

# LACEY Life

FALL 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE...

### NOV 12 Plastic Bag Open House

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Chinook Middle School

### DEC 03 Orchestra Holiday Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at the Lacey Community Center

### DEC 05 Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Thursday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m. at Huntamer Park in Woodland Square

### DEC 06 Signing Santa

Friday, Dec. 6, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at Chambers Prairie Elementary School

### DEC 14 Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 - 11 a.m. at the Lacey Community Center

### JAN 01 Polar Bear Plunge

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 12 noon at Long Lake Park, jump at 1 p.m.

### FEB 01 Ethnic Celebration

Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Saint Martin's University Worthington Center & Marcus Pavilion

\*Expired event links may be disabled

[www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us)

Shaping our Community Together

## LACEY PROPOSES 2014 BUDGET, MAINTAINS QUALITY SERVICES

Public Hearing to be held in November, to be passed in December

Lacey City Council has had an opportunity to review the proposed 2014 budget in late October, and now is up for public review, with the first public hearing scheduled for Thursday, November 7, at a regularly scheduled Council meeting.

The 2014 proposed budget serves as a guiding document to provide services to Lacey's 44,350 residents, and 23,000 utility accounts. The budget is balanced, maintains current service levels, and looks to maintain and improve utilities that are essential to Lacey-area residents and businesses, all the while maintaining financial responsibility.

The 2014 proposed budget totals \$111.5 million, which is approximately an 8% increase from this year's budget. The increase is primarily due to revenue bonds in the utilities, debt payments, and how utility tax dollars are receipted. Utilities and the General Fund comprise the majority of the budget, with utilities accounting for over half.

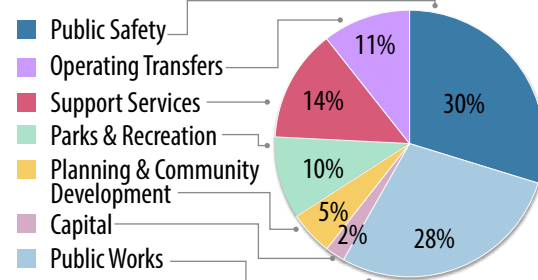
### Key budget calendar events

- Thursday, Nov. 7: First Public Hearing
- Thursday, Nov. 21: Second Public Hearing
- Thursday, Dec. 5: Budget Adopted by Council

*Hearings located at Lacey City Hall & begin at 7 p.m.*

The General Fund budget accounts for essential services such as police, recreation programs, financial and administrative services, community development and planning, maintenance of parks, streets and rights-of-way, and public works and engineering services. The General Fund budget totals \$38.2 million, approximately 34% of the total budget.

### 2014 General Fund: \$38.2 million



Sales and property tax revenues account for approximately 36% of funding for the General Fund. City-wide sales tax receipts remain stable, but flat, rising by approximately \$80,000, or 1%. Property taxes are expected to rise approximately \$146,000.

Major projects proposed for 2014 include an extension of Golf Club Road that will act as the primary access point for the Woodland District area; continued efforts for the Lacey Depot Museum reconstruction project; design work on the Martin Way and Marvin Road interchanges; significant capital improvements in water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities; planning of the Depot District area; planning for future growth in Lacey's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; further work on the Woodland District Strategic Plan; and initial implementation of Wayfinding signs throughout the city.

The budget document is available for review online at [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/budget](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/budget), and at Lacey City Hall and the Lacey Library. Comments can be directed to Troy Woo, Finance Director, at (360) 491-3212; [twoo@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:twoo@ci.lacey.wa.us); or by direct mail.

# PROPOSED PLASTIC BAG BAN ORDINANCE OPEN HOUSE

*Public comment welcome, open house scheduled in November*

A public outreach campaign is underway to help provide information and gather feedback regarding the proposed plastic bag ban ordinance. The effort kicks off with an open house on Tuesday, November 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Chinook Middle School, 4301 6th Avenue NE.

The open house will feature a display of plastic bags, including examples of those to be banned under the proposed ordinance and those that would still be allowed. Additional information will also be available, including an outline of how and why the ordinance was developed and the intended goal of the proposed regulation. The open house is informal. Interested parties are encouraged to drop by anytime between 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Representatives from the city will be on hand throughout the event to answer questions and accept comments from Lacey residents and business owners.

