



The Official Newsletter of the City of Kirkland, Washington | 3rd Quarter, 2012

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www.kirklandwa.gov

 @Kirklandgov



Photo: Jim Eagan

KIRKLAND VOTERS CONSIDER PROPOSITIONS FOR STREET, PARK MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENTS

On November 6, Kirkland voters will be asked to consider two ballot measures: Proposition 1 is a proposed levy for city street maintenance and pedestrian safety; Proposition 2 is a levy for city parks maintenance, restoration and enhancement.

If approved, Proposition 1 would raise \$3 million annually to fund arterial and neighborhood street re-pavement and repair, fix potholes, fund sidewalks around schools, enhance crosswalks, and allow for traffic safety measures in neighborhoods. The ballot measure proposes an ongoing property tax levy of 20.4 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The estimated annual cost is \$70.58 for a home valued at \$346,000.

If approved, Proposition 2 would raise \$2.35 million annually and would fund preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of Kirkland's parks and natural areas. The ballot measure proposes an ongoing property tax levy of 16 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The estimated annual cost is \$55.36 for a home valued at \$346,000.

For detailed information on Proposition 1 and Proposition 2, go to www.kirklandwa.gov/ballotmeasures.

General Election
November 6, 2012

On Election Day,
drop off your ballot at City Hall
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Election info: www.kingcounty.gov/elections

CITY OF KIRKLAND PROPOSITION NO. 1

LEVY FOR CITY STREET MAINTENANCE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The Kirkland City Council adopted Ordinance No. 4364 concerning a proposition for a street improvement levy rate increase. To fund street maintenance and safety improvements for neighborhood streets and arterials, including resurfacing, pothole repair, pedestrian safety improvements, traffic calming projects, school walk routes, sidewalks and crosswalks, the City's regular property tax levy shall be increased permanently by \$.204 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection beginning in 2013 and such amount shall be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies provided under RCW ch. 84.55.

SHOULD THIS PROPOSITION BE:

APPROVED?

REJECTED?

CITY OF KIRKLAND PROPOSITION NO. 2

LEVY FOR CITY PARKS MAINTENANCE, RESTORATION, AND ENHANCEMENT

The Kirkland City Council adopted Ordinance No.4365 concerning a proposition for a park levy rate increase. To restore and enhance funding for park maintenance and beach lifeguards, to maintain, renovate, and enhance docks, park facilities, trails and playfields and to acquire parkland and open space, the City's regular property tax levy base shall be increased permanently by \$.16 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection beginning in 2013 and such amount shall be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies provided under RCW ch. 84.55. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED?

REJECTED?

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: Acts of Kindness in North Rose Hill

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION ACTIVE IN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE

What do picking up trash on 124th Avenue NE, sprucing up Woodlands Park, keeping a watchful eye on Forbes Lake, and tidying up at Mark Twain Elementary have in common? They are not just random acts of kindness performed by members of the North Rose Hill neighborhood; they are regularly scheduled volunteer activities.

In the spring and fall, volunteers pick up trash along 124th Ave. NE, a main arterial that runs north-south through the neighborhood. With trash bags supplied by the City, neighbors fill them quickly with litter and debris that lie along the roadway.

Instrumental in the construction of Woodlands Park, local residents continue to show their pride by sprucing up the park every

year. Playground equipment has been refurbished, the ground has been smoothed for easier play, and, this year, bark was spread beneath the play area.

Across from the Park, resident Bud Gesell, hops in his boat to collect water samples from Forbes Lake as part of King County's monitoring program that tracks long-term trends in the lake's health. Gesell has been volunteering for this program for over a decade.

Before the school year begins, volunteers weed and spread bark (provided by the Lake Washington School District) at Mark Twain Elementary. Neighbors and students spend the day as "grounds keepers."



North Rose Hill resident Bud Gesell collects water samples from Forbes Lake for monitoring purposes.

To be a part of the kindness of others in the North Rose Hill neighborhood, visit www.kirklandwa.gov/neighborhoods.

Strategic Plan to Help Care for City's Urban Forest



It can absorb up to 240 pounds of air pollution. It can prevent 100 gallons of stormwater from polluting our waterways. And it can encourage consumers to travel further, shop longer and spend more in business districts.

Kirkland has more than 4,500 acres of these trees, known collectively as 'canopy.' And the City is developing a strategic plan that will guide the way Kirkland manages them. A draft of that plan will be presented to the City Council on October 16. The final plan is scheduled to be completed this fall.

With a Washington State Department of Natural Resources grant, the City has contracted Davey Resource Group to review Kirkland's forestry policies and operations, such as public tree care and the city tree protection code.

