

BURIEN

MAGAZINE • DECEMBER 2015

RECIPE FOR GROWTH

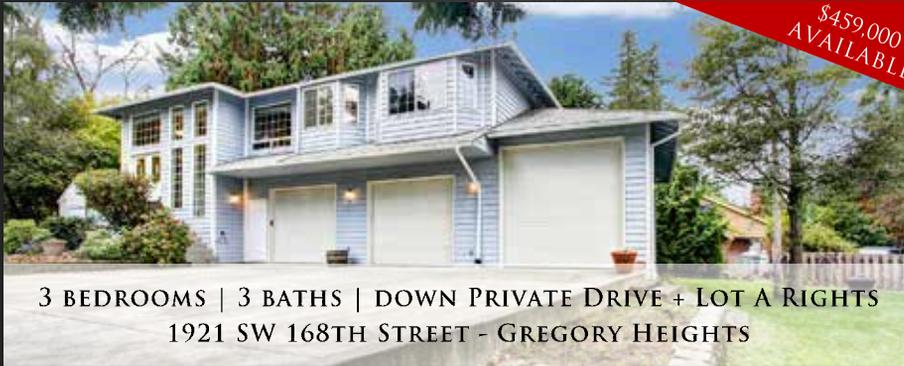
Branding Burien
Downtown Mobility
Business Watch Program

NEW WINTER EVENTS

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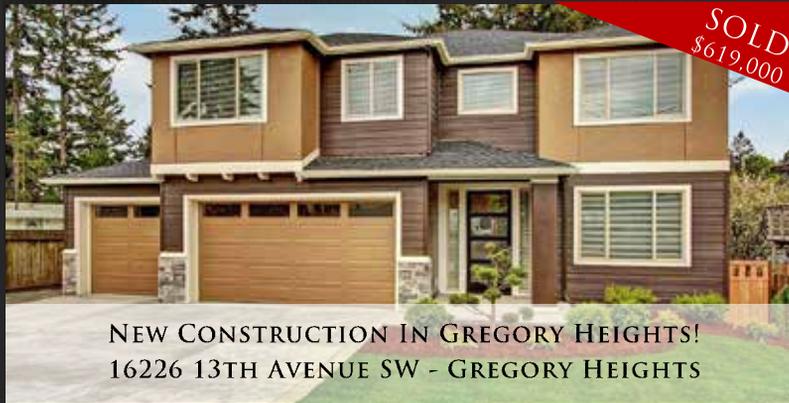
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE: ★★★★★

PROCESS EXPERTISE: ★★★★★

RESPONSIVENESS: ★★★★★

NEGOTIATION SKILLS: ★★★★★

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Burien Magazine a Success!

THIS IS THE SECOND ISSUE OF **BURIEN MAGAZINE** and I am happy to report that community support has been fantastic.

Our aim is to make **Burien Magazine** the community resource for learning about city of Burien initiatives, cultural events, regulation and policy.



The printed word continues to be the most trusted source of news and information. In fact, it is even more trusted now than it ever has been. A recent international media survey conducted by New York public relations firm Edelman, found that even the 18-to-34-year-old demographic trusts printed media at a rate three times that of websites. Social media platforms

barely registered on Edelman's trust scale.

Burien Magazine is trusted too, because we vet the information within it. **Burien Magazine** is dedicated to the factual accounting of city initiatives, cultural events and community events.

The news and information we report comes directly from the city, and/or bylined authors. Credible, trusted and knowledgeable sources, all.

Advertiser participation is the reason we are able to publish this community asset, and we rely on their continued support to allow us to publish **Burien Magazine** every quarter.

Please be sure to patronize our advertisers and make sure they know you recognize that they are the reason we can produce this magazine.

As long as our advertisers support us, we'll continue to provide you with accurate news about your community.

And thank you for your continued support and feedback. I always enjoy hearing from my neighbors!

— *Peter Philips, Publisher*

Burien Magazine is published by Philips Publishing Group for the City of Burien

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December through February

◀ Cover Picture

Local photographer Michael Brunk of NWlens.com photographed the 2013 Empty Bowls event at the Burien Community Center. Bowls for the annual event are individually crafted by artists from the Moshier Community Art Center, making each bowl a unique piece. Read more about the upcoming January event on page 21.

WINTER IS UPON US

*Though daylight is short, the lights are on strong at City Hall
as we wrap up a number of big projects for the year
and usher in a host of new ones.*



As you'll read in the following pages, Burien is undergoing a comprehensive branding process, launched this fall and expected to culminate next summer; we're researching downtown mobility to support an integrated multimodal transportation system in Downtown and Olde Burien; and we're looking for ways to include Burien in the 2016 Sound Transit 3 (ST3) package, with an eye toward securing a light rail or high capacity transit connection.

But for now, I want to take a moment and reflect back on one of our many successes of 2015. In July, our Burien Police Department changed how we schedule our officers. Since then, officers have been working what's called a "4/10 schedule." This schedule allows more overlap between officers' shifts during times of day when call volumes have historically been at their highest. The decision was a big one for our Department and came as an answer to two critical questions:

1. How do we increase public safety in Burien?
2. Can we do so without significantly affecting our budget?

Deliberate research revealed two specific timeframes in an average day during which Burien PD most often found itself needing more help. Outside of those timeframes, the demand for police services more closely matched existing staffing levels. Hence, the decision was made to lengthen the shift our officers work to allow more overlap – ten hour shifts instead of eight hour shifts, doubling our police force during crucial hours. The Department implemented this strategy, enabling us to maximize effectiveness without increasing the demand on taxpayer dollars.

Now, nearly six months into the program, we're certainly seeing the results. During the hours of overlap, the Police Department is able to increase coordination between detectives and patrol officers, allowing them to focus on specific crime issues in specific places. In police vernacular, this is known as Directive Patrol. Last year, the Burien police operated single Directive Patrol during a two-month time period, but with the new schedule in place this year, the Police were able to operate 95 Directive Patrols during a similar two-month span. Results have been especially positive in the downtown Burien area as well as throughout Burien's parks, which have been a key focus of the Department throughout the second half of 2015.

As we look to the future and all that 2016 might bring, the seeds planted in 2015 will take root and sprout. As your City Manager, I look forward to increasing the visibility of our community by working with staff and leadership at Sound Transit to make sure we're connected to the region as a whole. The challenges ahead may be difficult, but if we can work together to make informed decisions, deploy new innovations, and balance across competing goals, Burien's strengths can truly shine.

I hope you enjoy your winter edition of *Burien Magazine*, and I look forward to providing more updates in the editions to come. Thank you,

- Kamuron Gurol, City Manager

BURIEN MAYOR

Lucy Krakowiak • Mayor
206-242-8378

Nancy Tosta • Deputy Mayor
206-248-5508

CITY COUNCIL

Steve Armstrong • Councilmember
206-248-5508

Lauren Berkowitz • Councilmember
206-248-5508

Bob Edgar • Councilmember
206-248-5508

Gerald Robinson • Councilmember
206-248-5508

Debi Wagner • Councilmember
206-248-5508

CITY HALL

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Burien@Burienwa.gov
www.burienwa.gov

CITY OFFICES

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Community Development
Planning Division • 206-248-5510
Building Division • 206-248-5520
Permit Center • 206-248-5520

City Attorney • 206-248-5531

Economic Development • 206-248-5528
Finance • 206-241-5509

Human Resources • 206-248-5504

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Burien Community Center
14700 6th Ave SW
206-998-3700
www.BurienParks.net
Moshier Art Center • 206-242-7752

Police Department
Precinct #4, 14905 6th SW
206-477-2200

Parking Complaints/Police Tip Hotline
206-205-0969

Public Works • 206-248-5521

Senior Program • 206-988-3700
14700 6th Ave SW

City Job Line • 206-248-5534



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

It's that time of year again, the time when we look forward to the New Year and reflect back on all that has transpired over the past twelve months. As 2015 draws to a close, we are delighted by Burien's many accomplishments. Our community has a lot to be proud of! So here's a list with what might rank as the City of Burien's Top Ten Accomplishments of 2015.

