



#### President's Message by Sid Siegel.

#### Let it Snow!

This is a reminder that, by and large, the streets within MCCA are public streets managed by The City of Mill Creek. The City has information about removal and snow-clearing responsibilities at <a href="https://www.millcreekwa.gov/code">www.millcreekwa.gov/code</a>. MCCA maintenance does work to keep the sidewalks along MCCA common areas clear. This is a delicate dance affected by personnel and equipment availability, and picking the right time and weather conditions to perform the removal. At the websites noted above you will see the city specifies it is the responsibility of homeowners to keep sidewalks along their property clear of snow and ice.

#### Oh Pooh!

This phrase can have several meanings, but today I am referring to our dog walkers. As a dog walker myself I am proud that most of our residents are vigilant in collecting and properly disposing of their pet's "business". Unfortunately, a few believe that simply bagging the poop and leaving the bag on the side of the path or tossing it into the bushes is an appropriate disposal method. This is considered littering. I empathize, dealing with pet waste is not the most pleasant task. Please properly dispose of the used poop bags in a trash can provided by the Association, or as I do, drop it in the bin when you return home from your walk. Thank you!

#### **Annual Survey**

A huge thank you to the over 700 residents who took the time to respond to our Annual Survey this year. Your responses help the Board and staff assess priorities for budgeting and improvements. In a broad-brush assessment, our residents are pretty happy with the operation of MCCA. That doesn't mean there aren't any improvements to make as well as some great suggestions to consider. I anticipate discussing these in my messages throughout the year.

#### The Season of Giving

In support of our local Hope Creek Food Bank, non-perishable food donations may be dropped-off at the MCCA office through the New Year. You may also donate gently used books for the Hope Creek literacy library.

#### CONTACT THE MCCA Office and have us record your EMAIL ADDRESS for the PayHOA System.

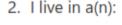
Stay in touch with your Association by way of this MillStream newsletter, PayHOA, and our 3 major resident member mailings each year (Budget, Assessments and the Annual Meeting).

You may reach us by phone (425-316-3344) or email (info@mcca.info) for help or information.

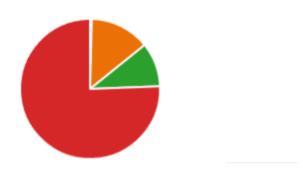
## ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

#### **MCCA Annual Survey Results**

Thank you to the 746 people who completed the 2023 MCCA Annual Survey. We appreciate the time you spent to give us feedback. The MCCA Board, and staff will use this information to prepare the budget and programs for the next fiscal year. The first survey question was the PIN assigned to the resident, this ensures that only residents have the opportunity to participate in the survey. We start the results with question 2.







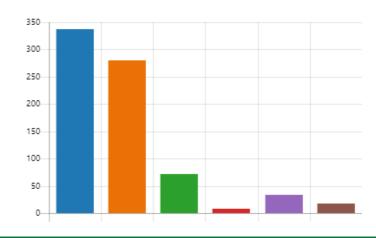
#### 3. I have lived in MCCA for:





4. Currently, MCCA Security patrols seven days per week, 20 hours per day, and provides member assistance, vacation checks, package pickup, and delivery. In addition, Security also notifies members of open garage doors, jump starts dead car batteries and reports suspicious activity to local police. I am comfortable with the hours of Security that MCCA currently provides.





5. How often do you use MCCA trails, parks, and/or playground equipment? Pick one.





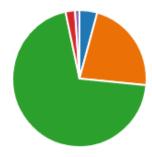
6. I am satisfied with the overall maintenance of MCCA common areas, including the trails, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, division entrances, and the Nature Preserve.

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neutral
Disagree
Strongly Disagree
2



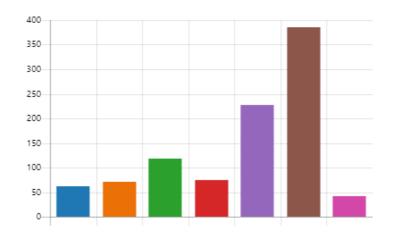
7. I support a change in the current level of landscaping maintenance which includes mowing, blowing, weed removal, pruning, tree trimming, tree management, cleanup, etc.

Much more maintenance 32
Slightly more maintenance 166
Keep maintenance the same 523
Slightly less maintenance 17
Much less maintenance 8



8. I support an increase in maintenance performed by the MCCA in the following area(s). Pick up to 2.





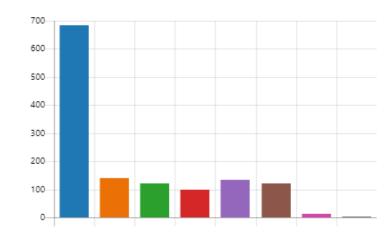
9. I am satisfied with how MCCA communicates with residents via PayHOA, the MillStream, and the MCCA website.





10. I prefer to communicate with MCCA in the following manner. Pick the top 2.

Email	683
PayHOA	140
Phone	121
Mail	100
Text	135
In-Person (office visit)	120
Facebook	12
Other	4



11. I am more likely to participate in MCCA meetings, including the annual meeting, the budget meeting, committee meetings, and regular board meetings if they are held online.





12. I support having an MCCA Community Hours event for residents attended by both the Association Director and the Board of Directors at least once a year.





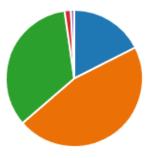
13. I am satisfied with how MCCA administration manages homeowner architectural control and covenant compliance issues.

Strongly Agree 113
Agree 336
Neutral 215
Disagree 60
Strongly Disagree 22



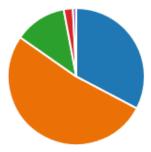
14. I am satisfied with how MCCA administers the affairs of our Association, which includes all employees and volunteer committees.

