

CITY OF *Snohomish*

SUMMER 2020

QUARTERLY



**2021-22
Budget Process**
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CITY OF Snohomish

QUARTERLY

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Cover photo: William King @willking.la



City Hall

City of Snohomish
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a day and can be reached by calling 911.

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A Change is Gonna Come

BY WENDY POISCHBEG, EDITOR

In a split second, Snohomish went from being admired as “America’s favorite small town” to being labeled as a community that welcomes racists, white supremacists and bigots. Known for its neighborly small town values, Snohomish was suddenly cast as unwelcoming to people of color, and a place to be avoided at all costs. As I listened to public testimony and voice mail messages, and read through the dozens of emails and hundreds of social media comments, I heard anger, hate, bewilderment, hostility, confusion, disbelief and a lot of judgement. Snohomish was being called out.

For some, shining a spotlight on the Snohomish community for what they perceived to be its history of micro aggressions and overt racist activities has been a long time coming. Turns out, Snohomish residents have been experiencing instances of racial inequity and expressing that fact for some time, even prompting our City Council to pass a resolution against hate in October of 2018. But standing against hate is not enough. Best intentions and resolutions will not solve overt racism, and only by having uncomfortable conversations and then acknowledging that there is a problem, can a path forward for change be drafted.

And that includes me both personally and in my role as the city’s Economic Development and Communications Manager. I also have to discover new ways that I can show up for this community and map a clear course of action to embark on.

My first step was to take “Bystander Intervention Training” led by members of Snohomish for Equity, a non-profit organization led by a group of diverse moms who were tired of witnessing local incidents of racism and bigotry. Another action step I’m taking is to use this quarterly magazine to provide space to the diverse voices from our city that do not currently have a platform from which to speak. To begin that, I asked four community leaders to write a letter to their future self on what they hoped Snohomish will look like in five years. You can read their letters on pages 8-11.

It’s embarrassing to be called out for your missteps, but it’s downright shameful if you continue to stay the course and refuse to acknowledge the error and to change. I still have much to learn, more work to do, and will likely make some mistakes along the way. But I am committed to the critical work of fighting racism, as are the other staff members at the City of Snohomish.

—Wendy



Who We Are and What We Have is What Our Country Needs More Of

BY JOHN T. KARTAK, MAYOR

This has been a difficult message to write. I fail words for welled up feelings, but here is an attempt...

It has been the highest honor and blessing to be your Mayor. Some have expressed the false idea that my job is to lead you, but the true responsibility is to represent you. This is why being your Mayor is such a blessing. You are the most friendly, open, welcoming, inclusive, informed, and connected community I have ever known, and the last thing you need is "leadership" from some government official telling you what to do or who to be.

We have been through so much this year, with crisis upon crisis. It breaks my heart that each one has been handled, by some, in ways that threaten to divide

What we have is the best example of small-town values found anywhere. They begin and end with love for one another as neighbors, first.

us: George Floyd's wrongful death in Minneapolis and the response to a subsequent threat of Antifa against our city are two events that have been leveraged, at great length, to paint business owners, police, our community, and myself as racist—although I frankly don't care about me being called such. Being an election season (a crisis unto itself), some have threatened to boycott businesses and to bully them as racist for the mere presence of campaign signs. Folks have been pitted against one another under rapidly changing COVID-19 mandates while churches get closed, kids suffer without education and fundamental social structures, and businesses are dropping like flies. Some folks have taken it upon themselves to publicly reprimand anyone not wearing a mask according to their own personal standards that are outside the Governor's direction. These are all real examples most of us have seen first-hand. We are being tested to an extreme degree, but



together, we are going to get through all of this—not because of what I say, but because of who we are.

Don't ever let anyone divide us. Certainly no one is perfect, and there will always be a few who are given toward division or hostility, but Snohomish is

profoundly special. What we have is the best example of small-town values found anywhere. They begin and end with love for one another as neighbors, first. We also love the exceptional freedoms in this country that allow for disagreement and diversity in political opinion, new ideas, religious thought, and social perspective. We are all freely different in beautiful ways, and we are firmly connected as one town where most everyone watches out for one another. Who we are and what we have is what our Country needs more of.

