

# CityScene

NORMANDY PARK

SPRING 2020

## SPRING INTO ACTION

*Kite surfers who call Normandy Park Home Turf PAGE 22*

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**COVER PHOTO** Kite Surfer Matt Wardian taken from the Cove. Photo by Mike Reid who gave his permission to use this for this publication. You can view more of his work at [mikereidphotography.com](http://mikereidphotography.com).



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Sue-Ann Hohimer  
Mayor

## Spring Into Action!

Winter in the Pacific Northwest has been known to drag even the sunniest personalities into the doldrums of inactivity. The idea of leaving the coziness and comfort of the indoors to bust out the garden gloves and the power washer, doesn't immediately sound delightful to me. Despite this, I appreciate the invitation of Springtime's "Let's..." to help me feel motivated to action; "Let's plant", "Let's spruce things up", "Let's declutter", "Let's get out and exercise", "Let's..."

This edition of City Scene is titled, "Spring into Action!" and is intended to provide inspiration and encouragement to ditch the inertia of winter and get active in ways that better yourself, your family and our community.

Whether your "winter" has literally been the winter months or a hard

period of time due to challenging life circumstances, we are reminded this time of year that Spring is a season of hope, renewal, optimism and beauty... and a focus on that can often lead to renewal that makes you feel good, which can lead to more action and before you know it, you're back on track! So whether you SPRING into action quickly with the changing weather or use this spring season to engage in healthy activities that truly fuel you, my hope is that as individuals and as a community we use this season to build positive momentum and our forward motion will lead to health and prosperity.

As a city, this springtime rejuvenation brings opportunity to reset Council relationships, revamp our Nuisance code, improve communication, and prepare to tackle the challenge of funding a new Civic Center. As your Mayor, I am very excited to join with my fellow councilmembers, our incredible city staff, and you, to Spring into Action making Normandy Park its very best!

*Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's..."*

*—Robin Williams*



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**City Clerk**  
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**Police Records Manager**  
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# A New Beginning

BY PETER PHILIPS, PUBLISHER

I write this from my home office looking out over a garden beginning to burst with spring blooms. Like all of you, I am sequestered at home waiting for the time when I can resume a life of social interaction and community.

In the meantime, I am being bombarded by social media and internet gossip, most of which is uncorroborated at best, and downright deceitful in many cases.

Thus, our *Normandy Park City Scene* magazine becomes even more important as a source of authoritative and credible news about our city and our community.

Soon after we began publishing the magazine in September of 2012 city hall noticed a spike in interaction from the community... about volunteer opportunities,

road projects, civic events and all things that a city does with and for its residents.

To help determine what might have caused this spike in community engagement, city staff commissioned a third-party communications study and determined that it was the introduction of *City Scene* magazine that was responsible for the increase in community awareness.

In fact, 87% of respondents to the study reported that *City Scene* magazine was their sole or primary source of information about the city. As a veteran of 35 years in media—digital, in-person and print—I wasn't surprised by the results.

Print media continues to be the most authoritative and credible source of news for the vast majority of the

world's population, whether they are 24 or 84 years old.

Today as you read your latest issue of *City Scene* magazine, pay particular attention to our advertisers.

Our local retail establishments are made up of the people most vulnerable to the economic impacts of the 'shelter at home' policies currently in place. Where you can, patronize them today. If you can't patronize them today, please send them an email or give them a call to let them know that you will be back as soon as you can.

These small businesses are essential contributors to the culture and the community that make Normandy Park such a wonderful place to live. We need these businesses and they need to know we appreciate them!

## Be a Part of Something New:

# Normandy Park Youth Commission

*Are you interested in local government, being a part of a community, and working with other students to solve issues? Join the Normandy Park Youth Commission! We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6–7pm to discuss ideas about how to improve our community. If you are a high school student looking for a place to speak your mind and find your voice, take advantage of this opportunity. We hope to see you, once school attendance starts again.*



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# COUNCIL NEWS

## Contact Your City Council



**Position 1**  
Earnest Thompson  
Earnest.Thompson@normandyparkwa.gov



**Position 2**  
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206-248-8289  
Susan.West@normandyparkwa.gov



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206-248-8287  
Mike.Bishoff@normandyparkwa.gov



**Position 5**  
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Michelle.Sipes-Marvin@normandyparkwa.gov



**Position 6**  
Patrick McDonald  
206-248-8290  
Patrick.McDonald@normandyparkwa.gov



**Position 7**  
Sue-Ann Hohimer  
206-248-8292  
Sue-Ann.Hohimer@normandyparkwa.gov

### MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR

**Arts Commission**  
1st Tuesday, 7pm

**Economic Development Committee**  
1st Wednesday, 6pm

**Council Meeting**  
2nd Tuesday, 7pm

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

**Civil Service**  
3rd Tuesday, Noon (if necessary)

**Park Commission**  
3rd Wednesday, 7pm

**Planning Commission**  
3rd Thursday, 7pm

**Council Study Session**  
4th Tuesday, 7pm (if necessary)

## Council Corner

BY EARNEST THOMPSON, CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Spring is here and summer beckons. How nice to go out and enjoy our Normandy Park parks. Coronavirus makes us nervous to even enjoy a chat with neighbors in Marine View Park, but in time, this will pass. Until then, wave six feet apart.

Consider the *Music in The Park* series each summer at Marvista Park. How much nicer that would be if we didn't hear jet noise flying overhead from SeaTac with ever greater frequency. From 31 million passengers in 2010 to 56 million today and 66 million projected in a few short years.

At least we can enjoy a breath of fresh air...or can we? While

noise is the proverbial "canary in the coal mine," our own Washington State Department of Public Health, among others, has noted that jet air pollution

has resulted in much higher illness rates in cancer, asthma, and skin conditions to name a few, in cities surrounding Normandy Park. Des Moines resident, former Council member and author, Debi Wagner has written a great book entitled, *Over My Head*, regarding SeaTac. Enjoy reading that in Nist Park!

Unfortunately, our prized parks won't necessarily save us from the gradual decrease in property values, as the Port of Seattle would be all too happy to maximize its air traffic, if we let them.

So what can we do to protect our property valuations and make our parks healthier?

1. Since the Metropolitan Park District measure passed years ago, we have seen continual improvements in our parks: kids new play equipment, removal of invasive species, restoration of native plants, and minimized pesticides. We should not allow Metropolitan

Park District funds to be diverted for alternative city financial problems. By law, MPD monies can only be spent on parks per the Parks Recreation

and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan), unless the City Council decides to buy something that is not in the PROS Plan, in which case the PROS plan is required by State law to be adjusted at the next opportunity.

—CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

What can we do to protect our property valuations and make our parks healthier?

## COUNCIL CORNER CONTINUED

2. We need to address the real problems caused by Sea-Tac International Airport. We need an Environmental Committee that addresses land-water-air issues. We need a Normandy Park Airport Committee like Burien and Des Moines.
3. The city needs to support broader initiatives at the Regional and Federal levels and get serious about jet pollution and climate change. We need to think outside the sclerotic bureaucratic box and appoint youth to our Planning Commission, because it is the future inhabitants and youth that will be affected by the decisions made.
4. We should support rational implementation of technologies like Hyperloop. Fantasy? Nope! The federal government Department of Commerce is spending \$5 million on feasibility studies on Hyperloop. Ohio is spending \$1.2 million on a feasibility study for building Hyperloop from Chicago to Cleveland. People like Elon Musk and Richard Branson are investing heavily in their Hyperloop companies. Please research this yourself. Get involved for you and your children. Google Hyperloop or visit [Hyperloopnw.org](http://Hyperloopnw.org). Hyperloop= No Noise—No Pollution—The Solution! Then we can all freely enjoy our quiet parks, fresh air and the spiritual solitude we all need.

## New Normandy Park Mayor and Deputy Mayor Appointed!

Sue-Ann Hohimer was appointed by Council as Mayor for Normandy Park serving a two-year term. Michelle Sipes-Marvin was appointed for a two-year term as Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Hohimer, an educator, consultant, community volunteer and advocate of children, youth and families, has raised four sons in Normandy Park.

Deputy Mayor Michelle Sipes-Marvin is a Registered Nurse with over twenty years of caregiving experience. Currently working as a Legal Nurse Consultant, she is focused on the health and rights of the elderly. She's a wife and a mother of two very busy girls enjoying everything Normandy Park has to offer.

Normandy Park is a council-manager form of government. Other members of the Council elect both the mayor and deputy mayor. Mayors and deputy mayors both serve two-year terms, and both can serve an unlimited number of terms.



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## CITY NEWS



# Stay Informed about What is Happening in your Local City Government

### ***Weekly City Emails***

Keep up to date on news from the City of Normandy Park, including reports from the City Manager, notices of public meetings, city events, employment and advisory board openings. Sign-up for the city's weekly email by going to the city website, click on the orange button labeled "Get City News" at the top of the webpage or by emailing City Clerk Brooks Wall at [bwall@normandyparkwa.gov](mailto:bwall@normandyparkwa.gov).

### ***Visit City Website at [www.normandyparkwa.gov](http://www.normandyparkwa.gov)***

The home page of the city website lists the upcoming meetings and events, city news and other important city happenings. Use the City Meetings and Events Calendar located on the home page as a way to stay informed of upcoming events.

### ***Read City Scene Magazine***

This publication comes out quarterly and is mailed to the residents of Normandy Park and local businesses. City staff, council and the community all work together to compile important information that helps citizens stay up to date on what is going on in the city.

### ***Follow the City and Police Facebook Pages***

City staff will post emergency notices, immediate police concerns and city events using Facebook.

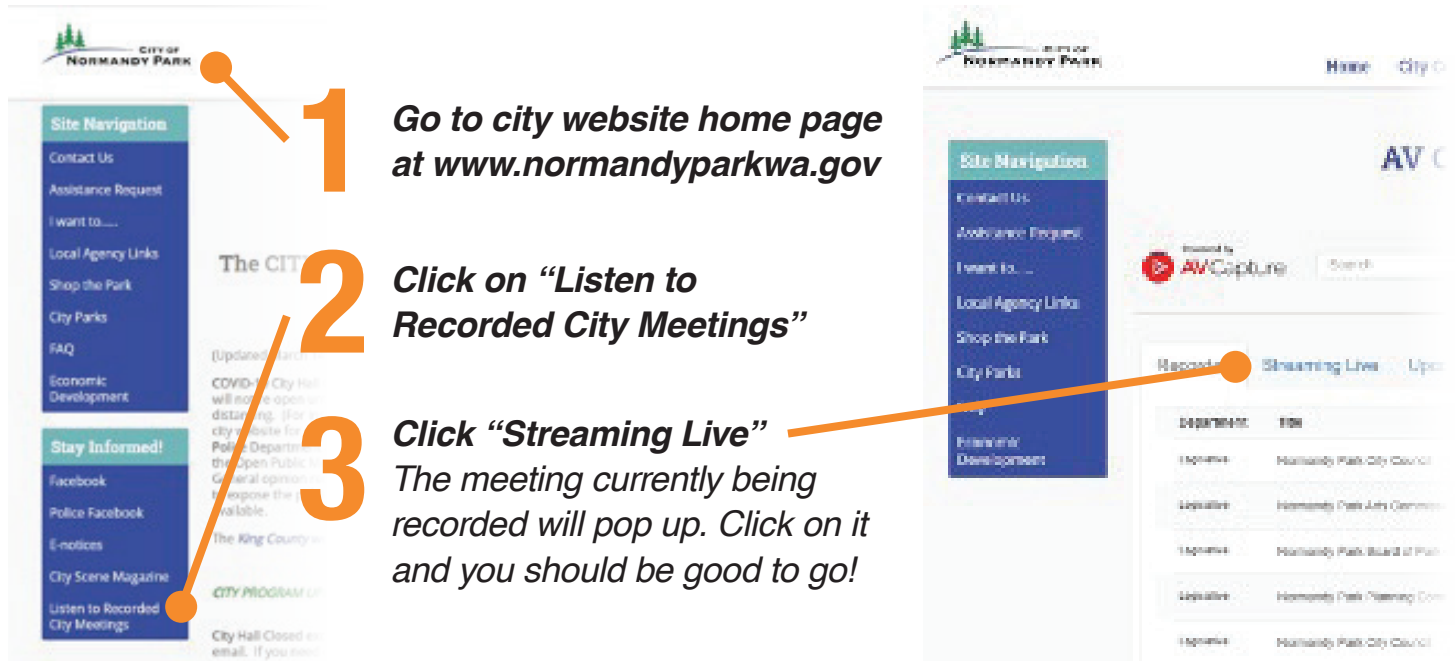
### ***Attend a Public Meeting***

Council meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month and when needed a second meeting is scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of the month. These meetings can also be viewed live by turning to Channel 21 or by watching "Live Stream" via your computer. See the graphic on the following page for specific instructions for live streaming via your computer. Commission, Council, and most Committee meetings are recorded and can be watched via the city website.