The proposed plastic bag ban ordinance has not yet been decided in Lacey. The City Council continues to study the issue and solicit input from citizens. The outreach campaign will culminate at the end of November, when a comment card about the ban will be included with every utility bill to customers inside Lacey city limits. Residents and businesses are encouraged to return their comment cards for review and consideration before the council takes further action.

For more information, visit [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/plasticbags](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/plasticbags) or call (360) 491-3214.

## Banned bags under proposed ordinance include:

- Any carryout bag made from plastic or any material marketed or labeled as biodegradable or compostable that is neither intended nor suitable for continuous reuse as a carryout bag,
- or any plastic bag that is less than 2.25 millimeters thick (with exceptions listed below).

## Exceptions:

- Newspaper bags
- Door-hanger bags
- Laundry and dry cleaning bags
- Any plastic bag thicker than 2.25 millimeters
- Any plastic bag used in stores by customers to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, candy, greeting cards, nuts and bolts
- Any plastic bag used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or fish
- Any plastic bag used to contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem
- Any plastic bag used to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods
- Any plastic bag used to contain prescription drugs or durable medical equipment
- Any plastic bag used to safeguard public health and safety during the transportation of prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the place of purchase.



## WHO DOES THIS AFFECT AND WHAT WOULD BE BANNED?

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to reduce the use of plastic, single-use shopping bags, as recommended by the Thurston County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). In August 2013, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners submitted the ordinance language to each city in Thurston County and encouraged all jurisdictions to adopt the ban. As of October 8, Tumwater, Olympia, and Thurston County have each passed the legislation.

The ordinance would ban the use of thin (less than 2.25 millimeters) single-use plastic bags in retail establishments. These establishments could provide paper bags with at least 40% recycled content for a 5-cent fee or consumers could bring their own reusable bags from home.

The model ordinance states that examples of retail establishments "...include but are not limited to department stores, clothing stores, jewelry stores, grocery

stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores, liquor stores, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, food vending trucks, farmers markets and temporary vendors of food and merchandise at street fairs and festivals. Food banks and other food assistance programs are not considered to be retail establishments..."

Comments will be accepted through December for review and consideration before Council takes further action. To comment on the proposed ordinance, you can contact the Public Affairs department at (360) 491-3214 or by email at [publicaffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:publicaffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us). Comment cards will also be sent in November's utility bill to residents and businesses within Lacey city limits.

Complete details regarding the SWAC recommendation and development of the proposed ordinance are available at [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/plastics](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/plastics). Details and further action by the City of Lacey can be found at [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/plasticbags](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/plasticbags).



## UPDATE: BLUE GREEN ALGAE AT LONG LAKE, ADVISORY LIFTED

An algae bloom that has been visible in Long Lake since September has dissipated and Thurston County health officials have lifted a toxic algae advisory that was posted in late September.

While the warning signs posted around Long Lake and Long Lake Park are now gone, county health officials remind people and pet owners to avoid any waters with visible algae.

For more information about toxic algae blooms and other water quality information, visit Thurston County's Environmental Health webpage at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm/swimming/swimming\\_index.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm/swimming/swimming_index.html).

For more information about Lacey's parks and recreation programs, visit [www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us).

## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEETING SCHEDULED IN NOVEMBER

The City of Lacey will be holding quarterly HOA meetings in 2014, with the next meeting set for January 8. Featured topics at the next meeting include:

- Your Association - Expanding & Maintaining Your Membership
- HOA Finances - How to Collect Unpaid Dues

Meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and will feature short presentations on topics pertinent to neighborhood associations, as well as an opportunity for HOA board members to network.

Board members from homeowners associations in Lacey and the Lacey urban growth area are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Mary Coppin at (360) 491-3214 or [mcoppin@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:mcoppin@ci.lacey.wa.us).