10. EXPANDED THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

As you'll read later in this magazine, our emphasis on Economic Development is really taking shape. Economic Development ranked high on our list of priorities starting out the year, and now, we have a dedicated Economic Development Specialist on staff with a robust work plan in place to grow our economy by helping our businesses — both current and prospective.

9. SECURED STATE FUNDING FOR AN OFF-RAMP ALONG 518 AT DES MOINES MEMORIAL DRIVE

After years of debate, the state legislature came through with a transportation funding package this summer. The package included \$13.5 million for an east-bound off-ramp on SR 518 at Des Moines Memorial Drive. This project will help move traffic to and through the NERA corridor. Design for the project is nearly complete, and construction is expected to begin in 2017.

8. UPDATED OUR CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires us to review our critical areas policies every so often to make sure we're using the latest scientific practices to preserve our precious ecosystems. With six miles of Puget Sound shoreline and a number of streams, including the headwaters of Miller Creek, our geologic features are a core part of who we are in Burien.

7. RENOVATED DOTTIE HARPER PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Every so often, playgrounds need upgrades, and that has certainly been true at Dottie Harper Park. This year, thanks to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through King County, we answered the call to improve the playground and reopen it in time for children to enjoy it for the bulk of the summer.

6. INCREASED COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Outreach and engagement with the community is very important to us as a Council. We are pleased to report that this year, our quarterly newsletter expanded into Burien Magazine; activity increased across the City's official social media accounts; our website is in the early stages of a major upgrade; and events like Arts-A-Glow saw a record number of participants.

5. EXPANDED HUMAN SERVICES

Perhaps no entities know and understand the needs of the community better than our regional non-profits and human services agencies. Their expertise translates City dollars into real impacts in ways we, as a small municipality, can't achieve on our own. That's why we increased City funding to organizations like Auburn Youth Resources for expanded Youth Street Outreach and Transform Burien for Food Pantry and Meal Services.



▲ (Back row) Deputy Mayor Nancy Tosta, Councilmember Gerald Robison, Councilmember Lauren Berkowitz, Councilmember Steve Armstrong, (Front row) Councilmember Debi Wagner, Councilmember Bob Edgar, Mayor Lucy Krakowiak.

4. INCREASED POLICE COVERAGE BY INSTITUTING A 4/10 SCHEDULE

As our City Manager addresses in his report, our Police Department responded to staffing issues through critical analysis of call volumes to 911. This led the Department to change how it schedules its officers in order to meet peak demand, and already, it's proving successful for our community.

3. COMPLETED PHASE ONE OF THE NORTHEAST REDEVELOPMENT AREA (NERA)

Phase One of NERA not only opened a recreational trail to public use but also addressed longstanding stormwater issues and rehabilitated a critical watershed. If you haven't taken a stroll yet along the Miller Creek Trail, you'll certainly want to add it to the list of places to visit on one of the rare and precious sunny days this winter.

2. SECURED A \$5 MILLION FAA GRANT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PORT OF SEATTLE

The Port is the official recipient of the \$5 Million which will help redevelop Burien lands near the Airport. The funding will boost economic development in NERA and grow employment opportunities within City borders. Diligent work and collaboration with the Port brought these federal dollars home to our community.

1. BROKE GROUND ON TWO LARGE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

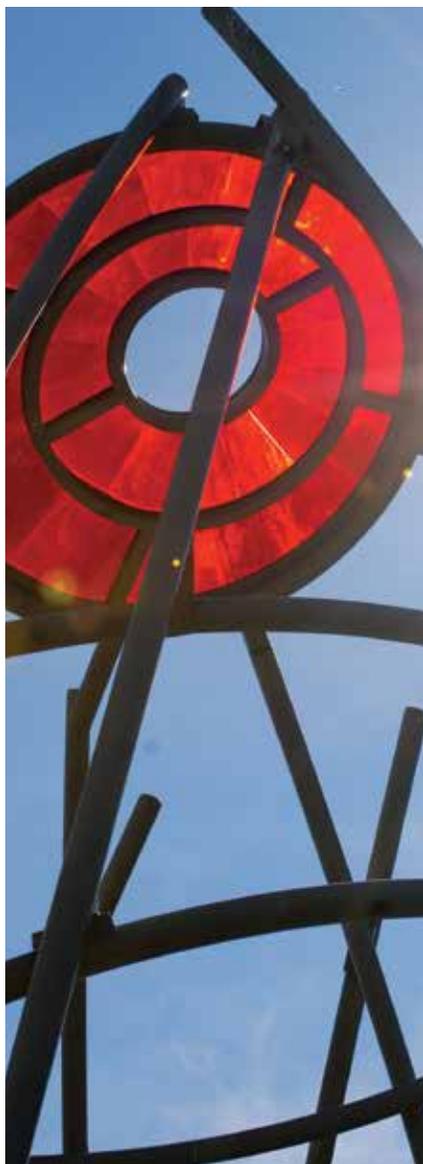
With the addition of 228 market-rate apartments and a high-quality senior living facility right in our downtown core, Burien will see big changes in the months ahead. More downtown living translates into more demand for goods and services nearby, drawing investments in some of the currently-vacant storefronts near Town Square.

As in any year, this one wasn't all challenge-free, but as you can see, we have plenty of successes to celebrate as well. The list could go on and on — 2015 was truly another big year for Burien. Happy Holidays! May 2016 bring even more great news for our City.

BRANDING BURIEN

PART ONE: THE STORY BEGINS

This is the first article in a multi-part series covering Burien's Branding Initiative which is expected to culminate in early summer 2016.



By Katie Whittier Trefry,
Burien Communications Officer

YOU'VE HEARD IT BEFORE. WE ALL HAVE. Mention Burien to someone from another part of our state or even King County and you're likely to hear comments worth facepalming over.

"Burien – I think I passed through there on my way to the airport."

"Burien – that's by Tacoma, right?"

"Wait, Burien has a beach?"

But bring that same person here for one of Burien's amazing community events and their comments change.

"Awesome, walkable downtown!"

"Great community vibe!"

"Best kept secret in Seattle!"

(Really? Really?)

Burien is a growing city with a rich heritage and strong community traditions, but sometimes we struggle to be heard. Others tell our story for us and, in doing so, wash over our greatest strengths. It's time to own our brand – it's time to shout it loud and proud – it's time to be discovered.

◀ *New "Helios Pavilion" sculpture is meant to harness the sun, native history and the energy of place, and provide a beacon and muse for the community.*

WHY DOES BURIEN NEED A BRAND OR RE-BRAND?

Burien already has a brand – one that is increasingly defined by outsiders and that fails to capture the community spirit, attractive location, and unique flavors of our diverse residents and businesses. It is time to take back our brand from the outsiders who want to cast us in a false light, and doing so will demonstrate to the region and beyond how livable and friendly we really are. As we draw more visitors, residents, and businesses to our community, our economy gets stronger.

"A community's brand plays a big role in defining and relaying its success," said Dan Trimble, Burien Economic Development Manager. "All sorts of brand impressions are created for Burien by people who maybe don't know Burien as well as the community itself does, and we want to make sure we're telling our story ourselves, authentically and effectively. We need a brand that is up to date and an ongoing branding effort that supports the community's vision."

BRANDING, A CORNERSTONE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development is a key priority of the Burien City Council. At its January 2015 Retreat, the Council identified branding as a top priority for City action this year. The need for a strong, professional brand for our City was made apparent through rounds of input from the business community as

The City of Burien will utilize branding as a tool to support economic development in six ways:

1. Differentiate us from our competitor cities
2. Communicate our vision and values
3. Retain existing and recruit new businesses
4. Drive sales and other tax revenue
5. Guide strategic marketing efforts
6. Build awareness and enhance community pride



◀ The JayRay Team snapped this photo at Seahurst Park this summer while they prepared their response to the City's RFP. Seahurst Park and its restored beach rank among Burien's greatest assets.

well as residents during the Economic Development Dialogue.

In 2014, the business community supported a Business & Operations (B&O tax) increase targeted at funding local economic development. The increase was implemented in 2015, and the City Council directed the revenue to be spent on economic development

programs. This initiative is one of several to be funded from this revenue.