### ***Do Your Homework!***

Don't believe everything you read on social media. While social media has broadened access to information in a mostly positive way, it has also enabled mis-information to spread rapidly. Do your homework by visiting the city website ([www.normandyparkwa.gov](http://www.normandyparkwa.gov)) and/or checking with city staff.

# How to Watch City Council Meetings LIVE via your cell phone or computer



**1** Go to city website home page at [www.normandyparkwa.gov](http://www.normandyparkwa.gov)

**2** Click on "Listen to Recorded City Meetings"

**3** Click "Streaming Live"  
The meeting currently being recorded will pop up. Click on it and you should be good to go!

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## Doing Things the Right-Of-Way

**T**his time of year residents are eager to get outside. While some may see yard care as a hobby, others consider it a chore. Regardless of where you may fall on that spectrum, there are a few things to keep in mind when planning outdoor projects or pulling out the pruners this spring.

When spring is in bloom, trees, shrubs, or other vegetative matter grows. The City's public nuisance code disallows trees, walls, shrubs, hedges, fences, etc. from encroaching into the

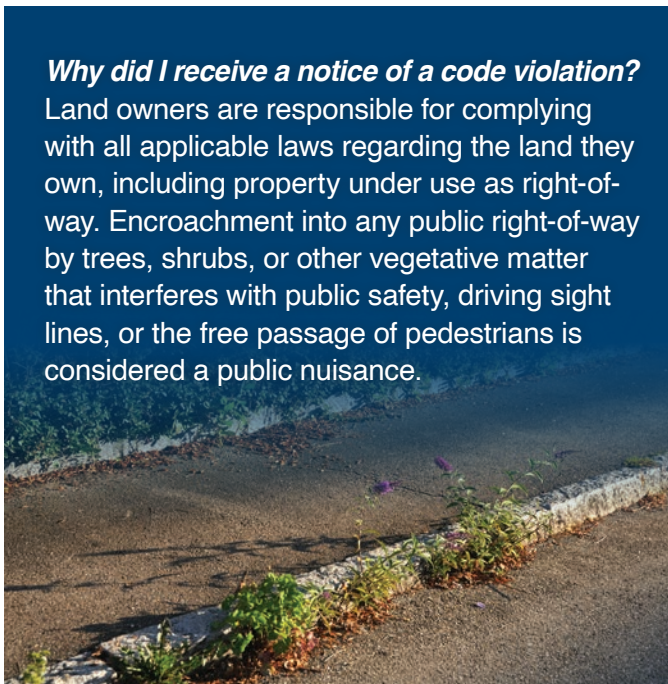
public right-of-way. Every year the city issues notices of code violation to homes that are in need of spring grooming because of overgrown hedges that interfere with public safety, driving sight lines, or the free passage of pedestrians.

The right-of-way begins at the property line and extends to the pavement in most cases. Homeowners are responsible for keeping adjacent areas of unimproved right-of-way in compliance with current code standards.



### ***Do I need a permit for this?***

A permit is required for work done in the right-of-way. Normal maintenance of landscaping like grass cutting, shrub trimming, or flower planting may be exempt.



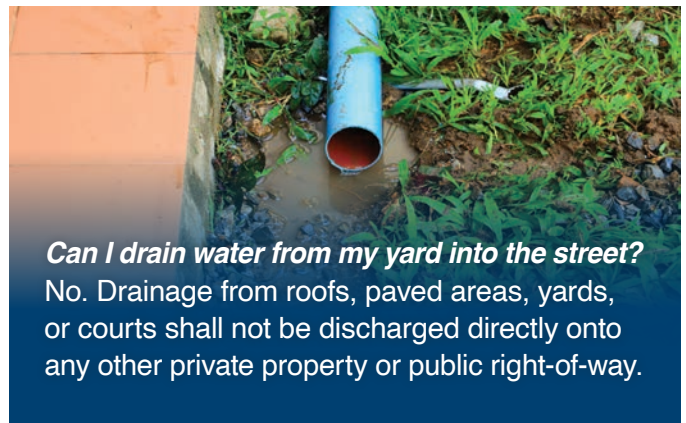
### ***Why did I receive a notice of a code violation?***

Land owners are responsible for complying with all applicable laws regarding the land they own, including property under use as right-of-way. Encroachment into any public right-of-way by trees, shrubs, or other vegetative matter that interferes with public safety, driving sight lines, or the free passage of pedestrians is considered a public nuisance.



### ***What does legal non-conforming mean?***

Legal non-conforming, also known as "grandfathered" use—Normandy Park Municipal Code defines a nonconformity (land or structure) as the use of land or improvements thereon which do not conform to the regulations of the district in which such land is located. There are numerous legal nonconformities in Normandy Park; something to consider when planning future projects. Major repair of a rockery, for example, may not meet current regulations.



### ***Can I drain water from my yard into the street?***

No. Drainage from roofs, paved areas, yards, or courts shall not be discharged directly onto any other private property or public right-of-way.

# Participate. Engage. Be Informed.

BY JENNIFER FERRER-SANTA INES, FINANCE DIRECTOR

*How will the  
new Civic Center  
be funded?*

*What is the Levy Lid Lift?*

*How much of your property tax bill is  
distributed to the City of Normandy Park?*

*What is the City of  
Normandy Park's  
largest expenditure?*



**A**t one point in time, the questions above have probably crossed your mind or you have heard your neighbors talking about them. Wonder no more! Come and join a subcommittee referred to as Budget Advisory Group, made up of Normandy Park community members and residents like yourself to provide input on the City's 2021-2022 budget.

If you have an interest in your community, are curious about city services, or have the willingness to share your ideas and comments on the City's

budget, I want to hear from you. Join us in putting together a proposed and balanced budget for Council review and approval. Meetings will take place at City Hall in July and August. Refreshments and air conditioning will be provided.

*If you have any questions or if you are interested in participating, contact Finance Director, Jennifer Ferrer-Santa Ines at [jferrer-santaines@normandyparkwa.gov](mailto:jferrer-santaines@normandyparkwa.gov).*

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# Civic Center Design FAQs

BY MARK HOPPEN, CITY MANAGER

## ***Why now?***

Government facilities for recreation center, city offices, and police station are being proposed now because all city facilities are nearing the end of their useful life. In particular, the recreation center has been shown by two engineering studies to be seismically unsafe. So, right now, while the focus is on designing a new recreation center, the overall design effort is on designing a unified set of government offices, including a recreation center, government offices, and police station.

