

# CITY OF *Snohomish* QUARTERLY

FALL 2019

**Spruce Up Snohomish**

Page 7

**WATV Test Pilot**

Page 11

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### City Hall

City of Snohomish  
116 Union Avenue  
Snohomish, WA 98290-2943

Phone: 360-568-3115

Office Hours  
Monday–Friday  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Please see the City’s website to report a concern or for additional information at [www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov).

### Police

230 Maple Avenue  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
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Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergencies: 425-407-3999

Patrol deputies are on duty 24 hours a day and can be reached by calling 911.

Office Hours  
Monday–Friday  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

### Department Contacts

John T. Kartak, Mayor  
360-282-3154  
[kartak@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:kartak@snohomishwa.gov)

Steve Schuller, City Administrator/  
Utility General Manager  
360-568-3115  
[schuller@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:schuller@snohomishwa.gov)

Debbie Burton, Finance Director  
360-282-3197  
[burton@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:burton@snohomishwa.gov)

Glen Pickus, Planning Director  
360-282-3173  
[pickus@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:pickus@snohomishwa.gov)

Pat Adams, City Clerk/Human Resources  
360-282-3155  
[adams@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:adams@snohomishwa.gov)

Wendy Poischbeg, Economic Development  
& Communications Manager  
360-282-3176  
[poischbeg@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:poischbeg@snohomishwa.gov)

Keith Rogers, Police Chief  
360-568-0888  
[snohomishpd@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:snohomishpd@snohomishwa.gov)

I have to admit, I was never especially dutiful about bringing my own reusable bag when I shopped. I have had times of being very diligent, making extra effort to place a bag or two in the trunk of my car, or remembering to set a few near my backdoor so I could grab them when I left the house. But most of the time, I would forget them or leave the bags in my trunk. And yes. I’m ashamed to say—too lazy to walk back across the parking lot to retrieve them. I guess I just didn’t care that much.

That was until I got to write the ordinance for the ban of single-use plastic bags that was passed by the Snohomish City Council in February. The ordinance also requires retailers to charge consumers for paper bags at the point of sale. This doesn’t include bags to wrap frozen foods, meat and fish, or bulk foods such as nuts and candy among other exemptions.

Single-use plastic bags are a convenient way to transport purchases from the store to our homes. However, there is a significant environmental trade-off for this one time convenience, as single-use plastic bags have proven to be detrimental to our environment and a drain on our non-renewable natural resources. Once I acknowledged the impacts to our environment, (not to mention our lift stations and garbage collection facilities) I realized I had to try harder. So now, I make more of an effort to remember my reusable bags. I walk back across the lot when I forget, and yes, I still forget but less often. It’s become second nature for me now. I know it will be for you too. The City of Snohomish’s Plastic Bag Ban goes into effect January 1, 2020.

–Wendy



## In This Issue

FALL 2019

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Mayor’s Message .....                              | 4   |
| Council Corner .....                               | 5   |
| I Don’t Really Need a Permit for That, Do I? ..... | 6   |
| Spruce Up Snohomish .....                          | 7   |
| City Launches New Marketing Campaign .....         | 8–9 |
| Staff Spotlight .....                              | 10  |
| WATV Test Pilot .....                              | 11  |
| Top Five City Services .....                       | 12  |
| Events .....                                       | 13  |
| New Speed Limit .....                              | 14  |

### On the Cover:

Shayn Bancroft, Spruce Up Snohomish

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PUBLISHER  
Peter Philips:  
206-284-8285  
[peter@philipspublishing.com](mailto:peter@philipspublishing.com)

ADVERTISING SALES  
Julie Applegate 206-753-7250  
[julie@philipspublishing.com](mailto:julie@philipspublishing.com)

EDITOR  
Wendy Poischbeg

DESIGN & PRODUCTION  
Jake Weipert



CITY HALL  
116 Union Avenue  
Snohomish WA 98290  
360-568-3115

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# Get the Shovel Ready, Snow-homish

BY JOHN T. KARTAK, MAYOR

**H**ow do you predict what sort of upcoming winter we are going to have? I usually pay attention to how soon in autumn spiders begin finding their way into my old house. Normally, my wife Jayme and I start seeing them in September, but this year it was early in August—as though they must know something. Considering last year's storms, could Snohomish have two unusually difficult winters in a row? The spiders might think so, and it has certainly happened enough times in the past.

