

# LACEY Life

WINTER 2014/15

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE...

### **JAN 01** Polar Bear Plunge

Thursday, Jan. 1, 12 noon at Long Lake Park, plunge at 1 p.m.

### **JAN 10** Boy Scouts Holiday Tree Round-Up

Saturday, Jan. 10, beginning at 8 a.m. within Lacey city limits

### **FEB 06** Mom & Son Night

Friday, Feb. 6, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the Lacey Community Center

### **FEB 07** Daddy & Daughter Dances

Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Lacey Community Center  
A Simple Wish Princess Ball, 3 - 5 p.m.  
Daddy Daughter Dance, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

### **FEB 26** Lacey Loves to Read

Thursday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. at the Lacey Community Center

### **MAR 07** Ethnic Celebration

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Saint Martin's University

 Holiday tree information plus season crime tips inside on page 2!

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

Shaping our Community Together

## VETERANS SERVICES EXPAND IN HEART OF LACEY

The highly anticipated Lacey Veterans Services Office opened its doors in November with a special dedication ribbon-cutting ceremony, held at its new, centralized location in Lacey. Among the many veterans, citizens, Lacey City Council and staff in attendance, representatives from Saint Martin's University, The Evergreen State College, and the Office of Senator Patty Murray were present. South Puget Sound Community College President Dr. Timothy Stokes was a keynote speaker, along with Congressman Denny Heck. State Representative Graham Hunt was also in attendance.

The new office location, at SPSCC's new Lacey campus, under construction at 4232 6th Avenue SE, is located in the city's central business district.

The new facility is a joint-undertaking between the City of Lacey and South Sound Veterans' services providers, with Lacey providing use of the space. Initial services include Readjustment Counseling Services and a broad range of other counseling, outreach, and referral assistance to eligible Active Duty Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Those services will include Department of Veterans Affairs benefits explanation and referral; medical referral; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse assessment and referral; individual,



### LACEY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

4232 6th Avenue SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

*Services are by appointment, only.  
Please call the Lacey Veterans Services Office  
at (253) 565-7038 to schedule an appointment.*

group, marriage, and family counseling; and support for successful transition from military to civilian life.

The facility will work closely with SPSCC and the Thurston County Economic Development Council to coordinate with educational and business development programs that benefit Veterans. Additional Veterans' services providers are expected to join the partnership in early-2015.

## TAKE AN INTERACTIVE VISUAL TOUR OF THE LACEY PARKS SYSTEM!



Take a tour of our parks and facilities! This new interactive map features beautiful photos and an opportunity to explore the Lacey area with parks-specific information. Visit [www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us) to take the tour.

City Of Lacey | Newsletter

Many of the crimes that occur during the holiday season are crimes of opportunity. Potential criminals will seek out the "easiest" targets and usually steal items that are unprotected and/or in plain view. There are lots of things you can do to prevent yourself from being victimized.

#### Out and About

- Be aware of your surroundings (suspicious people, vehicles);
- Shop during daylight hours, if possible;
- Shop with another person;
- If using cash, consider only carrying the amount of cash you need to make your purchases;
- Consider taking only one credit card with you;
- If using a purse while shopping, consider carrying it on you at all times (slung across your shoulder using a long strap);
- If you cannot keep your purse on your person at all times, secure it to your shopping cart;
- Keep your purse closed or zipped up at all times;
- Do not leave your purse/wallet unattended for any amount of time, if possible; and
- If you have a smaller folding wallet, keep it in a front pocket.

#### Vehicle Safety

- If shopping during hours of darkness, park your vehicle in a well-lit area;
- Place purchased items in a vehicle trunk--if your vehicle has no trunk, place items as out of view from outside as possible;
- Be aware of people watching you place purchased items in your vehicle; and
- If not shopping too far from home, consider taking the extra time to make multiple trips to the store to unload purchased items.

#### Home Safety

- Do not place gifts anywhere inside your residence so that they can be seen from outside--you could be giving a potential burglar a reason to break into your residence.

## BOY SCOUTS TO OFFER HOLIDAY TREE ROUND-UP SERVICE

Local Boy Scout troops, with the support of LeMay/Pacific Disposal, will conduct the Christmas Tree Round-Up on Saturday, January 10 for residents within Lacey city limits. Trees should be free of debris and on the curb by 8 a.m. Trees that have ornaments, lights, tinsel, stands, and nails will not be accepted as they cannot be composted.

The Boy Scouts will be accepting donations for their service; donation envelopes will be attached to informational door hangers to be hung on December 27. Donations can either be mailed in the envelopes provided or attached to the tree for pick-up. Participating Boy Scouts include Troops 101, 222, 266, and 718 along with Pack 116.

For more information on the Christmas Tree Round-Up, please call Marvin Johnson, (360) 701-6855.

For those that live outside of Lacey city limits, trees can be taken to the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center at 2420 Hogum Bay Road NE in Lacey, December 26 through January 11 (except New Year's day) at "no charge." Subscribers to Pacific Disposal's yard debris pick-up service should cut their tree into 3-foot sections and place it in or next to their yard waste container on their normal collection day.

