



City Manager Message

This is a great time of year to be in Mill Creek. We've just witnessed the stunning changing of the seasons from a gorgeous summer into the brilliant colors of fall and now we're seeing the powerful storms that tend to mark Pacific Northwest winters.

Our seasonal events also are very colorful. Mill Creek is a great place for honoring those who serve and those who have gone before us. Our Veterans Day events last month were phenomenal with more participants and spectators than previous years. Mill Creek holds the biggest and best Veterans Day events north of Auburn, but our recognition of our veterans goes beyond festivities. Many people in the community joined us to provide care packages and letters of thanks for our troops. And our Youth Advisory Board

created hundreds of paracord bracelets that literally can save the lives of the recipients. We appreciate all of you who joined us in honoring and giving back to those who serve our country in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is great to see our community so engaged.

The last several months have been busy from a City staff perspective as we prepare for another way to have the community engaged. We have been building the framework for our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) work, which will heavily rely on public participation. There is much that happens behind the scenes before the community helps identify and prioritize projects. The work to date as part of this CIP framework includes:

- Successfully recruiting and onboarding a director of Public Works and Development Services (you'll read more about her in this issue!).
- Developing financial policies, which will guide how we make decisions on the CIP.
- Procuring and building out a web-based tool that will facilitate engagement in the CIP process,

including capabilities for our community members to rank projects, set priorities, and see the effects of those decisions on the budget.

- Overhauling our website to ensure a citizen engagement tool will be supported and to provide a user-friendly experience for sharing CIP information.
- Conducting analysis of existing infrastructure, including review of stormwater pipe video and bridge inspections, to help us understand short- and long-term needs and related cost estimates.
- Successfully reaching agreements with Fire District 7 and the City's administrative employee collective bargaining unit, which have financial impacts (our Police Guild negotiations are underway).

As we look to the future – next year, the next 5 years and the next 20 years – we must set a course and understand how to achieve our vision within our financial means. We look forward to your help in setting this course.

See you around the City!

Rebecca

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Introducing Gina Hortillosa



Gina Hortillosa, Director of Public Works and Development Services

Gina Hortillosa joined the City of Mill Creek on November 1 as director of Public Works and Development Services.

"This is a new role at the City," said Mill Creek City Manager Rebecca Polizzotto. "We reorganized two departments for efficiency and a cohesive approach to planning, economic development and public works. Gina is the visionary and strategic leader that we needed for this innovative new role. She brings an entrepreneurial approach to everything from engineering and traffic control to sustainable growth."

Hortillosa comes from Snohomish County, where she served since 2014 as a program planning supervisor for the Transportation Improvement Program. In her management role, she developed project management and engineering functions, participated in regional transportation issue management, and provided technical assistance to outside agencies and other county departments. She also prioritized projects, implemented LEAN practices and strategized on securing program funding.

"What really spoke to us about Gina's experience is her depth and breadth across public and private

sectors in community planning, engineering, and infrastructure planning and improvements," said Polizzotto. "But more than that, she is a professional who seeks to build community – both inside and outside the organization. As we continue to plan strategically for the next five, 10 and 20 years, her leadership in this department and as part of our senior leadership team will help us effectuate the City Council's vision for Mill Creek."

Hortillosa will help the City Manager integrate the strategic planning of the City's infrastructure to foster economic development and land-use to help the City prepare for the next 20 years of development. This includes developing a robust Capital Improvement Plan to thoughtfully shape the maintenance and revitalization of the Mill Creek community. She also is responsible for preserving the community's unique character while cultivating economic prosperity through an innovative and creative approach to long-term economic development.

"I am very thrilled to be part of the City of Mill Creek and to be part of a leadership team that has a vision and intentionally takes steps to advance the City to the next level," said Hortillosa. "The City has demonstrated and received international recognition for being a model of excellence for local government."

In her first few weeks on the job, Hortillosa has begun to dig into the status of the City's infrastructure, such as the condition of the roads and underground utilities. "I am conducting a scan of the overall conditions of our infrastructure and starting to prioritize projects that will help shape development of the City's Capital Improvement Plan," she noted. "I also have begun to develop collaborations with other jurisdictions, in addition to my work with other leadership

team members, to find areas for improvement and help move the City's vision forward."