Last year, our community was reacquainted with experiencing significant amounts of snow for the first time inside a decade, and it is clear that many of us simply weren't prepared for what was to come. Not all were expecting sudden, microburst rain storms, flooding, heavy snow, lasting cold spells, power outages, delayed garbage services, school closures, transportation interruptions, and drive-ways being repeatedly blocked from the wake left behind by our City snowplows running 24 hours per day.



Let's proactively take charge of our circumstances this year. We should be prepared to take care of our families first and then also our neighbors. Let's ready our basements for possible flooding, check our flashlights and batteries, stock up on basic supplies, and make sure generators are in working order (if we have them). Ask the mechanic to check antifreeze levels in our car, keep the gas tank full, de-clog the house gutters and downspouts, and insulate exposed water pipes and hose bibs.

Keep our assumptions in check with reality. When identifying snow in the forecast, let's remember to expect that garbage services may be impacted. Begin compacting the trash, and consider the habit of giving odorous things a rinse before tossing. Keep an empty trash can ready and also large, heavy-duty plastic bags—just in case. Pay the bills a bit earlier knowing that postal service could be affected. Heavy snow storms may cause City Hall to close its doors to the public for a day or more, but payments for water util-

ities and such can still be put in the box on the south side of the building. They will be processed promptly. I am sure there are plenty more suggestions to add to this list, but how about I just repeat the first one: Get the snow shovel ready, Snow-homish.

As always, I am proud of our City employees and police who work tirelessly to protect and serve us on a daily

*Last year, our community was reacquainted with experiencing significant amounts of snow for the first time inside a decade ...*

basis as well as during storms, emergencies, and large events. Remember to thank them often. They will deeply appreciate your kind words. I am also proud of this responsible community and I love how we tend to look after one another in times of need. It is an honor to represent you while leading the operations at City Hall.

*-John*  
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# Change Happens

BY TOM MERRILL, COUNCILMEMBER POSITION 4

You may have heard the saying that “Change is inevitable”. That is certainly true for the City of Snohomish. In my first two years on City Council I’ve noticed the primary job of the City Council is to work, as your representative, with city staff to navigate through a sea of change and make thoughtful decisions about how to manage it. Change that comes from all directions—from Federal, State, and county agencies, from citizen suggestions, from the wear and tear of time on city infrastructure... The list is long.

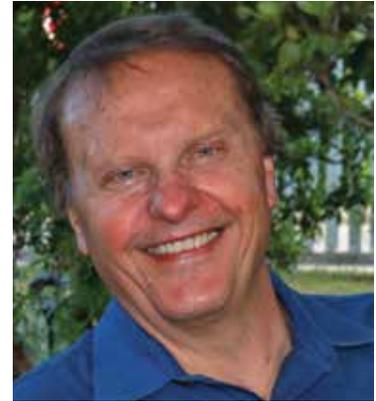
Some change is major or of high interest and citizens want to weigh in on it. Some change is less so. For instance, two years ago citizens voted to change our form of government from City Manager/ City Council to one of an Elected Mayor/ City Council—a major transformation. Updating the City Municipal Code to reflect a change from City Manager to

Mayor, while important, was relatively straight forward.

Whether change is major or minor we strive to make sure that any and all change is done as publicly as possible. I am, and always have been, a firm believer that people should have a voice in change that will affect their lives. The Open Government citizen committee a few years ago (of which I was a member) also had that view and made several suggestions to City management for improving communications and transparency. I am pleased to report that many of the recommendations have been made and several more are in the works.

