

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Happy (almost) spring Duvall!

We have nearly made it through another winter with a couple of significant late season snowstorms, thanks to our Public Works Crews and Police Department.

Many of you likely saw the City's new dump truck/plow out on the roads for its first major snowstorm. The plow was ordered just prior to the 2019 "Snowmageddon" and was delivered in the middle of 2020. Additionally, you may have seen more City trucks with plow attachments working the side streets and doing their best to reach every neighborhood. This is due to a change in the way we order our public works vehicles, making sure that they are equipped to accommodate snowplow attachments.

As we have seen, our weather patterns are changing, and this is just one way we can ensure our city is as prepared as we can be for these events. Our hills and location near the foothills make it tricky to clear roads and being able to have an "all-hands on-deck" approach gives us a chance to get ahead of the weather.

Besides the weather, the City is getting ready to undergo a major change in our Police Department with the upcoming retirement of Chief Carey Hert. Through Chief Hert's leadership, the department has made a significant impact with their community policing program, public outreach and being a leader in Washington State with officer training on important tools such as non-lethal weapons, implicit bias training, reinstating National Night Out, implementation of both a bicycle patrol and water patrol programs, and much more.

Thanks to the succession planning that has been done in the department, we hope the next chief will come from within. If we are successful, an announcement will be made within the next 60-days with a vote for confirmation by the City Council.

Please join me in thanking Chief Hert on more than 15 years of dedicated service to the community. His work has laid the groundwork for a strong department for years to come. We wish him all the best in retirement from public service.

Mayor's message continued in next column...

Mayor's message continued from previous column...

Over recent weeks, Riverview School District has begun bringing children back to school in phases in a sign that we are truly starting to come out of the worst of the pandemic. With vaccination access expected for nearly all Americans by July, we are cautiously optimistic that our annual SummerStage program will be able to return safely, albeit with a shortened schedule beginning in August.

Stay tuned as we watch public health guidelines and keep your fingers crossed that we reach Phase 3 and can provide an opportunity for the community to come together, safely, and celebrate getting through this tough period in history.

Finally, please watch the City's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CityofDuvall/> or website <http://www.duvallwa.gov/>, for a link to an upcoming community survey on residential housing growth. Your responses will help shape the direction as we begin our Comprehensive Plan Update process and advocate for policy changes that alleviate the pressures of growth from within the City – and the explosive growth happening just north of us in Snohomish County.

Warm Regards,
Amy Ockerlander



SALES TAX INCREASE

Please take note that King County has increased its sales tax by 1/10 of a percent starting January 1, 2021.

This increased the sales tax within Duvall City limits from 8.8% to 8.9%.



KUDOS KORNER



Kudos! To Maggie Carosino, a young student in our community who identified an invasive plant growing at Lake Rasmussen.

Thanks to her, the City will be working with King County to eradicate the plant, and save habitat. Thank you Maggie! You have a bright future ahead of you.





SNOQUALMIE VALLEY LOCAL ADVOCACY TEAM: PROS IN PARTNERSHIP



Did you ever wonder how all those human service agencies get their funding? Sometimes, there's special funding available to the agencies through unique grants. For most nonprofit agencies, consistent and reliable funding can be a real challenge.

The nonprofit agencies here in the Snoqualmie Valley take care of everyone from young children to seniors, people who need food or shelter, at-risk teens, individuals with disabilities, people struggling with addiction or suffering with mental health challenges, veterans, and anyone who might need some way to bolster up their lives, whether it be for only a short time or for the long term.

Let's face it, it takes a comprehensive system to make sure that all of our residents have the tools they need to live their best lives. The valley is growing rapidly and, at some point, either you or someone you know will likely need some type of assistance. The need is large and the cities are small, so it can also be difficult for the cities to know what people need and who can provide for those needs.

Are the agencies competing against each other for funding? Often, the answer is yes, we are.

Is there enough for everyone to be able to do what needs doing? No. But rather than working against each other, we work together.

The Snoqualmie Valley Local Advocacy Team (SVLAT) pulls together people from nonprofits who provide human services and together they focus on increasing the available funding from the valley cities to support all people in reaching their potential. This important advocacy often starts with sharing data and stories about the needs faced by those living in the Snoqualmie Valley.

During this unprecedented pandemic year, city and county leadership are reaching out more than ever before to help their residents by having regular calls with the nonprofits to understand the needs and by partnering with them to share information and resources. At SVLAT, we feel this collaboration and partnership between the cities, the county, and the human service organizations is the best way to move forward together. Human services need to continue to have a seat at the table when decisions are being made so that the cities understand that we are the thrifty, nimble, strategic partners to work with when solving big issues. By creating long-term strategic partnerships, we all win and are best able to care for all the residents in the Snoqualmie Valley.

If you know of someone who might like to be a part of this effort, feel free to reach out via email to abiggs@svtbus.org or to laura@svcn.info.

Contributing writers were Amy Biggs, Director of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation, and Laura Smith, Executive Director of Snoqualmie Valley Community Network.



CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

City Council meetings 7:00 p.m. –March 2nd & 16th
(Committee of the Whole begins at 5:30 p.m.)

Planning Commission meetings –March 10th & 24th at 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are virtual only—for link and dial in information, view agendas at: <http://www.duvallwa.gov/agendacenter/>

WELCOME NEW COUNCILMEMBER– RICK SHAFFER

Rick Shaffer was recently appointed to vacant City Council position #2 in January, 2021 to a term expiring after certification of the November 2021 General Election.

Rick and his family moved to Duvall in early 2018, attracted by the small town atmosphere and the beautiful Snoqualmie Valley. He is a retired software engineering manager and enjoys the many outdoor opportunities in the region including fishing and hiking. He is an advocate for keeping Duvall a safe, family friendly small town and supporting our local small business community.

Learn more about all of our elected officials and find contact information by visiting:
<http://www.duvallwa.gov/166/City-Council>.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DUVALL?

Random Acts of Kindness Week

March 1st-7th Visit: <https://rakduvall.com/>

Hopelink Mobile Food Bank

Wednesdays, March 3rd, 17th & 31st
2:00 p.m. —3:00 p.m.

Redemption Church 15305 Main St NE Visit:
<https://www.hopelink.org/location/mobile-market-for-information>.

Chamber of Commerce Clean Up Day **Saturday, March 13th**

If you can help, visit the Chamber's Event page to learn more. Visit:
<https://duvallchamberofcommerce.com>

Daylight Savings Time

Begins at 2:00 a.m. Sunday March 14th
Don't forget to "spring forward"

Events typically held in the City of Duvall continue to be on hold until further notice, in accordance with the State of Washington's COVID-19 re-opening guidelines.