Hortillosa has had a full career, including roles as a project engineer, civil engineer and structural engineer in public and private practice. Her capital improvement projects include widening major arterials, bridge work, implementing e-vehicle charging stations, roadway and sidewalk improvements, a wet-dry utility system, transit route improvements and more.

Though new to the City staff, she is not new to the area. Gina and her husband, Ron, bought their home in the Silver Firs neighborhood in 2003. Their three children, a 12-year-old son and nine-year-old twin girls, have grown up in the area. "A lot of our day-to-day activities are in the City of Mill Creek, such as grocery shopping, having coffee, using the North Creek Trail and going to the gym at LA Fitness," she said. "We feel very connected to this community. It is a beautiful city and has a great community feel."

Hortillosa earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Seattle University, is a licensed professional engineer and is a certified project management professional. She is a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI) and the American Public Works Association. Gina is a co-instructor of project management in King County, a PMI registered educational provider.

In her down time, she participates in family activities like exploring local trails and parks, crafting, and doing puzzles. She also enjoys reading and running 5K, 10K and half-marathon races.



Giving Back to Fight Hunger

Mill Creek resident Leanne Aleia is a retiree in her mid-eighties, but that doesn't mean she isn't active. Nearly every two weeks, Aleia generously brings bags and bags full of food to put in donation boxes at City Hall for the Mill Creek Community Food Bank.

"I have all I want to eat, and by donating, I feel like I'm helping others who are less fortunate," Aleia said. "I'm a very frugal person and I'm careful how I budget. But I have a big heart when it comes to donating to the food bank. I only wish I had the income so I could donate more."

Aleia experienced hunger as a child, and is determined to help others avoid the same. As a retired federal worker on a fixed income, she carefully stewards her funds. She drives the same pristine Buick LaSabre she bought 18 years ago called "Bluey." And her careful budget management carries over to donating food, as

she resourcefully scours local grocery sales and specials to make her food bank donations stretch far and feed even more people. Whether it be canned fruit, pasta sauce, or vegetables, Aleia wants to help as many people as possible. Her granddaughter Taylor, a 17-year-old student at Henry M. Jackson High School, helps her sort and transport food to the donation drop-off.

"I look for specials that are for nutritious food at a discount, or buy-one-get-one free," Aleia says. "I'll buy five of these, and then buy-one-get-one-free of that, and then the next thing you know, I've got a trunk load of food ready to donate."

Aleia is from California, but has lived in Mill Creek for more than 20 years. "I love living in Mill Creek and I love my home," she said. "I don't plan to leave until I go out feet first. I want to be above ground as long as I can so I can keep



Give to your community this holiday season! For more information about donating to the Mill Creek Food Bank, visit www.facebook.com/millcreekfoodbank. Donation bins are located at City Hall South, 15728 Main St.

giving food as long as I'm financially and physically able."

She knows how important the issue of hunger is. About one in five Washingtonians relies on their local food bank for food and groceries. As a faithful donor for over three years, Aleia hopes that others will consider giving as well, especially heading into the holiday season.

"For me, I decided I wanted to start giving back because I've been blessed. I don't donate for

recognition, but because my heart tells me to," she said. "I've had a good life, and good neighbors, and I'm so thankful. I really hope other people who have even more to give will consider helping others who need it."



Improving 9-1-1 Dispatch Services Through Agency Consolidation

The upcoming consolidation of two dispatch centers for law enforcement, fire and medical 9-1-1 calls in Snohomish County means that Mill Creek residents won't need to worry about delays in service delivery when calling for help.

The Snohomish County Police Staff and Auxiliary Services Center (SNOPAC) was formed in 1973, a decade before the City of Mill Creek was incorporated. Prior to the formation of SNOPAC, each public safety agency had its own 7-digit telephone numbers and dispatch center. In 1976, 9-1-1 came to Snohomish County, beginning with the City of Everett and following into other communities over the next two years.

The Southwest Snohomish County Communications Agency (SNOCOM) developed out of what was originally the Lynnwood police dispatch center. In 1973, it began providing dispatch services to Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace and Woodway. Dispatch services were expanded to include Mill Creek and Mukilteo.

