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# GREATER MAPLE VALLEY UNINCORPORATED AREA COUNCIL Working to keep the Rural Area rural

### By Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, March 3, 2025, the Area Council held its Regular Monthly Meeting at the Maple Valley Fire Station and via Zoom. Major topics discussed were: (1) Reserve Silica; (2) Critical Areas Update; and (3) the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Community Service Area Subarea Plan.

### **Reserve Silica**

Following the Area Council's February Monthly Meeting, at its request, a series of questions were sent to Reserve Silica's Operations Manager, Jeff Wright, on February 10, to address at this meeting. The following Reserve Silica representatives also were in attendance: CEO Marisa Floyd, COO Frank Melfi, Carla Brock (ASPECT Consulting— Hazardous Materials), and Doug Steding (Northwest Resource Law). The following discussion took place on the Area Council's questions:

Q1. KC DLS-Permitting told us a new Clearing & Grading *"Conditional-Operating Permit"* was issued covering August 2024 to January 2025. What *"conditions"* were placed on this permit?

A1. The Clearing and Grading Permit is renewed annually (ongoing for over 50 years). Continue to operate under the 2014 *Interim* Reclamation Plan. After mining ended in 2007 the State Department of Natural Resources shifted reclamation responsibility to King County. The site is still under reclamation and a new Reclamation Plan was submitted to King County on 2/28/25, which includes fill volumes, areas to be filled, and estimated additional volume needed to complete reclamation. In 2015, it thought it only had year or two of reclamation left to do, but it still is finding more coal mines needing reclaiming. [NOTE: This statement surprised the Area Council and needs further checking.]

Q2. Reserve Silica clearcut ~60-ac of mature Douglas-fir trees in the NE corner of the property in 2021/2022, without obtaining a *Forest Practices Act (FPA)* permit from the WA Department of Natural Resources.

A2. It clearcut the acreage for "safety reasons." It determined the area was underlain by an old underground coal mine with many openings to the surface, which pose major safety risks, and determined it was necessary to clearcut this area to identify the risks and perform needed reclamation to address the safety issue. All our road building, clearcut, and dumping were approved by King County DLS-Permitting. [NOTE: Although Reserve Silica stated an FPA is not required, the Area Council believes an FPA is required, since they are not converting the land to a non-forest use.]

Q3. As of last year, Reserve Silica had accepted ~3,300 truckloads of imported fill dumped on the clearcut land (the GMVUAC imputed this number from the WA Department of Ecology's February 16, 2024, determination of *No Further Action* report). KC DLS-Permitting's Ty Peterson told us Reserve Silica was to have submitted a proposal for dumping on the clearcut site by October 21, 2024. A3. Materials from the Ruston Superfund site were trucked to various places including Reserve Silica, which claimed it thought the truck loads received were all clean fill. It had ASPECT Consulting take many boring samples to evaluate for any contamination no contamination was found. It stated all truck loads, both clean fill and inert wastes, are inspected, and it only accepts certain inert wastes under its 2012 Inert Waste permit. The State Depart-

## **Reserve Silica**

ment of Ecology issued a "No Further Action Required Decision" in February 2024.

The discussion was cordial and informative. The Area Council will continue gathering information on the site and its operations, as it checks all responses above.

### Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update

At the Area Council's February Monthly meeting Terry Lavender, Environmental Focal of the Joint Rural Team (nine organizations spread throughout King County's Rural Area coordinated by the Area Council), discussed the ongoing CAO Update. On December 5, 2024, the King County Executive submitted his revised Best Available Science Review and Updates Report (http://gmvuac.org/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2025/02/2024-0408-BAS-Review-and-Updates-Report.pdf) to the King County Council, accompanied by a Frequently Asked Questions (http://gmvuac.org/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2025/02/CAO-FAQ-120524-1.pdf) document. The King County Council has until the end of 2025 to approve a final Update that will become part of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Lavender has drafted a Comment Letter on the King County Executive's October 2024 report cited above that all Joint Rural Team organizations are currently reviewing. That draft letter was the subject of tonight's discussion. Some highlights of the draft letter follow:

•Offers a greater level of protection to Critical Areas in King County.

•Throughout, Best Available Science is clearly explained along with how it informs the regulations and protections.