Here are several current ways and places to find out what’s going on:

- The Quarterly magazine
- City website (which includes current and upcoming change on the Home Page)
- Facebook (City and Police Department)



- Next Door Snohomish postings and repostings
  - Coffee with the Mayor/Cops/ Council members
  - Council meetings and Council Minutes (posted on the City website)
  - Neighborhood Watch meetings
  - The Herald and Tribune newspapers
- Or send me an email or give me a call.

I enjoy hearing from you and will gladly answer questions and discuss concerns, observations, or suggestions.

*-Tom*

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# I Don't Really Need a Permit for That, Do I?

BY GLEN PICKUS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

**W**hile it may seem like you can't even blow your nose without first getting a city permit, in fact not everything requires one.

If you want to build a storage shed in your back yard you don't need a permit if its footprint is less than 120 square feet.

Concrete patios don't require a permit (but wooden decks do). Neither do fences in a single-family zone—as long as you're outside the Historic District—or security systems for your home or business.

Most interior work won't require a permit. This includes painting, flooring and cabinetry. However, if your project involves mechanical or electrical work, new or relocated plumbing fixtures, building a wall or cutting an opening for a door or window, then a permit is required.

Just because your project doesn't require a permit does not mean anything goes.

For instance, even though that small storage shed doesn't require a permit, it still must be set back from the rear and side property lines by at least five feet. The fence you build to keep Rover in the yard is limited to 4–6 feet in height depending on where it's located. And if your concrete patio is more than 2,000 square feet you may trigger stormwater requirements.

It is true, though, that most construction activity needs a permit. We require permits in order to protect the public health and welfare by making sure the new construction is safe and meets code requirements. Construction that meets code requirements also helps to protect property values.

The best rule to follow is simply to ask first before starting your project. It is much easier to start your project on the right foot than to find out you need a permit after you have started. If you start a project without a permit when one is required you will have to stop all work until an application can be reviewed and a permit is issued. Also, the penalty for building without a permit is a doubling of the cost of the permit.

Permits are not a money-making operation for the City. In fact, by law they can't be and the reality is Snohomish's permit fees do not cover all of the costs associated with issuing a permit.

If you are considering a construction project make one of your first tasks contacting Permit Coordinator Katie Hoole to find out if a permit is required. The best way to reach Katie is via email at [hoole@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:hoole@snohomishwa.gov).

# Spruce Up Snohomish

BY WENDY POISCHBEG,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING MANAGER



There must have been about 11 bikes amassed on the guardrail next to River Road that caught my eye. Bikes of all shapes and sizes looking like a pile of abandoned twisted metal, stripped of any chance of carrying a rider again. A closer look revealed sixty or seventy rubber bike tires nearby, carefully sorted, and at least a dozen pallets

stacked shoulder high. It was a tidy mess, and only the final remnants of what was a homeless encampment now deserted and cleaned up by three volunteers of Spruce Up Snohomish.