## ***Why is it being called a Civic Center?***

The term City Hall usually refers strictly to government offices. Citizens have long known, however, that Normandy Park values the mix of activities that residents engage, including indoor recreation, meetings of various kinds, as well as the business of governance. The word civic refers to the duties and activities of citizens in their town. In the last century, incorporated and unincorporated areas often built civic centers for socials, athletics and recreation, and for community decision-making. Because of this, the term Civic Center has been used to both characterize this design effort and to respect the historical purposes of Normandy Park. Of course, practically speaking, the citizens of Normandy Park could call the facility whatever makes them most comfortable.

## ***Why and how was the city hall location selected?***

The City Hall location was selected for the current design effort by both the City Council and Facility Design Committee, which completed its work some years ago. The City Council considered the Mar Vista Park location and the City Hall site. The City Hall site was ultimately selected as the chief site of active indoor and outdoor recreation in the city, as the site most frequently utilized by the largest number of people in Normandy Park, and as a location where the neighborhood has learned to cope with these

patterns of use, including traffic patterns. Moreover, the Marvista Park neighborhood was overtly offended by the new imposition of already burdensome traffic from school public works, park, and pool use.

## ***Was any information supplied by the Facilities Task Force used or are we starting from scratch?***

The Facilities Task Force information was supplied to the architectural firm, Miller Hull Partnership, at the outset of the design process. So, on one hand, the city design process is not starting from scratch. On the other hand, the spatial information from the facilities task force has been further refined through focus groups, particularly the city hall functions, and is currently being reviewed by a steering committee made up of elected officials, appointed officials, city staff, and citizens. The steering committee is seeking to look at spatial needs with the architects to determine the best siting options for the future recreation center, government offices, and police station on the property. Of course all this is being done with an eye toward cost and the city's ability to pay without diminishing city services, in both the short and long-term.

## ***Next Steps***

Next steps include:

1. The siting committee articulating options on the City Hall Park site;
2. Public review of these options;
3. City Council review of these options and selection of a preferred siting option;
4. More public input into facility needs and design considerations;
5. Miller Hull conceptual design;
6. A public design preference meeting;
7. City Council selection of the preferred design, considering cost and timing of final design and construction.

# What's Going On in Normandy Park?

## **Water District No. 49 2020 Capital Improvement Project—22nd Ave. SW Water Main Replacement**

The 2020 CIP Water Main Replacement project consists of the replacement of 4" cast iron main with 8" ductile iron main, replacement of residential water services, replacement of fire hydrants, connection to existing mains, service transfers, and restoration. The water main replacement will occur within 22nd Avenue SW and SW 169th Street between SW 170th Street and 21st Avenue SW, within SW 170th Street between 16th Avenue SW and 19th Avenue SW, and within the cul-de-sac at the 1900 block of SW 170th Street. The project is located in the City of Burien and the City of Normandy Park. Estimated start date March 2020.

For more information visit [www.wd49.com/projects.html](http://www.wd49.com/projects.html)

## **King County Flood District—Sequoia Creek and Walker Creek Culvert Replacement Design** King County Flood District

awarded Normandy Park a \$200,000 grant to design replacement culverts. The Flood Reduction Grant will fund preliminary design. The project will include the design of three existing culverts in Normandy Park sized to convey 100-year flows. The culverts will be designed as fish-passable culverts or bridges. The City is currently working with an engineering consultant to prepare a feasibility study and engineering plans. Surveying and monitoring activities will take place in Spring 2020 along portions of the Sequoia and Walker Creeks.

For more information visit [www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/](http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/)

## **Normandy Park Public Works Capital Improvement Project—1st Ave S Overlay Project from SW 174th St to Burien**

The first phase of this project consists of construction of curb ramps at three intersections along 1st Ave South, one curb ramp at the intersection of 6th Avenue SW and SW 186th Street; and storm drainage improvements including new pipe, catch basin, and ditch regrading at various locations on 12th Avenue SW and SW 168th

Street. The 1st Avenue South curb ramp retrofit project is to be constructed in advance of a King County overlay project. Project goes out for bid April 2020.

## **Normandy Park Public Works Capital Improvement Project—4th Ave SW from SW 183rd St to SW 192nd St**

The 4th Avenue SW curb ramp retrofit project successfully brought 14 ADA ramps into compliance. Seven catch basins that did not meet the maintenance standards of the Stormwater Management Manual of Western Washington were also replaced. The final overlay is scheduled for Spring 2020.



For the most current updates about these and other Normandy Park projects, visit [normandyparkwa.gov/public-works/current-projects/](http://normandyparkwa.gov/public-works/current-projects/)

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# Stay Home, Stay Safe... but Then What

BY MARK HOPPEN, CITY MANAGER

Consequent to the COVID-19 emergency, I have been contacted by reasonable people who believe that City staffing levels will need to be cut and that the ensuing economic fallout will be severe. It's common sense to imagine a scenario where state and local budgets will not continue at present levels when unemployment is forecasted to remain at Depression Era levels, anywhere from two months to three years.

The most dismal scenarios project that staff will need to be furloughed, and that many residents will have lost jobs and experience severe financial

difficulty. In these scenarios, the state will face massive unforeseen costs for unemployment insurance. Landlords will face foreclosure as tenants won't be able to pay rent.

This would result in property taxes going unpaid, leaving the City unable to receive the funds it needs.

**We should, however, avoid jumping to unwarranted conclusions.**

Remember that sales tax is not a major component of the city budget. Property taxes, the material component, may be delayed, but we have calculated the potential gap due to the COVID-19 emergency.

I doubt Normandy Park and the world will collapse long-term. If the most dismal scenarios present themselves, we will deal with them. We have reserved funds to pay off the long-term debt in December 2022, debt incurred by old mistakes contracting 1st Avenue.

The first year that this bonded debt can be paid off with strategic city reserves, about \$1.2m with interest, is December 2022. Once this debt is paid, it will free cash flow equivalent to one police officer per year.

Hopefully, we will not need to dip into this reserve (and later re-build it) prior to the economy re-starting. If we need to do so, it will be one

signal that the city budget may need to downsize.

