New Stormwater Lines for Manhattan View Neighborhood Pg. 8

NORCOM New 911 Provider Pg. 19

Family Fun at Winterfest 2017 Pg. 24
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Shorewood Waterfront

Three Tree Point View Property

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Left: At Winterfest 2017, Santa examines cookies to be left for him and his reindeer on Christmas Eve

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Here we are in a new year, and I am filled with hope. Hope for the future opportunities that lay ahead to improve our community and increase the safety and well-being for each of you. Hope that we come together and work toward the common goal of good for all.

There is still much to accomplish and time is of the essence. As most of us are aware, our facilities are aging and have reached the point where frequent repairs and band-aid fixes are ineffectual to their preservation. As the city continues to research and collect data concerning which measures are the most relevant investments to correct this situation, we are faced with the pressing topic of funding. As with most everything in life, there is a price tag attached. Just as with our choicest options to improve our own lives and reduce our carbon footprints, the best of decisions at times have the healthier price tag. With modern facilities, Normandy Park would be provided the ability to mature, expand our capabilities and growing presence in the local and regional community. Facilities are much more than new aesthetics, they serve our residents and community by way of improved efficiencies. Taking no action, much like ignoring a rotting tooth, is not an option for practicing good health and promoting long life. But affording the cost, at times, may be out of reach. It becomes imperative that the City Manager and staff are supported in researching and discovering new ways to fund the facilities required to carry Normandy Park into the next three decades with clarity, uniformity, and sustainability.

One of my favorite sayings is, “If not now, when? If not you, who?” Taking action and making a difference is accomplished by the many Normandy Park residents. I choose to be a part of Normandy Park’s future, and I encourage everyone to be a part of the change and legacy that is built for future generations.
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Happy New Year!

Thank you to all who voted in the November election for me to complete the term of my appointment to Position 7 on the City Council as an elected official. It’s been an honor to represent you thus far and I look forward to the good work awaiting us in these next two years. I’m grateful for the warm reception I received from our city staff and fellow Councilmembers as they worked to bring me up to speed on as much as possible. I’ve enjoyed the work accomplished with Councilmembers Munslow and Waters and will miss sharing their unique perspectives in the mix. I expect the Council’s forward momentum to continue as we welcome Councilmembers McDonald and McEvoy to the table.

During my life, I’ve had the privilege to live in various geographical environments. As a child, I lived in a small, rural Oregon coast town. From sixth grade through my Master’s degree, I lived in various neighborhoods in inner-city Chicago, then the suburb of Kent, Washington, and now Normandy Park is home. In every location, my parents modeled the idea that building a sense of community is possible anywhere, but it always takes effort. Life in Normandy Park may at times look effortless to some, especially if compared to larger, more urban environments. Those of us who live here know, however, that this sense of community is no accident. It’s built with intentionality by caring residents, who are willing to serve, volunteer, look out for one-another, plan ahead, and participate.

As we journey into 2018, I encourage you to take a fresh look at your contribution to helping our community thrive. If you currently enjoy a volunteer role on a committee, foundation or city commission, thank you. Hopefully, you are feeling some of what ample evidence shows are the enormous personal benefits to volunteering. This may, however, be the year to shake it up. If you find you’re feeling a bit stuck, consider inviting someone new to volunteer in a position where you’ve been instrumental, and then transition yourself to a new area where help is needed and you have interest. We all benefit when those volunteering find it a delight to do so. If you are not currently plugged in to community, let this be the year you step up!

Everyone here has the potential to contribute time, talent or treasure to building community. In the coming weeks you may see invitations to join the work of strengthening our business community through the city’s Economic Development Committee (EDC) or to help strengthen our city’s ability to fund needed items and projects not covered by city finances through The Friends of Normandy Park Foundation. Both of these organizations, and others, offer an abundance of opportunities to helping Normandy Park thrive. Make 2018 your year to volunteer!
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CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT!
New Stormwater Lines for Manhattan View Neighborhood

Living in an area considered to have more rain each day than any other area in the U.S., it is important to have a drainage system that works adequately.