The Burien Branding Initiative augments other City services. Branding is just one of many City Council priorities. It isn't more important than making Burien safer, finding ways to help vulnerable populations, or building and maintaining the infrastructure that

WHAT IS BRANDING?

Branding is a set of ideas, images, values, and beliefs that define a business or organization. Brands apply to everything from products and services to companies and individuals. Successful entities own and hone their brand, nurturing it over time to build trust, confidence, and loyalty. But good brands go a step farther and serve as an aspirational roadmap for the organization's future. This is why branding matters, and not just to companies and celebrities, but even to governmental entities including cities.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Spa at Cedarbrook Lodge

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

connects us all. We need each of those things: public safety, human services, public works, and more.

The City also needs a strong economy driving sales and other tax revenues in order to provide those services, and that's where branding comes in. As our economy grows, so too grows City revenue, and with it, our ability to provide better infrastructure and fund more services. Branding isn't a trade-off; it's an essential value-added part of our operations. By tackling it now, we aim to secure our place in the regional economic boom so that Burien doesn't get left behind.

Burien's brand will help us communicate Burien's vision and values. It will help us to share the strengths of our community, the ingenuity present here, and the opportunities to come. It will help us execute our new business retention and recruitment plan, help attract a hotel, and differentiate us from our competitors. In short, it will grow community pride and build a plan for sharing that pride beyond our borders.

THE INITIATIVE

The City issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) in July to attract branding proposals from around the nation. Fifteen applicants responded to the RFP, and while they represented firms from Seattle to Ohio, we received no responses from Burien-based firms. The

“A brand is more than a logo and tagline— it’s the sum of all things that form customers’ perceptions. For Burien, that includes what distinguishes the community from other cities”

KATHLEEN DEAKINS
JayRay President and Owner

applicants brought strong credentials and a wide variety of approaches to branding, addressing everything from tourism to place-making and beyond.

After critical review and a round of in-person interviews with the top four candidate agencies, ad agency JayRay of Tacoma emerged as the top choice due to its comprehensive approach to branding, its research-driven process, its experience with public sector entities, and its understanding of Burien as a key community in the Puget Sound Region. Some of JayRay's recent clients include City of Fife, Pierce County, University of Washington, Tacoma Public Schools, and Travel Tacoma + Pierce County.

With its base contract at \$93,000 and the flexibility to add on services as we need them, rather than purchasing a pre-set “package” of services, JayRay offered an attractive alternative for our budget. It's

just an added benefit that leaders at JayRay have deep family ties in Burien and have lived in nearby southside communities for significant portions of their lives.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Since early November, JayRay has been conducting research with internal and external stakeholders to gather data on Burien's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and blind spots. In addition to new research, JayRay is sorting through mounds of previous research and existing information to make sure the result of our initiative matches the true core of our community's values. The research wraps up this month, and beginning in January, creative brand development begins based on the findings.

By late spring, expect to see new imagery, colors, and slogans emerge. And later this year, the branding will even extend to a new City website – one that's mobile-compatible and able to keep pace with the changing needs of the community. So stay tuned as this series progresses. The months ahead are sure to bring lots of excitement.

From the Brat Trot to the Fourth of July Parade and beyond, we in Burien already know what a special place it is. Let's shout it to the world!

Have you participated in our survey yet? Add your voice to our brand by December 7: www.burienwa.gov/Branding101. ■

JAYRAY A PLACE TO THINK

Branding | Advertising | Strategic Communications



KATHLEEN DEAKINS • PRESIDENT & CO-OWNER

Kathleen has been the force behind strategic communication and marketing campaigns for more than two decades. Leaders in a range of organizations from family-owned businesses to local municipalities to regional nonprofits regularly turn to her for advice. She's counseled health care clients across the country through mergers, service launches, crises and the implementation of complex strategic initiatives. Kathleen is accredited in public relations and earned her BA from the University of Puget Sound and MBA from University of Washington.

BRIDGET BAETH • ADVISOR

Marketing local. Merging art and words. That best describes Bridget's game. From event planning to market research, her approach is always creative and her solutions are ever integrated. Bridget knows what it takes to build brands that connect with communities. She believes in the power of storytelling and loves helping organizations articulate their narratives so they can form deep connections with people. When Bridget isn't mastering the art of roasting marshmallows, she is getting her food on at the newest coffee house, microbrewery or bakery in Puget Sound.

Mayors Day of Concern for the Hungry

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO TO SLEEP ON AN EMPTY STOMACH? Do you go to work or school hungry? Chances are, someone you know experiences hunger on a recurring basis. According to Feeding America, one in seven Americans struggle to put dinner on the table regularly. Without options like the Highline Area and White Center Food Banks, hunger would be experienced even more frequently by families whose resources are stretched too thin.

Because hunger neither begins nor ends with the holidays, the City of Burien launched its staff food drive early this year, on September 19. This allowed us to join King County in celebrating the annual Mayors Day of Concern for the Hungry, a day celebrated in cities across the county on the last Saturday in September each year. Its purpose is to give extra thought and recognition to adequate nutrition and hunger through the Emergency Feeding Program.

This year Burien City staff, local businesses and residents worked together to collect a total of 1,908 items, a nearly a 20 percent increase from last year's food drive. The donations were split between the Highline Food Bank and the White Center Food Bank. In addition, the City's 2015-16 budget includes financial support for both food banks.

The first Mayors Day of Hunger was held on October 1, 1992 as a way to connect grocery stores, individuals, and other programs to the tremendous amount of need that exists throughout King County. It was declared an annual event, but since the tradition relies on volunteers, the date changed from October 1 to the "last Saturday of

September" each year to keep the event on a weekend.

The Emergency Feeding Program understands that hunger is a complex issue and works hard to target root causes of hunger. With over 200 partners, the organization works to make food available when people are in need while offering balanced nutrition. In order to meet a wide variety of needs, they offer 15 different meal packs, each designed in consultation with professional nutritionists with specific cultural or dietary needs in mind. ■



By Alyssa Wilson
Communications Intern

To learn more about how you can help those in need, reach out to one of the following organizations.

**HIGHLINE
FOOD BANK:**
206-433-9900

**WHITE CENTER
FOOD BANK:**
206-762-2848

**TRANSFORM
BURIEN:**
206-839-6620

**EMERGENCY
FEEDING PROGRAM:**
206-329-0300

◀ Community Center staff collected items for the food drive as well.

▼ City staff present donated food to Highline Food Bank on October 9, 2015.



RETENTION & EXPANSION:

A RECIPE FOR GROWTH

By Chris Craig
Burien Economic Development Specialist

LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE KEY TO OUR COMMUNITY. They provide employment opportunities, they supply goods and services to our residents and visitors, and they generate more than a third of the revenue needed for City government to serve the Burien community. It goes without saying that helping these businesses thrive is important to all of us.

In my new role as Economic Development Specialist, I'm on a mission to do just that – to help keep Burien businesses open and profitable and to identify opportunities for them to expand. Economic development research indicates that this is the most effective way to spur local growth, through the retention and expansion of the businesses which have already chosen Burien as their home. To further my role, we are launching a Business Engagement Program beginning this winter so that the City can strengthen its relationships with business owners.

Already, more than 1,200 businesses operate with physical locations inside Burien's borders. Another 400 or more operate as home-based businesses. Through the Business Engagement Program, the City will learn more about these companies and their needs, looking for ways to increase their prosperity here. Perhaps there's a way to simplify government processes at the City, making them more navigable for business owners; perhaps the City can connect them with

" ... it is clear that Burien is fortunate to have a business community with deep roots. The vast majority of businesses have been in operation for over 10 years, demonstrating a clear commitment to Burien as their choice of location for their business."

2015 DISCOVER BURIEN BUSINESS SURVEY PRELIMINARY REPORT



financing resources they haven't yet accessed; maybe we can generate ideas and facilitate introductions to help expand their market; and maybe I'll learn that businesses just need us to get out of their way. Likely, as the engagement process continues, I'll hear a combination of all these possibilities and more as I work to increase the City's

▲ The front desk at Burien's City Hall is busy with community members and business owners seeking information, permits, and submitting applications.

responsiveness to business needs. The City is also enacting a Counter Engagement Program to assist new and existing businesses when they visit City Hall. Businesses



Chris Craig joined the City of Burien on September 1 to serve as its first Economic Development Specialist. The City Council approved the Economic Development Specialist position in early 2015 to advance the priorities set through its Strategic Planning process.

