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King County Road Services

By Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC **Corresponding Secretary**

On Monday, July 7, 2025, the Area Council held its Regular Monthly Meeting at the Maple Valley Fire Station and via Zoom. Major topics discussed were: (1) King County Road Services; (2) Reserve Silica; and (3) King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

King County Road Services

On June 5 the Joint Transportation Initiative (JTI)-a group of several southeast King County organizations, led by the Area Council, held a Forum with the King County Department of Local Services (DLS), Road Services Division (RSD).RSD Deputy Director, Andrew Kim, and his team met with JTI to discuss several questions submitted ahead of time to them related to the following areas:

Budget, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Active Transportation

Bridge Inspection, Structural Analyses, Maintenance, and Repair

King County Heritage Road Corridors

Haul-Route Agreements

Impacts of Federal Fund Reduction

The June 5 Forum was a good open discussion and was followed up by detailed written responses to JTI Questions, some of which have been individually delved into further with key RSD technical people. An open dialogue will continue between RSD and JTI.

Reserve Silica

The Area Council has been

sent a letter to the King County DLS Director, Leon Richardson, providing a "Big Picture" history of Reserve Silica (gmvuac.org/ wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ Letter-Reserve-Silica-22Big-Picture22.pdf). On June 16 the Area Council received a response from Director Richardson that stated:

"I have had an opportunity to connect with the Permitting team and have received the following as it pertains to "Going forward, how do we proceed so as to ensure the concerns we have enumerated herein are addressed and do not continue to fester either on these 377-acres, or on other lands?" [this was one of the Area Council's questions to him] Permitting will require Reserve Silica to submit a new permit. The new permit will provide full public engagement, notice, and appeal rights. '

On June 20 the Area Council replied, in part:

"Thank you for your response. We welcome an open Public process, but we are concerned the issuance of a "new permit" could serve as a paper-over of the decades-long series of the applicant's wrongdoing-unpermitted dumping (including toxic ASARCO waste), unpermitted clearcutting, etc. For example, a "new permit" should not allow unlimited dumping across the 60-ac clearcut area, and moreall totally unrelated to mine reclamation. In fact, all the illegal dumping to date should be dealt with first, prior to (or at least as part of) the issuance of any "new

of Permitting and Environmental Review)-now KC DLS-P (DLS-Permitting Division), at its request. We refer you to the March 31, 2010, Letter from Fred White, DDES Site Development Specialist II, to Rian Skov, Surface Mine Reclamation Specialist, Geology & Earth Resources Division. WA DNR, with cc to Pete Cawlfield, Reserve Silica Corp, which unequivocally states the site is to be returned to its pre-mining topography, topsoiled, and replanted to Forestry land use: " ... the King County grading permit ... will eventually achieve a final reclamation in exceedance of that required and approved under the State Reclamation Permit [70-010346]."

In addition, DLS-P has received a lot of recent information from Reserve Silica (e.g., October & December 2024 and at the end February 2025) regarding its ongoing application. In February, over four months ago, Ty Peterson promised to make all of that available to us-including a new Reclamation Plan submitted by Reserve Silica. We know Jim Chan and all his staff are stretched thin, but we again request those materials. In summary, as far as the "Big Picture" of the Reserve Silica site, we see it as an ongoing 18-yr fight (since mining ended in 2007) over mine reclamation and return to forestry (as required by law) vs. an open landfill site, which it was never intended or permitted to be."

The Area Council will review any new permits and continue to monitor the Reserve Silica site until it is properly cleaned up, fully reclaimed, and closed down. **King County Comprehensive** Solid Waste Management Plan

options once the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF) has reached its capacity in "ten to twenty years" --- King County Long-Term Disposal Options Study (https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/solid-waste/ Solid-waste-planning-monitoring/Comprehensive-Solid-Waste-Management-Plan/LTD-Final-Report.pdf). Five alternatives were evaluated: Waste Export by Rail (WEBR), Mass Burn (Waste to Energy), Pyrolysis, Refuse Derived Fuel, and Gasification.

