



In The Works ~ A Newsletter for Citizens

New Metro Park District

The Shelton Metropolitan Park District, approved by Shelton voters on April 27, is progressing with required contracts, long range financial planning, budget formulation, and administration.

A contract was approved by the Park Board on July 26 with the City to provide parks and recreation services. This contract allows a seamless transition for the community and provides for the most cost effective alternative to provide safe, clean parks and a variety of recreation programs for youth and adults alike.

Information regarding parks and recreation services will continue to be directed to the City of Shelton Parks and Recreation Department, attention Mark Ziegler—contact him directly, mziegler@ci.shelton.wa.us or 432-5194.

Wallace-Kneeland Gets Re-Paved!!

You've probably noticed the activities occurring along Wallace-Kneeland Blvd lately. This is a project that the City has needed to complete for some time, but due to budget and cost issues has had difficulty securing the "match" money required by the funding agency.

The Wallace-Kneeland Blvd Pavement Restoration Project is being funded through a federal grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through their Surface Transportation Program (STP). STP is a grant program that provides funding to state and local jurisdictions for major repairs and reconstruction of high-volume roadways. This program is funded in 6-year increments and requires the local jurisdiction to provide 13.5% of the funds (match) for the project.

Streets, continued on page 3



Watershed: More than Meets the Eye

The City watershed property serves the community in more functions than just as the aquifer recharge area. There is habitat, open space, and recreation elements also housed on the watershed. Two recreation opportunities that are available are the Huff n Puff Exercise Trail and the Mason County Disc Golf Course.

The Huff n Puff Trail was a cooperative effort with JC Penney (grant funding), the City of Shelton, Kristmas Town Kiwanis Clubs, and Shelton and Skookum Rotary Clubs in 1979. The 1.85 mile loop trail winds through the forested area of the watershed directly across Shelton Springs Rd from Shelton High School.

Recent improvements, made possible through a donation from Elizabeth Rublin and the labor of Choice High School Students and Chris Chase's Eagle Scout project have added a new surface and directional and mileage signage.

The Mason County Disc Golf Course is a project championed by the Mason County Disc Golf Association to bring the growing sport a facility in Shelton. They entered into an agreement with the City in December 2009, to construct the course on the watershed property, and have been working ever since — laying out the fairways, tee boxes, and basket locations, removing debris, scotch broom, and under brush in preparation of the 18 holes.

More information can be obtained at www.masoncountycdiscgolf.com.

Words from the Public Works Director ~ Steve Goins



Utility Costs Are On the Rise...

Finding the right approach to describe this topic in a short article hasn't come easy, but here goes. The City is reviewing water rates, and unfortunately need to consider an increase in rates over the next six years. Later this year or early in 2011, the Commission will also be asked by Public Works Staff to increase sewer rates. Okay, so now it's out there.

I could follow this up with a long, detailed list of operational and capital

cost justifications (aka, the reasons) for these increases, and no doubt many folks reading this would like an explanation—but I'm not going to provide that here...

What I will tell you is the Public Works Department operates and maintains a municipal water system and a wastewater treatment system which now consists of two treatment plants—the Downtown Wastewater Treatment Facility (currently in the midst of a \$37 million upgrade) and the recently constructed Water Reclamation Plant near the county fairgrounds. The City also provides solid waste services, which has recently expanded from just garbage pickup to dual-stream recycling and an expanded yard waste program. We operate as efficiently and cost effectively as we know how (and is legal), and our costs for these services compare favorably to other similar sized cities. We have tried to provide this “package” of services to the average customer for under \$100/month — not bad when compared to the monthly cost for phone, internet and cable television services. However, those days may soon be coming to an end.

The City Commission held a Public Hearing on the water rates October 18, and will host a similar Public Hearing on sewer rates early next year. Posted on the City website is the Draft Water Service Plan and the proposed six-year water rates; but, sifting through 100-plus pages of planning documents can be daunting. A better plan is to call me directly, at 432-5136. Better yet — plan to attend the public hearings, listen to the presentations, and learn about the reasons first-hand. In our presentations we will explain the legal requirements we are working under, the need for system reinvestment, and other cost-related issues; I don't mind that our customers are checking in to keep us on our toes.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. ~Albert Camus

Streets, cont. from page 1

Wallace-Kneeland Blvd. was

originally constructed in 1993. A typical asphalt road has an expected useful life of about 20 years. This useful life can be shortened or lengthened depending on several factors including: type and frequency of maintenance activities, traffic type and volumes, and winter “freeze/thaw” effects (see the Summer 2010 edition of *In the Works*).



In 2004, the year that the current STP was authorized and funded, this project was expected to be a relatively simple “major” repair to be completed in 2005 or 2006. Due to rapid deterioration of the road and escalating costs between 2005 and 2008, this project quickly became much bigger.

Earlier this year, Public Works staff reevaluated this project, and based on newer products and techniques and a continued trend for very competitive bids (similar to prices prior to 2005), in addition to the support of the Commission, in the way of “one-time” additional money to the Street fund to cover the needed match, staff proceeded to successfully bid the project and it was awarded to Ace Paving in August.