Normandy Park taxpayers already paid for the police service they enjoy, and the City is fully staffed

at ten officers through 2022.

In other areas, City of Normandy Park staffing is as lean as it can get and still be a capable, full-service city.

Moreover, does the City of Normandy Park

need to immediately cut all capital projects? No. The City's one upcoming major street project, 1st Avenue repaving on the road section north of 174th, design-costed as nearly a \$1m project, is 80% funded by dedicated State grant funds and 20% funded by capital funds from real estate excise tax (REET), which cannot by State law, be used for anything else. The City will not be building any other capital projects in the near future, other than finishing the paving on 4th Avenue, also using REET dollars as a match to available grant funds. **The City of Normandy Park General Fund is not burdened by any projects at this time.**

So, despite this emergency, the City of Normandy Park's fiscal capability is intact at this time. We can all hope that if we work together, the economy in Washington state will rebound after the COVID-19 emergency.

The City of Normandy Park's fiscal capability is intact at this time.

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## Newest Hire has the Police Department Fully Staffed!

**O**n February 3, the Normandy Park Police Department was privileged to have Enrique Washington join our team.

Enrique, who originally hails from San Diego, California, is our newest Officer and comes to us after retiring from active military service. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1996 but spent the last 14 years of his career in the United States Army. He served primarily with the Military Police in various stateside and overseas assignments including here in Washington, Cuba, South Korea, Kuwait and Iraq. Enrique is a graduate of the University of Washington with a Bachelors of Arts in Criminal Justice.

Enrique is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys spending his time off riding his motorcycle, scuba diving, and off-roading. He, his wife Barbara, and his daughter Isabella, all attended our last *Coffee with a Cop* and received a warm welcome from those in attendance.

Enrique started the Police Academy March 4 and is set to graduate in August. Following graduation he will start three months of field training.



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# The What, When, Why of a Comprehensive Plan

BY HOLLY KEETON

## WHAT?

One of the fundamental tasks and the centerpiece of local government is planning for the future. A comprehensive plan is a vision for future growth within a community or region. It is the key document for providing overarching goals, objectives, and standards for a city or county and guides city staff as well as appointed and elected officials. It is a required document for all jurisdictions within King County, as well as most counties in Washington state, and is intended to guide all decisions made. Under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) and outlined within RCW 36.70A.070 the following elements are mandatory within a city's comprehensive plan:

- Land Use
- Housing
- Capital Facilities
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Parks and Recreation

## WHEN?

The GMA, Chapter 36.70A RCW, outlines that each city must take applications for amendments to the comprehensive plan each year and that the proposed amendments can only be considered simultaneously, once a year. All proposed amendments must be reviewed concurrently to assess the potential cumulative impacts on the community and/

or region. The City of Normandy Park has codified the process within Chapter 18.62 NPMC and outlines that applications are to be accepted for review, beginning in January through the first business day of February, each calendar year. After the closing of the application period, applications are reviewed by staff, City Council and Planning Commission. The approval of the applications for review results in the creation of the official "docket". The docket is then assessed by staff, Planning Commissioners, City Council and citizens throughout the year.

Once the Planning Commission begins reviewing the docket, at least one public hearing is required as outlined within RCW 36.70A.040, before a recommendation is made and forwarded to City Council. If the Council amends the recommendation from the Planning Commission significantly, an additional public hearing is required.

A complete review of the entire document, called a periodic review, is required under GMA every eight years. Cities within King County are required to have a periodic review completed no later than June 30, 2024 (recently updated from 2023 by the State Legislature). The periodic review can be done over multiple years and may be completed ahead of time.

## WHY?

Recently many within our community have been asking "WHY" the City is recommending the amendments that it is currently proposing. The technical reasons align with the above-mentioned requirements under GMA. The state of City finances is the other part of the "WHY".

As most citizens know, the City of Normandy Park operates on a very tight margin and works very hard to continue to offer quality basic services under the available budget. Even with the provision of basic services, there is currently a \$400,000 to \$500,000 budget deficit per year. The property levy alone cannot bridge the gap and as time goes on the cost of services is bound to increase, further dividing the gap between available funds and cost of services.

The Economic Development Committee (EDC), both past and present, has attempted to consider the budget gap for years. One of the solutions that has been discussed, and that has made its way into the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments in 2019, and now in 2020, is to increase commercial areas through the amending of the Future Land Use Map. The goal behind this proposal is to open a door for development to occur within commercial areas of the city. As Councilman McDonald stated during the March 10th City Council Meeting:

*"This [proposal] daylighted out of the EDC and a couple of the big conversations were creating a road map for not only this EDC but future EDCs to plan and work off, so you're seeing the economic development element of the Comprehensive Plan. The other piece is fundamentally looking at where the City is financially and figuring out how we can increase basic service and also keep basic services. We fundamentally looked at a few basic buckets. One of those being... economic development is either your increasing revenue or cutting expenses. If we cut services, the first thing to go are the police and I don't think anybody wants to do that. So we took that off the table very quickly. The other piece of that is, can we increase taxes? Well, we can in some areas, B&O [Business and Occupation] tax being one of those, property tax being one of those. We actually probably will increase property taxes with the levy lid lift in the next couple of years, but we discussed that that is not something we wanted to do over and over again. So we tried to come up with solutions that would eliminate that and also expand our services here in the City. The main solution we came up with was increasing revenue. So, how do we do that? I break it down into three buckets essentially.*

*First, business retention and growing existing space, a lot of people don't know this but our businesses actually function very well. ... [Despite the perception,] we don't really have that much space for new businesses. Yes,*

*the Towne Center probably has 30% vacancy right now, but if you look deeper into the ebbs and flows of retail businesses and how long leasing [process] takes, it's not unusual to have about 30% vacancy in a major retail center. Other than that, we hardly have any more space. We do have Stan Harris' property which is north of Starbucks. Unfortunately, that property is contaminated; it can't be redeveloped any time soon, so we really don't have that. It will be a great development play at some point in time, but in the near future it can't be counted...*

*The second piece of increasing revenue is recruiting new businesses. Like I said, our businesses actually do really well here. I know Holly has been trying to recruit businesses that have overflows in SeaTac that [may] want to go into Normandy Park/Burien. We've talked to Tom O'Keefe, he doesn't have any space...*

