



MillStream

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY TERRY GEMMILL

The Board Recommends a VOTE to APPROVE the Three Ballot Measures

Online voting has already started for MCCA members to determine if our Association will have the means to effectively protect property values now, and in the decades to come. The three ballot measures before you, the upcoming **2022-2023 Budget Proposal**, the **Proposed and Amended Bylaws**, and the **Proposed and Amended Restrictive Covenants**, are extremely important to our Association. The MCCA website (www.mcca.info) has complete information regarding both the proposed Budget and the proposed and amended Governing Documents for your review. **The Board of Directors urges every MCCA member to VOTE to ensure a quorum. Join our online Budget-Restatement Meeting scheduled for April 27th at 7:00 PM.**

A VOTE to APPROVE the 2022-2023 Budget is necessary to keep pace with costs so our level of common area maintenance, security patrols and administrative services won't decline due to the recent high inflation.

A VOTE to APPROVE the Restated and Amended BYLAWS and RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS gives us the best chance over the coming decades to protect our property values and way of life from calls by politicians to increase density in single-family neighborhoods, to manage problems, and make use of modern technology.

ANSWERS to FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the RESTATEMENT (pages 2-4 have more detail):

- **What is the purpose?** Our 47-year old Governing Documents don't meet today's needs or demands.
- **Why rental restrictions?** Websites have created unforeseen abuses in single-family neighborhoods.
- **What is the rush?** It has become increasingly obvious to staff, Board, and volunteers that reform is needed.
- **Why is arbitration necessary?** To avoid the high cost of court battles in Restrictive Covenant disputes.
- **Is it time for term limits?** When better candidates run there is no need to get rid of good Directors..
- **What is WUCIOA?** The WA Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act of 2018 governs aspects of HOAs.
- **Why are the Bylaws not recorded?** No need, they will always be available at our website (www.mcca.info).
- **Will new Governing Docs help me?** The MCCA will be in a better position to protect property values.
- **Why no quiet hours?** The City of Mill Creek has the hours defined and the legal power to enforce them.
- **How can MCCA vote their common area?** MCCA can't, only owned abandoned and foreclosed homes.
- **Why change the ACC approval process?** Our current process is flawed as it increases the risk of errors.
- **Why are ADUs prohibited?** It would turn our single-family home Lots into multi-family households.
- **Why would the MCCA want to add properties?** The MCCA would only do it if it benefited the members.
- **Is MCCA just a management company?** No, it's a non-profit that is governed by elected members.
- **Are condos and townhomes permitted to rent?** Sub-associations have their own Governing Documents.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The proposed Bylaws and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants are large documents and we are very grateful when our residents take the time to read them. We understand that many of you prefer the Executive Summary version, which Terry has provided in the President's Message. I have been asked to dive a bit deeper on some of the questions Terry raised in the previous page. You can find more Questions and Answers on our website. The [Voting Packet](#) link includes Questions and Answers collected at our April 6th Restatement Meeting which discuss rules pertaining to roommates and home businesses.

As always, if you have a question that has not yet been addressed, please contact me (hilary@mcca.info) so I can work to get you an answer.

What is the purpose? To replace our 47-year old documents that don't meet today's needs or demands. Washington State has passed many bills and updated many statutes that effect our Association. From time to time we need to update our Governing Documents (Bylaws and Covenant Restrictions) to keep current with this legislation. At this point, MCCA was long overdue for an update.

Why Rental Restrictions? Websites have created unforeseen abuses in single-family neighborhoods. Airbnb, Vacasa, FlipKey, HomeToGo are just a few of the popular short-term rental options today. This is an entire industry that was not considered when our Governing Documents were created, and as such, we have no tools within our documents to regulate this activity within our community. The Board has heard from residents who live in the vicinity of homes offering short term rentals and listened to how these situations change a neighborhood. Our residents choose to purchase their home in MCCA because they want to live in a community environment, they did not choose to live beside a hotel or bed and breakfast.

What is the rush? It's become increasingly obvious to staff, Board, and volunteers that reform is needed. The State legislature is considering ways to deal with the housing crisis. This year legislators introduced a few bills that had the potential to have a huge impact on our Association. The bills of greatest concern were:

- **HB 1660 / SB 5648 – Concerning Accessory Dwelling Units.** Requires cities and counties fully planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to allow for the construction of ADUs within urban growth areas (UGAs) and prohibits cities and counties from imposing certain ADU regulations. Prohibits governing documents applicable to community associations created after the effective date of the act from prohibiting ADUs within UGAs.
- **HB 1782 / SB 5760 – Creating Additional Middle Housing Near Transit and in Areas Traditionally Dedicated to Single-Family Detached Housing.** Any city with a population of 20,000 or more that plans under GMA must authorize the development of all middle housing types on all lots over 4,500 sq ft zoned for detached single-family residential use and within 0.5 miles of a major transit stop, based on walking distance. These cities must also allow for the development of duplexes and both attached and detached ADUs on all other lots over 4,500 sq ft zoned for single-family residential use, and for the development of triplexes on corner lots exceeding 5,000 sq feet. Cities with a population between 10,000 and 20,000 must authorize the development of duplexes on all lots exceeding 4,500 sq feet zoned for detached single-family residential use that do not have an ADU on the lot. This bill precluded community associations from creating new declarations and governing documents of a community association within a city subject to middle housing and density requirements from prohibiting such middle housing and density requirements.