A stormwater drain system reduces flooding of streets and residential areas by transporting rainwater from streets and parking lots through underground pipes and discharges into the nearest body of water. Water runoff from a roof, driveway, or yard goes into the street and eventually ends up in local ponds, creeks, rivers, or streams. Most of the current stormwater system in Normandy Park was installed between the mid-1950s and early 1960s. That was over 60 years ago and drainage systems typically have a useful life of 30–50 years!

Earlier this year, the City arranged for a closed circuit television inspection for approximately 13,500 feet of stormwater conveyance pipe, as well as inspection of catch basins associated with the inspected pipes within the Manhattan View residential area. The inspection revealed necessary high priority replacement of pipes, including catch basins originally constructed of brick. This area showed much wear and tear, as well as deteriorated curbs and gutters. The majority of the work to be done is underground. and upon completion, the entire neighborhood will have an asphalt overlay to restore the pavement surface.

The City of Normandy Park plans to improve its existing storm drainage facilities within the Manhattan View subdivision in 2018. The estimated total cost of the project is $2.6 million. Revenue from stormwater utility will fund $1.4 million and a utility bond of $1.2 million will fund the remaining cost of the project. Bids will be solicited in early 2018 with an expected completion date in the fall of the same year.

MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR

Arts Commission
1st Tuesday, 7pm

Economic Development Committee
2nd Wednesday, 7pm

Council Meeting
2nd Tuesday, 7pm

Metropolitan Parks District
2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm (if necessary)

Civil Service
3rd Tuesday, Noon

Park Commission
3rd Wednesday, 7pm

Planning Commission
3rd Thursday, 7pm

Council Study Session
4th Tuesday, 7pm (if necessary)
Preschool Open Enrollment

It’s hard to believe that registration for the 2018–2019 year is just around the corner! There will be three registration periods as follows:

• January 17–January 31 for current families in the program
• February 1–February 14 for new Normandy Park resident families
• February 15 for all new open enrollment

A non-refundable fee of $78 is due at the time of registration. To hold your child’s place in the classroom, the first tuition payment must be paid no later than June 13.

CLASSROOM SCHEDULES and MONTHLY TUITION RATES

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
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<td>9:00–11:30</td>
<td>Wed, Fri</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5–4.5</td>
<td>9:00–11:30</td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Thurs</td>
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<td>12:30–3:30</td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs</td>
<td>$275</td>
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Information about the Normandy Park Preschool program is available online at www.normandyparkwa.gov under Services—Recreation—Preschool. If you have any questions about the program, please contact us at 206-248-7603.
Little Free Library

Have you wandered around our great city and noticed those funny little boxes full of books in front of people’s homes? Did you wonder what they were and who put them there and why? Well, we have the answers! Those cute small boxes are Little Free Libraries.

In 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, built the first Little Free Library to honor his mother, a teacher who loved to read. His friends and neighbors loved it, so he built several more and gave them away. By 2011, there were more than 400 Little Free Libraries, and by 2012, 4,000 were inventoried. Today, there are in excess of 50,000 registered units in more than 70 countries.

The idea is simple: build a library in any shape or form (be creative!) add a few books and invite people to “Take a Book, Return a Book.”

Visit the Little Free Library website at www.LittleFreeLibrary.org for more information on these mini gems. There are plans and information on how to get started. Who knows, you may want to open a “branch” of your own.

If you need info or help getting started, email resident Terri Little terrimlittle@comcast.net.

Normandy Park partners with King County Metro for Community Connections Transit Project

BY DAVID NEMENS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

A transit-enabled future for Normandy Park residents and workers continues to get closer to reality! Easy access from various Normandy Park locations to the Link Light Rail station at Angle Lake could be a reality soon—and with it, car-less connections to and from SeaTac Airport, downtown Seattle, South Lake Union, and the University of Washington. The City of Normandy Park has been selected to partner with King County Metro on a “Community Connections” pilot project that will provide enhanced transit service to and through Normandy Park.