*The third thing we looked at is how do we expand our commercial areas. Well, if we don't have any space for any additional commercial areas, we have to make that ourselves. When we day lighted this, we wanted to [look at] the most natural areas for potential rezones for commercial space. South of the Towne Center on 200th is the most logical choice in my opinion... That consists basically of duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes and so it seems that a redevelopment which might be a mix of apartments, condos, and townhomes and commercial space would makes sense.*

*The others were the apartments along 1st Avenue, south of John Knox and the 184th/185th neighborhoods. I think the EDC has listened to everybody and doesn't think that it's the time to hone in on single-family areas, so we want to take that off, but if you look at the bigger picture of Normandy Park, we have no space for new businesses, we need more revenue and the only way to do that is to create more commercial space..." Commercial space doesn't mean... something big where you have to look at the back of a building. It can be very strategic; you're seeing very strategic commercial retail space pop up all over the Pacific Northwest. Bellevue is a really good example that has very natural neighborhood commercial centers with townhomes, even cottage style housing, that leads into more commercial-based businesses and essentially hides the commercial business from nearby single-family homes.*

*What I'm getting at is, you look at Normandy Park and you think we're flush with cash but we're not. You look at Normandy Park and you think it's vacant in the Towne Center; we should put people there first before we expand. It's not vacant, there's no space. You look at the property north of Starbucks, it can't be developed. The only natural thing, not the only economic development driver we need..., but it's one of the main ones [is that] we need to look at space that can be developed into commercial space. So, that's the WHY behind the WHAT..."*

## Spring and Summer Parks Programs

BY AMANDA LEÓN

Have you ever wondered what bird is singing in your yard and what tree it is in? So much of the beauty of life in Normandy Park is natural beauty. Five years ago, the Normandy Park Parks Commission began an environmental education program for residents who were interested in nature. 2020 spring and summer offerings will not be held if social distancing is still required. Potential offerings are:

### COMMUNITY FORESTERS

On the first Saturday of each month, volunteer community foresters work with restoration ecologist Joy Wood removing invasive species and replanting Marine View Park. During the winter months foresters learn about ecological restoration, native plants, and grassroots environmental stewardship.

### A WALK WITH PLANTS

Join Jaime Van Doughty as she leads explorers on a wander in the forest to learn about basic plant identification. She focuses on sustainable foraging of medicinal and edible plants.

### FORST BATHING

Join Michael Stein-Ross as he takes adventurers on a guided forest therapy walk. Slow down and enjoy the evolving series of sensory-focused invitations, and mindfully interact with the surrounding natural world. There is scientific evidence that forest bathing results in stress reduction, lowered blood pressure, and increased cognitive functions!

### BIRDING AT THE COVE

Join Kevin O'Malley on a walk at The Cove to learn about our sea and migratory birds.

### THE OWL PROWL

Join Kevin O'Malley on a walk to search for resident owls in Normandy Park. The adventure begins by learning about these predators through a dissection of owl pellets to find out about their habitats, behaviors and forest life. The hike continues very quietly at dusk and into dark to find the owls.

### BIRDING BASICS

Whether you're a novice bird-watcher or are simply curious, this class is for you! In this birdwatching class adventurers learn how to get started, what tools to use, and identification techniques.

### COMMUNITY GARDENING CLASSES

Join garden educators from King Conservation District and Des Moines Area Food Bank to learn about vegetable gardening. Classes at Marvista Park Community Garden include learning to build trellises, good and bad bug identification, and tips for growing vegetables.



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## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

AGES 4-5

**JULY 20-JULY 24**  
**M-F 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



## LITTLE SCIENTISTS

AGES 4-5

**JULY 27- JULY 31**  
**12:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

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AGES 5 (ENTERING KINDERGARTEN)

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## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER:

# Normandy Park's House That *Everyone* Built

BY MAYOR SUE-ANN HOHIMER

Recently, at city hall, I came across a photocopy of a Seattle Times article from before 1970 written by Byron Fish. The article opens with this statement, "A community founded on the idea that wealthy residents would have everything done for them, has instead, become known in the Seattle area as one that does things for itself."

The article goes on to briefly recount the challenges Normandy Park faced early in its history. Originally it was planned and platted as another fancy residential "Broadmoor" community, complete with golf course, yacht basin, clubhouse etc. However, with only the clubhouse, a few roads and several houses built, construction suddenly came to

a massive halt. It was 1929. Due to the stockmarket crash and World War II building restrictions, the clubhouse was sold off as a private residence and everything sat idle. New construction in the area did not return until 1950.

The point of Bryon Fish's article was to highlight the fact that once the rebuilding of Normandy Park finally began, residents (made up of many Boeing engineers and airline personnel) learned that by working together, pooling resources and talents, they could build tremendous things for the community to enjoy. As I read about the large-gift donors of Normandy Park and the 600 families of Normandy Park that each contributed \$100 along with giving their time, effort and talent to build a pool and a clubhouse, I was reminded that much of that same spirit lives on in Normandy Parkers today. The article concludes with the following words:

"As the work progressed, whole families began visiting the clubhouse site to 'take a look' at the end of each day. The community found itself being drawn together by mutual interest in the project. Since last summer, a number of community parties have been held in the handsome, new building. There is still work to be done on the structure. Now, however, Normandy Parkers are rubbing their blisters and slapping each other on the back because of the house that everybody's 'jack' built."

I googled the author to see if I could learn anything more and was delighted to discover that Byron Fish also served time as Mayor of Normandy Park. All the more reason to share this with you as encouragement for what our city can accomplish when we all work together toward a common goal. I'm grateful for the example set by previous generations. As we look to create meaningful spaces for current and future generations of residents to gather in community, I'm excited about what we will accomplish and how our legacy will be enjoyed and remembered.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

### Show Your Heart in the Park!

**D**isplay the heart below in your window and let neighbors know your heart is with them during this pandemic.

Recently a Normandy Park mom told me about her son and daughter-in-law who works in an emergency room—he's a doctor and she's a physician's assistant. She worries about them every day, but knows they are fighting for others and she is thankful. A friend of hers in the Midwest is displaying a heart in her window to show support for medical personnel fighting to help COVID-19 victims. The mom asked if I would share this idea with others. I love this idea! All of us, together, showing support through beautiful hearts.

Download printable hearts designed by Aimee Lloyd here: <https://friendsofnormandypark.org/programs>.

Please take a photo of your heart and share it!

- Email me (Susan West) at [scwestnews@gmail.com](mailto:scwestnews@gmail.com) and I'll create a collage for social media;
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- Post them on <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofnpf/> and include #HeartInThePark



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EVER WONDER...

# WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

THIS GROUP OF KITESURFERS (OR “WIND PILOTS” AS THEY CALL THEMSELVES) CONSIDERS NORMANDY PARK TO BE THEIR HOME TURF. READ BELOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS GROUP AND THEIR EXTREME HOBBY.

*Above: Devon Powell*

## Matt Wardian

*63, recently retired from the Boeing Company as an Art Director*

I grew up next to Gregory Heights pool and quickly turned into a fish as a kid. My love affair

with water, waves, surf, and wind grew when I bought myself a surfboard and ventured south of the border after high school. A few years of traveling through Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama stoked my surf habit at some of the most amazing West Coast beaches. Pura Vida! Years later, looking for an easier way to get into the surf, I learned to windsurf and grew to appreciate the power of the wind. It wouldn't be until I reached my 40s before kitesurfing evolved. It was like the nexus of all my favorite sports: surfing, snow and water skiing, snowboarding, diving, and flying!

It didn't take long before the addiction took over. I've lived in the south end of Seattle most of my life but was finally lucky enough to move to Normandy Park over 20 years ago, where Three Tree Point and the Cove have been my backyard for some of my favorite kite sessions and a few kite-mares. The unique location and shoreline of the Cove has made it a relatively safe wind pocket for southwest winds which is a staple direction for fall, winter, and spring. The wall of onshore logs makes getting in and out of the water a bit trickier and qualifies this location for advanced kite skills. The local Normandy Park kite crew are all very experienced, safety conscious, committed to helping each other and respecting other park enthusiasts. Joel



*The group of surfers. From left to right is Luna (dog), Lewie Thomson, Joel Hughes, Matt Wardian, and Trevor McLay. Not pictured: Devon Powell.*

Hughes's dad, Greg, built our house and helped bring up the next young generation of kite heads here in the Park.

Of course, like many sports, it has its dangers, so those interested in learning should absolutely get skilled instruction before flying on their own. I know of no accidents involving bystanders at the Cove but there are a few steps onlookers can take to avoid issues when kites are taking off and landing.

1. Stay upwind of kites on land.
2. Never grab the kite lines or bar (even if the kite is unexpectedly tumbling away).
3. Keep pets away from kite gear and flyers if possible (take off and landing are critical).

Of course, when the small craft advisories and kites are up, there are rarely people walking the park, but we've had a few pets that occasionally like to leave their mark. Visitors to the Cove have always been friendly, helpful and inquisitive. The Cove surroundings are one beautiful attraction, but just offshore are awe-inspiring views of the Olympics, Mount Rainier and our fellow pilots landing at SeaTac. What a backdrop for 10-30 ft. elevator rides (top floor please) complete with back rolls, kite loops, hand grabs and more.



Matt and Lori Wardian

Kite surfing at the ocean is more dynamic with additional factors of currents and waves which just adds another level to an adrenaline-filled ride. Because most kiteboarding kites have inflatable leading edges and

spars, you can relaunch them when they occasionally fall into the water. But water launching is one of the more challenging prerequisites before you hit the ocean. Foil boards (hydrofoils) are the latest innovation in power kiting, but you can also find those who kite on skis, snowboards, landboards, and three-wheel buggies. Where will it end? On the next wind whipped day, look to the sky, and you'll probably see wind addicts riding out their next fix.

I sure appreciate the Cove and the respect we receive from our membership. Thanks, Normandy Park...and to the kid crew: Wind pilots unite!

—CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



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## COMMUNITY CONNECTION



### Devon Powell

*Devon is a Normandy Park native who attended Mt. Rainier High School and Montana State University and is currently working as a mechanical engineer in Seattle. He has been kite surfing for about 8-9 years.*

I once was kiting from Alki to Three Tree Point, and a seal pup surprised me in a wave! You see a lot of seals and sometimes big sea lions. There is always at least one bald eagle floating above the Cove on windy days. Once I went kiting on Christmas, and some guy had dressed up like Santa which was pretty rad.

Normandy Park is my local spot. I grew up less than two miles from the Cove so it is super convenient. Even if it isn't the best wind, you can't beat the location. I've snow kited in Montana when I lived there, as well as Hawaii, Hood River, the Washington and Oregon coast, and all up and down the Puget Sound.

Kiting is a really fun sport, but the Cove is not a beginner location. If you want to learn, get lessons, (Hood River, Jetty Island, etc.). You'll have more fun and progress quicker.

