

# Burien City News

CITY OF BURIEN NEWSLETTER

WWW.BURIENWA.GOV

MARCH 2012

## CITY COUNCIL MESSAGE

It's been a long winter - thank goodness spring finally has arrived. Looking back to those big January storms, we'd like to give a public pat on the back to the City public works crews who were out day and night clearing Burien's streets. While they weren't able to get to every street in town, they did a great job keeping the arterials passable. We've only had our own roads crews and equipment for less than two years; before the City contracted with King County for snow removal. Great job, roads crew!

Also deserving credit are the staff members who made it to work and kept City Hall open throughout the storm event. While many other city halls and government offices in the region closed entirely, Burien was open for business.



(Top left, clockwise) Lucy Krakowiak, Rose Clark, Joan McGilton, Gerald Robison, Brian Bennett and Bob Edgar. Not pictured: Jack Block Jr.

We'd like to congratulate resident John Feeny whom we selected as Citizen of the Year for his volunteer work in the community. John feels strongly that people who reap the benefits of a strong, healthy community can "pay back" by assisting others locally who need the help, and he does just that.

Please take a look at the City's new prescription drug discount program (story on page 8). This free program is offered through the National League of Cities that can save people money on the costs of prescriptions not covered by insurance, and can help many people in our community who are under-insured or don't have insurance at all.

— Your City Council

## Initiative Seeks to Improve Education, Public Safety

The City Council is exploring a possible way to improve elementary education in local schools and increase public safety in the community. The Kids and Cops Initiative, a proposed ballot measure, would increase funding for Burien elementary schools and provide money to hire more police officers to cover Burien.

The initiative addresses both issues by direct intervention, adding funds for pre-K through 3rd grade education and adding eight police officers. It would be funded by a six-year levy that would require voter approval.

School funding would be in the form of direct grants from the City to seven elementary schools. Educators at the schools would identify needs and programs. The City and schools

would agree to performance measures. The two-year increase in police funding for additional patrol officers to bring an intense focus on crime and help build a safer community.

One goal of the initiative is to begin to change Burien's image from an area of underperforming schools and high crime to one of quality education and being a safe place to raise a family. Even though the negative perception of Burien is untrue, that image can prevent many people from wanting to live here.

The Kids and Cops Initiative was presented to the Council at its January retreat held at the Environmental Science Center in Seahurst Park. The Council has taken no action on the proposal but will be discussing it at future meetings.

## John Feeny Named Citizen of the Year for Volunteer Work

The City Council has named John Feeny as Citizen of the Year for his outstanding volunteer work with students and environmental projects in the community.

Feeny has working with students from New Start High School, an alternative high school in the Highline School District, on removing invasive vegetation and restoring native plants in the Salmon Creek park and ravine. He also has worked on the Miller Creek restoration project and volunteers with the Environmental Science Center. Feeny helped set up a clothing bank at New Start to help disadvantaged students, and has volunteered at several elementary schools, helping with reading programs and additional

warm clothing projects.

"John works himself into the ground to help the people of Burien without asking for anything in return," said Beverly Mowrer, a teacher at New Start who nominated him for Citizen of the Year.



John Feeny

A retired bakery deliveryman, Feeny says he appreciates the recognition but his rewards naturally come with helping others. "I feel if you're going to enjoy all the benefits of society, you need to pay it back - help out people who need help."



Volunteers at work at last year's clean-up.

## Burien Clean Sweep Saturday, April 28

Join your friends and neighbors and spend the morning of April 28 helping clean up Burien's downtown and neighborhoods.

**Saturday, April 28, 8 am - 1 pm**  
Meet at 8 am at the Burien Fire Station,  
15100 8th Ave. SW

For information contact Discover Burien  
at (206) 433-2882.