The contractor has been busy moving along on this project, and work will be completed by the end of October, AND currently is expected to cost about 75% of what was estimated back in Spring. Staff is hopeful that this is only the first of many major repairs or reconstructions of significant City streets. With continued support of the Commission and the community, staff is ready to take advantage of the remaining funds available through the current STP program in an effort to repair some of this city’s critical infrastructure.

City to Extend Water Out to Hwy 102

City is in planning stages for extending water to two state facilities on Highway 102 (Dayton-Airport Road). The water extension will provide potable water to the Washington State Patrol Academy and Department of Corrections’ Correctional Center. State Patrol will utilize City water to connect to onsite utility improvements and for future facility expansion. The Correctional Center is also considering expansion of their receiving facility.

The two state agencies are partnering to fund the design development for a water pipeline and booster pump station. The design, bid documents and permitting, will be completed by Summer 2011. Funding for the construction is being requested in the State’s next biennial budget. Construction could start as early as next fall, and take about four months to complete.

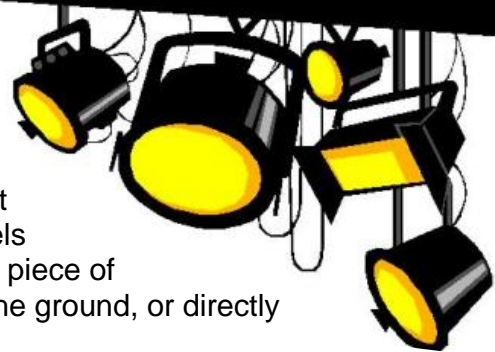
This project will fully extend water in the City’s northwest urban growth area and be available additional customers. The State agencies are developing a latecomers agreement to recover proportional cost for this project from future customers. Future water customers are most likely parcels adjacent to Highways 101 and 102 (Dayton Airport Road) water pipeline route.

For questions about this project contact Dennis McDonald, Regional Project Manager 432-5167.

Inside Public Works—Operations & Breaking News

SPOTLIGHT ON: Preparing for the Rains

It's that time again to start cleaning drains and sweeping up leaves from our City streets. We all know that stormwater runs downhill. Although water will always take the path of least resistance, in the city, that path is usually not a stream. Typically stormwater travels through a catch basin, pipe, ditch, pond, or some other piece of infrastructure, and it eventually flows into a stream or the ground, or directly into Oakland Bay.



Our system has over 31.5 miles of storm pipe, and typical work includes:

- Cleaning pipes and drains with a Vactor truck.
- Removing sediment from ditches and ponds with a backhoe and dump truck.
- Cutting tree roots out of pipes with special cutting machines.
- Fixing small drainage problems by moving or installing new catch basins.
- Fixing larger drainage problems through Capital Improvement Projects.

City crews will be working to keep storm drains clear, but we could use your help! Use a garden rake or shovel and remove the leaves from the storm drain near your home or business. Be sure you remove the debris off the street, or it will just return during the next storm. Put sustainability into action—use your leaves for compost or mulch around your plants. When properly used as mulch or compost, leaves provide outstanding organic matter and nutrients to the soil. And remember you can pick up free sand bags from our city shop when needed to help prevent flooding by calling 360-426-9731.



Waste, Technically.....

The holidays are nearly upon us. More than likely this means that many of us will be receiving some “must have” technical gadgets that will replace the “must have” technical gadgets we received last year. While it’s fun to get the latest and greatest thing, it is important to be aware that many electronics, especially TVs and computers, contain toxic material such as lead, cadmium, and mercury. Reusing and recycling electronics keeps these toxics out of our landfills and incinerators and also recovers valuable resources.



Remember to “e-cycle” your electronics at the only certified “e-cycle” drop off center in Mason County, Wilson Recycling, located at 2278 East Brockdale Road in Shelton (telephone: 360-462-4444). Please call Scott Wilson for specifics but he is generally able to recycle “anything that plugs into a wall.” The electronic equipment that the program collects will be taken apart and separated into materials such as glass, plastic, metal, and toxic chemicals. The City of Shelton also accepts household batteries and cell phones for recycling at the Civic Center located at 525 West Cota Street—there are drop off boxes upstairs, in the Public Works lobby. For more information call Jason Dose at 36-432-5102.

FREE SANDBAGS!!

~ available at the City Shops (1000 Pine Street)

Tips for using sandbags:

1. Place the bags in the direction of the water flow with no spaces. Complete each layer before starting another.
2. Stagger the bags like you would bricks.
3. Limit stacks to 3 layers.

RAKE A DRAIN!!

YOU can help prevent flooding... The City has more than 1,500 storm drains to maintain & clean. If a drain near your home or business is clogged, use a rake or shovel to remove the debris and improve or restore drainage. Remember to remove he leaves from the street, or they'll just come back during the next storm.

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 it's 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!*

- 2010 Accomplishments
- Basin 5 funding
- Dayton-Airport Rd. Water Extension
- Completion of Satellite and Pump Station Projects
- Firehouse Renovations
- Grant and other funding opportunities