



In The Works ~ A Newsletter for Citizens

Going, Going, Gone!

It's been there for so long now, that most of us don't even notice it anymore—the old wastewater treatment plant on SR3, just before you get into town. Well, no more.

An award was made to Kamin Excavation, LLC on June 14 to take it down and transport out all of the rubble that won't be used to fill the underground tanks. Work began this week, and is progressing quickly. Soon, that old blue and red building will only be a memory.

The resulting open area is slated to be a Park & Ride for the county's commuters, and is part of larger projects slated for upcoming construction seasons. These projects include restorative efforts for the artesian wells, a walking trail and education placards. Funding for these projects are distributed and overseen by the Washington Dept. of Transportation.

Shelton's Streets

You may have noticed the City Street crews out working on their annual repairs to our City streets. In some areas they are doing more extensive repairs than usual. This "extra" repair work is the result of our week of really cold weather back in early December. The damage being repaired is related to a combination of issues, all acting together to create our current problems.

The age of our roads, reduced resources dedicated to maintenance and replacement, more traffic, and the unusually hard freeze that we experienced last winter have all contributed to the damage.

Frost-heave is a condition where ice crystals forming in the ground cause the ground to "swell" and lift objects sitting on or near the surface. Occasionally during our winters, we see ice crystals on or near the surface of our gravel driveways, lawns, and other similar surfaces.

Streets, continued on page 3

Shelton Has a New Civil Engineer!

The Public Works Department welcomes Jerry Hauth, as the new Civil Engineer, a position that has been vacant since 2008. Prior to coming on board with the City, Jerry worked for a variety of private-sector, engineering firms in Lacey, Kitsap County and in Mason County. Jerry brings more than 40 years of experience, after discovering an aptitude for engineering in 1969. Over the years, Jerry has worked on numerous public work projects, including many local projects within Mason County.

Jerry is currently overseeing the old Wastewater Treatment Plant Demolition on SR3, and is finalizing the design for the much needed repairs and reinforcement for a stretch of Wallace-Kneeland Blvd. He is one of those special people who really enjoys what he does for a living. At present, he is looking forward to contributing his skills and knowledge to Shelton's Engineering Department.

Jerry lives in Tahuya with his wife, an Irish Wolfhound, a Lab and a couple of teenage cats. He enjoys fly fishing, and can claim bragging rights to landing a 100 pound sailfish on 20 pound line after one truly grueling hour. Always attracted to challenge, Jerry has rebuilt cars, raced in auto-cross and on the circuit, and use to be licensed by state and federal governments as a Master Falconer. Once he finally convinces himself that he's earned the right to retire (several years down the road), he thinks he might like to race vintage Formula cars or do numerous other fun stuff - yet to be identified.

Words from the Public Works Director ~ Steve Goins

In mid-July, contractors will start demolishing the wastewater treatment plant building. Now, I'm not referring to the main plant on Fairmount St; but rather the OLD plant on *Shelton Point*, on what is now SR 3 (formerly Pine St.), the block and concrete building near David Shelton's historic pear orchard (and an old artesian well), about a 7-iron from Pro-Build.

Records are scant on this building. It replaced the previous (and likely the first) wastewater treatment facility in Shelton, located in the vicinity of the

current Front St. pump station, near Shelton Creek. It was built in 1950, and served Shelton until 1979, when the present facility on Fairmount St. was constructed. Since then, its main purpose has been to greet travelers driving west on SR 3 arriving in Shelton.



When Shelton was founded, Shelton Point became the hub of economic activity. From the establishment of Shelton into the 1880s, Shelton's first dock was located here, with steamers plying the waters of Oakland Bay laden with goods and the possessions of early settlers. In the 1880s, the terminus for the Satsop logging railroad was built, and included a long, elevated boardwalk linking this area to town, supporting a saloon and hotel. During this era, Shelton Point was truly a colorful, exotic destination. When Olympic Highway was built in the 1920s, the significance of Shelton Point, as the crossroad for imports and exports diminished, even as Shelton grew into Mason County's economic base. The present elevated railroad and trestle precedes the old treatment plant, as it was also built in the 1920's.