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

CITY HALL.....	241-4647
E-Mail burien@burienwa.gov	
Website: www.burienwa.gov	
City Hall North: 11846 Des Moines Memorial Dr.	
Community Center.....	988-3700
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Planning Division .....	248-5510
Building Division .....	248-5520
Code Enforcement.....	248-5507
CITY ATTORNEY .....	248-5531
CITY COUNCIL .....	241-4647
Brian Bennett, Mayor	
Rose Clark, Deputy Mayor	
Jack Block Jr., Councilmember	
Bob Edgar, Councilmember	
Lucy Krakowiak, Councilmember	
Joan McGilton, Councilmember	
Gerald Robison, Councilmember	
CITY JOB LINE .....	248-5534
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE .....	248-5508
FINANCE .....	241-4647
FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Fire District #2 .....	242-2040
North Highline F.D. ....	243-0330
HUMAN RESOURCES.....	248-5504
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES	
Website: www.BurienParks.net	
14700 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SW .....	988-3700
Moshier Art Center.....	242-7752
POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Precinct #4, 14905 6 <sup>th</sup> SW .....	296-3333
PUBLIC WORKS.....	248-5521
24 hr. street or drainage concerns.....	391-1620
SENIOR PROGRAM	
14700 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SW .....	244-3686
OTHER NUMBERS	
Citizen Complaints .....	248-5530
Parking Complaints/	
Police Tip Hotline .....	205-0969
ANIMAL CONTROL .....	812-2737
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE .....	575-1633
DISTRICT COURT (Burien Courthouse)	
601 SW 149 <sup>th</sup> St. ....	296-0144
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE	
(425) 961-0618 Cell Phone (206) 947-3852	
BURIEN LIBRARY.....	243-3490
BOULEVARD PARK LIBRARY.....	242-8662
WHITE CENTER LIBRARY.....	243-0233
SCHOOL DISTRICT (Highline) .....	433-0111
SEWER	
SW Suburban Sewer Dist. ....	244-9575
Midway Sewer .....	824-4960
Valley View Sewer .....	242-3236
SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE	
151 SW 156 <sup>th</sup> Street .....	243-0289
WATER DISTRICTS	
Water District #20 .....	243-3990
Water District #49 .....	242-8535
Highline Water District.....	824-0375

**Brian Bennett Appointed Mayor, Rose Clark Deputy Mayor**

The Burien City Council on Jan. 9 voted to appoint fellow Councilmember Brian Bennett as the City's new mayor, replacing Joan McGilton who served as Mayor since 2004.

Under the City of Burien's Council-Manager form of government, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ceremonial positions appointed by the City Council. The Mayor presides over council meetings and represents the City at local and regional meetings and events. The Deputy Mayor fills in for the Mayor at meetings and also represents the City. The City Manager, hired by the Council, administers the day-to-day operations of the City.

Bennett was first elected to the Council in November 2009. Prior to his election to the City Council, he served on the Burien Planning Commission and as Chair of the Burien Shoreline Advisory Committee. Bennett works as a business and technology attorney for F5 Networks, a Seattle-based global technology company. He was born in Burien and his family in Burien goes back four generations.



Brian Bennett

"I'm honored to have been selected by my peers for this position," Bennett said. "I look forward to serving the City as its Mayor."



Rose Clark

Rose Clark was appointed Deputy Mayor, a position she has previously held in Burien for several years. Clark was first elected to the Burien City Council in November 1999. Prior to her service on the Council, she served two years on the Burien Planning Commission. She is also a King County Landmarks Commissioner and served as a Service Area Vice President of the Highline Council PTSA. She also has been an environmental activist for more than 30 years. Clark has lived in the Burien area for more than four decades.



Bob Edgar

The Council also welcomed new Councilmember Bob Edgar who won the position in last November's General Election. Edgar is employed in corporate education with Boeing. He has a doctorate from Seattle University in Educational Leadership and a Master of Business Administration in Information Systems. Edgar has been a Burien resident for over 20 years.

**Council Waiting on State Budget Before Proceeding with Annexation**

The proposed annexation of the unincorporated remainder of North Highline received approval in February from the Boundary Review Board for King County and is headed toward a possible election this summer.

City Council has been waiting for the state Legislature to approve a state budget, which had not occurred at this newsletter's deadline. The Council is counting on a current state tax credit that helps cities provide services to newly annexed areas and has indicated that they will not proceed with the annexation if the tax credit is reduced or eliminated entirely from the state budget.

Last fall the City Council approved an "intent to annex" resolution that set in motion the formal annexation process. The annexation proposal went before the Boundary Review Board which conducted a public hearing Jan. 9 and 10 before later voting to accept the proposal. More than 50 people, both residents of the proposed annexation area and current Burien residents, testified in favor or against the proposal.

If the City Council does vote to proceed, an election could take place in summer or fall of 2012. The annexation could take effect in spring 2013, if approved by voters. The proposed annexation area includes White Center, Top Hat, Beverly Park, Glendale, and portions of Boulevard Park, Riverton Heights and Shorewood. Burien's population would increase by 17,300 to a total of approximately 65,000 residents.

The next step is for the Burien City Council to adopt a resolution establishing a date for an annexation election in the proposed annexation area. Before setting an election date, the

**Burien  
Featured  
in Comcast  
Show**

Burien is currently being featured in the Comcast program "Neighborhoods." The show, which started in early January and continues through March 31, can be viewed by Comcast customers with On Demand. Viewers can find it by starting at channel 1, On Demand, then following folders "Get Local," "Around the Sound," "Neighborhoods," and "Burien."

## VISION FOR BURIEN: How Values Will Guide Our City

In 2011, following a process that included multiple workshops and public forums over several months, the Burien City Council adopted a "Vision for Burien" statement, accompanied by several core values/concepts. Below we explain how the values/concepts "Governance," "Education and Youth," and "Prosperity" will guide the City in its policy-making and delivery of services and programs.