Metro staff held the first of several pilot project stakeholder group meetings at City Hall on the morning of Wednesday, November 8, to help determine user needs and preferences for alternative transit services (i.e. anything other than big bus on a fixed route). Metro staff held the next stakeholder meeting Wednesday, December 13, again at City Hall. Cathy Snow, King County Metro “Community Connections” program manager, recently gave a very well-received presentation to our City Council on the pilot project; a PDF of the presentation is available at https://normandypark.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/38268?preview=38666.

Metro staff have commented on the unusually high response rate to the recent survey they mailed to all Normandy Park households! Congratulations to everyone who completed the survey, on paper or online, for helping Normandy Park to achieve this exceptionally high participation rate! There will be a second survey sent out soon to assess transit preferences, so watch your mailboxes! More information about the kinds of transit resources that could be used in Normandy Park may be found at http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/van-car/van-car.html.
**POOL CLOSURE UPDATE**

The Mount Rainier Pool refurbishment project is underway after encountering some unforeseen issues that required repair before reopening. When replacing the pool liner and tile surfaces this summer, severe corrosion was found in the buried drain lines (see picture) and circulation piping and the mortar bedding was found to be failing. The piping had to be replaced. Despite the challenges that the unknown issues presented, the repairs are moving forward.

The main drain and supply line had to be dug out, requiring the removal of concrete. The corroded iron pipes are being replaced with non-corrosive PVC.

The good news is that all piping has been replaced and concrete poured. The completed project will have new tile and pool shell, and increased water quality to improve user experience. The project is moving forward with an estimated re-opening in early 2018. To follow the project and re-opening check out the news section of our website www.mtrainierpool.com.

**NEW AQUATICS MANAGER**

We have recently hired Dominic Finazzo as the new Aquatics Manager for the Mt. Rainier Pool. He has worked in the Aquatics Industry for sixteen years at several different facilities throughout Washington. Most recently, he co-managed day-to-day operations of the Covington Aquatics Center as well as performing the majority of the maintenance on the aging facility and training lifeguards and swim instructors. The Covington Aquatic Center excels in providing swimming lessons, water safety and community events, and programs to enhance well-being of life in their service area. Dominic is looking forward to using his knowledge and experience in re-opening the Mt. Rainier Pool to offer our community quality programming.
Preserving the Legacy of Normandy Park’s Trees

Normandy Park is known far and wide for its park-like setting—an image that is largely due to the City’s inheritance of so many large, mature trees. Though many of these trees are in City parks and on other City-owned properties, many are on private land. Normandy Park’s individual homeowners thus are in partnership with the City as stewards of this living legacy of green.

To help the City preserve its park-like setting, and to have city regulations that provide for the simpler management of trees, early next year the City Council will consider interim development regulations as guidelines to homeowners cutting trees on their property. The interim regulations would:

• Define “significant tree” as a healthy deciduous tree 6” or more in diameter, or a conifer 6’ or taller;

• Limit the number of significant trees that could be cut in a year on a developed single-family lot;

• Strictly limit the number of significant trees that could be removed from commercial and undeveloped lots;

• Require the planting of replacement trees, typically at a 3:1 ratio (but at a higher ratio for removal of large trees); and

• Establish a tree removal permit, required before trees are removed, and establish an exemption process for unusual circumstances.

After adoption, the interim regulations would then go through an extensive Planning Commission public hearing process, with possible adjustments before becoming permanent.

In addition to creating a green, park-like setting, Normandy Park’s trees may play a role in helping to establish and maintain our community’s health. A recent University of Washington review of the scientific research literature on ultrafine particulates—a kind of air pollutant often found near airports—is a first step of a study fostered by local Washington State legislators to make a scientific assessment of particulate distribution and health consequences. You might read the summary article (or the full-length research study of the same name), Planting Healthy Air at https://blog.nature.org/science/2016/10/31/planting-healthy-air-can-urban-trees-help-clean-up-pollution.