Early settlers renamed what was formerly known as "Big Scookum" to Oakland Bay paying homage to the oak trees that lined the shore. Like Oakland Bay, since the arrival of the first settlers, Shelton Point has been a land in transition. Looking forward, the City envisions restoring the adjacent wetland and pear orchard, establishing a more formal park and ride lot, and introducing a nature interpretive element on the site. In the coming years other site enhancements will include restrooms, and a trail bisecting the site connecting the marina to the site, and ultimately destinations downtown. The demolition of this structure is not simply the removal of an eyesore along a key city portal. It represents a small step in the transformation of a site rich in history, taking a former dock, orchard, and abandoned sewage plant site and converting it into a beautiful city gateway, while restoring and re-establishing some of the site's earlier features.

"Some people dream of success... while others wake up and work hard at it. ~Author Unknown

Streets, cont. from page 1

When temperatures get and stay below freezing for extended periods, this condition can begin to form under our streets. The ice itself is not the real cause of the problem. As we all know, ice can be quite strong. The problem for our streets begins when our winter cold snaps finally end. The ice melts from the top down and can trap water in the gravel between the underside of the pavement and the deeper ice that hasn't melted yet. You can probably picture in your mind what this looks like. Think about digging a hole in your yard or garden. You can think about how firm and stable the ground is when you start. Now you dig the hole and put the dirt back in. If we add a bunch of water to that loose soil... well, we all know what that looks like: MUD! You can step in the muddy area a couple times without any issues; but, as you walk on it more and more it gets softer and messier. This is similar to what can be happening under our streets after long periods of freezing.

Age and reduced resources to perform maintenance contributes to more than desired water getting into the soil under our pavements. An extended freeze turns that water into ice acting like a "shovel" to loosen the soil. When the ice melts... "mud." Our increased traffic now acts like the person walking across our hole in the above example, and, the heavier the vehicle, the worse it is for our streets. City staff is diligently seeking opportunities to replace and supplement the resources needed for managing our streets. We are continually evaluating new, better, and more efficient ways to manage the City street system and continually looking at new and existing sources of funds to finance the work. Our streets are a community asset that is just as important as our sewer, water, and other infrastructure. Staff will continue to make the best use of the resources we are given to manage these assets for your benefit.

Did you know that the same water you use in your home and in your yard to drink, cook, clean, wash, play, and landscape with comes out of the local aquifer? Added to that is the fact that you pay for every drop you use in your monthly utility bill. So, it stands to reason that most people are receptive to reducing water use in their homes.

Here are a few easy ways you can be more "green" and save a few bucks through water conservation:

- Only apply water to your lawn/garden as fast as the soil can absorb it (use a few short intervals, shutting off the water until it soaks in).
- Water in the evening or early morning to minimize evaporation.
- Water only once a week (composing and mulching around plants helps maximize water retention).
- Install a drip irrigation system.
- Use plants native to the northwest for landscaping purposes as they are adapted to the local climate.



Conserve
WATER

Here are a few easy ways you can be more "green" and save a few bucks through water conservation inside the home:

- Check toilets for leaks (place a leak detection tablet or food coloring in the tank of your toilet and see if color appears in the bowl without flushing, if it does, you have a leak that needs fixing!).
 - Check faucets for drips or leaks. A small drip can waste 20 gallons or more per day!
 - Don't let the bathroom sink run while you shave or brush teeth.
 - Install water-efficient showerheads and take shorter showers.
 - Only wash dishes when necessary and only use the dishwasher when it's full.
 - Keep a bottle or pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid letting the tap run while you wait for the water to get cold!
 - Pre-rinse your clothes in the washer only when absolutely necessary.
 - In-sink garbage disposals use (on average) 11.5 gallons of water per day. Consider composting organic wastes instead of throwing them away!
- The City of Shelton offers free outdoor water conservation kits to utility customers. Call 360-432-5102 for more information.

