

KIRKLAND CITY UPDATE

The Official Newsletter of the City of Kirkland, Washington | 4th Quarter, 2010

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www.ci.kirkland.wa.us



2011-2012 Budget Adopted; Service Reductions in Effect

On December 7, the City Council adopted the [2011-2012 Budget](#), the [2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#) and the 2011 Property Tax Levy. The two-year budget totals approximately \$449 million which is a 12.8% increase from the previous biennial budget due to increases in revenue and expenditures from the annexation area. The Preliminary Budget is available online; the final Budget will be available by March 31, 2011.

The Budget determines the type and levels of services that the City can provide. Like many cities, Kirkland was faced with a shortfall in revenue due to the recession. Although Kirkland has fared better than most jurisdictions, the budget reflects significant reductions and some selected revenue increases to help ensure a more sustainable budget with anticipated revenue that equals anticipated expenditures.

The biennial budget is comprised of 24 separate accounts that are independently balanced. The largest is the General Fund which supports basic services such as police, fire protection, emergency medical services and maintenance of City infrastructure. Services in the General Fund are primarily funded through sales tax, property tax and utility taxes.

The equivalent of 16 full time employees (FTEs) are reduced or eliminated, impacting the service levels in the existing city. The [annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods](#) provides the opportunity to keep some of these skilled personnel (approximately 11 FTEs) that can fill positions needed to serve the new area. In addition to FTE reductions, seasonal parks maintenance hours and other on-call hours are being reduced.

See "External Service Reductions," page 3

6th Street and Central Way Improvements Coming Soon

By the summer of 2011 drivers will be greeted with new roadway improvements at the intersection of [Central Way and 6th Street](#). The City has received \$2 million of State Community Trade and Economic Development funding to enhance the pedestrian and bicycle environment and reduce traffic congestion. Additional funding of \$50,000 is from the [City's Capital Improvement Program](#).

See "6th and Central," page 2



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: Norkirk Rounds Up Volunteers to Care for Traffic Circles

They're round, placed in the middle of a street and minimize speed. In the Norkirk Neighborhood, there are nine of them – some are landscaped; some are maintained; and some are not. What are they? Traffic circles that need long term maintenance care.



Volunteers from the Norkirk Neighborhood are needed to care for traffic circles.

The [Norkirk Neighborhood Association](#) seeks residents and businesses within the neighborhood to donate time, skill, or money to care for these important neighborhood safety features.

The Norkirk residents voted to use funding provided through City's Neighborhood Connections Program to sponsor the long term care of the traffic circles. However, the money is not enough for long term maintenance. Neighborhood support is needed to enhance and maintain the investment. Labor services – volunteer and/or professional – are needed.

Norkirk neighbors can help by volunteering to maintain one of the seven circles that are not currently cared for. They can also pay for the ser-

vices of a professional landscaper and the purchase of plant materials through direct donations to the City or by arranging pre-paid landscaping services.

If you're looking for a unique volunteer opportunity, to build your gardening skills and to support the Norkirk Neighborhood Association, contact Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator at 425-587-3011 or kpape@ci.kirkland.wa.us.



For neighborhood association meeting information and to subscribe to receive City news, visit: www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.

6TH STREET & CENTRAL

from page 1

The project is expected to begin in April and will improve pedestrian and bicycle experience and safety, increase intersection efficiency, improve the lifecycle and sustainability of road surface, enhance landscaped traffic medians, and promote the health of surrounding vegetation. Preparatory work is scheduled to be done in advance (early 2011) to improve the water and gas infrastructure to boost capacity and efficiency. The City is seeking additional funding for phase two including new gateway improvements.

Project details are available at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/public_works.

Select Capital Improvement Program,
6th & Central Improvements

JUST INSTALLED: READERBOARD SIGNS

Electronic readerboard signs are being installed at several fire stations and the North Kirkland Community Center and will be an important source for emergency or disaster information. The signs will be generator-powered in the event of a power outage.

During non-emergency events, public service announcements, neighborhood meeting information, construction project updates, road closures, and general city messages will be displayed.

Look for the signs at:

- Fire Station 21 (Forbes Creek)
- Fire Station 22 (Houghton)
- Fire Station 26 (Rose Hill)
- Fire Station 27 (Totem Lake) (after annexation)
- North Kirkland Community Center



For more information, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 425-587-3650.

TRANSIT CENTER UPDATE



Kirkland Transit Center is expected to be completed in February

Sound Transit is nearing completion of the new [Kirkland Transit Center](#), located on 3rd Street between Central Way and Kirkland Avenue. Much of the surface work, including new curbs, sidewalks and street pavement, is now complete.