The forest management consultants are working with staff from the Planning, Parks & Community Services and Public Works departments to outline strategies and provide recommendations for the City to consider and implement throughout the next 20 years.

Kirkland's community serves a vital role in the development of the management plan, as well. A public survey and focus groups will be used to gather public input. To maximize the public's contributions, Forterra—a Seattle-based non-profit devoted to building sustainable communities—is coordinating with the City to execute those community participation projects.

"Forterra is excited to lend our expertise to communities such as Kirkland," said Alison Van Gorp, Forterra Communities Policy Director. "This opportunity advances Forterra's goal to help communities here in Washington enhance their livability, quality of life, economic vibrancy and affordability."

To view the draft Strategic Plan, go to www.kirklandwa.gov. For additional background and project updates, contact Deb Powers, Urban Forester at 425-587-3261 or dpowers@kirklandwa.gov.



"Grate" Tips to Keep Your Storm Drain Clean

HELP PREVENT FLOODING

Leaves and debris can block rain water from flowing into storm drains and often cause localized flooding.



To help reduce flooding, keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris.

Do's

- Before, during and after a storm, check the drain grate and the surrounding area to make sure they are debris-free.
- Use a rake to remove debris from the storm drain and gutter. Place the material in your yard waste, trash or recycling container.
- Adopt a storm drain(s) near your home or business.
- Report severe flooding if you are unable to clear the drain.

Don'ts

- Do not remove the grate from the drain opening. This does not unclog the system and creates a hazard for everyone.
- Do not rake or blow leaves from your property into the street.

And remember, to maintain Kirkland's water quality, only rain water should enter the storm drain system because the water eventually enters Lake Washington.

Contact Information

Adopt-a-Storm Drain Program

425-587-3800

badams@kirklandwa.gov

Report severe flooding

425-587-3900 (24 hours)

pwservice@kirklandwa.gov

Cross Kirkland Corridor: Interim Trail Coming 2014

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM READY



Volunteers rally at the kick-off Cross Kirkland Corridor clean up work party sponsored by the Highlands Neighborhood and Kudos Kirkland

In keeping with the goal to make the Cross Kirkland Corridor open to the public as soon as possible, plans are underway to develop an interim trail and an "Adopt-a-Trail" program is now in place.

In August, the City Council gave the green light to move forward with an interim trail. To make way, existing rails, and cross-ties, road/trail crossing slabs will be removed beginning in early 2013. As part of the interim trail development, the surface of the trail will be graded and nine road crossing sections where the rails are to be removed will be paved.

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City Looks at a New Housing Concept

Somewhere between the zoning code definitions of a hotel and a dwelling unit lies the meaning of a new housing concept – Residential Suites. The City Council directed the Planning Commission to study allowing this new use in support of City goals for housing that meets a diverse range of incomes and needs while maintaining the character of neighborhoods.

In the proposed zoning regulations being considered by the Commission, Residential Suites (also known as a Single Room Occupancy) is where individual rooms are rented and furnished with limited amenities (e.g. sink, mini refrigerator, microwave and small bathroom) and additional amenities shared between rooms. The rooms are small, with typical floor areas ranging from 120 square feet to 350 square feet. The result is a housing type that is more affordable to a broader range of the community. Because of the limited amenities and lower parking rates associated with the use, the Commission



Tudor Manor, a residential suite project in Redmond was recognized by the Governor with a Smart Partnerships Award. (www.redmond.gov).

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So. Kirkland Park & Ride Begins Transformation as a Transit Oriented Development

By 2014, the South Kirkland Park and Ride will transform into a new mixed use residential neighborhood and transit facility similar to other Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) throughout the Puget Sound area.

In 2011, the Kirkland City Council adopted new zoning regulations and design guidelines that would allow this site to accommodate housing and commercial development along with enhanced parking and transit facilities. King County selected Polygon NW and Imagine Housing to develop the site as a TOD. Following a site plan review by the City's Design Review Board, the project was given the green light to proceed

In August 2012, the first phase of construction began to add a new driveway entrance on NE 38th Place, underground utilities and reconfigure the transit circulation and loading area. The next phase will be construction of the three story transit parking garage, plus enhancements to the parking lot. The final phase begins following completion of the Metro Transit facility improvements; this phase includes a 58 unit apartment building with a mix of affordability levels for households earning from 30% to 60% of the area median income (\$20,000 to \$53,000) and a mixed use building with ground floor commercial space and 181 market rate apartment units.