God bless you all!

-John
360-282-3154

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DESIGN & PRODUCTION Jason Becker



A Vision with a Plan Equals Reality

BY STEVE DANA, COUNCILMEMBER POSITION 7

In all my thirty-three years in government, I cannot remember a year with more challenges than 2020. Pandemic has a way of derailing a plan. While adapting to COVID-19 has been a pain, it did push our city to technological solutions that enable us to conduct City Council meetings on the internet from the comfort of our homes or offices without exposing any of us to danger. It's been a monumental learning curve. I hope the process has not prevented you from participating if you wanted to. I sorely look forward to "in person" council meetings again.

From my perspective, we could not have achieved this level of service without a great city staff. Rather than naming all the players, I'll just single out City Clerk Pat Adams for recognition and ask her to relay my appreciation to the others for their contributions. Feel free to call Mayor Kartak or City Administrator Steve Schuller to tell them how much you appreciate our great city staff.

For folks who have lived in Snohomish for any length of time, like twenty years or more, the street view of North Avenue D today is much different than it was only a few years ago. When the Snohomish County Road Maintenance Department vacated the property between Avenue D and Bonneville Ave from the 1200 block to the 1600 block, the State Department of Ecology required that contaminated soil be reconditioned before the property could be redeveloped. That translated to demolishing buildings and pumping distillate contaminants out of the ground for years.

Finally, after a long wait, the property will be surplus for commercial development. To that end, (after fifteen years of my encouragement) the city launched a public planning process to ensure that what is ultimately built



represents a current collaborative vision for Snohomish.

One of the jobs we do as City Council members is adopt a city budget. We make sure that what we spend does not exceed our income, and as economic conditions change, we adapt by adjusting spending or developing new revenue. Which is what we expect to come from the Mid-Town planning process. It is intended to identify potential sources for the life blood of cities, sales tax revenue.

Developing a vision with a plan will enable the next step, a developer investing millions of dollars in Snohomish, making that vision a reality.

As a long time resident and city representative, I am excited to watch the process evolve for an entirely new neighborhood in Snohomish. As a Planning Commission member, I spoke in favor of this planning process since the county announced the shop was moving out almost twenty years ago. Undertaking this process will be very satisfying for me personally. I hope the product will be satisfying for our city.

The meeting schedule for the Mid-Town Planning Project is fluid so check with city staff to find the time and location.

-Steve



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The Case of the Disappearing Zones

BY GLEN PICKUS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Zoning districts are not forever. The City is currently divided into 17 zoning districts by the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Development Code. However, a year from now that should be reduced to 15 as Planning & Development Services staff has started the process to make the Urban Horticulture and Mixed Use zones disappear.



Since we're not magicians it's going to take more than saying, "Abracadabra!"

The first step was to reach out to owners of property zoned Mixed Use and Urban Horticulture to get their contact information and to let them know this process has started. Over 100 letters were mailed out in June to the owners of the 98 parcels zoned Mixed Use and the 26 parcels zoned Urban Horticulture. The outreach effort includes contacting owners of property outside of City limits but within the Urban Growth Area.

The next step will be for staff to talk with each property owner individually to get their ideas on what the new zoning designation for their property should be. A basic objective of this process will be to protect property rights and values as much as possible through this change.

Ultimately, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the required Comprehensive Plan and code amendments in order to make a recommendation to the City Council which will make the final decision. The hearing and final action are tentatively scheduled to take place late this year or in the first quarter of 2021.

Current Comprehensive Plan policies call for both designations to be eliminated. With the creation of the Pilchuck District in 2012 most, but not all, Mixed Use parcels were rezoned to one of the Pilchuck District designations. Policy CO 6.8 calls for the remaining Mixed Use parcels to be redesignated with new designations "consistent with the existing use and context of the property."