Clearly, City of Normandy Park trees around your house are about much more than view, maintenance and aesthetics; these trees are about the health of your brain, nervous system and heart. This will become much more definitive over the next couple of years.
Finalizing the PROS Plan

BY AMANDA LEÓN, PARKS DIRECTOR

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space “PROS” planning process began in February, 2017. In order to be consistent with the City Comprehensive Plan and eligible for Washington Recreation and Conservation grant funding, the Park Commission, Metropolitan Park District (MPD), and City Council initiated this community based planning process. Several community open house events were held, in addition to discussion during Park Commission, MPD, and City Council meetings. The City Council’s directive was to survey residents, ask questions, and listen to ideas. So what was learned from this process?

• An accurate assessment of current parks and their levels of service
• A summary of community needs and desires
• General goals for acquisitions of neighborhood parks and shoreline access
• Desires for a city-wide sign program
• Desires for a city-wide trail program
• Individual park improvements
• Cost estimates for improvements

With all the information collected, the Parks Director will have the ability to apply for grants in 2018, as well as make use of the Wilson and Topiwala endowments. The City will utilize approximately two-thirds of MPD funds for capital improvements. The work plan is a roadmap that identifies grants, design work, and projects over the next six years with long term effort identified in the 7–20 year timeframes. The City Council plans to adopt the final PROS plan during its January 9, 2018, meeting.

The current draft of the PROS Plan can be found online on the City of Normandy Park website, or contact Parks Director Amanda León at 206-248-8257 to obtain a copy.
When I decided to do a mural for my senior project, it was hard to decide what my design would be. I used my brother Karl’s mural for some inspiration, and reflected on what I have most loved about growing up in Normandy Park.

Two of my favorite things to do in Normandy Park have been to play basketball at City Hall Park and swim with my friends Will, Anders, and Tyler. So, I designed a basketball court with two people shooting hoops and a swimming pool with two people swimming. I had to come up with a way to divide those two activities, and I thought the creek would be a good way because it actually does run through the City, and I spent a lot of time with my siblings and friends looking for salmon as a kid. The last thing I did in my design was to ask my three friends what their favorite colors were, which I incorporated into the mural by portraying each friend in their favorite color including myself. Will is the blue basketball player, Anders is the...
orange basketball player, Tyler is the green swimmer, and I am the pink swimmer.

I hope everyone who walks through City Hall Park or plays baseball, basketball, or soccer up there takes a minute to enjoy my mural, and also my brother’s mural, that are installed on the outside walls of the field restroom. I’d also like to thank the Park Commissioners for supporting this project and especially Parks Director Amanda Leon for being my senior project supervisor. I really appreciate the opportunity to grow up in such a great community.

To advertise or for more information, contact Greg Borland at 206-979-6928 or greg@philipspublishing.com


New Public Works Crew

The city now has two new faces working with the other three public works crew members. Lindsey Richou and Tony Smith were both offered regular positions in November, 2017. If you see them on the street, be sure to welcome them to the workforce of serving your community!
Pea Patch Eagle Scout Project

BY PJ O’GRADY-GRAHAM

My name is PJ O’Grady-Graham and I have lived in Normandy Park all my life. I am a Boy Scout from local Troop 398 and have recently completed my Eagle Scout project for the city of Normandy Park. The project that I chose was building raised flower beds at Marvista Park’s pea patch. The reason I chose this project is because I have Muscular Dystrophy, which makes it harder to garden at ground level, and these beds are designed for wheelchair access.

I started working on the planning for this project in fall of 2016, and completed the project the spring of 2017. It took a while to get everything planned, to raise the money for the materials, and to build and install the beds. I raised the money with donations from close friends and family. I was able to get a big discount on the materials from Lowes at Midway.