In addition to Polygon NW as lead developer, the development team includes Imagine Housing, a non-profit affordable housing developer active on the Eastside (including the Francis Village project in Totem Lake), Weber Thompson, the lead architect for the project, and SMR Architects the architect of the affordable housing component. The design review of the project was conducted by both the City of Kirkland Design Review Board and the City of Bellevue.

Financing of the project came from multiple Federal and local transportation and housing funding sources including the developer, King County, the Federal Transit Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Housing Trust Fund, Housing Finance Commission and ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing).



Illustration of future South Kirkland Park and Ride by Weber Thompson Architects, Seattle

The Park and Ride will remain open during construction with a reduced number of parking stalls. During construction additional parking stalls for transit riders will be available at off-site locations. For parking information go to the King County Metro website at <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/> and for project information go to www.kirklandwa.gov. (Search: South Kirkland Park & Ride on both sites).



Council Gets First Look at Fire Department Strategic Plan

On September 4, the City Council got its first look at the draft Fire Department Strategic Plan produced by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI). The report concludes an extensive study of the department's current organizational conditions, analysis of future service demand, and an assessment of future opportunities for cooperative service delivery. The report and meeting video can be found at www.kirklandwa.gov (Search: Watch City Council Meetings; select September 4, 2012). In the coming months the City Council will receive updates on how the plan's recommendations will be implemented.

The draft report notes that Kirkland Fire Department (KFD) is a high-quality organization that has the potential to be a great organization. The report integrates organizational and community ideas and describes several key findings and recommendations including:

- Community and city representatives are supportive of the KFD and understand the importance of the fire suppression, emergency medical response, fire prevention, emergency management and other services it provides. ESCI recommends that the department enhance internal and external communications efforts to better inform and engage the community.
- Fire and emergency medical functions are providing services at a level similar to surrounding agencies. However, the high volume of calls for emergency medical services can hamper response to fire calls and often requires that KFD seek mutual aid assistance. Response to the north Finn Hill area is generally below target response times and the plan to relocate Fire Station 25 (Holmes Point) will create service gaps in other areas. ESCI recommends that Kirkland explore the potential for creating a jointly-staffed fire station with the Northshore Fire District.
- The Fire Prevention Bureau provides a high level of development review services, but is not able to conduct annual fire inspections for all occupancies. ESCI recommends that that Kirkland consider adopting a new ordinance requiring fire sprinklers in all new residential construction is an effective fire prevention strategy.
- KFD's current response time standards are inconsistent with the resources they have at this time. As a result, response time standards should either be adjusted to reflect a standard achievable with current department resources or additional

personnel and equipment should be added to enable the department to meet adopted response time standards. Additional fire station staffing should be added in the northern and southern portions of the city.

The Fire Strategic Plan contains a total of 90 recommendations. In the coming months, City staff and elected officials will work together on reviewing the findings and recommendations and developing a plan to implement those recommendations that are feasible. Questions regarding the report can be submitted through the "Ask a Question" feature on the website, www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/CMO/question.



RESIDENTIAL SUITES

Continued from Page 3

is currently limiting consideration to areas of downtown and Totem Lake that are within walking distance of a transit center and a full range of shops and services. Much of the discussion to date has focused on arriving at appropriate parking requirements for the use that will meet the needs of residents without causing impacts to surrounding streets.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on October 4, 7:00 p.m., City Hall to receive public comment about the proposed regulations and is expected to forward its recommendation to the City Council on October 16. To receive Council and Commission meeting agenda notices via email, go to www.kirklandwa.gov/ebulletins. For more information about the proposed regulations, contact Jeremy McMahan at 425-587-3229 or jmcmahan@kirklandwa.gov.

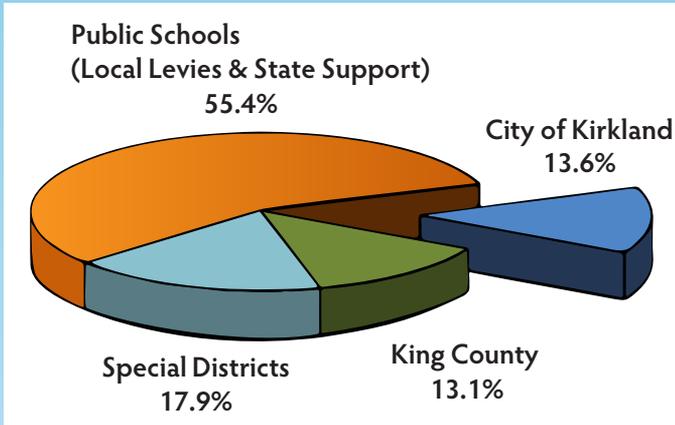
Budget Breakdown: The Truth about Your Property Taxes

Fact or fiction? The City imposes all taxes on property tax bills. True or false? The City receives about 13.6% of total property taxes. Reality or myth? Property taxes for a Kirkland homeowner change every year with the change in assessed value. Answers: Fiction. True. Myth.