The best place to get all the information about all Washington State bills is the Washington State Legislature website (<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>).

ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

Why is Arbitration necessary? To avoid the high cost of court battles in Restrictive Covenant disputes.

In our proposed Covenant Restrictions, if a neighbor dispute was related to the covenants, it would go through arbitration if mediation fails. We want to keep covenant issues in arbitration, because the HOA is usually included in the issue either as a direct party, or because the HOA decides if the action is a violation of the covenants or not. Arbitration must follow the same laws as litigation, but generally arbitration is less costly for all parties. If the dispute does not relate to the covenants, (a personal injury claim, or theft, or other) then this would not prevent an owner from suing their neighbor. The first paragraph of section 14.1 says this entire section is about all rights under the Restrictive Covenants.

Is it time for Term Limits? When better candidates run there is no need to get rid of good Directors.

There is no legal requirement for limit terms. If owners wish to see changes, they simply need to encourage others to get involved and send their nominations to the Nominating Committee. We dislike term limits because it can result in a lack of qualified nominees. The membership has full control without term limits. The Board makes an effort to put out a call for candidates to the community before each election. Per our current Bylaws, the Board President appoints a board member to serve as the head of the Nominating Committee. The Head of the Nominating Committee works with two other MCCA residents to take all interested parties through the nomination process. To help the Nominating Committee get candidates, we publish a call for board candidates in the June MillStream and send out an email to all committee members to see who is interested. If any community members are interested in a committee or board position, they should contact the MCCA office so we can work with them to find the volunteer spot that best suits their skills, interests, and availability.

What is WUCIOA? The WA Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act of 2018 governs aspects of HOAs.

When the legislature passed the Washington Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act, it changed the way we need to present budget information to our members, conduct the budget ratification process, conduct and report our Reserve Study, and deal with special assessments. The attorney updated our processes to ensure we adhere to current statutes, including the WUCIOA statutes that apply to all community associations.

Why are the Bylaws not recorded? Why spend time and money on gov't websites? Go to www.mcca.info.

The county records documents that relate to real property. Bylaws relate to the governance of a corporation or Association. According to our attorney, most community associations do NOT record their bylaws. Our Governing Documents, including our Bylaws, have always been available for download on the MCCA website.

Will new Governing Docs help me? The MCCA will be better positioned to protect our property values.

Residents purchased homes here because they want to live in a single family home neighborhood. Our restated Declaration of Covenant Restrictions defines each Lot as a single family Lot in an effort to protect MCCA from an effort by state government to end single family zoning. Please see the description of HB 1782 and SB 5760 on page 2 which shows the legislative trends we are facing today. By tightening our rental restrictions, we also ensure that our community is not as attractive to out of town investors looking to purchase rental homes. The goal is to keep our neighborhoods attractive to resident owners.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

Why no Quiet Hours? The City of Mill Creek has the hours defined and the legal power to enforce them.

The Board has felt that this city code works best for our single-family home, townhome, condo, and apartment communities as a whole. However, each sub-association board can create a quiet hours rule for their community. The city has restrictions on noise between 7 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 9 pm on weekends. You can find the complete regulations on the Mill Creek Municipal Code [website](#).

How can MCCA vote their common area? MCCA can't, only owned abandoned and foreclosed homes.

Common areas do not have votes. Our attorney updated this section to reflect amendments to the HOA Act from July 25, 2021. RCW [64.38.120](#) (9), "In any vote of the lot owners, votes allocated to a lot owned by the Association must be cast in the same proportion as the votes cast on the matter by lot owners other than the Association." This provision prevents the Association-owned property from affecting the outcome of a vote. This situation could occur if the Association foreclosed on a property for non-payment of dues.

Why change the ACC approval process? Our current process is flawed as it increases the risk of errors.

The MCCA staff work with the volunteers of the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) to process applications in a timely manner. There are occasions when an application includes a new material, or when the load of applications submitted means extra processing time is necessary. The automatic rejection just means that a resident cannot automatically take action on an application if they have not received a response from the ACC. This protects our Association from automatically approving an application due to inadvertent human error.

Why are ADUs prohibited? It would turn our single-family home Lots into multi-family households.

Recent legislative trends favor forcing cities to welcome and fast-track ADU construction. Our best chance of exerting some control over ADUs in the future is to have rules within our Restrictive Covenants and hope that the next ADU bill considered by our legislators includes an exemption for HOAs that currently have ADU restrictions.

Why would the MCCA want to add properties? The MCCA would only do it if it benefited the members.

All HOAs struggle to find people who are willing to volunteer their time to serve on the board and other committees; the smaller the HOA the greater the struggle. Over the years, MCCA has had some small communities approach us and ask to be added, these are Sunrise, Sweetwater Ranch, and Winslow. All these neighborhoods are adjacent to MCCA, the residents used our trails and parks anyway, so it was deemed a good fit and they were added. MCCA may be approached by surrounding communities about this in the future. The Board will go through their decision-making process with each situation, carefully weighing the pros and cons, if and when this situation occurs.

Is MCCA just a management company? No, it's a non-profit that is governed by elected members.