In December, the median guardrails down the center of 3rd Street and the bus canopies on the west side of 3rd Street will be complete. New landscaping and irrigation will be completed on both the east and west side of the street. Benches, lighting and pavers will also be installed in the plaza area leading to the Peter Kirk Park and ballfield. In early 2011, pavement markings and signage will be installed, in addition to traffic control signal infrastructure at Central Way and 3rd Street.

A single northbound lane of traffic on 3rd Street will continue to be maintained until the project is completed. As always, pedestrians should be cautious when walking around the project area.

The contractor expects to complete the project in February 2011, with restored bus service to the new Kirkland Transit Center in early 2011. For more information, contact Katie Kuciemba at 206-398-5459 or katie.kuciemba@soundtransit.org.

To receive project updates on the Transit Center and the upgrade to King County's pump station, visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/onthemove and subscribe to receive email alerts.

EXTERNAL SERVICE REDUCTIONS

from page 1

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

- Eliminate Police ProActive Unit. Note: Funding will be revisited following the State's Legislative Session when the City will have a better understanding of its needs to finance any unfunded State mandates.
- Institute temporary closure of Fire Stations when staffing levels fall below minimum standards. Note: Closures may be minimized with the planned implementation of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transportation fees that will allow the City to bill insurance providers for medical transportation. (See page 6)
- Eliminate Police Department Corrections Officer and Fire Department Community Education & Public Information Specialist positions.

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Eliminate remaining seasonal labor hours for park maintenance. This reduction and previous reductions will result in less maintenance (e.g. restroom cleaning and garbage collection) at community and waterfront parks and the continuation of year-round closures of bathrooms at neighborhood parks and elimination of portable toilets at several parks.
- Further reduction of staff support for human and youth services programs.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

- Eliminate funding for the [Neighborhood Connections Program](#) which supported neighborhood association project such as roadway, sidewalk, landscaping or park improvements. Note: A portion of the Neighborhood Connections Program reduction was used to increase funding for the [Neighborhood Matching Grant Program](#).

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES

- Eliminate remaining Neighborhood Traffic Control Program staff. This reduction and previous reductions to the program will result in decreased response time to address neighborhood traffic safety issues.
- Eliminate City funding that helped defray some of the costs for the Central Business District Spring Cleaning Event which is sponsored by the Kirkland Downtown Association.
- Staff & Miscellaneous Funding Reductions
- Reduce City Hall reception and passport customer service hours and City Manager's Office reception and administrative support.
- Reduce staff support for neighborhood planning efforts.
- Eliminate funding to mail one edition of City Update, the City's newsletter, and move it to an online communication.
- Reduce annual funding to the Kirkland Downtown Association.

To view a list of previous and recently adopted service reductions, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/budget.

INSIDER'S VIEW: Volunteers' Time and Talent Add to Kirkland's Quality of Life

You've seen them in city parks, inside city buildings and on city streets. They build, pull, and file things. They're the friendly voice on the phone, a traffic control helper at a special event, and a sports coach. In 2010, more than 1,500 volunteers donated 25,000 hours to support city departments, programs and events.



Group volunteer programs include the Amateur Radio Emergency Services team that serves as a vital communications link between the City and other agencies when responding to emergency and disaster events. The Domestic Abuse Response Team is a unique group of trained volunteers who support domestic violence victims through crisis intervention and education, victim support and community resources. The Police Department's Explorer program offers "as real as it gets" training in law enforcement for teens and young adults including leadership, self-defense, traffic stops, accident and crime scene investigation.

Committee volunteer opportunities are available to Kirkland community members on City boards, commissions and advisory committees. These boards serve an important advisory role to the City Council as members who live and work in Kirkland offer a unique perspective on improving Kirkland's quality of life.

For outdoor enthusiasts, most weekends throughout the year are filled with volun-

teer opportunities in city parks. The Green Kirkland Partnership has pulled tons of non-native plant materials and planted native species. Those who prefer a more flexible schedule can "adopt" a traffic circle in their neighborhood, and be responsible for the weeding, pruning, and planting their own small piece of land. Volunteers have improved several Kirkland streams and lakes by removing trash; they have stenciled storm drains to warn of the hazards of polluted water entering the system, and maintained debris-free storm drains by their homes and businesses to reduce flooding.

Safety-conscious volunteers participate in the Speedwatch Program by using a speed radar on drivers to remind them to slow down in school zones, and restock the pedestrian flags located at over 70 crosswalks within the City by "adopting" a crosswalk.

Don't have time now but think you will in the spring or summer? Think about helping out with a children's day camp or the



Green Kirkland Partnership volunteers haul non-native plants out of Watershed Park

Friday Night Market at Juanita Beach. This year over 3,000 volunteer hours supported senior programs and special events at the Peter Kirk Community Center.