The City of Kirkland is one of ten taxing districts that appear on a Kirkland property tax bill. The City receives 13.6% of total property taxes. Public schools (local levies and State support) receive the majority of property taxes (55.4%). King County receives 13.1% and special districts receive 17.9%.

Assessed valuation (AV) is determined by the King County Assessor's Office (www.kingcounty.gov/assessor). AV is based on the assessor's appraisal of real and personal property at 100 percent of the true

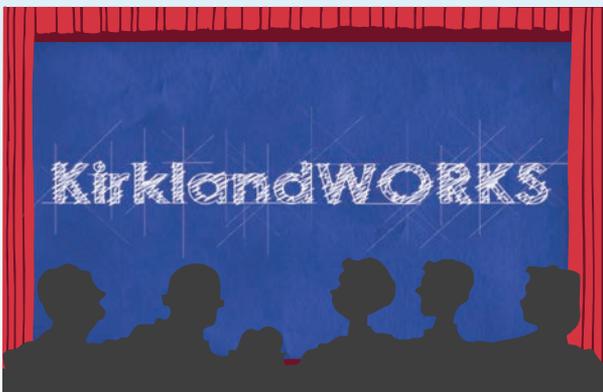
and fair market value. The total amount of property tax revenue the City can collect in one year is called the "levy." The City's tax "rate" is determined by dividing the City's tax rate is determined by dividing the levy by the assessed valuation, divided by 1,000. (See equation.) The rate is then applied to every \$1,000 of AV which then determines the amount of property taxes paid. Property taxes do not change when there is a change in assessed valuation.



EQUATION:

$$\frac{\text{TOTAL LEVY DOLLARS}}{\text{TOTAL VALUE OF ALL PROPERTY IN KIRKLAND}} = \text{TAX RATE APPLIED TO EACH \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE}$$

NOW PLAYING!



Kirkland WORKS

is a video series about your city at work achieving the goals of financial stability, public safety, economic vitality and more.

Two videos are now available online at www.kirklandwa.gov.



UPCOMING BUDGET MEETINGS & MILESTONES

The adoption process for the 2013-2014 Biennial Budget (www.kirklandwa.gov/budget) has begun. Residents are encouraged to stay informed and involved as the City Council begins the process of adopting a balanced budget for the upcoming two years.

- Oct. 16 – Preliminary 2013-2014 Budget is available to the public (online)
- Oct. 25 – Special City Council Budget Study Session
- Nov. 7 – Special City Council Budget Study Session and Public Hearing*
- Nov. 13 – Special City Council Budget Study Session (if needed)
- Nov. 20 – Public Hearings* on Budget and Preliminary Property Tax Levy
- December 4 (tentative) – Budget and Final Property Tax Levy Adoption by City Council

*Public comment is accepted during public hearings.

Ways to stay informed:

- View the Preliminary and Final 2013-2014 Biennial Budget: www.kirklandwa.gov/budget.
- Subscribe to receive Budget updates and City Council meeting agendas via email: www.kirklandwa.gov/ebulletins.
- Watch City Council meetings live and re-broadcast online: www.kirklandwa.gov (search: Watch Council Meeting)

Ways to be involved:

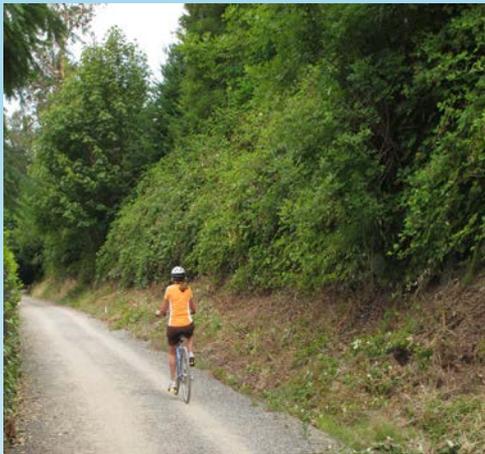
- Give public comment at a City Council meeting or public hearing
- Email your questions, concerns, and suggestions to 13-14budget@kirklandwa.gov
- Request a presentation for your neighborhood association



Corridor Update

Continued from Page 3

The trail will be a gravel surface matching the width of the existing rail bed (8 to 10 feet wide) that can be easily used by pedestrians, bicycles with wider tires, and other users.