	Strongly Agree	131
•	Agree	344
•	Neutral	254
•	Disagree	11
	Strongly Disagree	6



15. Overall, how satisfied are you with MCCA?

<ul> <li>Highly satisfied</li> </ul>	244
Satisfied	388
<ul><li>Neutral</li></ul>	92
<ul><li>Unsatisfied</li></ul>	16
<ul> <li>Highly unsatisfied</li> </ul>	6



#### **Annual Survey Questions and Answers**

Every year we receive some great questions in the short answer response sections of our survey. The Board and I will use the MillStream to highlight some of these questions and provide a response. Look in the February MillStream for the next installment of questions and answers!

**Q:** Semi-annual yard sales: Why don't you have the Salvation Army or some other charity truck for the garage sale since Goodwill refused?

**A:** Great question! During COVID many donations places reduced their hours due to staffing shortages. The folks at Goodwill informed us in 2021 that they no longer had enough staff to bring their trailers onsite for our garage sale days and we have not been able to find another donation company who is able to staff a donation event in our parking lot. The Salvation Army truck that used to be stationed at the Fred Meyer on 128th is also gone as staffing issues are impacting many charities, not just Goodwill. MCCA has worked to inform residents about alternative drop off places via email, a flyer posted in the parking lot during the garage sale weekend, and we will published alternatives in the April MillStream.

#### Roads, Speed Limits, and Traffic Signs

We received many comments in the survey about road maintenance, speed limits, cars revving their engines at night and traffic signs. We will definitely pass those comments on to the folks at the City of Mill Creek. With the exception of some roads that are owned by and maintained by condo and townhome sub-associations, all the roads within MCCA are owned and maintained by the City of Mill Creek. Road maintenance includes snow removal, parking signs, the raised pavement markers that designate walking paths along the street, asphalt repair, street sweeping, and more.

State traffic laws regulate the speed limits for all roads. <u>RCW 46.61.400</u> states that 25 miles per hour is the limit for all city and town streets within Washington. The Mill Creek Municipal code affirms that the state law applies to all city streets with certain exceptions where the posted speed limit is higher than 25 miles per hour. You can read more about that in <u>Chapter 10.08</u> of the Mill Creek Municipal Code. The Mill Creek Community Association does not have the authority to enforce speed or parking laws.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES!**

Dec 1	Board Planning Session 9am to 3 pm @ Mill Creek Country Club
Dec 13	Elf Awards—Have your lights on by 6 pm!
Dec 25	MCCA office closed—Christmas Day observed
Jan 1	MCCA office closed—New Year's Day observed
Jan 18	Tree Talk with Sal Noeldner at 3 pm, email <a href="mailto:info@mcca.info">info@mcca.info</a> to reserve a seat
Jan 31	Due date for putting away holiday lights and decorations

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

# MCCA ELF AWARD COMMUNITY GUIDELINES



MCCA hosts the Elf Awards each December. Generally, the contest is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. This year, the awards will take place on Wednesday, December 13. An award is given to the best decorated home in each single-family home and townhome division. Awards are also given for the best condo entry and best townhome entry. The elves also judge the best decorated door at the Cogir Retirement Community.

On the day of the Elf Awards, our volunteer elves stop by the MCCA office to pick up their assignment for the night. Judging begins at 6 pm, so be sure to have your lights shining bright by then!

Generally, the volunteer judges are the winner's from prior years. The rules are simple: each elf drives through their assigned division(s) and looks for the house they deem to be the best decorated home in the neighborhood. We ask our elves to do their best to avoid selecting the

same home that won the prior year.

The Elf Award winners receive a small gift to commemorate their achievement, and have the coveted Elf Award sign displayed in their yard until New Years. The one house in all of MCCA that is over the top, is awarded the prestigious Santa Award. This award includes a Santa Award gift and the Santa Award sign that is displayed in their yard until the New Year. The winners are listed in a special edition of the MillStream.

We encourage all MCCA residents to deck their halls and participate in this fun event. Do not hesitate to contact the MCCA office (<u>info@mcca.info</u>) if you have any questions.



The Rider Family-Vine Maple





Cogir, Decorated Door

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING**

#### **Food Drive**

We want to thank our generous residents who have donated to our food drive benefiting Hope Creek Food Bank. We will continue to provide a bin in our office for collecting non-perishable food items through the month of December. If you would like to make a monetary donation to Hope Creek, please visit their website. You can also drop of gently used books for the Hope Creek literacy library.

#### **Rotary Book Drive**

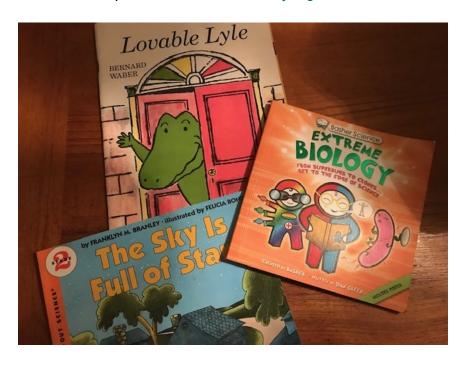
MCCA is partnering with Rotary Club of Mill Creek in collecting children's books for their childhood literacy program. This book drive directly impacts local families in need through little free libraries maintained in lower income communities. Help us foster and support early childhood literacy in Mill Creek by dropping off new or gently used newborn through 8th grade books at our office Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM through February.

#### **Examples of books requested:**

- Baby board books
- Beginning readers
- Easy chapter books (examples: Geronimo Stilton books, Magic Tree House books)
- Chapter books for grades 4 6, all subjects, fiction and non-fiction. (Examples: Who Was....? books, a huge series of 100-page engaging biographies; Harry Potter books, Series of Unfortunate Events)
- Books for grades 7 12: Please make sure these do not include any graphic sexual scenes, anything controversial or inappropriate. (Examples of books we want: All the Light We Cannot See, Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, Animal Farm, The Diary of Anne Frank).