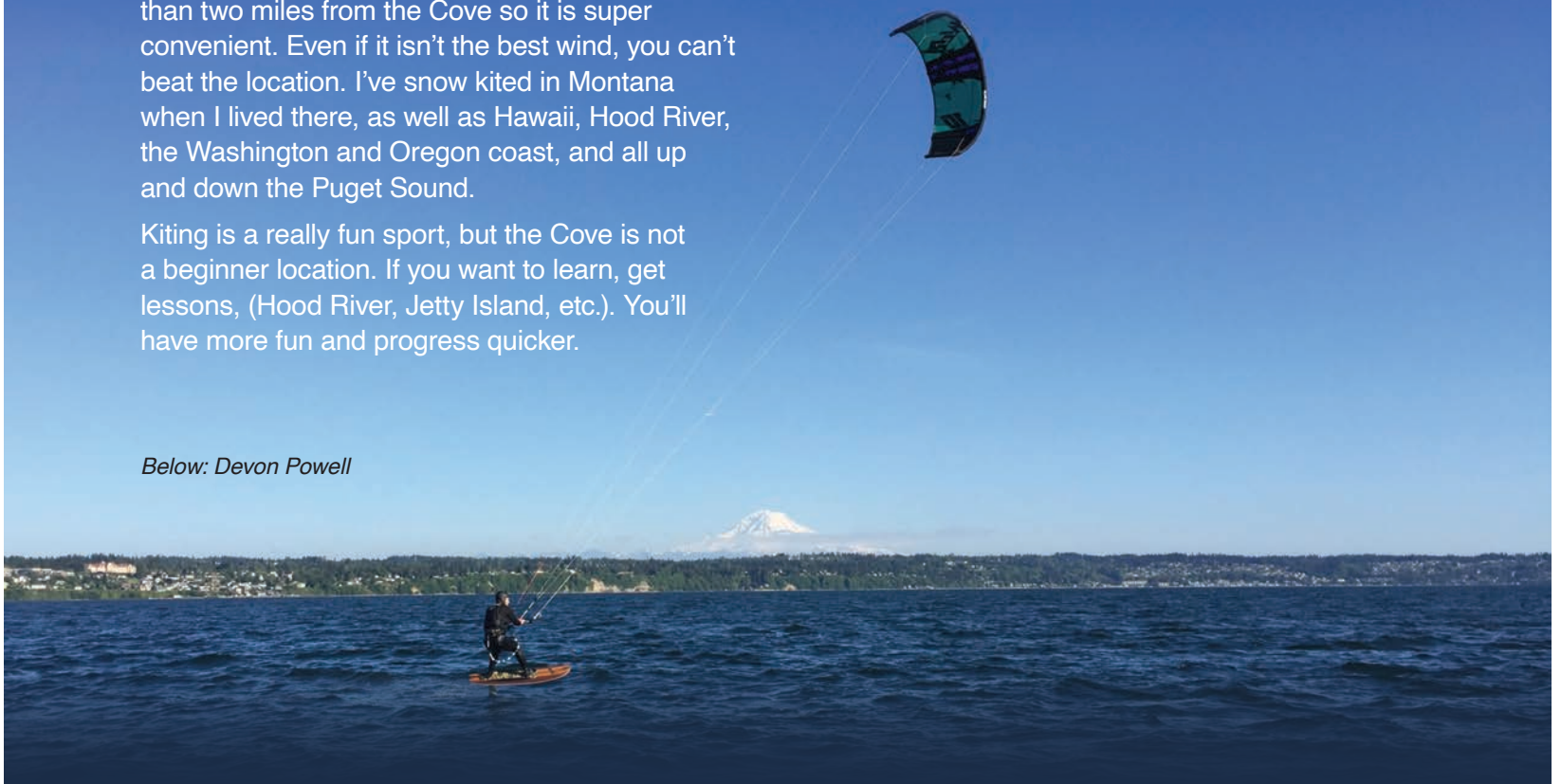
*Below: Devon Powell*

### Lewie Thomson

I started kiteboarding in 2012. I grew up in the area and have always been a Cove frequenter. My parents took us sailing from the Cove so once I started kiteboarding it was the logical spot, just down the street. The best day kite surfing at the Cove was the winter king tide of 2013 or 2014 when all the drift wood got blown on to the lawn and the beach was left sandy and clear. There was so much wood on the lawn that I had to launch on the gravel parking lot. The sky was clear and the water a turquoise blue. The wind was blowing about 35 knots and nobody was on the beach. I have seen sea lions jump out of the water, porpoises, and once even a dead cow, however the best view is always Mount Rainier on a clear day.

We as Cove members and kites appreciate all the hard work that goes into keeping the Cove in such good condition. It's pretty incredible so many users from bird enthusiasts to dog walkers can enjoy the same public space in harmony. We are incredibly lucky to have such a great community that supports continued access for kite boarders in our neighborhood.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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					8 – 9am Adult Swim Lessons	
8:30 – 9:30am Water Aerobics Daily, 10-visit, 3-month, annual and recurring payment options.					9 – 11am Swim Lessons	
9:30 – 11:00am Water Walking (Mon – Fri) Workout on your own with water bells and walk the pool.						
11am – 1pm Family Swim (Mon – Fri)					11am – 1pm Family Swim	11am – Noon Water Walking
1 – 3pm Cleaning and Maintenance (Mon – Fri)					1 – 2pm Cleaning	Noon – 2pm Family Swim
4 – 7pm Swim Lessons (Mon – Thu) Select Mon/Wed, Tue/Thu or Private Options.				4 – 8pm Family Swim	2 – 4pm Open Swim Specials - 1st Saturday \$1 - 3rd Saturday Wibit	2 – 4pm Rentals
7 – 9pm Family Swim	7 – 8pm Aerobics	7 – 9pm Family Swim	7 – 8pm Aerobics		4 – 6pm Rentals (3rd Saturday Wibit available)	
				SPECIAL: 7 – 9pm Final Friday Family Night (1/2 Open Swim)*		
<b>DEEP END</b>						
5:30am – 1:00pm Lap Swim (Mon – Fri)					7am – 11am Swim Teams & Lessons	
					11am – 1pm Lap Swim	11am – 2pm Lap Swim
1 – 3pm Cleaning and Maintenance (Mon – Fri)					1:00 – 2:00pm Cleaning	
4 – 7pm Swim Teams & Lessons (Mon – Thu)					2 – 4pm Open Swim Specials - 1st Saturday \$1 - 3rd Saturday Wibit	2 – 4pm Rentals
7 – 9pm Lap Swim	7 – 8pm Lap Swim	7 – 9pm Lap Swim	7 – 8pm Lap Swim	7 – 8pm Lap Swim	4 – 6pm Rentals (3rd Saturday Wibit available)	
				SPECIAL: 7 – 9pm Final Friday Family Night (1/2 Lap Swim)*		

\* Last Friday of the month (open 7 – 9pm)



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## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

### Trevor McLay

One of my favorite things about kiting at the Cove is the unique perspective you get of the neighborhood and surrounding area. Getting far enough out, one can see Mt. Rainier to the south and the buildings of downtown to the north. It is really a beautiful neighborhood, especially from that vantage point.

I first saw kite surfing in Hawaii in the early 2000s, when the sport was just getting started. I moved to Seattle in 2012 and immediately dove in. My first experiences were at the Cove in Normandy Park. It is definitely not a beginner-friendly place to learn, (think barnacles, driftwood, etc.) but I love that my

home kite spot is also where I first learned the sport.

I live in Normandy Park, so the Cove is great for me because of how close it is to home. As most kilters would attest to, we love to kite wherever and whenever

it is windy. Some of the most popular Seattle area spots are Golden Gardens, Magnuson Park on Lake Washington, and Jetty Island up in Everett. Hood River in Oregon is considered a mecca of kitesurfing - it's where the sport was born, where many of the big kite producers are located, and almost always windy - so we try to get down there a couple of times per year.

Normandy Park is such a great community, and I feel so thankful to have a place like the Cove close to home where I can enjoy my favorite sport. Access to beaches is a growing issue in the sport, so we always want to ensure that we are being friendly and neighborly in our kite-related use of the property. We definitely love to talk about the sport and always encourage community members to say "hi" and ask us questions when they see us!



*Trevor McLay, wife Ana, daughter Amelia (age 2) and son Cameron (age 1 month)*


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