Cyclist on the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

It will provide a crushed gravel path similar to portions of the East Lake Sammamish Trail. State and Federal grants and revenue from salvaging the existing rail line will cover most of the project costs.

Recently, Moss Bay Design, a local business, Kudos Kirkland, a volunteer group and the Highlands Neighborhood Association all adopted sections of the 5.75 mile Corridor and pledged to a litter pick up and vegetation removal plan. Other groups and businesses interested in the Adopt-a-Trail program are encouraged to email pwservice@kirklandwa.gov or call 425-587-3900. To view the Adopt-a-Trail map and subscribe to receive project updates go to www.kirklandwa.gov/crosskirklandcorridor.

NEWS YOUR CAN USE: PAWS, APPLAUSE, AND NEW LAWS

Calling All Pet License Renewals

The City has initiated a new outreach program that encourages residents to renew their pet license(s). Cats and dogs eight weeks or older are required to have a King County pet license which must be renewed each year. City staff and volunteers will be calling pet license holders as a friendly reminder to renew. Renewals are available online at www.kingcounty.gov/pets or at City Hall during regular business hours.

A Round of Applause for Your City

Congratulations to Police Chief Eric Olsen for being named "Professional of the Year" by Crown College (Minneapolis, MN). Put your hands together for the Police Department Explorers who placed first in one of many competitions the team participated in at the National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference held in Ft. Collins, Colorado in July. Other communities may be green with envy because the 17 Kirkland businesses, including the City of Kirkland, were named by King County as "Best Workplaces for Waste Prevention and Recycling."

Making Way for New Rules on Garbage and Recycling Cart Placement

A new city ordinance encourages residents to place their garbage and recycling carts in planter strips, where available. If planter strips are not available, residents may continue to temporarily use public property for their carts but the carts may no longer be placed in such a way as to block pedestrian, bicycle, or vehicular traffic. Carts should be placed out for collection no earlier than 24 hours before the service day and should be removed from public property no later than 24 hours after service is provided. For more information, go to www.kirklandwa.gov/recycle or call 425-587-3812.

New Residential Regulations for "Backyard" Chickens Apply City-wide

The City Council and Houghton Community recently accepted the Planning Commission recommendation to allow for the keeping of chickens on single family residential property located in the City. Per the zoning code amendments, the number of chickens allowed on a single residential parcel is limited by the lot size. Up to three chickens are allowed on any size residential lot. For lots larger than 5,000 square feet, the number of chickens allowed increases incrementally (1 per 1,000 of additional square feet) up to a maximum of 20 chickens. For lots larger than 35,000 square feet, more than 20 chickens are also allowed on an incremental basis (1 per 500 additional square feet). Up to 20 roosters (male chickens) are only allowed on lots larger than 35,000 square feet, except in the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate (Evergreen Hill) neighborhoods where those on all single family lots may remain, regardless of lot size.

Kirkland residents interested in keeping chickens on their single family residential property are encouraged to first check their home owners' association by-laws as private covenants may be more restrictive than the City's new regulations. The City does not enforce covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CCRs) adopted by home owner associations. For assistance with the new regulations, contact the Planning & Community Development Department at 425-587-3225.

KIRKLAND CITY UPDATE

123 5th Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033
www.kirklandwa.gov



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MONTHLY CITY MEETINGS

MONDAY

Design Review Board* 1st & 3rd Monday · 7 p.m.
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.
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)
Library Board 3rd Wednesday · 6 p.m. (Alternates between
Kirkland and Kingsgate Libraries)
Cultural Arts Commission* 3rd Wednesday · 4 p.m.

THURSDAY

Parking Advisory Board* 1st Thursday · 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Tourism Development Committee* 1st Thursday · 9-10 a.m.
Planning Commission* 2nd & 4th Thursday · 7 p.m. (Agenda Packet Online)

MEETS AS NEEDED

Human Services
Advisory Committee Call: 425-587-3322
Neighborhood Association meeting information:
www.kirklandwa.gov/neighborhoods.

* 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.kirklandwa.gov. 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
City Clerk's Office/Public Records 425-587-3190
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)
Municipal Court 425-587-3160
(11515 NE 118th Street, Kirkland)
Parks & Community Service 425-587-3300
North Kirkland Community Center 425-587-3350
Peter Kirk Community Center 425-587-3360

Parks Maintenance 425-587-3349
Public Works Maintenance (24 Hour) 425-587-3900

Other Numbers to Know

Animal Control (King County) 206-296-7387
Cable TV Comcast: 1-800-266-2278
Frontier Communications: 1-877-462-8188
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
Frontier Communications: 1-877-462-8188
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