The Urban Horticulture zoning designation was created years ago to address small-scale farming operations which used to exist in the City. However, only a few agricultural uses remain in the City and its UGA. Therefore, it's now time to implement the current policy direction of Policy UH 10.1 to, "Transition Urban Horticulture areas to other appropriate land use designations as agricultural uses are abandoned."

City staff will work with property owners to determine what the best new designation will be for their parcels in a manner that protects their interests while maintaining the integrity of the City's land use planning efforts.

For more information and to keep up on the progress of this project go to the following web pages which were specifically created for this project:

"Urban Horticulture Rezone" at <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/711/Urban-Horticulture-Rezone>

"Mixed Use Rezone" at <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/710/Mixed-Use-Rezone>

Or, you can contact Planning Director Glen Pickus via email at pickus@snohomishwa.gov or by calling him at 360-282-3173.

Budget Planning for 2021–2022 Community Input Encouraged

BY DEBBIE BURTON, FINANCE DIRECTOR

Budget preparation is underway. The City budget process began in June and will continue throughout the rest of the year until the ultimate adoption of the 2021-2022 budget by City Council which is anticipated to occur on November 17, 2020. The process started in May with a workshop by Council to begin discussing their goals and priorities. In late June, budget worksheets were issued to department managers to assist them in preparing the financial impacts of each of



the anticipated projects for 2021-2022. Once completed, the requests were submitted to the Directors to review and then submit to the Finance Director to begin preparing the Mayor's preliminary budget.

On August 11th, the City Council will hold a budget and planning workshop

to review the 2020 year-end projected revenues, expenditures and fund balances and the 2021-2022 preliminary financial

—continued on page 15

2021–2022 Budget Process Important Dates

The Mayor develops a Recommended Budget based on policy and direction set by the City Council

- Aug. 11** Council Budget Workshop—Review 2020 & Preliminary 2021-2022 Budget
- Sept. 25** Mayor's 2021-2022 Recommended Budget Released
- Oct. 6** Council Workshop—Mayor's Recommended Budget Overview
- Nov. 3** Council Hearings—Property Tax Levy and City Revenue Sources
- Nov. 17** Council Hearings—Property Tax Levy
- Nov. 17** Council Meeting—2021-2022 Budget Adoption

Dates may change—visit SnohomishWA.gov for updated schedule



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LETTERS OF HOPE

If you were going to write a *Letter to Your Future Self* or a *Letter to the Community*, do you know what you would write? Would it include your hopes for the future, or changes you want to see? Would those changes be for yourself or for others? What goals would you have? What prediction would you foresee? Keep reading as we asked four Snohomish thought leaders to reflect on the recent events and share their hopes for their future selves and for the community they call home.

My hope for Snohomish

My name is Miriam Escoto, I am a junior at Snohomish High School. I have lived in Snohomish my entire life and have mixed emotions about it. On one hand, I love living in a small town with loved traditions, where any place I go I recognize a familiar face, but most importantly, a town where I feel accepted, welcomed, and safe. On the other hand, I feel angry and ashamed that there are people in my town who cannot feel the same because of the racism that is present and the people who deny it. However, this past month of seeing people repeatedly rally together for the sole purpose of denouncing the racism that is very present in our community has been powerful. Experiencing this aspect of Snohomish makes me hopeful for the future of my hometown.

In 2025, when I look at my town, I hope to see that we are still actively fighting against racism. I envision a town where people finally accept and understand why the confederate flag is not a symbol of southern heritage, but of racism and the history of slavery. I envision a town where people aren't pretending there is no racism but putting in the work to educate themselves and their friends to be anti-racist. I envision a town where each student learns about recognizing and celebrating diversity, because with knowledge, we can continue to change and become better.

Our town doesn't need to be filled with people who all look and think the same; welcoming and embracing diversity is what will make Snohomish great, and we need to recognize that and grow with it. I know that if we continue to work together, our town can become the safe place that I envision for people of all different skin colors and backgrounds.

