



Exceptional Connections at seventeen: Still connecting businesses, still giving back

Cyndi O'Neill-Dady's networking group celebrates its anniversary
Oct 13 with a Clothes For Kids fundraiser open to the whole community

By Mill Creek View Staff

Cyndi O'Neill-Dady never meant to start a networking group. Seventeen years ago she was a single mom who had just finished homeschooling her kids, making the rounds of chambers and luncheons and noticing how often she walked out without knowing the people she had been with. She wanted a room where nobody left a stranger.

That room became Exceptional Connections, founded August 11, 2009. On Tuesday, October 13, the group celebrates its 17th anniversary at Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse in Lynnwood, where it meets on the second Tuesday of every month. This year O'Neill-Dady has reserved a second banquet room so the party can double as the Clothes For Kids Make an Impact Fundraiser, and the whole community is invited.

A room where everyone is known

At an Exceptional Connections luncheon, everyone gets a turn. Every person stands up, every meeting, and says who they are, what they do, and who they help. Nobody slips out unknown.

"We all need to be seen, heard, and witnessed," O'Neill-Dady says. "You don't have to be perfect. You're just real. That's why I tell people you can't hide at Exceptional Connections, because we want to know what you do."

Newcomers can drop in with no pressure to join, and the ones who stay find garden parties, coffee dates, and friendships that outlast any referral.

"We're in business for ourselves, but we don't have to be by ourselves," she says. "We have the opportunity to not just be in competition with each other, but to collaborate and celebrate one another."

Her philosophy fits on one line: "Imagine viewing every chance encounter as a connection that could change the course of your life. I treat every relationship as sacred."

Rooms worth coming back to

Rachael Barclay had spoken in plenty of rooms as a hospitality executive. July's luncheon, where she was the spotlight

speaker, was her first time as the owner of something she built herself. In a blog post afterward titled, "The Rooms Worth Coming Back To," she described the nerves that come with that, and a room that met her with real questions, honest answers, and people who stayed to keep talking. She had never come across a group where everyone gives a commercial every meeting, and she could see what it had done for the people in the room.

We have felt the same thing. Seventeen years of care show in that room, built up one luncheon at a time, and you notice it before the first plate arrives.

Her post closed with a note to the founder: "Thank you for building something worth walking into." On October 13 she will be back as one of three panelists, with Molly Klipp and Laurie Thibert, for a discussion moderated by O'Neill-Dady on where artificial intelligence meets relational intelligence.

Mill Creek is well represented in the room

Mill Creek resident Marcelle Allen, the social media trainer behind Dreamosity and co-founder of LAF Tech, was named

the group's 2024 Champion of Engagement for attending more events than anyone else, and its 2025 Champion Community Builder for bringing the most guests.

Victoria Johnston, owner of Right at Home in-home care and assistance and a longtime Mill Creek View advertiser, is a Champion Connector and one of this year's anniversary swag sponsors. We are grateful for the support she gives this paper and this community.

Most of our staff have attended several Exceptional Connections events, and we will be in the room on October 13. We believe in what this group is doing, and we hope you will join us.

Clothes For Kids

Exceptional Connections has supported Clothes For Kids since 2015. "I didn't want to just create a networking group that was self-serving," O'Neill-Dady says. "Kids are near and dear to my heart."

Clothes For Kids is an independent Snohomish County nonprofit, transforming lives since 1984, led by Executive Director Cassie Morey from its store in Lynnwood. Any student in Snohomish County who qualifies for the free lunch

program can pick out a full wardrobe with their family, new socks and underwear included, at no cost.

"The beautiful thing," O'Neill-Dady says, "is they can shop without a cash register."

The group passes a cup at every meeting, runs sock, underwear, and coat drives, and sends volunteers to sort donations. "Every year there are more children, not less," she says. "It's not about the clothes. It's about how it makes the kids feel. Not being bullied, not being teased, having something new. It's for the kids and the families to know somebody cares."

More than clothes

Picture the first day of school through the eyes of a boy in a coat that was his brother's three winters ago, sleeves stopping short of his wrists, shoes worn smooth at the heel. He learns early to keep his arms at his sides and his feet under the desk. He hears the comments, or braces for them. Now picture the same boy walking in with jeans that fit, a shirt he picked out himself, and shoes nobody has worn before, and watch what happens to his shoulders.

"What does it do to those kids to be able to wear something that's stylish, something that's clean, something that's new, something that's cool?" O'Neill-Dady asks. The goal, she says, is for them

to show up as their best selves, with confidence. And it reaches past the child. "A family's budget too, especially if they have multiple kids."

"They're not alone in this," she says. "Somebody cares."

Why two rooms

Two years ago the fundraising goal was \$500. This year it is \$1,700, a hundred dollars for every year of Exceptional Connections, and at the September meeting 19 members raised their hands to pledge \$100 each in raffle tickets before the doors were even open to the public.

Hence the second room. "This is not something closed to the Exceptional Connections community," she says. "We're opening it up. Come join us. Come be a part of something bigger than yourself."

A room full of business owners, however generous, cannot keep pace with a need that grows every year, and that is why the doors are open to everyone this year: parents, neighbors, teachers, anyone who remembers what it felt like to want to fit in. You do not need to own a business. You need an afternoon and whatever a pair of socks or a winter coat is worth to you.

Local businesses donate gift baskets and certificates, guests buy raffle tickets, and every raffle dollar goes directly to Clothes For Kids. Everyone goes home with a swag bag. Look for this issue in yours.

She calls the day a conscious act of kindness. "It's been 17 years," she says, "and we're just getting started."

How to get involved

Join the celebration Tuesday, October 13 at Fogo de Chão, 18602 Alderwood Mall Pkwy., Ste 1110, in Lynnwood, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring cash or a check for raffle tickets.

To reserve a seat, donate a gift basket, gift certificate, or coaching session valued at \$50 or more, or become a swag sponsor, contact Cyndi O'Neill-Dady at 425-346-8895 or cyndi@exceptionalconnections.com.

Visit a regular meeting, second Tuesday of every month at Fogo de Chão in Lynnwood. Visit exceptionalconnections.com.

Give directly to Clothes For Kids at clothesforkids.org, drop off new socks and underwear or gently used clothing at 16725 52nd Ave. W, Ste B, Lynnwood, or volunteer. Call 425-741-6500. ■

Support our Special October 13th Clothes For Kids Make an Impact Fundraiser!

CLOTHES FOR KIDS
.....transforming lives.....

Join us in celebrating  **Exceptional Connections** 17th! Anniversary!

Purchase a Clothes For Kids raffle ticket to help us Make a Lasting Impact.
Every ticket is transformed into essentials that give children confidence, dignity & hope!

Choose Your Impact Level:

\$5 = 2 tickets — (a pair of socks) ~ \$10 = 5 tickets — (socks and underwear)
\$20 = 12 tickets — (a pair of shoes) ~ \$40 = 25 tickets — (a warm jacket)
\$60 = 40 tickets — (Three shirts & three pairs of pants) ~ \$80 = 60 tickets — (a winter coat)
\$100 = 100 tickets — A full wardrobe and our Best Value!

