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VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 44
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025



Volunteer Coordinator at Vine Maple Place, Lisa O'Leary, accepts a trunk full of cereal and diapers from SVLC.

Diapers and Donations Exceed Expectations

By D'Ann Tedford
The biblical "Golden Rule" states that you should treat others the way you want to be treated. One church and one community center fulfilled the Golden Rule this past week.

Black Diamond Community Center recently put out a request for baby diapers. It is the only

local agency that stocks diapers for Food Bank clients. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church responded en masse to their request. On Sunday, Nov. 2, the congregation donated 217 diapers, enough to be delivered to both Black Diamond Community Center and Vine Maple Place,

an agency that houses single parents with children. In addition to diapers, church donations last Sunday included diaper wipes, 28 boxes of cereal, peanut butter, Goldfish crackers, hot apple cider, and syrup. Upon delivery, Vine Maple said they were in dire need of toilet tissue,

and that they currently had no tissue on their shelves. Again, the church stepped up, a member headed to Costco and returned with \$40 worth of toilet tissue. The Care Closet at Vine Maple has an ongoing list of hygiene items. The list includes toothpaste, toothbrushes and

floss, laundry and dishwashing detergents, paper towels, bar soap and liquid hand soap, body lotion, shaving cream and razors, feminine hygiene products, toilet tissue, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, and unscented tall kitchen trash bags. Vine Maple Place is located at 21730 Dorre Don Way SE in Maple Valley.

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Hopelink Mobility

By Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, November 3, 2025, from 7 - 9:30 PM at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St. and via Zoom. Topics discussed were: (1) Hopelink Mobility; (2) Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea Plan; and (3) Critical Areas Ordinance Update.

Hopelink Mobility

Grace Georgitsis, South King County Mobility Coordinator, for HopeLink, a human-services agency, discussed facilitating access to the community through transportation to make it easier for all people to get around King County. Hopelink resources are offered through the *Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy*.

HopeLink provides travel education and resources to build awareness of existing transportation options; supports coordination of special needs transportation through cross-sector collaborations; and gathers data and needs to recommend and implement improved services. Hopelink provides one-on-one support with finding transportation options such as local shuttles, volunteer driver programs, medical transportation services, transit, and helps clients navigate public transportation routes and provide suggested trip plans.

Grace also described the *Rural Transportation Advocacy Project*, which provides tools and resources to help those living in the Rural Area effectively advocate for community transportation solutions.

Please contact Grace at: ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org.

Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea Plan

King County Department of Local Services (DLS) Subarea Planning Manager, Susan McLain, discussed progress on the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River (GMV/CR) Community Service Area (CSA) Subarea Plan. This is a locally specific 20-year plan that covers: Land use and zoning; Housing and human services; Environment; Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Resources; Transportation; Services and

Utilities; and Economic Development. The Subarea Plan *schedule* is: Preliminary Plan—January-February 2026; Public Review Draft—June 2026; and Final Draft—December 2026. The Area Council is working to ensure the GMV/CR CSA Subarea Plan work is completed to the community's satisfaction.

Critical Areas Ordinance Update

The King County Council is holding final hearings on the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update. The Joint Team of King County Rural and Urban Unincorporated Area organizations, coordinated by the Area Council, has been reviewing prior drafts developed by the KC Executive's Office and KC Council Committees.

On October 16 the Joint Team submitted its final Written Comments (<http://gmvuac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/CAO-Public-Comments-Joint-Team.pdf>) to the KC Council. In general, the CAO Update is very good and offers a greater level of protection to critical areas.

There is extensive use of *non-regulatory measures* including new and improved mapping, the Land Conservation Initiative, Public Benefit Rating System, and the reduction from 10 ac to five ac for Rural Open Space eligibility, stormwater management, flood management planning, Farm and Forest Management Plans, restoration of damaged critical areas, and other proven strategies. All these measures have multiple benefits, yet provide some flexibility, while still ensuring compliance.

