

# CITY OF Snohomish

WINTER 2021 QUARTERLY



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Clean Water**  
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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

# Everyone Leaves A Legacy

BY WENDY POISCHBEG, EDITOR

**E**veryone leaves a legacy—for good or bad. It's how we are remembered. In thinking about my own legacy, I am reminded of the reflections of Hugh Mackay in *The Good Life*, who put it this way: "You don't have to be rich to leave a positive legacy, you don't have to be intelligent, famous, powerful or even particularly well organized, let alone happy. You need to treat people with kindness, compassion and respect, knowing they will have been enriched by their encounters with you." Legacy goals!!

One such Snohomish community member that leads with kindness, compassion and respect is Pam Schilaty, the Manager of the Snohomish Chamber of Commerce. Pam has served in this role for over 30 years. This February, Pam will leave her position with the Chamber to embark on a well-deserved retirement.

I remember my first meeting with Pam. I had just taken my position with the City, and one of my first tasks was to meet with community leaders and influencers and just listen. I wanted to better understand the needs of the community, discover the gaps and roadblocks, what was working—and what was not.

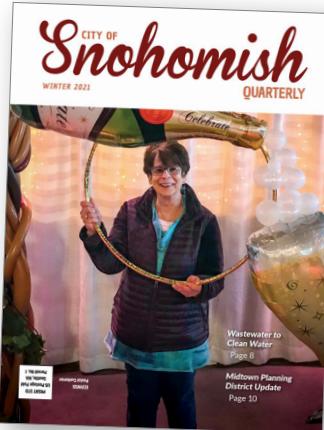
Pam was straightforward and honest in her assessment of the relationship climate between government and business. She was adamant about the need for making business part of the solution early in any government decision making. She reminded me that it's okay to be a champion of future innovation, but don't forget those who paved the path of entrepreneurship before. I listened.

Pam's legacy of unselfishly sharing her knowledge to build a better, stronger and more resilient community is a gift to the entire city of Snohomish—for we all benefit.

I'm sure it is difficult for Pam to leave an organization that she has worked so tirelessly to help grow and thrive. But, apparently, she likes her grandchildren too.

Congratulations to you on your well deserved retirement, Pam. Your legacy of kindness, compassion and respect lives on.

—Wendy



*On the Cover: Pam Schilaty,  
Manager, Snohomish  
Chamber of Commerce*



## City Hall

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

Phone: 360-568-3115

Office Hours  
*Monday-Friday, by appointment only*

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  
Phone: 360-568-0888  
Fax: 360-568-8377  
Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergencies: 425-407-3999

Office Hours  
*Monday-Friday, by appointment only*  
Patrol deputies are on duty 24 hours a day and can be reached by calling 911.

## Department Contacts

Office Hours  
*Monday-Friday, by appointment only*

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[snohomishpd@SnohomishWA.gov](mailto:snohomishpd@SnohomishWA.gov)

# A Reminder That We Are All Connected

BY JOHN T. KARTAK, MAYOR

**A**merica's 2021 didn't exactly kickoff to a smooth start. Our best response in Snohomish is to continue being who we are, which is mixed in so many ways and loving one another for it. Unity is not conformity. It is an intentional appreciation for others as individual persons with their own hopes, dreams, hearts, and souls. It is proactively knowing that we are all connected.

These days, it can feel like a bulldozer is driving a cattle wedge right through communities, dividing relationships, removing middle ground, and shoving everyone to the extremes with new, radical rules: *"you must either support or reject everything about a President."* No middle ground. *"If you don't support the far-left extremist groups, then you obviously support the far-right."* No middle ground. *"If you don't participate in social unrest with equal outrage against an injustice, then you are the injustice."*

No middle ground. Well-intentioned or not, the purpose of imposing such division is to bring about fundamental transformation, but the result is damaged community bonds such as often found

in big cities where neighbors might not even know one another.

Well, we don't play by those rules here. We are decisive, not divisive—proactive, not reactive. We embrace who we are: a diversified and united town. Remember when authentic liberalism was widely celebrated? In Snohomish, it still is: Individual liberty, religious/secular freedom, political differences, cultural appreciation, open conversation with civility toward opposing ideas, equal rights, equal value, and above all, LOVE for one another, the rules of which are most radical: "Love is patient and kind, not envious, boastful, arrogant, dishonorable,



self-seeking, easily angered, or bitter about past wrongs. Love does not delight in current wrongs. Love embraces truth, always protects, trusts, hopes, and stubbornly perseveres."

