



MillStream

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE BY SID SIEGEL

MCCA Community Chat—6:30pm on February 7 @ MCCA Board Room

I find it rewarding to have a chance to connect with our neighbors here in MCCA, and we want to remind everyone there is an opportunity to do so next week! On February 7th @ 6:30 pm at the MCCA office, we would love for you to bring your questions and comments! Community input helps the Board and Staff plan for projects, set priorities, and manage our community.

Reserve Study for 2024/2025

As required by state law, we perform a reserve study every year. In some years, this is an onsite visit by an independent reserve specialist; in other years, it is an update to the plan done in collaboration with a specialist. This plan helps us to determine what to budget for our contribution to our reserve account. This account is where monies are held to perform major repairs and replacements of the assets owned by the Association. The study can be reviewed at PayHOA.com. Go to Documents -> MCCA Documents -> Reserve Study -> MCCA Reserve Study 2024-FINAL.pdf.

Budgets!

As is common in recent annual surveys, we receive numerous questions about budgeting for the Association, which drives the amount of our annual assessment. As mentioned above, part of our budget deals with what is needed to keep our reserve account at a healthy level, and the other major part of our budget is for the ongoing maintenance and administration of the Association. In light of the high relative inflation over the last couple of years and unusual increases in the cost of living, cost of materials, and insurance, the staff is working very hard (and watching the numbers like a hawk) to ensure our budgeting addresses the necessary items and that we get competitive rates for projects, insurance, etc. On April 17th, we will conduct our annual budget meeting and welcome you to attend. Watch your email for more information!



Hawk near Holly trail
Photo credit: Jill
Cheeseman

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.

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE 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 [Committee](#) page. We have five options for you to consider.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 4 pm

The MCCA Architectural Control Committee (ACC) reviews and approves all applications for visible property changes and enhancements before project initiation. Their job is to help you plan a project that will meet the high aesthetic standards of MCCA and avoid costly reparation for any unapproved projects. ACC approval is required for nearly all exterior projects. Contacting the ACC is a crucial part of the project planning process for all MCCA residents, whether owner or renter. Reviews and approves applications for all exterior home maintenance and improvement projects, including, but not limited to:

- all exterior paint (body, trim, doors, outbuildings) and siding roofing
- window and door replacement
- landscaping, including driveways and retaining walls
- fencing (new and replacement)
- home additions
- patio or deck replacement
- shed or storage building
- air conditioning or heat pump unit installation
- installations such as sports courts, tree houses, play structures, trampolines

Reviews and approves applications for tree maintenance and removal; ensures compliance with replanting requirements; participates in MCCA arborist days. Consults regarding new housing starts and major exterior remodels. Routinely reviews and amends architectural guidelines for MCCA project permitting, making recommendations to the board as required.

COVENANT COMMITTEE

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4 pm

The MCCA Covenant Committee ensures that MCCA covenants are observed by all MCCA residents, whether owner or renter, to maintain our community standards. The efforts of this committee promote the beauty of MCCA, preserving and enhancing its ambiance and property values. Primary duties include enforcing covenants related, but not limited, to:

- landscaping and yard maintenance
- fencing
- driveways
- cordwood
- visible waste containers
- antennas and satellite dishes
- heat pump or A/C sites
- holiday lights
- swimming pools
- installations such as tree houses, play structures (including trampolines), sport courts, storage sheds
- exterior painting
- home-based businesses
- rental properties
- unapproved projects

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE MCCA

COVENANT COMMITTEE (CONT.)

Potential infractions are brought to the committee's attention via resident complaints and committee inspections. Committee members review possible violations, coordinate with the MCCA Compliance Coordinator to send letters or other communication regarding the violation, and work with the resident to reasonably resolve the complaint. Our goal is to achieve compliance rather than assess fines.

INSPECTION & ENGINEERING COMMITTEE

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month at 5 pm

The MCCA Inspection & Engineering Committee's mission is to advise and assist the association director and the board of directors on matters that protect the value and desirability of the MCCA-owned properties; preserving MCCA common areas and facilities (shown in green on our trail map). The scope of this Committee's responsibility includes:

- All common areas
- Nature Preserve including features such as signs, trails, bridges
- Pocket parks and play areas
- MCCA trails/sidewalks/paths

The Committee focuses on the annual inspection of association infrastructure and assets. These annual inspections, with amendments throughout the year, are submitted to the Association Director, who works with the Maintenance Department to prioritize and schedule projects.

NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE

Meetings: Monday 9 am – 12 pm work events, committee members sign-up as available

The MCCA Noxious Weed Committee (NWC) identifies and works to remove invasive plant species found within the MCCA common areas per our committee charter. The Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board provides assistance when requested. Targeted for their negative impact on our native ecosystem, the NWC focuses on the following invasive species for removal:

- English ivy threatening trees or native shrubs
- English holly trees
- Non-native blackberries
- Poison hemlock
- Yellow flag iris
- Nightshade

The NWC educates residents on identifying and controlling invasive species, hosts "Free the Trees" work parties and common area cleanups, and contributes related articles for the MillStream newsletter. Email mccanwc2@outlook.com with your questions or to be added to their email list.

TRAIL AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE

Meetings: Quarterly with flexible patrol schedule

The MCCA Trail Ambassador committee works to keep our many trails and parks safe for our residents. The members of this committee are required to pass a background check. They travel their route on foot or bike and are always available for questions or to provide assistance. Their goal is to observe and report any dangerous or suspicious activities to the proper authorities.

QUESTIONS?

Email (info@mcca.info) or call the MCCA Office. We are happy to help!

ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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 April MillStream for the next installment of questions and answers!

Q: Utility Markings: Who is painting all the fluorescent colored markings on the roads and our yards and placing all the flags? When will they go away and who is responsible for cleaning all this up?

A: The MCCA office is receiving a lot of calls and emails about these locate markings and flags that are popping up throughout our association. Residents and companies who plan to dig, are required by law to call 811 to schedule a locate service for the area where the work is planned. The various utility companies then come out to paint marks and put flags to show where their infrastructure lies within that area. Lately, it seems that one of our telecom companies is planning a large project and have called for many locates throughout the association. It almost seems that the person doing the locates is paid according to how much paint they spray and flags they place. The markings are numerous.

The MCCA does not get any information about these projects because they are all located within the city right-of-way. The right-of-way (ROW) is an easement over the property adjacent to a city road which generally extends from 5 to 10 feet beyond the roadway pavement into the adjoining property. Property owners do not own the property in the ROW, but they are required to maintain the property all the way to the curb.

The ROW is where most utility companies run their gas, sewer, water, electrical, and telecommunications lines. This is why it is so important to call 811 before you dig. The ROW is also where the city posts street signs and MCCA places mail hutches. To find where the ROW is on your property, you can locate your home on the Snohomish County Online Property Information ([SCOPI](#)) map. The orange lines on the map are the property lines, and help you see how much the ROW extends from the road into your property. The picture to the right gives you a great idea of where the ROW is located on some lots within MCCA.

Usually, the company doing the project in the ROW must obtain a permit from the City of Mill Creek. Once the project is complete, that company is also responsible for returning the ROW to its previous state. If you have a question about a project or locate markings on the ROW near you, please contact the [City of Mill Creek](#).