Craig came to the City with a strong background in business development, project management, advocacy, communications, and public-private partnerships. Most recently, he served as the Business Development & Acquisitions Manager at American

Capital Group in Bellevue, a premier multifamily housing developer with a portfolio of eighty communities across ten states.

Prior to his work at American Capital Group, Craig worked as Business Development Manager for Rockwell Publishing, a small business also located in Bellevue.

Craig is a graduate of the University of Washington where he met his wife, whose family has lived in Burien for more than 25 years. He can be reached at chrisc@burienwa.gov or 206-241-4647.

drop by our front desk often, whether they're applying for licensing, seeking permits, or asking questions about the City more generally. I want to make sure the businesses get what they need when they visit City Hall, and I plan to check in with new businesses so that we're able to follow-up with any further assistance as needed.

In light of all the local, regional, and national market changes, our ability as a City to provide help to businesses will give us a competitive advantage when it comes to strengthening our local economy. I invite any business owner to reach out and introduce yourself – I would enjoy meeting you and hearing your ideas on how we can make Burien stronger. ■



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Business Education Breakfast Series

OPENING A BUSINESS CAN BE TOUGH, AND KEEPING IT OPEN CAN BE EVEN TOUGHER.

While passion inspires an entrepreneur to set out and take risks, it's hard work, dedication, and diligence that ultimately lead to success.

According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), about two-thirds of new businesses are still open after the first two years, meaning that fully one-third of businesses fail during those early years. Extend it out to four years and the number of surviving businesses shrinks to only 44 percent: an estimated 56 percent of businesses fail in their first five years.

These are sobering statistics, sobering enough for us to stop and think: how can we increase our odds so that more businesses succeed here in Burien? After all, our mission as Discover Burien is to create and sustain a vibrant economy and dynamic community through promotion and education. We look for ways to promote our community and



By Andrea Reay,
Executive Director, Discover Burien

our businesses at every turn – could we do more to educate them?

With these concerns in mind, Discover Burien is proud to launch the Business Education Breakfast Series in 2016. Education will be our prime focus at these monthly events where we will provide tools, resources, and economic updates to help your business adapt to an ever-changing market. Beginning this January on the fourth Thursday of each month, join us at 7:30 a.m. at the Discover Burien headquarters for a simple, one-topic class over breakfast and coffee. Better yet, we'll get you out the door by 9:00 so you can get back to the important work of building your business.

Whether you have owned your business for over 10 years, or are

just thinking about opening a new business, each class will offer the opportunity to grow. We carefully selected topics by speaking with business owners about their concerns and by reviewing the SBA's top recommendations for how to succeed as a new business. You can see the full list of topics and a calendar by visiting www.DiscoverBurien.org or contacting our office at (206) 433-2882.

But wait! There's more: if you or a member/employee of your business attend at least half of the Breakfasts in 2016, your business will receive an award plaque showcasing your achievement, promotion in our 2017 "Best of Burien" dinner program, and a complimentary mention on local on-line media outlets.

Our organization was founded on the principle that we are better and stronger together. We know that through this new commitment to business education we will see more of us succeed and have many more business milestone anniversaries to celebrate in our community. Let us help you strengthen your business breakfast by breakfast. See you in January!

For more information on how Discover Burien can help you prepare for success as well as other events happening in our community, visit www.discoverburien.org. ■



BUSINESS EDUCATION BREAKFASTS

7:30 a.m.

Discover Burien - 427 SW 152nd St., Downtown
4th Thursday Every Month



Seahurst Campfire Event Makes a Return

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BRUNK



Last year, to celebrate the re-opening of Seahurst Park, the City of Burien hosted a family campfire event on the beach. The event proved

so popular that it made a return this October. Check out some of the photos local photographer Michael Brunk took throughout that magical evening. ■



- ▲ (above) Falconer John Prucich shares his love of all birds of prey at the Campfire event. Here, he introduces a great horned owl.
- ◀ (top) Guests arrive for the second annual Seahurst Beach Family Campfire Event at sunset on October 2. The rain mostly stayed away as families cozied up by the fire.
- ◀ (bottom left) Children gather for “All Hail Plankton!” – an educational demonstration organized by Environmental Science Center staff during the Campfire event.
- ◀ (bottom right) Roasting marshmallows around the fire is always a highlight of the Campfire event.

NERA GETS A \$5 MILLION BOOST

On August 31, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell announced that Sea-Tac Airport, and by extension, the City of Burien had secured a \$5 million Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant to continue the redevelopment of 66.54 acres of airport land within a portion of the Northeast Redevelopment Area (NERA). The completed project will result in approximately 732,000 square feet of air cargo-related warehouse space for new tenants and support 1,072 new jobs. ■



“This \$5 million FAA grant is a big win for Burien and Washington state. By redeveloping this area, we support SEA-TAC’s growing air cargo business, ensure goods are shipped more efficiently and create more than 1,000 new jobs in the region. Smart investments in our transportation infrastructure means greater opportunities for Washington small businesses,”

MARIA CANTWELL
US SENATOR



“This grant award leverages city and port investments, state funding, and the hard work that our community has already put into redeveloping this area. Thanks to the efforts of our federal delegation, the funds will help us attract private sector investments and quality jobs to further boost our economy.”

LUCY KRAKOWIAK
CITY OF BURIEN MAYOR



“The funds championed by Senator Cantwell support the strong economic development partnership between the port and the City of Burien. In addition to supporting our Century Agenda vision of creating jobs through economic growth, redevelopment of this property provides direct economic benefit to the Burien community.”

STEPHANIE BOWMAN
PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION
CO-PRESIDENT



PHOTO CREDIT: COSTANERA CREATIVE

DOWNTOWN MOBILITY:

FINDING MORE THAN ONE PATH TO OPPORTUNITY

AS MILLENNIALS ENTER THE WORKFORCE and baby boomers downsize from their traditional family homes, companies are choosing to locate in walkable downtowns where these talented and experienced workers want to live. While many companies have relocated to urban areas, the increasing costs of living and doing business in a major metropolis have spurred interest in suburban edge cities. Rather than suburban office parks, walkable mixed-use suburban cities are attracting the most interest from new or relocating businesses.

Burien has the potential to provide the qualities that these companies and individuals look for by offering a desirable downtown neighborhood. Across the region,

By Chris Craig, Burien
Economic Development Specialist



▲ Downtown Burien recognized by the Puget Sound Regional Council as one of 25 regional growth centers.

residents are supporting locations where they have the opportunity to drive and park once to complete multiple tasks, or to use public transit, walk, or ride their bike. Additionally, businesses and employees value connectivity and a range of transportation, housing, and entertainment options. The ease of travel to and from Burien, affordable lease rates, and an active community offer a strong base from which to attract jobs and residents.

With Downtown Burien recognized by the Puget Sound Regional Council as one of 25 regional growth centers, the City has prioritized the need to plan for increased density and transportation management in the short and long term. In support of those goals, the

City has requested proposals from qualified professional consulting firms for a comprehensive study to support development of regulations, programs, and capital improvements for a potential Downtown Mobility District. The purpose of this project is to generate a creative toolbox of policies to be included as an overlay district in the Zoning Code.

The City adopted a Complete Streets Ordinance in conjunction with its Transportation Master Plan for the entire City in 2012. Downtown and Old Burien were identified as unique zones within the City for integration of new strategies to encourage the multimodal elements discussed in that plan. With the newest phase of the Burien Town Square project under construction and set to add more than 350 multigenerational housing units by 2017, the City is looking to balance the needs of all travelers.

The Downtown Mobility Study will identify and evaluate strategies to support an integrated multimodal transportation system for the Downtown and Old Burien zones. A Parking Study will be included in the proposal, and the City expects to evaluate a combined and cohesive strategy to balance parking and vehicle circulation, transit access, land use regulations, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian facilities, alley activation, arts and cultural identity, and storm water management.