King County is using the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process to evaluate the possible environmental impacts of each of these alternatives. Currently, the County is in the SEPA Scoping period, which will lead to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A Public Comment period on the Study ended on July 7. The Joint Team, comprised of multiple organizations across King County's Unincorporated Areas coordinated by the Area Council, reviewed the Study and submitted Comments (https://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/ uploads/2025/07/JT-Comment-Ltr-KC-L-T-Waste-Disp-Opt-Study.pdf).

Although the Study is comprehensive, the Joint Team identified areas of concern and provided many questions that King County should address as it moves forward to developing an EIS. Beyond just the five alternatives studied, the Joint Team identified additional issues to be addressed in the EIS: Siting of whatever facility is chosen, Composting, and Recycling.

The EIS should be available for Public review and comment later this year or in early 2026. The alternatives for long-term disposal will be included in the 2026 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held Monday, August 4, 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.

frequently communicating with the Director of the King County Department of Local Services (DLS) and his Permitting Division regarding the old Reserve Silica mine south of Ravensdale that has been undergoing reclamation for 18 years since its closure in 2007.

On May 14 the Area Council

permit." Further, the operation should be shut down until such mitigation and "new permit" approval is COMPLETE.

Please note there is an approved WA DNR Reclamation Plan, in effect for some time, and whose oversight responsibility was transferred (in March 2010) to KC DPER (Department

In March the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Solid Waste Division (SWD) received a Study, conducted by its consultant-Tetra Tech-of long-term disposal

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 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.

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Fourth of July weekend once again hosted by Pacific Raceways saw the running of SOVREN's 37th Annual Pacific Northwest Historics race on the challenging 2.25 mile, 10 turn road course. Three drivers from Maple Valley competed in this year's three-day event. In Group 1 was Greg Heacock driving his 1961 Cooper T53 Zerex Special (Bottom Right). Group 2 seen here in Friday morning's practice run was Jeff Kerney in his 1968 Lynx FV (Bottom Left). Michael Nau competing in Group 9 drove his 1974 Hawke DL11 (Top photo). All in all, there were three great days of vintage auto racing in all the groups represented. If you need more information on the 2025 Racing schedule, be sure to check out www.pacificraceways.com. Photo by Bill Archer

NHRA Nitro Returns

By Bill Archer

This weekend July 18th to 20th the National Hot Rod Association returns once again to Pacific Raceways for the 36th Annual Muckleshoot Casino Resort NHRA Northwest Nationals. Once again Friday Nitro Qualifying sessions will be under the lights. Ever wonder what those Funny cars and Top Fuel cars look like with their header flames glowing? Well, Friday night will be your chance. This is the 11th stop in the 2025 race season for the NHRA.

The points chase continues on as the Pro drivers in Top Fuel, Funny Car, Pro Stock and Pro Stock Motorcycle take aim at the Championship in their respective class at the end of the season. Drivers such as Greg Anderson, Jeg Coughlin Jr., Erica Enders, and the Northwest's own Dallas Glenn and others in Pro Stock will be competing. Then in Funny Car drivers such as Austin Prock, JR Todd, Jack Beckman and others will be lighting up the track. Then not to be forgotten are the drivers in Top Fuel class such as Brittany Force, Clay Millican, Antron Brown, and the rest of the Top Fuel class. Once again, the Pro Stock Motorcycle class with riders like Gaige Herrera, Angie Smith, Chase Van Sant and others are getting ready to take on the premier drag strip of the Northwest. In addition, there will be the Sportsman drivers and crews from in and around the Northwest, Canada and all across the country looking to obtain the coveted "Wally" in their respective classes.

They will be competing in Super Stock, Stock Eliminator, Super Gas, Super Street, Top Sportsman, Top Dragster, and Competition Eliminator. Also, there will be Top Alcohol Dragster and Funny Car. Can't forget the Manufacturers Midway, the Nitro Mall, autograph session, and a special Friday night Seal Master Track Walk. In addition, there is the Mission #2Fast2Tasty Challenge in the Pro classes on Saturday. Racing begins at 9:30 AM. The Pro classes will be qualifying on Friday and Saturday with eliminations beginning Sunday after the pre-race ceremonies. Ticket information is available at Pacific Raceways web site. This is the biggest race of the season that all the fans look forward to.

