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VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 32
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025



Don't Miss the Back-to-School Hub and Important Dates for Enumclaw School District

ESD is excited to welcome our new and returning students into the 2025-2026 school year! Please visit our Back-to-School Hub to have everything you need for beginning the school year, including annual notifications, calendar, online registration, supply lists, free and reduced lunch applications, and more at <https://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu/page/parents>

There are many upcoming important dates for families of all ages. You can find upcoming dates below.

8/18: Enumclaw High School Hornet Drop-in Day

8/19: Enumclaw Middle School Timberwolf Day

8/20: Thunder Mountain Middle School Day of Thunder

8/25: Black Diamond Elementary School Ice Cream Social,
Byron Kibler Elementary School - Enumclaw School District

Meet the Teacher,

Southwood Elementary School Ice Cream Social,

Sunrise Elementary Meet the Teacher,

Westwood Elementary School Cougar Day

8/27: First Day of School for grades 1-9,
Kindergarten Conferences begin

8/28: First Day of School for grades 10, 11, 12

9/1: No School for Labor Day

9/2-3: Alternating Kindergarten Start Days

9/4: First Day of School for all Kindergarten

Please see individual school calendars at www.enumclaw.wednet.edu/events for more details.



Last week the Color guard season has officially kicked off in Tahoma! Our squad has been practicing their moves all week in preparation for their future performances with our THS marching band.



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Agreement to Not Site Asphalt Facility Along Cedar River

By Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, August 4, 2025, the Area Council held its Regular Monthly Meeting at the Maple Valley Fire Station and via Zoom. Major topics discussed were: (1) Asphalt Facility Agreement, (2) Reserve Silica; and (3) the Area Council’s Annual Train Show.

Asphalt Facility Agreement

On July 17, 2025, an agreement was announced between local community group “Save the Cedar River” (STCR) and Lakeside Industries (LI) that would halt the building of a proposed Asphalt Facility along SR-169 and the Cedar River. Under the agreement, LI would not move forward with construction of an Asphalt Facility under its approved permitting and, instead would reengage with King County to permit a Warehouse as an alternative.

Originally, LI proposed to move its Asphalt Facility from its current location in the City of Covington along SR-18 at SE 256th St to a site along SR-169—in very close proximity to the Cedar River at 18825 SE Renton-Maple Valley Rd.

Guest speaker, Bob Baker, President of STCR, discussed details of the Agreement. King County Councilman Dunn convened a meeting with LI and STCR. At the meeting, under the new proposal LI would be using parts of its existing permit issued by King County several years ago to reduce cost, and expedite the project to build a Warehouse on the site. After debating this issue, both sides came to a mutual agreement that the best win-win situation would be the proposed Warehouse with no legal objections from STCR. In addition, there were discussions regarding a trailhead leading to the 27 miles of trails directly above the proposed site. LI was not opposed to this. Councilman Dunn was asked if it would maintain this trailhead and replied, “*that should not be problem, I will check into it.*”

Mr. Baker was asked by Area Council members why LI would agree to scrapping its proposed Asphalt Facility for a Warehouse. He speculated, based on what LI stated at the meeting, that strong community opposition factored in resulting in bad Public opinion; time constraints related to missed opportunities to provide asphalt products for certain projects (I-405); and monies already spent on environmental studies and preparing the property. When asked if there was any written agreement, Mr. Baker stated: “*There were no legally binding contracts written, or signed, just two opposing sides shaking hands with mutual respect.*”

Mr. Baker added that at their meeting he stated to LI he was grateful for it being open to discussion, ultimately realizing the community’s commitment of opposition to the proposed Asphalt Facility, and agreeing to a win win situation for all sides, including King County.

For further information, please see the following *Seattle Times* article (<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/asphalt-plant-on-cedar-river-scrapped-agreement-follows-long-fight/>). Area Council work on this issue dates back ~17 years to 2008—please see the Area Council’s Asphalt Facility webpage (<http://gmvuac.org/asphalt-facility/>) for the history of the site, permitting, etc., as well as the Area Council’s multiple sets of Public Comments submitted to King County over the years.

Reserve Silica

The Area Council has been monitoring the old Reserve Silica mine south of Ravensdale that has been undergoing reclamation for 18 years since its closure in 2007. Recently, Reserve Silica submitted two permit applications—one to Public Health Seattle-King County (PHSKC) and one to King County Department of Local Services-Permitting Division (DLS-P)—to cover a variety of activities.

