

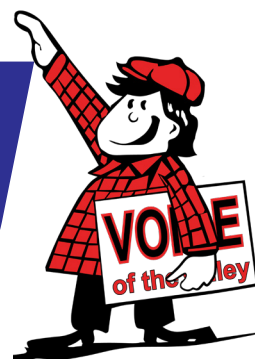
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VOICE of the Valley

56TH YEAR, NUMBER 46

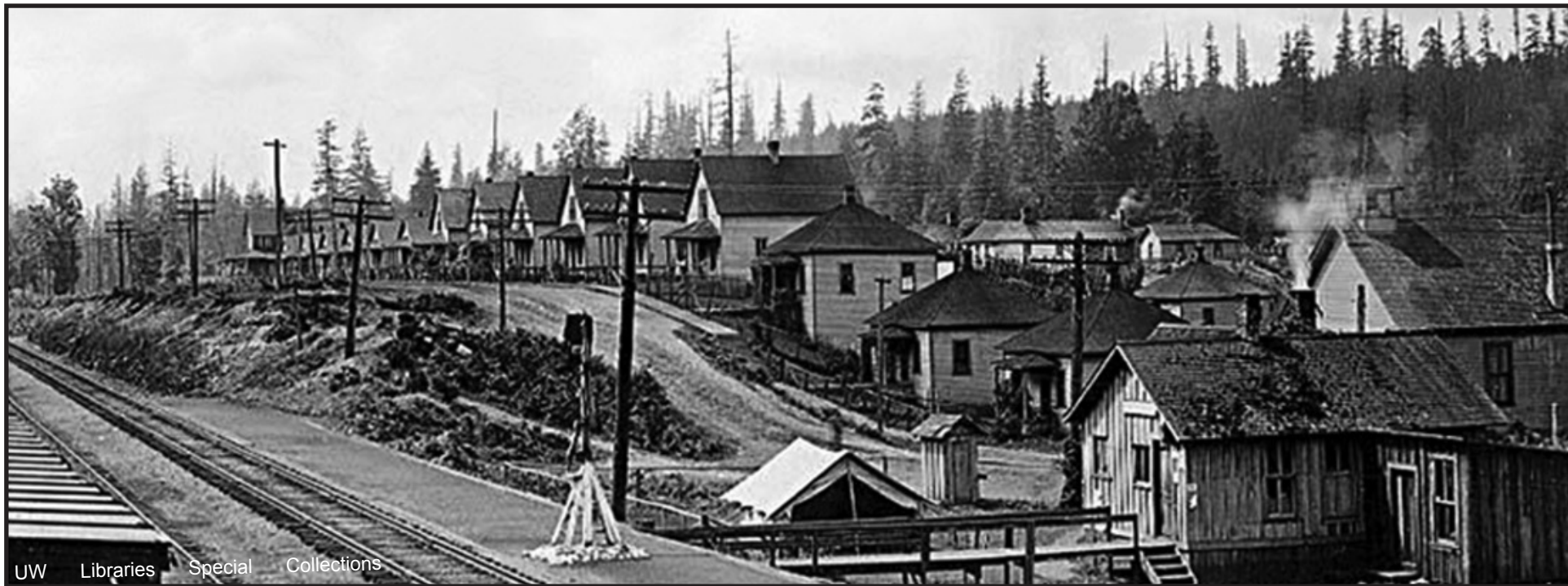
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025



Since 1969

Ravensdale Community Meeting on Historic Ravensdale Homes



Do you recognize these Ravensdale houses along the top of this hill? Eleven of the 12 houses shown on the top of the hill along Ravensdale Way in this ca. 1910 photo are still in use today, very little changed from their original exterior appearance. These houses are now 125 years old – constructed in 1900 to house miner families of what would become the Ravensdale mines. Come join us for a community meeting to discuss recognizing these 11 historic Ravensdale houses with an honorary designation as a *Community Landmark District*. This type of designation poses no obligations or regulatory constraints on the homeowners – it is solely a recognition by our community of the important role these historic company houses played in our early history. The community meeting will be held in the meeting room at the rear of the Ravensdale Park Maintenance Building (between Baseball Field #3 and Soccer Field #4) in Ravensdale Park on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

The Big Tree

Needs Lights!

