a rope climbing structure have in common? They are the top priority improvement projects that the residents of the Central Houghton neighborhood voted on in February of this year to be funded through the City's Neighborhood Connection Program.

The Neighborhood Connection Program allocates money for small capital improvement projects. Every third year, residents of a particular neighborhood are encouraged to participate in the process of suggesting and voting on proposed improvement projects. City funding is applied to the top "vote getters."

Priority projects for Central Houghton include

- Adding street lights to existing poles at various locations
- Replacing street lights with dark sky lighting fixtures at 108th Avenue NE/NE 47th Street (north corner opposite Phyllis Needy Park)
- Installing three benches along NE 68th Street and 108th Avenue NE
- Improving the trail system at Watershed Park to mitigate areas where seasonal drainage issues occur
- Adding native plantings to Carillon Woods Park to benefit wildlife.
- Purchasing and installing a rope climbing structure at Community School campus.



Trail improvements have begun at Watershed Park.



Have you visited the Neighborhood Services website lately?
Have you subscribe to Neighborhood E-Bulletin?
Log on to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.

The total cost of these improvements is \$30,000 and volunteer support will be needed in order to complete several projects.

Next year, Norkirk neighborhood residents will participate in the same process.

Neighborhood Association Meeting Days and Information

Central Houghton

1st Wednesday of every month, 7:00 pm

www.houghtonlives.com

CENTRAL HOUGHTON AND LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORHOODS HOUGHT DOWN INFO:

Terrace Park

Monday, September 7, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Everest

4th Tuesday odd months, 7:00 pm

www.everestneighborhood.org

SUMMER PICNIC INFO:

Everest Park

Sunday, August 23, 3-7 pm

Highlands

3rd Thursday odd months, 7:00 pm

www.kirklandhighlands.org

SUMMER PICNIC INFO:

Highlands Park

Sunday, September 13, 12-4 pm

Juanita Neighborhoods

4th Thursday every month, 7:00 pm

www.juanitaneighborhoods.com

Lakeview

4th Monday odd months, 7:00 pm

Houghton Fire Station, 6602 108th Ave.

(See Central Houghton for Summer picnic info.)

Market

3rd Wednesday odd months, 7:00 p.m.

www.marketneighborhood.org

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTY INFO:

Heritage Park and walk to Marian Pavilion

Sunday, October 25, 4-6 pm

Moss Bay

3rd Monday odd months, 7:00 p.m.

www.mossbay.org

Norkirk

1st Wednesday even months, 7:00 pm

<http://norkirk.wordpress.com>

SUMMER PICNIC INFO:

Crestwoods Park

Saturday, August 29, 12-4 pm

North Rose Hill

3rd Monday odd months, 7:00 pm

www.north-rosehill.org

South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails

2nd Tuesday odd months, 7:00 pm

www.rosetrails.org

SUMMER PICNIC INFO:

Ben Franklin Elementary School

Saturday, August 8, 12:00 pm

Totem Lake

3rd Wednesday every month, 7:00 p.m.

www.totemlakeneighborhood.org



Council Takes Action to Build a More Sustainable Budget

PROPOSED UTILITY TAX INCREASE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

On August 4, the City Council approved placing a proposed 1.5% increase to the tax rate paid for telephone, electricity, and natural gas on the November 3 General Election ballot. If approved, the City Council intends to apply the same increase in the tax rate to cable services.*

Kirkland residents will have the opportunity to vote whether or not to approve the proposed private utility tax rate increase, which would help to preserve the maintenance level of City parks and related programs, neighborhood liaison functions in the Police Department, support for volunteer programs in the Fire Department, funding for neighborhood traffic control, and other neighborhood City services. Additional information regarding the services that will be reduced if the proposed private utility tax rate increase is not approved by Kirkland residents can be found by clicking on "Budget Reductions" in the "What's New" section of the [City's Budget page](#). More details will also be provided in the next issue of City Update.

Passage of the voted utility tax increase would preserve service levels that are included in the adopted 2009-2010 Budget and would contribute toward a more sustainable revenue base because the City will rely less on unpredictable sales tax revenues. The 2009-2010 Budget was balanced assuming a successful vote in 2009 to increase the private utility tax. The current tax rate for privately-provided utilities is set at 6% - the maximum rate allowed under state law without a vote of the people. If approved, the same tax increase would apply for cable services, a tax rate not subject to voter approval.