You can also use the QR code below which takes you to a list of books on Amazon that you can purchase for the Rotary Club's little libraries. To learn more, please visit <u>millcreekrotary.org</u>.

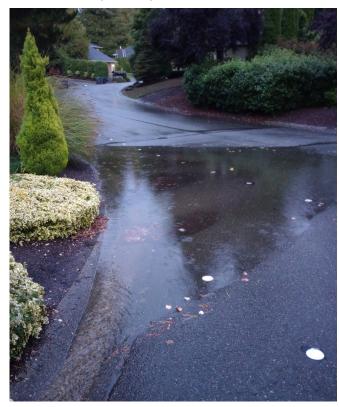




#### **Storm Drains**

The fall rains have begun. We are finally getting some rain which is great for our thirsty trees and plants. Please check the storm drains near your home. If they are clogged with debris, take a moment to scoop the debris and put if in your yard waste. The heavy rains we have had lately quickly overwhelm clogged drains.





#### **Volunteering with MCCA**

We are always looking for more committee members. If you value our community, please consider volunteering your time and talents on one of our committees. You can learn more about each committee on our website's <u>Committee</u> page. We have five options for you to consider:

- Architectural Control Committee (ACC): meets the 1st Monday of each month at 4 pm
- Covenant Committee: meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4 pm
- Inspections & Engineering Committee: meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5 pm
- Noxious Weed Committee: has work-parties on Mondays, contact <u>mccanwc@outlook.com</u> to be added to their contact list.
- **Trail Ambassadors**: quarterly meetings, patrol schedule is flexible.

It takes people of all types of talents, backgrounds, ages, and abilities to keep our Association running smoothly. Our Covenant Committee is especially in need of new volunteers! Please contact me if you have any questions about our volunteer opportunities. Just complete our <u>Volunteer Form</u> and email it to me so we can discuss which committee best fits your schedule and interests and get you started!

Hilary Bublitz, Association Director, hilary@mcca.info

#### MAINTENANCE UPDATE

#### A Day in the Life of our Maintenance Team!

Do you ever wonder what our Maintenance Team is up to? It takes a lot of work to maintain our common areas while being prepared for the unexpected. We believe in taking a proactive approach to our work by sticking to a well-organized schedule. Here is the schedule we follow each month.

#### Entries: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month.

We perform routine maintenance such as mowing, line trimming, edging, pruning and a general inspection of each entry. Mowing frequency is adjusted during Spring and Summer months.

#### Trails: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month.

We blow all the trails within the divisions and sidewalks free of debris and conduct regular trimming of encroaching vegetation.

#### Parks: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month.

We inspect each park including the playground equipment, blow trails and grass areas within the parks, line trim, prune and limb trees as needed. Once a year, we power wash and clean all playground equipment and park furniture.



The MCCA Maintenance Crew

#### Safety Sweeps: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month.

We visit known areas that currently or historically have had vagrant activity within MCCA. During these sweeps our staff picks up any garbage found and makes notes of new areas we may need to add to our watch list, and periodically contacts the Mill Creek Police to issue trespass orders. The increased presence of our staff operating this schedule has reduced the amount of transient activity significantly within our association.

#### Litter Pick-up: Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

We do a focused roadside trash pickup on all of Village Green drive, Trillium, 148<sup>th</sup> and portions of Seattle Hill Road and Bothell Everett Highway. There is a lot of garbage being dumped on our roads! Without these regular pick-ups, our roads would look very untidy.

#### Watering

Our watering schedule consists of watering our beautiful flower baskets throughout MCCA, 57 baskets in all. During the Spring and Summer, our baskets receive water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with a quality liquid fertilizer applied once weekly. We also water our new planting areas that we have chosen to reestablish native trees and plants. Our native restoration planting areas receive water on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

#### Storm Cleanup

This time of year can be especially busy as we keep our walkways and trails free of fallen debris and safe for our residents. We clear out a lot of downed trees in the fall and winter. In addition to our quick response time with opening our trails up after a storm, we also keep them clean with regular blowing, snow, and moss removal with our power brush. In Spring and Summer, we identify any dead or dangerous trees and remove as needed to prevent them from hitting homes, roads, sidewalks and trails.

#### **Storm Water Facilities**

Our storm water facilities schedule is performed quarterly, which includes inspections of our ponds and pipes, as well as vegetation management.

#### **SECURITY**

#### **Speed Limit Reminder and Pedestrian Safety**

It is that time of year again when it is both dark in the morning and at night. Please remember to drive the speed limit and consider reducing your speed even lower while driving at night. Our reaction time is slower than in the daylight, so we ask that you think about this as you venture out. If you're walking in the dark, consider wearing reflective clothing for yourself, your children, and pets. Wearing a headlamp is a great way to light your path, while keeping your hands free. Stay on the sidewalks when available or if you must walk on the roadway, walk on the left side or on the shoulder facing traffic approaching from the other direction.

#### Mailbox Safety

Did you know that it is your responsibility as a homeowner to make sure your mailbox is maintained? In the last few months, Security has noticed several mailboxes that look like they've been pried off the hutch and set loosely back on the hutch. Thieves do this so they can come back later and attempt to shake out your mail. Please regularly check your mailbox to ensure it is secure on the mailbox hutch and if necessary, reattach as soon as possible. Our maintenance team recommends attaching with a 3" screw, which will make it much more difficult to tamper with. If you need a new mailbox, please visit our website for our recommendations for locking mailboxes. Once you receive, bring your mailbox to the office and Maintenance can attach it for you.