As part of the CAO Update, the *"Critical Areas Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program Plan"* includes the number of staff, dollars needed, and other things for implementation and do some reforms in the KC Department of Local Services, Permitting Division. To ensure successful implementation, efforts must include assistance to landowners to understand and follow the regulations.

The CAO Update will be finalized/approved by the KC Council at its final hearing on December 2.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held Monday, December 1, 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 wish to join, 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 on any Area Council Committee: *Environment, Growth Management, Transportation, Public Relations, or Train Show*—please see the Area Council's website (<http://gmvuac.org>) and use the drop-down menu under *Committees*.

On our Home page recent *Monthly Meeting Summary Articles* can be in the *2025/2024 GMVUAC Monthly Meeting Articles* box (or by using the drop-down menu under *Correspondence*).

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An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen



I'll do it myself!

"On November 20, 1988, the *Los Angeles Times* reported: A screaming woman, trapped in a car dangling from a freeway transition road in East Los Angeles, was rescued Saturday morning. A 19-year-old woman apparently fell asleep behind the wheel at about 12:15 AM. The car, which plunged through a guard rail, was left dangling by its left rear wheel. A half dozen passing motorists stopped, grabbed some ropes from one of their vehicles, tied the ropes to the back of the women's car, and hung on until the fire units arrived. A ladder was extended from below to help stabilize the car while firefighters tied the vehicle to tow trucks with cables and chains.

'Every time we would move the car,' said one of the rescuers, 'she'd yell and scream. She was in pain.' It took almost 2 ½ hours for the passers-by, CHP officers, tow truck drivers, and firefighters—about 25 people in all—to secure the car and pull the woman to safety.

'It was kinda funny,' L.A. County Fire Capt. Ross Marshall recalled later. 'She kept saying, 'I'll do it myself.'"

As I read this story, it made me think of the response of so many people to the question of where they will spend eternity. Jesus went to the Cross to pay the penalty of sin for the whole world. He took upon himself the sins of the world to justify the righteousness of God and provide forgiveness for sinners like you and me. He did all this, yet the most common response of people when asked how they know they will be in heaven when they die is, "I'm a pretty good person and believe God will accept me into heaven." In other words, they are saying, "I'll do it myself." "If I work hard enough at being good, God will let me into heaven."

Is this really true? If we are good enough, God will let us into heaven? Not according to God's Word, and I'm glad because there is no peace in wondering if you're going to make it to heaven based on you're good behavior. To let you squirm and fret until the end is not a loving God. A loving God provides a way that you can know for sure.

The Bible tells us there is no one who is righteous or good enough to inherit heaven. It says, "all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory" and that "the wages of sin is death, but the free Gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus." – Romans 3:23; 6:23. Now that is a loving God. He offers salvation as a free gift, yet many still say, "I'll do it myself!"

Is this person you? If so, it's time that you examine your heart and agree with God that you are a sinner separated from Him and in need of Christ's saving sacrifice on the Cross. Will you receive God's forgiveness and live for him today, or will you just continue to say, "I'll do it myself"? God's Word is clear, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." – John 3:36

Would you like to know more? We would love to talk with you, pray for you, and help you discover God's truth and hope for life. Call us at 425-432-0634 or visit us at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. You may also join us each Sunday, 9 AM for Sunday school and 10:15 AM for Worship. We are located at 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.



Church Information and Services

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

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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

For generations, school children were taught, “at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – we will remember them.” On that day and time in 1918, the Great War came to an end. It wouldn’t be known as World War I for another twenty years, when an even greater war eclipsed it.

November 11th was first commemorated as Armistice Day, later known as Remembrance Day, and in the United States, now celebrated as Veterans’ Day. It marks the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front after more than four years of battles on the European continent. Many European countries celebrate November 11th as Armistice Day, but throughout the British Commonwealth, it’s called Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was approved as a legal holiday by Congress in 1938, and in 1954, an amendment to the law changed the name to Veterans Day.