On a Sunday in 2011, when an attic fire in

our home was put out (tens of thousands of gallons of water later), neighbors from blocks around stopped everything they were doing to swarm my house, shoveling and scooping water off the floors (every room, every level), dumping water out of all of our kitchen drawers, laundering our wet

clothes in their homes, delivering a trailer for temporary housing, cooking us food. Bill Holt, our insurance agent toured the damage that afternoon, comforting my wife Jayme and I, "It's going to be okay, it's ALL going to be okay," and he was so right. Mayor Karen Guzak came to offer me comforting words and a warm hug. For the next several days, neighbors brought so many meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), that at one point we were overwhelmed.

The point is that, just like these neighbors, our entire community spans every social/political/cultural/faith spectrum, and we love one another. So keep on being who you are. Regardless of the world's crazy problems, what Snohomish has, this country needs more of. We are all connected.

-John

360-282-3154

*We are decisive, not divisive—proactive, not reactive. We embrace who we are: a diversified and united town.*

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# My First Year in Office

BY JUDITH KULETA, COUNCILMEMBER POSITION 2

**M**y first year serving as a city council member has been challenging to say the least. In the spring due to Covid-19, businesses were shut down or were limited in their ability to stay open. There was legitimate concern that potential reduction in sales tax would lead to budget shortfalls. In late May, we experienced social unrest, which lead to soul searching by many council members on how to address racial inequities in our city. The good news is the council has continued to do the business of the city.

Our budget remains intact and exceeds expectations. Good stewardship and careful analysis of the budget by council members puts us in good place. CARES act monies and utility assistance have helped our businesses and citizens to survive the challenges Covid brought.

The council listened to over 12 hours of

testimony regarding racial disparities and inequities. In response to this, a Leadership Forum was created. The council created a liaison to Snohomish for Equity; I am the liaison.

One of the goals I advanced was increasing communication with our constituents. I coordinated a fall presentation series Snohomish 101, which included recycling and composting best practices, city government 101 and the roles of boards and commissions. These presentations were informative and we received positive feedback. I also started a Coffee with



Council series, which takes place quarterly. Coffee with the Council is a way for citizens to connect with their council members in a more informal setting. The spring presentation series is already in the planning stages. We will be holding town hall meetings on important topics such as our

upcoming contract with the Sheriff's Department.

My first year has been gratifying; I am proud to be in service for the City of Snohomish.

-Judith



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# Meet Felix Neals Your Newest Councilmember

Your newest city council member was sworn into office on Nov. 3, 2020. Felix Neals now serves position #3, a position that was vacated after the resignation of Jason Sanders.

Felix and his wife of 21 years, Arleen, relocated to Snohomish in 2016. An active volunteer since arriving in Snohomish, Felix has engaged in a host of volunteer activities, including serving on the Historic Downtown Snohomish Association (HDSA) and Snohomish Public Safety Commission and Snohomish County Council on The Aging.

Felix believes that a viable and sustainable partnership between the citizenry and city government is vital to creating and

sustaining a shared high quality of life in Snohomish. He strives to achieve this through authentic community engagement, to understand and amplify the needs of all of those who call Snohomish home.

Over the course of his professional life, he has worked in Leadership, Stewardship and Partnership capacities in industry sectors that span non-profit, technology, manufacturing, government, and legal services.

Mr. Neals was appointed to serve until the next municipal election in November 2021. At that time, the elected Councilmember will take office and fill the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2023.



**Felix Neals, Council Position #3**  
neals@snohomishwa.gov  
425-327-7754

## Key to our Hearts—Pam Schilaty

If you've ever stood shoulder to shoulder with your neighbors on First Street during the Easter Parade, danced with Tad and Lil at the annual GroundFrog Day or marveled at the cool classic cars and hotrods at the annual "show & shine"—then you can thank Pam Schilaty, Manager of the Snohomish Chamber of Commerce and producer of many of the City's most beloved special events. This March, Pam will be hanging up her Easter

Bonnet and retiring after nearly 30 years of community service.