The project was completed in two weekends. In the first weekend, we built the frames for the boxes. During the second weekend, we levelled the project site, installed the boxes on cement blocks, and laid gravel. City staff filled the boxes and compacted the gravel into a path.

Below: PJ O’Grady-Graham, McKinley Beard, Declan O’Grady-Graham, Guy Thomas, Mr. Thomas, Billy Hedland, Chip Swarner, Mr. Ebbers, Mr. Hans, Mr. Jensen. Other helpers not in photo: William Eadie, Chase King, and Mike Graham.

PJ O’Grady-Graham
Marvista Park Community Gardening P-Patch spots are available for the 2018 season.

To request a spot, please cut out the P-Patch form below and bring it to the main reception counter at City Hall, 801 SW 174th St., during regular business hours: 8:30 a.m. to Noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Normandy Park residents have priority in receiving a plot. Non-residents may apply and will be assigned a plot if available. Residency will be confirmed by a valid driver’s license and a utility bill.

- Each plot is 10’ x 10’.
- Limited to one entry per household.
- Each gardener must have an adult sign the User Agreement Form.
- A drawing for all plots will be held on February 16, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall. Gardeners need not be present for the drawing and may assign a proxy to select their plot.
- $37 fee is due no later than five business days after plot assignment.

Complete program information is available online in the Parks Services website or by contacting Amanda León at 206-248-8257.

P-PATCH FORM 2018

Name: ____________________________________________
Contact Phone Number: _____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________________

One entry per household
$37 Annual User Fee
Drawing will be held in City Hall on February 16, 2018 at 4pm. Need not be present for drawing. Rental payment is due five business days following the drawing.
Police Officer Hiring Update

In October, three days of oral boards were held in which over 30 candidates were interviewed. Nearly twenty-four of these candidates successfully moved onto the next round of hiring. Unfortunately, the end result has yet to net us any additional officers. We have nearly exhausted the crop of candidates from this most recent process with two candidates currently in background.

As of December, 2017, we have two police officer vacancies. Officer Mona Planesi is currently in field training. If she successfully completes this training, she will begin filling shifts mid-January 2018. Officer Lee has been on the road filling shifts now for about two months and the additional help is greatly appreciated. He is primarily working nights, which has allowed us to increase the officer presence from 6:00 p.m–6:00 a.m.

We will look to have additional oral boards in February 2018 and will continue to aggressively recruit eligible candidates in the meantime. Hopefully, we can build off of our success in recruitment from last October. It is important to not just fill our vacancies, but also fill them with the right people who are a good fit for our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Police Department and for your patience!

Police Forum

On February 7 from 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m., Chief Dan Yourkoski will be hosting a community forum in the City Council Chambers regarding Police Services. Topics will include an update on the hiring of new officers, recent crime activity, questions from the audience, and other subjects of interest that come up. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about your local Police Services, as well as provide a venue for offering feedback in an open community forum.

If there is a specific matter you would like to see discussed at this meeting, please send an email to dyourkoski@normandyparkwa.gov (please note new email address) or if you would prefer to call to discuss, dial my direct line 206-248-8254. We look forward to seeing many of you on February 7!
NORCOM—New 911 Provider

As of January 1, 2018, we have a new group of people answering 911 calls from Normandy Park residents.

The North East King County Regional Public Safety Communication Agency (NORCOM), located in Bellevue, started operation in July, 2009, and prior to Normandy Park coming on board they provided service to five police departments and 14 fire departments. They specialize in dispatching for municipal agencies and are a great fit for our community.

While we enjoyed the previous dispatch relationship we had with the Port of Seattle, the move to NORCOM provides us with a more robust computer interface in the patrol cars, as well as a tested records management system. Not only will this move bring better service to our residents, but it will also supply better information and more effective service to your police officers.

We are excited about this new partnership.