Apartment and mobile home residents should check with their managers for locations to place trees.



Quick Tip! Not sure if you're in Lacey city limits? Check your address in our online interactive zoning map! [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/doing-business/planning-zoning](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/doing-business/planning-zoning)

## HELP PLANT LIVE HOLIDAY TREES AT WOODLAND CREEK

Join Stream Team staff and volunteers at Woodland Creek Community Park for a streamside restoration planting party on Saturday, January 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Trees will be supplied by participants in Stream Team's holiday tree program who have either dropped off their live trees at designated locations or come out to the park to help plant them. The trees will provide habitat, stabilize the stream

bank, and shade the water to help keep it cool to support salmon populations.

Staff and volunteers will be available to help unload trees at the planting event. To register, visit [www.streamteam.info](http://www.streamteam.info) and click "Register."

For more information please visit [www.streamteam.info/getinvolved/plant/holidaytree](http://www.streamteam.info/getinvolved/plant/holidaytree) or contact Claire Skelly at [americorps@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:americorps@ci.lacey.wa.us).



## REMINDER OF TAX EXEMPTIONS AND FEE ADJUSTMENTS

Lacey has taken steps to help promote economic development and provide some level of tax relief through a business and occupation (B&O) tax exemption. New small businesses will be exempted from B&O tax for the first three years of operation, effective January 1, 2015. Those businesses considered to be a small business are defined as having less than \$500,000 gross business activity per year. Note: The exemption is no longer applicable once the business exceeds \$500,000 in any year, and the exemption will not be retroactive.

Also effective at the beginning of 2015, the city will be making adjustments to business license fees. Fees will be the same for businesses located inside and outside of the city (currently those located outside of Lacey city limits pay a smaller application fee). Initial application fees will be \$25 with a newly implemented renewal fee of \$10.

For more information, please contact Troy Woo, Lacey Director of Finance, at [twoo@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:twoo@ci.lacey.wa.us) or (360) 491-3212.

Budget information can be found on Lacey's website at [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/budget](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/budget)

## CITY OF LACEY 2015 BUDGET, MAINTAINS QUALITY SERVICES

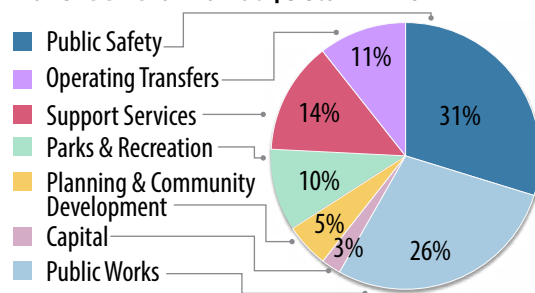
Lacey City Council recently adopted the 2015 budget, which serves as a guiding document to provide services to Lacey's 45,320 residents, and 23,000 utility accounts. The budget is balanced, which is a notable achievement given the state of the local economy, and demonstrates the resiliency of the Lacey community even with the additional responsibilities and costs imposed upon its local government.

The adopted 2015 budget totals \$112.3 million, which is approximately a 0.2 percent increase from this year's budget. This change is attributable to capital construction and replacement projects within city-owned utilities, the cost of labor, and the implementation of additional standards for indigent defense.

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 \$38.9 million, approximately 35 percent of the total budget.

The adopted 2015 General Fund Budget totals \$38,861,614. This represents an increase of \$364,806 compared with last year's General Fund Budget, or approximately one percent. Over 240 employees work on behalf of the Lacey community. Labor and associated costs, represent 65 percent of operating

### 2015 General Fund: \$38.9 million



expenditures within the General Fund Budget, and roughly 43 percent within the three utilities (i.e., water, wastewater, and stormwater) operated by the City of Lacey.

Highlighted projects and programs for 2015 include the Lacey Veterans Services Project partnership; completion of the Golf Club Road Extension Project; Lacey Police Department's substation remodel; Lacey Neighborhood Street Overlay Program continuation; the final phase of the Smart Corridor Improvement Program; and creation of an Economic Development Coordinator position to focus on economic opportunities and priorities.

The budget document is available online at [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/budget](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/budget), and at Lacey City Hall and the Lacey Library. Questions 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.

## WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES TO INCREASE BEGINNING JANUARY 2015

Beginning January 1, 2015, City of Lacey wastewater utility customer accounts, both within and outside city limits will experience an increase to the wastewater portion of their utility bills. This is part of a gradual increase, leading up to 2019 rates.

For the average residential Lacey wastewater customer that

pays about \$17.30 per month, this would mean an increase of about \$0.80 per month each year for 5 years, or a \$4.01 per month increase from 2014 rates to 2019 proposed rates, which will be approximately \$21.31.

The money collected through customers' monthly bills is used to maintain, repair, and replace existing infrastructure. The utility will be rebuilding its system reinvestment fund, which provides funding to replace and

rebuild aging infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life. These changes are also needed to offset general inflation of day-to-day operating expenses.