•It is a huge task for citizens to know how to apply regulations and many spend significant money hiring consultants, surveyors, and scientists to help through the process. Methods to defray some of these costs should be considered to help ensure citizen compliance. enforcement process is key, otherwise such good intentions will fail terribly. Successful implementation relies on good mapping, site visits when needed, code interpretation, expert consultation and enforcement when needed.

•Approximately 40% of permits applications over the last three years have had a Critical Area Condition. This assumes the Critical Areas were correctly identified and mapped. This CAO Update, required by the State Growth Management Act, and essential to protecting Critical Areas in King County, is dependent on improvements in the King County Department of Local Services—Permitting Division.

•Mapping is consistently noted as critical and many maps have been updated with plans to update more, but this work still will need more funding.

•It is good that extensive use of non-regulatory measures are mentioned including: new and improved mapping, monitoring, the Land Conservation Initiative, The Public Benefit Rating System, voluntary sale of properties, stormwater management, flood management planning, Best Management Practices, Farm and Forest Management Plans, restoration, incentives, and other strategies—all of which have multiple benefits and provide some flexibility, while still ensuring compliance.

•Concerns remain the promise of this Update will fall short without continued major reform in the Department of Local Services—Permitting Division. Careful application of code, landowner assistance, updated materials and maps, adequate staff, and reliable enforcement all are needed.

In its CAO Update King County has tried to balance the need for Critical Area protections with the needs of private property owners, recognizing there is no approach that will eliminate all risk to Critical areas when a property is developed. King County's regulatory approach is to eliminate high risk, but recognize that moderate to low risk can be managed.

Following discussion the Area Council, after some tweaks, voted to approve the draft letter and forward its approval to the full Joint Rural Team for eventual submittal to the King County Council. At that time it will be posted to the Area Council's website.

### Subarea Plan

Subarea Planners Susan McLain and Kaitlin Harris from the King County Department of Local Services (DLS) discussed the ongoing Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River (GMV/CR) Community Service Area (CSA) Subarea Plan. A *Preliminary Plan* is being drafted based on community input and is expected to be ready for review in August after which drafting of the full Plan will begin and last until January of next year.

To continue community engagement to develop the Subarea Plan the Department of Local Services is hosting a series of *Community Conversations* at the Hobart Community Church from 5:30-7:00PM with King County subject-matter experts on hand to provide information and answer questions:

•February 19 - Equity/Vision & Principles [WELL ATTENDED WITH GOOD DISCUSSIONS]

•March 5 - Environment/Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Resources •March 19 - Economic Development/Housing & Human Services •April 2 - Land Use & Zoning/Services & Utilities

•April 16 - Transportation

Highlights from the February 19 Community Conversation included:

•Careful, consistent implementation through the permit/ •Strong Support for preserving the area's rural character, open spaces, and natural environment. Many highlighted the importance of protecting forests, rivers, and wildlife.

•Clarification on Access to Services. Our original wording was unclear. The intent was to explore ways to help residents reach services in nearby cities, as expansion within the rural area is not an option.

•Interest in Recreation and Infrastructure. Parks, trails, and

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

transportation connections were key topics, with specific mentions of boat launches and Off-Highway Vehicle parks.

•Concerns About Development and Housing. Residents want housing options that align with rural character while also ensuring property rights and diverse opportunities.

•Cultural and Historical Preservation. Many emphasized the importance of protecting tribal, historical, and archaeological sites as part of the community's identity.

For more on the subarea planning process please see: Subarea Planning (https://kingcounty.- gov/so-so/dept/local-services/build-ings-property/development-planning-regulations/subarea-plans). For specifics on the **GMV/CR CSA Subarea Plan**, please see the Area Council's GMV/CR CSA Subarea Plan (http://gmvuac.org/gmvcr-csa-subarea-plan/) webpage.

### Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held Monday, April 7, 2025 from 7 - 9:30 PM at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St (across from the KC Sheriff's Precinct).

Meetings are held on the *first* Monday of the month (except for Holidays, when they are held on the *second* Monday). All meeting announcements, agendas, and Zoom information are posted on the Area Council's Website (www.gmvuac.org) and local *NextDoor* platforms. You can also find us on our FaceBook page (https://www.facebook.com/GMVUAC/). Each meeting begins with an open Public Comment period where anyone can voice concerns, comments, etc.