Hometown Christmas Needs Volunteers

Hometown Christmas in Black Diamond is an annual celebration, free for children. The celebration committee is requesting volunteers to decorate outdoor trees. Volunteers should arrive at the Museum on the **Saturday after Thanksgiving (Nov.29) by 10:00 a.m.** Volunteers put up Christmas lights and decorate the fence between the antique store and The Smoke House with lights and wreaths. This year's project includes new lights for the tall 20' tree in Gomer Evans Jr. Park.

It is very important that volunteers contact Laurie Evans, Hometown Christmas Chair (253-334-4681), if they'd like to participate. Also, Laurie must know by December 4th whether you are volunteering on the day of Hometown Christmas (Dec.13). Dan and Gina, who own The Smokehouse and More, provide lunch for volunteers that day. If a name is not on the volunteer list submitted by Laurie, they will not receive a free lunch.

Hometown Christmas is celebrated along Railroad Avenue, Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

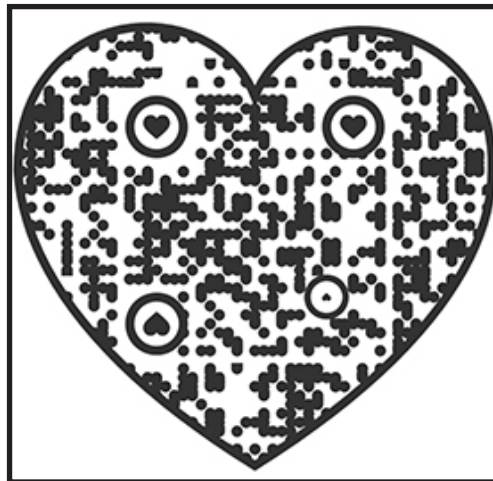
Pacific Raceways to Help Families and Kids

By Bill Archer

The Sunday of December 7th Pacific Raceways will be hosting the 2nd Annual Bad Santa Cruise-In. This is a fund raiser for the children and families that might not have a Christmas this year. It is a contest between 4 different groups to see who can raise the most donations or bring in the most toys.

The groups consist of Pacific Raceways, Cruz N Cole, Binford Field of Dreams, and Cruise Puyallup. Pacific Raceways will be raising their funds and toys for Akin formerly Childhaven and Children's Home Society to help ensure their families and children have a Merry Christmas.

Akin has two facilities in Auburn and Kent. If you would care to donate to help out the Pacific Raceways gang then scan the QR code to make a donation, and thank you. If you need any more information then check out www.pacificraceways.com.



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The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 1, 7-9:30 pm at the Maple Valley Fire Station 22225 SE 231st St (across from King County Sheriff's Precinct #3). Guest Speakers TBD; visit the GMVUAC [website](http://gmvuac.org/) (<http://gmvuac.org/>) for the agenda and Zoom information, which will be posted several days before the meeting.



On 10/27/2025 at 0905 hours, Officer's responded to a welfare check near the 24700 block of Morgan St. The reporting party was concerned for their elderly mother after not hearing back from her in a few days. Officer's were able to contact the mother and were advised the lack of contact was due to a recent power outage. Officer's were advised Police services were not needed and contacted the reporting party with the results.

On 10/27/2025 at 1124 hours, Officer's responded to a road hazard that occurred near the 24800 block of Morgan St. It was reported that there were low hanging power lines over the roadway and vehicles were hitting the line as they passed by. Officer's provided traffic control assistance while fire personnel contacted the company who owned the line and public works later shut down the roadway until the line could be fixed.

On 10/27/2025 Officer were dispatch to an Non-injury Accident in the 31700 block on 3rd Ave. Both driver exchanged information and were able to leave scene with no injuries and minor damage to there vehicles.

On 10-28-25, at approximately 06:14 hours, Officers received a call from Valley Communication Radio regarding a suspicious vehicle behind the "K" building at the Village at Ten Trails apartment complex. Officers were advised that a neighbor called 911 to report that a blue Subaru was driving around the complex and appeared to be suspicious. Officers arrived at the complex and were unable to locate the vehicle.

