



City Manager's Friday Newsletter

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

June 4:

- Public hearing for adoption of the City's updated Strategic Plan
- Action to refer to the Planning Commission the concept of higher residential densities in the Historic Business land use designation

The agenda list above is partial and tentative. For further information, click here for the City website:

http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us/Agendas.htm#CITY_COUNCIL_AGENDAS

You're Invited

The Snohomish Parks and Recreation Board invites you to attend its regular May meeting to review the proposed master plan for the wildlife refuge in the City of Snohomish.

This plan is the result of work by a City Council-appointed Steering Committee which has met regularly since last July to develop its recommendations for City-owned property located along the north bank of the Snohomish River on both sides of Highway 9. To date, the area addressed by the plan has been referred to as the proposed wildlife refuge. Over seventy suggestions were provided in response to the City's request in April, and the name Snohomish Riverview Sanctuary was selected by the Steering Committee to be submitted to the City Council for approval later this summer.

The Parks Board agenda is available on the City's web page. The master plan report can be viewed at <http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us/PDFs/Parks/MayRefugeMasterPlanforParksBoard.pdf>. Copies of the proposed master plan are available for review at Snohomish City Hall and the Snohomish Library at 311 Maple Avenue.

The public meeting is scheduled for **7:00 to 8:30 p.m., May 22nd** at the Snohomish Boys & Girls Club located at **402 Second Street in the City of Snohomish**. The facility is accessible. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to comment on the plan, you may do so by writing to the City of Snohomish, Attn: Ann Stanton, 116 Union Avenue, Snohomish WA 98290, or by email to Stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us.

Please contact Ann Stanton, project manager, at 360-282-3195, with any questions about the wildlife refuge project.

Water Main and Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Exercising Project Scheduled to Begin in June

The City of Snohomish will be implementing its Water Main and Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Exercising Operation and Maintenance Program beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer. Watch for signs in your local neighborhood area.

Fire hydrant flushing will clean out water distribution mains, remove accumulated sediment, and make sure our fire hydrants are operating properly. Water main valve exercising will help clean out deposits around valve seats and make sure valves operate smoothly and properly.

We will be flushing fire hydrants and exercising valves throughout the City beginning in June and continuing through late summer. A technician may contact you to move property that could be damaged by flowing water. During these operations, you may experience a slight loss in water pressure, air bubbles (cloudy appearance), and/or temporary discoloration. Flushing your private system through your faucets can help clear up these conditions. Even though your water may manifest one or more of these symptoms, it is still safe to drink. This is only a temporary condition.

We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

What is water main flushing? Water main flushing is the process of cleaning or "scouring" the interior of water distribution mains (pipes) by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains. Distribution mains convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in

May 17, 2013

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your neighborhood. In general, distribution mains are supplied with water by larger transmission lines, reservoirs, wells, and/or pumping stations.

Why does the City of Snohomish flush water mains? Flushing helps maintain water quality. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in distribution mains if the mains are not properly managed. This is why flushing is important. Flushing maintains water quality in several ways.

First, flushing removes sediments from the mains. These sediments mostly include iron and manganese. Iron sediment results from corrosion of iron pipes and valves used in the distribution system. Other iron sediments result from the change of dissolved iron, which occurs naturally in our water, into sediment form. This occurs in the presence of chlorine and oxygen under certain low flow conditions. Dissolved manganese also occurs naturally in our water and it can be changed into sediments as with iron. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can degrade the “acceptability” of the water through affecting the taste, clarity, and color of the water. In addition, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine. Therefore, such sediments could contribute to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains.

Finally, flushing helps remove “stale” water. Much of our distribution system is designed with “loops” or interconnected grids, which keep water constantly moving around. However, some areas have dead-ends where water moves slowly and sits for longer periods of time. Such dead-end mains need to be flushed to ensure the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

What will I notice in my neighborhood? City of Snohomish water distribution crews will set up traffic control signs, and they will operate water valves and hydrants. The water flow will be measured and the chlorine in the water will be neutralized. During flushing you may notice a slight drop in water pressure and a cloudy appearance to the water (air bubbles). For a few minutes following flushing, sediment might get into your homes plumbing. If this happens, please be patient and allow your **cold** water to run for a few minutes at full velocity. During this time, you should avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank. Sediment and air do not pose a health concern.