As Manager of the chamber, Pam has been at the table for most major projects where she has been an advocate for small business. Those projects include the annexation of the Bickford Corridor, qualifying for the National Main Street program, the construction of the Snohomish Visitor Information Center and the Highway 9 Transportation Corridor project. She was on the planning committees for the Snohomish Youth Center, the Snohomish Senior Center, and the Hwy 2 East County Corridor Partnership. If you can think of a project in the city of Snohomish, Pam has probably had her fingerprint on it.



**The City of Snohomish wishes to thank Pam for her tireless efforts to better our community!**

Please tune into the City of Snohomish City Council meeting, **February 16 at 6 p.m.**—where Pam will be receiving a Key to the City from Mayor Kartak. You can get the Zoom link for the online council meeting at [www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov).

# Snohomish Delivers

**W**ould you be more apt to Shop Local if delivery were an option?

We all know that Snohomish small businesses have been greatly impacted by mandatory closures and pandemic related expenses. It has also caused a rapid change in how local companies operate forcing business owners to think of new ways to reach customers. One of the major shifts has been retailers needing to offer local delivery of their products. This has become increasingly necessary as residents are hesitant to leave their homes due to the increase in pandemic illnesses and new lock down restrictions. Instead of sending shoppers to Amazon, we came up with a way to encourage buyers to shop local by offering delivery if you purchase your products from a small business in Snohomish.

With the help of CARES ACT funding, the City of Snohomish in partnership with the Snohomish

Chamber of Commerce, received funding to launch a local delivery platform. Snohomish Delivers.

It's free and easy. Simply go to [www.virtualsnohomish.com](http://www.virtualsnohomish.com) where you can then be linked to local businesses with an e-commerce site. After your purchase, simply tell the merchant you want it delivered. Restrictions apply.

- Snohomish Delivers is only intended to support small, local business.
- We are able to deliver to the 98290, 291 and 296 zip codes
- We will require a signature for delivery. No porch delivery.
- We are unable to deliver food or groceries. There are already platforms designed for this service.
- We are unable to deliver cannabis.
- Deliveries are not on demand—but scheduled.

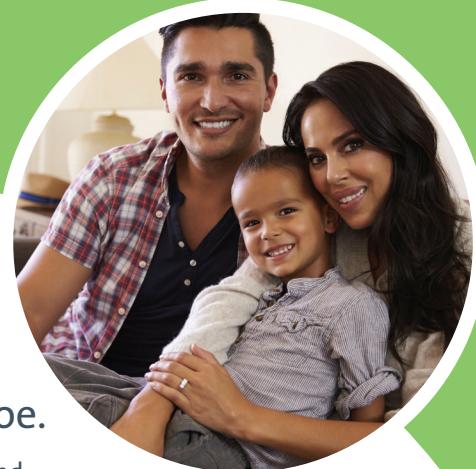


If you want your business to be included on the site, simply go to [www.virtualsnohomish.com](http://www.virtualsnohomish.com) and click the Register tab. Thank you, Snohomish! Our small businesses are surviving because you kept your promise to support local.

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# WASTEWATER TREATMENT



We all use water, and we all make sewage every day by running our faucets, flushing our toilets, cleaning our dishes and having a shower.

At the Wastewater Treatment plant, sewage is being lifted, screened, biodegraded, eaten by bacteria, filtered, disinfected, and tested.

It's now clean and highly treated water, released to continue its journey in nature. Here's how we do it.



1

## HEADWORKS

The headworks facility is where untreated sewage arrives from the city and is measured, pumped and screened. The sewage enters the plant where its flow is measured using a level sensor. Flow Average is around 1.3 million gallons per day. However, during rain events, it could be ten times that amount.

Three screw pumps are used for lifting the sewage about 21 feet. A bar screen removes plastics and other materials like matchbox cars, diapers and the dreaded flushable wipes.



2

## CHEMICAL SYSTEM

Pumps are used to carry magnesium hydroxide into the sewage flow before the lagoons to help maintain pH and alkalinity. This is good for a healthy population of bacteria in the lagoons



**DID YOU KNOW** that flushable wipes are really not flushable. They don't compost and they clog pump stations. Avoid using them!



## LAGOONS

There are four lagoons that are lined to prevent leakage. The aerators are used to provide oxygen and mixing to support bacteria growth. The lagoons cover over 10 acres and each are about 16 feet deep with a total capacity of 22.5 million gallons.



## FILTRATION

Wastewater is pumped from lagoon four to the sand filters. The purpose of the filters is to remove suspended solids within the wastewater.



