

COMMUNITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2009

EVERGREEN SWIMMING POOL - WILL IT BE LOST? BY ED MARRS

My name is Ed Marrs and I am the President of White Water Aquatics swim team. I am writing this letter to ask North Highline residents for its support to help keep Evergreen pool open. We are a year round USA Swimming club. The Olympians you watched last summer are all members of the same organization. We have approximately 70 kids on our swim club. Our primary pool is Evergreen. If Evergreen were to close it would put extreme hardship on our club. The other pool we use is Foster High

School. That pool nor any other pool in our area have the pool space or time to accommodate our whole swim club at one time. We have swimmers from the communities of White Center, Burien, Des Moines, and West Seattle. Not Only does closing down Evergreen affect our swim club but it affects the community. If one were to Google "poverty swimming drowning" you would find that there is a direct correlation between water fatalities, accidents, and economic standing. The poorer the

community is the more water fatalities and accidents there are. Closing Evergreen pool would make it difficult for residents of this area to enroll in swimming lessons. The closest pools are Chief Sealth High School and Foster High School. If any one has questions for me, I can be reached at :

edmarrs@gmail.com or cell phone 206-290-3666.

Thank you for your time in considering this issue.

Marrs, President,

White Water Aquatics



FIRE SAFETY TIPS BY NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE CHIEF SCOTT LAVIELLE

General Safety Habits

Keep flammable items at least three feet away from anything that gets hot.
Never smoke in bed.

Keep matches and lighters away from children.

Cooking

Keep flammable items like towels and clothing away from the stove.

Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and get training from North Highline Fire District on how to use it.

Portable Heaters

Keep blankets, curtains, furniture and other flammable items away from heaters.
Plug heaters directly into a wall socket and unplug when not in use.

Electricity

Never Overload electrical outlets.

Avoid running cords under carpet, furniture or through walls.

Practice Home Fire Safety

(If you qualify, the fire department will provide and install smoke detectors free of charge)

Smoke Alarms **(When you are sleeping you lose your sense of smell)**

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including sleeping areas.

Test and dust smoke alarms monthly, change the batteries yearly.

Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

Fire Escape Drills

Make a fire escape plan with two exits out of every room.

Practice your plan twice a year.

Identify an outside meeting place to gather after escaping.

Teach children that firefighters are their friends who can help.

In Case of Fire **(Follow Your Escape Plan)**

Crawl low under smoke.

Feel the doors.

If the door is hot, use your second way out.

Go to your outside meeting place and then call for help.

For more information on fire safety, first aid, CPR, and other fire department programs, please contact us at: 206-243-0330.

NHUAC Community Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at: 1243 S.W. 112th Street

Water District 20 Commissioner Meetings are held the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month at: 10:00 a.m. at: 12606 1st Ave. So.

North Highline Fire Commissioners Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at: The North Highline Fire Station at: 1243 S.W. 112th Street

PARK TO BE SOLD? BY GREG DUFF

Imagine buying a car and just before you take delivery, the seller removes the tires. This is what Ron Sims is trying to do to the City of Burien. At the January 8th meeting of the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council (NHUAC), Rod Brandon and Nori Catabay from King County made a presentation to the Council on Affordable and Workforce Housing in North Highline. They did a 20 minute presentation complete with pictures, graphs, and enough mention of firefighters to turn even the hardest hearts into mush. They emphasized how important it is for everyone to be able to afford a house and to live near where they work. It all seemed fine until they started getting in to details. There are two areas in North Highline that King County wants to sell to developers. One is at: 206 S.W 112 St. and the second is Puget Sound Park at: 126th and 1st Ave. South. Puget Sound Park is a 5 –acre park that King County let run down for the last few years and now they want to sell it and build

houses. Nori stated that one of the desired results is “preservation and improvements to open spaces and parks.” Does this make sense to take away a 5-acre park to build houses and then save a little tiny pocket park? Nori did not have a good response when that was brought to her attention. The Council had several questions for the presenters. “don’t we have enough low income housing in North Highline? Wouldn’t a park be better for kids than cramming more houses into a small area?” The final most important question was asked: Isn’t there a proposed annexation area that Burien is going to annex?” They did not have a good response. Mike Martin, Burien City manager was in the audience. Imagine his surprise hearing this for the first time. Here is an area that will probably become Burien and King County wants to sell it off to help the budget deficit. Why not let Burien decide what to do with it? When asked how long this would take, Rod and Nori said that it would not be sold before anything was decided with annexation. Mike Martin disagreed. The