For more information regarding the proposed increase to wastewater rates or the wastewater utility, visit [www.ci.lacey.wa.us/water-resources](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us/water-resources) or call Lacey Water Resources at (360) 438-2687.



## URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT AT LOIS LAKE HABITAT RESERVE

The Urban Forestry Restoration Project, administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program, is an exciting opportunity to enhance the capacity of urban forests to manage stormwater and improve air and water quality by improving the health and functionality of trees and forested sites in urban settings. The Project moves into Lacey for the month of December, to enhance the 20 acre urban forest of Lake Lois Habitat Reserve.

A Puget SoundCorps team of six will work with city staff to remove the English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Spurge Laurel, Scotch Broom and Robert's Geranium from Lake Lois Habitat Reserve. These invasive non-native plants prevent forested areas from providing our community the full benefits and services of healthy forests by competing for water and nutrients, and in some cases even killing trees. Once the unwelcome plants are gone, native vegetation will be

planted in its place.

The Lacey Board of Park Commissioners approved the Forest Management Plan for Lake Lois Park and Lake Lois Habitat Reserve in September of 2012. Volunteers have been removing invasive plants and re-planting those areas with native trees to implement the recommendations in the plan.

DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible through a partnership with the USDA Forest Service. Puget SoundCorps is part of the broader Washington Conservation Corps program administered by Washington Department of Ecology. Puget SoundCorps crews work on projects that help restore and protect water quality in Puget Sound. The Washington Conservation Corps is supported through grant funding and Education Awards provided by AmeriCorps.

For more information on this project, please contact Lacey Parks and Recreation at (360) 491-0857.

## THURSTON COUNTY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Thurston County is asking residents and businesses to chime in and take a survey on the new bag ban ordinances. You can take the

survey by visiting their website at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/solidwaste](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/solidwaste) by January 15.

## FREE CLOTHES WASHER REBATE PROGRAM, LIMITED TIME OFFER

Puget Sound Energy electric customers may be eligible to turn in used clothes washers for new, efficient models at no cost.

Customers must own the old appliance and have residential PSE electric service. Replacement clothes washers come in top load or front load option.

For an old clothes washer to qualify for a brand new one for free, it should be:

- Manufactured in 1997 or before and in working condition
- Connected to an electric water heater and used with an electric dryer
- Connected to a properly functioning water hose
- Plugged into a properly grounded (3-prong) outlet

Updating clothes washers to more efficient models is a great way to save a significant amount of water and can help to save on electric bills.

More information about PSE's rebate program can be found on their website at [pse.com/appliancereplacement](http://pse.com/appliancereplacement). For information regarding Lacey's water conservation efforts, please call Water Resources at (360) 438-2687.

## PLAN FOR LACEY'S FUTURE GROWTH AND HELP ENVISION LACEY

Did you know that the Lacey area is predicted to grow by 30,000 new residents in the next twenty years? In the summer of 2013, Lacey rolled out a draft of the Comprehensive Plan, which is the city's long-range plan that identifies how Lacey will grow and where residents will live, work, shop, play, and learn. This plan, known as Envision Lacey, is currently being updated based on input received at community events, festivals, and open houses. The updated draft of Envision Lacey will be released in the spring of 2015 and will again be coming



to a community event near you. For more information on Envision Lacey or to receive notification of Envision Lacey events, contact Ryan Andrews, Planning Manager at (360) 491-5642 or [randrews@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:randrews@ci.lacey.wa.us).



**LACEY DEPARTMENTS: PHONE DIRECTORY**

- LACEY CITY HALL**  
420 College Street SE Lacey, WA 98503
- CITY COUNCIL** (360) 491-3214  
Andy Ryder, Mayor  
Cynthia Pratt, Deputy Mayor  
Virgil Clarkson, Jeff Gadman, Lenny Greenstein, Jason Hearn, Michael Steadman
- 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.*

**SERVICES IN LACEY: PHONE DIRECTORY**

- ANIMAL SERVICES** (360) 352-2510
- COMMUNITY CENTER** (360) 412-3191
- INTERCITY TRANSIT** (360) 786-8585
- LACEY LIBRARY** (360) 491-3860
- LACEY MUSEUM** (360) 438-0209
- SENIOR CENTER** (360) 407-3967
- LACEY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE** (253) 565-7038



[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 or email comments to [publicaffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us](mailto:publicaffairs@ci.lacey.wa.us)

*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.*

**Ethnic Celebration**

Food Vendors  
Arts and Crafts  
Cultural Booths  
Children's Area / Activities  
27 Performances on 3 Stages

food • art  
culture • dance  
children's activities

**City of Lacey**  
**Ethnic Celebration**  
**Saturday, March 7, 2015, 10am-6pm**  
St. Martin's University 5300 Pacific Ave SE  
Lacey, WA 98503  
[www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us)  
**FREE EVENT**