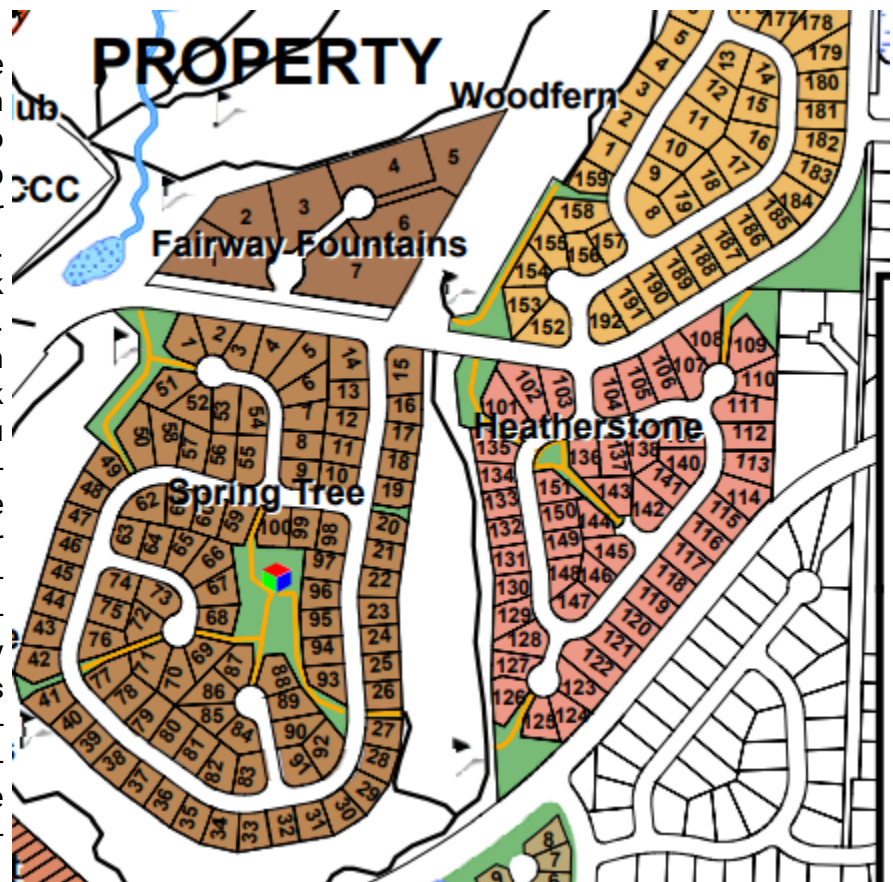
Orange lines are property lines on SCOPI map

Annual Survey Questions and Answers (cont.)

Q: It's very clear that people have taken more open areas away and claimed them as their own with every fence replacement. It's especially evident along the backside of Woodfern that bumps against Village Green Dr. You can tell by the fence lines. How they got away with that, and why my retaining wall had to be on my property so that my fence was inside of it is beyond me. That doesn't seem fair or consistent. I'd challenge most of those fence lines. Other than that, our HOA is darn near perfect.

A: It can be very difficult to figure out what is MCCA common area and what isn't because the MCCA road-side property does not consistently run along Village Green Drive and other major roads. There are numerous areas where homeowner property extends right to the street. In fact, learning where the numerous MCCA property lines are located is probably one of the most challenging tasks for all new committee members, board members, and employees.

One of the easiest ways to determine the approximate location of MCCA common area is to look at the MCCA trail map. To access the trail map, go the MCCA web page and click on [Trail Map](#) in the upper right corner to get to the Trail Map page. You can then click on the download link to download a PDF version of the map. On the trail map, all the MCCA common areas are colored bright green. If you look at the Woodfern division on the map, you can see that the homes that back to Village Green Drive own the property all the way to the street. The same is true for residents of Spring Tree and Heatherstone who have homes that back to Village Green Drive. Of course there is likely a city right-of-way (ROW) that extends into the front and back of these properties. The city requires the adjacent property owner (which in this case would be the homeowner) to maintain their property to both the front and back curbs.



MCCA Trail Map showing Spring Tree, Woodfern, and Heatherstone property lines extending right to Village Green Drive

Another way to look at property lines is to look on the Snohomish County Online Property Information ([SCOPI](#)) map. You can use your mouse to zoom in on your home and see the orange lines that delineate your property. You can also visit the City of Mill Creek's [website](#) to view the plat map for your division. The plat map not only shows you the property lines for your property, it also gives you the dimensions of each line. You can use the measurement information on the plat map to figure out where your property corners are. Once you narrow down an approximate area, you may even be able to locate the metal stakes that mark your property corners.

Thanks for describing MCCA as being darn near perfect! We aim to please and look forward to working with our homeowners. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with your questions!

Save the Date: National Trails Day—Saturday, June 1, 2024

To celebrate National Trails Day, MCCA will be hosting a photo scavenger hunt in the Nature Preserve open to all MCCA residents and families. More details will be provided in the April MillStream, so keep an eye out for an update.

Tree Talk

Thank you to all of the residents who attended Sal Noeldner’s (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist TRAQ) presentation on native trees, the challenges they are facing and things we can do as homeowners to help protect them. Based on the feedback received, those present found this information very useful! We plan to host another, so look for future opportunities in the MillStream.

Is there a topic related to our community or homeowner issues that you would like to learn more about? We would be happy to arrange for guest speakers who could offer guidance in their area of expertise. Email info@mcca.info with your suggestions.