### GOVERNANCE

**Responsive:** Burien's city government operates in an open & accountable manner. *The City welcomes any and all observation and participation by the public, and will continue to seek ways to involve the public in development of programs, policies and regulations. City business will continue to be done in an open manner and the City will develop additional methods in which the public can observe and review City operations and decision-making by elected officials.*

**Effective:** Burien's city government strives for organizational excellence. *The City will continue to embrace techniques and methods that simplify and streamline local government. The City will always look for and be open to new "outside the box" ideas that improve organization and production at City Hall.*

**Collaborative:** Burien fosters partnerships with others in pursuit of common objectives. *The City recognizes that partnerships with other agencies and organizations, such as the multi-partnership that built the SCORE regional jail, can improve available facilities and programs and save the public tax dollars. The City will look for future opportunities to share with other entities projects and programs that would benefit the general public and the City.*



### EDUCATION & YOUTH

**Teaching:** Burien believes that quality schools are essential to its long-term success. *The City will continue to develop and support campaigns to attract quality educators to the community and strengthen the reputation of the Highline School District. The City will continue to support efforts by the School District to maintain and improve facilities, and to build educational programs that are recognized for their quality and results.*

**Learning:** Burien actively promotes early childhood education and life-long learning. *The City will continue to help develop and support programs that promote education at an early age. The City will develop and promote adult education programs, such as language courses and personal-finance classes through its Parks and Recreation Department and other local educational institutions and agencies.*

**Nurturing:** Burien supports its youth with programs to augment its schools. *The City will continue to offer after-school and evening/weekend programs for young people, such as classes and workshops in art, crafts, athletics, performing arts and music, when they are not in school.*



### PROSPERITY

**Local:** Burien values local services and supports local businesses. *The City will continue to help develop and support local business organizations such as Discover Burien, BBEDP (Burien Business and Economic Development Partnership) and the Southwest King County Chamber of Commerce. Through its policies and programs, the City will seek to create a business climate that is welcoming to and supportive of businesses of all sizes.*

**Expansive:** Burien encourages businesses in order to expand its economic base. *The City will continue to seek ways to expand the commercial tax base in the community, including adopting land-use policies that will encourage out-of-the-area businesses to locate in Burien and ensure that existing businesses will remain in Burien.*

**Creative:** Burien promotes and supports its rich palette of arts, culture, and heritage. *The City recognizes and embraces the arts in the community through support of groups such as Burien Little Theater and the Burien Arts Commission. The City will continue to support efforts to sustain the culture and heritage of the community through development of museums and support of the Highline Historical Society. Future City developments and facilities will recognize local custom and tradition.*



## Employees Doing Their Part to Help Sustain City Through Difficult Times

City of Burien employees are stepping up to help the City through the current harsh economic times. While lower sales and property tax revenue is forcing cities around the state to cut personnel and programs, Burien has been able to maintain its past staffing levels, programs and services. However, with few signs of improved revenue in the years ahead, the City faces significant budget shortfalls and is being forced to take corrective measures.

The benefits package for City employees approved by the City Council in November, reflects the employees' attitude toward helping the City. While employees are offered high deductible plans along with health savings accounts under the new benefits package, they are charged higher co-pays and pay other increased costs.

In the end, the new benefits package for City employees will save the City a minimum of about \$70,000 in 2012, after applying the 2% WellCity discount, which was awarded to Burien for meeting standards in employee health promotion. Staff members are also seeing their salaries frozen in 2012 with no cost-of-living raises, coming after a year (2011) where COLA increases were capped at 1%.

"Our employees recognize the plight of cities and want to do their part to ease the burden on taxpayers," said City Manager Mike Martin. "They appreciate having a solid, well-paying job in this economy and want to do their part to help."

Employees were part of the planning that helped create the new benefits package. In August 2011, an employee advisory committee was formed to study and recommend a benefit plan that promotes financial sustainability for the City, aids recruitment efforts and encourages employee retention.

The committee recommended a health care plan that increased co-pays and other costs, but offered other options for health coverage that could save employees money. That plan was eventually approved and went into effect Jan. 1, 2012.

## Residents Can Help Police Stop Burglaries

By Sgt. Henry McLaughlan  
Burien Police Dept.

The Burien Police Department is asking for your help. There is a significant increase in crime trends, specifically residential burglaries, not only in Burien but throughout the region.

Because of this increase, the Police Department is asking citizens to be ever more vigilant and aware of suspicious people or vehicles in their neighborhoods. In short, if you don't think that person or car you see in your neighborhood belongs there or is up to no good, please call 911 and report it.



Sgt. McLaughlan

A crime trend is nothing more than an increase or decrease in reported criminal behaviors or incidents. The reason for the increase/decrease can be as simple as the weather, or that school is out and kids have no supervision, or a career criminal has been released from jail and is active again.

