

## City Hall Tree Damage and Repair

### Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

December 1, 2015

#### 6:00 Transportation Benefit District Meeting:

- Presentation of Annual Report
- Action regarding Transportation Benefit District assumption

#### 7:00 Regular Meeting

- Public Hearing regarding Transportation Benefit District assumption
- Public Hearing on Ordinance 2293 to adopt 2016 City Manager Recommended Budget
- Public Hearing CANCELLED on vacation of portion of Spruce Street
- Action authorizing 2016-2017 City Attorney retainer
- Discussion regarding police 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report
- Discussion regarding cell tower regulations

*The agenda list above is partial and tentative. For further information, click here for the City website:*  
<http://www.snohomishwa.gov/AgendaCenter/City-Council-Agendas-1>



During last week's wind storm the Southern Pine Oak tree at City Hall was damaged. The tree developed a split between the two large main stems. This would typically be a fatal wound if the split had separated and detached.

City staff called Bob Layton from American Forest Management to assess the tree. After a brief discussion the decision was made to try to save the tree. Staff then called Seattle Tree Preservation Inc. who assessed the damage and came up with a great repair option:

- 1) Reduce the crown of the tree by 25% in order to reduce the leverage and weight on the damaged area.
- 2) Drill and bolt together (using a long all thread) the split in the main stem to help hold the wound together.
- 3) Install two 4-ton cobra cables about 2/3 of the way up the tree to keep the 2 stems from moving away from each other and further widening the split. This will keep the tree stems from moving independently and causing further damage to the tree.

Staff is very excited that we were able to save this tree. The two pine oaks at City Hall are close to 100 years old and to lose one of them would be detrimental to the look and balance of the City Hall property and to the community.

# Water Treatment Plant Operators Receive High Evaluations From the State Department of Health

*The City's Water Treatment Plant (WTP) near the upper Pilchuck River*



During the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s there was a concern among public health professionals and water purveyors regarding the outbreak of waterborne diseases caused by pathogenic organisms shown to be resistant to disinfection by chlorine. These diseases were giardiasis and cryptosporidiosis, both of which are caused by disinfection resistant cysts. Because of these concerns both federal and state filtered water performance standards for turbidity have become more rigorous over the past several decades in an on-going effort to provide higher levels of public health protection against pathogens. They have been working toward this with improved particle removal, measured as filtered water

turbidity in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU). *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* cysts are able to “hide” behind the particles in turbid water.

One of the Washington State Department of Health’s (DOH) efforts to ensure all water treatment plants are efficiently and effectively treating water is to provide Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (CPE) to identify factors that may limit plant performance. CPE's were developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and have been adopted as a technical assistance tool by the WA DOH. The purpose of the CPE is to assist surface water treatment plants to "optimize" plant performance and in doing so, exceed federal and state turbidity standards.

A three-day CPE of the Snohomish Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was conducted by Sleeping Giant Environmental Consultants as a part of DOH's technical assistance program. It was conducted for technical assistance purposes, and not in response to any known or anticipated compliance problems. Additionally, the CPE evaluated the plant's performance against the DOH optimization goals which are more stringent and protective of public health than existing regulatory requirements. After the CPE was completed an evaluation was prepared for the DOH. It was the opinion of the evaluation team that the plant operators Kendall Utt and Paul Morse were doing an excellent job of producing safe drinking water, and that the plant’s performance was “optimized”.



*The Water Treatment Plant's Turbidity Meters*

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In addition to a CPE, Drinking Water Regulations require that all “Group A” public water systems (those serving more than 15 connections) with surface water sources have a sanitary survey every three years. The purpose of this routine survey is to identify any immediate health concerns and to assess the overall operation, maintenance and management of the water system.

On September 10, 2015 a sanitary survey of the City of Snohomish Water Treatment Plant was conducted by the DOH. After the sanitary survey was completed comments discussed in the report stated:

- “It is apparent how much your operators take pride in what they do.”
- “The plant is able to produce water that meets Department of Health Optimization Goal and has done so for the past year and a half. This is a direct result of the interest your operators take in running the plant.”; and
- “Also because of your operators, I did not see any health issues or concerns during my survey.”

Thanks go to Kendall Utt and Paul Morse for their hard work and dedication to meet DOH criteria for optimization. Their efforts to produce quality water for the residents of Snohomish does not go unnoticed.

## **Merriment Instead of Mulching: PSE Donates Cut Trees to Snohomish Carnegie Foundation for Christmas Fundraiser**

Roughly 150 trees cut down at an abandoned Christmas tree farm will find new homes for the holidays instead of being tossed into a wood chipper. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is donating the trees as part of land clearing efforts for a transmission line upgrade in Pierce County.

There are thousands of fir trees at the property near Puyallup. A section of them have been harvested this past week and donated to a nonprofit foundation, which will sell them this weekend as a part of a fundraiser.

PSE hired a demolition company, Wyser Construction, to prepare the project site for removal work. For the second year, PSE is partnering with Wyser to donate the cut Christmas trees. They’re going to the Snohomish Carnegie Foundation, a nonprofit that Wyser has worked with. The group is restoring a historic library building in the City of Snohomish that serves as a community meeting space.

Wyser delivered the trees to Snohomish this week. They will be sold Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November and if any trees are left over they will be sold on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>. The trees will be sold from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Carnegie parking lot, 105 Cedar Avenue, Snohomish.

“This is a terrific opportunity to donate these trees that were going to be removed anyway. So it’s a win-win,” said Aaron Drake, PSE project manager at the site. “Instead of being turned into mulch right away, the trees can find a temporary good home in some living rooms this holiday season.”

