

# Latest on The Lake

August 2021

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Recently the city was in the news for a permit violation as well as alleged safety violations. These incidents are both currently either under appeal or going through mitigation processes. However, the City of Lake Stevens is using these events to improve our processes, procedures, and the way we do business.

Lake Stevens has grown enormously over the last decade, and the number of city staff and our processes for managing this growth has not kept pace. For example, paper systems may still be used when there are automated or computerized procedures now available. Another example is that procedures for both managing employees and public projects need updating.

I wanted to briefly share with you areas we are working on to improve at the city:

- Earlier this year we trained 10 employees in Lean Six Sigma, a 40-hour training program over nine weeks, which focuses on removing barriers or delays to service. These employees are currently leading process changes within their departments. We are already seeing benefits from this training resulting in process improvements.
- The City is budgeting in 2022 for added capabilities to its Geographic Information System to improve maintenance tracking, and to provide a more customer-friendly permitting process.
- After meeting with state and federal agencies, the City now sends project updates regularly for review to ensure permits are secured prior to work being started.
- The City is currently updating its human resources software capabilities to document training, safety, and career progression.

Ultimately the management and well-being of our city falls upon my shoulders. It is a responsibility I asked for when elected, and take it seriously. We are fortunate that these incidents have highlighted areas in need of improvement as we continue to become one community around the lake. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at [bbailey@lakestevenswa.gov](mailto:bbailey@lakestevenswa.gov).

## CURRENT CITY PROJECTS

### Southeast Interlocal Annexation Area

We welcome the Southeast Interlocal Annexation Area residents to the city of Lake Stevens! The Lake Stevens City Council adopted Ordinance 1112 earlier this year, authorizing the area's annexation subject to an interlocal agreement between the city, Snohomish County, and the Lake Stevens Sewer District, which became effective on August 10, 2021. Property owners received a Welcome Letter with information on city services and the upcoming annexation area census that is required by state law. Please click the link below to visit the City's Annexation page for more information and details about the process. <https://www.lakestevenswa.gov/491/Annexation>

### Lake Stevens Police Department

On August 18, 2021, Deputy Chief Jeff Beazizo became the new Chief of Police for the City of Lake Stevens. Chief Beazizo replaced retiring Chief John Dyer, who has served the city for the past five years, a fitting ending to his law enforcement career that spanned almost four decades in the states of Washington and Colorado.



## Walk 5 Challenge For 10,000 Steps

The City of Lake Stevens has about 5 miles of trails, most located in our city and community parks, including nearly 2 miles of Centennial Trail. That's about 10,000 steps! Head outside to explore the natural beauty and abundant opportunities for outdoor adventures that Lake Stevens has to offer with the Walk 5 Challenge!



Visit the City's website <https://www.lakestevenswa.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=510> and follow along on our social media posts on Mondays August 9 – September 27, 2021, for our Walk in The Park series. We are saying goodbye to summer and welcoming autumn!

## Lake Stevens Farmers' Market 2021

Due to its popularity, the Harvest Market will return to North Cove Park, Saturday, October 23; more details will be shared as plans become final.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

### City Council Special Meeting/Retreat

The Lake Stevens City Council held a Special Meeting for the purpose of conducting a retreat on Friday, August 27; the meeting was 100% virtual via Zoom. Please visit the Council page <https://www.lakestevenswa.gov/319/CITY-COUNCIL> for the agenda and view the recording on the City's YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/CityOfLakeStevens>

Discussion Items included:

Recap from the last retreat

Mid-Year Finance Update

2022 Capital Priorities

Civic Center Funding/Next Steps

Economic Development (20th Street SE/Everett Waterline update, future growth, and 91st St visioning)

Parks (Park Benefit District, Parks Dept/amenities, and museum update)

2022 Budget Priorities

## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

**CITY HALL CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY —MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS — 6:00 PM SEPTEMBER 14 and 28**

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETINGS — 6:00 PM SEPTEMBER 7 and 21 (as needed)**

Please visit the City's website <https://www.lakestevenswa.gov/319/City-Council> for current agendas.



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