The MCCA is a not for profit corporation governed by an elected Board of Directors. MCCA, like all HOAs is not tax-exempt and must file taxes with the IRS as a corporation.

Are condos & townhomes permitted to rent? Sub-associations have their own Governing Documents.

The condo and townhome sub-associations have their own governing documents and many of these sub-associations have already passed rental restrictions. The proposed Declaration of Restrictive Covenants allows the sub-associations to continue to regulate rentals within their community.

MCCA Opt-In Campaign—Go Digital! Go Green!

Over 940 residents have chosen to go digital. Thank you for helping us save on mailing costs and reduce our environmental impact. Even though the campaign is over, you can still change your opt-in selection by following the steps below:

1. Sign into your PayHOA account by going to: <https://app.payhoa.com/auth/login>
2. In the top right corner click the circular 'Person' icon.
3. In the menu that opens, select My Account.
4. When the Account page opens, select "Notifications" from the options along the top of the page.
5. On the Notifications window, select "Change my settings" if you have not opted-in before, or "Update mail settings" if you have already opted-in and wish to make a change.
6. Click the 'I Agree' blue button.
7. If you wish, you can select "Print my opt-in agreement" to get a paper copy of your opt-in agreement.

Budget Ratification and Restatement of Governing Documents Meeting

The Meeting to Ratify the 2023 Budget and for the Restatement of our Bylaws and Covenant Restrictions is April 27 at 7 pm. This meeting will be held online and the link is available on the [MCCA Calendar](#). There is limited space to join in the MCCA board room, please let the office know if you plan to attend in person (info@mcca.info).

Read our **Frequently Asked Questions** and **Town Hall Questions** documents by clicking on the [Voting Packet](#) link on the Announcements section of our website. If you have other questions, please submit them via email (hilary@mcca.info).

Please Vote Soon!

Don't forget to vote! You can vote online (mcca.votegrity.net), or with your paper ballot. Please note, if you vote online, you will need to use the PIN provided on the top right corner of the paper ballot, or located in the email sent by Votegrity. For those who opted-in to electronic notification, you will receive an email reminder to vote every Monday until you cast your vote. If you have not yet received your ballot by mail or email, please let the office know via phone 425-316-3344 or email info@mcca.info and we will get one to you. **All ballots must be received by 9 pm April 27.**

Arborist Day—May 12 and 13

We have Arborist Days scheduled for May 12 and 13. For \$55 you can have the MCCA arborist come to your home to advise you on any tree or plant in your yard. To get on the list, please complete an [Arborist Day Application](#) and send it to the MCCA office with your \$55 check. Each visit is about 25 minutes long.

Beautiful Yard Awards—June 20–25

MCCA committee members will hand out the Beautiful Yard Awards in June. Every year we hand out these awards to highlight the most beautiful yard in each single family home division. Our volunteer judges always try to avoid giving the award to a resident who has won in the last two years. Several of our condo and townhome sub-associations get in the fun as well! In those cases, the sub-association board hands out the award to the best garden in their neighborhood. We publish a list of all the winners in the Announcements section of our website, and highlight these beautiful yards in the August MillStream. This year the awards go out June 20–25.

MAINTENANCE

Spring Maintenance

Spring is here and Maintenance is getting everything ready. Throughout March the team pressure washed all the playground equipment and park furniture. Maintenance put the new power brush to use removing moss from the trails and sidewalks. The team added fresh bark to the division entries and gave the signs a wash. Mowing season has started again! We have started our regular mowing routine and have also started edging the grass along sidewalks, curbs, and trails to keep everything crisp.

Cherry Pond

The water level at Cherry Pond is regulated by a well. To save on our electricity bill and to prevent overflow of the pond, we turn off the pump during the winter months. Now that we are heading into spring, the pump is on and we have installed the Nanobubble machine. You can read more about the technology behind this machine on the [Moleaer website](#) and in the [June 2021](#) edition of the MillStream. Due to supply chain issues last year, we were not able to install our nanobubble machine until late September, then quickly had to store it over the winter. Now we are eager to see how Cherry Pond benefits from this technology.



MCCA staff applying MuckBiotics in Cherry Pond

As recommended by AquaTechnex, we are also applying MuckBiotic pellets to the water monthly from April through September. These pellets are a probiotic which help remove the buildup of organic matter. You will see our maintenance staff out in the lake once per month spreading these pellets in the water. They will concentrate on areas where the organic sediment accumulations are the greatest.

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| April 27 | Budget Meeting & Restatement Vote |
| April 27 | VOTE on Restatement of Governing Documents |
| May 7 | MCCA Garage Sale Day (please note: Goodwill Trailers are not available) |
| May 12 & 13 | Arborist Day |
| June 20–25 | Beautiful Yard Awards |

IMPORTANT DATES!

Please visit the MCCA Calendar on the MCCA website for updated information on our meetings and events.

Hilary Bublitz
Association Director, hilary@mcca.info

SECURITY

Job Opportunity

MCCA Security has an opening for a part-time fill-in driver. This part-time security position is an excellent opportunity for a retiree who has some extra time and wants to work only a few shifts per month. As this is fill-in work there is not a set schedule, and flexibility is necessary. We are looking for someone who can cover the morning or evening shift as needed. Please contact Hilary (hilary@mcca.info) if you are interested.