The first Armistice Day celebration was held in 1919 at Buckingham Palace. It included a two-minute silence as a mark of respect for the estimated 9 to 11 million military personnel who gave their lives. Millions of others died as a result of disease, accidents, and famine. In Britain, about 2% of the country’s population perished. In France, it was 4.4%, in Romania, approximately 8%, and in Serbia, an astounding 17% to 27% were estimated to have died. Mournful songs and poems memorialized the fallen, perhaps none more famous than “In Flanders Fields,” written by John McCrae, a Canadian soldier, who succumbed to pneumonia eleven months before the war’s end.

This Armistice Day photo from the Vernarelli family collection, along with the story below about Belgian families who emigrated, comes courtesy of JoAnne Matsumura, a historian and former archivist for the Black Diamond Historical Museum. Colorized enhancements were undertaken by Boomer Burnham, a Tahoma



High School photography instructor who operates commercially as Boomers Photography. The photo was likely taken in the early 1920s during a parade honoring Black Diamond’s contribution to the war effort. The pumpkin to the right of the American flag was no doubt left over from Halloween. The boys in the photo may have been part of the Vernarelli family.

Fighting on the Western Front caused Belgium and France’s coal production to plummet. German troops destroyed coal mines in the occupied areas of France and Belgium. Belgium’s output dropped to almost nothing by 1918. Extreme labor shortages severely hobbled France’s yield, as miners were called up for military service. The scarcity of coal led to higher international prices. Washington State set an all-time coal production record in 1918 of 4.1 million tons, 17% higher than in 1914.

Lloyd George, then British Prime Minister, exclaimed: “Coal is the most important element in the industrial life of this country. The blood which courses through the veins of industry in our country is made of distilled coal.” Lloyd George knew coal’s importance. Welsh parents raised him, and Welsh, not English, was his first language. Wales was the United Kingdom’s primary coal-producing region.

Even before the first anniversary of Armistice Day, Black Diamond welcomed refugees from Belgium. In late July 1919, the families of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Beaumet and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Nicaisse, together with the latter couple’s two sons, relocated to Black Diamond. Nicaisse was Arthur Beaumet’s son-in-law. During the war, Beaumet’s home in Charleroi, one of Belgium’s largest cities, was captured by German troops. The Beaumets lost their home and property in the war, so when the fighting ceased, they resolved to begin life anew in America.

2025

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Saturday, November 15, 2025
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Bake Sale – Music



www.tahomabandboosters.org



Black Diamond
Police Reports

On 10/13/2025 at 1217 hours, Officer’s responded to a civil issue located near the 32600 block of 3rd Avenue. It was reported that a terminated employee arrived at a local business to pick up their paycheck and was denied and advised to leave the property. Officer’s contacted the owner of the business and terminated employee and advised this incident was a civil issue.

On 10/13/2025 at 1318 hours, Officer’s responded to a suicidal subject near the 22000 block of SE 296th St. It was reported that a male was suffering from suicidal ideation’s and was cutting himself with a piece of metal. After interviewing the male, it was determined he was going to be involuntarily committed and transported to a nearby hospital. The male was soon transferred and Officer’s cleared the call.

On 10/14/2025 at approximately 1911 hours, an officer was dispatched to the 31100 block of 3rd Ave in reference to a suspicious activity call. This evening it was discovered that security footage showed a subject walking around a residence and sitting on the front porch between 0503 hours and 1659 hours this morning. The subject observed in the footage was not known to the resident or neighbors. No crime was identified to have taken place.

On 10/16/2025, officers responded to the 32800 block of SE Cottonwood ST. for a dispute. The officers provided resources and contacted the Mobile Crisis Team to respond and continue providing assistance.

On 10/17/2025 at 0908 hours, Officer’s were provided found property after an anonymous citizen located it abandoned at the Black Diamond Cemetery at 24431 Morgan St. Officer’s were able to contact the owner by phone and advised the property would be placed into evidence for safekeeping for the time being.

