



cityofsnoqualmie.org

City NEWS

*Snoqualmie River above the Falls
Photo by Danny Raphael*

Fourth Quarter 2012

City Administration
38624 SE River St.
PO Box 987
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
(425) 888-1555

Calendar

Details on city website at
cityofsnoqualmie.org

National Drug
Take Back Day
Snoqualmie Fire Station
September 29, 10am-2pm

Halloween Train
Snoqualmie Depot
October 27-28
trainmuseum.org

Night on a Dark Trail
Snoqualmie Ridge
October 26-27, 6-9pm
nightonadarktrail.weebly.com

Election Day
November 6

Annual Holiday Tree
Lighting Festival
Railroad Park in
Historic Snoqualmie
December 1, 6:30pm

Santa Train
Tickets on sale now!
Snoqualmie Depot
Weekends during the
Holiday Season
trainmuseum.org

Meadowbrook Farm
Event & Class Schedule
meadowbrookfarmpreserve.org

City Offices Closed
November 12
November 22-23
December 25

Proposition 1 It's up to Snoqualmie Voters

Public Safety Operations, Streets & Parks Maintenance Levy

On November 6, 2012, Snoqualmie voters will decide whether to approve Proposition 1. The proposition is a public safety operations, streets and parks maintenance levy that will allow the current level of city services to be maintained, including emergency response times.

“Voting on Proposition 1 will give citizens the opportunity to tell us what they want and what they feel the community needs,” said Mayor Matt Larson. “Do residents want the current level of services maintained for public safety, for parks, for streets? Is maintaining current emergency response times of 4-6 minutes a high priority? Should parks, playfields, playgrounds and trails be well maintained? Should streets continue to be maintained now so as to avoid deterioration and more costly repairs in the future?”

“The result of this election will be the voice of Snoqualmie’s residents telling the City Council and the City Administration what level of service is needed in Snoqualmie – whether current levels of public safety and maintenance are the preference, or if significant cuts in maintenance, fire, and police protection will be an acceptable alternative.”

In the past decade, the city’s population has grown by more than 8,000, reaching a current level of more than 11,000. While the population and service level needs have increased, the recession has cut city revenues to the point that the City Administration implemented many cost-saving measures, but that is not enough to maintain current service levels. Voters will decide on November 6 what the city’s next steps should be.

REVERSE® 911 Annual System Test Begins October 22

The City of Snoqualmie owns and operates its own REVERSE 911 community notification system that is tested citywide each fall. This year testing will occur October 22-25. During that period, each residence and business should receive a call with a test message. The purpose of the system is to enable city officials to quickly deliver emergency notifications to the community for events such as flooding, evacuations, major road closures or contaminated water. The system has been successfully used during floods and winter storms in recent years.

Most residential and business phone numbers are already in the Snoqualmie REVERSE 911® system; however, if you don’t receive a call during the test period, you should sign up on the city website or call 425-888-5911 and leave your name, street address, and phone number. Detailed information about the operation and advantages of the system is available on the city website in the Department of Emergency Management pages.

Facts and Information

Proposition 1

Public Safety Operations, Streets & Parks Maintenance Levy

Background

Snoqualmie has been the fastest growing city in Washington for the last decade, dramatically increasing demands on public safety, parks and recreation facilities, and city streets and roads. (2001 population was 3,417; 2012 population is more than 11,320.)

Last year, Snoqualmie police officers, fire fighters and emergency medical technicians responded to more than 7,000 calls in an average response time of 4 to 6 minutes. That's a 40% increase in calls over the past 10 years.

Ten years ago, Snoqualmie had 3 police officers for every 1,000 residents and today there are only 1.27 officers per 1,000 residents, despite a significant increase in the number of 911 emergency calls.

Since 2003, the Snoqualmie Fire Department has not added any new fire fighters. The Police Department has only added one officer during that same period.

Situation and City Response

Snoqualmie's increase in population has dramatically added to the demand for public safety and maintenance of city parks, recreation facilities, and streets. Since 2001, costs for basic city services have increased annually by approximately 3%, yet during the same time, the city has only increased property taxes by a maximum of 1% annually as required by state law. The costs to maintain the same level of basic services as today have exceeded revenues.