Our 17th Anniversary goal is to BLESS Clothes For Kids with \$1,700! Bring cash or check

ExceptionalConnections.com

POLICE BLOTTER

FRIDAY, JULY 31

- » **ELUDING**
Officers attempted a traffic stop on an e-bike and e-motorcycle each being operated by juveniles at 1:44 a.m. in the 14400 block of North Creek Dr. near **The Reserve Apts.** Both the e-bike and e-motorcycle eluded officers.
- » **TRESPASSING**
Officers responded at 7:47 a.m. to the 15500 block of Mill Creek Blvd. in the **Parkwood Apts.**, for trespassing. A woman was subsequently arrested.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

- » **ASSIST FIRE**
The Traffic Unit responded to an assist fire call in the 4300 block of 132nd St. A Mill Creek man, 22, was arrested and booked into the SnoCo Jail for Physical Control.
- » **ROBBERY**
Officers arrested a man, 27, for Robbery 1st at 6:53 a.m. in the 15400 block of Main St.
- » **DOMESTIC DISPUTE**
Officers responded at 1:03 p.m. to the 13300 block of 30th Dr. for a domestic dispute. A woman was arrested.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- » **K9 ASSIST**
The K9 Unit and Officers assisted the Everett PD with the arrest of a robbery suspect at 3:07 a.m. in the 800 block of Broadway.
- » **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE**
Officers responded at 10:22 a.m. to the 1200 block of Mill Creek Blvd. in the **Ardent Apts.**, for a domestic disturbance. A man was arrested.
- » **MALICIOUS MISCHIEF**
Officers responded to a report of malicious mischief at 7 p.m. in the 14500 block of North Creek Dr. in the **Reserve Apts.**

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

- » **DOMESTIC DISPUTE**
Officers responded to a domestic dispute at 12:19 a.m. in the 1200 block of Mill Creek Blvd. in the **Ardent Apts.**
- » **HEALTH CALL**
A man was booked in the SnoCo Jail when officers responded to a health-related call at 12:52 a.m. in the 13500 block of North Creek Dr. in the **Heatherwood Apts.**
- » **WELFARE CHECK**
Officers responded at 6:04 a.m. to the 1300 block of Mill Creek Blvd. in the **Ardent Apts.**, for a welfare check. One person was transported to Providence for an evaluation.
- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
A man was arrested for DWLS 2nd, at 12:26 p.m. in the 3000 block of Seattle Hill Rd.
- » **K9 ASSIST**
The K9 Unit assisted the Everett PD with a narcotics investigation at 5:06 p.m. at City Hall.
- » **THEFT**
A theft report was taken at 6:20 p.m. in the 4000 block of 133rd St. at **The Farm by Vintage Apts.**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

- » **PHYSICAL DOMESTIC**
Officers responded at 1:47 a.m. to the 15400 block

of 25th Dr. in **Woodfern**, for a reported physical domestic incident.

- » **MALICIOUS MISCHIEF**
Officers responded at 7:43 a.m., to a cold malicious mischief for five vehicles' windows smashed in the 14400 block of North Creek Dr. in **The Reserve Apts.**
- » **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
Officers responded at 10:39 a.m. to the 1300 block of Mill Creek Blvd. in **The Ardent Apts.**, for the report of substance abuse.
- » **VEHICLE PROWL**
Officers responded to a vehicle prowl at 10:46 a.m. in the 14500 block of North Creek Dr. in **The Reserve Apts.**
- » **FRAUD REPORT**
Officers took a fraud report at 12:17 p.m. in the 4100 block of 133rd St. at **The Vintage at Mill Creek Apts.**
- » **TRESPASSING**
Officers responded at 9:21 a.m. for trespassing in the 3200 block of 132nd St. A woman was arrested.
- » **DUI**
Officers responded at 10:03 p.m., to a collision in the 13200 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy. A woman, 39, was arrested for DUI.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
Officers contacted two people at 2:06 p.m. in the 13300 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy. A man was arrested and booked into Marysville Jail on his warrants.
- » **PHYSICAL DOMESTIC**
Officers responded at 1:51 p.m., to a physical domestic in the 1300 block of 136th St. During the investigation a girl, 15, resisted arrest but was later booked for Theft 2nd, DV Assault 4th, and resisting arrest.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
The Traffic Unit stopped a motor scooter for no license plate at 9:52 a.m. in the 100 block of 130th St. SE. A Lynnwood man, 42, was arrested and booked into SnoCo Jail for warrants. Numerous other felony and misdemeanor charges were filed.
- » **ELUDING**
An Officer attempted to stop a motorcycle at 11:39 p.m. in the 400 block of 128th St. SE. The motorcycle eluded the Officer.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

- » **VERBAL DOMESTIC**
responded to a verbal domestic at 1:03 p.m. in the 13500 block of North Creek Dr. in **The Heatherwood Apts.**
- » **WARRANT ARREST**
Officers arrested two men for their warrants at 2:22 p.m. in the 13300 block of 29th Dr.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

- » **PRIORITY COLLISION**
Officers responded at 2:46 a.m. near the 4900 block of 132nd St. for a priority collision notification involving two vehicles and an unconscious driver requiring immediate medical attention.
- » **FRAUD**
Officers took a fraud report at 4:01 p.m. in the 2000 block of Village Green Dr. in **Fairwood Greens.**

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
Officers arrested a man for his warrant at 5:01 p.m. in the 12900 block of 19th Ave. SE.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

- » **VEHICLE PROWL**
Officers took a report of a vehicle prowl at 11:17 a.m. in the 14500 block of North Creek Dr. in the **Reserve Apts.**
- » **VERBAL DOMESTIC**
Officers responded to a verbal domestic at 12:03 p.m. in the 13500 block of North Creek Dr. in the **Heatherwood Apts.**
- » **WARRANT ARREST**
A woman was arrested on her warrant at 2:57 p.m. in the 13300 block of 41st Ave.
- » **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
A man was arrested when Officers responded to a domestic violence call at 3:43 p.m. in the 13400 block of Dumas Rd.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
The Traffic Unit stopped a vehicle for a seatbelt violation at 12:33 p.m. in the 2100 block of 132nd St. An Everett man, 34, was cited and released for DWLS 3rd.

- » **TRESPASSING**
Officers trespassed a woman, 76, for refusing to leave a business at 2:22 p.m. in the 16300 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy.

- » **DISTURBANCE**
A report was created for a disturbance reported at 2:26 p.m. in the 14400 block of North Creek Dr. in **The Reserve Apts.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

- » **MULTIPLE CHARGES**
Officers conducted a traffic stop at 12:57 a.m. near the 13500 block of North Creek Dr. near the **Heatherwood Apts.** A man, 32, was arrested and booked into the SnoCo Jail on multiple charges.

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
A man was arrested at 7:05 a.m. in the 1100 block of Mill Creek Blvd. for DWLS 2nd.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
Officers contacted a man at 3:12 a.m. in the 700 block of 112th St. SE. He was arrested and booked into SnoCo Jail on his warrant.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
Officers conducted a traffic stop at 1:39 a.m. in the 13200 block of Dumas Rd. The driver was issued a criminal citation.