#### **Security Request Form**

If you are leaving this Winter for warmer temperatures or just escaping for a quick holiday, please fill out one of our updated vacation forms found on our <u>website</u>. These can be found outside the front door of our office, or give us a call us and we can bring you one.

#### Lost and Found

Our office has a collection of items that have been brought to us by residents or found by maintenance or security in either one of our parks or on the trails. Please email <a href="mailto:info@mcca.info">info@mcca.info</a> to see if we might have your lost item.

#### Car Prowler Prevention

Tis the season for car prowlers! Here are some general tips to help avoid car break-ins:

- Do not leave valuables in plain sight
- Remove or hide anything that a car prowler might mistake as something worth stealing
- Audible alarms or other theft=deterrents can be effective
- Do not leave remote controls for garages in your car
- If you can't park in your garage, increase visibility of your driveway by trimming back trees or shrubs
- Make sure home exterior lights are in working order or put on motion-detector
- If you're parking in a public lot, don't put packages or purse in trunk, then walk away

As always, if you see something out of the ordinary, please observe and report. Security staff can be reached directly at **425-328-0035**.

Happy Holidays from your Security Team!

Lois Dawkins, MCCA Security Supervisor, <a href="mailto:securitysup@mcca.info">securitysup@mcca.info</a>.

#### **COVENANT COMMITTEE**

The Covenant Committee has noticed that many yards and driveways still have a significant amount of debris and leaves and many driveways and walkways are covered in moss. Please be sure to clean up and dispose of the debris and remove or treat for moss. It is not only unsightly, but it can cause hazardous and slippery conditions.

#### **Reminder List of Winter Preparedness**

- Yard cleanup
- Store all empty pots, yard tools, and other seasonal items out of view from the street and neighboring properties
- Leaf, debris, and moss removal from sidewalks and driveways
- Gutter cleaning
- Cover outdoor faucets to prevent freezing
- Lawn moss prevention with lime application

#### **Political Signs**

Now that the General Election is over, all candidate and proposition signs should be removed.

#### **Service Provider/General Contractor Signage**

Please remember if you have a service provider or contractor working on your home and they want to post a small company sign in your yard, they may do so only while at your home doing work, and sign must be set back 10' from the street.

#### The Holiday Season is here

Please remember that MCCA does allow lights for other national holidays, not just Christmas. The following rule applies to all holidays:

#### Holiday Decorations and Displays

Decorations for the winter holidays may be installed no earlier than Thanksgiving weekend and must be removed by January 31.

Decorations for all other holidays may be installed up to two weeks before and must be removed no later than two weeks after the holiday.

The Covenant Committee can always use more volunteers. If you think this might be something you would be interested in, please contact Joan for more information.

#### Happy Holidays!

Joan Sweeney, Compliance Coordinator, joan@mcca.info

#### **ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE**

#### Are You or a Contractor Planning to do Work Around Your Home?

Try to keep the areas picked up as you go and once the project is finished, please be sure that you walk around the areas and make sure that you or your contractor has **cleaned up all** the debris and that the debris is properly disposed of. For example, if you have your fence replaced, please make sure that all the old fencing materials have been removed from both sides of the fence and **that they are properly disposed of.** 

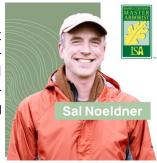
Likewise, If you or a landscaper are cleaning up your yard be sure any yard waste is disposed of in your yard-waste bin or haul it away. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT YARD WASTE IN THE COMMON AREAS.** 

#### Take the Time to Winterize Your Home and Yard

- Check your roof and gutters. Have them cleaned so they are free from leaves and debris.
- Disconnect, drain, and store your outdoor hoses to prevent them from freezing.
- · Cover your hose bibs.
- If you have a sprinkler system, have your lines winterized.
- Protect your plants and various gardens by covering them or putting mulch around their bases.
- Remove limbs from large plants or trees that could fall during a heavy storm or under the weight of snow that could damage your home or vehicles.
- Prune the plants, bushes or foliage away from your home to help prevent a path for insects or small animals into your home.
- If you have a fountain, you can winterize it by draining the water and covering the pump to protect it.
- Be sure to keep the drains in the street near your home open and free of debris.

#### Tree Talk—January 18

Arborist, Sal Noeldner, will be hosting a presentation in our office on January 18 at 3:00 pm to discuss the state of native trees in our region and best practices in supporting their health. Whether you are a tree enthusiast or a beginner in this arena, Sal will be sure to shed light on all of your questions. This will be a 45 minute presentation followed by a 30 minute QA session. **Space is limited, so RSVP by emailing info@mcca.info** to reserve a seat.



#### **Tree Trimming Etiquette**

With blustery fall days upon us, our yards can become littered with debris from fallen branches, pine needles, leaves, etc. Some of this debris may be coming from a neighbor's tree. Over time, branches from neighboring trees can grow beyond their property line into your yard and have you considering tree trimming. You can trim encroaching tree branches up to your property line as long as you do not kill or irreparably harm the tree in doing so. If this is the route you wish to take, we encourage you to speak with your neighbor BEFORE having any branches trimmed to make sure there is a clear understanding of the work to be done. To be on the safe side, consider consulting a licensed arborist to ensure that your trimming will not harm the tree. Once the trimming is complete, plan to put all the trimmings in your yard waste bin, you cannot throw the cuttings over the fence into your neighbor's yard or the common area.

#### **NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE**

#### **Planting**

October for the NWC was busy with planting — and finished just in time for the rain! Native trees and plants were added to areas in Chatham East, Heatherstone, Wildwood Park (Spring Tree) and in Cherry and South Parks (Vine Maple) where restoration is continuing; but most of our planting took place in Central Park in Evergreen.

