



Happy New Year Lake Stevens!

I hope you all were able to enjoy time with friends and family during the holidays. As I reflect on our community I find pride in knowing we are centered around family, friends, and our neighbors. With these thoughts here is a short message as we start the new year.

First of all, I would like to thank Mayor John Spencer for his time in office. John built upon the city foundation and has set the city on a thought-out path. As we transitioned office I was impressed by the city staff and their depth of knowledge, experience, and genuine care for making Lake Stevens a great place to live, work and play. As I reviewed with them things I learned on the campaign trail and my ideas for the city they were very receptive and flexible in making slight changes in direction. As a new Mayor I appreciate the wisdom of John Spencer and the talents of the city staff.

Let's look at what 2020 has in store for Lake Stevens.

There will be continued signs of growth this summer. As Costco prepares to build in our city additional growth will come. 20th St SE will be widened and in the fall 91st St SE will be extended south across 20th St SE. The improvements along South Lake Stevens road will continue through May as crews update utilities and add a multi-use path. 79th St SE will be extended and improved to access the new Cavelro Skate Park. The design phase is underway for sidewalks along 117th St NE. Additionally our Public Works crew will continue to fix and add sidewalks through our Sidewalk Improvement Program.

You will see additional improvements in our parks this year. In January a much needed Phase 1 facelift begins at Frontier Heights Park. Old dilapidated and dangerous equipment will be replaced by new playground equipment, improved landscaping and walking paths. Funds for this project are from the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) 2 and Park Mitigation funds. For this project, we are also requesting funds from Olympia to make additional improvements. As I mentioned during my campaign, Frontier Heights is an anchor point for the envisioned Powerline Trail. Staff is in the exploratory phase on this idea which will provide a trail and parks from 20th St SE under the powerlines through Frontier Heights to Lundeen Park Way.

The current park under the powerlines at 20th St SE will see additional improvements as we add parking and begin design on a dog park at this location. We are also working with the County to plan for additional sports fields and facilities in and around our city. Finally we will see the long-awaited completion of the Cavelero Park Skate Park. I am not someone who skateboards but having looked at the finished concrete work of the skate obstacles I can say this park will be a hit.

February should see the completion of the downtown Pavilion. We are in the process of setting use policy for this facility. Additionally we will see additional improvements to North Cove Park to include the much-anticipated completion of our war memorial.

Lastly I have started working with the staff to look at processes within the city. I am interested in finding opportunities for efficiency and especially transparency. Areas I look to work on are communication with our citizens, education of government processes, and finding a budgetary process that is easier to understand for the community.

We as a community have a lot going on in our growing city. There are going to be growing pains as we take on additional housing, retail, improve infrastructure, and grow our parks. Keep positive, be patient, and continue the great spirit of service and helping out our neighbors we have in Lake Stevens.

Brett Gailey
Mayor