- » **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE**
Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at 7:15 p.m. near the 3800 block of 135th St. in **Creekside Place.**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

- » **BURGLARY IN PROGRESS**
Officers responded to a residential burglary in progress at 3:32 a.m. in the 15800 30th Dr. in **The Highlands.**

- » **ASSIST EVERETT PD**
Officers assisted the Everett PD with a priority order violation at 12:33 p.m. in the 12900 block of 19th Ave. SE.

- » **ASSIST EVERETT PD**
Officers assisted the Everett PD with the arrest of a subject for DV Assault 4th at 3:54 p.m. in the 13300 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy.

- » **DOMESTIC ASSAULT**
Officers responded to a domestic assault at 8:58 p.m. near the 16100 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy. in **The Auguston Condominiums.**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- » **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE**
A report was taken for a domestic disturbance at 11:08 a.m. in the 13500 block of North Creek Dr. in **The Heatherwood Apts.**
- » **FELONY WARRANT**
Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle after seeing it at 8:09 p.m. near the 1600 block of 132nd St. The driver had an active felony warrant and was booked into SnoCo Jail.

- » **DETAINED FOR WARRANT**
Officers contacted a man who was wanted by Lynnwood PD at 10:01 p.m. near the 16300 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy. One adult man was detained and later arrested by Lynnwood PD.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
Officers conducted a traffic stop at 1:44 a.m. near the 1600 block of 164th St. SW. A man was booked into SnoCo Jail on traffic related offenses.
- » **TRESPASSING**
Officers trespassed two people at 10:23 a.m. in the 17200 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy.

- » **VEHICLE PROWL**
Responded to a report of a vehicle prowl at 12:42 p.m. in the 2100 block of 139th Pl. in **Heatherwood Lane.**
- » **PRIORITY COLLISION**
Officers responded to a priority collision at 6:36 p.m. at the intersection of 132nd St. and 21st Dr. A man, 24, was arrested.

- » **K9 ASSIST**
The K9 Unit assisted the Mukilteo PD with a narcotics investigation.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

- » **FELONY WARRANT**
Officers arrested a man for his felony warrant at 3:50 p.m. in the 3300 block of 132nd St.

- » **TRESPASSING**
Officers responded to the 1100 block of Mill Creek Blvd. for a reported trespass incident related to an unknown man being found sleeping inside of a resident's bedroom in the **Laurels Apts.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

- » **DUI**
Officers contacted a man at 2:53 a.m. the 13300 block of 44th Ave. for DUI. He was arrested and booked into SnoCo Jail.

- » **ELUDING**
The Traffic Unit attempted to stop a motorcycle for a helmet and license violation at 3:09 p.m. in the 2400 block of 132nd St. The motorcycle fled northbound on 19th Ave. SE.

- » **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE**
Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at 10:55 p.m. located near the 1700 block of 132nd St.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
Officers conducted a traffic stop at 12:00 a.m. near 164th St. SW and Meridian Ave. S. The driver was arrested and booked into SnoCo Jail.

- » **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE**
A domestic disturbance was reported at 10:51 a.m. in the 1300 block of 136th St.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
A man was arrested for his warrant at 11:47 a.m. in the 15200 block of the Bothell-Everett Hwy.
- » **THEFT**
A theft report was taken at 12:28 p.m. in the 3300 block of 141st St. in **Northpointe.**

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
A man was arrested for his warrant at 3:53 p.m. in the 1400 block of 132nd St.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
A man was arrested for his warrant at 10:18 a.m. in the 1900 block of 132nd St.
- » **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE**
A domestic disturbance was reported at 11:15 a.m. in the 1100 block of Mill Creek Blvd. in the **Laurels Apts.**
- » **ARREST**
A man was arrested for several crimes at 12:05 p.m. in the 13100 block of 19th Ave. SE.
- » **ASSAULT**
Officers responded at 12:56 p.m. to the 13200 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy. for the report of an assault.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- » **ROBBERY**
Officers responded to reports of a robbery at 1:50 p.m. in the 13300 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy. One juvenile male is in custody.

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
Officers conducted a traffic stop at 9:58 p.m. at the intersection of 116th St. and 35th Ave. The driver was arrested and booked into the SnoCo Jail.

- » **K9 ASSIST**
The K9 Unit assisted the Lynnwood PD with an assault at 11:04 p.m. in the 19900 block of 44th Ave W.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- » **FELONY WARRANT**
Officers contacted an individual at 2:49 a.m. in the 13000 block of 19th Ave. SE. He was arrested and booked into SnoCo Jail on his Felony Warrant along with other local charges.

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
The Traffic Unit stopped a vehicle at 8:42 a.m. in the 13200 block of 35th Ave. for a cell phone violation. A Newcastle man, 32, was arrested and booked into the SnoCo Jail for DWLS 2nd.

- » **THEFT**
A theft was reported at 2:25 p.m. in the 1100 block of Mill Creek Blvd.

- » **THEFT IN PROGRESS**
Officers responded to a theft in progress at 4:48 p.m. in the 15600 block of Main St.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- » **K9 ASSIST**
The K9 Unit assisted the SnoCo Sheriff's Office at 12:32 a.m. with a stolen vehicle recovery.

- » **THEFT**
A report was taken of a theft at 10:35 a.m. in the 1200 block of Mill Creek Blvd. in the **Ardent Apts.**

- » **MALICIOUS MISCHIEF**
An Officer took a malicious mischief report at 11:52 a.m. in the 2500 block of 136th St.

- » **TRESPASSING**
A woman was trespassed from Town & Country Market for shoplifting at 2:39 p.m. in the 15600 block of Main St.

- » **STOLEN E-BIKE**
Officers took a theft report at 4:22 p.m., of a stolen e-bike from the Thomas Lake Safeway Shopping Center.

- » **ASSAULT**
Officers responded a reported assault at 6:34 p.m. in the 1500 block of 136th St. at **Jackson HS.**

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
A warrant suspect was arrested at 10:35 p.m. in the intersection of Mill Creek Blvd. and Bothell-Everett Hwy.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
Officers conducted a traffic stop near the 1000 block of 164th St. One adult male was arrested for DUI and booked into SnoCo Jail.

- » **THEFTS:**
4 thefts were reported after 2 p.m. in the area of the 2000 block of 132nd St. A subject was identified and the investigation is ongoing.

