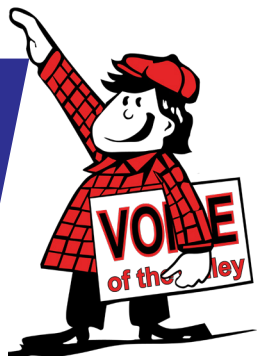


VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 15
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025



Since 1969

Growth Targets; Proposed Mine



By Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, April 7, 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; (3) King County Growth Targets; and (4) Segale Mine Proposal.

King County Growth Targets

The King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) consists of elected officials from King County, Seattle, Bellevue, other cities and towns, special purpose districts, and the Port of Seattle. It applies the State Growth Management Act (GMA) in setting county and city Growth Targets (for both housing and employment growth) to be used in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan that look out for the next 20 years. These are developed through a collaborative process that involves trade-offs and difficult choices about the appropriate level, location, and type of growth to be encouraged, public spending, governance decisions, environmental protection, and the quality of life in King County.

In the past year the GMPC has established a Growth Target *reconciliation process* to align adopted targets with the growth assumptions in comprehensive plans and to ensure realistic achievements can be made. In some cases jurisdictions have asked for changes to their agreed-to Growth Targets (up and down) for various reasons, e.g., lack of water supply, lack of adequate road infrastructure, signed master-planned development contracts, etc.

In July 2024 the Joint Rural Team (JRT)—organizations spread throughout King County's Rural Area coordinated by the Area Council—provided Comments on the Reconciliation Process (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Joint-Team-Letter-to-GMPC-GT-Reconciliation-Process.pdf>) to the GMPC as it was developing its process and on the City of Black Diamond's (a King County-designated "City in the Rural Area") request to greatly increase its Growth Targets.

On March 19 the JRT submitted a Comments on Carnation's Growth Target Reconciliation (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/JRT-Comment-Ltr-Carnation-Gr-Target-Reconciliation.pdf>) letter to the GMPC. In the letter the JRT supported the City of Carnation's request for a *reduced* future Growth Target, as the JRT has done for all outlying "Cities in the Rural Area."

Segale Mine Proposal

A gravel mine and asphalt plant is proposed by Segale Properties on a ~1,000-ac forested site along the Green River Gorge near Cumberland. On April 3 the Joint Rural Team submitted Comments (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/JRT-Comment-Ltr-Tacoma-Water-Segale-Mine.pdf>) to the Tacoma Water District asking it to *not* provide water to this project, which it needs to move forward and is a major hurdle in seeking to secure its project permits.

There are many issues associated with the proposed mine. The site is the most important part of a unique uplands-connected habitat corridor and is an important migration corridor, as well recognized by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. It is the last wild place with access and the last Chinook habitat on the Green River, as down river has been channelized. A massive mine complex would highly degrade the habitat corridor of the Middle Green River, change the river's hydrology, and forever change the last wild place in Rural King County. It would negatively impact one of the state's most prestigious campground and fishing area, place commuting residents in danger with large trucks carrying water to the site 24/7, severely damage our already delicate Rural Area road infrastructure and bridges, and do irreparable harm to the biodiversity and ecosystem that is the Green River.

Water, which would be used to wash rock and equipment and used in the asphalt plant, must be treated carefully to minimize surface water and ground water pollution. In fact, the chemicals and pollutants in the water from the asphalt plant alone make it hazardous and difficult to treat properly on site. Further, the soils on site are very permeable and the whole site is an important area to recharge the groundwater for all the springs along the Green River Gorge, which the fish as well as the city of Black Diamond use as a critical resource. Finally, King County Comprehensive Plan Policy R-338 prohibits new industrial uses on land zoned Rural Area (RA) or Forest (F) that produce substantial wastewater or require substantial investments in infrastructure (e.g., water). In fact, serving a forest zone with public water is *not* consistent with the State's Growth Management Act.

Reserve Silica

Regarding the Reserve Silica site south of Ravensdale, on March 17 the Area Council submitted a Letter to KC DLS-P-Reserve Silica (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Cvr-Ltr-Summary-of-DiscReqs-Reserve-Silica-1.pdf>) and Ongoing Discussion with KC DLS-P-Summary Table-Reserve Silica (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Ongoing-Discussion-Reserve-Silica-TABLE-UPDATED-3-17-25.pdf>) in response to King County (KC) Department of Local Services' (DLS's) March 7 response to the Area Council's October 18, 2024, letter as a followup to the October 7, 2024 Area Council Monthly Meeting with KC DLS Director, Leon Richardson, and Commercial Product Line Manager, Ty Peterson.