According to Police Chief Greg Elwin, having two dispatch agencies has created a service delivery challenge, particularly for Mill Creek. "The boundary line for SNOPAC and SNOCOM is roughly 132nd Street," he noted. "People in Mill Creek may call 911 for police, fire and EMS services from a cell phone, and the closest cell tower may be north of 132nd, meaning that the call goes to SNOPAC."

Mayor Pam Pruitt said about 100 calls per month are going to the wrong dispatch center. When SNOPAC receives the call and determines that it is within Mill Creek, it transfers the call to SNOCOM, creating a slight delay.

"While approximately 85 percent of 911 calls for law enforcement are not life-threatening, any delay is significant when a life is on the line," said Elwin.

Having two dispatch centers also impacts other services. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office is a SNOPAC agency because most of Snohomish County is north and east of Mill Creek. "We could have a robbery at a local bank and have a sheriff's deputy driving by the scene and be completely unaware to assist since they are on a different frequency," said Elwin. "By the time a call for assistance goes out, the deputy may be completely out of the area."

The January 1 consolidation into a single dispatch center, which will be called Snohomish County 911, enhances the level of services to the public and improves collaboration between jurisdictions.

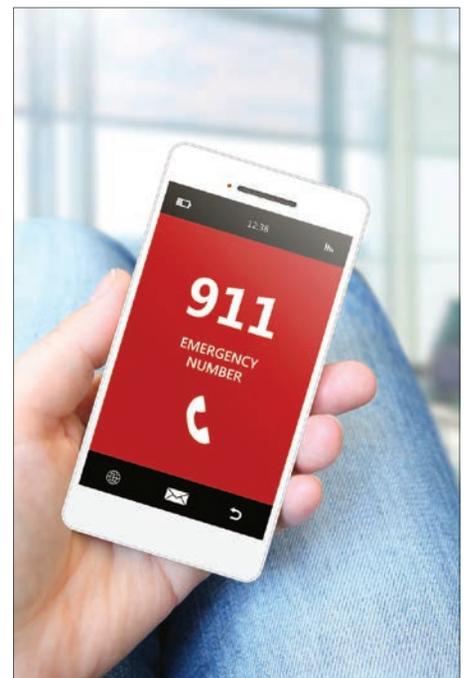
The mayor represented Mill Creek in the consolidation process. As a member of the SNOCOM Executive Board, she represented Mill Creek at joint SNOCOM/SNOPAC Executive Board meetings addressing potential consolidation. The Joint Board directed the joint task force that developed the plan to consolidate the two organizations. She immersed herself into the topic of 9-1-1 dispatch services and advocated for the structure of a consolidated agency that would benefit the quality of public safety in the City of Mill Creek.

"Our work over the last 18 months entailed looking closely at every aspect of the organization, from service delivery to financial implications," said Pruitt. "I brought a different perspective as an elected official who is responsible for ensuring a city budget is balanced. I had to ask hard questions about ways to do this better."

The mayor raised the need for an independent financial oversight committee, which was implemented and will ensure that financial issues are raised and addressed. She also advocated for a formalized representative structure that ensures smaller cities have a voice at the table.

"I am very proud of our Council's level of involvement in this decision," said Pruitt. "They took the time to be informed, which is important because this decision also has long-term fiscal impacts. Our council's engagement allowed me to speak with a stronger voice."

When Snohomish County 911 goes live on January 1, the mayor will continue having a voice as a member of the transition board. A board of 15 members will then be elected to serve two-year terms. The current SNOPAC facility will accommodate the consolidated dispatch operations, and the existing SNOCOM facility will be maintained as a back-up location.





Winterizing Your Vehicle

By Officer Chris White

It's that time of year when the leaves are changing, the days are shorter and the weather gets colder. We do a really good job winterizing our homes, but do we winterize our vehicles? I don't mean checking the antifreeze, kicking the tires and hoping you have windshield wiper fluid that you haven't used during the summer. I mean really checking your vehicles.

Winterize your vehicle by using the following checklist. These items are very important and may save a life.