Crimes of Opportunity

Car break-ins: Park in your garage whenever possible and remove all valuables from the vehicle. Hiding your items in your car may not be enough to prevent a theft. Thieves are smashing car windows to look under seats and in glove boxes. Please lock your car doors. We see many videos of suspicious people just walking along, trying car doors to see if they are unlocked.

Secure your home: Close and lock all doors at night or whenever you leave the residence.

Stolen cars: Never leave your running car unattended, even for a quick minute to run into the house.

Mailboxes: Please consider getting a locking mailbox. Non-locking mailboxes attract criminal activity to the area. Please visit our [website](#) to find more information on approved locking mailboxes.

Question: Why does Security ask residents to call the police to report a crime?

Answer: First-hand information is always more accurate. The police want to talk with and ask questions of the person who witnessed the incident.

If you have an emergency, please remember to call the police first (911) and then Security (425-328-0035).

Resident Security Checks

One of the services offered by Security is the Resident Security Check Request. This service allows MCCA residents to request a security check of their property while they are away for extended periods. Request forms can be found on the MCCA website or by the office door and can be emailed or dropped off at the locking drop box outside the office. When requesting a check of your property, please ensure all side yards are clear of debris and gates are operational so our team can safely walk around your yard.

Waste Management Tip: If you are planning to be away on vacation for an extended period of time, you can contact waste management and put your garbage pick-up on hold so you will not be charged. You can reach them via their [website](#).

Safety Tip—Be Visible!

With all the rain, wind, and darkness during this season, please keep up the great work of watching for traffic and wearing reflective clothing. Being visible by wearing reflective clothing is so important to do whether it is daytime or nighttime. Reflective harnesses and leashes for dogs can help keep your furry friends safe on the road.

Lois Dawkins

Security Supervisor, security@mcca.info

FLYING OUR NATION'S FLAG

In the proposed Restrictive Covenants, we state that residents who fly our nation's flag must follow the federal flag display law; [Article 4 U.S.C, Section 1](#). Following the rules in the constitution ensures the flag of the United States of America is flown with respect. Here are some basic rules to keep in mind:

- The flag should only be displayed during daylight hours and not trivialized as a house ornament.
- If you are flying your flag at night, it must be well-lit.
- The flag should be replaced and no longer flown if it is in an unserviceable condition, faded, or torn.

Subscribe to the Washington [Half Staff Notifications](#) to learn when you must lower your flag.



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF MILL CREEK

Fire/EMS Update for the City of Mill Creek: Annexing to South County Fire

The City of Mill Creek asks voters to consider annexing to South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority (South County Fire) on April 26, 2022, Special Election. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters around April 8, 2022. The City cannot renew its current emergency services contract from a different provider without a substantial cost increase. City officials researched all possible options and concluded South County Fire was the lowest cost provider for the same quality and level of service.



If annexation is approved in 2023, the City will stop collecting \$4.3 million in taxes paid to the City for the current fire/EMS contract. This means it will reduce its general property tax levy in 2023 by \$2.6 million and remove the City EMS levy of \$1.7 million. The net result is that an average Mill Creek property (assessed at \$602,000) would pay an additional \$379.26 a year (\$31.61 a month) for emergency services if annexation were in place in 2022. If voters do not approve annexation, the City will have to cut services significantly or find new revenues to pay for contract fire/EMS services. Revenue options include asking voters to increase the EMS levy and the City's general property tax levy and having the City Council pass a new utility tax.

Visit the City's website at www.cityofmillcreek.com/fire to learn more. Thank you for considering our request.

COMPLIANCE

Spring Projects

If you have not yet scheduled your projects for Spring or Summer, you may want to consider doing so now. If you are looking for a company for a particular service, check out the [Provider List](#) on the MCCA website. Other MCCA homeowners have referred these businesses.

The Covenant Committee and I are out inspecting all year long. These are the things we are looking at right now that homeowners should be working on:

- Moss removal, from yards, driveways, walkways, roofs, retaining walls, etc.
- Fence maintenance, repair if needed, and pressure wash and stain.
- Siding maintenance, pressure wash and paint if needed.
- Roofs, should be clean of debris.
- Re-seed your yard and/or fertilize the lawn if needed.
- Garden and landscape beds should be weed and grass free, then add new bark.
- Remove all dead plants and last year's dead growth from perennials.
- Clean your sports equipment and surfaces.
- Clean the surface and inside gutters.
- Trimming, trees, and shrubs.
- Mowing and edging lawns and landscaped beds.

Recycle Bins, Waste, and Yard Debris Containers

We understand many residents will be out cleaning up their yards and filling up those green recycle bins. Be sure to put your yard recycle bins away and store them out of view after using them. You can tuck your bins behind a fence or screen or store them in your garage.

Exterior Changes

Please remember if you are replacing a fence, driveway, repainting exterior siding (even the same color), tree removal, relandscaping, installing an A/C unit, etc., be sure to submit to MCCA an application for your project. Get approval before you start the work!

RVs and Trailers

Spring is a time when people pull out their RVs and start traveling. Please remember you cannot store RVs and trailers of any kind on the property unless they fit in your garage. Remember, RVs, trailers, boats, and utility trailers are only allowed in your driveway for 24 hours before a trip and 24 hours after a trip. If you bring in a trailer for yard work for more than a weekend, please be sure to submit a "Dumpster/POD" application to the front office.