The Christmas tree farm is located on one of the properties that PSE purchased for the next phase of a transmission line upgrade to improve service and reliability in Pierce County, which will include a pair of 115 kilovolt power lines.

## **Come Home for the Holidays to**

# Snohomish on Saturday November 28



With its relaxed pace and small-town charm, Downtown Snohomish is the perfect place to wind down after a hectic “Black Friday”. Instead of loud and crowded big box stores, Snohomish visitors will experience warm and personal shopping and dining in our cozy restaurants and friendly shops.

Wave to Santa as he cruises down First Street at 11:00 a.m. on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Everyone will want to stick around for visits with Santa. Bring a camera for free photos with Santa from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Snohomish Riverfront Gazebo. The live entertainment continues until that time too. Then, head one block west to First Street and Avenue B, to help Santa light the Community Tree with magic and holiday spirit.

## Where:

First Street in Snohomish, WA (Santa’s cruise route)  
Riverfront Gazebo near the Corner of First Street and Avenue A

## When:

Saturday, November 28, 2015, 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Music Starts at 11:00 a.m.  
Santa starts his First Street cruise at 11:00 a.m.  
Photos with Santa 11:15 a.m. – 4:45 a.m.  
Tree Lighting at 5:00 p.m.  
(Times are approximate and subject to change without notice.)

## Cost:

FREE

## More:

To see a full calendar of Snohomish holiday events and activities, visit:

<http://www.historicdowntownsnohomish.org/home-for-the-holidays-2015.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/HistoricDowntownSnohomish/>

## 2015 Calendar:

**Thanksgiving Day**  
Thursday, November 26  
City Hall CLOSED



**Day After Thanksgiving**  
Friday, November 27  
City Hall CLOSED

**Transportation Benefit District Board**  
Tuesday, December 1 – 6 pm  
Gilbertson Board Room  
1601 Avenue D

<http://ci.snohomish.wa.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/12012015-556>

**City Council**  
Tuesday, December 1 - 7 pm  
Regular Meeting  
Gilbertson Board Room  
1601 Avenue D

<http://ci.snohomish.wa.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/12012015-555>

**Planning Commission**  
Wednesday, December 2 – 6 pm  
Gilbertson Board Room  
1601 Avenue D



# Highlighted Land Use Applications in Process

The applications listed below are currently pending or under review. During the comment period associated with a development proposal, interested parties may submit comments for the project record. For additional information on any of these projects, the project file may be reviewed at City Hall during normal business hours. Staff is also available to respond to questions at the contact information below.

**Brandvold Critical Area Variance to construct two single family homes:** 302 Cedar Avenue  
File #11-14-VAR

Application has been approved with conditions. Notice of Hearing Examiner's Decision issued November 23, 2015: <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/932>.

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, [eidem@snohomishWA.gov](mailto:eidem@snohomishWA.gov)

**Posey Short Plat (two-lot short plat):** 1706 Seventh Street  
File #19-15-SP

Complete application determination issued October 6, 2015.

Notice of Application issued October 16, 2015.

Pending Administrative Approval.

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, [eidem@snohomishWA.gov](mailto:eidem@snohomishWA.gov)

**Cady Landing Pedestrian Bridge:** 40 Maple Avenue  
File #21-15-SEPA

Pending SEPA Threshold Determination – **APPLICATION IS ON HOLD**

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, [eidem@snohomishWA.gov](mailto:eidem@snohomishWA.gov)

**For a complete list of all land use and development projects currently in review, please visit the City's website.** <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2376>

## WINTER WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN

The City of Snohomish is committed to providing the best level of winter weather response it can with existing limited funding and resources. To help you understand what level of service we can provide and what to expect during winter weather events, we have prepared a winter weather snow and ice response plan. To view the snow & ice response plan visit our web site at [www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov) or stop by City Hall at 116 Union Avenue to request a copy of the plan. If you have questions about the plan contact Public Works Operations at (360) 568-7070 (Mike Johnson, PW Services Manager)

Our first priority in winter weather response is to keep essential roads open for emergency response services, delivery of goods to and from the City, and access to essential services. The roads most commonly used for these purposes have been identified and assigned a priority of 1 or 2. Priority 1 and 2 routes will receive winter weather services before all other roads. During moderate to heavy winter weather events we may only be able to provide winter weather response services to Priority 1 and 2 routes.

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### **Snow Plowing**

Plowing is primarily used to remove significant accumulations of snow from the road surface, just prior to applying sand and/or anti-icing agents. Plowing operations generally begin when snow accumulation has reached 2 inches or more. Plowing operations are limited by equipment availability (1 plow).

### **Sanding**

A 5/1 sand and salt mixture will be used on City streets to help reduce and remove ice formation in critical areas. Sand is primarily used to provide traction at intersections, curves, and grades. Sanding operations begin when hills, sharp corners and intersections become slippery and difficult to travel. Known problem areas are sanded (with salt added) routinely during snow and ice weather events.

### **Application of Anti-Icing Agents**

Anti-icing is the practice of applying chemicals to roadways to prevent frost and ice from forming. If it does, de-icer helps break the bond to keep it from compacting and bonding onto the highway.

The City of Snohomish does not own anti-icing equipment, so arrangements have been made with Snohomish County Public Works to apply anti-icing agents on the surface of pre-designated City roadways and bridges when icy conditions have been forecast. Snohomish County Public Works will apply anti-icing agents for the City of Snohomish when the County is applying anti-icing agents to County roadways adjacent to City limits. This service is contingent upon the availability of Snohomish County personnel and equipment.

### **Hill Closures**

Several roads in the City contain steep hills that are unsafe to travel during winter weather events. These hills will be closed while travel conditions on them are unsafe.