sale could take place before citizens have a chance to vote. This is an underhanded attempt by Ron Sims to try and cure a budget deficit that he created. What happens when King County finally cures the budget deficit and then we have no more parks - just lots of low income housing? The NHUAC adopted a resolution urging King County to place a moratorium on the sale of public lands in the PAA. I urge the citizens of Burien and North Highline to contact Ron Sims and Dow Constantine and let them know you are opposed to the proposal. The North Highline area is either going to belong to Burien or Seattle. Don’t strip away the parks that make this area valuable.

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR
CONTACT INFORMATION TO
WRITE OR E-MAIL YOUR
REPRESENTATIVES TO SAVE
YOUR PARK**

PUGET SOUND PARK BY CHRISTINE WALDMAN

Located off 1st Ave So. & 126th S.W., just north of Albertsons, this 5 acre park has a small playground, benches, picnic tables, a walking/running track and a very large open field. While visiting the park for the first time on a chilly Saturday afternoon, I spoke with several people walking their dogs. All were surprised to hear that King County is planning on selling the park to developers.

I was told this park is not only used by people walking their dogs, but retirees who enjoy daily walks around the track and park goers who simply enjoy the open space. Those who live near the park feel it is invaluable to their neighborhood. As I was leaving, one of the dog walkers reminded me that once our parks and open spaces are taken from us, we cannot get them back. These parks

belong to all of us, so get out and enjoy them.

If you are interested in volunteering or adopting this or any other King County Park, call 206-296-4452 or go to King County Parks on the web @

www.kingcounty.gov/parks.



KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SUBMITTED BUT NOT WRITTEN BY PAM ODEGARD

Today, shortly past noon on November 20, 2008, my wife was sitting in the dining room and noticed a young guy banging on the front door across the street. She watched him give up there and wander over next door. Linda continued to invisibly observe while he went to the front door and knocked, then to the door at the end of the driveway. He knocked there for a bit, then he went around the south side of the house. At this point, my wife called 911. A few

minutes later, several police cars arrived silently. They investigated around the outside of the house, then apparently determined he was inside the house. The policemen deployed themselves strategically around the house with guns drawn, then a police car drove into her driveway and announced over the PA system that "we know you're in there, come out with your hands up." After some period of time, he came out, was handcuffed, and the

police explored the contents of his back pack. The police then called the home owner on her cell phone and asked her to come home to verify that this person had no right to be in her house.

She did, and the young man was hauled off to jail.

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING AND TAKING ACTION!

And for making the call to 911, and for providing a statement to the police and

for agreeing to testify in court if needed to convict the perp! A police man came to our house later and thanked my wife for her action. He also advised that this type of thing will become more and more frequent with the economy in the toilet, as it is now!



**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN
AND HELP PROTECT OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS!**

BENSON'S BEST BITES BY BARB PETERS

We welcome a new delicatessen in Manhattan Village, Normandy Park. Benson's Best Bites is located at:

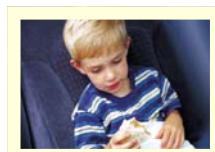
17851 1st Ave. South
(206)- 243-2420

The owner Ezra Benson, is the son of Mary Beth Benson who owned Benson's Fashions in Des Moines for over 42 years. The day I was there, Ezra and both of his daughters were working. You will find

this deli has a very warm atmosphere and is very low key. The cheese selection was unbelievable and the sandwich & soup menu offered a variety of choices. All sandwiches are \$5.99, the soup is \$2.50 a cup and \$4.00 a bowl. The soups are made fresh daily as are the breads and pastries. The refrigerated section carries a variety of nuts, pastas, sausages, and more.

There is also a specialty baking section in the back. Drop on by and let us know what you think. You can leave us comments and reviews on your experience on our website at:

www.northhighlineuac.org



COMMUNITY'S ART MEMORIAL BY HEIDI JOHNSON

NHUAC had our final fundraising event last year and accomplished our goal for the community of raising enough money to install an art memorial in memory of Deputy Steve Cox on behalf of his tremendous efforts for making a difference in our community.