All volunteers bring knowledge, skills and abilities that add to Kirkland's quality of life. To share your talents and time, contact Julie Huffman, Volunteer Coordinator at 425-587-3012 or jhuffman@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Totem Lake Action Plan Adopted

The Kirkland City Council unanimously adopted a [Preliminary Action Plan for the Totem Lake Business District](#). The Plan responds to issues raised by Totem Lake Symposium attendees at a symposium held in September where financial, development and design professionals collaborated with local property and business owners on how to revitalize the Totem Lake Business District. The Plan calls for immediate, short and mid-long term strategies to catalyze the redevelopment of this important business district. Visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/totemlakeaction to review the Plan, read the first edition of "Totem Lake On Track," and learn how to become involved.

Contact Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager at 425-587-3014 or emwolfe@ci.kirkland.wa.us for more information.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

- **Kirkland Police Department Explorer and Domestic Violence Abuse Response Team**
- **Recreation camps and mentoring programs**
- **Green Kirkland Partnership and environmental stewards programs**
- **City boards, commissions and advisory committees**
- **Special events**

Other Volunteer opportunities can be found at

www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/volunteer



GIVING PRIORITY TO ROAD MAINTENANCE

Priority Route System Put Into Play During Winter Weather

While the recent snow and flood events are still fresh in your minds, the City would like to offer the following reminders about its [priority system to address snow and ice](#) events along City roadways and the steps you can take to keep sidewalks clear.

schools and fire stations. Second priority is then given to those roads that tend to have higher local neighborhood traffic. Steep public roadways that could be too slippery during winter weather events will be closed. These typically include the side streets along Market Street from 9th Avenue up to 18th Avenue, 132nd Avenue near Slat-ter Avenue, and 108th Avenue NE. To view the City's Snow Plow/Ice Removal Priority Routes map, please go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/prepare.



Collision on the southbound ramp at NE 70th onto I-405 during the November snow storm.

Snow/Ice Removal Priority Routes

In the event of snow or locally anticipated icing conditions requiring street maintenance, the City gives its first priority to roads that are near Evergreen Hospital and significant arterials that run north and south or lead to/from I-405. We also focus on transit routes, and routes near

Sidewalk Maintenance
During snow/ice weather events, the City often receives a number of requests to clear sidewalks. In Kirkland, commercial and residential property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks in front of their businesses and homes clear of snow and other debris (e.g. vegetation). Please work to ensure that your sidewalks are in a safe and useable condition which helps the community's overall commitment to pedestrian safety. Many local hardware stores are now carrying eco-friendly chemicals that help minimize icing conditions and are intended to be used on sidewalks and walkways.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

LIGHTS, ACTION, CAMERA

Reporting a burned out street light

To report a street light that is out, please call the Street Division at 425-587-3900 and provide the nearest street address where the pole is located, the 12-digit or 8 alpha-numeric identification displayed on the pole, your best description of the physical location of the pole and your contact information should we need to follow up with you.

Act to help families in need – pay extra on your utility bill

The City is seeing more utility customers struggling to pay their utility bills due to the continued recession. Next time you're paying your utility (water/sewer) bill, add a little extra as a donation to Hopelink. Your contribution will be provided to families that need help paying their heating and utility bills. For more information on how to donate, visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/utility or call 425-587-3150. Should you need assistance from Hopelink, visit www.hope-link.org or call 425-869-6000.

Calling All Shutterbugs! Photo contest coming soon

The City's Tourism Program is putting final touches on a Photo Contest, so all you shutterbugs dust off those Nikon, Canon, and Olympus cameras! Look for details at www.ExploreKirkland.com or contact the Tourism Office at 425-587-3014. Selected images will be used in the City's tourism promotional materials and webpage.

WHEN WILL MY ROAD BE CLEARED OF SNOW AND ICE?

1ST PRIORITY: Roads to/from hospital and I-405, transit routes, schools and fire stations. (e.g. NE 116th Street, Central Way/NE 85th Street

2ND PRIORITY: Arterials that have above normal traffic use (e.g. State Street South, 116th Avenue NE and Waverly Way)

To report hazardous road conditions, flooding, or other dangers within the public right-of-way within City limits, call the Public Works Maintenance Center at (425) 587-3900 (press 1).



GREEN SCENE: Federal Grant Stimulates Energy Savings for Kirkland Residents

Thanks to federal stimulus funds, 12,000 Kirkland residents are learning how to be energy smart. Kirkland, six neighboring cities, and Puget Sound Energy are coordinating a home energy-saving program. Households in each community have been randomly selected and will receive free, customized Home Energy Reports designed to help them make more

informed decisions about their energy usage and ultimately lower their energy bills.

Through the program, participants will see how their electricity and natural gas use compares to the total usage of neighbors in similar-sized homes. Each household's energy information is kept confidential. Residents participating in the program will

see how their energy use changes over time which will aid them in setting targets for energy savings.

The reports include energy-saving tips and tricks specific to their energy use and the characteristics of their home. According to PSE, many of the tips are no-cost behavioral changes such as lowering the thermostat at night or setting the water-heater temperature to 120 degrees. Others, such as switching to compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), are simple changes that can be made at low cost.