Guest speaker, Jerome Cruz,

Environmental Scientist in the Environmental Health Services Division of PHSKC, discussed expansion of Reserve Silica’s Inert Waste Permit to cover the inadvertent dumping of some marble countertop material in two areas outside what PHSKC had previously approved for dumping. PHSKC plans to expand the boundary of the defined area to add two large areas where the countertops are located. The Area Council is concerned with this expansion, as the countertop materials are located in very small portions of the two areas identified by PHSKC. Reserve Silica submitted a permit application for this in May. PHSKC is coordinating with KC DLS-P and, thus, is waiting until the DLS-P permit is ready to go before it issues its permit to expand its inert waste coverage.

KC DLS-P is reviewing a permit application from Reserve Silica to *replace* its *existing* Clearing and Grading Permit associated with the sand mine reclamation at the site. Unfortunately, the Area Council was unable to secure a speaker from KC DLS-P to discuss same, but plans to invite key KC DLS-P people to its next regular monthly meeting on September 8. Reserve Silica’s Manager of Operations, Jeffry Wright, who was in attendance virtually, stated it had submitted to KC DLS-P updated profiles and other engineering information to supplement its permit application.

The Area Council will review any new permits and continue to monitor the Reserve Silica site until it is properly cleaned up, fully reclaimed, closed down, and reforested—as required by law.

Annual Train Show

The Area Council will host its 27th Annual Train Show in Ravensdale on **October 17 through 19**. More in formation to come.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held **Monday, September 8, 2025** (one week after the first Monday of the month which falls this year on the Labor Day holiday) 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 \(info@gmvuac.org\)](mailto: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 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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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.

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Write up the memories you cherish about your loved one to pass on from generation to generation with an obituary in the VOICE of the Valley.

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An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



A Bunch of Porcupines?

The German philosopher Schopenhauer compared the human race to a bunch of porcupines huddling together on a cold winter's night. He said, "The colder it gets outside, the more we huddle together for warmth; but the closer we get to one another, the more we hurt one another with our sharp quills. And in the lonely night of earth's winter, eventually, we begin to drift apart and wander out on our own and freeze to death in our loneliness."

This analogy is sad but true. It is amazing how easy it is for people to have misunderstandings. It happens between friends, co-workers, and even spouses. Some misunderstandings grow to such proportions that the relationship terminates because of unwillingness to resolve the misgiving. In this case, there is only one true winner; the victor is Satan, the father of lies. – John 8:44.

True victory resides not in being right but in pursuing reconciliation through forgiveness. This is the only way to be in the win column. Jesus said if we fail to forgive, the Father will not forgive our trespasses – Matthew 6:15. When Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone, Jesus said, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." meaning as many times as he asks. – Matthew 18:22.

Another way of victory is not letting the quills of others easily offend. All of us at times can be like a porcupine. We need to take our example from Jesus, who "while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously." – 1 Peter 2:23.

Finally, we need to keep short accounts. When offended, we need to be quick to resolve it. The longer we wait, the more Satan has time to add other offenses to our thoughts The Bible says, "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil opportunity." – Ephesians 4:26-27. Instead of being angry with one another, we are to "be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32. Let's stay in the victor's column, shall we? Keep short accounts, and stop letting offenses ruin relationships.

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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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

More News on our website

www.voiceofthevalley.com

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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



On a cold and rainy day in early March 1940, a photographer from the King County Assessor's office snapped this photo of Frank's Market, where meats, poultry, fish, fruits, and vegetables were sold. Frank was part of the storied Zumek family, whose parents arrived in Black Diamond in 1924, having immigrated from Slovenia 12 years earlier. For over 50 years, the Zumeks were one of the town's most consequential families – in sports, business, and civic life. The story of Frank's parents, Frances (Minar) and Louie Zumek Sr., was told in last week's column.

A butcher's shop had occupied this same lot on Railroad Street since Black Diamond's founding days. This version was constructed in 1913, in one account, or 1918 per Assessor records. It was situated between the bakery and the company store. Though this building was eventually torn down, another meat market still occupies the same Railroad Avenue lot. Today, the Smoke House & More, owned and operated by Gina Vaughan and Daniel Ellis, sells a wide variety of fresh and smoked meats from a smaller structure built in 1975 on the same historic lot. Black Diamond local Curt Konoske started the business in 2003 and still owns the building.