- » **VEHICLE PROWL**
A vehicle prowl was reported at 10:40 p.m. in the 15400 block of Country Club Dr.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

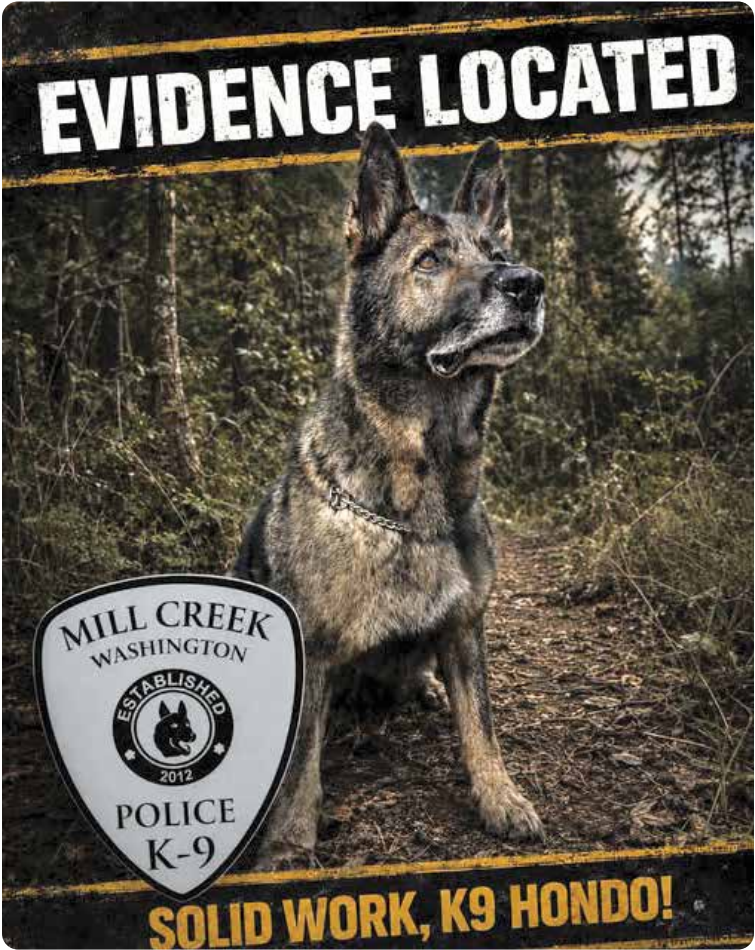
- » **WARRANT ARREST**
Officers contacted a man at 2:55 a.m. in the intersection of 116th St. SE and 19th Ave. SE. He was arrested and booked into SnoCo Jail on his warrants and local charges.

- » **WARRANT ARREST**
A woman was arrest for a warrant off of a traffic stop for running a stop sign on 153rd St. and Main St.

- » **TRESPASSING**
Officers assisted in trespassing three adults at 10:58 a.m., from a structure in the 13500 block of North Creek Dr. in **The Heatherwood Apts.**

- » **VERBAL DOMESTIC**
A verbal domestic was reported at 3:39 p.m. in the 13900 block of 135th St.

- » **TRAFFIC STOP**
Officers responded at 10:12 p.m. to the 16100 block of Bothell-Everett Hwy., for a traffic stop that initially involved an expired registration violation, which resulted in an arrest and booking into the SnoCo Jail for DWLS 2nd. ■



Hondo finds the evidence

By Mill Creek Police Department

After a robbery in Mill Creek, K9 Hondo was deployed along the North Creek Trail to search for property discarded by the suspects.

While working the trail, Hondo suddenly turned into a heavily wooded area and pushed through thick brush and thorny vegetation. His nose led officers

directly to the victim's stolen property, hidden well off the trail.

Another great example of what these dogs can do when their nose goes to work! ■

Hondo is on Instagram

@k9_hondo

Hondo gets his man

By Mill Creek Police Department

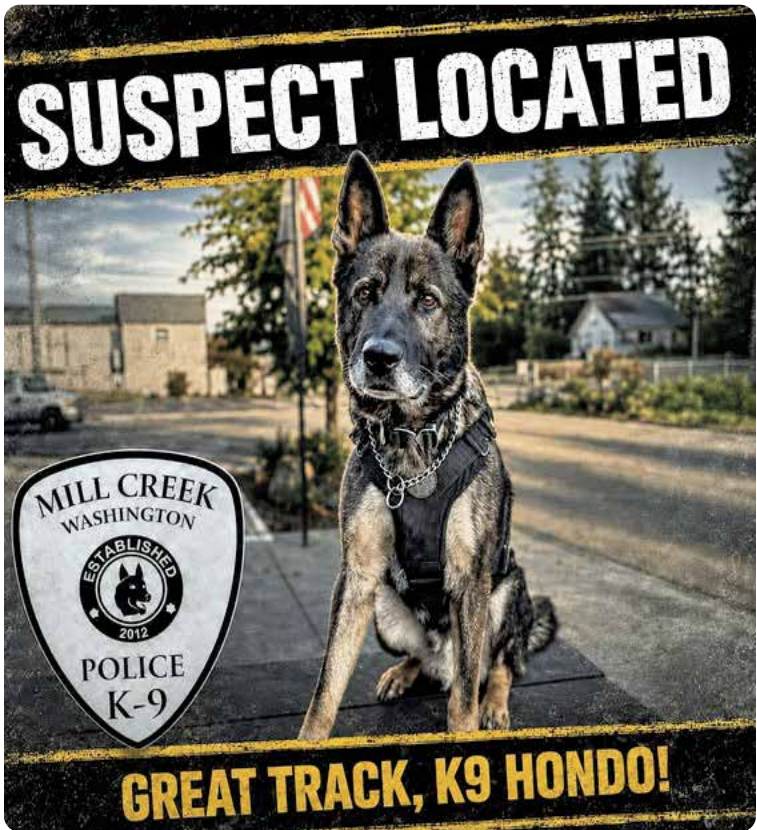
During the early-morning hours of August 24, 2026, a wanted man fled from an officer. Hondo tracked him through a commercial area and dense greenbelt before leading officers to several large containers. Hondo then displayed specific behavior indicating to his handler, Officer Lerma, that the containers needed to be checked.

Officers checked one and found the suspect hiding inside with his dog. The suspect surrendered and was safely taken into custody.

That hiding spot likely would not have been checked without Hondo.

Drones and other technology are valuable, but they cannot see through solid containers. Hondo's nose provided information no camera could and led officers directly to the suspect.

Great job Hondo! ■



Around the town By Pam Pruitt

Upcoming elections
Ballots will be mailed out a week early this year to give voters more time to return them.
The Post Office no longer says it will postmark your ballot or anything else, the same day it is mailed. Like 20,000 Washington State voters learned in the August primary election, their ballots weren't counted because of the postmark.
Best bet are the local drop boxes. There is one located at the Mill Creek Post Office and another at McCollum Park. Your vote is your voice to elected officials. Vote!

Attention, please
Many may have learned that the Huckleberry subdivision in the Mill

Creek Community Association, has lost its heavily used play area. MCCA removed it. The play equipment has been replaced with five boulders for "for imaginative play and exploration." A small porch swing will be added.
Some residents told me they purchased their homes to be near the play area. I heard a survey that went out didn't mention Huckleberry so they didn't know their park was in danger. No one is happy about the loss.
This is a good opportunity to discuss paying attention. If there was a survey, it would have taken 30 seconds to look at it.
Every month, MCCA sends out a very informative newsletter. Again, a quick scan might have alerted residents to the

upcoming loss.
I know many people are stressed and busy with work and family so that a little prevention seems like it can be put off. It can't always wait.
This is a loss for Huckleberry residents. It's going to happen again to another subdivision. We don't know which one but read the MillStream. By the time it happens the third time, and it will, we will be told, "That's the way it's always been done." Or, "That was decided a long time ago so no changes to the policy now."
What would I have done differently? If I didn't see a big response from the people most impacted, I would have gone door-to-door and let people know. At the very least, send each household another letter or email. But that doesn't always happen when the people making the de-

cisions know they will be unpopular.
This also requires attention by the residents. Loss of a neighborhood park will happen again.
Pretty much everyone lives in an HOA our city even if it's not MCCA. A little attention is necessary by all of us.