Tires:

Make sure you have significant tread on your tires. Washington winters can surprise us with different weather patterns throughout the day: sunny in the morning, rain in the afternoon and snow during the evening commute. Good tread on tires (coupled with good driving practices!) helps your vehicle stay on the roadway. Make sure your tires are properly inflated. There are folks out there who will tell you to let air out of your tires or pump them up during adverse weather conditions; your best bet is to dust off that owner's manual you haven't read yet and take a look. Your vehicle has been tested in all kinds of weather with the specific tire sizes and pressure, so follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Battery:

The stretch of warm weather this summer and fall has been enjoyed by you as well as by your battery. But cold weather is your batteries nemesis, and unfortunately cold weather makes existing battery issues worse. Take a few minutes to have your battery checked at any automotive store and don't let the cold keep you in the cold or worse...stranded!

Headlights:

Make sure you check those headlights! With the days getting



shorter the loss of a headlight may cause you not to see an object or person quicker than you would with both lights working. Replace dimming lights before they burn out (this is best done in pairs!); this will be the best investment you've made for the dark and stormy nights ahead of us.

Windshield wipers and fluid:

During the summer, your windshield wipers took a beating with the high heat and limited use. If you can't remember when the last time you replaced your wipers, you might want

really need it. Lift the hood, check the reservoir and fill it up!

Now that your vehicle is ready for winter, let me share one more important safety tip. Please do not start your vehicle to warm up or defrost and leave it unattended. Doing so makes your vehicle a target for theft – especially when left unlocked. It only takes seconds to steal a vehicle. Don't create the situation. Be smart and be safe. Crime prevention starts with you.

to think about replacing them. A clear windshield will help in the rainy months and your ability to see objects or people will be greatly improved. Don't forget to check washer fluid. To most of us, it's an item that's invisible until we

Commemorating a Legacy

When a recent storm took out a memorial tree in Heron Park, the City took action to ensure the honored individual was not forgotten.

The tree, originally donated by the City of Mill Creek Parks and Recreation Board in honor of F. Lee Hooper, was destroyed when another tree fell on it. The City's Public Works staff found a tree to replant at the site to ensure that Hooper continued to have a beautiful and respectful memorial. An Alaskan Weeping Cedar tree was planted in honor of Hooper and his efforts as the chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board.

A memorial is a touching way to commemorate a person's life or a special occasion, or to honor an organization that has made a difference in the Mill Creek community. Features that can be donated include artwork, benches, flag poles, picnic tables, trees and water fountains.

To honor a community member, visit www.cityofmillcreek.com/mp. City staff will contact interested applicants to set up a meeting to discuss the desired memorial. Upon acceptance, a certificate will be sent to the memorial honoree or donor.



Arena Sports and Entertainment Facility Now Open



Arena Sports has opened the doors of its new Mill Creek location – and you won't be disappointed! The indoor soccer fields, which opened in October, have been filled with adults and kids participating in popular indoor soccer leagues – both Adult Leagues and Youth Leagues. Even the tiniest tykes are getting in on the action with Lil' Kickers and Skills Institute classes, developmental soccer for kids ages 18 months to 12 years old. Check it out with a free Lil' Kickers or Skills Institute class.

The Family Entertainment Center, which opens in December, will be the epicenter of family fun in Mill Creek. The 98,000 square foot facility offers fun for all ages:

- Classic bowling
- Mini bowling (shorter lanes, smaller ball)
- Two-story laser tag arena
- 80+ video arcade and redemption games
- Two-story rock climbing wall



- Inflatable FunZone
- Moe's Kitchen (made-from-scratch pizza, fresh-tossed salads, chef-inspired small plates)

"We are excited for the community to be able to enjoy the facility," said Don Crowe, CEO of Arena Sports. "We think it will be the perfect complement to all of the other great amenities in the area and will be a hub for fun and entertainment for the whole family."

With a large party area and corporate meeting space, Arena Sports is the ideal location for parties for all occasions as well as group and corporate events. A variety of party and event packages will be available, reservations begin in January.



Arena Sports Mill Creek is located at
13500 Bothell-Everett Hwy
www.ArenaSports.net / 855-325-8626

Be Social!

Follow the City on social media for current City news, event details, citizen alerts and opportunities to provide feedback.