## SUBMERGED FIXED FILM

(a.k.a. the "Bacteria Hotels")

There are 54 bacteria hotels submerged within our last three lagoons. The bacteria hotels help to remove ammonia and organic matter. A webbing material on each of the hotels helps to give a surface for the bacteria to hold on to in order to grow.



## DISINFECTION

Peracetic Acid (PAA)

At the very end of the process, PAA is added to the water to disinfect and destroy any remaining microorganisms, including bacteria. It's now clean and highly treated water, released to continue its journey down the Snohomish River.

PAA is a cutting-edge solution of acetic acid, hydrogen peroxide and water. The City is proud to be the first in the state to use this new technology.

# Midtown Planning District Project Update

The Midtown Task Force is nearing the end of its work. Its final meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9. It will be a remote-only meeting. Information on how you can participate in the meeting will be posted on the project's web page at <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/706/Midtown-District> at least one week before the meeting. Or, you can email Planning Director Glen Pickus at [pickus@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:pickus@snohomishwa.gov) to get the log-on or call-in information.

At the meeting, the Task Force will review the public input obtained at "open house" events offered in January.

Then, they will review a draft memorandum prepared by staff and city consultants based on public input and previous Task Force discussions. The memo will be forwarded to the Planning Commission to start the next phase of the Midtown Planning District Project. Finalizing the memo will likely take longer than the two hours that the Task Force meets which is why a continuance of the meeting to Feb. 23 is tentatively scheduled.

The recommendations in the memo will be directed towards meeting the project's objectives of updating the development regulations for the Avenue D commercial area so new development and redevelopment will

make the best use of the properties and reflect the community's vision. The goals of the new rules are to expand the city's tax base and to provide additional housing options, including affordable housing.

The memo will outline recommendations for Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Development Code amendments as well as design standards that will be unique to Midtown.

After receiving the Task Force's recommendation memo, the Planning Commission will start work on translating those recommendations into policy and code language. The tentative schedule is for the Commission to work on this at their April, May and June meetings followed by a public hearing in July and possibly August.

After the public hearing, the Planning Commission's formal recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council.

Expect the City Council's final decision on the project in fall 2021.

**If have comments on the Midtown Project that you want the Task Force to consider or if you need more information about the project, contact Planning Director Glen Pickus via email or by calling him at 360-282-3173.**



# Planning Commission to Consider Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The annual Comprehensive Plan amendment process continues with a Planning Commission public hearing on March 3, 2021.

One set of amendments eliminates the Urban Horticulture and Mixed Use Land Use Designations and applies new designations to the more than 100 affected parcels. City staff have tried to contact as many of the affected property owners as possible to inform them of the change and to get their preference for a new designation.

Another amendment will realign the policies in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan with the regulations in Title 14, Snohomish Municipal Code, which is the City's Land Use Development Code. This will require amending Title 14 as

well as the Comprehensive Plan. The goal is to better comply with Growth Management Act requirements. The amendments will include the creation of a new zoning map.

Another amendment is a proposed rezone of the undeveloped property at 2100 Ludwig Road. However, the public hearing for this amendment will be held later in the year and not in March. Currently, 2100 Ludwig Road is designated as Single Family. Last fall, the property owner requested a re-designation to Low Density Residential. In November, the City Council determined the proposal warranted further investigation and analysis.

For more information about the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments visit the Comprehensive

Plan page on the City website at <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/184/Comprehensive-Plan>.

The Comprehensive Plan is the community's vision for how the City of Snohomish should develop in the next 20 years. For it to reflect a true vision, we rely on community members providing us feedback. The best way to do that is by participating in public hearings such as this one.

To stay informed, simply email Planning Director Glen Pickus at [pickus@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:pickus@snohomishwa.gov) and ask for your name and email address to be placed on the Comprehensive Plan Amendments "Parties of Interest" list.

Please contact Planning Director Glen Pickus by email or by calling 360-282-3173 if you have any questions.

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City of  
Snohomish  
Washington

# Dannie Allen, Lead, Street Department

## Tell us about yourself.

Hello! My name is Dannie Allen. I was born in Everett, but went to school right here in Snohomish. I live about 13 miles out of town towards Granite Falls. I grew up raising pigs and picking raspberries to make money. I saved up enough money to buy my first dirt bike. I have always been in the construction field either as a pipe layer or a dump truck driver moving equipment in downtown Seattle.