Volunteer opportunities
The City is looking for volunteers for its Arts & Beautification and Park Boards. These committees meet once a month and advise the City Council. It's not a major time commitment and can make an important difference in our community. Please consider it. ■

Kindness quote
"Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. The

brave may not live forever but the cautious do not live at all. From now on, you will be traveling the road between "who you think you are" and "who you can be." The key is to allow yourself to make the journey."
Advice from the Princess Diaries by Disney



Pam PRUITT
Former Mill Creek Mayor, councilmember and community supporter who has lived in the Mill Creek community for 44 years. Pam has been a contributor to the Mill Creek View for over 20 years.

Around the county By Nate Nehring
Snohomish County Councilmember

The Snohomish County Council recently voted to impose two significant tax and fee increases, including a 0.1% countywide sales tax increase and a \$20 annual increase in car tab fees for unincorporated Snohomish County. I voted "no" on both.
I recognize that Snohomish County faces significant budget challenges. We have growing demands on public safety, roads, and other essential county services. Revenues are not keeping pace with the increasing cost of providing these services. Yet at the same time, the County continues to spend taxpayer dollars on services that are not essential core functions of county government.
I remain convinced that raising taxes should not be our first response to budget challenges. The County has not yet taken a meaningful look at the budget

to identify reductions in non-essential spending. Instead, the Council has been presented with marginal, "across-the-board" cuts spread equally to each department. This avoids the difficult work of identifying priorities and funding those priorities first while reducing or eliminating unnecessary expenses.
For families and businesses throughout Snohomish County,

the principle is straightforward: when expenses exceed income, you take a hard look at your expenses before asking someone else for more money. County government should hold itself to the same standard.
The sales tax increase is simply an effort to plug a general fund budget deficit with \$24 million in additional annual tax revenue without seeking voter approval. The \$20 car tab fee will generate approx-

imately \$6 million annually in dedicated revenue for the Roads Fund. These are substantial new revenues paid by taxpayers who are already feeling the strain of increasing costs.
I have consistently said that the county should give voters a say in significant new taxes and fees. While state law has been recently changed to allow the Council to impose these tax and fee increases without going to the voters, that does not mean it is the right thing to do. In 2024, voters were asked by the County to approve a public safety sales tax proposal on the ballot, and it was overwhelmingly rejected by a double-digit margin. I believe it is inappropriate for the Council to sidestep voters by implementing a very similar sales tax increase which undermines the will expressed by the public at the ballot box.
While I was not able to convince my colleagues to reject these tax and fee increases, I remain steadfast in my com-

mitment to fiscal responsibility in Snohomish County. As we enter budget season, I will be diligent in scrutinizing the county budget and identifying potential spending reductions so that we do not find ourselves in a similar budget deficit down the road.
The tax votes are behind us. The hard work of fixing the county's financial situation is not. I will stay engaged, ask tough questions, and continue pushing for a county government that lives within its means and respects the will of voters and taxpayers. ■



Nate NEHRING
SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER
Councilmember Nate Nehring serves as the Chair of the Snohomish County Council and is a lifelong resident of Snohomish County. He and his wife currently live in Arlington, where they are raising their four children. Councilmember Nehring can be reached by email at nate.nehring@snoco.org



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Mill Creek View

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Pets saved in Northpointe Fire

By **Christie Velley**
Public Information Officer
South County Fire

A dog, cat and rabbit were rescued from a house fire near Exploration Park in Mill Creek on Aug. 31, while two pet birds died in the blaze.

No one was home when a passerby noticed gray smoke coming from the residence and called 911 shortly before 1:15 p.m. Fire crews arrived within minutes and coordinated ventilation, search and suppression efforts, bringing the fire under control in about 20 minutes.

No people were injured. One resident

was displaced by the fire and received assistance with immediate needs from **Support 7** and the **American Red Cross Northwest Region**.

The **Everett Fire Department** also assisted with the response.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. ■



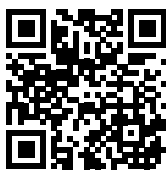
Support 7 serves South Snohomish County by providing on-scene support to people facing fires, sudden loss and other tragedies.

support7.org



American Red Cross serves communities by providing support to people facing fires, disasters, sudden loss and other tragedies.

redcross.org



New firefighters begin training

By **Calla Blawusch**
Public Information Officer
South County Fire

Looking strong! Meet your newest South County Fire recruits.

Wish them luck as they begin 14 weeks of rigorous training at the Snohomish County Fire Training Academy.

The Academy is required for all South County Fire hires, whether they are new to the fire service or transferring from

another department. It's an important step in making sure every firefighter is prepared to meet our standards and serve our community.

We are excited to have these folks with us and we're rooting for their success! ■

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When politicians say one thing & do something else

By Mark Harmsworth

While Washington's Legislature repeatedly claims it prioritizes "affordable housing," the Department of Health's October 2025 Economic Impact Analysis Fee Adjustment Report reveals a different reality. The agency is jacking up fees across environmental health programs, many of which fall squarely on the operators of mobile home parks, manufactured housing communities, and temporary worker housing that provide some of the state's most affordable places to live.

Consider the temporary worker housing fees under the Washington Administrative Code, WAC 246-358-990. The administrative processing fee jumps from \$50 to \$170. The per-occupant charge at maximum annual occupancy goes from \$4 to \$14, a 250 percent increase. The minimum operating license fee climbs

from \$90 to \$310. Late fees more than triple. These are the very facilities that house seasonal agricultural workers and, in many cases, overlap with lower-cost mobile and modular housing options.

Even more punishing are wastewater and on-site sewage system fee increases. Mobile parks frequently rely on large on-site sewage systems (LOSS) because municipal sewers are unavailable. The operator permit base fee rises from \$608 to \$1,414 in 2026 and then to \$2,219 in 2027. The per-gallon design flow fee more than doubles and then nearly quadruples. New or modification project reviews jump from \$848 to \$3,095. Site inspections for enforcement leap from \$1,000 to \$3,650. Final inspections go

from \$500 to \$1,825. Proprietary product registrations and tank approvals see similar three- to four-fold increases.

Transient accommodations fees (WAC 246-360-990) see more modest but still noticeable hikes, roughly 16 percent across lodging unit categories, adding yet another layer for parks offering short-term stays.

These are not isolated tweaks. The Department acknowledges that General Fund-State subsidies are being reduced, cost-of-living adjustments from the 2025-2027 budget (ESSB 5167) are driving personnel costs up 3 percent annually, and current fees no longer cover program expenses. The solution? Pass the entire shortfall onto the regulated community through steep fee increases.

The hypocrisy is glaring. Lawmakers pass housing bills, expand tenant protections, and lecture the private sector about affordability while the same government raises the cost of operating the housing that low- and moderate-income families, seniors, and farmworkers actually use. Mobile home parks, for some, are one of the last remaining sources of genuinely attainable housing in high-cost Washington. Every dollar of additional regulatory cost is ultimately borne by residents through higher rents or by operators who may simply exit the market, further constricting supply.