As with any new provider, there will be a few adjustments that may take a little time to get used to and we ask for your patience. Please remember the following:

- **911** is the number to call regardless of the incident when you want an Officer to respond as soon as possible.
- **206-248-7600** is the main police office line and should only be called for non-emergencies, such as house watch requests, records requests, etc.
- **425-577-5656** – please call your alarm companies and have them update their records with this phone number. This is the number to call to get a Police Officer dispatched to your alarm.

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Answer Key on Page 23
The Normandy Park Economic Development Committee Welcomes 2018!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Normandy Park Economic Development Committee (EDC) meetings and business mixers in 2017! The volunteerism was amazing. We look forward to 2018 with new opportunities and the continuation of meaningful discussions and brainstorm sessions about the City’s economic health, supporting our local businesses, organizing community-building events—including Winterfest and Zombie Fest; and much more!

Please consider joining the EDC, which includes residents, business leaders, commercial property owners, non-profits and city staff. It’s a wonderful group of people with the same goal—to help keep Normandy Park economically strong!

The EDC offers many roles—volunteering for events and projects, generating new ideas, discussing economic issues, and partnering with the Friends of Normandy Park, 501(c)(3). The EDC is working on its 2018 schedule, which may include EDC meetings from 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and networking mixers from 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday.

Questions? Contact Councilmember Susan West at 206-818-6945 or susan.west@normandparkwa.gov. See you in 2018!

Silver and Fit

Beginning January 1, 2018, adults 65+ on Medicare with certain supplemental insurances associated with the American Specialty Health will receive free fitness class enrollment for Normandy Park/Des Moines Recreation and Senior Services classes! Your benefit could include free enrollment in Enhance Fitness, Zumba Gold, Tai Chi and Strength and Balance. Please check with our activity center or Field House office on your eligibility and let’s get you enrolled!

Contact the Des Moines/Normandy Park Senior Activity Center at 206-878-1642 for more information.
2018 Business License Renewals

City staff mailed over 600 business license renewals at the end of November. The 2018 application and renewal fee for commercial businesses, 2nd year residential businesses, and businesses located outside of the city limits is now $81 annually. Home Occupation Type I and Type II permit applications are now respectively $198 and $322 for the first year. Business license fees are due by January 31 to avoid a late penalty. If you have any questions regarding a business license renewal, contact City Clerk Debbie Burke at 206-248-8248 or email dburke@normandyparkwa.gov.

Passport Processing Fee Increase

The Federal Department of State has approved an increase to $35 per application for the local passport processing fee to be effective in March 2018. The City has been providing this service at City Hall for nearly ten years and this is the first increase in that time for this service. Information on applying for new or renewing a passport can be found online at travel.state.gov. Contact the City Clerk to make an appointment to submit a DS-11 application form for a new Passport Book or Card.

Domestic Air Travel ID Requirements on January 22, 2018

The Real ID Act of 2013 is scheduled to go into effect this month. Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington are the only states that currently issue State Enhanced Driver’s Licenses (EDLs) which are designated as acceptable forms of ID in addition to the passport book or card. To read more about the Act, visit the Department of Homeland Security website www.dhs.gov/real-id, and to read about forms of acceptable travel ID, visit the TSA website www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification.

New Website Launched in January

City staff have been working with local vendor B-Town web over the last several months to develop a fresh and contemporary look for the city’s website. The new website allows staff to upload actual community images rather than vendor-provided stock photos, and features a meeting calendar add-in that offers better functionality than the prior software. The new site layout provides better integrity for linking to forms and other PDF documents. The software features more intuitive tools for staff to make changes and also represents an annual cost savings for the city. If you haven’t had a chance to do so, check out the new website at www.normandyparkwa.gov!
“Your Neighborhood Booster Club!”
Friends of Normandy Park - Your neighborhood booster club is looking for new board members and volunteers!

Are you passionate about your neighborhood and would like to contribute your experience and ideas?

Friends of Normandy Park (FONP) is a 501(c)(3) organization of community members and local businesses who wish to enhance Normandy Park. Through fundraising and event and project planning, FONP will serve as a facilitator to build community pride, improve business climate, and attract people to Normandy Park.