The City is looking beyond standard transportation planning and envisions the creation of a framework to support all elements of a thriving multi-use zone. The Downtown Mobility Study has the potential to economically activate the area by improving accessibility, safety, and aesthetic appeal, while elevating the City's presence in the Puget Sound region. ■



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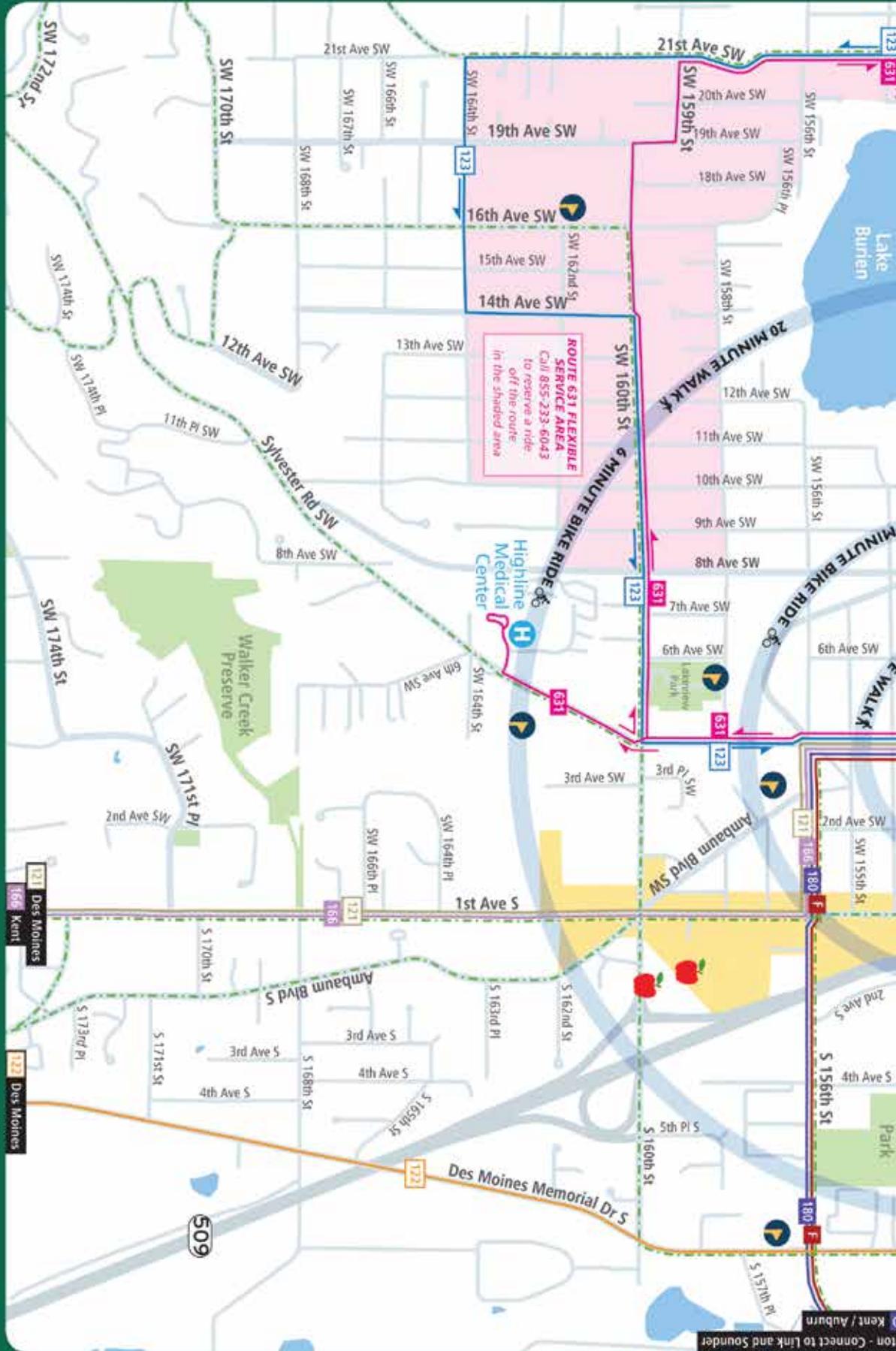
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BURIEN TRAVEL MAP



Stay current on your **Seattle City Light** bills!

By Seattle City Light Outreach Staff

MRS. DAVIS IS IN A BIND. She is a senior who has been living alone in her small house since her husband died five years ago. She had to give up her career in retail because of arthritis and knows the meaning of 'fixed income' all too well. What seemed like a wonderful retirement plan thirty years ago has been eroded by inflation, unexpected medical bills, and life circumstances.

Her disposable income is enough for food, medical or utilities. But not all of them... She is falling behind on her bills, and is in need of assistance.

This story is fictitious but will ring true to a surprising number of King County residents.

The Mayor of Seattle, Ed Murray, has an initiative to double enrollment, but still people like Mrs. Davis and others who might be more or less struggling with their bills do not know that help is available. For a typical household, annual savings average \$800.

If you believe you qualify, call us for a confidential review! Representatives are available Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to assist you. Reach us at 206-684-5788 or go to <http://www.seattle.gov/light/assistance/>.

If you don't qualify, you can still help. Please spread the word to those who might benefit from assistance with their utility bills and make sure they know about this program! ■



The **Utility Discount Program** provides 60% off Seattle City Light electric bills to income qualified customers. You may be eligible if:

- You are a Seattle City Light customer.
- Your total household income for the past month prior to applying does not exceed the income guidelines.
- You do NOT receive direct federal housing subsidy such as Section 8 or Shelter + Care.
NOTE: Housing types that ARE ACCEPTED into the program includes Tax Credit, Hope VI, Bond Housing, Minimum Rent and Housing First.



5 UDP • Income Eligibility Requirements

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	GROSS YEARLY INCOME
1	\$2,570	\$30,840
2	\$3,360	\$40,320
3	\$4,151	\$49,812
4	\$4,941	\$59,292
5	\$5,732	\$68,784
6	\$6,523	\$78,276
7	\$6,671	\$80,052
8	\$6,819	\$81,828
9	\$6,967	\$83,604
10	\$7,116	\$85,392
Each Add.	\$211	\$2,541

Note: Gross Income is based on 70% of the state's median income.



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Lake to Sound Trail

by Alyssa Wilson, Communications Intern

HER PARENTS MET AT A BICYCLE CLUB, she grew up riding, she even had a dog named “Raleigh” after the popular bike brand-- inevitably, cycling has always been a part of her life and still is.

Anne Bertucio left the Burien area after high school and lived in Portland for almost nine years where biking is made much easier, she says.

“In Portland that’s the culture, you just don’t drive,” she says. “The city isn’t designed for it and doesn’t really accommodate for it. So if you want to be efficient, you bike.”

After getting used to the Portland bike culture, she moved back to the Burien area and refused to give up her commuting ritual, even if the city infrastructure doesn’t always make it easy.

Working in downtown Seattle, her bike commute resembles a duathlon: bike, bus, bike. She starts in Normandy Park, bikes to the Transit Center in Burien, gets off at the first stop in downtown Seattle, and bikes the rest of the way toward Capitol Hill to work.

This may sound like a lot of effort to get to work, but Bertucio believes that the benefits are worth it. In fact, there’s really no disadvantage.

“I feel great, I arrive to work happier and less stressed – the fitness, the health – and I usually even beat cars there,” she says.

Every day after getting off the bus, she picks a car and tries to beat it through downtown, and most days, wins.

While biking still isn’t as easy for cyclists as it could be, she says that Burien has improved over the years and is impressed with some of the bike lanes and infrastructure that has changed. Still, she hopes that biking continues to grow in this community.

“It may take a while to get used to, but once people get used to seeing it, your community changes. If someone has to be the first, I’m going to do it,” she explains.

Now, Burien, in partnership with King County and several other cities, is making an effort to make biking more accessible for people like Anne with the Lake to Sound Trail. This trail will start at Southern end of Lake Washington in Renton and stretch to the shoreline of Puget Sound in Des Moines.