### Area Council Membership

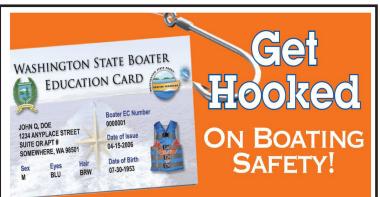
Your Area Council, founded in 1978, is one of the longest continuously active local councils. It serves as an all-volunteer, locally recognized advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District (TSD). The Area Council, in *"working to keep the Rural Area rural,"* collaborates *regionally* with other King County Rural Area organizations through both the *Joint Rural Team* and its *Joint Transportation Initiative*.

The twelve-seat Area Council has four open seats. If you have an interest in joining, please send an e-mail to: GMVUAC (info@gmvuac. org) *or* attend (either in-person or virtually) a monthly meeting and express your interest. To be eligible to join the Area Council as a *Member* you need to live *within* the TSD.

Residents, even those not living *within* the TSD, are eligible to become *Associate Members* who can serve (including as Chair or Vice-Chair) on any Area Council Committee: *Environment, Growth Management, Transportation, Public Relations, or Train Show.* For information on each of these committees please see the Area Council's Website (www.gmvuac.org) and use the drop-down menu under *Committees.* 

All Monthly Meeting Summary Articles can be found on our Home page in the 2025/2024 GMVUAC Monthly Meeting Articles box or by using the drop-down menu under Correspondence.

### - Shop Locally —



Boaters in Washington need to have their Washington State Boater Education Card with them when operating a boat 15 horsepower or greater. Boater operators born before January 1, 1955 are exempt but may choose to get a card if they plan to boat in Canada or Oregon since both require mandatory education.



### Worrying About What Others Think

One of the most common problems people have in the world is the fear of others. We worry about what others think and what they might say about us. This leads to more worries. Worries about how we perform in our occupation, what we look like, how we live, and what we own. The list goes on and on.

Do you see what is happening here? Those who ride this rollercoaster of insecurity, which is all of us in one way or another, elevate others to a place of supremacy, of control. When your source of importance is based on people and what they think of you, you become driven by fear and worry.

Now being concerned about what people think is not bad. We should always be willing to listen and learn from others. However, worrying about what people think or don't think to the point that they are unable to function is not healthy. It is giving them authority that they do not have.

How can we overcome the fear of others? It is as simple as understanding that only one person deserves this place of authority in our lives, Jesus. Our greatest concern should be what He thinks of us, not what others think. Jesus said, "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" - Luke 12:5. Jesus was speaking of His authority.

This is who we should fear, and this fear leads to peace when we understand God's love.

Those who have trusted in Christ become objects of His love rather than His wrath. The Bible says, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves punishment, and the one who tears is not perfected in love. - 1 John 4:15-18.

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### HOPE FELLOWSHIP

Are you wondering if there's a God and what place He should have in your life? Join us Sundays! Sing to contemporary music. Hear the Bible explained simply. Keep your money. Wear normal clothes. Nursery and children's program provided. Did we mention coffee? Visit either at 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. or 6 p.m.

Hope Fellowship, 21115 Kent Kangley Road just past Sawyer's Village. 425-432-5114. www.HopeFellowship.net

### TAYLOR CREEK CHURCH

A place for you to grow in your relationship with the Lord and fellowship with His people. We invite you to join us each Sunday for Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9 am, and for our Worship Service with verse-by-verse teaching of the Word of God at 10:15 am. (Children's Church and Nursery are provided through Kindergarten) A cry room is provided for nursing mothers with a video feed of the service.

We invite you to also join us throughout the week for personal encouragement and spiritual growth through Adult Small Group Bible Studies, Studies for Men, Studies for Women, as well as Youth Ministry (grades 7-12) and Adventure Club (ages 3 through grade 6).

We are located at 21110 244th Ave. SE (right off Hwy 18). For more information about our church or other activities, please call the church office at (425) 432-0634 or visit our website at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. Senior Pastor: Jason Katen



On 02/10/2025, at approximately 01:40 hours, officers conducted a traffic stop in the 32600 block of 3rd AVE. After an investigation, officers discovered that the driver was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The driver was booked into the Issaquah Jail for DUI.