Through education, participation, facilitating community events like Zombie Fest Northwest - Disaster Preparedness and Winterfest, we can generate more community spirit. This is just the start of many possibilities. Future fundraising enterprises will help fund local non-profit organizations or Normandy Park initiatives.

Looking for experience in event planning, grant writing, or fundraising. Or if you would just like to volunteer for an event or to share your ideas are welcome!

Learn more about joining and volunteering by contacting
Patti Gifford pattigifford2@gmail.com

Friends of Normandy Park
Family Fun at Winterfest 2017!

Rainy weather didn’t stop hundreds of festive folks from flocking to Normandy Park’s Winterfest on Saturday, December 2. The fun began with holiday cookie decorating at QFC and holiday cup decorating at Starbucks, along with a special visit from Santa, and music by the Silverbells Carolers and the Marvista Elementary Choir Club! The festivities continued at Normandy Park Towne Center in front of Normandy Park Market with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa made a rock star entrance in a police motorcade. The evening festivities also included arts and crafts, cool booths with baked goods, face painting, wreaths for sale and lots of holiday gift buying.

KOMO TV’s Theron Zahn and Matt Markovich emceed the event with Normandy Park Mayor Pro Tem Mike Bishoff.

The evening was full of amazing holiday music by the Silverbells Carolers, Marvista Elementary Choir Club, Pacific Middle School Choir, Mount Rainier High School Choir and the Marvista Elementary Orchestra Ensemble. Plus, it SNOWED thanks to Patti Gifford!

THANK YOU to the many community volunteers, sponsors and City staff that made these fun events possible! A special THANK YOU to the organizers—Normandy Park Economic Development Committee and the Friends of Normandy Park.

To view more Winterfest photos and videos, visit the Normandy Park Winterfest Facebook page: www.facebook.com/normandyparkwinterfest/
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This article is about land use related to economic development, the last of four such articles. In 2017, the City of Normandy Park made some changes that should assist the vision for the Manhattan Village Subarea, a plan developed to foster mixed residential and retail uses in this locale. One of the primary ways an area can become more prosperous and beneficial to the community is through the development of infrastructure; another way is through zoning that leads to uses that are desired.

The main infrastructure improvement this last year, SW Normandy Road, was built over the summer. Envisioned for years, this project was built per the approved design, with storm water devices large enough to handle most road area storm water run-off from future improvements in Manhattan Village. All that remains for this project area is to build hand rails around the storm water vessels on the sidewalk side, improving the sense of safety and reducing playful intrusion into the storm water devices. (Yes, I’ve seen kids jumping and running in the storm water devices. It looked like they were having fun as they trampled the new vegetation.) These rails were not an original part of the design, but should be installed this winter.

Also, in the coming year, the city will improve pedestrian safety along the 1st Avenue frontage of the Manhattan Village Subarea with a $247,800 grant from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board. This improvement will extend from Fernwood through the QFC property, and is currently under design. Hopefully, the new ease of ADA access to the shopping center will tend to enhance safe neighborhood passage to shopping and services in this area.

To the south, the Kennedy Property at 117 SW Normandy Road was rezoned from R-7.2 to MU (Mixed Use). Also, next door, the Royal Arms Villa property was rezoned from RM-1800 to MU. Not only are these rezones consistent with the Manhattan Village Subarea Plan, they are consistent with the established City of Normandy Park Comprehensive Plan land use designation for this area. (The Growth Management Act requires congruence between comprehensive plan designations and zoning regulations.)

Further south on 1st Avenue, the Belleme townhomes and retail frontage, after years of delay, is currently under construction. The applicant is considering applying to the city’s Hearing Examiner to change the retail frontage to strictly residential usage. Staff will oppose this change because such retail use is a principal reason for the Mixed Use zone.

Finally, the Dairy Queen is getting closer and closer to demolition and transition into a new Starbucks. Can’t provide a date or timeline yet, but I won’t be surprised if something happens this year.
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