Should you have a covenant complaint, please either fill out the [online form](#) or email, joan@mcca.info. We must have your name and address, the address of the violation, and a description of the violation before we can verify a complaint.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above issues or other guidelines, please feel free to reach out to our office, and someone should be able to help you.

Joan Sweeney

Compliance Coordinator, joan@mcca.info

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

What's Involved in an Application?

Now is the time of year when the days are getting longer and we all start planning our spring cleanup and summer projects. The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) volunteers are the individuals who process your applications. Please let us help you in the most efficient way so you know what is involved in the application process:

Obtain an application from the **Forms** section on the MCCA website and apply for your project BEFORE you start. Be prompt with your application as our governing documents give the ACC up to 30 days to approve applications. Volunteers have many applications to process especially during the spring and summer months. We work diligently to process applications in a timely manner.

Please remember to complete your ENTIRE application. Include as much detail as possible to aid in the processing of your application. Also, make sure you have provided all the information and samples requested on the application form.

What Types of Projects Require an Application?

- Trees (Specifics are in the MCCA General ACC Guidelines)
- Major landscape changes
- Fountain/pond installation
- Exterior paint
- New roofing
- Heat pumps/air conditioners
- Fence installation or replacement
- New windows, door and/or garage doors
- New driveway
- Additions
- Sheds, gazebos, arbors
- Deck resurfacing
- Artificial turf

If you are unsure whether or not you need an application, please feel free to contact the MCCA office by phone (425-316-3355) or email (info@mcca.info). They are always happy to help answer any questions you may have. Two volunteers may contact you for access to your property or for clarification. Thank you for your help in streamlining the application process. Happy Spring!

If you are interested in meeting MCCA homeowners and working with them to approve projects, please contact the MCCA office. Volunteering with the ACC is a great way to meet residents and have a positive impact on our community. The ACC meets from 4 pm to 5 pm on the first Monday of each month.

MCCA GARAGE SALE DAY– MAY 7TH

Due to staffing shortages, the Goodwill trucks will NOT be at the MCCA office this year for donation drop off. Below are local drop off sites where you can donate your unsold items. Before you visit, please be sure to call ahead to learn about their donation guidelines.

- **Goodwill Donation Center:** 710 164th St SW, Lynnwood WA 98087
<https://evergreengoodwill.org/locations/68-martha-lake>
- **Helping Hands:** 19213 Bothell-Everett Hwy. Bothell, WA 98012
<https://www.helpinghandsmi.org/stores>
- **St. Vincent De Paul:** 6424 Broadway Everett, WA . Drop off hours 10-2
<https://svdpnsc.com/>

TRAIL AMBASSADORS

Meet a Trail Ambassador—Evert Pretorius

Starting at his home in Sweetwater Ranch, Evert Pretorius enjoys walking the many trails of MCCA. When the Trail Ambassador Committee started, Evert realized joining the committee was a great way to get his daily exercise and serve his community. The best part of being a Trail Ambassador is seeing the impact this committee has made over time. Evert has noticed that improved signage in Chopper Park and increased engagement with people using the field have resulted in a decrease in off-leash dog issues.

Walking throughout the Association brings a great view of our Maintenance team's accomplishments. Evert reports that he notices a remarkable difference in maintenance standards when he walks communities outside our Association. Evert says, "We have a wonderful community in MCCA and I am so proud to live here."

The Trail Ambassadors do not have many committee meetings. You get to set your own schedule and cruise the trails on your own or with a friend. We ask that you wear the vest, be open for questions from residents, notify us of any safety hazards or issues you observe, and submit a weekly or monthly report with the hours you patrolled.

If you enjoy walking or biking and would like to join our Trail Ambassadors, please contact the MCCA office (info@mcca.info). We would love to put you in contact with Evert.



Evert Pretorius—Trail Ambassador Chair

NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE

April is Native Plant Appreciation Month! You can enjoy native plants at any of the self-guided destinations shown on this website; click on one of the pins on the map in the link below and see where you can explore our native plants: <https://www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/npam>.

Don't forget that April 22 is Earth Day, with the theme *Invest in Our Planet!* Please consider volunteering sometime during the month as a family at an event nearby. Please visit [EarthShare Washington](#) to learn about opportunities with several great organizations. Also, if you are interested in assisting with a beach cleanup, head to the [Washington Coast Savers](#) website.

For year-round activities, go to [Better Ground](#) and watch the short video that explains what a conservation district does. Did you know the Snohomish Conservation District offers free advice and services? The people there are passionate about what they do!

In March, the NWC began celebrating Native Plant Appreciation Month and Earth Day. In celebration of this, it is also a time when more native plants are placed in areas cleared of noxious weeds and are considered ready for restoration. In these areas, occasionally, you will notice two types of temporary cages around some of our new plantings. We use cages to prevent rabbits and mountain beavers from eating our new plants. The cages made of green plastic netting keep rabbits from feasting on the young plants, while the black metal cages are a deterrent for mountain beavers.

The cage is held in the ground using a bamboo garden stake, which is woven through the netting or



metal to enclose the circle cage, landscape pins may also be used, if necessary, once the bamboo garden stake has been pushed into the ground. The NWC has had great success in our restoration plantings.