The NWC would like to express appreciation to the residents of Evergreen who have regularly volunteered to help with removing the invasive species, spreading wood chips and (the most fun) planting! On Saturday, October 28, 64 plants were placed. The following Tuesday another 24 plants were added! Snowberry, bald hip roses, evergreen huckleberry, low Oregon grape, sword ferns, fringecup and pearly everlasting.









October 2023

#### **Central Park**

Join the NWC on **Saturday, January 20**, and **Saturday, February 10**, from 10 to 12 noon, to continue removal of the remaining English ivy in **Central Park!** Anyone within MCCA is encouraged to volunteer! No experience is necessary! A pair of gloves and your water bottle is all you need!

Consider a New Year's Resolution to try an event with the NWC! Our duties vary! Our hours are flexible! Treats are included! Contact the NWC at <a href="mailto:mccanwc@outlook.com">mccanwc@outlook.com</a>!

Happy Holidays!

#### Message from Trail Ambassadors

#### Q&A with Chief of Police, Stan White: See Something, Say Something



Recently, MCCA resident and Trail Ambassador Chair, Dawn Rosenthal, sat down with Mill Creek Chief of Police, Stan White, to help clarify when and why residents should call the police.

Q1) Sometimes community members are hesitant to call the police if they aren't sure whether something they see or experience is illegal. How should residents approach these situations?

If someone thinks the law is being violated, they should call the police so we can make that determination. The law is our area of expertise – we can't expect citizens to have the same level of knowledge and experience we have. That said, we do count on community members to help be the eyes and ears for the community. This partnership is crucial to the safety and wellbeing of our wonderful community here in Mill Creek.

Stan White, Chief of Police

#### Q2) What are some examples of when to call 911 vs the non-emergency line?

First off, if you aren't sure whether your call is an emergency, we'd rather you call 911. This allows an officer to triage the call to determine whether there is a violation and help educate the community as to why or why not the incident is or isn't a violation.

Call 911	Call Non-Emergency Line (425-407-3999)
Any police, medical and/or fire emergencies	Reporting a crime that happened in the past and you don't have any suspect information
Any crime you witness in progress	Reporting a found pet or property
Any suspicious activity you witness/experience	Reporting illegal firework activity
Anytime you fear for your safety or the safety of others	

And remember, the 911 dispatcher is going to ask you for very specific information, including:

- Nature of the emergency being called in what exactly is occurring?
- Location of the incident/situation street addresses, cross streets, and major landmarks.
- Phone number you are calling from in case follow up is needed.
- Physical details of the situation:
  - Description of people/person involved in possible crime: gender, age, race, build, hair color, etc.
  - License plate number(s) vehicle involved in possible crime; color, make and model of the vehicle.
  - Description of injuries and/or symptoms being experienced by someone having a medical emergency.

## Message from Trail Ambassadors (Cont.)

#### See Something, Say Something

# Q3) What about people who don't believe the police will act if they call 911? What is the Mill Creek Police Department's guidance in that situation?

I understand that perception is out there. Your call is not a burden or "tying up" police resources. In fact, reporting suspicious activity immediately can help us prevent or interrupt crime. I can't emphasize enough how important citizen engagement is to the safety of our community. I believe we all have a civic responsibility to participate in the betterment and safety of our community. As Chief of Police, one of my top priorities is building a strong relationship based on trust between the police department and the community here in Mill Creek.

#### Q4) Should residents ever confront people they believe are breaking the law?

Great question. In today's world sometimes that confrontation can make the situation worse. Regardless of how "right" you might be, you just don't know how the person is going to respond. My strong advice is to leave that to the police. Our officers are specifically trained to deal with these unpredictable situations. The best thing you can do is quickly call 911 and provide a detailed descriptions of what happened and the people involved.

#### Q5) Anything else you want to share with MCCA residents?

I appreciate this opportunity to share my perspective and welcome the opportunity to keep the dialogue going. Along those lines, I encourage all residents of Mill Creek to complete our <u>community survey</u> to tell us how we are doing. We are committed to being an innovative, proactive, community-oriented police department. Thank you in advance for your input.

Dawn Rosenthal, Trail Ambassador Chair







#### Message from the City of Mill Creek



# **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

When you think about Mill Creek in 20 years, what do you picture?

The City of Mill Creek is seeking community input to help update our Comprehensive Plan. Please take the survey and be a part of shaping our future.