On 10-28-25, at approximately 09:12 hours, Officers received a call from Valley Communication Radio regarding a stolen vehicle report. Officers were informed that the owner of a 2016 RAM 2500 wanted to report the vehicle stolen. Officers arrived at the residence in the 32900 block of Ash AVE SE and took a stolen vehicle report.



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



Give Thanks

Of all the people in the world, we who live in the United States have much to be thankful for. We live with freedoms, rights, and opportunities that are not afforded to most people in the world. Without hesitation, we can say we have been blessed by God. Listen to these timely words of our first president, George Washington, in the proclamation of Thanksgiving in 1789.

"Whereas, it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; Whereas, both the houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness!" Now, therefore, I do recommend next, to be devoted by the people of the states to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be, that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country. George Washington, 1789"

We have much to be thankful for. I hope that you will heed these words of our first president and come together as friends and neighbors, rendering unto God your thankfulness. At the same time, we need also to remind ourselves of the danger of disregarding God. Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD," and Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to *any* people." We need to understand that as we move farther and farther from our heritage of honoring the Lord, the fewer and fewer freedoms we will have. So, as you give thanks, pray specifically for our nation and its leaders to be reminded of what made this nation so great.

If you would like to know more about our nation's history, go to wallbuilders.com. Join us this Wednesday evening at 7 PM for our Thanksgiving Praise Service and Sunday service at 10:15 AM. Find out more at taylorcreekchurch.org.

Holiday Food and Toy Drive In Now Underway

The Maple Valley Food Bank and Emergency Services' holiday food and toy drive is underway and the City is a community drop off site -- both at City Hall and Lake Wilderness Lodge. Collection boxes are near the front desks at both locations. Drop off is open now through Wednesday, December 3 during business hours.



Holiday FOOD & TOY DRIVE

Holiday Food Needs:
Please no glass jars/containers

- Canned Fruit
- Meal in a Can
- Canned Protein
 - Tuna, Chicken, Salmon, etc

- Cereal
- Rice-a-Roni
- Canned Pineapple

Gift Needs:
NEW, UWRAPPED Gifts for Ages: 0-1 2-3 4-6 7-9 10-12
Gift Cards in **\$25 INCREMENTS ONLY**, for Ages: 13-18

Shop Our WishLists for Inspiration:







Thank you for your support & happy holidays!

HOLIDAY HIGH TEA AT NEELY MANSION

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Saturday, December 6th, seatings at 12:30 and 2:30pm

\$40.00 per guest

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(from Highway 18, take the Auburn Black Diamond Road exit)

When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



Last week’s column highlighted the origins of the three primary styles of football played worldwide – soccer, rugby, and the football variants played in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. While football now dominates American sports culture, it wasn’t always this way, particularly in mining communities like Black Diamond with their large immigrant populations.

Black Diamond’s first waves of coal miners were heavily Welsh and English, reflecting the rich mining history of the British Isles. Jack Evans, who came from Wales to Black Diamond in 1910, is credited with organizing the first soccer team shortly thereafter. In fact, they won the Washington State Championships for the 1911-12 season. The teams were sponsored by the coal company, which took sporting excellence seriously. Paul Botts claimed, “If you were a good soccer player or baseball player, you had a job, whether you knew how to work or not.” Botts continues, “They imported Pete Dearden from Roslyn cause he was a good soccer player.”

While these days sporting equipment like balls and shoes are ubiquitous, back then, the boys in a coal mining town had to be inventive. Ed Banchero noted, “Heck, we didn’t have any balls. To play soccer, we would kick a can.” For shoe traction, they made their own cleats as Banchero explained, “Dad used to put more bloody hobnails on my shoes, that I could hardly lift them, but we still kicked it.”

Black Diamond’s team regularly traveled throughout the Puget Sound area, playing in the state’s top leagues. In 1941, the British battleship, HMS Warspite, was in port at Bremerton. Sailors from the ship played against various Washington teams but were shocked when the Black Diamond eleven soundly defeated them. Two years later, Italian prisoners of war held at Fort Lawton traveled by bus to Black

Diamond and stayed in the homes of Italian families who greeted them with open arms. The two teams faced off Sunday, though it’s unclear which side won.