On 10/17/2025 at 1114 hours, Officer’s responded to unwanted subjects located near the 30200 block of 224th Avenue SE. The reporting party advised that two subjects over staying their reservation agreement. Officer’s later discovered the vehicle one of the subjects were driving, was stolen. The subject was then taken into custody for possession of a stolen vehicle and the vehicle was impounded.

On 10/17/2025, Officers were dispatched to the 31100 block of 3rd AVE for an Obvious Death. Officers conducted a death investigation,

(Continued on page 4)

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.

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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, November 19, 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, November 11, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. Saturday, November 15, 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, November 11, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. Wednesday, November 19, 2025. Preview 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 11, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. Tuesday, November 18, 2025 @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m. (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 11, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. Thursday, November 13, 2025 @ Noon Viewing @ 11:30 a.m. (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 11, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

Rainbow Towing, 8333 219th St. S.E., Woodinville, WA 98072. Saturday, November 15, 2025. Preview @ 9 a.m. Auction @12:00 p.m. (Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 11, 2025)

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LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Washington County of King
In re the Estates of Marjorie Mae Reese and Lawrence Alfred Reese Deceased.
No. 25-4-07124-1 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
The above Court has appointed Patricia A. Reese as Personal Representative of Decedent's estate
Any person having a claim against Decedent must present the claim:
•Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and
•In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070:
•By filing with the Court the original of the signed Creditor's Claim, and
•By serving upon or mailing by first class mail to me at the address provided below a copy of the signed Creditor's Claim.
The Creditor's Claim must be presented by the later to occur of:
•Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice to you as provided in RCW 11.40.020(3), or
•Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice.
If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
Date of First Publication of this Notice: Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Dated: October 24, 2025
/s/ Jennifer A. Gellner: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, Attorney for Personal Representative, WSBA #30701
Address for Mailing of Service: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, 8407 S. 259th Street, Suite 203, Kent, WA 98030-7536
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, November 4, 11 & 18, 2025)

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Black Diamond Police Reports

(Continued from page 3)

evidence on scene suggested the victim died of natural causes.

On 10/18/25, officers were dispatched to a complaint of loud music at the 31100 block of 3rd Ave. Officers conducted an area check with negative results.

On 10/17/25, officers were notified by Black Diamond Public Works Staff of scheduled maintenance at the 25700 block of Lawson st. Officers were advised that a vehicle was parked over the manhole cover and was inaccessible by their staff. Officers conspicuously placed a 24 hour notice on the vehicle and notified the owner of the vehicle who agreed to move it.

On 10/18/2025, Officers were dispatched to the 32500 block of Union DR. for a welfare check. Officers arrived on scene and learned the subject to be checked on did not reside at the provided address. Officers obtained the correct address and forwarded the information to King County Sheriff's Office.

On 10/19/2025, an officer received a report of a dog bite in the 29600 block of 232 AVE SE. The Fire Department had responded to the location for an illegal burn. While on scene a dog bit a firefighter causing minor injuries. A report was completed and the information was forwarded to King County Animal Control.

On 10/19/2025, officers were dispatched to a death investigation at the 21700 block of SE 288th St. Officers conducted an investigation and determined the cause of death to be natural causes.

On 10/19/2025 Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 23400 block of Windy CT in regard to a report of threats with a knife. Officers were able to contact the suspect and they were taken into custody without incident and booked into the King County Juvenile Center.

On 10/19/2025 Officers were dispatched to a request from an outside agency for confirmation on a protection order issued through the Black Diamond Municipal Court. Officer confirmed the order was valid and served and advised the agency.

On 10/19/2025, Officers were dispatched to the 33200 block of Holly AVE SE for a reported illegal discharge. Officers made contact with the reporting party and conducted an area check. No additional callers or witnesses were identified, Officers were unable to locate the source of the noise.

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