Specific questions dealt with: Operating Permit; Unpermitted Clear-cut; Expansion of Dumping; "Reclamation" (ongoing for over 20 yr !); Permit Conditions; and Plan of Operations.

The Area Council, which has followed activities at the Reserve Silica site for decades, believes there are some facts on which it and KC can agree. The letter lists them as:

1. The Reserve Silica property is NOT a commercial landfill site — for either "clean fill" or inert waste, but a former mining site that legally must (as much as is still practical) be reclaimed to Forestry/Open Space, as required by KC Code Title 21A.22.081.C.2.a.

2. There already is MORE THAN ENOUGH fill on-site to "reclaim" any old mining areas, including the ONLY two approved fill pits (Upper and Lower), as well as any old coal mine areas on the property.

Critical Areas Ordinance Update

The last piece of the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Major Ten-Year Update is the **Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update**. On December 5, 2024, the King County Executive submitted his revised Best Available Science Review and Updates Report (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/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/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CAO-FAQ-120524-1.pdf>) document.

On March 17 the Joint Rural Team (JRT) submitted CAO/BAS Comments (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/KCCP-CAO-Upd-BAS-JRT-Comments.pdf>) to KC Council's Local Services & Land-Use Committee. It will review the Update and Public Comments and submit its recommendation to the full King County Council, which has until the end of 2025 to approve a final Update.

The JRT found that in its CAO Update King County has tried to bal-

(Continued on page 2)



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(Continued from page 1)

ance 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.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held Monday, May 5, 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.

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.



Black Diamond Police Reports

On 03/17/2025, an Officer contacted the complainant via telephone regarding her vehicle's front plate being missing/possibly stolen. The Officer found that the complainant lives outside the Black Diamond City limits. Dispatch confirmed that the address was within the KCSO jurisdiction. The complainant was advised to contact the KCSO to make the report.

On 03/18/2025 Officers received information regarding an individual possessing and distributing Child Pornography. An investigation is currently ongoing.

On 03/19/2025, Officers were dispatched to a citizen assist in the 30200 block of 225th AVE SE. It was reported a child was locked inside of a vehicle. Officers arrived on scene, the child appeared healthy and there were no concerns for the wellbeing of the child. Officers do not carry lock out kits so Royal Towing was requested by the parents to respond to the location to unlock the vehicle. Officers then cleared the scene.

On 03-19-24, at approximately 11:30 hours, Officers received a message from the Back Diamond Police Commander that a female called the police department and wanted an Officer to conduct a welfare check on a subject at a residence in the 30000 block of 232nd AVE SE. Officers arrived at the residence and found no one at home.

On 3/19/2025, officers responded to the 25100 block of Roberts Drive for a civil issue. Officers attempted to assist one subject with contacting another subject. The other subject was unable to be contacted.

On 3/19/2025 at 2048 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to a verbal domestic incident near the 33200 block of Walnut Avenue SE. The reporting party was on scene and stated a verbal argument occurred with their spouse over the phone. The spouse soon arrived on scene and it was determined they were under the influence of an intoxicant. The spouse was arrested for driving under the influence. Due to medical issues the subject was then committed to a hospital for evaluation.

On 03/20/2025, officers were dispatched to a traffic complaint a the 21900 block of SE 296th St. Dispatch advised that a dark blue Dodge Charger had been driving erratically, swerving and stopping at green lights. Officers conducted an area check with negative results.

On 3/20/2025 at 2213 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle after observing the vehicle did not properly have license plates displayed. The driver stated that the vehicle was purchased approximately 1 week ago and provided a license plate that did not belong to the vehicle or driver, given to them by the previous registered owner. Officer's determined the license plate was not stolen and seized it for evidence destruction. The driver was released with a verbal warning for their offenses.

On 03/22/2025, at approximately 19:29 hours, officers were dispatched to a welfare check in the 32600 block of 5th AVE. The reporting party advised that there was a male subject yelling. Officers arrived on scene and conducted an area check but were unable to locate any sounds of

yelling. Officers cleared the scene and remained in the area. Shortly after, officers received another call from the same reporting party advising that this time there was a male and female subject arguing. Officers continued checking for the disturbance. Officers contacted residents in the area, who told officers they had not heard or seen anything. Officers determined that no crime had been committed.