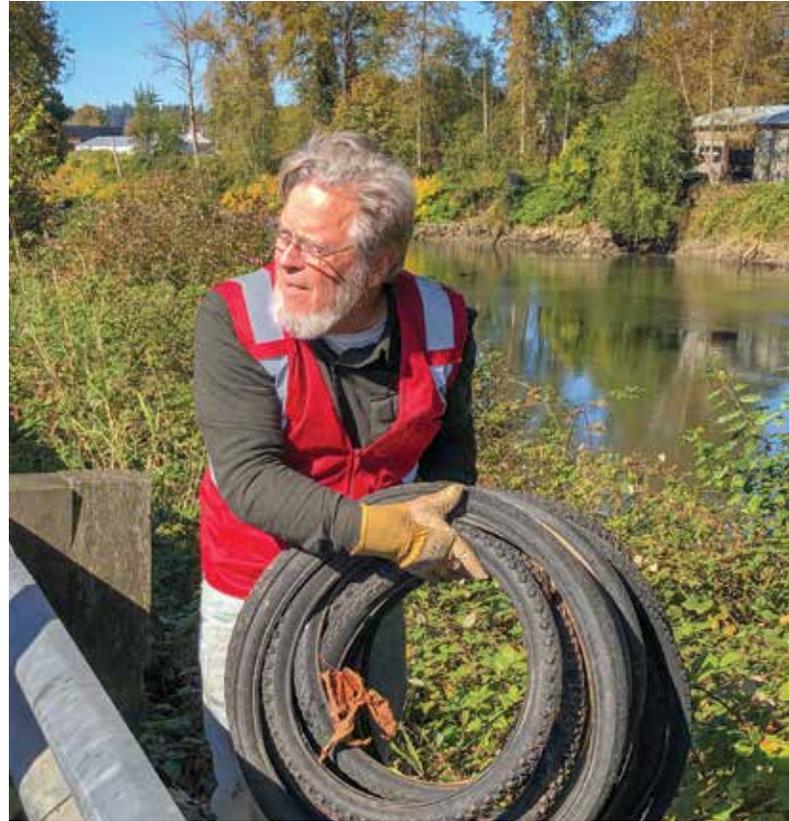
When I arrived, the dozen tents, piles of clothing, spoiled food, and discarded toiletry bottles had already been bagged up and hauled away, along with the makeshift kitchenette. A dozen or so tools had been donated, and the scrap metal, aluminum and glass had been carefully sorted and recycled. The hypodermic needles put aside for proper disposal.

For Shayn Bancroft, Ron Colegrove and Rich Levien, the clean-up crew behind this massive shoreline restoration, it appears to be all in a day's work. But it's not their job. These volunteer members have been making daily and weekly rounds to known problem areas and reported sites picking up and disposing dumped garbage as a way to give back to the community. That includes sites that they have already cleaned up previously. Ron has a circuit of trails and back alleys he maintains, and Rich tackles his neighborhood around Snohomish High School. Ron and Rich each put in about eight hours per week.

Spruce Up Snohomish was started by Shayn who is 26 years old, after he found a hypodermic needle tucked into a pile of clothes in a public place. His adoptive mother encouraged him to take action and Shayn decided he would make it his mission to protect others from finding discarded drug paraphernalia like he did. He began cleaning up roadsides and encampments and now is spends over 30 hours per week fulfilling his mission.

"My birth mother was a drug addict and an alcoholic," said Shayn. "I was very upset with her for over 20 years. I chose to forgive her when I was 21. I want to prevent others from accidentally getting hurt from these things, and maybe becoming interested in trying drugs," he said. "So, anything I can do to prevent people from going that way, I'll do."

Spruce Up Snohomish is accepting volunteers. If you want to participate, the group meets regularly every other Tuesday at the Snohomish Library, 311 Maple Ave. Or find them on Facebook.



## Is it Time to Buy or Refinance?

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# City Launches New Marketing Campaign

**W**e love our small town, and work hard to promote all the reasons why Snohomish is the perfect place to Live, Work and Play, without being literal. Our new marketing campaign creatively plays off the word SnohoMISH by interplaying the word Letters MISH with WISH, FISH, DISH, HITCHED and SWISH to describe the experiences you can have in our charming community. For instance, DISH can mean enjoying a great restaurant or dishing with your girlfriends on a night out, FISH could represent fish and chips at Andy's Fish

House or the perfect afternoon fishing on the Snohomish River, HITCHED—well, we are the wedding capital and yes, we love to horse around. You get the idea. We'll be using the words and imagery throughout the year on social media and other outlets to amplify that Snohomish offers so much more than antiques. And, be sure to check out [www.experiencesnohomish.com](http://www.experiencesnohomish.com) our new website that will also feature a Community Calendar that promotes all the events and happenings in Snohomish. Have a community event? Upload your information for free.