An estimated \$2.24 million in annual revenue would be generated if voters approved the increase. The impact on customer bills

is \$1.50 per \$100 of utility charges for residential and non-residential (e.g. commercial) customers. An estimated average impact for a residential customer is approximately \$6 per month or \$72 per year, although impacts will vary based on household size, service provider choices, and utility usage.

If Kirkland residents do not approve the proposed increase in the private utility tax rate, service levels for parks, public safety, neighborhood, and other services would need to be reduced. A utility tax tends to increase with inflation which can help match the growth of City costs. Utility customers have some level of control over how much they pay if they are able to reduce their usage.

The City Council has deliberated over the past several months on additional budget reductions to keep City expenses in sync

with available revenue sources should the private utility tax increase not be approved. The situation is all too familiar. In 2008, as the Council progressed through the adoption of the 2009-2010

Budget, it faced a multi-million dollar budget gap between City expenses and projected revenue. The gap was primarily created by the sagging local, regional and national economies and the higher costs of goods and services.

To address the structural imbalance, the Council adopted a "blueprint" to balance the budget. The blueprint included three main strategies to close the budget gap: reduce expenses, use reserves and increase revenue. See the inset on page 7 for more details. Several revenue increase strategies were implemented in

How to Calculate the 1.5% tax increase

Natural Gas monthly bill
+ Electric monthly bill
+ Telephone monthly bill
+ Cable TV monthly bill
<hr/>
= Total
X 1.5% (.015)
<hr/>
= Average increase if private utility tax increase is approved

Internal and External Service Reduction Impacts to Date

Parks & Recreation

- Seasonal parks maintenance staff was reduced by approximately 30%.
- Less maintenance is resulting in lawns in non-waterfront parks not being watered. (Playfield turf areas, landscape beds and water right parks excluded.)
- Landscaping services in City parks and the cemetery are now reduced.
- Lifeguard hours at City beaches were reduced by 2 hours per day. Lifeguard hours are 1-7 pm (instead of 11 am - 7 pm)
- Fewer summer concert performances are occurring in 2009; none are funded in 2010.
- The Outdoor Movie at Juanita Beach Park, Polar Bear Plunge, Easter Egg Hunt and other City sponsored special events were eliminated this year.

Neighborhood Services

- The Neighborhood Connections Program (funds small capital improvement projects in neighborhoods) has been put on hold for 2009 and reduced 75% in 2010.

Public Works

- Seasonal road maintenance staff was reduced 70%. Less maintenance of right-of-way, weeding and trimming public landscape areas, curb painting and path/trail maintenance is occurring.
- Supplies and services for janitorial costs, and energy costs were reduced by 10%.

City Hall Customer Services

- City Hall reception and passport acceptance hours were reduced by 25%. Passport hours were reduced to Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Note that additional reductions, beyond those outlined above will be necessary if the voted utility tax increase is not approved.

2009, with the exception of the 1.5% private utility tax increase now being placed on the ballot.

**Article updated 8/12/09*

(See "Sustainable Budget" on page 7)

INSIDER'S VIEW: High School Modernization, Division of Labor for Building Services

What has three stories of class rooms, a gymnasium that can hold more than 2,200 spectators, and a 400-seat performing arts center? What has over 30 miles of plastic pipe installed underground to reduce heating and cooling energy consumption? What construction project involves the full range of plan review and inspection expertise? The new 212,000 square-foot Lake Washington High School, which includes Northstar Junior High School.

This massive construction project has been a division of labor for the City's Building Services Division. As is typical of larger projects, the required land grading, building, electrical, demolition and other associated permits were permitted separately. To expedite review, the plans and supporting documentation associated with these various permits were assigned to the Division's five plans examiners to ensure the structures are designed to meet building, fire, electrical, plumbing and mechanical codes.

Since construction began in May, the City's building and electrical inspectors are onsite daily—more than once



Conceptual design of Lake Washington High School (by McGranahan Architects). Northstar Junior High School is located in the southwest corner near NE 75th Street.



City Building Inspector David Thress (right) inspects the gymnasium stem walls as Assistant Superintendent John Paul (left) looks on.

on most days. During June and July, much of the concrete footings, foundations and walls were inspected and poured. To date, more than 60 inspections have been completed with more in sight as the masonry walls soon take shape.