The sound of the 15,000 horsepower engines and the ground shaking thunder is what everyone comes out to the track for each year. Are you coming? This however is not the end of the racing season as there is more to come in 2025. To get more information on the rest of the schedule then check out www. pacificraceways.com



06/05/2025, Officers were On conducting patrol operations in

being placed on inactive status.

the victim, had a sexual assault rape kit completed at the Hospital and



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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



Too Perfect to Be Chance

"If the earth were as small as the moon, the power of gravity would be too weak to retain a sufficient atmosphere for man's needs; but if it were as large as Jupiter, Saturn, or Uranus, extreme gravitation would make human movement almost impossible.

If we were as near to the sun as Venus, the heat would be unbearable; if we were as far away as Mars, we would experience snow and ice every night, even in the warmest regions. If the oceans were half their present dimensions, we would receive only one-fourth the rainfall we do now. If they were one-eighth larger, our annual precipitation would increase fourfold, and this earth would become a vast, uninhabitable swamp!

Water solidifies at 32 degrees. It would be disastrous if the oceans were subject to that law in that the amount of thawing in the polar regions would not balance out, and ice would accumulate throughout the centuries! To prevent such a catastrophe, the Lord put salt in the sea to alter its freezing point!"

That's a lot of "ifs," don't you agree? It's incredible to see how intricate our universe is when it comes to its design, and yet so many think that it all came into existence by chance. When I look at my watch with all its intricate parts, I never once stop and say, "That's so amazing that it came together by chance." I can tell it was made by design. My watch is significantly less intricate than this universe, it could only be created by design, God's design. Psalm 104:24 says, "How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom, you made them all."

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.



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the 30400 block of 3rd AVE when they queried a vehicle's license plate through NCIC and WACIC. The return showed the vehicle as stolen out of King County. A second vehicle was following the stolen vehicle, it's return showed clear and expired. Officers attempted a traffic stop on the stolen vehicle in the 32100 block of Lake Sawyer RD SE. Both vehicles fled northbound on Lake Sawyer RD. SE. Officers deactivated their emergency lights and did not pursue. Officers contacted the registered owner of the second vehicle in the 20500 block of Summit DR. and took a stolen vehicle report. *******

On 06/05/2025 Officers were dispatched to a residence located in the 32800 block of SE Stevens ST. in regard to a report of a burglary that had occurred the previous night. Items were removed from a vehicle and a garage. Pending the development of any potential suspect information, this case is

On 6/8/2025 at 2033 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to an unwanted subject at the 22600 block of SE 296th St. An alarm company reported an unwanted subject near the Police Boat at the dock and requested contact with the subject. Upon Officer's arrival, the unknown subject was gone and there was no known damage to have occurred on the boat. ******

On 06/09/2025, an Officer was dispatched to a welfare check at the 32500 block of Railroad Ave. Dispatch advised that the complainant wanted to report a rape that took place in Yakima County. The Officer contacted the complainant, who advised that her boyfriend had raped her while they were at their home in Yakima County four days ago. The Officer spoke with a Detective Sergeant from the Yakima County Sheriff's Office and briefed him of the incident. The Officer interviewed

collected additional evidence for the Yakima County Sheriff's Office.

On 06/11/2025 Officers were contacted by the manager of a construction company building in the 31200 block of 3rd AVE in regard to a report of subjects leaving items in the dumpster located on site. Pending the development of any potential suspect information, this case is being placed on inactive status, with additional area patrols scheduled.

On 6/11/2025, a subject who was in Black Diamond Municipal Court had multiple warrants for his arrest from Federal Way. The subject was taken into custody and transferred to Federal Way Police.

On 06/11/2025 at approximately 2348, officers received a call for service regarding a suspicious vehicle following the reporting party. The reporting party drove (Continued on page 4)



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For 16 years, the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train provided memorable excursions between Renton and Woodinville featuring spectacular views of Lake Washington. But like paved paradise of Joni Mitchell's song, Big Yellow Taxi, the question often remains, "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?"