Instead of reflexive fee hikes, the Department and Legislature should first demonstrate aggressive efficiency re-

forms, technology improvements, and prioritization of high-risk activities. Until then, these increases amount to an affordability tax on the very housing stock politicians claim to champion. ■



Mark HARMSWORTH

Mark was elected to the Washington House of Representatives in 2014. He previously served as a city councilmember in Mill Creek from 2007 to 2014. He served as mayor before leaving City Council.

To stage or not to stage, that is the question

By Louis Torres
The Rock-n-Roll Realtor

The answer is YES. But if it were that obvious, I wouldn't have to give compelling facts to hold your interest in this story. Staging a home is the process of preparing a home or condo for sale before it hits the market as a listing. Staging is an all-encompassing house overhaul process which includes decluttering, depersonalizing, painting, neutral design, completing minor repairs, landscaping and cleaning the entire home.

It is more than just cool decorations and furniture that fits to scale. The goal of staging a home is to create a clean, warm and welcoming ambience while appealing to the largest pool of potential buyers. It magnifies the home's best features and qualities without the distractions of a seller's personal property. You might think it should be easy for a potential buyer to see past your personal belongings to be able to visualize themselves being able to call it their home, but many are just not able to get there. The goal of staging is to create move-in ready appeal, help buyers visualize themselves in your house or to see that it could be their home.

Here are five important staging facts from the National Association of Real-



tors Profile of Staging report:

1. Thirty percent of seller's agents say staging decreases a property's time on the market.
2. Twenty percent of buyer's and seller's agents say staging increases the dollar value of offers by 1% to 10% compared to similar homes that aren't staged.
3. Eighty-three percent of buyer's agents say staging a home makes it easier for clients to visualize themselves living in a property.
4. Forty-eight percent of respondents reported that home buyers expected homes to look like they were staged on TV shows, and 58% said that buyers were disappointed by how homes looked compared to those portrayed on TV shows.
5. Agents say the most important rooms to stage are the living room, primary bedroom, dining room and kitchen. For home buyers, 37% said staging the living room was considered the most important; followed closely by the primary bedroom at 34%, and the kitchen at 23%. In contrast, staging the guest bedroom ranked the least important at 7%.

There are many types and layers to staging, there are full-service home staging, partial home staging, live-in staging, DIY staging, virtual home staging and no home staging. The prices will vary for each individual and specific service, and some may find its cost or timeline prohibitive.

It's best to discuss your staging and listing strategy with your knowledgeable and experienced real estate agent to determine the best direction for you and your home. ■



Louis TORRES

THE ROCK-N-ROLL REALTOR

I am Louis Torres, the Rock-n-Roll Realtor with ReMax NW. I have lived and sold real estate in Mill Creek for over 20 years. If you have any real estate questions or comments email me at louis@rock-n-rollrealtor.com, call 206-605-2882, or visit my website at rock-n-rollrealtor.com.



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Terry's Perspective

By Terry Ryan
Director of Aerospace Economic Development
Snohomish County

Mill Creek annexations?
I hope everyone read the *Mill Creek View* "Council points annexation south" front page story last month. That story was very well written. It brought back memories of my years of serving on our Mill Creek City Council. Here are some thoughts:

- Every few years Mill Creek City staff and Council look for more revenue and explore (chase) annexations to "fix the structural deficit" in their budget.
- We rarely hear the same exuberance in any "Cost Containment" of City expenses.
- Most housing does not generate enough income to support the services they receive (some exceptions would be Medina and Woodway).
- Commercial and Retail Businesses generate more income than the services they receive.

I learned a lot about government budgets while serving on the Mill Creek City Council and Snohomish County Council for well over two decades.

Recently the Mill Creek City Council was apparently interested in annexing westward from Mill Creek up 164th St. to include "all the houses around Martha Lake."

If the City pursued that annexation, there are serious financial obligations that would go with it. One big example of that

is 164th St. will have to eventually expand from five lanes to seven lanes from Bothell-Everett Hwy. (SR 527) and I-5.

The SnoCo Public Works estimate of that widening project was well over \$100,000,000 dollars (and that was in 2014 or 2015 dollars). The cost for that project now would be over \$200,000,000.

As you can see, the annexation to get more tax revenue from the houses around Martha Lake would never pay for itself.

Now, the Mill Creek City Council is looking to annex South. Part of that financial analysis must include the infrastructure costs. About 30 years ago, we discovered the storm water pipes in unincorporated Snohomish County were built to a lower standard than the City of Mill Creek's standard. There was

some flooding in a neighborhood south of Mill Creek, with water backing up into one of our parks. The cost to fix that one small problem was about \$800,000 (and that was about 30 years ago). Imagine the costs of replacing all that aging infrastructure in an annexation with the same lower standard storm water pipes that are 30 years older now.

Support high school sports!
High School Fall sports are up and running this week! Boys and Girls Cross Country, Girls Soccer, Football, Girls Swim & Dive, Volleyball and Boys Tennis.

Some of these sports charge a nominal fee to attend the games. The student athletes deeply appreciate the fans that come to their games/events. It builds strong community pride, and an investment in our future employees and leaders.

Access your high school events on each high school's home page or visit wescoathletics.com to see all the games/matches, times and locations.

It's always fun to watch our youth in competitive games. These athletes learn about teamwork, sportsmanship, decision making, time management and the value of a hard work ethic. They have fun while learning valuable life lessons. So, let's support them!

Drive safely
School is back in session. Please be extra cautious driving through school zones. ■



Terry RYAN
Terry is the Aerospace Economic Development Director for Snohomish County. He previously served as President of the PSRC Economic Development Board. Terry also served as a Snohomish County Councilman 2014-2019., and on the Mill Creek City Council for 17+ years including four terms as Mayor.



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Before Main Street, I flew robots on the bottom of the sea

By Maria Goodell
Founder of Celluvia Wellness Lounge

People are often surprised when I tell them what I did before starting Celluvia. I was an ROV pilot. That stands for remotely operated vehicle, an underwater robot the size of a small car that I flew from a chair on the deck of a ship, far above it.

Most of my work was in the oil industry, on big ships far from land. We placed and recovered nodes on the seafloor, heavy devices that ping and build a map of the ocean bottom. The ship worked around the clock, so I worked twelve hours a day, six hours at a time in the pilot's chair, then a break, then back again. Flying an ROV is like driving a car in the

dark for six hours. You learn patience. You learn to breathe.

The job I will never forget was off Sicily. I was working for an American team searching for shipwrecks from a sea battle fought more than two thousand years ago, when ships still rammed each other bow to bow. We were looking for those rams, and for anything else the sea might give back.

One day I saw a handle sticking out of the sand.

I brought the ROV closer. The handle belonged to something large, almost as tall as I am, buried and heavy, a clay vessel from the ancient world. For the next hour I worked it loose, back and forth, a little at a time, terrified I would snap the

handle and lose it. My heart was in my throat the whole time. Excitement, fear, and the need to be very, very careful, all at once. When it finally came free, I flew it up to the basket, and later I stood beside it for a photograph. That picture is still one of my favorites.

I think about that hour often, because it is exactly what I do now.

Something precious is buried under a lot of weight. Stress, tiredness, years of not taking care of ourselves. You cannot yank it loose. You work at it gently, a little at a time, with patience and care, and you let it rise.