The 25,000 square foot Performing Arts Center is taking shape quickly; most notably are the 57-foot concrete walls surrounding the stage. The theater is designed to hold 400 and will have a "fly loft" that will allow for overhead scenery changes and enhanced acoustics for multiple types of performances.

One of the many unique sustainability features of the

project is its ground loop geothermal system. This system uses the constant temperature of the earth to heat and cool a majority of the facility, thereby reducing the need to use non-renewable energy sources. Thirty miles of plastic pipe was inserted 150 feet vertically into the ground at 240 well locations.

As construction advances, the City's Building Services Division will continue to be in full swing as review of changes to design plans and inspections will be required until construction is complete, which is anticipated by fall 2011.

For more about the Building Services Division, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/building or call 425-587-3600.



The 30 miles of underground piping for the geothermal systems end into 24 above ground valves.

Project Facts

Lake Washington High and Northstar Junior High Schools are to be replaced with new buildings located south of the existing structures.

- Two phases of construction: (1) Build new school (2) Demolish old school & build new parking lot
- New buildings to include classrooms, administrative offices, common areas, performing arts center, and two gymnasiums.
- Northstar Junior High School will be located within the southwest wing of the main structure with a separate entrance from NE 75th Street
- New structures result in an overall reduction in the building footprints compared to the existing schools.
- Building placement and orientation maximizes solar exposure.
- Parking north of the building will be re-configured for 499 parking stalls. The parking lot off of NE 75th Street will be eliminated.
- Passenger drop off/pick up areas will be available from NE 80th Street (LW High) and NE 75th Street (Northstar Jr. High)
- New right-of-way Low Impact Development (LID) improvements will be installed along 122nd Avenue to allow storm water to be absorbed into the ground to keep it away from the storm drainage system.
- Walkways will be added and maintained to provide through connections throughout the campus.
- Landscaping buffer of 15 feet is required along 75th Street.

News You Can Use

Business Sponsorship Opportunities for Kirkland TV

Looking for a unique and local way to advertise your business? Become a Kirkland TV supporter and have your business be acknowledged as a sponsor for award-winning programming on the City's two TV channels– KGOV and KLIFE. Various monthly levels of sponsorship available. Call Kirkland TV at 425-587-3204 or email kirklandtv@ci.kirkland.wa.us to receive a sponsorship packet. To view programming, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/tv.

Kirkland Downtown is On the Move

Downtown Kirkland is on the move toward better library, transportation and water quality services. Four major capital improvement projects are being constructed in the coming years to improve library services, transit operations, sewer capacity, and pedestrian and vehicle mobility. (1) The Kirkland Library expansion project is underway. (2) A new traffic signal at 3rd Street and Kirkland Avenue is operational. (3) Construction on the new Kirkland Transit Center is to begin this fall. (4) Upgrades to the Kirkland Pump Station will begin in early 2011. To learn more, visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/onthemove. Subscribe to receive project updates via email.

Pet Licensing Made Easy

King County Pet Licensing makes it easy for pet owners to license family pets. Licenses are available online at www.kingcounty.gov/petlicenseonline, at Kirkland City Hall, (Monday-Friday, 8 am – 5 pm; excluding holidays) and through home delivery by King County “Pet Partnership” canvassers by calling 206-205-6167 and scheduling an appointment. For more information, visit www.kingcounty.gov/pets.



New affordable housing for first-time buyers.

Copper Lantern Homes

7026 NE 182nd Street, Kenmore, WA 98028

This homeownership project is sponsored and funded by the Cities of Kenmore, Kirkland and Woodinville, FHLB of Seattle, and the State of Washington. Call Low Income Housing Institute at 206-650-3286 to see if you're qualified or visit www.copperlanternhomes.com.

To check the status of a permit, visit www.kirklandpermits.net



GREEN SCENE: Kirkland Households Win the Recycling Triple Crown

Kirkland is renowned for its innovative recycling programs, commitment to waste reduction, and support of environmental stewardship initiatives. In 2008, Kirkland achieved three significant regional recycling milestones that confirmed its role as a regional recycling leader. For the second consecutive year, Kirkland’s overall single family recycling diversion rate was the highest in King County among jurisdictions with over 500 customers (Kirkland has about 11,000 residential customers). A total of 69 percent (or 11,892 tons) of the total single family waste stream was diverted from the Cedar Hills landfill for recycling or composting. The total waste stream includes garbage, yard waste, food waste, and other curbside recyclables. And yes, that’s almost seven out of every ten pounds of our solid waste not going to the landfill!