Remember: the first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap!

If you are interested in volunteering with the Noxious Weed Committee and getting to know this industrious group, please contact the MCCA office (info@mcca.info) and we will help you make that connection!

KEEPING THE “WILD” IN WILDLIFE

Geese, ducks, squirrels, deer, bears, racoons, beavers and other species are frequent visitors to Southern Snohomish County, and MCCA. Just yesterday, I saw a beautiful Pileated Woodpecker down in the Nature Preserve. In its natural habitat, it and all the other animals and birds are a wonderful part of the enjoyment of living here. If we could just leave the wildlife to be wild, things would be better for the wildlife, and better for us as well.

The trouble begins when we try to be more than observers of their lives.

When we feed the wildlife, we get them accustomed to associating with humans. Losing fear of humans isn't good for animals. For ducks and geese, this may mean a greater chance of being shot by a hunter. It is not good for humans because close association with animals can allow their diseases to pass to us. Wild animals can also become aggressive when human food is no longer provided.

Feeding animals gets them away from their natural diet. Bread, for example is bad for ducks. It lacks many nutrients which are necessary for their health. Additionally, when they don't eat it all, the leftovers can get moldy and bread mold makes ducks sick. Just two days away from a normal diet can permanently damage growing chicks.

There are also the detrimental effects in attracting flocks of waterfowl. These include duck and goose poop. Nothing makes a park, or other green lawn area, less enjoyable then having it covered with goose poop. Just one Canadian Goose can pass over one pound of poop each day. Goose poop carries pathogens such as Giardia and Coliform bacteria which can cause illness in humans when it is accidentally ingested.

A couple of weeks ago, I was pulling weeds in the garden and dug up a peanut, still in the shell. Where could a peanut come from? Obviously I must have a neighbor feeding the squirrels. Do squirrels suffer from a shortage of food? Of course the answer is no. When we supply food to squirrels, they don't just eat it, they bury much of it for the next winter. And, a lot of that is never consumed. What is worse, is that the person feeding the animals doesn't see what happens at night when our friends from Norway come out to feast on leftovers. There is nothing as heartwarming as seeing a Norway Rat eating seed from a bird feeder. The abundance of water and forested areas make our neighborhoods ideal habitat for rats. Let's do our part to make sure that an easy food supply for rats does not further attract them to our area!



Norway Rat

Because of an increasing number of problems arising from human/animal interactions, there is a growing legal trend towards restrictions on wildlife feeding. California, for example, has completely banned such feeding. Many homeowner associations have acted as well to restrict wildlife feeding within their association boundaries. After all, HOA's want a safe, clean environment for their members.

Please join with us, the ASPCA, the Humane Society, and many other organizations to keep the “wild” in wildlife and don't feed the animals.

NORTHWEST STREAM CENTER

All About Cougars, Mountain Lions and Panthers

Event: Presentation about *Cougars*

Date: Thursday, May 12

Time: 7pm

Place: This will be a Virtual Presentation on Zoom.

Spring is here and hiking season is upon us! Remember, when you are out in the deep forest, you are in cougar country. More than likely, you won't see our native mountain lions, but they will see you!! To get you ready for your next excursion into the forest, the Adopt A Stream Foundation presents "**All About Cougars**," 7pm Wednesday, March 2, a fun show geared for 6th graders to old-timers.



Everyone can enjoy this event from anywhere via Zoom. To register go to www.streamkeeper.org or call 425-316-8592; \$5 for Adopt A Stream Foundation members and \$7 for non-members. Proceeds benefit Adopt A Stream Foundation's *Streamkeeper Academy*.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife *Cougar Scientist* Brian Kertson will be conducting an entertaining and informative discussion on cougar ecology, behavior, and management. Attend and you will learn how to identify cougar signs in the woods and the keys to co-existing with cougars where you live and recreate. Brian is a wildlife scientist who really gets up close and personal with cougars.

After earning his Ph.D. with the Washington Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Washington, Brian was recruited by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Then, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife drafted him back to Washington. Now, Brian has 16-years of experience conducting intensive, field-based cougar research in the Cascade Mountains. His current research examines the potential influences of expanding housing developments on cougar-human interaction in western Washington.

Cougars, *Puma concolor*, are the apex predator of the Pacific NW forests. Solitary and secretive, these big cats are often shrouded in mystery, mythology, and misinformation. Brian will dispel all the myths. During his very entertaining presentation, you will learn everything you ever wanted to know about cougars: how big they get, how many kittens they have, how long they live in the wild, favorite foods, habitat requirements, do they really move around in the suburbs...and much more.

Also, you will also get to test out your powers of observations. Brian will present several "deep forest" photos and you will be asked to "find the cougar." It is really tough to do!! You will have fun in this show. Register now by going to www.streamkeeper.org or calling 425-316-8592.



NORTHWEST STREAM CENTER

Swamp Lantern Festival

Celebrate the coming of spring at Adopt A Stream Foundation's *Swamp Lantern Festival* 10am to 4pm (last admission at 3pm), Tuesdays through Saturdays between March 29 and April 30.