The earliest known butcher was Thomas G. Spaight. He sold his business to Pete Fredrickson, who built this structure and operated it as the People's Meat Market. Fredrickson employed many future meat cutters, including Ed Banchemo, who began working in Pete's shop at age 10, delivering meat to local homes and businesses. Ed "Catfish" Banchemo claimed it was Joe "Hoss" Minaglia who taught him how to cut meat and make sausage. In 1931, Banchemo opened his own butcher shop in Seattle's Rainier Valley with his wife, Edith. It was called E & E

Meats. By the time of Ed's death in 1991, E & E was a specialty-meat business employing 40 people and supplying the white-tablecloth restaurants of Western Washington from the company's plant on Sixth Avenue South.

Frank Zumek was born in Somerset, Colorado, in 1918, and moved to Black Diamond with his parents at age six. After graduating from high school, Zumek trained to be a butcher and married a local Welsh girl, Lois Thomas, at the Presbyterian church on June 9, 1939. Their wedding was covered in the Seattle Times. By age 21, Frank was cutting meat and operating his own market on the same lot where meat cutters had plied their trade since soon after Black Diamond's founding. Frank and Lois began renting the building from Pacific Coast Coal Company, which had disbanded the company town in 1938. On Jan. 15, 1943, Frank and Lois Zumek purchased the lot and building from Pacific Coast for \$300.

About the same time Frank Zumek acquired the market, Harry McDowell, a longtime employee at Pacific Coast's company store, began operating the general store, located two lots north. McDowell purchased the store and inventory from Pacific Coast in 1942. When Harry died in 1947, his widow, Margaret, sold it to Frank, Tom, and Joe Zumek. Frank quickly moved his meat and market business into his and his brothers' store.

While his brothers ran the grocery business, Frank and Lois worked side by side in the meat department. Frank's specialty was his home-made garlic sausage, from a secret recipe handed down to him from Louie Zumek Sr., his Slovenian father. Frank's kielbasa had a unique flavor and texture, all its own. His kielbasa was sold to people throughout the state. One Easter

weekend, over 800 pounds were purchased.

One of his frequent customers, Jackie Hope, took a dimmer view of Frank's business acumen, claiming, "When Frank died, I should have got a piece of his thumb because he weighed it enough times – whenever I bought meat from him," alluding to the practice of old-school butchers who rested their thumbs on the scale when weighing.

In addition to being the Black Diamond's butcher, Frank Zumek was active around town. He was a talented athlete who played basketball, soccer, and baseball during both high school and into his thirties. Frank served as a volunteer firefighter, assistant Fire Chief, on the city planning commission, a top fundraiser for United Good Neighbors, and a charter member of the Black Diamond Lions Club.

Frank and Lois raised two boys, David Zumek (1941-2009) and Frank Jr., better known as Butch Zumek (1943-1998). Frank Sr. died in December 1984, at age 66. Lois survived her husband by 30 years, passing in 2014 at age 97. Next week's column tells the story of how the three Zumek brothers, Frank, Tom, and Joe, plus their three wives, Lois, Georgia, and Eileen, became Black Diamond's favorite merchants.

This 1940 photo of tax parcel 084400-0635, located at 32721 Railroad Avenue in Black Diamond, comes courtesy of the Puget Sound Regional Archives in Eastgate. Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale historian, provided news clippings and genealogical information about the Zumeks. Photo enhancements were performed by Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma school teacher and owner of Boomers Photography: <http://www.boomersphotography.com/>

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(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 12, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, August 16, 2025. 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 12, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Preview 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 12, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Maple Valley Towing 23829 SE 264th St., Maple Valley, WA 98038. 425-433-0516. **Friday, August 15, 2025 Viewing 10-11 a.m. Auction @ 11 a.m.**

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1983	Excaliber	Trailer	CA TR6270
1997	Volvo		BCZ3313
1998	Honda	Accord	BEN4133
2001	Honda	Odyssey	573XVD

(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 12, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Thursday, August 14, 2025 @ Noon Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley Tuesday, August 12, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, August 12, 2025)

Support Your Local Food Bank By Donating Non-Perishable Food



Black Diamond Police Reports

On 7/10/25, Officers were flagged down by a citizen in the 30400 block of 3rd AVE. The citizen advised an elderly subject nearby was in need of assistance. Officers made contact with the individual, identified him, and called FIRE to the scene. Officers made contact with the individual's wife. She came to the scene and he was released to her.