Trends can also be complex. For instance, social or economic situations can increase pressure on specific "unemployables" of our communities. These may be persons who have criminal records and who cannot find work because of their histories, and return to a criminal behavior as a means of survival.

Recognizing that trends change for a variety of reasons and that not all crime is reported, the Police Department uses real-time trend information to deploy resources effectively to combat increases in criminal behavior in a given geographical area.

Your Police Department encourages you to report crime when it happens. By doing so we can more accurately deploy the resources we have into the areas that need them. This does not mean you have to have a police officer come to your house to report a crime.

If you don't have evidence or suspect information, you can take advantage of online reporting. Go to the City of Burien website at [www.burienwa.gov](http://www.burienwa.gov), click on "I want to" and then go "report" and then "crimes online" and follow the directions.

By working together with your Police Department, staying active with your neighborhood Block Watch and reporting crime, we can all make Burien a safer place to live.

## City Experiencing Heavy Amount of Graffiti Tagging

The City is asking for community support in hopes of reducing the amount of graffiti tagging in Burien, specifically in the alleys of the downtown commercial areas. A graffiti tag is a graffiti writer's signature. It also can refer to a group or gang.

In co-operation with Burien Police, the City recently installed several 24-hour cameras in the downtown area to help identify anybody involved in this crime. Graffiti tagging costs the City, and

ultimately the citizens of Burien, thousands of dollars a year to remove.

If anybody notices what appears to be graffiti being applied to buildings or other surfaces, please call 911 and request that an officer respond. Include a description as best you can along with the number of people seen and an address even if it is between two cross streets. Alley addresses are difficult to identify. People in residential areas are also encouraged to report graffiti tagging.

## New Fire Station to be Built Serving Southern Part of Burien

Burien will get a new fire station serving the southern part of the City and Normandy Park following recent City Council land-use approval for the redevelopment of Fire Station 29 at 125 S. Normandy Rd. The existing station will be demolished and a new 18,850-square-foot structure will be constructed on that site.

The Burien/Normandy Park Fire Department (King County Fire District 2) also is building a new fire station in downtown Burien at 900 SW 146th St., replacing the department's main fire station at 15100 8th Ave. SW. Voters in Fire



The new downtown fire station 15100 8th Ave. SW. is scheduled for completion in summer of 2012

District No. 2 approved a \$25 million bond issue in November 2008 for construction of the fire stations.

## Sign Up for Spring Session of Police Citizen's Academy

Together with Burien and SeaTac Police Services, a program was designed to increase the understanding between citizens and their Police Departments through education. This is an unforgettable experience and free for anyone who lives or works in the cities of Burien and SeaTac.

The 12-week Citizen's Academy is conducted on Wednesday nights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The next Citizen's Academy training will be held:

March 14 - May 30, 2012  
SeaTac City Hall  
4800 S 188th Street  
(Late registrants are welcome)

Fill out an application and send it to: CSO Nicki Maraulja, 14905 6th Ave. SW Burien, WA 98166. Fill out an application online at <http://www.burienwa.gov/citizenacademy>. For information, please call (206) 296-3333.

## Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) Classes

The CERT program trains members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic preparation and response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area. The 20-hour training sessions for the program are held in the spring and fall. Spring session starts March 15.

For more information or to register for CERT, contact Community Service Officer Mechee Burnett at (206) 973-4917 or fill out an application and mail it to: SeaTac Police Services, RE: CERT Training 4800 S. 188 St., SeaTac, WA 98188. See online application at [www.burienwa.gov/CERT](http://www.burienwa.gov/CERT)

## New CARES Officer

Community Animal Resource and Education Society (CARES) would like to introduce its new Animal Control Officer: Officer Ray Helms. Officer Helms has been trained through the National Animal Control Association and is a long-time resident of Burien/King County.



Ray Helms

Officer Helms would like to remind the citizens of Burien: It is required by law that you license your pet. If we find your pet with a license it is a one-time free ride home...without a license it is a \$250 fine. Pick up your license at City Hall or at CARES - 909 SW 151st St.

## City Roads Crews Stepped Up to Challenge in January Storms

City of Burien Public Works crews worked hard to maintain the primary and secondary streets during the January snow and ice storms. The eight-person crew worked approximately 600 person-hours and applied approximately 200 tons of sand and salt mix. Several hundred lane miles were plowed during the snow event.



*City snow plows cleared 1st Ave S. and primary arterials first during the January snowstorm.*

Residents were effectively able to obtain information about road conditions, power outages, facility closures and other storm-related news on the City of Burien website, which was updated with the latest information throughout the storms. Similar storm-related information was also available by tuning in to the City of Burien radio station, 540 AM. The electronic readerboard on SW 148th St. and 6th Ave. SW (next to the Burien Community Center) also displayed storm-related information. The City will continue to rely on the City website, radio, readerboard and local media to disseminate storm-related and other emergency information.