It's happening at the Northwest Stream Center in Snohomish County's McCollum Park (600 – 128th Street SE, Everett WA 98208 -Advance reservations required by booking a time through our reservation platform: <https://www.picktime.com/NWSCReservations> or calling 425-316-8592. Admission rates: adults over 18 - \$7, seniors - \$6, students - \$5, EBT cardholders - \$3, children under 5 –free; **Adopt A Stream Foundation Members are free.**

Sorry, no dogs allowed. The featured attraction is a very large expanse of the first spring flowers of the Pacific Northwest - Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) as shown below. Surrounding each flower, called a *spadix*, is a very vibrant yellow sheath called a *spathe* that earned this beautiful plant the nickname "Swamp Lantern."



Getting to the "swamp lanterns" is an adventure. You will stroll past a unique *Trout Stream Exhibit* onto an *Elevated Nature Walk* that is above the forest floor and surrounding wetlands (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccmTDZFG0v0>).

The 1/2-mile-long route is baby carriage and wheel chair accessible. It winds through duck ponds and cedar groves, past a salmon stream, and through four varieties of wetlands. Rest stops are located at strategic viewpoints. During the *Swamp Lantern Festival*, many other native flowers will begin to bloom making the Northwest Stream Center a "must see" place for everyone who enjoys blooms of spring.

Unlike many outdoor venues, the Northwest Stream Center will limit the number of *Swamp Lantern Festival* goers to no more than 5 per 15 minutes ensuring a delightful and un-crowded outdoor experience. Most Northwest Stream Center visitors spend over an hour on the Nature Walk enjoying the views and gathering knowledge about stream and wetland ecology from interpretive signs.

Please make a reservation to visit through our booking platform: <https://www.picktime.com/NWSCReservations>

MILL CREEK WOMEN'S CLUB

The Mill Creek Women's Club began meeting in person again in September 2021. Due to the increase and fast spread of the Omicron virus, along with breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated and boosted persons, we returned to Zoom Meetings for the luncheons in January and February. The announcement from the Governor now allows large gatherings and masks need not be worn. In view of this, we will be meeting in person for our lunches and social events. Our Luncheons have resumed as of March 16, 2022, at 10:30 AM. We meet at the Hilton Garden Inn, 22600 Bothell-Everett Hwy., Bothell, WA. Our luncheon meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the months from September through May at 10:30 AM. We will be electing new officers for the 2022-2023 season at the April meeting with installation of officers and the Governing Board at the May meeting. Luncheons cost \$35 for members and \$38 for guests.

April 20, 2022: Nancy Leson offers "TRAVELING WITHOUT A PASSPORT THROUGH FOOD"

Award-winning food writer, radio personality, cooking instructor and public speaker Nancy Leson has been embraced for two decades as the restaurant critic and food columnist for *The Seattle Times*. Today she conjures recipes as *Food for Thought* on NPR affiliate KNKX. A popular emcee, she's hosted international food tours for Earthbound Expeditions and teaches cooking classes at PCC Cooks. She'll offer stories and particulars about how fortunate we are to live in an area abundant with international foods, whether we experience them while dining out, cooking across food cultures, or shopping in the area's many international markets, visually complete with slides and photos.



May 18, 2022: Kelly Land Christensen reports on "TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAVEL"

Local travel expert, recently featured in Mill Creek Living Magazine, will put together an interesting slideshow discussing unique travel ideas about amazing trips to take solo or with family. She recently completed a 4-month course on Transformational Travel through the Transformational Travel Council, so she will touch on how to find greater meaning in your life through the experience of travel.

All social events, including book clubs, craft groups, or other get-togethers, will resume in March/April. The MCWC actively contributes to the community's well-being through its philanthropic efforts. The MCWC supports Snohomish County Domestic Violence Services, Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center, Mill Creek Food Bank, YWCA Pathways for Women, and YWCA Working Wardrobe.

We hope you will consider joining us for the 2022-2023 season, beginning in September. The membership fee is \$65.00 per year. The luncheons cost \$35.00 for members and \$38.00 for guests.

Reminder: You must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination to attend any of the in-person indoor luncheons and social gatherings. Seating reservations must be made in advance for our General Meeting, Luncheon & Program.

If you would like more information about the Mill Creek Women's Club, please send an email to membershipmcwc@gmail.com

Cyndy Gallacher, MCWC Publicity Chair

MILL CREEK GARDEN CLUB

Chat-Learn-Eat

Lively socializing, garden expertise and a tasty lunch mean Garden Club has returned to in-person meetings. Speaker Lisa Taylor was a callosal hit at our February meeting. She started with a sing-along song, "Dirt Made My Lunch," followed by great tips for growing our own food. Lisa emphasized a vegetable garden needs full sun, fertile soil, water, a location out of the wind and easy access for the gardener. Lisa encouraged everyone to keep their own garden journal.



Our home at Shawn O'Donnell's is always the best place to be, but it's even more so in March, when the beer turns green, the shamrocks blossom and our President Lyndal Kennedy turns into a "Leprechaun-in-Chief." She declined to do a jig, but she did start off with some Irish jokes.

Our "March Shenanigans" meeting transported members and guests to Ireland with festive tables covered in gold coins, green-wrapped Dilettante Chocolates, a Leprechaun's hat full of live shamrock plants and hand sanitizer with a green pump!

