

Hello Lake Stevens

I am sure you heard, May was one of the driest months on record. So, now we are making up for it in June and the best measure of how much it's rained; the Lake level is coming up!

Speaking of the Lake:

Lundeen Park on the North end of the Lake will be opening in mid-July. Work is progressing quite well, with new sidewalks, parking and curbing about done and the play area curbing finished. We have brought the elevation of the park up so that we will have excellent drainage and an irrigation system. The restrooms have been upgraded with fixtures, sealant on the floors and new paint. The fans have been serviced as well.

We have an existing life-vest program at Wyatt Park and downtown boat launch and a new unit has been installed at the North Cove Swim Beach as an Eagle Scout project by Nathan Fleischmann and it looks great. Nice job Nathan! The Lake Stevens Fire department and City Police department will be watching to make sure the life-vest rack has life-vest for park users. You can donate vests at the kiosks or bring them by the city or fire department.

Our fire department reminds everyone that drowning is the second highest cause of accidental death for children ages 1 to 4 and 10 to 19 with the most frequent drowning occurring in the months of May and June. On a personal note, I'd like to remind everyone that our lake water is cold and remains cold at depth. During our warm days that occur rather randomly we have very high risk of drowning from diving into the colder water at depth. Diving/jumping into cold water to "cool off" after being in sun or after significant activity can result in the natural reaction to inhale/gasp which results in a flood the lungs with water and drowning. Be careful and be safe!

Lake Stevens Fire District is establishing a surface water rescue team. Five fire fighters will be trained for in-water/surface water swim and rescue. The team will also be trained in free-diving to depths up to 30' for rescue and recovery.

I would like everyone to know that Snohomish County Park Department will be stationing a Park Ranger at Wyatt Park to help manage and control park behavior. Also, the Sheriff's Office and our Lake Stevens Police Department will be doing much more frequent surveillance, visitations, and walk-throughs at Wyatt to make sure park user behavior is family friendly. Those involved in the incident two weeks ago, when a park user was badly beaten, have been identified with prosecution pending. On a related note, and I use the term "related" deliberately, the individuals involved in the arson fire at the Boys and Girls club have been arrested and will be prosecuted. Our investigation continues.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife upgrade of the boat launch in Lake Stevens may be delayed. WDFW received no bids on their request for construction. We are working with them to attempt a speedy resolution, but it puts the project at risk due to the construction period being limited to the "fish window", when fish are not spawning. We'll keep you up to date on this project.

I hope you have noticed the new soccer fields along 20th Ave S.E. These are old fields that we restored and expect to open in July once the new grass is well established. Our Public Works crews have done a spectacular job in regrading the fields, preparation for grass and establishing a parking area.

The City received informal notice last week that we will be awarded a \$2.5m grant for widening of 20th Street. The widening project will be from 83rd to 91st. Upgrading from a 2 lane to a 5 lane with two lanes each direction and a turn lane. We continue to work on additional funding so we can finish out 20th St. S.E. west bound.

WSDOT will publish the Intersection Justification Report (IJR) for the West bound intersection of SR 204, 20th Street and U.S. 2 and will be starting the required environmental review process for this project this month. I've reported on this previously. The preferred plan is to add a lane to U.S 2 west bound (it now merges to one lane prior to the merge), add 3 lanes and an HOV lane to trestle, add a new S.R. 204 merge onto the trestle and construct a "fly-over" for 20th street to merge onto the trestle. The merge points will be integrated into the expanded trestle. We are working with the U.S. Department of Transportation to secure funding for the east-end, west-bound merger. I am optimistic that we can at least get started with critical first phase of this over-due, much needed upgrade!

Last Friday, Convergent Technologies Inc. a security and systems integrator company whose local office is located in Renton, dedicated their day of volunteering to work at Lake Stevens Eagle Ridge Park. Over 125 employees of Convergent converged on the park and undertook numerous projects. The work they did was fantastic. They bought and installed new shelving for the food bank warehouse, helped organize stored food, painted the inside and outside of the Senior Center as well as the garage, replaced the Senior Center ceiling tiles, landscaping around the Senior Center and Parking lot, finished building out 29 garden plots at the community garden, a new compost bed, installed 12 new garden fence posts, built a pollinator garden bed the entire perimeter of the community garden (attract and support bees) and nearly finished building a split rail fence along the back side of the park, not to mention, supplying many of the materials.

Fantastic work. Thank you Convergent!

Design of the new police department headquarters for Lake Stevens will begin soon. Interviews of engineering/architecture firms was completed last week. The interview team has narrowed it down to a finalist and negotiations are underway to award a contract. We are excited about getting this underway and to work with this very creative team of architects and engineers. They understand our community and certainly understand our budget limits.

Finally, I am looking forward to Council taking up adoption of the downtown plan that we've been working on for the last 2 years. The plan gives us a framework to move forward and move to the next stage of more detail design. Every community of interest that has worked with us over the last two years will continue to be involved and we look forward to refining ideas and working with everyone.