## City Discontinuing Red-Light Camera Program

The City Council has decided not to continue the red-light camera program when the contract with the vendor Redflex expires on May 1.



The Council agreed to discontinue the program after learning that the vendor's costs were greater than revenue from fines paid by offenders. Under the contract, the City does not have to make up that deficit, nearly \$20,000 since the program began.

Three red light traffic cameras were installed in May 2009 at three busy intersections:

- 1st Ave. S. and 148th St.
- 1st Ave. S. and 152nd St.
- 1st Ave. S. and 160th St.

The Council's initial goal when authorizing the red light cameras was to increase traffic safety at the three intersections. A study of accidents over the past three years show that the cameras have had little or no impact on the number of accidents at the intersections. Rather than re-negotiate the contract with more favorable terms, the Council decided to discontinue the program.

## City of Burien Human Services Funding Available

The application process for the City of Burien's 2013-2014 human services funding starts in mid-March. Approximately \$200,000 in human services funding will be awarded each year to agencies that provide programs to Burien residents that help them with basic needs, self sufficiency, housing and homelessness, early intervention, domestic violence and other human services needs.

The City of Burien, along with 17 other cities, have joined together to use a common online application process. See <http://share1app.culturegrants.org>. Applications will be due April 26.

Please contact Lori Fleming, Burien Management Analyst at (206) 248-5518 or E-mail: [Lorif@burienwa.gov](mailto:Lorif@burienwa.gov) if you have any questions.

**Free Housing Search Website**  
The free resource helps residents list and find homes. Visit: [www.HousingSearchNW.org](http://www.HousingSearchNW.org)  
or call 1-877-428-8844.

## Recycle Your Used Cooking Oil

General Biodiesel and King County Waste Management have partnered to provide at-home chefs and residents throughout the Puget Sound region with an easy and "green" way to dispose of their used cooking oil.

All types of vegetable oil are accepted. Every gallon collected is turned into biodiesel fuel at a facility in South Seattle. This recycled waste is used to power vehicles and heat homes.

Simply pour your oil into any one of the General Biodiesel collection tanks for recycling. The tanks are available at your convenience, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in the following location in Burien:

- **Burien Municipal Parking Lot**  
**634 SW 151st Street**



*Collection barrel at 634 SW 151st St.*

## Citizens Group Negotiating Changes in Shoreline Program

A five-member citizens group established in November is currently exploring recommended changes to the City's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) from the version that was submitted to the state Department of Ecology in the fall of 2010.

The group, which includes a City Council member, Planning Commission member and three private citizens who have marine interests and represent waterfront residents, has been meeting and conferring with DOE officials over the four remaining areas of disagreement between the City and DOE. Once the group finishes its recommendations they will be presented to the City Council for consideration and possible action.

A key provision being disputed is the shoreline buffers and setbacks (for new construction or building upgrades) along residential marine shorelines. DOE wants a 50-foot buffer with an additional 15-foot setback while the City Council voted to keep the existing 20-foot setback/buffer with no additional setback when it approved the draft SMP.

The group is also preparing recommendations to the City Council over other DOE requested changes turned down by the City.

Those include:

- Removal of a ban on watercraft access on Lake Burien from any future public access areas.
- Restrictions for waterfront property owners on rebuilding a destroyed home.
- The need for shoreline variances to reduce critical area buffers in geologically hazardous areas and wetlands.

Burien and other municipalities with shorelines are required to adopt a Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and periodically update it. Work on Burien's update was initially conducted by the City's Shoreline Advisory Committee before it went to the Planning Commission, which conducted a public process and forwarded its recommended draft SMP to the City Council.

Current City shoreline land use regulations remain in effect until the DOE fully approves the Burien SMP and it becomes part of the statewide shoreline master program.

## Volunteers Find Salmon Abundant in Miller and Walker Creeks

Over 11 weeks in the dark, stormy fall of 2011, 26 volunteers put on tall boots and slipped and splashed upstream – for science and stream health. Despite the sometimes strong smell, they cut open the dead salmon they found along the stream to find out whether the fish had been able to spawn before dying.

The volunteers were part of the second year of the Community Salmon Investigation for Highline program, also known as CSI: Highline. The purpose of the program is to better evaluate the condition of the streams, which drain most of Burien, part of SeaTac, and the northern part of Normandy Park. Because of their strong ties to the stream at the beginning and end of their lives, salmon populations serve as an important long-term indicator of whether the water and surrounding land is clean and healthy.