By the 1950s, soccer in America began to slowly die out, overpowered by the popularity of high school, college, and professional football. However, in the late 1960s, ad hoc soccer clubs and teams began forming. In 1967, only 100,000 people played soccer in the U.S., but that number grew to over 4 million by

1984. America’s soccer’s growth spurred FIFA to award the 1994 men’s World Cup to the United States, its first ever. The 1994 World Cup, hosted in nine American cities, drew record TV audiences and inspired the formation of Major League Soccer, which kicked off its first season in 1996. The men’s World Cup returns to the U.S. in 2026.

This photo of the Black Diamond soccer team, sponsored by Strain Coal Company, was taken in February 1940 at an unknown location. Kneeling from left to right: Tony Foglio, Herb Wells, Joe Romedo, Tom Hope (boy holding ball), Tom Zumek, K. O. Spaitig, Steve Androsko, and Frank Zumek.

Standing from left to right: Louie Zumek (with head bowed), Norman Hope, Frank Manowski, Jack Chilcott, Deno Mariotti, Ned Chilcott, Jack Hope, Emmett Brennan, Walt Sigmund, Phil Fowler, John Birchall.

This photo #2004.101.01, at an unknown location, comes courtesy of the Black Diamond Historical Society. Jackie Hope Jr., whose father was on the team, helped to identify the coaches and players.

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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
A1 Right Towing and Recovery, 18451 Des Moines Memorial Dr, SeaTac, WA 98148. **Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025.** Viewing starts: 11 a.m. **Auction 12 p.m.**
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 25, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
- **Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc.** 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, December 3, 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 25, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc. 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133 . 206-364-2000. **Saturday, November 29, 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 25, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, December 3, 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 25, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, December 2, 2025 @ Noon** / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 25, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Royal Towing Maple Valley 12 Vehicles
Royal Towing Black Diamond 6 Vehicles
31121 3rd Ave., Black Diamond, 360-886-7605
Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 @ 2 p.m. Viewing @ 12 p.m.
\$100 Bid Deposit Required
List of Vehicles @ www.towhelp.com/Auctions.aspx
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 25, 2025)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Todd's Towing, 1410 East North Bend Way, North Bend, WA 98045. Auction: **Saturday, November 29, 2025.** Preview @ 9 a.m. **Auction at 10 a.m.** 425-888-3414.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, November 25, 2025)

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Holiday Engines Are Gearing Up To Collect Food Beginning December 5

Santa will be visiting neighborhoods this year in the Maple Valley, Kent, and Covington areas with local Scouts, school, and other youth groups to collect food and donations for the Maple Valley Food Bank. If you would like to make a donation before the Holiday Engines appear in your neighborhood, you can visit one of the foodbanks they will be helping Covington Storehouse, Kent Foodbank and Maple Valley Food Bank.

The Holiday Engines will be out and about for three Fridays and Saturdays starting **December 5, 2025.** Maple Valley Holiday Engine Routes <https://www.holidayengine.org/routes-mv.html> Covington and Kent Holiday Engine Routes can be found at <https://www.holidayengine.org/routes-covington.html> to determine if your neighborhood is on the list of those to be visited, and if so, when.

On the night that you want to follow the Holiday Engines, go to <https://www.holidayengine.org/track.html> and track them in near real time.

The holiday engines with Santas' helpers will again be carrying a card machine this year so that if you like, you can donate to the food bank using your debit or credit card. The same as prior years, a cash boot will be available for donations as well. Thank You!

If you are unable to participate in the fun on those evenings, you can still leave food at your door for local school, sports, or scout groups to pickup. Our helpers will be visiting neighborhoods the week prior to the Engines to hand out fliers and bags reminding community members of the event. If you decide to leave any food on your front porch or step, our helpers that visit the neighborhoods with the Holiday Engines will be sure to pick it up.

Finally, if you are a part of a youth organization, i.e. scouts or a sports team, and would like to help us with the Holiday Engine as we collect food in local neighborhoods, please reach out to us at signup@holidayengine.org.

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