This multiuse asphalt trail will be 12-foot-wide, have two soft-surface shoulders and one-foot clear zones on each side of the trail. This project will also include retaining walls, improved intersections, drainage systems, culverts, bollards, native landscaping, fencing, art and other trail amenities.

Construction will be done in three sections including Segments A, B, and C. Segment B is currently under construction and



“I hope people take this as an opportunity to get into biking as a recreational activity, Maybe that will inspire them to get on their bike as a commuter.”

ANNE BERTUCIO



includes Des Moines Drive from S. Normandy Park Road to S. 156th Street, which is the section that goes through Burien. Construction on this segment is expected to be completed by spring 2016, and the Lake to Sound Trail will be fully completed over the next few years. Planning is still underway at King County for Segment C, the final segment, through SeaTac.

The Lake to Sound trail won’t help Bertucio with her daily commute, but will serve as a recreational trail for all stripes of cyclists. ■

Recording-Breaking Crowds for Middle School Programs

By Burien Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Staff

The response to this fall's new After-School and Late Night programs at Sylvester Middle School has exceeded expectations in a big way! During recent years, the Late Night program had averaged 30-40 Burien youth on a regular basis. When this year's program opened in October, a line was waiting outside the door, with 135 youth attending. The After-School program was recently moved on-site to Sylvester from the Community Center, which has resulted in an 85% jump in attendance. Over 600 surveys were completed by students to tell staff what their preference of activities would be.

The City's provision of these high-quality programs provides a safe and supportive place for Burien youth to participate in active, healthful recreation. Activities include basketball, soccer, football, arts and crafts, and video games. Students are also provided snacks. Specialized instruction is also being planned, such as healthy cooking, creating and recording music beats, and painting.

In addition to the convenience for students to attend the program right at their school, another new location benefit is the availability to get transportation home from the school's Activity Bus. ■



▲ Producer Jay Battle teaches a late night teen program participant how to structure a song.



▲ Aquatic exercise participants enjoy their class in the Highline Athletic Club's warm water pool.

EXPANDED ADULT FITNESS Begins in January

By Burien Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Staff

WITH WINTER'S SHORT DAYLIGHT HOURS AND COOL, WET WEATHER, it's time to check-out the wealth of indoor fitness opportunities available through your Parks and Recreation Department.

Beginning in January, a magnificent menu of new morning, evening, and weekend classes will be offered in conjunction with the Highline Athletic Club (HAC). New classes include Drop-In Pickleball, HAC Barre, Creative Water Work-Outs, Underwater Hockey, Private Swim Lessons, and Hydro Cardio. Another exciting option is purchasing a "HAC Passport" that allows you to choose 5 classes offered at the club, such as Group Ride, Centergy, Pickleball, Hydro Cardio or even Hip Hop Blast!

The ever-popular programs at the Burien Community Center will also start their new sessions in January. Zumba, Kettlebell, Yoga, Enhance Fitness, and Silver Sneakers are just a few of the programs that are helping to keep Burien's adults and seniors as healthy as possible.

For more information, call 206-988-3700 or view programs at BurienParks.net. ■

**Saturday,
September 12, 2015
DOTTIE HARPER PARK**



Arts-A-Glow

Arts-A-Glow is the City's annual evening lantern festival and procession, held this year on September 12. Experiencing this event is like no other: artists transform Dottie Harper Park into a magical environment, with lit-up art installations, lanterns, music, and performers. Event participants – most dressed in glowing attire – then proceed on a walk through the community with their lanterns to the beats of a local band. This event showcases Burien's creativity in all of its glorious forms. ■

See more event images at:
www.burienwa.gov/GLOW.

Watch a slideshow of the 2015 festivities at
http://youtu.be/Yb_K5WaPqQ.





Empty Bowls Bring Us Together

One of Burien's favorite events is coming our way at the end of January. Empty Bowls – a community fundraising event to benefit the Highline and White Center Food Banks – heads into its 11th year with hopes of building on the successes of 2015. Its 10th anniversary event, held last January, broke all fundraising and attendance records with more than 1,200 in attendance donating a total of more than \$21,000.

By Katie Whittier Trefry, Burien Communications Officer

EMPTY BOWLS IS ABOUT MORE THAN FUNDRAISING, HOWEVER. Perhaps of all Burien's many community events, this one speaks to our connectedness more than any other. The City of Burien and Discover Burien bring together artisans, businesses, and residents young and old. Artisans from the Parks and Recreation Moshier Center pottery program who design, create, and donate original, handmade bowls for the event, and this is no small undertaking. In 2015, our potters donated more than 1,300 bowls!

Contrary to the event's name, those bowls don't go empty for long. Burien restaurants craft and donate soup with which to fill the bowls, and in a spirit of friendly competition, participants taste and judge the soups to determine a winner. Last January, more than 22 local restaurants, caterers, and facilities donated soup, and Elliott Bay secured top prize with its Tony's chicken tortilla soup.

Empty Bowls is an international event designed raise awareness about and combat hunger. The event was founded twenty-five years ago by an art teacher in Michigan. Its model has been replicated again and again, offering a platform to connect the arts community, the social services community, businesses, and the community at large to address hunger together, at a local level.

While the best part of the event is having an opportunity to help fill the coffers of our hard-working food banks, it is equally exciting to enjoy the

various flavors our soup-makers design and bask in the warmth of community. All that and you get to take a bowl home with you!

For more information on how you can help fight hunger in our community every day please visit <http://www.highlineareafoodbank.org/> and <http://whitecenterfoodbank.org/>. ■

▼ *Community members peruse the wide selection of hand-crafted bowls for sale at the 2013 Empty Bowls event. Artists from the Moshier Community Art Center donate the bowls and all proceeds go to our local food banks.*



BURIEN PARKS – “There’s an App for That!”

By Michael Lafreniere, Burien Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director

BACK IN 2013, FACED WITH THE NEED TO KEEP UP WITH CHANGES in how the public accesses information and the Internet, Burien’s Parks & Recreation Department used in-house resources to create the City’s first mobile app for smartphones and tablets, consolidating existing information sources into a single easy-to-use platform for customers and residents.

The Burien’s Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (PaRCS) Department unveiled the mobile app more than two years ago for residents to use on their mobile devices, i.e. smartphones and iPads. The “BurienParks.net” mobile app enables users to access information concerning a broad range of Burien’s parks and recreation services wherever you go.

With this free mobile app, residents and visitors can get up-to-date information on city parks, recreation classes, news, the arts, community events and more.

Given the changes in how people interact with the Internet, the Department recognized the need to keep pace with the shift to mobile devices. The objective in this case was to create a communications medium that was mobile, easily accessible, and would integrate different communications and information into a centralized form. Taking into consideration the inherent limitations in the City’s overall website, the Department looked for low-cost methods to create a mobile presence years ahead of the upcoming website redesign (coming summer 2016).

Following some research, the Department found several online web-based platforms that provide the ability for anyone to create and customize mobile applications. The

The mobile app enables you to:

- Receive special notifications
- Browse event listings
- Get News Flash updates
- Access the Recreation Guide instantly
- Register for recreation classes
- View BurienParks’ latest Facebook and Twitter posts
- Get directions to parks, recreation facilities, or public art
- View photo galleries
- Watch our latest videos
- Listen to BurienPark’s audio announcements



new app was then developed entirely “in-house” by a PaRCS Department staff member: no outside support was needed from consultants.

The app was created and developed using a service that enables anyone to build a mobile application online. It required no specialized computer programming knowledge, only basic understanding of design goals. For the most part, the app makes use of existing content and media that is already being generated for use in other online contexts. For example, the app draws upon the RSS feed from the City’s website, pulls posts from the Department’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, and makes use of existing online technologies such as Google maps. The application also has the capacity to push-out special notifications that appear in a smartphone’s notification bar, and the Department can use this feature to issue urgent notices and special news items to the installed base of app users.

“Our goal with the latest project was to make what we do and what we offer as accessible as possible for our customers and our residents, and to further build and nurture our community networks,” said PaRCS Director Michael Lafreniere. “For residents, it is like having your own piece of Burien in your pocket or purse.” The project also



sought to further build on the brand identity that the Department has been cultivating over the past several years, based on the Department's website domain name, www.BurienParks.net.