The 26 volunteers, mostly from Burien and Normandy Park, were a hardy, dedicated bunch. During the survey season from Oct. 10 through Dec. 23, they surveyed every day, missing only four surveys because of bad weather or hazardous stream flows. Part of each survey required walking in the cold, fast-flowing water of the streams. “Wading up the creeks, scrambling through the brush, searching for the redds (nests salmon make in the gravel for their eggs) and counting the salmon was a fun exercise that reminded me of growing up near a creek,” said volunteer Lee Moyer of Burien.

From mid-October through mid-November, volunteers mostly saw coho salmon. The volunteers counted 419 adult coho salmon. During the first year of the program, only 25 coho were seen, so in 2011 volunteers saw over 16 times



Volunteers Jim Burrows (left) and Ed Nugent brave the waters of Miller Creek to count fish.

more than last year! The chum salmon were even more numerous than the coho, and again, more were seen in 2011 than in the previous year. The chum began returning in the second week of November, and were seen up until the last day of the survey season, two days before Christmas. There were 508 chum sightings, compared to 342 the year before. The estimated number of both species of fish that returned to spawn was almost 300.

In addition to counting live fish, the volunteers examined 89 fish carcasses to find out whether the fish were able to spawn before they died. They found almost 40% of the coho died before spawning, an indicator of dirty water. Much of the water in local streams is stormwater runoff from local streets, houses, and businesses and none of it is treated before emptying into the streams. Information from the study will help the scientists working to understand and solve this issue.

For information, contact Elissa Ostergaard, Miller/Walker Creek Basin Steward, (206) 296-1909.

## Plans Set for Burien Stretch of Lake to Sound Trail

The Lake to Sound Trail is a proposed 16-mile-long biking and walking trail that would link the shoreline of Lake Washington in Renton to Puget Sound in Des Moines.

The trail wraps around the northern edge of Sea-Tac Airport and connects to Des Moines Memorial Drive, from South 156th Street in SeaTac to South Normandy Road in Burien. Burien’s 1.45-mile-long stretch, along the east side of the Des Moines Memorial Drive, will be 10-foot wide, with space for two-way traffic, separated from the roadway by a curb and gutter. A 200-foot-long boardwalk, which will reduce impact on wetlands, will be built along the Walker Creek segment south of South 171st Street.

Des Moines Memorial Drive is lined with elm trees that were planted as a living memorial to American soldiers who gave their lives in World War I. Many of the elms are diseased and will be removed and replaced with elm saplings as part of trail construction. Markers will explain the historic significance of the elms.

King County is seeking grants to fund trail construction. It is hoped construction will begin as early as summer of 2013.

## Dirt Alert at Dottie Harper Park

For almost 100 years, the Asarco company operated a copper smelt in Tacoma. Air pollution from the smelt’s smoke plume spread to Burien and other local communities. Recently, the state Department of Ecology (DOE) has conducted soil samplings throughout public spaces, particularly in parks. The only site in Burien with moderate levels of arsenic is Dottie Harper Park, 421 SW 146th St.

The DOE will be conducting clean-up work this fall at the park, which will include limited soil removal, replacement with clean soil and additional plantings. Signs are posted at park entrances encouraging park visitors to please continue to enjoy the park, and suggest simple, healthy actions to reduce their contact with soil, including:

- Wash hands and toys with soap and water after playing in the dirt.
- Wash hands before eating or putting anything in your mouth.
- When you get home, take your shoes off or use a doormat.
- Wipe off your pet’s dirty paws, too.

For more information on the DOE Soil Safety Program, contact Amy Hargrove at (360) 407-6262, or visit: <http://1.usa.gov/wPiFbe>

## Funding Still Uncertain for Seahurst Seawall Removal

Construction activity by the Southwest Suburban Sewer District (SWSSD) has been completed at Seahurst Park, with only minor cleanup activities remaining. The work included the construction of a pump station at the lower parking lot and installation of a new sewer slip-line through the park to the north and along the beach.

The seawall removal phase of the project, a partnership between the City of Burien and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will include the removal of the seawall, rock riprap, rock groins, paving and fill, relocation of the lower parking lot, replanting along the length of the shoreline and then restoring beaches to replicate natural slopes and adding beach nourishment of gravel and sand substrates. This project has been moving forward through design and permitting, with

the construction bid anticipated in May 2012. However, due to current uncertainty within the federal budget process, the construction phase of the project may or may not happen in 2012. Recently, partial funding of \$2 million was appropriated for the Army Corps’ Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Restoration Program to be used toward the Seahurst project. Though this funding doesn’t fully fund construction needs, it is a positive step.

If full funding is secured and the beach restoration project moves forward in 2012, additional utility relocations would first occur and the project would then progress with the removal of the seawall. The entire park would be closed to the public and vehicular access from August 2012 until the following spring. No parking would be available in the park due to construction staging. Pedestrian access to the upland trails would continue to be available.