Kirkland residents’ efforts have played a significant role in delaying the closure date of the Cedar Hills landfill by several years until at least 2016. Equally as important, Kirkland’s single family diversion rate, exclusive of yard and food waste, was 45 percent – also number one among all King County cities. That means that Kirkland residents are doing a better job than anyone else in King County recycling plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspapers, and cardboard boxes. And to complete the trifecta, Kirkland residents produced the least amount of garbage transported to the landfill per household in 2008 – less than 20 pounds per single family residence per week.

For more information on Kirkland’s recycling programs, call our Recycling Hotline at (425) 587-3812 or visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle.

Recycling Quick Tips

- Just say “no” to paper and plastic bags. Use reusable bags on shopping trips.
- Choose reusable, durable products whenever possible (e.g. buy rechargeable batteries, use cloth napkins instead of paper).
- Buy products with post-consumer recycled content and packaging.
- Select recyclable and compostable goods (e.g. cleansers in plastic pump bottles, not aerosol cans; berries in compostable paper containers instead of plastic).
- Stop unwanted junk mail and catalogs.
- Compost yard debris and food scraps either in your yard waste cart or backyard composter.
- Buy products in bulk and place them in smaller quantities in reusable containers.
- Borrow or rent books, tools and other items that are rarely used.

STAYCATION: A Perfect Way to Explore Kirkland

Forget about making your bed in the morning, driving to shop downtown, or cooking at home. Enjoy a walk or run along Kirkland’s waterfront, an art tour, or a cruise on Washington’s second largest lake. All of these opportunities are the perfect way to explore Kirkland with a “staycation.”

With award-winning hotels, nationally known restaurants and chefs, and self-guided nature walking tours throughout the City, taking a “family vacation” may have a whole new meaning. Why hassle with high airfares, airport shuttles, and rental cars when you can check into a Kirkland hotel and enjoy all that the city has to offer.

When was the last time you explored your city on foot, boat, or bicycle? If you’ve been hearing about a restaurant that you’ve been wanting to experience, why wait? Book a room, shop a bit and, most definitely, indulge your taste buds.

Dining, shopping and lodging information can be found on www.ExploreKirkland.com. Subscribe to receive event happenings in Kirkland via email.



Carillon Point: A great place to grab a bite to eat.

Annexation Update *(continued from page 1)*

key issues regarding storage containers, the height of single-family and multi-family residential structures, the keeping of chickens in residential areas, oversized vehicles and proposed zoning designations for various parts of the PAA.

Recently adopted state legislation allows cities to “grandfather” casinos/card rooms into annexation areas if they were licensed by the Washington State Gambling Commission before the annexation and at the time Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5321 became effective on July 26, 2009. On July 7, the City Council passed non-binding legislation expressing its intent to allow existing card rooms to continue to operate if annexation is approved.

Only the residents of the PAA are eligible to vote on the annexation ballot measure. Because the City is asking voters to assume the City’s outstanding voter-approved debt, there are two thresholds that must be met to approve the ballot measure:

1. Sixty percent (60%) of PAA voters must vote yes, and
2. Validation (conducted by King County Elections Office) must result in at least forty percent (40%) of PAA voters having had voted in the 2008 Presidential election to vote on the annexation measure.

However, the City Council may adopt a resolution accepting the annexation without the assumption of indebtedness, if the combined ballot proposition is approved by a simple majority (50%).

The City’s voter-approved debt is approximately \$35 per year from the 1995 public safety bond and the 2002 park bond approved by City of Kirkland voters. The public safety bond funded police and fire radio communications and the Forbes Creek Fire Station. The Park bond funded the enhancements at Juanita Beach Park, school/city partnership playfield improvements, neighborhood parks and open space.

In April, the City Council initiated the annexation process by approving a resolution of intent to place an annexation measure on the November ballot. The proposal to annex the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods was filed with the Washington State Boundary Review Board (BRB). The City presented its proposal to the BRB at a public hearing in June. Public comment in favor of annexation and against was received. On July 9, the BRB adopted findings that support approval of the proposal.

For annexation information, please visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation where you can subscribe to receive annexation updates via email.