Miriam Escoto



Dear People of Snohomish,

As a minister, I write from my core belief in Divine Love. As a Person of Color, I write from my core belief of Black and Brown bodies as beautiful, valuable, and lovable. I do not write about a romanticized and cloyingly love, but Love that embodies grit and courage.

Love is always pursuing us, even when all we seem to notice around us is hostility and oppression. I believe that Love is ever-present in our midst, bringing forth life, doing the slow work of redemption, bringing up movements for justice.

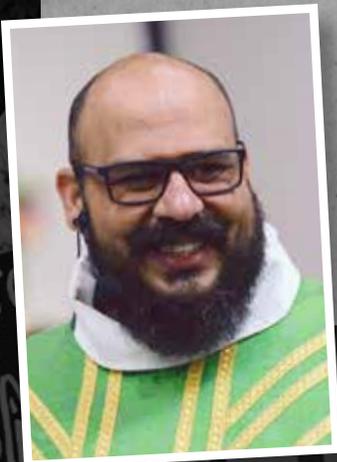
Love dares not to leave us alone, but nudge us into a more excellent life. Love is the holy host that gives us rest when we are weary and heavy-laden.

The prophetic outcry in our country for racial and economic justice is a profound utterance of Love. Love is the revolutionary force that is not content with the way things are. Love is the courage to imagine the new world that ought to be. Love is the language of the young prophets on the streets.

Love reminds us that the values of liberties, prosperity, and freedom celebrated in our country are just mere fractured facsimiles. Freedom and liberty in our country were proclaimed while the demonic act of holding slaves continued, with the dignity of Indigenous people was trampled on, and poor whites were subdued to servitude. The trauma and the pain caused by ideologies of supremacy continue to this day.

If the freedoms and liberties are fractured, I believe they can be healed. Our country, our world, can be mended. And we are the ones to do it. That is our work as people of Love, to mend, build bridges, repair the breach, and collaborate in hosting the Divine Commonwealth on Earth as it is in heaven.

The Rev. Eliacín Rosario-Cruz
St. John's Episcopal Church



Dear Future Kathy,

I'm pleased to report the City of Snohomish is still actively working on Racial Justice. It took a while to get started, but our Community Leaders & City Council sought to ensure that minorities, and members of underserved/underrepresented groups would not only feel welcome here, but also be engaged in civic life. We wanted Snohomish to live up to its reputation as the "Best Small Town in America", so our goals sought to improve the lives of all of our citizens: We established an on-going paid internship for a Youth of Color who gives input at City Council meetings on issues affecting citizens ages 12-24; the former mayor integrated a cultural competency assessment so all city employees hired would be aware of their implicit biases. All city employees (including police) undergo rigorous diversity training annually; three times a year, we offer Diversity training to members of the community, & this has resulted in less friction with our minority members. We've hired a full time Spanish speaking employee who translates for individuals conducting city business. Quarterly awards given to businesses who demonstrated a welcoming attitude to everyone regardless of race/ethnicity. We verify compliance using an advocacy group who routinely sends persons of color to evaluate the store's inclusiveness. At the annual Tree Lighting in November, we have given out prizes to the Top 3 businesses in the area. We've also conducted a disparity index to determine blind spots where our city is not allowing minority owned business to have fair representation in city contracts. Our new Latinx Mayor and racially diverse City Council have moved to a participatory budget process so that the community has a greater say in how our tax dollars are spent. Still much to do, but a good start!

Sincerely,

Kathy Purviance-Snow



Always and Forever Snohomish

I was a lost and wanderlust soul when I came to know this place that would become the compass rose of my gypsy soul and my hometown, the city of Snohomish. I followed the balloons and skyjumpers, like dandelion seeds in a jar of wishes. I walk along the spine of the hill. I took the slow route from the south through the farms and into the once Kwehtlamanish. I felt calm and peaceful for the first time in a long time. I go forward with an open heart. I close my eyes and dream over the vastness of time as our ancestors had for thousands of years along the high ground that peer down into the gentle waters of the Snohomish and Pilchuck rivers. I share my inner path home along ancient salmon runs and shellfish beds that fed the early Snohomish settlers. They welcome me to my new home. Good is your arrival. “haʔt adstčil” they call to me. Thank you tig^wicid. I reply with wholehearted gratitude.