# Noticias de Burien

Para nuestros lectores hispanos

MARZO 2012

## Alerta sobre contaminación de suelo en Dottie Harper Park

Durante casi 100 años, la compañía Asarco operó una fundidora de cobre en Tacoma. La contaminación de aire debido al humo que emitía la fundidora llegó a Burien y a otras comunidades locales. El Departamento de Ecología del Estado recientemente ha realizado muestreos de suelo en muchos espacios públicos, incluyendo los parques. El único sitio en Burien que presentó niveles moderados de arsénico es el Dottie Harper Park en el 421 SW 146th St.

El Departamento realizará trabajos de limpieza este otoño en el parque, incluyendo la sustracción de una cierta cantidad de tierra, el remplazo con tierra limpia y plantas adicionales, y una nueva capa de virutas de madera en ciertas áreas. Hay letreros en las entradas del parque que sugieren que las personas sigan disfrutando

el parque, y que sigan algunas pautas sencillas para reducir el contacto con la tierra, incluyendo lo siguiente:

- Lavar las manos y los juguetes con jabón y agua después de jugar en la tierra
- Lavarse las manos antes de comer o meter algo en la boca
- Al llegar a casa, quitarse los zapatos o limpiarlos en el felpudo
- Limpiar las patas de sus animales domésticos

El Programa de Seguridad de Suelos del Departamento de Ecología brinda ayuda gratuita a las ciudades para ayudar a reducir y eliminar cualquier posible riesgo a la salud pública. Para más información sobre el programa, comuníquese con Amy Hargrove al (360) 407-6262, o visite <http://1.usa.gov/wPiFbe>

## Tarjetas de descuento para medicamentos de receta gratuitas

Los residentes pueden recibir ayuda con el alto costo de los medicamentos de receta a través de un nuevo programa ofrecido por la Ciudad de Burien y la Liga Nacional de Ciudades (NLC, por sus siglas en inglés). El programa provee tarjetas de descuento gratuitas que ofrecen un descuento del precio al por menor de los medicamentos por receta que los seguros médicos no cubren. Aunque los descuentos varían según el medicamento, los portadores de una tarjeta pueden ahorrar hasta el 20% del precio normal de venta al público de las farmacias.

Todos los residentes de Burien pueden usar la Tarjeta de Descuento en Recetas de la NLC, y no hay restricciones por edad, nivel de ingresos, o seguro médico existente. La tarjeta se puede utilizar en las grandes farmacias en Burien y sus alrededores. Este programa entró en vigor en enero.

Los residentes pueden obtener una tarjeta en la Alcaldía de Burien, 400 SW 152nd St., Ste. 300, en el Centro Comunitario de Burien, 14700 6th Ave. SW, o en línea en [www.caremark.com/nlc](http://www.caremark.com/nlc). Este sitio web tiene también información sobre los precios de medicamentos de receta con la tarjeta de descuento, y también las farmacias participantes más cercanas. Para ayuda con el programa, los residentes pueden llamar al número de teléfono gratuito 1-888-620-1749.

## Servicios gratuitos de preparación de la declaración de impuestos

La United Way del Condado de King ofrece servicios gratuitos de preparación de la declaración de impuestos para los hogares que califican. Los servicios se brindan en inglés, español, y vietnamita en la Goodwill de Burien, 12808 1st Ave. S., hasta el 17 de abril. Para más información, visite <http://bit.ly/AeJtky>

## Sitio web para buscar casa

El sitio de internet [HousingSearchNW.org](http://HousingSearchNW.org) es un recurso gratuito que tiene el fin de ayudar a las personas a ofrecer o buscar vivienda en cualquier parte del Condado de King. Los anuncios gratuitos de viviendas de renta se actualizan a diario. Visite [www.HousingSearchNW.org](http://www.HousingSearchNW.org), o llame al 1-877-428-8844.



## Actividad de limpieza comunitaria Burien Clean Sweep

Únase a sus amigos y vecinos y pase la mañana limpiando el centro y los vecindarios de Burien.

Sábado, 28 de abril,  
de las 8 de la mañana a la 1 de la tarde  
Comienza a las 8 de la mañana en la Estación de Bomberos de Burien,

Para mayor información, comuníquese con Discover Burien al (206) 433-2882

## Municipal a la espera del presupuesto estatal antes de proceder a la anexión

La propuesta de anexar la parte no incorporada de North Highline fue aprobada en febrero por la Junta de Revisión de Límites del Condado de King, y podría aparecer en las papeletas en las elecciones de verano.

En otoño pasado, el Concejo Municipal aprobó una resolución de "intención de anexar", dando inicio al proceso formal de anexión. La propuesta de anexión fue presentada ante la Junta de Revisión de Límites, la cual celebró una audiencia pública el 9 y 10 de enero, antes de votar por aceptar la propuesta. Más de 50 personas, tanto residentes del área de anexión como residentes actuales de Burien, testificaron a favor o en contra de la propuesta.