Sustainable Budget *(continued from page 3)*

BLUEPRINT: CLOSING THE 2009-2010 BUDGET GAP

Reduce Expenses:

Council eliminated the equivalent of approximately 29.5 full-time positions as part of balancing the 2009-2010 Budget. The City workforce was reduced by 6.5 regular and 8.5 temporary positions. Hourly and intern seasonal labor was reduced by an equivalent of 14.5 full-time employees (FTEs). Additionally, most of the City’s staff has agreed to forgo cost of living increases in 2010.

In response to low levels of development activity and permit fee revenues, development services staffing was reduced by a little more than 4.5 FTEs earlier this year.

If the proposed private utility tax rate increase is not approved by the voters, the City plans to eliminate various programs and additional FTEs.

Use of Reserves:

\$1 million of the reserves set aside in the Revenue Stabilization Reserve have been applied to the budget gap and use of an additional \$1 million was approved in July.

Increase Revenue:

To date, the following measures were implemented to increase revenue to help balance the Budget:

- Use of a small amount of unused property tax capacity;
- Increase (3%) on City utilities tax (water, sewer, garbage/recycling collection)
- Business license restructure from a fee and surcharge to a “head tax” fee structure.

For more information on budget reductions, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/budget.



KIRKLAND CITY UPDATE

123 5th Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MONTHLY CITY MEETINGS

MONDAY

Design Review Board* 1st & 3rd Monday · 7 p.m.
Kirkland Youth Council* 2nd & 4th Monday · 6:45-8:30 p.m.
Houghton Community Council* 4th Monday · 7 p.m. (Agenda/Packet online)

TUESDAY

City Council* 1st & 3rd Tuesday; Study Session · 6 p.m.
Regular Meeting · 7:30 p.m. (Agenda/Packet online)
Civil Service Commission* 2nd Tuesday · 4 p.m.
Kirkland Senior Council 2nd Tuesday · 5:30 p.m. (Peter Kirk Community Center)

WEDNESDAY

Park Board* 2nd Wednesday · 7 p.m.
Transportation Commission* 4th Wednesday · 6 p.m. (Agenda Packet Online)
Kirkland Library Board* 2nd Wednesday · 5 p.m.
Kirkland Cultural Council* 3rd Wednesday · 4 p.m.

THURSDAY

Parking Advisory Board* 1st Thursday · 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Planning Commission* 2nd & 4th Thursday · 7 p.m. (Agenda Packet Online)

MEETS AS NEEDED

Lodging Tax
Advisory Committee Call: 425-587-3011
Human Services
Advisory Committee Call: 425-587-3322

* Meetings held at Kirkland City Hall, 123 5th Avenue

- Special meetings may be scheduled; regular meetings may be cancelled.
- Agenda/Packets are posted to the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us. Search the name of the board/commission.

IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Kirkland City Hall

123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425-587-3000
City Council & City Manager's Office 425-587-3001

Development Services

Building Department 425-587-3600
24-Hour Inspection Request Line 425-587-3605
Fire Prevention 425-587-3650
Planning & Community Development 425-587-3225
Public Works Department 425-587-3800
24-Hour Inspection Request Line 425-587-3805
Finance & Administration 425-587-3100
Business License 425-587-3140
Utility Billing 425-587-3150
Human Resources 425-587-3210
(505 Market Street, Kirkland)
Recorded Job Line 425-587-3211
Municipal Court 425-587-3160
(11515 NE 118th Street, Kirkland)
Parks & Community Service 425-587-3300
North Kirkland Community Center 425-587-3345
Peter Kirk Community Center 425-587-3360

Park & Public Works Maintenance 425-587-3900
After Hours 425-587-3400

Other Numbers to Know

Animal Control (King County) 206-296-7387
Cable TV Comcast: 1-800-266-2278
Verizon: 1-800-483-3000
Driver's Licensing: Washington State Dept. of Licensing,
Kirkland Office 425-827-0317
Electric/Gas: Puget Sound Energy 1-888-225-5773
Garbage/Recycling: Waste Management, Inc. 1-800-592-9995
Phone Service Comcast: 1-800-266-2278
Verizon: 1-800-483-3000
Qwest: 1-800-475-7526
School District: Lake Washington School District .. 425-702-3200
Transit King County Metro 1-800-542-7876
Sound Transit 1-800-201-4900
Vehicle Registration: Washington State Dept. of Licensing,
Kirkland Office 425-828-4661
Voter Registration: King County Elections 206-296-8683

For Police, Fire & Medical Emergencies Call 9-1-1
Police Non-Emergency 425-587-3400