Improving safety near Liberty High/Briarwood Elementary/Maywood Middle Schools

Safety is paramount to King County, which has taken a number of steps to improve safety in the residential neighborhood next to Liberty High School, Briarwood Elementary School and Maywood Middle School.

Enhanced School Zones

King County recently extended its School Zone Safety Program. This included installing 14 additional school zone speed limit signs with flashing beacons near all three schools. “School Speed Limit 20 MPH, When Flashing” signs flash to alert road users of the time periods for which the school speed limit is in effect. In the morning, the flashing beacons are activated 25 minutes before school starts to 5 minutes after school has begun. In the afternoon, flashing beacons are activated 5 minutes before dismissal to 25 minutes after dismissal.

The purpose of this effort is to reduce the likelihood of a crash where a greater number of pedestrians and vehicles are present. By driving at a lower speed, the distance required to stop will be shorter if a driver must come to an unexpected stop. If there is a crash, the likelihood of a severe injury or fatality is also reduced. Additionally, slower traffic increases the comfort for pedestrians walking in school zones.

Parking

Over the years, parking in the surrounding neighborhood, particularly near Liberty High School, has grown into more than a simple annoyance for neighbors – it’s now a safety concern. During the school year, some students have started to park within crosswalks, out in the street and partially blocking residents’ driveways.

Recently, the King County Sheriff’s Office started issuing citations to the most egregious violations (including parking within the crosswalk). This enforcement will continue throughout the school year.

See map on back →

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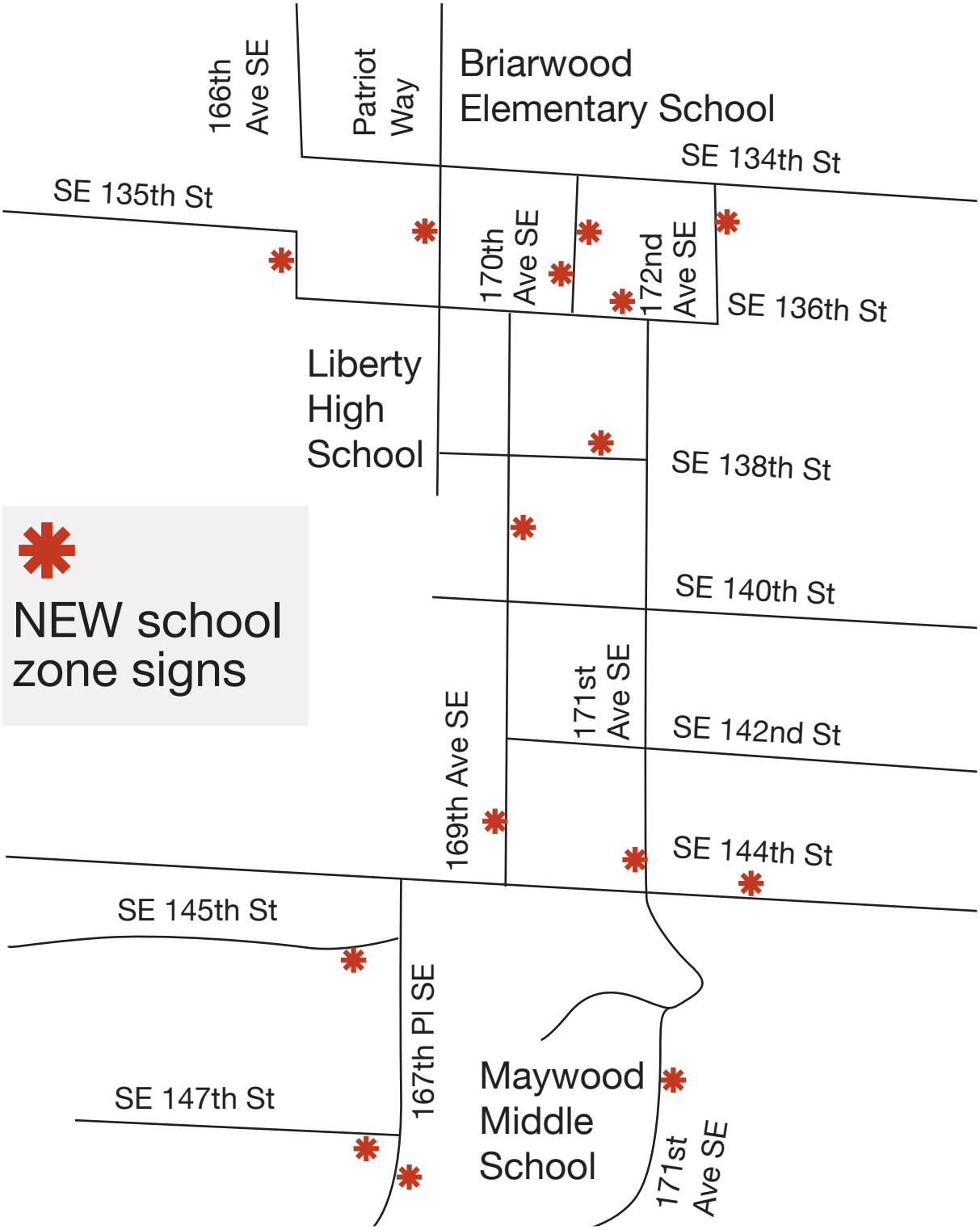

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