This is the second time that I have worked for the City of Snohomish. The first time was in the late 90's but left to help my father when he was diagnosed with lymphoid cancer. I returned in 2009 because I just couldn't stay away from this beautiful town. Snohomish has always been my home and it will always be close to my heart.

## What do you enjoy about your job?

I enjoy working with staff, the

community and all of the different projects and challenges that comes with being the lead of the Streets Department. It is a fun and diversified place to work.

## What is the biggest challenge you're working on right now?

The biggest challenge is crew motivation, organization and maintaining morale when times get difficult.

This year has been especially challenging for crews who usually work shoulder to shoulder on certain projects—and now need to comply with social distancing, as well as wear a mask while laying down 400 degree asphalt. It



*Dannie Allen and his wife Trisa enjoy some quality time on the water*

can be especially difficult. But, we have such a strong Public Works Department—that we make it work and everyone goes home safe and ready to come to work the next day.

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

On my time off, my wife of 31 years and I like to take road trips around the Pacific Northwest. We like to visit different cities and stay in different cabins and tiny homes. I also enjoy spending time with my three granddaughters and working on cars with my son.

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# Community Spotlight: Ripple Ministries

**W**hile serving as a director of a local teen drop-in center, Carrie Gove saw a need for expanded training for the rising number of under-resourced and at-risk teens in Snohomish County. Carrie and her husband, Mike founded Ripple Ministries of Snohomish, and in 2018, the Teen Storytellers Project was launched offering free filmmaking classes as a basis for providing technical and life skills training for teens in the county. Nestled in the alley behind First Street near Ave C, the Teen Storytellers Project (TSP) Digital Gym has become a hub for youth filmmaking education. With industry standard technology and caring instructors, the TSP Digital Gym has facilitated the production of over 20 student projects. Throughout 2020, the TSP Digital Gym has adapted to the changing Covid-19 restrictions—finding

ways to serve students with small, distanced classes, a focus on outdoor filming, and meeting with students online.

Recently, TSP has partnered with the Historic Downtown Snohomish Association (HSDA) and Green Snohomish to create videos about the Historic Snohomish District and the Snohomish Tree Tour. Through these community projects, TSP provides internship opportunities to students and filmmaking services to local organizations at the fraction of the cost of hiring a traditional production company. The TSP Digital Gym has also partnered with Youth Enrichment Services at



Denney Juvenile Justice Center to teach filmmaking to justice involved youth.

Future plans include opening a TSP Digital Gym in Everett to include students transitioning from incarceration and those experiencing homelessness. The goal of providing relevant technical training and mentorship to teens needing access and encouragement will continue to drive TSP plans and innovations. This work is only possible through the generous donations of supporters and grant makers.

To learn more about the Teen Storytellers Project Digital Gym and upcoming projects, please visit [www.rippleministries.org](http://www.rippleministries.org) or call 425-308-8931.



**Windermere**  
REAL ESTATE

## About Shar

Real Estate is my career and I take it very seriously.

I am a real estate professional with experience in all facets of the real estate market, from new home buyers to experienced investors.

Have you thought about flipping homes or purchasing investment properties as passive income?

Let's grab a cup of coffee and talk.

I work hard every day to make sure my clients are successful.

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### *It's a Good Life!*

Shar Qualley-Jonson,  
Managing Broker

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[SharSellsNW@gmail.com](mailto:SharSellsNW@gmail.com)  
**(425) 870-4390**



# Winter 2021 Special Events

## **January 18–30**

GroundFrog Day

Look for clues for Sleuthing for Slew,  
an interactive Scavenger Hunt  
January 23–30: online activities  
[www.snohomishchamber.org](http://www.snohomishchamber.org)

## **February 12**

Coffee with the Mayor  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

## **February 17**

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

## **February 24 | 6pm**

Averill Field Master Plan Town Hall  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

## **March 5–17**

Leprechaun Quest  
[historicdowntownsnohomish.org](http://historicdowntownsnohomish.org)

## **March 12**

Coffee with the Mayor  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

## **March 17**

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

## **March 18 | 6:30pm**

Snohomish 101:  
What is Economic Development?  
Presented by Economic Development and  
Communications Manager Wendy Poischbeg  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

## **March 24 | 6pm**

Averill Field Master Plan Town Hall  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

