

*Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA) Notes  
Tuesday September 8, 2020, 7:00 PM  
Zoom Virtual Meeting*

**1. Introductions/ Comments from the Audience**

We did not have “round the room” introductions due to the virtual meeting format. Larry Toedtli, CHNA President, opened the meeting and introduced Kirkland Police Lt. Brouelette, who was scheduled to join our meeting last March. The March meeting was cancelled due to the closure of City facilities because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lt. Brouelette has been with the Kirkland police department for 21 years. She summarized police call activity in Central Houghton since January 1, 2020. She noted that a total of 41 police calls were reported, with most of them being “crimes of opportunity”. 18 of the calls were motor vehicle prowls, with three car thefts. Burglaries and thefts accounted for eight other calls.

The City’s web site includes an interactive crime mapping tool available for looking at crime statistics within different parts of the City within specific ranges of dates. It can be accessed using the following link.

[https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/PD/Community\\_Resources/Community\\_Crime\\_Mapping.htm](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/PD/Community_Resources/Community_Crime_Mapping.htm)

The City also has an online crime reporting tool – it is only for non-emergency crime reporting. Call 911 for all emergencies. The Online Crime Reporting web page can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/PD/online-resources/onlinereporting.htm>

**2. Transportation**

- **Neighborhood Safety Program** – Larry reported that the flashing beacon at the Phyllis Needy Park Crosswalk at 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE is complete. He thanked Marylee Tyler, City staff, and the City Council for working with CHNA in getting this important project completed after a couple of years.
- **Safer Routes to School** – Larry noted that the City Council adopted the Safer Routes to School Action Plan at its September 1 meeting. The five projects within the Central Houghton neighborhood all were rated as low priorities. However, a project from the Everest neighborhood to install a flashing beacon and crosswalk at the intersection of NE 68<sup>th</sup> Street/106<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE was adopted as a high priority. This location is east of Lakeview Elementary, The City has submitted a grant application to the state to help fund the project. The full plan and project lists can be found on the City’s web site at this link: [https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/CMO/Neighborhood\\_Services/Safer\\_Routes\\_to\\_School\\_Action\\_Plans.htm](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/CMO/Neighborhood_Services/Safer_Routes_to_School_Action_Plans.htm)

- **108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Sewer and Water Main Replacement Construction** – Christian Knight, the City of Kirkland’s Senior Outreach Coordinator for the project, provided an update on the project schedule. He said the main parts of replacing the sewer and water main pipes should be completed this fall. Depending on weather, repaving of 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE may be able to occur in the fall; however, repaving may be delayed until next spring.

Audience members asked questions and provided feedback on the transportation impacts of the project. These included the sliding schedule for the full closure of 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, closures that extended past 4:00 pm (this was likely caused by an issue that required more time), a flat tire that may have been caused by construction debris, and is the asphalt on the sidewalks would be replaced by concrete when the project is done (yes, it will be redone in concrete).

See project web page – [here](#)

### 3. Upcoming City Topics – Schedule Information

Larry provided information on some upcoming topics for the City Council, planning Commission, and Houghton Community Council. These include:

- **Streamline Public Projects Code Amendment** – September 10 Planning Commission/ Houghton Community Council Public Hearing
- **Sustainability Master Plan** – Study session scheduled for September 15 City Council Study Session – [Link](#) to project web page
- **Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments** – Initial presentation originally scheduled for September 28 Houghton Community Council Meeting was moved to September 10
- **Tree Code Revisions** – On hold for now

### 4. Northwest University Report

John Jordan, CFO of Northwest University (NU), updated us on the status of the Master Plan which was approved last November/December. He noted that Covid-19 slowed down the University’s work on the Master Plan, as NU focused on the more immediate needs. He noted that they have done some work on a feasibility study related to a capital campaign and are hopeful to further fund-raising activities in 2021.

He noted that Master Plan priorities may change with more focus on academic buildings and less on dorms or the welcome center. The first project will likely be some improvements to the chapel building. They have had some discussion related to improvements to the athletic fields, but nothing is imminent.

He also gave a summary of the University's plans related to Covid-19 protocols. He noted that the residential dorms are approximately 50% of the level they were at last fall. They have students at a hotel in Bellevue and have also housed students in the Firs apartments on the eastside of campus. Quarantine rooms are also set up within the Firs. Overall, the number of students on campus is 244 fewer than last year.

The University is using a HyFlex model, with some students in the classroom and some attending virtually. Some staff, teachers, and professors are also working virtually. NU also has an app that is used to check on Covid symptoms on a daily basis.

Buildings and all athletic facilities are closed to non-NU students or employees.

The University also has set up a Covid web page on its web site. It can be accessed here- <https://www.northwestu.edu/coronavirus/>

## **5. Tech City Bowl Redevelopment Process**

Betty Spieth-Croll and Sarah Langton are assisting the owners of the Tech City Bowl site. They are helping with the community involvement aspects of the redevelopment process. As part of the Bridle Trails sub-area plan, the site could be allowed to redevelop with up to five stories. As part of the process, a design program for the full Bridle Trails Shopping Center (including two other adjacent properties – the Arco gas station and ROIC property which covers the shopping area) is required.

The initial thoughts for the Tech City Bowl site include three elements:

- middle market housing
- vital and energetic neighborhood shopping area
- gathering place for the neighborhood.

They noted that this is just a preliminary “heads-up”. A more formal virtual open house will likely be held in October, with October 21 as a tentative date. The communication plan also plans to include a web site for the project. The process is expected to take 12-18 months.

## **6. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Nov. 3 Ballot Measure**

Fire Chief Joe Sanford led a presentation on the development of the Fire and Emergency Services ballot measure, which will be voted on during the November 3 election. The bond measure, if passed, would:

- Raise \$7.3 million in revenue per year for fire/emergency medical services in Kirkland
- Cost 23.513 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value
- Add \$171.64 in taxes per year to the median \$730,000 valued Kirkland home

He noted that the purpose of the presentation was to educate and inform Kirkland voters. The ballot measure was put together by the Community Safety Advisory Group that met over a 5-month period in 2019 and 2020. This was before the Covid-19 pandemic which affected Kirkland's emergency response earlier this year (34 fire fighters/EMTs were quarantined early in the pandemic, representing approximately 1/3 of the staffing).

The presentation provided insights into the response times, age of facilities, and design of facilities that the bond measure would help address. The presentation also identified specific projects, programs, and staffing increases that would be funded with the additional revenues.

These investments include seismic renovation and modernization of Fire Station 22 in Houghton to improve firefighter/EMT health and safety. The Fire Station 22 improvements and additional funding will provide for two additional fire fighters/EMTs at the station. This additional staffing will help improve/maintain response times when fire fighters/EMTs are out on a call.

Please see the City's web page for more information on the bond measure and it's development:

[https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Residents/Public\\_Safety/fire-2020-ballot-measure.htm](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Residents/Public_Safety/fire-2020-ballot-measure.htm)



**If you have any questions,  
comments or suggestions,  
please contact us at:**

**[centralhoughton@gmail.com](mailto:centralhoughton@gmail.com)**

**Our web site is:**

**<http://www.houghtonlives.com/>**

## 7. **CHNA Business Items**

- **Open Officer Positions** – Larry noted that CHNA has openings on its Board and is always looking for new ideas for meetings and other ways to help enhance our broader neighborhood.

Please email us at [centralhoughton@gmail.com](mailto:centralhoughton@gmail.com) to find out more.

- **Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday November 10 at 7 PM (Virtual Meeting)**