## LACEY STORMWATER UTILITY RATES TO INCREASE

Lacey's Stormwater Utility plans, constructs, improves, operates, and maintains an extensive system of public stormwater facilities located throughout the community. These facilities, which include more than 5,000 drain inlets and 100 miles of drain pipe, require continual maintenance and improvement.

In order to continue to maintain and improve the City's public stormwater facilities and comply with increasing regulations, the City of Lacey is proposing to gradually increase stormwater utility rates over the next 6 years, starting in January of 2014. Currently, a single-family residential stormwater bill in Lacey is \$7.36 per month. For a typical resident within the city limits of Lacey, the increase in 2014 would be \$0.67 per month. Similar increases are proposed each year through 2019. By 2019, a typical resident within the city limits of Lacey will pay a monthly stormwater fee of \$11.36.

Multi-family and commercial

properties will experience the same proportionate increases, which are currently, and will remain, based on the percent of impervious surface on the parcel. Impervious surfaces include surfaces that do not allow water to pass directly through, such as parking areas, driveways, and rooftops. Stormwater utility fees are collected by the stormwater utility from all developed parcels within Lacey's city limits.

Currently, Lacey's Stormwater Utility rates are lower than those of other nearby cities that are subject to the same requirements. Including the proposed stormwater rate increases, the total fee of \$11.36 in 2019 is still lower than the current average fee of western Washington cities.

For more information about the proposed stormwater rate schedules or Lacey's stormwater utility in general, visit [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/storm](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/storm), call Lacey Water Resources at (360) 438-2687, or send an email to [WaterResources@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:WaterResources@ci.lacey.wa.us).

## FALL FOLIAGE: RAKE A DRAIN

It's that time of year when leaves are falling and can start to obstruct stormdrains, which can lead to clogged drains, potentially leading to minor flooding. If you see minor flooding in your neighborhood due to a clogged storm drain, use a garden rake or shovel to remove the leaves or sediment built up and dispose of them with your compost or other trash. *Remember safety first! If you feel it is unsafe or flooding is severe, report this to the Public Works Maintenance Dispatch at (360) 491-5644.*



## ENVISION LACEY: HELP PLAN FOR FUTURE GROWTH

Lacey is working on updating its Comprehensive Land Use plan and is seeking public feedback to help shape the future of its development, and how the city should accommodate the anticipated number of new residents.

The current population of Lacey and its surrounding Urban Growth Area (UGA) is approximately 76,000, and is expected to grow by an additional 30,000 people over the next 20 years.

Community participation is necessary

to understand how neighborhoods are perceived, and how residents wish to shape them. Additional events will be held throughout the year-long community feedback process, including numerous neighborhood-specific meetings.

To take an online survey or to learn more, visit [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/envisionlacey](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/envisionlacey), or contact the Community Development Department at (360) 491-5642.

## LACEY RECEIVES "AA" RATING FROM STANDARD & POORS

The city of Lacey's upcoming utility revenue bond issue has received an "AA" long-term rating with a stable outlook from Standard & Poor's Rating Services. The strong rating provided favorable interest rates when Lacey's underwriter marketed and priced the bonds on November 5.

Standard & Poor's stated their positive rating reflects an opinion that Lacey's water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities favorably demonstrate:

- The essential nature of the utility's services;
- Steady growth and a diverse customer base;
- Strong local ties to the government sector and strong income levels;
- Water rights that are forecasted to meet

- demand for a minimum of 20 years;
- Good unrestricted operating liquidity;
- Moderate service rates, which provides management with revenue-raising flexibility; and
- Strong expected coverage by net revenues of the debt service on the bonds, and known potential future borrowings under the utility's capital improvement plan.

The bond's proceeds will fund water and stormwater improvement projects in 2013 and 2014, including waterline replacement on 20th Avenue SE and Skyline, Irene, and Skokomish Streets; the Woodland Community Park Reclaimed Water Infiltration Facility; the ATEC Water Treatment Facility Backwash; and the Chambers Lake Stormwater Facility.

## Are you prepared?

Are you prepared in the event of a major earthquake or other natural disaster? In such situations, it could take three or more days for local and outside help to reach you.

Below is a check-list of measures that you can take to become more prepared.