From the early settlers to the founding of Cadyville, Snohomish has grown to become a prosperous and successful city that supports a well being and opportunity that is available to all.

I am charmed by the city’s rural character, eccentric personality and what some call the “traditional values” of our city. There are traditional values that are older than we sometimes acknowledge. The original settlers of the Snohomish River Valley have invested in this community from a time uncounted by treaties and maps.

Today, we are blessed by the natural beauty of the valley and waterways that nurtures our soul, as it has our ancestors for thousands of years. As time has passed, the terrain has made way to timberland, farms and roads. The hard work and collaboration of the original indigenous tribes continues to produce a good quality of life, today and forward. This spirit continues through the future of our city.

As we carry on, we will continue to work for the shared commonwealth in service to our community. We must be prepared to face these challenges in the spirit of togetherness as those who have come before us. For our great city to sustain, it will be critical that we embrace our diversity and do the work that makes Snohomish a safe and welcome place for everyone. The name Snohomish remains rich in the history and traditions or her origins and our shared vision of each succeeding generation. This is our home. You are my family. Always and forever Snohomish.

tig^wicid.

Frederic Gibbs



New Historic Narratives Placed in Downtown Snohomish

The next time you get into historic downtown Snohomish, be sure to check out the new Snohomish Heritage Trail, a short looped walking tour with nine interpretive signs describing notable people and events that have contributed to the historic narrative of the Snohomish community. The project was paid for with a generous grant from the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission.

The intention of the trail is to connect the picturesque setting of this riverside town to its historic founding in 1859 as the first city of Snohomish County.

The City collaborated with members of the non-profit Snohomish Stories, most notably Warner Blake to provide the research, content and graphic design for each dynamic interpretive signs. In total, nine narrative signs were created.

Snohomish Stories chose the subject matter for each sign. The narrative signs begin with identifying the founding father of Snohomish, Emory C. Ferguson who was courted by Henry Hewitt and East Coast investors when they came to build the city of Everett. Warner invites the viewer to learn about the culture of isolation, women's rights (or lack thereof), E.C. Ferguson's family and the tragedies that came with being an early white settler (namely disease), and devastation through fire.

Warner then moves the viewer to learn of Mary Low Sinclair, the first Caucasian woman to take up permanent residence and considered to be the founder of education in Snohomish by opening her home as the first classroom in 1911... then the Blackman Brothers who built a logging empire... and no great interpretive program can ignore a good love story.

The Snohomish Heritage Trail reminds viewers that white settlers were not the first people to inhabit this land and briefly describes the signing of the Point Elliott Treaty that established the Tulalip Reservation and guaranteed fishing rights.

Learn more about Snohomish history by visiting www.snohomishstories.com.



Local historian Warner Blake sharing his knowledge of Snohomish history on a recent walking tour



City Welcomes New Interim Police Chief

BY ROBERT PALMER, INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

Hello Snohomish,

I wanted to use this quarterly newsletter to be able to introduce myself and tell you a little about what you can expect from me as your interim Police Chief.

I've been a Snohomish County resident since childhood and have lived in the Machias area for the past 25 years. My family is rooted here and both of my daughters attended area schools and graduated from Snohomish High School. This is our home town too, and we love it.

My direction for the Police Department will be a simple and straightforward message to the staff and officers—*Professionalism*. We will be professional in our work and our conduct. I believe that everything we do in serving our citizens is built on that foundation. The best part of that message is that there is nothing for me to change; I'm simply reinforcing what we already have.

I will work hard to build trust with our community through transparency and engagement. I will listen to your concerns and



give honest answers to your questions, even if my answer may not be what was hoped for—you will get nothing but honesty from me, as you should expect.