[Facebook.com/MillCreekWA](https://www.facebook.com/MillCreekWA)



[Twitter.com/MillCreekWA](https://twitter.com/MillCreekWA)



[Instagram.com/CityofMillCreek](https://www.instagram.com/CityofMillCreek)



City of Mill Creek Council*

**Elected for four-year terms. Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem selected for a two-year term.*



Pam Pruitt
Mayor
Position 3
Term expires 12/31/17



Brian Holtzclaw
Mayor Pro Tem
Position 4
Term expires 12/31/17



Sean Kelly
Position 1
Term expires 12/31/17



Donna Michelson
Position 2
Term expires 12/31/17



Vince Cavaleri
Position 5
Term expires 12/31/19



Mike Todd
Position 6
Term expires 12/31/19



Mark Bond
Position 7
Term expires 12/31/19

City of Mill Creek Council

Pam Pruitt, Mayor
Position 3

**Brian Holtzclaw
Mayor Pro Tem**
Position 4

Sean Kelly
Position 1

Donna Michelson
Position 2

Vince Cavaleri
Position 5

Mike Todd
Position 6

Mark Bond
Position 7

CITY STAFF

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City Clerk** Peggy Lauerman
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**Director of Public Works and
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**Director of Human
Resources** Laura Orlando
laurao@cityofmillcreek.com

Important City Phone Numbers

City Hall Offices (15728 Main Street)
For Passports, Executive, Finance,
Human Resources
Phone Number: 425-745-1891
Fax Number: 425-745-9650

City Hall North
(15720 Main Street)
For Communications and Marketing,
Recreation and Tourism,
Public Works and Development Services
Phone Number: 425-551-7254

Police Department
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 425-775-3000
Phone Number: 425-745-6175
Fax Number: 425-745-4680



Mill Creek Community Honors U.S. Armed Forces with Operation Gratitude



When it comes to honoring the U.S. Armed Forces, the Mill Creek community continues to step up to the plate. Through the City's Operation Gratitude collection drive, which took place this fall, community members honored deployed troops and their families by donating care package items.

This year, more than 325 pounds of donated items were collected, surpassing last year's total of 250 pounds. City staff and volunteers packed the donated items to ship to the Operation Gratitude headquarters in Chatsworth, Calif. Operation Gratitude annually sends 200,000+ care packages filled with food, entertainment, hygiene, and handmade items, plus personal letters of appreciation to veterans, wounded heroes and U.S. service members and their families.

Many people even added a special touch this year by giving items such as hand-knitted scarves and personal letters to troops thanking them for their service. All ages around Mill Creek were involved. From Mill Creek

Elementary students writing letters to troops, to senior citizens dropping off snacks, the outpouring of support was incredible.

As part of the collection drive, the City's Youth Advisory Board members created hundreds of paracord survival bracelets, which will be sent to troops. Each bracelet can be unraveled in an emergency to provide the owner with 7.5 feet of 550 military-strength paracord rope, which also has a capacity to hold 550 pounds. With the rope, a service member can perform many lifesaving techniques that include making a makeshift shelter, hauling heavy objects, creating a harness, or making a splint.



Thank you, Mill Creek Community, for continuing to support troops and their families and honoring their sacrifice.

Recycling Light Bulbs is Watts Up

Here's a bright idea – recycle your used fluorescent light bulbs at Mill Creek City Hall.

Recycling fluorescent bulbs helps limit the amount of trash put into landfills and helps preserve precious natural resources. And, it saves energy and reduces pollution. Through the LightRecycle program, the City of Mill Creek is making it easy for residents to drop off their used bulbs and materials.

"LightRecycle is a great program that allows residents to turn in fluorescent bulbs for free at City Hall," said Public Works Supervisor Nathan Beagle. "The program is paid for by taxes on lightbulbs, so there is no additional cost for the City to provide this service. LightRecycle Washington has collected more than 1 million lights already through this program."

Washington state law requires that all lights containing mercury be recycled for safety concerns. Broken bulbs can be hazardous to handle, and may release mercury into the atmosphere.

The bulb turn-in isn't just for individuals – businesses can get in on the action to recycle lights they purchase. Individuals and businesses can recycle up to 10 light bulbs per day.

LED lights are not accepted by LightRecycle. Your lights can be turned in if they contain mercury, or are:

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Fluorescent tubes
- High Intensity Discharge (HID) lamps

Drop off used lighting that meets the requirements at Mill Creek City Hall North (15720 Main St.) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information on recycling light bulbs, visit www.lightrecycle.org.