- Store at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water
- Secure large furniture and appliances to the wall
- Learn how to turn off gas, water, and electric utilities at the meter
- Put ABC-type fire extinguishers and battery-operated smoke/carbon monoxide detectors throughout your home
- Put S.A.M.E. public alert monitors in your home and work place
- Identify safe locations in your home and work to seek cover in the event of an earthquake
- Identify at least two escape routes from each room in the event of a fire
- Designate two locations—one just outside of your home and one outside of your neighborhood—for household members to meet in the event you need to evacuate
- Enroll in a first aid/CPR class

For more preparedness tips, visit our website at [www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us).

**RE-ENERGIZE**  
YOUR LIGHTING EVENT



TechniArt (part of Puget Sound Energy's Re-Energize Lighting Program) will be on hand December 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Community Room at Lacey City Hall for an all-day sale of very low cost CFLs and LEDs. Twelve-bulb CFL starter kits will be available from \$5 and LED starter kits slightly more. See [www.techniart.com/store.php](http://www.techniart.com/store.php) for details. Enter your zip code to see a few samples of what will be available.



## LACEY DEPARTMENTS: PHONE DIRECTORY

### LACEY CITY HALL

420 College Street SE Lacey, WA 98503

### CITY COUNCIL (360) 491-3214

Virgil Clarkson, Mayor  
Jason Hearn, Deputy Mayor  
Jeff Gadman, Lenny Greenstein,  
Ron Lawson, Cynthia Pratt, Andy Ryder

### CITY MANAGER (360) 491-3214

Scott Spence

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (360) 491-5642

Rick Walk, Director

### FINANCE (360) 491-3212

Troy Woo, Director

### PARKS AND RECREATION (360) 491-0857

Lori Flemm, Director

### POLICE DEPARTMENT (360) 459-4333

Dusty Pierpoint, Chief

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RESOURCES (360) 491-3214

Liz Gotelli, Director

### PUBLIC WORKS (360) 491-5600

Scott Egger, Director

*Lacey City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, except in November and December, when it meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.*

## LACEY SERVICES: PHONE DIRECTORY

### ANIMAL SERVICES (360) 352-2510

### COMMUNITY CENTER (360) 412-3191

### INTERCITY TRANSIT (360) 786-8585

### LACEY JOB LINE (360) 491-3213

### LACEY LIBRARY (360) 491-3860

### LACEY MUSEUM (360) 438-0209

### SENIOR CENTER (360) 407-3967

## LACEY EMERGENCIES: PHONE DIRECTORY

### CRIMESTOPPERS (360) 493-2222

### EMERGENCY 911

### LACEY FIRE DISTRICT (360) 491-2410

[www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us)

## THE CITY OF LACEY CARES!

We want to hear from you. Please send us any comments or suggestions on how we can better serve you and our community.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Drop-off or mail to City of Lacey, 420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503

*The City of Lacey has a policy of non-discrimination based on disability for providing equal access to its services and programs. If you need to receive this newsletter in another format, please contact the City Clerk at (360) 491-3214; TDD Relay (800) 833-6388.*

## REMEMBER THURSTON COUNTY FOOD BANK THIS SEASON

Thurston County Food Bank relies largely on community support, with donations of food and volunteers remaining at its core. There are several ways that you can help, or receive help if needed.

Donations are accepted from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Food donation ideas include high protein food such as canned chili, peanut butter, beans, or canned meat; pasta and macaroni and cheese; canned fruit and vegetables; soup; baby food and formula; fresh fruits and vegetables that store well in a refrigerator. Home grown produce is welcome.

Monetary contributions are greatly appreciated. Donations are accepted online with a credit card, check by mail, or

you can drop off cash or checks in person. Payroll deductions and bill payer service for online bankers is also available.

The food bank depends on its many volunteers and there are many ways to donate your time.

Thurston County Food Bank is located at 220 Thurston Avenue NE in Olympia, with hours of operation Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the second and fourth Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Various mobile and satellite locations exist throughout the county and in Lacey, with varying operating days and times.

For more information, visit [www.thurstoncountyfoodbank.org](http://www.thurstoncountyfoodbank.org), or call (360) 352-8597.

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