To maintain current services, the City Administration responded with a series of aggressive steps to reduce spending including a hiring freeze on new positions, elimination of cost-of-living increases for management, savings in health and insurance costs, and cuts in capital equipment for fire, public works, and parks departments. Despite these steps, city costs exceed the revenues needed to maintain the same levels of service for public safety and maintenance of our parks and streets.

As a community, we face important choices about whether to maintain the same high quality of life.

City of Snoqualmie Proposition 1 will be on the BACK side of your ballot.

Are You Registered to Vote?

The 2012 general election is November 6 and will be vote by mail only in King County.

October 6
Deadline for mail-in
registration and updates

October 8
Deadline for online
registration and updates

October 29
Deadline for in-person
new voter registration

More Information
kingcounty.gov/elections
206-296-VOTE or elections@kingcounty.gov

What's included in Proposition 1?

If approved by the voters of Snoqualmie, Proposition 1 would maintain the current levels of public safety for police, fire, and emergency medical response. The measure would also fund basic maintenance of parks, trails and natural areas, and address deteriorating streets and sidewalks. Specifically, the measure can fund the following current city services:

Police and Fire Protection

- Police officers, fire fighters, and EMTs for Basic Life Support
- “No Call Too Small” and average response times of 4 to 6 minutes
- Disaster Emergency Management (floods and winter storms)
- Police and Fire Station Operations
- Emergency vehicles and medical equipment maintenance
- 911 Emergency Response Operations
- Hiring of an additional fire fighter
- Training to meet current safety standards
- Volunteer Fire Fighter Program Management

Parks, Trails and Natural Areas

- Basic maintenance of parks, trails and natural areas
- Maintenance of playfields and playgrounds to meet safety standards and community expectations
- Maintain watering, weed control, mowing, trash removal and regular cleaning of picnic areas and restroom facilities

Streets Maintenance and Safety Improvements

- Basic maintenance and repairs of streets and sidewalks to avoid more costly repairs in the future
- Coordination of road repairs with sewer and water improvements to minimize disruption and save in costs

Cost of Proposition 1

This measure would cost 24 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value annually.

- The cost for a homeowner of a \$413K home (average home price in Snoqualmie) would be about \$99 per year, or about \$8 per month.
- The cost for a homeowner of a \$200K home would be about \$50 per year, or about \$4 per month.

Ballot Title

The City of Snoqualmie, WA adopted Ordinance No. 1097 concerning public safety, and maintenance of streets, parks and natural areas. This proposition would fund basic public safety, including operations affecting 911 emergency response times, police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians for Basic Life Support; street maintenance and safety improvements; and preservation of parks, trails and natural areas. It increases the City's property tax rate by up to \$0.24/\$1,000 to a total of \$2.99/\$1,000 for collection in 2013 as allowed by RCW 84.55. This levy rate shall be used to calculate subsequent levy limits.

Should this proposition be:
Approved or Rejected?

Explanatory Statement

The City of Snoqualmie is asking voters to decide whether to approve Proposition 1 to fund public safety, streets, parks and natural areas. The proposition addresses the following budget priorities identified by the City Council:

- Public safety, such as maintaining adequate numbers of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians for Basic Life Support, 911 “No Call too Small” emergency response dispatch operations, maintaining emergency vehicles and police and fire stations, disaster emergency management (including flooding) training, and managing the Snoqualmie Volunteer Fire Fighter Program.
- Preservation of parks, trails and natural areas, such as maintaining parks, playgrounds and playfields to meet basic safety standards, mowing and weed control, street and boulevard trees, trail maintenance, and trash removal and regular cleaning of picnic areas and restroom facilities.
- Street maintenance and safety improvements, such as sidewalk improvements and coordination of road repairs with sewer and water improvements to minimize disruption.

Proposition 1 would provide funding dedicated for public safety, street maintenance and safety improvements, and preservation of parks, trails and natural areas.