# We want to hear from you!

Scan here to take the survey in Engish



Escanee aquí para tomar la encuesta en Español



Scan the QR Code to take a short survey or go to millcreekwa.gov/compplan

Questions? Email planning@millcreekwa.gov

MillStream





The City of Mill Creek & Mill Creek
Town Center Association Present



Santa Parade &

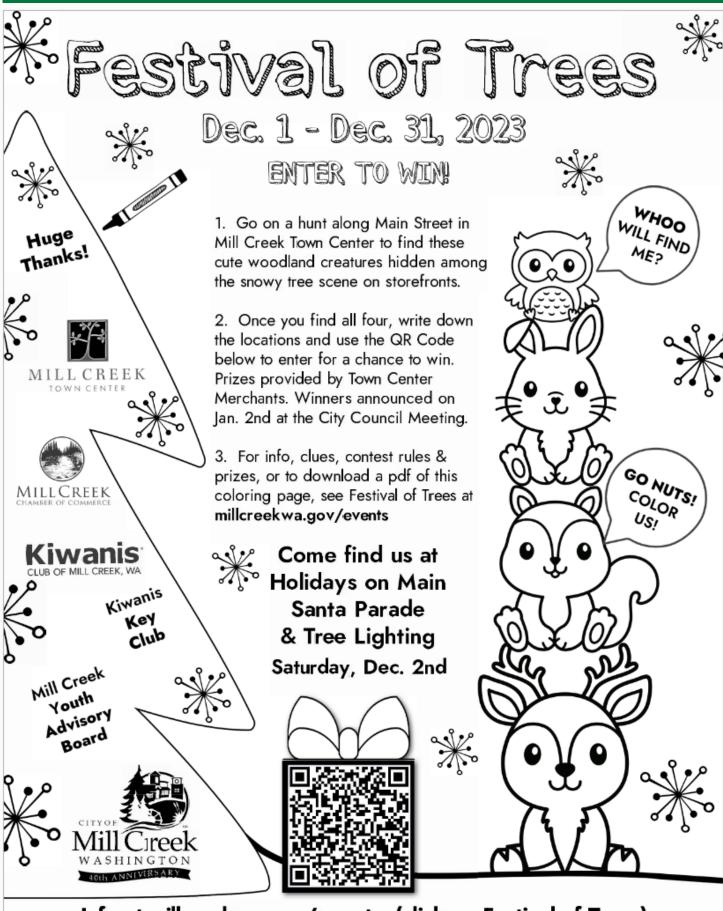
\* Tree Lighting
DECEMBER 2



more info at

MILLCREEKWA.GOV/EVENTS





Info at millcreekwa.gov/events (click on Festival of Trees)

#### Message from South County Fire

#### **Holiday & Winter Weather Preparedness**

Home fires can happen at any time, but they generally increase during the fall and winter, with November, December and January being the peak months. A working smoke alarm is your best chance of surviving a home fire. Smoke alarms should be placed on every level of the home and in each sleeping area. All smoke alarms must be replaced when they reach 10 years from the manufacture date, that includes wired alarms.

Tips to reduce your home fire risk:

- Stay in the kitchen when frying, broiling or boiling.
- Place Christmas trees, candles and other holiday decorations at least 3 feet from a heat source such as heater, fireplace or heat vents. Battery operated candles are the safest.
- Don't overload your electrical outlets and never leave a lithium-ion battery charging while you are asleep or when you leave the home.

Winter weather brings the potential for windstorms, excessive rain, snow and ice. The safest thing is to stay home and off the road. Stock up on all necessary food and toiletry items you'll need and don't forget your prescriptions and items for your pets. Less people on the road means less emergencies that our firefighters need to respond to, which keeps them safer too.

South County Fire offers a free one-hour online training to help you prepare for all types of disasters. To register visit <a href="https://www.southsnofire.org/classes">www.southsnofire.org/classes</a>. The next class is Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm.



#### MILL CREEK GARDEN CLUB

We have passed into that special time of year when our thoughts turn to indoor activities with visions of holiday festivities and gatherings. Our garden toils have subsided, while the beauty of fall gardens and nature lingers. We are so fortunate to be surrounded with all the foliage along our trails and walkways, and now the Evergreens get their shot at being the stars!

A fun October excursion to Skagit Valley took members to: Christianson's Nursery for some fall shopping; Gordon Skagit Farms to find pumpkins, gourds, and fall décor; and Shawn O'Donnell's Farmhouse restaurant.

Our Board, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and club members have been busy making special plans for a year-long celebration. In anticipation of our March 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, club volunteers planted more than 750 daffodil bulbs at the 164<sup>th</sup> Street Mill Creek entrance and in Library Park. Our fingers are crossed that the bulbs bloom "on time".

The Club's November goal to raise 640 pounds of food and necessities for the Mill Creek Food Bank was exceeded. We happily report that 1067 pounds and \$255 were collected! At the December 12<sup>th</sup> luncheon we will be collecting donations or cash for Everett's Christmas House. Our traditional Christmas party will also be held that day.



**Daffodil Planting Volunteers** 

The guest speakers this fall were fantastic, educational, informative, and humorous! In January Cleo Raulerson of Bellevue Botanical Garden will speak about perennials for year-round color. February brings Seattle Times' columnist Lorene Edward Forkner discussing color in the spring garden.



The 40th anniversary celebrations will include January's "Daffy Awards" and February's community-wide "Painted Rock Hunt". Look for our February MillStream article on how to win a prize and stay tuned for more fun activities coming this spring.

Painted Rock

Potential members are always welcome to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month through May 2024, at Shawn O'Donnell's Everett Conference Room. Go to <a href="https://www.millcreekgardenclub.com">www.millcreekgardenclub.com</a>

to register, click on "contact", then "membership" and state your desires. Check-in opens at 10:50 and reservations are required. Lunch costs are members \$25 and guests \$28.

We extend best wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful 2024!

Marilyn Hanan-Hoover, MCGC Publicity Chair

#### MILL CREEK WOMEN'S CLUB

#### Mill Creek Women's Club Celebrates 40 Years!

It's heartwarming to hear about the rich history and growth of the Mill Creek Women's Club. The journey from a small luncheon in 1983 to a thriving community with over 127 members is truly remarkable and a testament to the enduring spirit of the club. The personal touch added by Debby Cox, the club historian and one of the original members, provides a unique perspective on the club's evolution.

The description of the early days of Mill Creek, with only Silverlake Elementary and a four-way stop sign at Murphy's Corner, paints a vivid picture of how much both the city and the club have expanded over the years. The club's ability to adapt to these changes while maintaining its focus on friendship, philanthropy, and volunteering is truly commendable.

The transition from phone reservations to online sign-ins reflects the broader technological changes that have transformed the way we connect and organize. Raising over \$40,000 last year for philanthropy is a significant achievement and speaks to the collective impact and generosity of the club's members.

The diverse range of activities offered by the club, from special interest groups to fashion shows and dance programs, showcases the varied talents and interests within the community. The creation of traditions and the sharing of experiences contribute to a sense of continuity and community spirit.