What's gone is an experience that brought the romance of railway dining to King County's eastside communities from 1992 to 2007. Yet this quaint piece of local history was brought to an end by railroad abandonment, bridge replacement, and freeway construction. Sometimes the bulldozer of progress can't see the forest through the trees.

The Dinner Train dated to Labor Day weekend, 1988, when Nick Temple and two sons, Eric and Brig, offered a dinner excursion on the Washington Central Railroad along the Yakima River Canyon south of Ellensburg. The route was so popular that the Temples added a second itinerary from Kennewick to Prosser. The train was soon christened the Spirit of Washington to highlight Washington's upcoming 1989 Centennial celebration of statehood.

The dinner-train moved operations west to King County in May 1992, seeking benefits from a larger market and year-round temperate weather. Burlington Northern's little-used Woodinville Subdivision offered a 24-mile route, each way, between Renton and Woodinville. The $3-\frac{1}{2}$ hour round-trip offered guests dinner on the way up with dessert and coffee on the ride back. The original Woodinville terminus was Chateau Ste. Michelle, but a few years later, it moved to Columbia Winery, where riders could stretch their legs for 45 minutes and sample wine.

The dining cars were pulled by General Motors F9 electric engines, painted red with the Spirit of Washington logo blazoned on their nose. Dining cars bore iconic names like Olympic, Mt. Rainier, Cascade, and City of Seattle. The train had a capacity of 370 passengers with a crew of 43. The Spirit of Washington was dubbed "the biggest dinner train in the country!"

The Dinner Train was a huge success, drawing around 100,000 riders per year. Murder Mystery Parties were periodically staged by an acting troupe, while birthdays, anniversaries, and group events were especially popular. Alex Pietsch, Renton's Director of Economic Development, beamed, "Alongside the Pacific Science Center and the Space Needle, it was what you did when grandma came to town." The Temple family's operation expanded in 2005 after assuming management of Renton's new conference center, the Pavilion.

while navigating 45 crossings each direction. The right-of-way was chronically overgrown by vegetation, affecting visibility for both vehicle crossings and the train's engineer. Given the densely populated area where it operated, there were nine accidents and two fatalities, one a suicide.

In the early 2000s, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) began looking for ways to eliminate unprofitable lines like the Woodinville Subdivision. In addition, the Washington State Department of Transportation announced plans to demolish the Wilburton Tunnel over I-405 in order to widen that freeway. The City of Renton first fought those efforts, but eventually caved and accepted BNSF's offer to rebuild three railroad bridges that clogged city traffic, saving Renton millions of dollars. Things also worked out nicely for Boeing as the Cedar River bridge replacement allowed 737-900 stretch fuselages to reach their Renton plant.

On July 31, 2007, the Spirit of Washington made its final eastside run with bystanders waving farewell. The Temple family tried to resurrect the Dinner Train as an excursion between Tacoma and Lake Kopowsin. But that effort proved unprofitable and collapsed 10 months later. The former eastside rail corridor was sold off in pieces to the cities of Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville, Puget Sound Energy, Sound Transit, plus King and Snohomish counties. Though some efforts were

The journey included views along the industrial facilities of Boeing and PACCAR, followed by glimpses of Lake Washington and Bellevue's skyline. The tracks even passed over the Wilburton rail trestle that stood 102 feet tall and 975 feet long after it was built in 1904 by the Northern Pacific Railway. It still stands today.

However, not all was peaches, cream, and smooth rides. The train traveled at very slow speeds made to turn the old rail line into a recreational trail, the loss of this unique urban rail corridor was mourned by many.

This column was adapted from an original story by Eleanor Boba that appeared in the Renton Historical Society & Museum's December 2023 quarterly newsletter. A similar and earlier version is available at HistoryLink.org, the free online encyclopedia of Washington state history. This photo of diners enjoying a gourmet meal on the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train comes courtesy of Gary Palmer. Elizabeth Stewart, the recently retired Director of the Renton Museum, provided coordination and contacts to enable this reworking.





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