For the past several years, the Burien PaRCS Department has been active on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. In 2012 the Burien PaRCS Department was awarded the City of Burien's Innovative Stewards of Public Trust Award for its efforts in the City to lead on the use of social media and digital communications to reach the public. The Department also has its own channel on YouTube, an online photo catalog on Flickr, and it also post audio recordings concerning key events and programs.

The app can be downloaded from Google's Play Store or the Apple AppStore. It is also available in Amazon's Appstore for use on the Kindle Fire. Using your mobile device or a desktop computer, you can go to www.m.BurienParks.net to access links to the mobile app stores. Alternatively, first-time visitors to the site using a

smartphone have the option of visiting a mobile-friendly web-based version of the app that can be viewed in the web browser of their mobile device. While the BurienParks.net app is not yet supported on Windows Phones, the mobile website version of the app can still be viewed on those devices as well as other mobile devices using a web browser application.

The PaRCS Department has been monitoring the metrics on the number of users installing the apps, and which types of devices are being used. So far, 62% of the installs have been on iPhones, and 38% on Android phones. The number of users continues to grow, and the Department has received favorable comments from users, marketing and media professionals, as well as colleagues in the parks and recreation field that are now following Burien's experience as a pilot project testing this communications medium. Burien Parks was the first parks and recreation department in Washington to release a customized mobile application for smartphones. ■

DIRECTOR LAFRENIERE DEPARTS



The City of Burien thanks Director Lafreniere for his service over the past decade. He leaves a wide-ranging legacy of growth, including

the Seahurst Restoration Project, numerous park and playground upgrades, repurposing the former Burien library as a new home for the Burien Community Center, expanded event participation and increased program revenues. He also substantially increased his department's community outreach through social media and innovations such as the BurienParks.net mobile app, the state's first for a municipal parks and recreation agency. "I am very pleased with what has been and is being accomplished every day by the PaRCS Department and its staff of incredibly talented professionals," Lafreniere said. "I will miss working with these folks a great deal."

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What's the big deal about 90?

By Alyssa Wilson,
Communications Intern

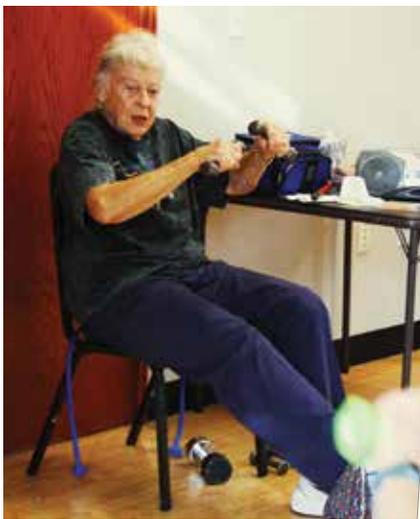
AFTER PRESSING THE 'PLAY' BUTTON ON THE RADIO, the sound from her marching feet immediately sync to the beat of the music and rhythm of her baton swinging side-to-side. It's clear from the start this woman isn't what people expect from the average 90-year-old—

"It's because I never quit. That's why people age, you just have to keep going."



EILEEN BROOMELL

WINNER, SENIOR SERVICES
2015 POSITIVE AGING AWARD



▲ Fitness instructor Eileen Broomell, 90, teaches at the Burien Community Center. She believes activity, both physical and intellectual, is the key to longevity.



TURNING NINETY

What's the big deal about turning ninety? You made it to 70, to 80, and there weren't big celebrations, but at 90? We celebrate. I can hardly wait for 100!

What state of mind does a person need to keep going as things start to fall apart? So many articles are published about caring for seniors, and I think they are missing one important organ: the brain.

It is well-known you have to use your brain to keep it healthy. In a care home, so many of your responsibilities are removed so the poor little neurons shrink back and just lay there, hoping to be used.

Think about it. Things you have always done in your life, such as paying bills, grocery shopping, and suddenly you move to a care facility. It is a transition from your 50 years of responsibility to "breakfast is served," and your brain has no real role.

But you are safe. The brain finds out that it, too, can take a rest. Programs are offered to stimulate seniors' minds, but unless the topics stimulate them enough to act, discuss, practice, or argue the case, the experts say it doesn't stick. I work on my crossword puzzles to keep me sharp, but really, unless the subject relates to my immediate situation, I might as well forget who was the 23rd US President.

Of all the things I have learned, however, the most important is that if you do not keep trying, at any age, then you will lose that grey matter. At 90, it takes me longer to do everything, but what else have I got on my agenda? I also have learned the biggest irritant in my life is when I hesitate looking for a word, and a "younger" person fills it in (I am training my children to stop that). If I never come up with it, I think about it for days and eventually, there it is. I rejoice as that indicates at least one of my little neurons is still working, even if he, too, has gotten older.

So, do not kill your loved one by denying them the right to do something. Let them fold and put away the laundry, let them wash the dishes, let them write a letter, let them move and live so they can be them. Above all, they must have something to look forward to and plan for.

I am now looking forward to 100. I wonder how many of my students will be there to celebrate with me. I may not remember all of their names, but I'll try. I will walk slower on the next adventure, but whether I get there or not, I tried. (And my little neurons will dance at my party.)

-Eileen Broomell

Eileen Broomell's smile and energy seem contagious as her students, in unison, follow her lead.

Between playing several sports, coaching, and teaching nutrition, Broomell has been active throughout her entire life, and retiring from Highline High School in 1991 wasn't going to change that. She began teaching fitness classes in 1993 and has ever since. Now, at 90, she teaches the "3 R's of Exercise" class every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Burien Community Center.

It's no question why she won the Senior Services' 2015 Positive Aging Award. However, she doesn't seem to understand what the big deal about her age is. "It's because I never quit," she says. "That's why people age, you just have to keep going." ■



▲ Participants work out during one of Broomell's classes in October 2015. She teaches the "3 R's of Exercise" class every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center.



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Burien's Business Watch Program



By Captain Bryan Howard,
Burien Police Department

What if your employee turns away from the counter for a moment and the tip jar disappears? What if your manager shows up in the morning to find graffiti on the side of your business? What if a window is smashed? An email account is hacked? Financial statements go missing? Businesses face multitudes of risks on their way to success – but some risks, more than others, can be prepared for, managed, and prevented. So what can a business do to prepare? The Burien Business Watch program aims to answer that question.

As an extension of the Neighborhood Watch program, Business Watch aims to help businesses become more secure by giving them tools to watch out for each other and to work with our Department in reporting suspicious activities. The Burien PD partners with Discover Burien to connect with businesses in Burien and share information on emerging crime trends as well as identify new areas of concern. A Business Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and boost confidence within our business community.

How does it work?

Burien Business Watch meets quarterly throughout the year to share information and best practices with members of the business community on public safety issues. Business owners and managers are able to network not just with other businesses but with the local police force as well, building a comfortable atmosphere in which to discuss concerns and identify trends. Business Watch is open to all members of the Burien business community, whether you're just starting out or have been doing business for decades. With all the changes our community has seen over the last several years, this is a great forum to keep up-to-date on safety and loss prevention tactics.

This year, we covered topics ranging from cyber security to disaster preparedness. In 2016, we plan to cover topics like workplace violence prevention, gang awareness, graffiti concerns, or vehicle theft prevention. Join us on January 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Burien City Council Chambers and find out what you can do to fight crime and strengthen your business.

For more information on the Business Watch Program visit www.discoverburien.org.

2015 National Night Out: Citywide Success!

By Captain Bryan Howard,
Burien Police Department

The annual “National Night Out” event against crime happened on Tuesday, August 5, and this year, Burien Police and City leaders visited 35 neighborhood gatherings all across the community. We had a great time meeting many residents and were very impressed with neighborhoods who are organized and watch out for one another. We also visited a gathering of businesses sponsored by Discover Burien – our residents and business owners are awesome! Knowing your neighbors – “neighbors watching out for neighbors” – is a simple but effective crime-prevention measure.



▲ Neighbors gather for one of the 35 National Night Out events held throughout Burien this summer.



DIRECTIVE PATROL has been especially helpful in the downtown Burien area as well as throughout Burien's parks, which have been a key focus of the Department and its bike patrol program throughout the second half of 2015.