The cost for the average homeowner of a \$413,000 home would be about \$99/year or \$8/month. If approved, Proposition 1 would allow the City to increase its regular property tax rate by up to 0.24/\$1,000 to a maximum rate of \$2.99 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW. The amount of the levy collected in 2013 would be used to calculate subsequent levy limits.

Do You Need Assistance with Groceries?

Snoqualmie Valley residents are welcome to collect groceries at the local food bank.

Wednesdays
9:30am - 6:30pm

Mt. Si Food Bank
122 East 3rd Street
North Bend

More Info: 425-888-0096

Look for Red Barrels To Donate Food

The Mt. Si Food Bank serves individuals and families in need year round, including more than 300 children each week.

Now you can donate food right in Snoqualmie rather than driving to the North Bend location.

Look for the large red barrels marked "Mt. Si Food Bank" at the Ridge Supermarket, Snoqualmie Fire Station, and City Hall.

City Seeks Three New Commissioners

Applications are being accepted for new members to serve on the Arts Commission, Parks Board, and Civil Service Commission.

More Info:
info@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us
425-888-1555 ext. 1118



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Snoqualmie Valley YMCA/Snoqualmie Community Center Is a Finalist for Community Impact Award

The Snoqualmie Valley YMCA/Snoqualmie Community Center is a finalist for the Community Impact of the Year Award. The winner will be selected by the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP). Snoqualmie is in the running for this award alongside finalists LeMay - America's Car Museum and Chihuly Garden and Glass, among others. The Snoqualmie Community Center developer, Wallace Properties, is a finalist for Developer of the Year. Awards will be made at the NAIOP Night of the Stars event on November 9. More information about award categories and finalists is available at naiopwa.org; click "Events".

Free YMCA Events for All Snoqualmie Valley Residents

The Snoqualmie Valley YMCA has lots of fun and free activities open to all Snoqualmie Valley residents, not just facility members. Activities are available most days of the week for all ages. Teens and tweens can participate in teen clubs, dodgeball, Futsal (soccer-based game), Teen Late Nights at the Y, and more. Pre-registration may be required for some activities. The Youth Development Center is open to all Snoqualmie Valley youth ages 11-16. For more information about YMCA activities for the entire community, facility memberships, and financial assistance, please call 425-256-3115.

Snoqualmie Parks and Open Spaces Recognized as Pesticide-Free

Snoqualmie has been recognized by King County as being a city that manages many of its city parks pesticide-free, as well as open space areas such as Three Forks Natural Area and Meadowbrook Farm. The "pesticide-free" designation means that no EPA-registered pesticides are used in the maintenance of the park or recreation area and that integrated pest management techniques are used to tackle noxious weeds. Snoqualmie Parks & Recreation staff are working to keep park users, kids, and pets safe, as well as protect streams and wildlife. A new online service makes it easy to find pesticide-free parks and outdoor areas. Visit the King County Local Hazardous Waste website at www.lhwmp.org for the link to "Pesticide-Free Places" and type in a ZIP code for King County neighborhood parks. It's that easy!

Planning Commission Open House: Pizza Party!

Come enjoy some pizza and beverages on Wednesday, October 15 starting at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Meet your planning commissioners and neighbors! There will be a short presentation about the Comprehensive Plan update, which will guide development of Snoqualmie over the next 20 years; an open discussion will follow.

Enrich Your Family by Hosting an Exchange Student

Students from Korea and Peru will again be attending classes at Mount Si High School beginning in January 2013 as part of the Snoqualmie Sister Cities Association student exchange program. Many families are needed to host a girl or boy. The home stay will be for approximately four weeks, during which the host family will provide housing and meals for the student and will share cultural traditions and lifestyles. This experience has been life-changing for many Snoqualmie students and families as they make a new friend for life. Families and individuals who are not able to offer a home stay are welcome to participate in other ways, such as coordinating a special event or sponsoring extracurricular activities. Creative ideas are welcome! For more information, please contact Russell Maw at russellmaw@hotmail.com.