Congratulations to all the women who have been part of the Mill Creek Women's Club over the years. Their dedication, energy, and ambition have played a crucial role in allowing the organization to thrive and reach this incredible 40th anniversary milestone. Here's to many more years of fostering friendship, philanthropy, and volunteerism in the Mill Creek community!

#### **Winter Meetings**

#### December 14 from 11:00am-1:00pm at the Mill Creek Country Club

Our Christmas program will feature the Memphis Belles, a local female trio of young women inspired by the Andrew Sisters. The Belles will entertain and delight with Christmas and holiday songs while grooving to the music. These "Belles" sing and dance to iconic music that brings excitement to those who have loved it for years, as well as those who will experience it for the first time!

#### January 18th from 11:00am-1:00pm at Shawn O'Donnells

In January we will welcome Loma Pendergaft from the University of Washington who will be coming to talk about the intelligence of Crows and the daily migration to and from the University of Washington in Bothell. He will share his studies around the cognitive abilities of American crows, particularly how they interact within their social environment.



The Memphis Belles

#### February 15th from 11:00am-1:00pm at Shawn O'Donnells

Program TBD.

We hope you will consider joining us for the 2023-2024 season. The membership fee is \$65.00. If you would like more information about the Mill Creek Women's Club or to make a reservation for one of our upcoming program's please email <a href="mailto:membersmcwc@gmail.com">membersmcwc@gmail.com</a>.

#### MILL CREEK LIBRARY



#### **Enjoy the Library's Gifts of Access This Winter!**

Make homemade gifts! <u>Creativebug</u> is the go-to resource for high-quality arts and crafts instructional videos designed for artists and makers of all levels. Topics include drawing, painting, sewing, knitting, crochet, quilting, baking and more, with downloadable patterns, templates, and recipes. All classes are taught by experts, with new classes added weekly.

Save on subscriptions! Access unlimited <u>Washington Post</u> articles with 7-day access. Access unlimited <u>WSJ</u> (Wall Street Journal) articles and a 4-year archive with 3-day access. Access the digital news edition of <u>The New York Times</u> with a 24-hour code.

Get book gift ideas from library staff! Whether you seek solace in a cozy mystery, want to embark on an epic fantasy quest, or explore the depths of human emotion through poignant memoirs, our <u>staff's favorite titles</u> are a treasure trove of recommendations designed to ignite your literary passions. Check out the books and movies library staff named as their favorite titles released in 2023.

Happy Holidays from The Mill Creek Library!

#### **Library Hours**

**Monday – Thursday:** 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM **Friday and Saturday:** 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**Sunday:** 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Mill Creek Library / 15429 Bothell-Everett Hwy / 425-337-4822 / sno-isle.org

#### THE FRIENDS OF THE MILL CREEK LIBRARY

The Friends of the Mill Creek Library is a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting the Mill Creek Library and local literacy efforts. We do that by raising funds, mainly through sales of used books that have been donated to us by members of the community. If you have been to the Mill Creek Library, you have likely seen the sales shelves in the lobby FULL of all kinds of books, from adult fiction and nonfiction to board books for the littlest readers, and everything in between. All of the books we sell are donated, so the selection varies widely and changes by the day. A heartfelt "thank you" to all who have dropped off books in our collection boxes, and to those of you who have purchased books from our shelves. We couldn't do what we do without you!

What is it that we do? The money raised selling donated books goes back to the community through funding library programs such as Children's & Teen's Summer Reading and Toddler & Preschool Storytime. This summer's reading program had 1,214 finishers, up by almost 50% from 2022. Other weekly summer programs were also very popular, with dozens of kids in attendance at each event. Additional programs for adults, children, and teens are also funded throughout the year.

We also provide grants to area teachers and librarians, assisting them in providing the materials their students need. These materials often include books in several languages, helping students from other countries learn English. In addition, we donate books to the Rotary

BOOK BACS

Club of Mill Creek for use in their local Little Free Libraries.

You might have noticed that A LOT OF BOOKS arrive in our donation boxes. And while we are eternally grateful for receipt of each and every book, you might also have noticed that our sale space is limited. What to do with all those books while they await a space on the shelf? Sound Storage of Mill Creek to the rescue! A huge shout out to the folks there who have so generously donated to us the use of an indoor storage unit, a safe place to keep the books until they can be placed for sale. Thank you!!

One thing all "Friends" share is a love of reading, and improving literacy among all members of our community. Our goal is to get books into as many hands as possible in the hope of inspiring a love of reading in others, especially young people. If you are interested in joining us in this undertaking, please get in touch at <a href="mailto:riendsmillcreeklibrary@gmail.com">riendsmillcreeklibrary@gmail.com</a>.

Now that we are in the midst of the winter holiday season, be sure to stop by the library and peruse the Friends' current selection of Christmas, Hanukkah, and fun winter books. You might find some great gifts!

#### THE FRIENDS OF THE MILL CREEK LIBRARY

#### **Holiday Trees for Salmon**

To help with coming celebrations, the Adopt A Stream Foundation is kicking off its annual *Holiday Trees for Salmon* event at the *Northwest Stream Center* (600 128<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Everett WA 98208), Saturday December 2, 10 am to 4 pm, and continuing Tuesdays through Saturdays through December 22. In addition to picking up a wild Holiday Tree for Salmon, you can also get all of your holiday shopping done at the Nature Store where proceeds benefit environmental education and salmon stream restoration.

Also, on Saturday <u>December 2<sup>nd</sup> only</u>, there will be **Holiday Maker's Bazaar at the Northwest Stream Center!** Local crafters and artisans will be selling their uniquely hand-crafted treasures in the Chinook Room!