*-Wendy*

As the oldest and best preserved city in Snohomish County, Snohomish is listed on both the Washington State and National Register of Historic Places. Today, you can stroll along riverfront trails or walk through historic tree-lined neighborhoods that still provide identical views seen by the First People of Snohomish (The Sdoh-doh-hohbsh) or the early pioneer settlers who expanded commerce on First Street.



With a wish and a solid business plan, Skip Rock Distillery owner, Ryan Hembree proofed his concept in historic downtown Snohomish.

When James Berntson began growing artisan produce for his farm, Radicle Roots, he envisioned growing food for his community and helping people connect with the food they eat. Now that's something to dish about.



SWISH  
MISH  
DISH  
WISH  
FISH



SWISH  
KITSCH  
Snoho HITCHED  
MISH  
DISH

With a 13 million dollar wedding industry within our borders, Snohomish is the perfect place to say, "I Do."



DISH  
WISH  
Snoho FISH  
SQUISH  
SWISH

Would you like fries with that? For those who say the joy of fishing isn't always the catch—must have enjoyed an afternoon on the Snohomish River.

# Meet Rich Karschney, Fleet Mechanic



## Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington and have always lived in the Pacific Northwest. I currently live in North Seattle and find the early morning commute to Snohomish very easy as I open the shop up at 5 a.m. My only son is now married and I have a granddaughter. I graduated from Ingraham High School and went to college to study Mechanical Engineering while working at Boeing Plant 2. I realized my 3rd year in college that engineering was not for me and that I really wanted to repair and restore vehicles and trucks, especially classic and muscle cars. I later took a job at Westlake Chevrolet where I received my automotive certification. Eventually I opened my own shop and repaired autos and trucks for several years. Before getting hired on at City of Snohomish, I worked at North Shore Utility district and City of Lynnwood.

## What do you enjoy about your job?

I really enjoy working for the City of Snohomish as we have a smaller sized public works department and a one-man mechanics shop. The smaller public works department allows me the luxury of working on many different types of machinery, vehicles and trucks, and every day is entirely different. With a smaller shop environment, I have the opportunity to better know each individual and their specific needs.

## What is the biggest challenge you face at the City?

I am currently working with the Public Works team on getting ready for what I believe could be a colder, wetter than average winter, which of course means equipment readiness for snow events. Last year, we had an unusually heavy snowfall for our area, and I was really proud of our group of guys and how they responded. This is also the first fall time that Snohomish has had its own sweeper. Our guys are well schooled on our new sweeper and you will see our new sweeper out and about much more often than our sweeping program allowed in the past.

## How do you like to enjoy your off-time and why?

In my off time, I enjoy my two cats and am very fond of music. I play the tenor sax and clarinet, and this year the choir at church has asked me to play clarinet, along with them during the Christmas season. My summers are quite busy especially at work, so in the winter time, I enjoy snowmobiling with my son and a group of his friends that all grew up with him. I am sure glad they are willing to take this old guy along for the ride!

In closing, I would just like to mention what a pleasure it was working with recently retired Mike Johnson. He was a man that was always positive and really set the pace at the Public Works Department. He had the uncanny ability to think outside the box to get the job done. He will be missed very much by myself and many others.

# Just in Time for the Christmas Cruise

## City tests pilot program for WATV's

If you began noticing Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles (WATV) on city streets recently, it's because the Snohomish City Council adopted a new ordinance that allows them within a 35 mph (or less) speed zone for a trial period of twelve (12) months. The area of Bickford Avenue north of 30th Street is excluded as speed limits reach 45 mph.

The new ordinance was brought forward after a change in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) that authorized cities to regulate the operation of non-highway vehicles on public lands. The WATV's have to follow the same rules and traffic laws as a street-legal motorcycle and are required to be inspected by the state.