Inside Public Works—Operations & Breaking News

SPOTLIGHT ON: Summer Maintenance

Every year, at the start of May we re-stripe and paint all our pavement markings and curbs throughout the City. This takes the entire month of May, using five, full-time city employees.

Pavement marking is a very important part of the communication system for road users along our city streets. Pavement markers help you correctly position your vehicle, guide you through the many different situations you encounter, indicate where passing is allowed, and warn you of upcoming conditions.

In many cases, pavement markings supply and enhance the messages of other traffic control devices such as traffic signs and signals. Sometimes pavement markings are the only effective way of providing positive guidance or communicating certain regulations or other messages. Because markings are located on the roadway directly in line with the travel path, they can be more prominently visible than other devices and you don't have to take your eyes off the road to view them.

Every year, at the start of April, we start our Roadside Maintenance program. This consists of mowing roadsides, and tree and shrub trimming.



The City responds to vegetation obstructions of signs and signals, by investigating concerns about trees and shrubs that block stop signs and traffic signals, trees and shrubs that hang too low over sidewalk and streets, and trees and shrubs that limit visibility at an intersection.

Trimming vegetation to improve visibility is one of the most effective ways you can enhance traffic safety in your neighborhood. Overgrown trees and shrubs endanger us all when they block our view of traffic signs, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. The City will either notify the resident to trim their tree or plants, or we will trim it.

A major portion of the management and maintenance effort is devoted to activities associated with vegetation control. Primarily safety issues, such as minimizing fire concerns and promoting visibility of traffic, drive the need for vegetation control. For Example: The city spends 750 hours just on roadside mowing with our John Deere tractor!!



Yard Waste and the Waste Stream

The amount of trash we generate as a City can be metaphorically compared to a natural “stream.” Just like our local streams, which swell with water in the winter, many of our local trash cans swell with yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings, etc.) during the summer months. Yard waste takes up valuable landfill space, produces large amounts of methane gas as it breaks down and decomposes, takes additional resources to manage (in the form of additional material being hauled and dealt with by waste haulers and landfill managers), and is considered a “waste” of a valuable commodity by many. As a homeowner you have several options when dealing with your yard waste and here are a few: 1) **Mulch it.** Leave grass clippings and leaves on the ground and use a mulching lawn mower to shred it into fine pieces to break down on your lawn. This will reduce the amount of watering required for your lawn as well as reduce or eliminate the need for any fertilizers. 2) **Compost it.** You can make your own compost bin in an old trash can, or with some chicken wire and posts, or purchase a compost bin for home use and put your yard and food waste into it to create your own soil to use around your yard. This also can help reduce the amount of watering required for plants as you mulch and improve the soils throughout your yard to promote water retention and better soil nutrients. 3) **Recycle It!** The City of Shelton now offers yard waste collection for \$5.50 per month. Just sign up for the program and have a 95-gallon yard waste can dropped off at your home to be picked up every other week. Simply fill the can with your acceptable yard wastes and the City will take them to a local yard/wood recycling facility to be made into compost! Call the City of Shelton at 360-432-5102 for more information.



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In the Works! is a quarterly publication that serves to increase awareness and communication with the City of Shelton residents impacted by and benefiting from the ongoing efforts of the Public Works Department.

In the Works! is produced by staff from the City of Shelton, Public Works Department. Questions and comments may be emailed to publicworks@ci.shelton.wa.us. Agencies, organizations and private citizens are encouraged to submit story ideas and photographs for publication to Shelton Public Works Department, 525 W. Cota Street, Shelton WA 98584.

Now for the disclaimer: The City reserves the right to edit/use materials at its discretion. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information contained herein, the City assumes no liability for errors in this publication.

Upcoming in Future Editions of *In the Works!*

- Basin 5 funding
- Wallace-Kneeland Blvd. Restoration
- Dayton-Airport Rd. Water Extension
- Completion of Satellite and Pump Station Projects
- Grant and other funding opportunities