Holiday Trees for Salmon are special! "There will be a great selection of wild and live 3-to-5 foot-high (\$40, \$60, \$100) Sitka Spruce, Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock, Grand Fir, Shore Pine, and Douglas Fir trees that are in pots," says Adopt A Stream Foundation Director Tom Murdoch. "After the holidays, all trees returned to the Northwest Stream Center will be planted next to local salmon streams. And everyone will get the good feeling that comes with knowing their Holiday Tree for Salmon will be doing great things for the Northwest environment long into the future...a wonderful memory of this holiday season!"

Another holiday bonus: everyone who purchases a Holiday Tree for Salmon will receive a 2024 Adopt A Stream Foundation Membership as a holiday gift. Benefits include free entry to the Northwest Stream Center in 2024, discounts to 2024 Streamkeeper Academy events, and 10% discounts on purchases at the Northwest Stream Center Nature Store.

Put a visit to the Northwest Stream Center on your December calendar! You will be able to enjoy an amazing universally accessible Nature Trail that goes past a trout stream exhibit and winds through 32-acres of beautiful forest and wetland habitat, peruse a great selection of live holiday trees, partake in arts and crafts, sip on a cup of hot apple cider, take a picture with Sammy the Salmon, and feel the holiday cheer!



A Decorated Holiday Tree for Salmon

Proceeds from Holiday Trees for Salmon sales benefit the Adopt A Stream Foundation's environmental education and salmon stream restoration programs. For more information call 425-316-8592 or go to www.streamkeeper.org.



#### **MCCA Member Divisions**

#### SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Aspen Holly Sweetwater Ranch

Chatham Park Huckleberry Swordfern
Cottonwood Juniper Vine Maple

Cypress Laurel Wildflower Park

Douglas FirMagnoliaWillowEvergreenRed CedarWoodfernFairwaySpring TreeWinslow

Fairway Fountains Sunrise
Heatherstone Sun Rose

Townhomes Condominiums

Amberleigh Country Club Estates The Ardent Apartments

Belvedere Place Copper Tree Cogir of Mill Creek

Emerald Heights Country Place Laurels at Mill Creek

Fairway Village I&II
Fairwood Greens
Lakewood
Parkwood at Mill Creek

Pembrook Mill Lane The Station at Mill Creek
The Pointe Mill Run I&II

Miller's Village I&II

Miller's Village I&II

St. Moritz Stratford Greens

The Masters
Trillium Court

#### **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

security@mcca.info

© Office: 425-316-3344 © Security: 425-328-0035

#### 2023-2024 Board of Directors

- Sid Siegel, President
- Angela Darby, Vice President
- Kristi Zevenbergen, Treasurer
- Becky Edy, Secretary
- Earl Bardin, Director
- Evert Pretorious, Director

#### **Standing Committees**

- Architectural Control Committee
- Covenant Committee

**APARTMENTS** 

- Noxious Weed Committee
- Inspection & Engineering
  Committee

#### Clubs

Mill Creek Garden Club

Mill Creek Women's Club



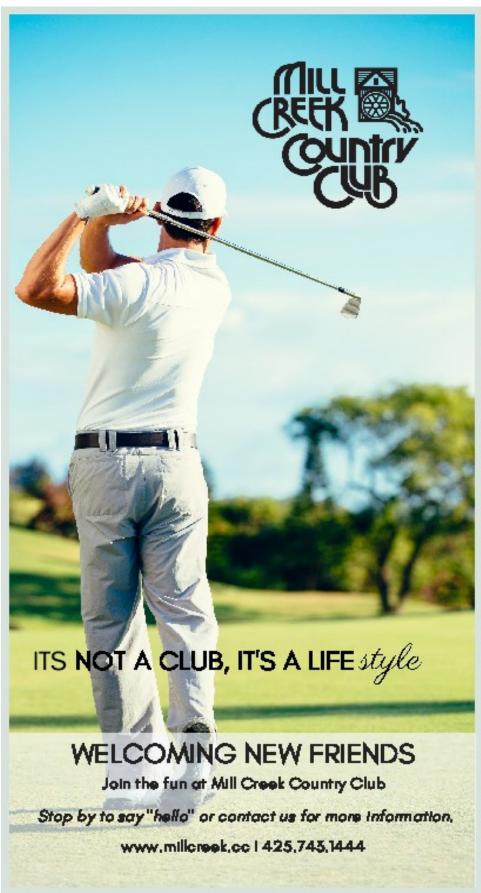
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Contact us at

office@westswimteam.com westswimteam.com

(425) 379-8806



# SIGN UP TODAY



# 2024 Baseball & Softball

Register for the 2024 Mill Creek Little League Spring Season starting December 1st.

Boys and girls of all skill levels, ages 4-18, living or going to school in MCLL boundaries are invited to play!

All players practice on field fundamentals and upper divisions get to experience the excitement of playing games in a competitive environment.

MCLL is a not for profit organization, operated 100% by volunteers. Adults are encouraged to get involved.

# REGISTER HERE

go CREEK!



#### BASEBALL DIVISIONS

DIVISION	AGES
Tee Ball	4 - 6
Rookies (coach pitch)	6 - 8
Farm	8 - 10
Minors	9 - 11
Majors	10 - 12
Intermediates	12 - 13
Juniors	13 - 14
Seniors	14 - 15
Challenger	4 - 18

#### SOFTBALL DIVISIONS

DIVISION	AGES
Rookies	6 - 8
Minors	8 - 11
Majors	10 - 12

#### SPRING SEASON KEY DATES

Registration Opens
Player Evaluations\*
Play Begins\*\*
MCLL Day / Pictures
Spring Season Ends
Post Season Tournaments

December
February
March
March
April
June

\*Farm & above only

\*\*Days determined by coach

www.millcreeklittleleague.com

**MillStream** 





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Contact the Membership Committee: millcreekrotary@frontier.com