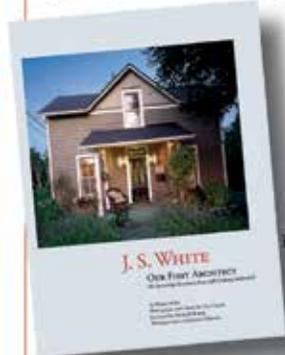
Some of the regulations that must be followed are:

- WATVs must be registered and registration must be with the vehicle.
  - A driver's license is required to operate a WATV on a public roadway.
  - Insurance is required to operate a WATV on a public roadway.
  - Those under the age of 16 must be supervised by someone over 18 years of age and licensed to drive.
  - Wearing a motorcycle helmet is required.
  - A metal tag (license plate) must be attached on the back of the WATV.
  - For on-road use, on-road and off-road tabs are required and must be on the metal tag (license plate).
  - WATVs can be operated only on the public roads designated by the City where the speed limit is 35 mph or less.
- The following equipment is required: head lamp, tail lamp, stop lamp, reflectors, turn signals, brakes, mirrors, horn or warning device, spark arrester, muffling device, windshield (unless the driver wears glasses, goggles, or a face shield that meets the requirements by the state patrol) and seatbelts (for utility-type vehicles).
  - WATVs must be inspected by a Washington State-licensed WATV dealer or repair shop.



In August, 2020, the City Council will determine if they intend to extend the trial period or make the ordinance allowing WATV's permanent.

"Thus it is quite unusual that we have a new book that documents and illustrates the work of pioneer Snohomish architect and builder John S. White." UW Prof Jeffery Ochsner



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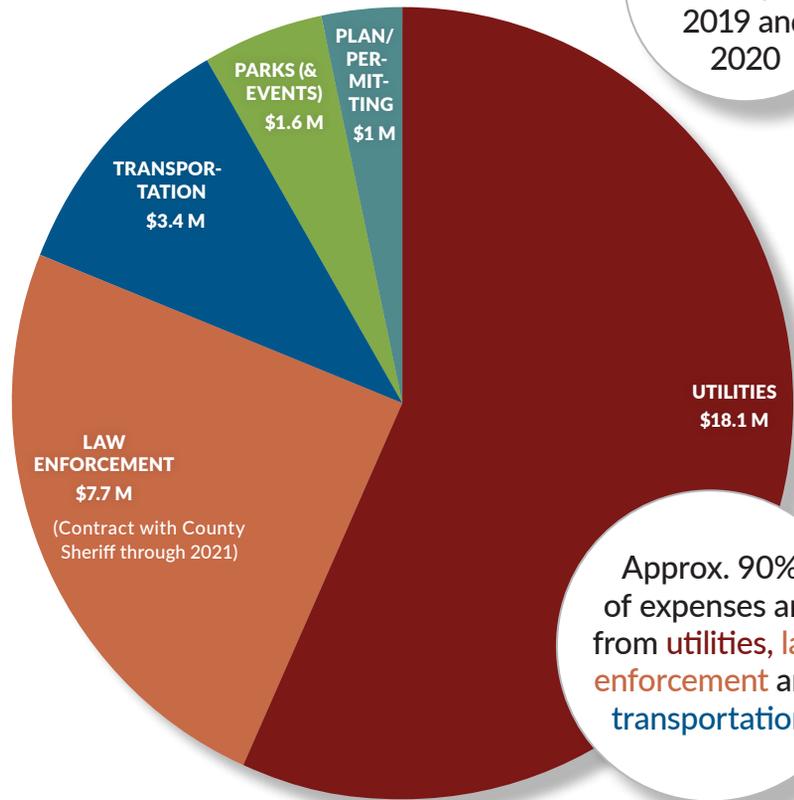
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## Top Five City Services