El próximo paso es que el Concejo Municipal

de Burien adopte una resolución para establecer una fecha para votar por la anexión en el área propuesta. Antes de programar una fecha para la votación, el Concejo Municipal está esperando a que la Legislatura Estatal apruebe un presupuesto estatal, cosa que no había ocurrido a la fecha de este reportaje. El Concejo espera contar con un crédito impositivo que existe actualmente en el estado con el fin de ayudar a las ciudades a proveer servicios a las nuevas áreas anexadas, y ha señalado que no procederá a la anexión si este crédito se reduce o se elimina completamente del presupuesto estatal.

Si el Concejo vota por proceder a la anexión, las elecciones se podrían celebrar en enero de 2012. La anexión podría entrar en vigor en primavera de 2013, si los electores la aprueban.

## Prescription Drug Discount Cards Offered Free

Residents can get some relief from the high cost of prescription medications through a new program offered through the City of Burien and National League of Cities (NLC). The program provides free discount cards that offer savings off the retail price of prescription medications that aren't covered by health insurance plans. While



discounts on each prescription may vary, cardholders can save as much as 20 percent off the pharmacy's regular retail prices for prescription drugs.

The NLC Prescription Discount Card can be used by all residents of Burien and has no restrictions based on a resident's age, income level, or existing health coverage. The card can be used at all major pharmacies in and around Burien.

"Given the current economic climate, where many people need to watch what they spend, we are happy to partner with the National League of Cities to make this prescription discount card available to our residents," said Burien Mayor Brian Bennett.

Residents can pick up a card at Burien City Hall, 400 SW 152nd St., Ste. 300, and the Burien Community Center, 14700 6th Ave. SW, or obtain one online at [www.caremark.com/nlc](http://www.caremark.com/nlc). Residents can also use [www.caremark.com/nlc](http://www.caremark.com/nlc) to check the price of a prescription drug using the discount card, locate the nearest participating pharmacy or call toll-free at 1-888-620-1749 for assistance with the program.

### EMPTY BOWLS

*The annual fundraiser held Jan 27 brought in around \$18,000 - at least \$2,000 more than last year, with all proceeds benefiting the two food banks that serve Burien residents.*



## CITY OF BURIEN

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## LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

### ORDINANCES

**Ordinance 556** Establishing a "Complete Streets" policy within Title 12, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Burien Municipal Code. 10/3/11

**Ordinance 557** Setting the 2012 Property Tax Levy. 11/28/11

**Ordinance 558** Amending the 2011-12 Adopted Budget. 11/28/11

**Ordinance 559** Amending the Burien Comprehensive Plan, Includes text amendments relating to the transportation element, the HEAL grant and a Zoning Map amendment for the Group Health site. 12/12/11

### RESOLUTIONS

**Resolution 323** Calling for annexation by election of a portion of the North Highline Unincorporated Area. 10/3/11

**Resolution 324** Relating to employee medical plan (benefit). 11/28/11

**Resolution 325** Adopting the 2012 through 2017 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). 11/28/11

**Resolution 326** Acknowledgement policy to recognize outstanding contributions made by citizens and groups. 12/12/11

**Resolution 327** Entering findings of fact and conclusions of law regarding approval of Fire Station No. 29 Type 3 Land Use Review. 1/23/12

**Resolution 328** Updated Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. 2/27/12

This edition of Burien City News also is being sent to residents of unincorporated North Highline to inform them about the proposed annexation, and City issues and programs.

## Keep Our Waterways Healthy Through Natural Lawn Care

As much as we love our lawns, they do take a lot of work to keep them looking good. Fertilizer runoff from our yards does not go to a sewage treatment plant like the water from our sinks and showers. Clean runoff helps lakes, streams and Puget Sound have enough oxygen for fish to breathe. Here are some tips to consider in caring for your lawn this summer and year-round:

**Mow High** - 2 to 3 inches of grass height allow the grass blades to shade each other and keep in moisture.

**Use Organic, Slow-Release Fertilizer** - Healthy lawns in the Pacific Northwest are a light meadow green. Fertilize in September when lawns are building root reserves. If you wish to fertilize twice, apply moderately in May.

**Avoid Using Weed-and-Feed** - Accept a few weeds and crowd out problems by growing a dense, healthy lawn. Weed-and-feed-type products spread a pesticide on the whole yard, not just the weeds.

**Improve Lawns by Aerating** - Thick turf acts as a barrier to water. Use a hand or mechanical aerator to make small holes in the soil to allow grass roots to get the oxygen and water they need.

**Only Water Once a Week** - Lawns need only about one inch of water each week in summer, including rain, to stay green. You can let them go gold and dormant; water them once a month, and they'll bounce back in the fall.

**Reduce Lawn Size** - Native trees and shrubs, once they are established, require less time and energy than lawn maintenance. You'll spend less time mowing, watering, and fertilizing grass.