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On 02/10/2025, an Officer was dispatched to a malicious mischief at the 31400 block of 3rd Avenue. Unknown suspect entered the property at the above listed location and damaged equipment and vehicles.

On 02/10/2025 Officers stopped a vehicle in the 25500 block of Lawson ST for a speed violation. Subsequent investigation determined that the driver had a license status of Suspended in the Third Degree, and was the subject of an arrest warrant. The driver was taken into custody and transported to the Kent Municipal Jail for booking on the warrant.

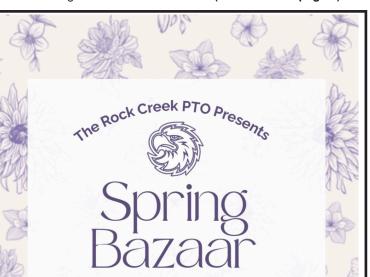
### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

On 02/13/2025, officers were dispatched to an order violation at the 32700 block of Hemlock Ave SE. Officers contacted the reporting party, who advised they received text messages and phone calls from their wife. Both the reporting part and their wife have active no contact orders against one another. This case is currently under investigation.

On 02/14/25 an officer took a report of a theft related to the purchase of a dog on Facebook Market Place. It was discovered the Facebook page, phone numbers and emails used are fraudulent. An investigation is on going.

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On 2/14/2025 at 2255 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a traffic stop near the 30000 block of 224th Avenue SE after observing a traffic violation. Through investigation, Officer's (Continued on page 4)



Whether you cruise, sail, kayak, fish, or do yoga on a stand-up paddle board, you need to know the laws and basics of boating safety. We encourage you to take an education course, even if you're not required to carry a card.

Classes offer students the chance to interact with instructors who are experienced boaters, learn specific local boating information, and network with other boaters.

Upon successful completion of the class, students will only need to send in their application with the following supporting documents to Washington State Parks to get a Boater Education Card.

- Check or money order for \$10, made payable to Washington State Parks.
- A legible **copy** of your proof of course completion or exam certificate (received upon successful completion of the course.)

This class will be held at the Black Diamond Police Department (25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, WA) from 8am to 6pm. Two classes will be offered; Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 or Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. If you have questions or to register for the class, please contact Joann Sloss at jsloss@blackdiamondwa.gov or 360-851-4450.

Why get educated? An educated boater is a safer boater. A boating safety course provides critical knowledge and better prepares boaters and paddlers for potential risks while on the water. U.S. Coast Guard statistics from 2023 indicate there were 3,844 reported accidents of with 564 of those resulted in a fatality. Boat operators being inexperienced was documented as a contributing factor in 620 of those collisions and is the fourth highest contributing factor in fatalities.

So don't worry about what others think of you, worry about what Christ thinks of you. And when you are right with Him, you need not fear, for you can be sure that "If God is for us, who is against us?" Romans 8:31.

Would you like to know more? We would love to speak with you. Call us at 425-432-0634, or contact us at www. taylorcreekchurch.org. We invite you to join us for Sunday service: 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. Address: 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.

Support Your Local Food Bank By Donating Non-Perishable Food

APRIL 26, 2025

9AM-2PM

### EVENT DETAILS

Free Admission. Raffle. Bake Sale. Food Trucks.

ROCK CREEK ELEMENTARY GYM 25700 MAPLE VALLEY BLACK DIAMOND RD SE MAPLE VALLEY, WA 98038

# When Coal Was King **By Bill Kombol**



A convenience store and gas station at the intersection of Highway 169 and S.E. 416th Street is one of the longest-operating businesses on the Enumclaw Plateau. Today it's called Stop-n-Shop doing business in an enlarged version of the same building featured in this photo. The original filling station was opened by Robert J. 'Bob' Chambers in 1925 and sold to his son, Robert E. 'Bob' Chambers two decades later. For simplicity, we'll call them Bob Sr. and Bob Jr. even though they didn't share the same middle name.

Both Bob Chambers were Canadians who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1920s. Last week's column featured a photo of Bob Sr.'s filling station in 1939 with biographical details of the family's early years. This Aug. 15, 1950 photo from King County Assessor archives shows how much the station had grown from the modest wood-framed structure of the early years. The Assessor records disclose a 1945 expansion that tripled the size of the complex. When this picture was taken, the south wall of the building was being painted with scaffolding seen where the color changes.