What we do and how we do it

\*Amounts shown are for two years, 2019 and 2020



Approx. 90% of expenses are from utilities, law enforcement and transportation

| Services                    | Budgeted 2019/2020 Expenditures* | Direct FTE's |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>UTILITIES</b>            | <b>\$18.1 Million</b>            | <b>12.5</b>  |
| Wastewater                  | \$10.2 Million                   | 5.33         |
| Drinking Water              | \$4.8 Million                    | 4.83         |
| Stormwater                  | \$3.1 Million                    | 2.34         |
| <b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>      | <b>\$7.7 Million</b>             | <b>20.0</b>  |
| Police Officer              | \$6.0 Million                    | 18.0         |
| Records/Reception           | \$0.4 Million                    | 2.0          |
| Other (Jail/Dispatch)       | \$1.3 Million                    | n/a          |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>       | <b>\$3.4 Million</b>             | <b>3.8</b>   |
| Street                      | \$2.2 Million                    | 3.8          |
| Benefit District (TBD)      | \$1.2 Million                    | n/a          |
| <b>PARKS (&amp; EVENTS)</b> | <b>\$1.6 Million</b>             | <b>4.3</b>   |
| <b>PLAN/PERMITTING</b>      | <b>1.0 Million</b>               | <b>4.0</b>   |

# Calendar of Events

**November 8 & 9**

Snohomish Brew Fest  
[snohomishbrewfest.com](http://snohomishbrewfest.com)

**November 14**

Holiday Open House  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**November 16**

Charm Walk  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**November 16**

Snohomish Harvested  
Holiday Market  
[snohomishfarmersmarket.com](http://snohomishfarmersmarket.com)

**November 30-31**

First Street Holiday  
Window Contest  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**November 30**

Santa Arrival and Tree Lighting  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**November 30-December 24**

Home for the Holidays  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**December 8**

Chase the Grinch Run  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**December 8**

Parlour Tour  
[snohomishhistoricalsociety.org](http://snohomishhistoricalsociety.org)

**December 14**

Wine Walk  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**December 21**

Freestyle Christmas Light Cruise  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**December 21**

Solstice Walk  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

**January 17-March 1**

Snohomish Winter  
Birding Festival  
[Snobird.org](http://Snobird.org)

**February 1**

Groundfrog Day  
[SnohomishChamber.org](http://SnohomishChamber.org)



# New Speed Limit on Pine Avenue

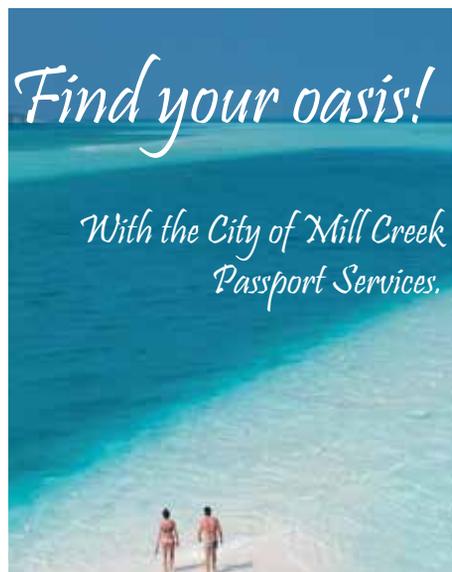


Residents along Pine Avenue, north of 16th Street, and adjacent streets are monitoring the results of a new speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph intended to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in the neighborhood. The change was authorized by the City Council as a pilot program after approximately eighty (80) residents submitted a petition to the City requesting a reduction in the speed limit.

According to the data collected by a speed monitoring trailer, city engineers and the Snohomish Police Department, the average speed was determined to be approximately 26 mph with the 85th percentile speed closer to 31 mph prior to the speed reduction. The average daily traffic volume was roughly 580 vehicles.

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*With the City of Mill Creek  
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*(almost)*  
Ask me anything!

**COFFEE  
WITH THE  
MAYOR**

Second Friday of the Month  
9am - 10am

November 8 & January 10  
Looking Glass Coffee  
801 First Street

December 13  
Starbucks at Snohomish Station  
2623 Bickford Avenue Bldg. #9



# BYOB

(BRING YOUR OWN BAG)



## PLASTIC BAG BAN

goes into effect

**JAN 1, 2020**

No more single use plastic bags. It's the law.  
Checkout bags must be compostable, recycled paper, or reusable.  
Minimum .10 charge on each checkout bag provided at the point of sale.

[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)



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