Remember that flushing is aimed at maintaining *long-term* water quality, but it could result in some *short-term* deterioration (in case all of the sediment is not removed). If you know about or see flushing

operations in your neighborhood, you would be well advised to not use any water during the flushing period.

How often should water mains be flushed? The City of Snohomish’s goal is to systematically flush all distribution mains once every two years. Dead end mains will be flushed more frequently, depending on several factors, including the number of customers served by the main.

Where does the flushed water go? Depending on the location, the water may be handled via several different methods: 1) where available, flushed water can be released directly into a sanitary sewer where it flows to a wastewater treatment plant, 2) the water could be released onto surface streets that have storm drains connected to retention/detention facilities, 3) where available, the water could be discharged to wooded areas or open fields, 4) the water could be released to roadside ditches and/or storm drains that drain directly to local creeks or lakes, or 5) the City of Snohomish can flush directly into a water tanker truck if no other suitable methods of disposal are available. Regardless of what method is used, the City of Snohomish is determined to dispose of the flushed water in a method that is environmentally sound.

How much water is used to flush mains? The amount of water used to flush a particular section of pipe depends on a lot of factors, such as water main size, system pressure, the amount of accumulated sediment in the main, and the ability to safely dispose of the water. In general, the City of Snohomish tries to exchange the water in the main at least three times and at a high enough velocity to remove any accumulated sediment.

How does flushing fit in with water conservation goals? The City of Snohomish is dedicated to water conservation. Water is a limited resource that must be carefully managed to ensure adequate quantities for growing human and environmental needs, including salmon restoration. However, since flushing is critical to maintaining high-quality drinking water, an efficient flushing program is also essential. The flushing program is monitored to ensure that the least amount of water is used.

How can I get more information? If you have further questions, you may contact City of Snohomish Public Works Operations at 360-568-3229.

✧ ✧ Calendar 2013 ✧ ✧

City Council

Tuesday, May 21

Regular meeting - 7 p.m.

CANCELLED

Parks and Recreation Board

Special Meeting, Wednesday, May 22 - 7 p.m.

Snohomish Boys & Girls Club

402 Second Street

(note location)

ABATE of Washington

Sky Valley

17th Annual

MOTORCYCLE SHOW



Metric Chopper
Manufactured Custom
American Full Dresser
Radical Custom
Sport Bike
Rat
Stock
Sidecar
Trike
Metric Half Dresser
Metric Full Dresser
Antique (pre-1934)

Metric Custom
American Half Dresser
Old School Chopper
Classic (1956-1976)
250cc & Under
Mild Custom
European
British
Japanese
Women Rider
Vintage (1935-1955)

EVENT PINS \$4.00
DUAL POST

LONG SLEEVE \$20.00
T-SHIRTS \$25.00

SUNDAY MAY 19 2013

Snohomish, Washington
1st Street Historic Downtown
Seattle Cossacks * Live Music * Vendors

Ride-In Motorcycle Show Registration 9am-Noon \$15 Includes Event Pin
Information (360) 568-7820 * www.skyvalleybikeshow.com

EMERALD CITY 

   

 **BENT BIKE** 
Motorcycle Salvage, Inc.

Piccadilly Circus * Troy Beck Antiques * Oxford Saloon & Eatery
Angel Transport and Towing * Pegasus Shops * Twin Eagles Café
Cathouse Pizza * Buzz Inn * 907 Grill & Lounge * Smokey Point Cycle Barn
King's Riders * Christ the King Community Church * Moto International
Jamie's Transmissions * Everett Powersports * Engle's Pub * FOE 195
Snohomish Eagles * Garden City Grange * Wellness Therapy by Rose