You will also get an unbiased and equitable approach to police work from me and your officers. We will never play favorites, never choose sides, and never base our decisions on a person's status, position or appearance. Our law enforcement decisions will be based on our laws, best practices and professionalism.

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, is that we will focus our efforts on maintaining and enhancing that thing that everyone

wants, but is the hardest thing to measure—a sense of safety. It's different for everyone, and the issues and conditions that impact it are as diverse as our community. I firmly believe that Snohomish is a safe place and I will do everything that I can to make that feeling true for all of you as well.

*Thank you,
Chief Rob Palmer*

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Pilchuck Dam Gets Removed

Clean, Safe Water is a Fundamental Human Need

BY STEVE SCHULLER, CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND UTILITY GENERAL MANAGER

Many residents of Snohomish first received their water via a diversion dam on the Pilchuck River built in 1912, and rebuilt in 1932. In 1981, a water treatment plant was constructed to help maintain quality of the river water being conveyed through pipelines to the City.

When the time came to review water treatment plant upgrades, it was found that water rates would have to be increased dramatically to cover the large capital cost required. To avoid higher rates, the City looked for better, long-term options. After a comprehensive public involvement process, all City customers were converted to the City of Everett's water supply from its Spada Lake reservoir. The City closed the Pilchuck River water treatment plant in 2017, and later executed a Trust Water Right Agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology in 2019 to secure and preserve the City's water right on the Pilchuck River. Through these actions, the City was able to adopt 0% water rate increases for the most

current rate period (2020 to 2022). Not only is this of great financial benefit to water customers long into the future, exciting environmental benefits for the whole region are also developing as a result.



In June of 2018, the Tulalip Tribes and the City of Snohomish finalized an agreement for cooperative action in restoration of the Pilchuck River, which included discussions and planning to remove the dam. With the plant closed and the water right preserved, the diversion dam is no longer needed. Removing the dam will restore natural river conditions, and allow important fish species—including Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead—

to reach ideal spawning grounds unimpeded.

Removal of the dam began in July and has seen significant progress at time of printing. By the time you read this article, most or all of the diversion dam may be jettisoned to history, with only the original 1931 plaques remaining as evidence of Snohomish's early water supply.

The Pilchuck Dam was constructed in 1912.

Calendar of Events

Thursdays

Farmers Market

www.snohomishfarmersmarket.org

August 15-18

Bigfoot Soccer

snohomishyouthsoccer.com

August 19

Engage Snohomish

snohomishwa.gov

September 16

Engage Snohomish

snohomishwa.gov

September 17

Snohomish 101 Recycling and

Composting— Virtual Program

snohomishwa.gov

September 19

Snohomish Tweed Ride

historicdowntownsnomish.org

October 15

Snohomish 101

Civics Lesson—Virtual Program

snohomishwa.gov

October 12-13

Snohomish River Run

snohomishriverrun.com

October 19

Zombie Walk

historicdowntownsnomish.org

October 31

Trunk-or-Treat

Events with cross-through have been canceled by magazine publishing date. Be sure to check event websites for updates.



Budget Planning

—continued from page 7

forecast. The City Council will discuss the information provided and confirm their priorities for the 2021-2022 budget at the workshop. The Mayor's Recommended Budget will be published by September 29.

During the month of October, the City Council will review the Capital Improvement Plan. The Mayor's Recommended Budget will be presented to the City Council in a public hearing on October 6th. In November, the City Council will hold public hearings on the anticipated revenue sources for 2021-2022 and the 2021 property tax levy slated to be adopted at the November 7th meeting.

Community input is encouraged throughout the budget process. The Mayor, Council and staff urge citizens to share their views, perspectives, and priorities via telephone, email or during public comment opportunities at any of the Council meetings leading up to the adoption of the budget. Council contact information can be found on the website at <http://snohomishwa.gov/115/City-Council>.

The Mayor's Recommended Budget and other information will be posted to the City's website at <http://snohomishwa.gov/135/Budget-Finance> on September 29.



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