On 07/10/2025, Officers were dispatched to a harassment call in the 31000 block of 229th AVE SE. It was reported a neighbor had openly carried a firearm while walking his dog along the reporting parties fence line. While walking the dog the subject made concerning statements and attempted to antagonize the reporting party. This is currently under investigation.

On 07/11/2025 an Officer was dispatched to a found property at the 22800 block of SE Fir St. Upon arrival, the Officer contacted the complainant who advised that they found a handgun in the parking lot at the above listed location. The handgun was turned over to the Officer and it was found to be a BB gun. The BB gun was placed into evidence as found property.

On 07/12/2025, an Officer responded to the 32800 block of Railroad Ave reference to a theft. The victim advised that while at the above listed location her wallet containing identifications, credit cards, debit cards and cash was stolen. There are no suspects or witnesses.

On 07/12/25, officers were dispatched to a complaint of loud music at the 32500 block of 3rd Ave. Officers located the source of the music and contacted the subject responsible who agreed to keep the volume of the music down.

On 07/13/2025, officers were dispatched to the 33100 block of Glacier Ave SE for a Welfare check. Officers attempted contact by phone and at the residence with negative results. Family members of the subject opened the residence where officers discovered the subject was deceased. Officers conducted an investigation and determined the death was natural and no signs of fowl play was observed.

On 07/13/2025 at approximately 1629 officers were dispatched to the 32000 block of Morgan Street in reference to a suspicious male going door to door selling roofing repair. The subjects behavior and their lack of attire consistent with a sales person was suspicious to the caller. Officers checked the area but did not locate anyone matching the description.

On 07/13/2025 at approximately 1834 hours, an officer was dispatched to the 22400 block of SE 296th Street in reference to a marine violation. The reporting party advised a jet ski was making small circles and operating at greater than the 5 mph limit. Upon arrival the vessel was no longer operating and was not located. The reporting party was contacted and advised the call to police was delayed in being made.

On 07/14/2025 at approximately 1656 hours, officers were dispatched to the 32000 block of 1st Ave in reference to a welfare check. Upon arrival it was discovered an elderly resident

was experiencing confusion from dementia. A appropriate resource was identified and the residence was transported by family for care. Parties involves and nearby by family were identified and documented.

On 07/14/2025 at approximately 1844 hours, an officer was dispatched to the 25300 block of Baker Street in reference to vehicles parked illegally in the area. Upon arrival, several vehicles were located parked in the roadway, however no vehicles were parked in an improper manner.

On 7/15/2025 at 0034 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department contacted a male subject behind a closed business located near the 30700 block of 3rd Avenue. Officer's soon recognized the male from previous contacts and discovered he had a misdemeanor warrant for domestic violence court order violation. The warrant was soon confirmed and the male was transported and booked into a nearby correctional facility.

On 07-15-25, at approximately 13:28 hours, Officers received a call from Valley Communication Radio regarding a marine violation. Officers were informed that a subject called 911 to report that two children on personal watercraft were speeding on Lake Sawyer prior to 14:00 hours. Officers located the two personal watercraft operators who did not know the speeding hours. Officers issued the juveniles warnings for speeding on the lake prior to 14:00 hours.

On 7/17/2025, an officer responded to the 33600 block of Juniper Ave SE for a report of an improperly parked vehicle. A warning was placed on the unoccupied vehicle.

On 7/17/2025, an officer received a found cell phone that was located in the 23900 block of Roberts Drive. The officer was unable to determine the owner. The phone was booked into evidence for safe keeping.

On 07/17/2025, officers observed a vehicle parked on the side of the roadway at the 30600 block of 3rd Ave. Officers contacted the subject who advised they had several alcoholic beverages. Officers conducted an investigation and determined probable cause for the crime of Physical control. Officers arrested the subject who was then booked into Enumclaw Jail.

On 07/19/25, officers were dispatched to a welfare at the 24400 block of Morgan St. regarding a confused female that was reported to have been talking to herself. Officers contacted the female who multiple times refused help. Officers later contacted the female and prevented her from harming herself. The female was medically evaluated and transported to Auburn Medical Center for an involuntary mental health evaluation.

On 07/21/2025, an Officer responded to the 25200 block of Park St. reference to a fire assist. The Fire Department responded to the skate park at the above listed location due to a child falling and hitting his head. Fire was on scene when the Officer arrived and was treating the child. The Child's mother was also on scene. The Child was transported to the Hospital in Auburn to be checked out.