

# Latest on The Lake

January 2021

Volume 2 Issue 3



## WELCOME 2021

### A message from Mayor Gailey

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. As we move into 2021, we leave behind a difficult year. A year that has changed our community in many ways. It is my goal in this message to provide a recap of how the city moved forward in 2020 and try and paint a picture of what 2021 will bring us.

The City completed the construction of the community center known as The Mill. This building has become a focal point for downtown as it is centered in the updated North Cove Park. We were able to conduct a highly successful Farmers' Market season in North Cove Park which brought many people into our downtown corridor. Many of these visitors were new to the city and left charmed with our great little city. Additionally, with the updated park we saw a pleasant increase in the numbers of families using the water feature and beach. The second phase of the North Cove Park started and will include a deck overlooking the lake, a covered shelter, inclusive playground, and parking.

Public Works took on the task of remodeling Frontier Heights Park. This park received walking trails, a new playground, basketball courts, picnic tables, and a parking lot. Rehabbing this park provides a much-needed facelift that will serve the Frontier Heights neighborhood and our city.

Cavalero Skate Park opened as a resounding success. This park was a Snohomish County, Rotary Club, and City project. It includes a premier skate park, basketball court, playground, and parking. We will continue to look for opportunities to improve this park as it is a great location for additional recreational resources.

The city saw major street projects. South Lake Stevens Road project was finished featuring a walking trail which has been a big hit. 20th St SE was widened, and we are seeing the finishing up of the Business Access Lane down to the trestle. Work began on extending 91st St SE south across 20th St SE. This road will support the future Costco site.

Looking into 2021 we will see additional growth throughout the city. Costco is the big project for the year. We expect to see construction begin in the Spring with a projected opening time just before Thanksgiving. The City will support this project by extending 91st St SE south to a new street known as 24th St SE. 24th St SE will stem from a new roundabout built this summer at SR 9 and S Lake Stevens Road. Costco is an exciting addition to our city and will bring with it additional commercial growth along 20th St SE.





Pathway circling Frontier Heights Park

The construction of a festival street will compliment North Cove Park. This festival street will be known as Mill Spur and will be used for outdoor community events such as the Farmers' Market, Aquafest, and I would like to see ice-skating in the winter. This street further implements the vision as set by public input and City Council for revitalizing downtown.

I wanted to keep this message short and stick to a few main highlights. There is so much going on in our community and so much hard work in making our city a safe and enjoyable place to call home. If you have the opportunity please take the time to thank our City employees, they do great work for us and are a joy to work with. Lastly, take the time to reach out to your neighbors and friend and strengthen our community through service and assistance.

Brett Gailey

CURRENT CITY PROJECTS

- Topics covered at the recent Planning Commission meeting included SEPA exemptions and marijuana regulations.
- There was outreach with potential developers for downtown and Mill Spur, including the potential for a private, mixed-use building for Phase III of the North Cove Park expansion on Mill Spur. It would be located on the parcel the City is selling; the hope would be to see a building with a restaurant and other active uses on the first floor, office/residential units on the second floor and residential units on the third floor. This building will be subject to a development agreement with the City.

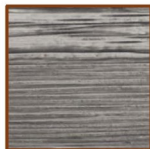
Mill Spur Mixed-Use Building



- Desired Characteristics
- Mixed-Use w/ active first floor use
  - Complements Vision for Downtown
  - Contemporary Northwest Style
  - Mix of Materials e.g., wood, stone / masonry and metal
  - Distinctive Rooflines
  - Large Mullioned Windows
  - Outdoor Plaza and Seating Areas