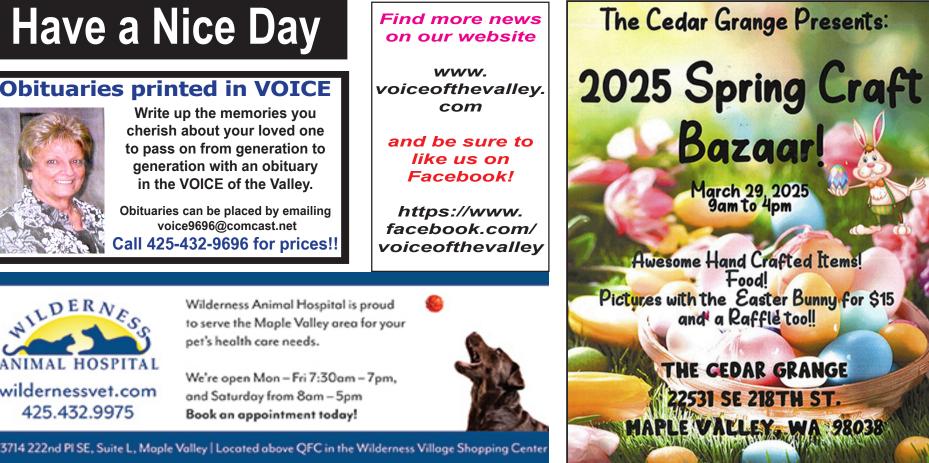
The growth of gas stations accelerated after Henry Ford built affordable cars for the middle class, which mirrored the expansion of new roads and the proliferation of motor vehicles. That led to the development of vehicle repair facilities called garages as early automobiles were far less dependable that today's. According to Wally DuChateau, a former Courier-Herald columnist, "Back in the 1930s and 1940s, there were at least 13 or 14 independently owned garages in the greater Enumclaw area, and, in damn near every case, the owner was a pretty skilled mechanic." DuChateau recalled one afternoon when a smiling Bob Jr., owner of Chambers Corner bragged, "And I do more work than any six mechanics in King County.

Long before Bob Jr. learned how to repair cars and trucks, he embarked on a series of exploits during the frontier days in British Columbia of the early 1900s. At age 13, Bob Jr., with siblings Violet and Fred ran away from home working odd jobs to support themselves while traveling through western Canada. He learned boxing in the Canadian Boy Scouts which he parlayed into a short career fighting under the ring name Mazouk. His last match left him with a grafted lip, a sewed-up ear, and fewer teeth. Bob Jr. joined the circus as an acrobat with acts like walking up one side of a free-standing ladder and down the other, as well as riding a unicycle backward and forward. He also worked as a fur trapper and lumberjack.

In 1927, he rejoined his father in Enumclaw, two years after Bob. Sr. bought the property and started the business. Bob Jr. moved to Seattle in the early 1930s for a job at the Olympic Foundry Company where he helped form a union. When Harry Truman visited the plant, Bob Jr. was selected to show him around the facilities. Halfway through World War II, in 1943, Bob Jr. swore his oath to become an American citizen while living near Georgetown in South Seattle.

When Bob Sr. prepared to sell his Chambers Corner gas station and store in 1947, he first placed an ad in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer offering it for \$4,000 on a 5% mortgage contract. Bob Jr. promptly relocated to Enumclaw and bought the business from his dad. The price and terms negotiated between the two Bob Chambers were never disclosed.

Next week's column will dig deeper into the life and times of Robert Elmore Chambers, called Bob Jr. in this telling. Genealogical information about the Chambers family comes courtesy of Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale historian, and Penny Reich, daughter of Peggy (Reich) Chambers, who interviewed her grandfather during the last months of his life. Penny completed Bob Jr.'s short biography for a school project. This Aug. 15, 1950 photo from King County Assessor records was provided by Puget Sound Regional Archives in Eastgate. Photo enhancements were undertaken by Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma High School teacher and entrepreneur who as: www.BoomersPhotography.com









23714 222nd PI SE, Suite L, Maple Valley | Located above QFC in the Wilderness Village Shapping Center

rodney@sbconcretellc.com SBCONL\*970BP



a subject in the 24200 block of Roberts Drive who had a



enforcement agency.

DUI.