

FOR FUTURE RELEASE

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BURIEN TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR NEW COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

(Burien, WA) – Burien officials will be discussing preliminary plans for a new community recreation center at a public workshop at 7:00pm on Thursday, September 20. The workshop will be held at the Burien Community Center (located at 425 SW 144 Street). The public will be able to learn more about what features are proving to be of interest to Burien’s citizens. An additional follow-up workshop will be held on Thursday, October 18.

The feedback from these workshops, along with input from focus groups and stakeholders, is being used to develop preliminary plans for a new community recreation center that will replace the existing Burien Community Center.

Housed in a 1940s-era elementary school, the Burien Community Center was formerly known as the Chelsea Elementary School which closed in 1976. It was sold to King County in 1982 and operated as the Highline Community Center for several years until it was taken over by the City of Burien following incorporation.

The new recreation center is intended to meet the changing needs of Burien community. Director of Parks and Recreation, Michael Lafreniere said that this planning process will follow through with citizen recommendations made to the City Council in 2005.

“I’m excited that we will soon begin to see the shape of things to come,” said Lafreniere. “The architects have started to come up with some great concepts and designs, so we’d really like to get some feedback about what the public had in mind when we met with citizens and stakeholders earlier this year.”

Burien officials are planning a public vote in the fall of 2008 on a bond measure for construction of the new facility. In addition to a construction bond, funding for the project could involve a variety of other resources, including banked property taxes that will go toward the senior program portion of the facility, capital improvement program funds, revenue bonds that are based on facility and user fees, and other forms of public and private resources.

In addition to the public meeting planned for the evening of September 20, residents and future users of the facility are invited to learn more by visiting the project website at www.burienparks.net/center.htm. The public can also contact Burien Parks & Recreation at 206-988-3700.