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tle. Every one of them asks you to slow down. Every one of them is a way to let your body come back to the surface.

The ship taught me something else, too. Twelve-hour days, a chair, a screen, salt air and stress. Your body is like a machine. If you never change the oil, it stops. I learned that the hard way. Now I help people do the maintenance before the breakdown.

Come see me on Main Street. I will show you around, and if you ask nicely, I will show you the picture of the Am-

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FOUNDER OF
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Mill Creek Council approves plan for future South Town Center

By City of Mill Creek

Council approved a master plan, zoning changes, and design standards for South Town Center, creating a clear path for long-term redevelopment of the area immediately south of the City’s existing Town Center.

The plan lays the groundwork for a walkable neighborhood with homes, shops, restaurants, services, offices, and public gathering spaces. It builds on the success of Mill Creek Town Center while making room for the community’s future housing and employment needs.

The City’s 2024 Comprehensive Plan identified South Town Center as one of Mill Creek’s key opportunities for future growth. The new South Town Center Master Plan establishes a framework that could support more than 5,000 new homes and more than 1,000 jobs through 2044.

“This is a really exciting step for Mill Creek,” said Mayor Stephanie Vignal.

“South Town Center gives us a chance to build on what people already enjoy about our Town Center and make room for more neighbors, more local businesses, and more places to gather. It will take time, but this plan implements the feedback we received from residents and gives us a thoughtful path forward as our community grows.”

The City’s action does not approve a specific development project. Instead, it establishes the land-use rules, building standards, and design expectations that will guide future proposals as property owners and developers invest in the area.

Buildings in the entire Town Center district, including Main Street and Mill Creek Boulevard, can currently be up to 60 feet tall. Projects in South Town Center that provide qualifying public benefits, including active ground floor uses, larger homes for families, or homeowner-ship opportunities, may be eligible for up to 25 additional feet through the City’s development incentive program.

The plan focuses redevelopment along Mill Creek Boulevard and Main Street, which are designated as active commercial corridors. Along those streets, at least 70 percent of the occupied ground-floor frontage must be for commercial uses that serve customers and visitors. The goal is to create active sidewalks, support local businesses, and make it easier for people to walk between homes, shops, and services.

The City’s economic analysis also points to continued demand for housing in the area. As of mid-2025, no new multifamily housing had been completed or was under construction in the study area. At the same time, newer multifamily properties were operating at 97.8 percent occupancy.

“This gives us a clear path forward for South Town Center,” said Planning Director Jeff Ryan. “The neighborhood will grow over time, and our next job is to

work with businesses, property owners, and the development community on the infrastructure and partnerships needed to help this happen.”

The City will now continue infrastructure planning and coordination with the community to support redevelopment over time.

For more information on the South Town Center project, visit millcreekwa.gov/stc.



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City of Mill Creek Invites Community to Participate in Veterans Day Parade

By City of Mill Creek

The City of Mill Creek is now accepting applications for our annual Veterans Day Parade, taking place on Wednesday, November 11. This year's event will be especially meaningful as our nation commemorates America's 250th Anniversary, and we're inviting the entire community to help make this celebration our most memorable yet.

Each November, Mill Creek comes together to honor the courage, sacrifice, and service of United States veterans. As we prepare for this milestone year, we're looking forward to filling Main Street with even more energy, creativity, and community pride. Whether you've participated in the past or you're joining us for the first time, we'd be honored to have you take part.

Previous parade entries have included classic car groups with veteran riders, dance teams, marching bands, military vehicles, local businesses, schools, volunteer organizations, and more. No matter if your idea is big, small, traditional, or brand-new, we welcome your participation and creativity.

Applications are open September 1 through October 30. Event details and application forms are available at millcreekwa.gov/veteransday. While applying does not guarantee placement, it is required for consideration.

We're also seeking volunteers to help bring this beloved community event to life. From supporting parade operations to assisting with day-of logistics, volunteers play a vital role in creating a safe, welcoming, and meaningful celebration for our veterans. If you're interested in volunteering, information and sign-up opportunities are available at millcreekwa.gov/volunteer.

Let's come together as a community to salute our veterans and celebrate America's 250th. We can't wait to welcome you to this year's parade! ■

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Bear spotted in Mill Creek

By Hilary Bubltz

The MCCA office has received several reports about bear activity in our area. Here is a picture a Winslow resident captured of the bear in his backyard. Several residents from Winslow to Evergreen have reported that the bear has gotten into their bird feeders, bird seed storage containers, and garbage.

To keep everyone safe, we encourage our residents to remove all bird feeders and store them in your garage for now.

All bins of food should also be stored in your garage.

To avoid having the bear make a mess of your garbage, consider waiting until morning to put out the trash.

This bear is looking for an easy meal and will stay here if he finds easy sources of food. For everyone's safety, please keep all possible food sources safely inside and out of the bear's reach. For more information on living with wildlife, including bears, visit the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

Snohomish County Council takes revenue votes

By Cassie Fannin
Director of Communications
Snohomish County

The Snohomish County Council held a public hearing to consider several ordinances, two of which raise revenue for the county.

Amended Ordinance 26-030, which adds a new section to Snohomish County Code under Title 4 implementing a 1/10th of one percent sales and use tax, also referred to as the Justice Fund, passed by a 3-2 vote. The amendment, which passed with the underlying ordinance, ensures transparency around the revenue generated and the use of these funds.

Council Chair Megan Dunn said, "This vote did not happen on its own. Councilmembers spent weeks working closely with the Executive's Office, our law and justice partners, labor, and community stakeholders to build support for this proposal, address concerns, and make clear what was at stake if we failed to act.

We heard directly from our justice partners that they are already operating with fewer staff while serving a much larger county, and that deeper cuts could mean furloughing deputies and corrections officers, eliminating prosecution units, and delaying justice." Chair Dunn added, "I am proud that we were able to secure bipartisan support needed to prevent those impacts and protect the public safety system our communities rely on. At a time when the easy political choice would have been to do nothing, the Council made the responsible choice today to maintain essential public safety services and to protect and serve residents facing the hardest moments of their lives."

"Public safety is the core mission of county government, and by voting to help fund safe roads as well as critical investments in our justice system, I am committed to that mission. I am proud to stand with our county staff, Sheriff Johnson, County Prosecutor Cummings, Executive Somers, and our courts to deliver on the services Snohomish County

residents deserve," added Councilmember Strom Peterson.

The council also took action on Ordinance 26-009, which amends Snohomish County Code Section 2.85, relating to the Snohomish County Transportation Benefit District, passing by a 3-2 vote.

Regarding the passage of Ordinance 26-009, Council Chair Megan Dunn said, "Let me be clear: I do not take adding a cost for residents lightly, especially at a time when families are already feeling stretched. But the reality is that doing nothing is not free. The cost of maintaining our roads, bridges, and traffic signals has risen dramatically while traditional transportation revenues have not kept pace. Public Works has already made significant reductions, and continuing to defer basic maintenance will only lead to more costly repairs in the future." Chair Dunn added, "This \$20 annual fee for unincorporated residents provides a dedicated local resource to protect our transportation infrastructure, helps us leverage and keep already secured state and federal transportation dollars, and ensures we can continue maintaining the roads our residents rely on every day."