On 3/22/2025 at 2146 hours, Officer's conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle after observing they had expired registration over two months and the registered owner had a suspended driver's license. Officer's soon identified the driver as the registered owner and issued a citation and infraction for the offenses and released the driver on scene.

On 3/23/2025 at 0144 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department was dispatched to a suspicious subject near the 32700 block of Hemlock Avenue SE. It was reported an unknown male had been knocking on a residents' door for approximately 15 minutes. Officer's contacted the male and later determined no crime had been committed. The male stated he was attempting to contact someone at the property but stated he would return home now. Officer's cleared the call

On 03/23/2025, at approximately 02:35 hours, officers were dispatched to a suspicious vehicle in the 24000 block of Lily PL. SE. Officers arrived on scene and contacted the unoccupied vehicle. Officers attempted to locate the registered owner of the vehicle but were unsuccessful. Officers determined that no crime was being committed and left the scene.

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What is Easter All About?

With all the festivities that have been formed around the celebration of Easter, it may have become a little confusing concerning what Easter is all about. What is it all about? Easter is about many things. It is about God's justice and man's sin. It is about God's grace and man finding forgiveness. It is about Christ's victory over the grave and man finding hope beyond it.

There is the horrible crucifixion that shows us the ugliness of our sin and the price that was paid for it. There is the resurrection that shows us that Christ was who He claimed to be, God incarnate, and did what He said He would do, took upon Himself our sins.

Easter is about love, a love that is so deep and so wide that it was willing to pay a debt it did not owe, yours and mine, a debt that we could not pay. The Bible says, "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:7-8.

Easter, then, is about one thing, the acceptance and worship of the One who accomplished all these things. It is about Jesus Christ and what He alone did for sinners. This, He himself stated and asked a question that every person must answer, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" - John 11:25-26

I invite you to come and worship Christ this Easter at Taylor Creek Church: Good Friday service is at 7:00 PM, and our Sunday Easter Celebration begins at 10:15 AM. I look forward to seeing you. For more



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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



Slug Hunt 2025 is On

Join the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council for our annual Slug Hunt—a one-of-a-kind fundraiser that brings the community together for a day of adventure and fun!

Opening Day: Saturday, April 26, 2025 Start Time: 10:00 AM Location: The Legacy Site (Maple Valley Farmers Market)

This family-friendly event is just like an Easter egg hunt—but with a slimy twist! We've hidden 500 custom laser-printed slug tokens in the woods and around the Legacy Site. Not everyone will find one, but if you do, bring it to Slug Headquarters to claim your adorable Slug Buddy!

Hunting Licenses: \$10 per person (\$12.00 at the event) \$35 Family Pack (4 licenses)

Available for early purchase online—skip the lines and secure your spot! Don't miss out on this unique community tradition. Grab your tickets now and get ready to hunt!

VOICE Welcomes Letters

The VOICE of the Valley welcomes letters to the editor on any subject, although we reserve the right to edit for space, potential libel, and/or political relevance. Letters addressing local news will receive priority.

We prefer letters to be typed and E-mail is preferred. Letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number and address to verify authorship. Deadline for letters is 3 p.m. on Thursday each week.

Address: 26909 206th Ave SE, Covington, WA 98042
 E-mail: voic9696@comcast.net

When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

Maple Valley's scattered development pattern didn't lend itself to the building of a church near the town square. For the greater Maple Valley area's growth wasn't centrally located. The earliest settlers, the Maxwells, Russells, Sidebothoms, and Ames filed homestead claims for 160 acres before the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad reached the Fourth Crossing of the Cedar River. That's where the first settlement was established in what's now called old Maple Valley. The proposed town of Maple Valley was platted and registered by C.O. Russell in 1887, but never incorporated. Maple Valley resembled Gertrude Stein's famous dictum, "There's no there, there."

The Highline Church located next to the Hobart Cemetery was the only known place of worship to be constructed during the first few decades of settlement. It burned down in 1953. It was likely interdenominational though some religious services were held by visiting ministers in the Crosson School, near Shadow Lake, the Hobart School, and later in Gibbon Hall (1911), now the Cedar Grange Hall perched on the edge of the Cedar River at the SR 169 bridge. Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) settlers held Sabbath School lessons in family homes once every three or four months when a Renton SDA minister would come on a Friday night and stay through Sunday.

By 1970 a Tahoma School District census showed a population of nearly 10,000. Still, just a few churches served the local area – the Tahoma Assembly of God, now Generational Hope (1960), Hobart Community (1961), and the Nazarene Church (1946) across from the railway depot and now the home of Valor Soccer. However by the late 1970s and early 1980s, churches were sprouting like mushrooms – Shepherd of the Valley (1978), Church of the Nazarene (1980), Hope Fellowship (1981), Latter Day Saints on Wax Road (1981), and St. George Episcopal (1982). The largest was yet to come.