Once again, the art memorial will be installed in the Steve Cox Memorial Park when it is completed.

We have been working with the artist of choice to create the memorial and are currently in the process of choosing the final memorial pieces.

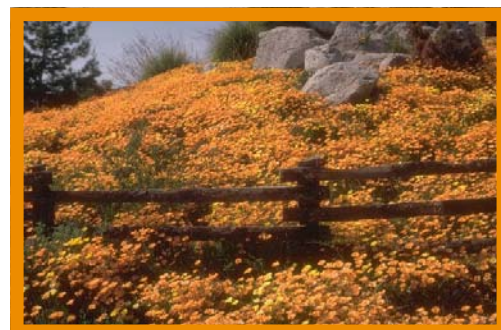
We want to thank each and every person in our community who requested this memorial for Deputy Steve Cox.

It was so overwhelming to witness our community members and all the people from everywhere coming together to make this project a reality.

It truly has been an effort filled with genuine care and commitment to.

We could not have done this without any of you, and all your generosity.

Thank You Everyone





NORTH HIGHLINE
UNINCORPORATED AREA COUNCIL

P.O. Box 66900
Burien, WA 98166

www.northhighlineuac.org



About Us

The members of NHUAC are all volunteers.

Some have been involved with community issues and the county for a long time while others are brand new. Members come with different backgrounds and interests. Some are interested in land use, some are interested in roads, some are interested in crime & graffiti, and some don't have any particular interest. Some come to learn. Some come to lead. Some come for help.

The one thing that members have in common is simply interest in their neighborhoods and communities and the willingness to come together for a couple of hours a month in an attempt to influence outcomes. It's the combined experience and interest that brings us together.

NHUAC Elections will be held on May 21st 2009. We will inform you about times and place in our upcoming April Newsletter

Articles are not necessarily the views or opinions of NHUAC, but of the writer

Upcoming NHUAC Meetings: 03/05/09 - 04/02/09 - 05/06/09

NHUAC Graffiti Management Program

Please report graffiti with address, you can make the report via our web-site or by calling the KCSO Boulevard Park Storefront at:

206-296-0387

Graffiti is a major problem in our community. If not removed, graffiti can cause blight; increase criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods; reduce property values, and gives the impression that North Highline is not committed to providing clean and safe environments for residents and visitors.

Annexation

Voting to Annex to a neighboring city is not too far away. Be sure to keep up on annexation issues by visiting:

Burien City web site at:

www.BurienWa.gov

&

The Seattle City web site at:

www.cityofseattle.net

Additional annexation info can also be found on our web site!

"ATTENTION PLEASE"

Because King County has intent to try to sell one of our large parks next to Albertson's on 126th Street and 1st Ave. So. to housing developments to build more homes leaving us with less open spaces for children to run, play, and exercise and because open public spaces are important to the health, growth, and development of children as well as for our community, it is important that we voice our concerns.

King County also intends to close Evergreen swimming pool located next to Evergreen High School. Our pool is another vital asset that is used by our children and seniors for exercise and fun. Please let them know how important these two issues are to our community residents, and to our surrounding communities.

Please contact: ron.sims@kingcounty.gov & dow.constantine@kingcounty.gov, reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov, pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov, jane.hague@kingcounty.gov, julia.patterson@kingcounty.gov, larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov, kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov, larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov, bob.ferguson@kingcounty.gov to ensure that our vital community assets of open spaces remain, our swimming pool stays, and so that our public park does not disappear.

Executive Ron Sims address: Chinook Building 4015th Ave. Ste 800 Seattle, WA 98104 / Phone: 206-296-4040 / Fax: 206-296-0194 TTY Relay: 711

King County Council's address: 516 Third Ave. Rm. 1200 Seattle, WA 98104 / Phone: 206-296-1000 / Toll Free: 800-325-6165 / TTY/TDD: 206-296-1024 / Fax: 206-296-0198

The Neighborhoods of North Highline include:

Beverly Park, Boulevard Park, Glendale, Riverton Heights, Salmon Creek, Shorewood, South Park, Top Hat, and White Center.