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Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.

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For more information or to register, email: volunteer@millcreekwa.gov.

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6 PM - 9 PM

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Barb & Pam do lunch

By Pam Pruitt

This month, we ate lunch at two places I have driven by for years and never tried. Now, I'm really glad we did. *Let's eat!*



Sushi Spott

1700 132nd St. - Mill Creek
425-338-4553
sushispott.com

Sushi Spott is located on 132nd St. just before the Diamond Car Wash. Look for the entrance on the right into the parking lot. If you blink, you might miss it.

We went on a quiet Saturday afternoon. When writer's block is the problem, our answer is lunch with another writer.

Barb is addicted to soft shell crab. Like so many other seafood options, this was on the menu. Barb also ordered the beef yakisoba.

The soft shell crab appetizer (\$9.95) was well fried but not overdone or tough. It came with a spicy mayo dipping sauce. The crab was definitely a big hit. I was allowed only one small taste and agreed it was very good.

I had the tempura appetizer for \$9.95. The shrimp and vegetables were some of the best tempura I have had in ages. Barb agreed.

Somehow, sitting across from each other, we managed to both order yakisoba noodles with vegetables. Barb got the beef (\$14.95) and I ordered chicken (\$13.95). Normally, we try to order different things for more variety.

Barb had her noodle dish in a bowl over rice. I had mine on a plate without the rice. Both came with an interesting miso soup and a small salad.

We really liked both versions, and they made great leftovers.

While there, we saw tray after tray of colorful, freshly prepared sushi rolls passing through the restaurant. It must have been good because other tables were

oozing and ahing over their trays. The fish looked very fresh.

One popular offering at Sushi Spott is their Omakase for \$79.95. Reservations are required because it sells out according to the staff. In Seattle, this menu item can easily cost \$150 or more.

Omakase is a Japanese term that means, "I'll leave it up to you." Meaning, diners trust the chef to select and prepare their meal, typically consisting of multiple courses based on seasonal ingredients. Guests sit at a bar and watch the chef prepare their food while he offers detailed descriptions. Sounds amazing.

We will definitely be going back.

Barb wants another soft shelled crab. I want to try their version of short ribs. Both of us want that tempura!

Bequest Coffee Co.

15111 Main St. - Mill Creek
425-332-7633
bequestcoffee.com

Bequest is a very low key, warm and comfortable space. There were people sitting and talking, someone working on their computer and everyone looking when a pastry or acai bowl passed by.

There are two kinds of pastries: the homemade, ultra-flaky, gorgeous treats and the equally delicious to-go cookies, scones, banana bread, etc. that come from Alki Bakery.

Our eyes were so excited, we ordered our pastries first. Barb had the visually stunning apple tart. I tried the pineapple-coconut tart. We both ordered their famous homemade blackberry & cream cheese turnovers.

These were the lightest, flakiest pastries we have eaten in just about forever. I left flakes all over the floor.

Then we realized we had not ordered

lunch. We both had toasted paninis that were good, simple sandwiches and well prepared. Both had pesto on them. We like pesto.

Barb considered ordering one of the healthy acai bowls but quickly regained her senses.

We took the turnovers home. Barb advised me to give them 10-15 seconds in the microwave. That really brought out the flavors but didn't cause the pastry to become soggy.

I went back to get blueberry scones for my knitting instructor. She is a very good baker herself and pronounced the scones excellent.

Bequest also offers breakfast items, a variety of sandwiches and flatbreads, smoothies, and a wide choice of coffee beverages.

It even has a bar and happy hour. *I think I hear those pastries and paninis calling our names!*



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Thank you for joining us at National Night Out 2026

By City of Mill Creek

Thank you, Mill Creek community! After smoke from regional wildfires forced us to postpone National Night Out earlier this summer, our Mill Creek Police

Department rescheduled the celebration at Buffalo Park for Tuesday, August 18 and it turned into a fantastic evening. Highlights from the night included:

- Officer Sanchez hosting bilingual English/Spanish story time
- Officer Scot LaRose clocking

a baseball well over the speed limit with the lidar

- Line dancing led by Citizen Patrol Lead, Barb Heidel
- A drone presentation from Officer Kosta Cooper
- Bocce Ball with pro level tips from Detective Sergeant Rod Fleming

A huge thank you to all our partners, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who helped make the night special. We're grateful to: South County Fire, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Police, the Kiwanis Club of Mill Creek & Key Club members for sharing their

always popular kindness wall and keeping everyone cool with ice cold water, ADT Security, AT&T, Nothing Bundt Cakes, 7-Eleven, the City of Mill Creek Youth Advisory Board, and our wonderful emcee Jane Neff.

We also appreciate our vendors who joined us on the rescheduled date: the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts of Western Washington, Sno-Isle Libraries, Snohomish County Emergency Management, Snohomish County LEAD, and Yay Big Yay High Yay



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We're already looking forward to next year as we continue celebrating and strengthening public safety in Mill Creek. ■

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By Corey Ihler
Publisher, Mill Creek View

There is a kind of wealth in Mill Creek that no assessor will ever measure. It is built one small act at a time. The neighbor who mows the lawn next door without being asked, the barista who remembers a regular's rough month, the family that leaves a porch light on for the kid walking home late. None of it shows up on a tax roll, and yet it is the reason people stay here, raise children here, and tell their friends this is a good place to live.

We believe kindness and tenderness are a form of collective capital. Like any capital, it grows when it is invested and noticed, and it fades when it is taken for granted. A town rich in this kind of wealth is safer, more resilient, and more valuable to everyone in it, whether they own a home, rent an apartment, or run a shop on the main road.

A community paper has a specific job in all of this. It is meant to hold people together. It tells you who lives down the street and what they care about. It marks the milestones, records the losses, and reminds a town of its own character. *The Mill Creek View* has always tried to do that work, and as we add new carriers, new routes, and a larger online presence this fall, we want to do it better by getting closer to the neighborhoods we serve.

That is where you come in. We are asking readers to send us stories of kindness, reciprocity, community, and well-being. They can be big or small. A stranger who paid for your groceries. A block that rallied around a family after a fire. A teenager who checks on an elderly neighbor every Sunday. A personal story of recovery, gratitude, or a turning point that happened because someone in this town cared. We want to hear it, and we want to share it.

Some stories will run in print. Many more will find a home online, where we have room to grow and a readership hungry for good news about the people around them.

Email us at millcreekviewus@gmail.com. Tell us what you saw, what you did, or what someone did for you. This paper belongs to Mill Creek, and so do these stories. ■



PHOTOS BY PAM PRUITT

New playgrounds for Mill Creek Elementary School

By Everett Public Schools

Mill Creek Elementary students have new playgrounds to enjoy this school year. Two areas were replaced thanks to the voter-approved 2022 Capital Levy. The levy is funding playground replacements at eight schools across the district. Projects have also been com-

pleted at Emerson, Silver Lake, Penny Creek, and Garfield elementary schools. Improvements at Jackson Elementary are in progress, with additional projects planned at Madison and Lowell elementary schools as part of their school construction projects. The updated playgrounds provide welcoming spaces for students to play, connect, learn, and grow. ■



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