Results of the year-long pilot program are expected in early 2012. For more information about the program, contact PSE at energyreports@pse.com or call 1-800-562-1482. To learn about Kirkland's participation, contact Van Sheth, Kirkland Public Works at 425-587-3907 or vsheth@ci.kirkland.wa.us.



Randomly selected Kirkland residents are participating in a home energy-savings program.

Council Considers EMS Transport Fee Program

As part of its commitment to create sustainable revenue sources to support essential services, the City Council has been considering creating a fee for Kirkland residents and visitors who are transported in City ambulances. The program, which has been implemented in many Washington communities, would allow for the reimbursement from insurance providers to the City for the cost of the ambulance ride.

"No one will ever be denied service based on ability to pay or whether they have

health insurance," notes Fire Chief Kevin Nalder. "Ambulance transport is a standard service covered by insurance companies and we estimate that more than 90% of patients we transport have health insurance."

Patients already pay for EMS transportation coverage in their health insurance premiums and insurance companies recognize that ambulance transportation is a normal cost associated with patient care during medical emergencies.

At its December 7 meeting, the Council provided policy direction to the Fire Department in developing the program which including rates, billing procedures and data collection. One such policy defined for the program is that the City will not collect the uninsured portion of transport fees for Kirkland residents.

For more information, contact Lt. Mark Jung, Kirkland Fire & Building Department, at 425-587-3600 or mjung@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

South Kirkland Park & Ride: Proposed Transit-Oriented Development Regulations

The City is seeking input from the public about zoning regulations for the proposed [Transit-Oriented Development project at the South Kirkland Park and Ride](#). Transit-Oriented Developments (“TOD’s”) generally involve the construction of housing units near transit hubs that bring people closer to the bus system so that there is less reliance on cars. TOD’s are intended to increase the number of people who can walk or bike to transit.



King County owns the South Kirkland Park & Ride and seeks to develop it as a transit-oriented development.

The South Kirkland Park and ride is owned by King County who will sponsor its future development. The City’s zoning and design regulations will create the framework for the development. This TOD is part of a larger planning effort for the Yarrow Bay Business District to create a more desirable and attractive area.

Recent planning efforts in the Lakeview and Central Houghton neighborhoods have already provided valuable input about community interests and concerns for the development. As a result of that initial input, Kirkland, Bellevue and King County developed a set of “Mutual Objectives and Principles of Agreement” for the property that are intended to ensure coordination between the jurisdictions and

to guide the development of the Park and Ride. The principles begin to address key issues such as traffic, the size of the development, the mix of uses and construction impact mitigation.

The City’s Comprehensive Plan supports transit-oriented development at the Park and Ride site and calls for a mix of housing affordability and high quality site and building design. Although King County has developed a conceptual plan for the site to be a mixed-use residential development with approxi-

mately 200 housing units, no formal plans have been prepared. Zoning and design regulations need to be adopted to allow for this residential use and to establish building heights for the portion of the property that lies within Kirkland. Funding for the TOD will come from a combination of federal grants specifically targeted to the TOD, local affordable housing funds and private funds.

In early 2011, the City will host a series of workshops for interested residents to provide participants with information about the development concept for the site and to identify community concerns about the proposed development that can be considered in the zoning regulations or in other phases of the development process. The

first workshop will be held in January, followed by a second one in February. Persons interested in participating are invited to subscribe to the “South Kirkland Park & Ride” email notification at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/e-bulletins.

South Kirkland Park & Ride: Quick Facts

- Located at the south end of Kirkland near the intersection of Lake Washington Blvd. and 108th Ave. NE.
- Property is owned by King County and lies within Kirkland and Bellevue city limits.
- The existing park and ride includes 603 stalls and is at capacity.
- King County has developed a conceptual plan that includes 250 additional park and ride stalls, about 200 multi-family units, underground shared parking, and pedestrian connections to the Eastside Rail Corridor and local business district.
- The South Kirkland Park and Ride provides bus access to local destinations on the Eastside, the University of Washington and downtown Seattle.

Traffic Collision Reports Available Online

If you’ve had the misfortune of being involved in a traffic collision in Kirkland and seek a copy of the accident report, you can spare yourself a trip to the Police Department at City Hall and get it online. With the date of your collision and the case number, these reports are available at www.Docview.us.com for a cost of \$6.00. Reports are still available from the Police Department at no cost. The Police Department is located at City Hall, 123 5th Avenue. Lobby hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding holidays). For more information call 425-587-3400.



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 Library)
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: 425-587-3001
Human Services
Advisory Committee Call: 425-587-3322
Neighborhood Association meeting information:
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/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.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
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 425-587-3350
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
Verizon: 1-800-483-3000
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