Guest speaker Karen Chapman talked about "Design Dilemmas & Savvy Solutions" with her usual warm wit. She focused on overcoming typical design problems, such as "plant addict syndrome," when gnomes overtake garden art, and an A/C unit is not a focal point. Karen's program was followed by a traditional, delicious St. Paddy's Day meal. You have to love that Irish soda bread smothered in honey butter!

MILL CREEK GARDEN CLUB (CONT.)

Gardens for Grants



Nelson Garden in Brighton

Meander through 5 gorgeous gardens and shop from creative artisans while there. It is a perfect way to socialize, get in a bit of walking and help fill the coffers for MCGC's Giving through Gardening Grant Program. Save the date: Saturday, July 23rd, 11 AM – 4 PM. It is the return of our MILL CREEK GARDEN TOUR & ARTISAN MARKET. Go to www.millcreekgardenclub.com for more information. Don't miss it!

Submitted by Lila Johnson, Publicity Chair
Photos: Courtesy of Mill Creek Garden Club

MILL CREEK LIBRARY

The Mill Creek Library is open for customers to browse materials and check out, pick up holds and remote printing, use computers, study and more! Contact Free Services are still available for customers who would like to use them. To pick up [remote print jobs](#) or library holds using our contact free service, please call (425) 337-4822 and a library staff member will bring your items to the service window in the lobby.

The Friends of the Library Book Sale has returned to the lobby of the library. Come check out a great selection of gently used children's books, cookbooks, fiction, and more! The Friends of the Library are also accepting donations. If you wish to donate more than two boxes or bags of books, please contact the library first. Mill Creek librarians are at the Mill Creek Senior Center Senior Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month to provide help downloading books to e-readers, recommend books, or offer other help.

The library will have limited tax forms this year. Forms and instructions can be downloaded from the [IRS.gov](#) website. No Sno-Isle Libraries will offer tax help this year. To find tax help, visit the [United Way of Snohomish County](#).

Explore the Library Online

All of the library programs are online including [book groups](#), [children's story-times](#), and [online trivia](#). Find [homework help](#), [learn a new language or skill](#), or [get help](#) downloading e-books from the comfort of your home via phone, tablet, or computer. [Online story-times](#) are available in English, [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#). The library has a new app! Download the [Sno-Isle Library app](#) to explore what the library has to offer. Use our [catalog](#), [books](#), and [movie](#) pages to browse the 1.6 million items available to you. Then, use your library card to place items on hold or checkout available digital resources. When your items are ready, you will receive an automated email and/or phone call.

Having trouble finding something to read or watch? [Ask a librarian!](#) You can fill out a [Library Picks form](#) for library staff to help you find the perfect match.

The Sno-Isle Libraries catalog is available in 6 languages: English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Japanese, Russian, and Vietnamese. All buttons, labels, and messages are available in the selected language to end make finding materials easier. To switch languages on the website, visit any Sno-Isle Libraries catalog page and select a language from the dropdown menu from the top left corner of the screen. The Sno-Isle Libraries app will automatically load in your language of choice based on your smartphone's language settings. If you would like to switch to a new language, update your smartphone's language settings.

Did you know that the library offers you two different free [movie streaming services](#)? Your library card will allow you to stream thousands of movies from [Kanopy](#) and [Hoopla](#). You can also read graphic novels and comics through [Hoopla](#) or [Overdrive](#). Want to browse magazines instead? You can read current and back issues of popular magazines through [Overdrive](#) or on the [Libby app](#).

For more information about these and other library services visit [www.sno-isle.org](#) or contact the Mill Creek Library at (425) 337-4822. The Mill Creek Library is located at 15429 Bothell-Everett Highway, across the street from Central Market.

Library Hours

Monday and Tuesday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday through Saturday	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday:	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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Red Cedar
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Laurels at Mill Creek
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The Station at Mill Creek
Cogir of Mill Creek


CONTACT US!

You can find nearly everything you need to know about MCCA, including office hours, contact information, forms, and governing documents, on our website:








 www.mcca.info

 info@mcca.info






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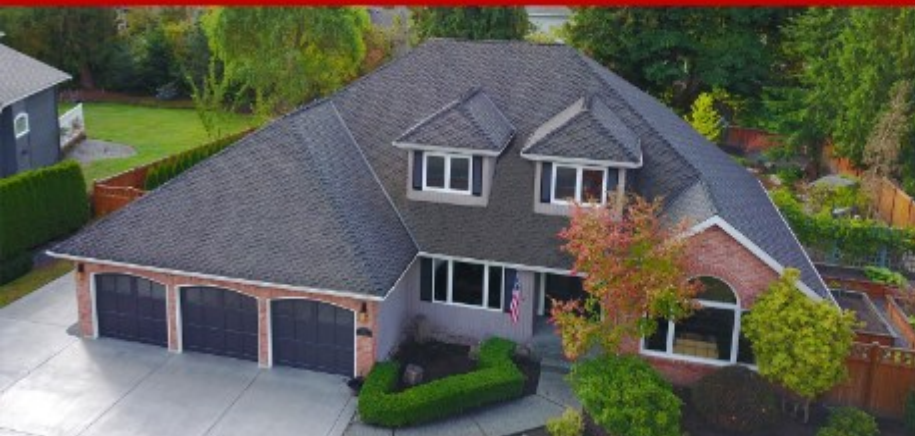
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