Organizational meetings for the Maple Valley Presbyterian Church began at the home of Clint and Jeanie Lemmon in 1981. Roger and Reba Morris were founding members. Roger Morris was one of the working class "Boys in the Boat" of the famous University of Washington crew who won the Gold Medal in the men's eight rowing event at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

David Diehl moved to the area in Jan. 1983 to help plant the church



and became its first pastor. Born in Pittsburg and educated at Grove City College, Diehl became involved in Young Life during the Jesus movement of the late 1960s. Five acres of land were purchased at the intersection of Sweeney Road and Petrovitsky in 1985. The erection of a 9,400-square-foot church followed two years later.

Construction was aided by the Sower Ministry (Servants On Wheels Every Ready), a non-profit, non-denominational group of Christian couples who travel from job to job in recreational vehicles. While helping to build the Presbyterian Church the Sowers stayed at the nearby Lake Sawyer Resort. The original building that seats 267 was completed in Feb. 1988. Additional expansions were added and by Oct. 1998, the church's new 14,600 square-foot sanctuary that seats 550 was completed, making it the Maple Valley area's largest.

Though still affiliated with Presbyterians, the congregation rebranded its name to Maple Valley Church in 2022. Services are held Sundays at 10 a.m. Pastor Diehl retired in 2018 and still lives locally but snowbirds in Wenatchee where he and his wife, Nancy enjoy skiing at Mission Ridge.

This 1988 photo of the original structure looking east from the parking lot comes courtesy of the Puget Sound Regional Archives which holds the historic records of the King County Assessor. Photo enhances were provided by Doug "Boomer" Burnham, a Tahoma photo instructor doing business as <http://www.boomersphotography.com/>

**CANDIDATE FILING WEEK IS
MAY 5-9**

Open Positions:

- Mayor
- Council Position #2
- Council Position #3
- Council Position #4
- Council Position #5
- Council Position #6

Filing Information

Black Diamond City Council Filing Dates are Here

Are you interested in serving your community? This is your chance to make a difference and contribute to the future of Black Diamond. Filing dates for those wishing to run for Mayor or a City Council position are coming up soon. Filing Dates: May 5th – May 9th For more information on the filing process, eligibility, and how to get involved, use the QR Code to visit King County Elections or follow this link: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/elections/for-candidates>

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LEGAL NOTICE

Julie Trygstad, 19915 SE Petrovitsky Rd Maple Valley, WA 98038, is seeking coverage under the Washington State Department of Ecology's Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit.

The proposed project, Primary Residence, is located at 22215 260th Ave SE in Maple Valley in King county.

This project involves 1.1 acres of soil disturbance for Residential construction activities.

The receiving waterbody is an unnamed stream until it connects to the Cedar River at the Dorre Don Reach Natural Area.

Any persons desiring to present their views to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding this Application, or interested in Ecology's action on this Application, may notify Ecology in writing no later than 30 days of the last date of publication of this notice. Ecology reviews public comments and considers whether discharges from this project would cause a measurable change in receiving water quality, and, if so, whether the project is necessary and in the overriding public interest according to Tier II anti-degradation requirements under WAC 173-201A-320.

Comments can be submitted to: ecyrewqianoi@ecy.wa.gov, or ATTN: Water Quality Program, Construction Stormwater Washington State Department of Ecology P.O. Box 47696 Olympia, WA 98504-7696
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, April 8 and 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, April 23, 2025.** 2 hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see www.roadoneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, April 22, 2025 @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, April 19, 2025.** 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Rainbow Towing. 8333 219th St. S.E., Woodenville, WA 98072. **Saturday, April 19, 2025.** Preview @ 9 a.m. **Auction @ 12:00 p.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, April 23, 2025.** Preview 8-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Skyway Towing & Recovery RTTO 5191 & RTTO 5023 2025 S 341st Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003 **Tuesday, April 22, 2025 -** Viewing: 12:30 - **Auction 1:30 p.m.** See list at skywaytowing.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ Noon** Viewing @ 11:30.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION US Towing, 24816 Pacific Hwy South, Kent, WA 98032. **Friday, April 18, 2025.** Viewing at 10 a.m. **Auction at 11 a.m.** 206-824-3448.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, April 15, 2025)

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