## **March 25 | 6:30pm**

Coffee with the Council with  
Tom Merrill & Larry Countryman  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

## **April 15 | 6:30pm**

Snohomish 101:  
Sustainable Garden Practices  
Presented by Green Snohomish  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

## **April 24–May 8**

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

## **May 20 | 6:30pm**

Snohomish 101:  
Wastewater Treatment  
[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

*Top: Engage Snohomish*

*Bottom: Charm Walk*



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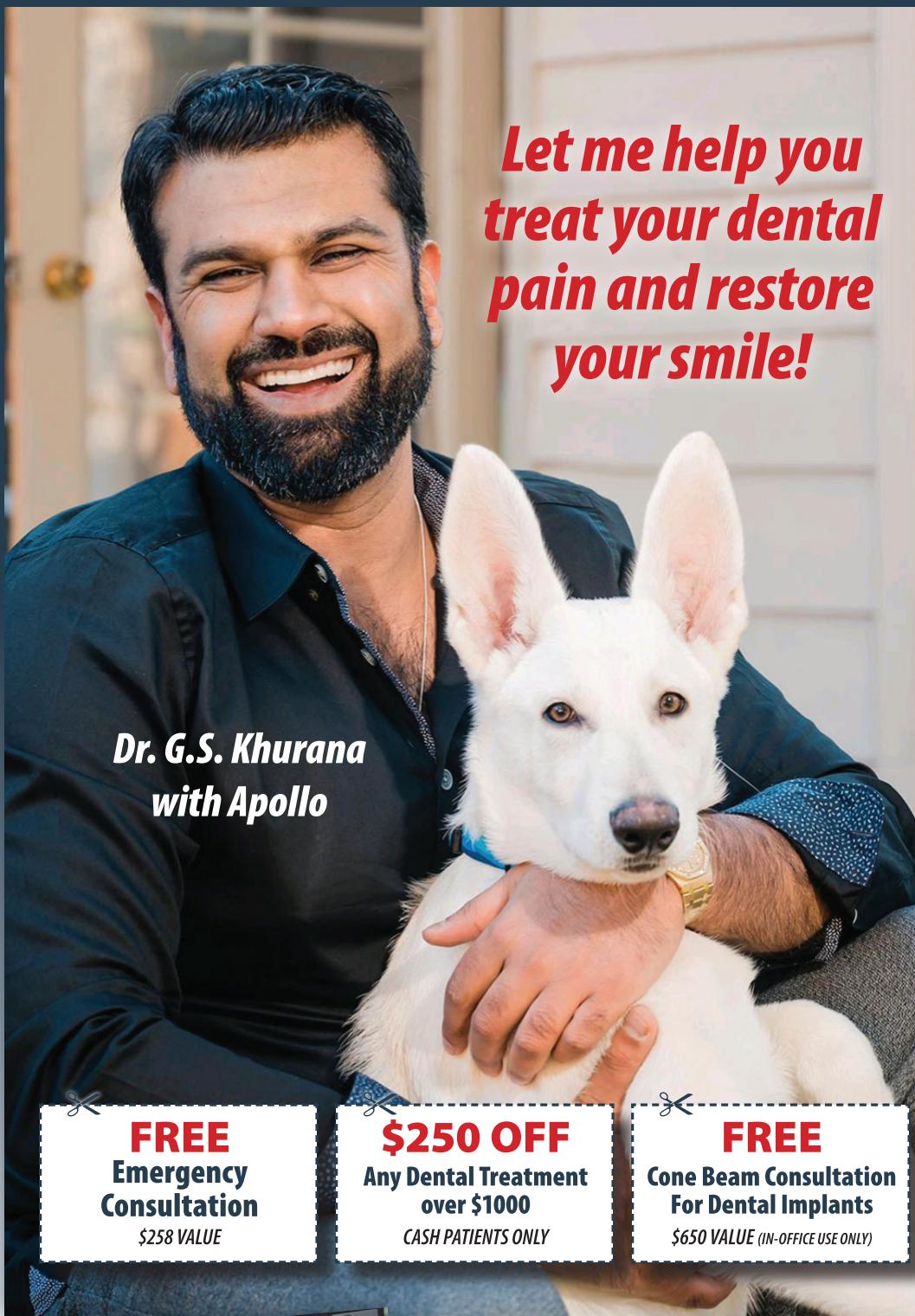


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