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

OFFICER BEN BLAKEMAN



When Ben Blakeman finished his training at the Washington State Criminal Justice Center in Burien a year ago, he already had his eye on staying here. “It’s a community that cares about decreasing its crime rate. People here are willing to help law enforcement,” he says. “That really stood out to me, the way the commu-

nity cares about its future. There’s a lot of potential here.”

Blakeman spent his field training in Precinct Four which covers Burien, Skyway, and White Center. It was through his work here that his fondness for Burien and respect for its Police Department developed. When a position came open on the team, he was quick to apply. On September 19, he officially joined the Burien Police Department as its newest officer.

Blakeman grew up in Bellevue as one of a set of triplets, with two non-identical sisters. He always knew he wanted to end up working in law enforcement. “I grew up around cops. In my neighborhood, I knew the cops, I was friends with their kids – it just seemed like a great job for interacting with the community.” The larger question was what level of law enforcement interested him most. “I looked into a lot of different types of law

enforcement. Federal law enforcement is pretty intense. When I looked at the municipal level, I knew that was the right fit.”

After graduating from Sammamish High School in Bellevue, Blakeman served in the US Army. He spent time in Thailand and the Philippines during his overseas training. He then attended the University of Washington and graduated with a degree in Political Science in May 2014. Two months later, he started work with the King County Sheriff’s Office.

“I always wanted to work in the public sector,” he says. “Sure, my private sector friends might make more money, but working for the public good is more satisfying. I like this work.”

Blakeman likes to keep busy, and that’s one of the traits that led him to Burien. “It’s fun here – we work really hard. There’s a lot going on. I want to help this community reach its potential, especially this downtown area around City Hall and the Library. So much of the community comes through here, people should feel safe.”

As a new officer, Blakeman wants to have a lasting impact on Burien. “It might be a lofty goal,” he says, “but I want to diminish the crime rate.” In that, he could use our help. “Don’t be afraid to call 911. Don’t wait until the third or fourth time something happens. Burien has the resources to handle your calls, so call us.” He adds with a smile, “and you don’t have to apologize.” ■

DEPUTY RICARDO (RICK) CUEVA



Growing up, Deputy Ricardo (Rick) Cueva didn’t always feel comfortable around police officers. Sometimes he even felt fear. “I grew up having a fear of police because of my cultural background.”

Cueva was born in Mexico and moved to King County as a nine year-old. Not only did he have to make new friends and adjust to a new school, but he had to master

a new language and fit into a new culture too. One aspect of this new culture? A sense of distrust between law enforcement and minorities. “There can definitely be a gap between police and minority communities,” says Cueva. “I’d like to help bridge that gap.”

This gap didn’t stop him from wanting a career in law enforcement. Instead, it may have propelled him into it. “I’ve wanted to be a police officer since I was about ten years old. I never changed my mind. I knew I wanted to help people.” Serving

as a police officer brings opportunities to interact and to impact a community in powerful ways. Helping others is the core of what every officer does. “Now I get to help people every day.”

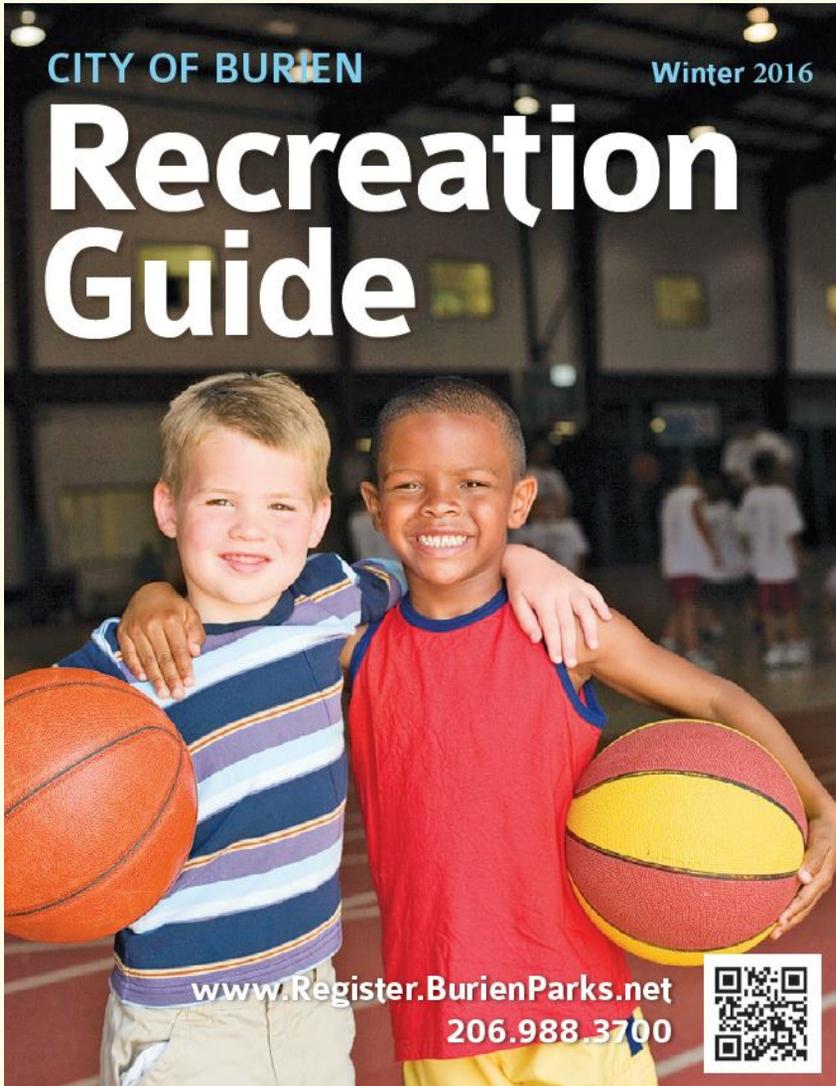
Like Blakeman, Cueva served in Precinct Four for the King County Sheriff’s Office until joining the Burien Police Department in July of this year. Also like Blakeman, Cueva sought Burien out. “Burien is a very diverse community, and I feel I can have a big impact here especially with reaching the Hispanic community.”

As in any community, trust is an important ingredient in keeping residents, businesses, and visitors safe. Cueva’s background and interests give him unique and essential tools to build that trust. “I want to help citizens of our community know that the police are here for them and they can come to us for help.”

Keep your eye open for Cueva around town and say hello when you have the chance. And when you do, don’t be surprised if he’s listening to some Johnny Cash. “I like to listen to Johnny Cash,” he says. From music to law enforcement, crossover appeal can play a big role in bringing communities together – and in this, Cueva and Cash just might have something in common.

Cueva wants Burien to know that the Burien Police are here to help. “You can count on and trust your police force.”

“Usted puede contar y confiar en su departamento de policia.” ■



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JANUARY 29

EMPTY BOWLS

Burien Community Center
14700 6th Ave SW

LUNCH, 11 AM to 2 PM

DINNER, 4 PM to 8 PM

Empty Bowl events can be found around the country raising money to combat hunger in our communities.

Moshier Art Center Potters have donated bowls to be filled with soup at this fun event ... all are invited! Your donation will get you the opportunity to pick a beautiful bowl, as well as a simple but wonderful meal of soup, bread, dessert and drink; all donated by local businesses.



CITY HALL BURIEN LIBRARY

DECEMBER 24 & 25

Christmas Holiday Closure

JANUARY 1

New Years Day Holiday Closure

JANUARY 18

MLK Day Holiday Closure

FEBRUARY 15

President's Day Holiday Closure



FEBRUARY 6
DADDY & DAUGHTER VALENTINE BALL
Burien Community Center
14700 6th Ave SW

Session 1 - 5:30PM to 7PM
Session 2 - 7:30PM to 9PM

Dance the night away with your favorite little girl. Admission includes cookies, punch, a flower for each daughter, and photo of the couple in Cupid's Corner.

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- Providing charitable contributions for the community as well as dental outreach programs local and overseas.
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- Former board member and past president of Normandy Park Community Club.

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