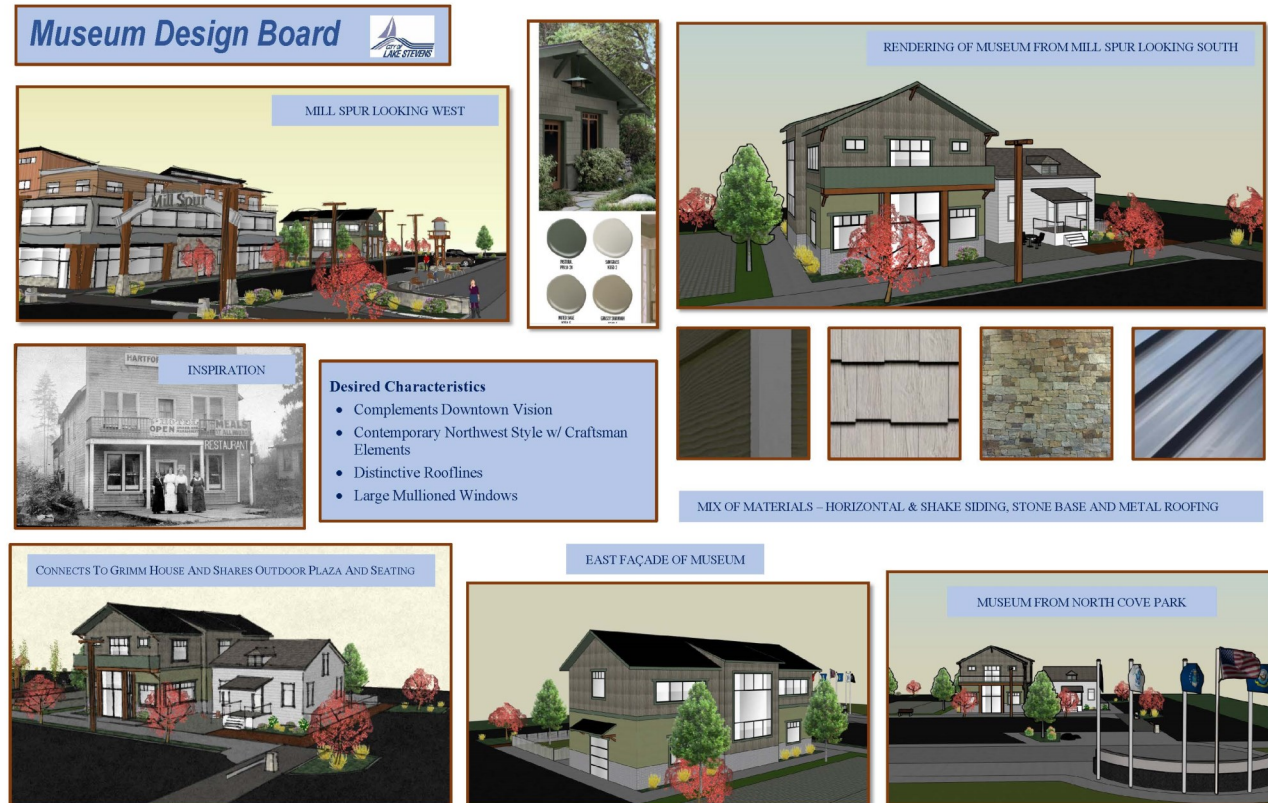
RENDERING OF MILL SPUR MIXED-USE BUILDING FACING 18TH STREET NE



RENDERING OF MILL SPUR MIXED-USE BUILDING FACING MAIN STREET



- There was outreach with the Historical Society on firming up design concepts for the Lake Stevens Historical Museum.



- As the City considers potential impacts from delayed funding and construction of approved capital highway along SR-9 projects several key issues should be considered including localized economic impacts, efficiency of the transportation network, interstate and regional commerce and environmental health.

## SR9 / SR204

- \* The state and City have been coordinating and planning phased improvement to the SR-9 / SR-204 intersection improvements for at least a decade.
- \* The City developed a subarea plan around the adjacent commercial and residential areas as this area is the gateway to the City and its largest contiguous area for retail sales and professional services.
- \* The City has invested local transportation dollars in related improvements that will connect to the realigned intersection improvements at the center of the City.
- \* Local retailers have also heavily invested in the revitalization of their businesses knowing that improved access was coming.
- \* There has been a long-standing joke in the city that the Frontier Village Shopping Center, located at the confluence of these highways, like Hotel California you can enter but never leave. The planned intersection improvements would alleviate this situation and allow a free flow of access to businesses and customers on both sides of the highways.

- \* Setting aside local conditions, a delay in construction of the phased improvements would impact intensification of the City's transit center and bus expansion; it also impacts the free flow of goods from Everett and destinations north and south on I-5 travelling east to Highway 2 or SR92, and travelling north to the newly established regional industrial center between Marysville and Arlington.
- \* Environmental impacts that could occur without these improvements would be continued climate change impacts related to increasing wait times in traffic and carbon emissions.

## SR Roundabout

- \* The City developed a subarea plan along the 20th Street corridor and has identified this area as the next large area of commerce and intense housing in the city. With this plan a comprehensive capital plan has been developed. The City has facilitated the construction of key improvements that underway including widening 20th Street SE, adding HOV lanes on 20th Street and constructing improvements to connecting side streets such as South Lake Stevens Road and 91st Ave SE. The City has also constructed or is planning to construct multimodal improvements including expanded bike lanes, sidewalks and/or multiuse paths.
- \* At the heart of the subarea plan, the City zoned the property at SR9 and 20th Street for large format commercial. The City has been working with the Costco Corporation through a development improvement to construct and cost share road improvements in the vicinity. Adding Costco to the community is an economic magnet to the city and surrounding communities. Many developers are waiting for the road improvements and Costco project to move forward before financially committing to new projects.
- \* With two state grants totaling \$3 million, the City committed to finance the remainder of the roundabout project and the related culvert replacement on the eastside of SR9. The City turned its grant funds over to WSDOT to administer the design of these projects as a combined project but remains committed to provide up to \$6 million dollars to complete the project. It is our understanding that WSDOT has exhausted a considerable portion of the original \$2 million dollar grant on design. The City has worked diligently with the WSDOT, WDFW, US Army Corps of Engineers, Snohomish County, affected utilities and affected tribes on the design and permitting of this project.
- \* Delay in this project could create unknown economic hardships to the city if Costco decided to not build here and subsequent downstream projects. The City has issued or is ready to issue final project permits and local funding is secured.
- \* Another reason to move forward on the construction of this project is to improve salmon habitat with the replacement of the undersized culvert under South Lake Stevens Road, located within a listed basin, constructed with prior state and county improvements along the corridor.

## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

**CITY HALL CLOSURES – FEBRUARY 15**

**CITY COUNCIL ZOOM REGULAR MEETINGS—FEBRUARY 9 and 23**



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