Sal Noeldner



IMPORTANT DATES!

Please go to the [MCCA Calendar](#) on the MCCA website for updated information on our meetings and events.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 7 | MCCA Community Chat 6:30–7:30 pm in the MCCA board room |
| February 19 | President’s Day—MCCA office closed |
| February 21 | MCCA Board of Directors meeting 4 pm in the MCCA board room |
| March 7 | MCPD “Coffee with a Cop” 8:30–11 am at Frost Donuts |
| March 13 | City Chat 6:30 pm at MCCA |
| March 20 | MCCA Board of Directors meeting 4 pm in the MCCA board room |
| March | Budget packet mailed out end of month |
| April 17 | MCCA Budget Meeting |
| May 4 | MCCA Garage Sale Day |

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Tree Planting in the MCCA

As planned, we have planted several trees in our parks and the areas that were affected by Laminated Root Rot. We will fill in with understory plantings over time. We used Armstrong maples, Streetspire oaks, Gary oaks, vine maples, dogwood, and cascara trees. We also planted a few shore pines on the east slope near Cherry Pond in Vine Maple/Huckleberry and a Gary oak, some Armstrong maple, cascara, and Streetspire oak between the pond and golf course in Cherry Park. Since the beginning of this fiscal year, we have already planted 100 trees!



Amanita Muscaria Photo credit: Ryan Bisset, MCCA Maintenance



Planting in Huckleberry



Planting in Cherry Park



MCCA nursery at our shop that includes native species of trees, understory plants and shrubs

SECURITY

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

CPTED is an approach to deterring criminal behavior by focusing on design and management strategies we can take as homeowners to reduce the incidence of crime and opportunity on our property. It is based on these basic principals:

Natural Surveillance

Correct placement of exterior lighting should provide clear path for movement and highlight entryways without creating hiding places. Use security cameras and motion detector lighting. (Do not shine into neighbor's window and be sure to [apply](#) for any exterior lighting that you plan to add.)

Natural Access Control

Properly maintained landscaping allows for unobstructed views of otherwise vulnerable access points. Keep trees and shrubs trimmed back from windows, doors and walkways. Use locking gates on fenced backyards. Remove opportunity! Do not leave ladders or tools in view of the street that might be used by criminals to gain entrance to your home.

Territorial Reinforcement

Homes and landscaping that are in disrepair express a lack of concern for a property and can be easy targets for criminal activity. You want people to instantly see that someone is present in the home and that the home is well looked after. By establishing a well maintained appearance, it is easier for your neighbors to notice anything or anyone out of the ordinary.

You can find more information on this subject (and other helpful information) on the Mill Creek Police Department [website](#).

Community Involvement and Block Watch Program

Do you know and communicate with your neighbors on all sides? Do you have their contact information? Please consider creating a Block Watch program in your neighborhood. Organizing a Block Watch can not only get you acquainted with your neighbors, but it will create a connection to deputies in this community, increase awareness in identifying and reporting suspicious behavior, and lower the risk of being a victim of crime. If this is something you would like to consider, please read these [guidelines](#) from the Mill Creek Police Department on how to get started.

Mailbox Reminder

We are learning of more incidents of mail theft in our community. Remember to pick up your mail daily (if possible), or have the Post Office [hold your mail](#) if you plan to be away for an extended period of time. If you do not have a locking mailbox, consider upgrading to this MCCA-approved [locking mailbox](#). Once purchased, email info@mcca.info to schedule a time for Maintenance to install. While no locking mailbox is 100% theft proof, it is better than the alternative.

COVENANT COMMITTEE

Winter Maintenance Checklist

Use this list as a reminder of tasks to complete this winter:

- Keep driveways, sidewalks, and steps clean of moss, leaves, and debris to prevent falls.
- Protect outdoor water faucets with covers to prevent freezing pipes.
- Keep gutters clean of debris to prevent unwanted water runoff.
- Spread lime or moss control fertilizer on the lawn to prevent moss buildup in the lawn.
- Holiday lights, decorations, and displays must be removed by January 31, 2024.
- Keep storm drains near your house clear of debris to prevent flooding conditions.
- Trim back dead or dormant vegetation in the yard and flower beds.
- Keep outdoor lighting in in proper working condition and replace broken fixtures or burnt-out lightbulbs.

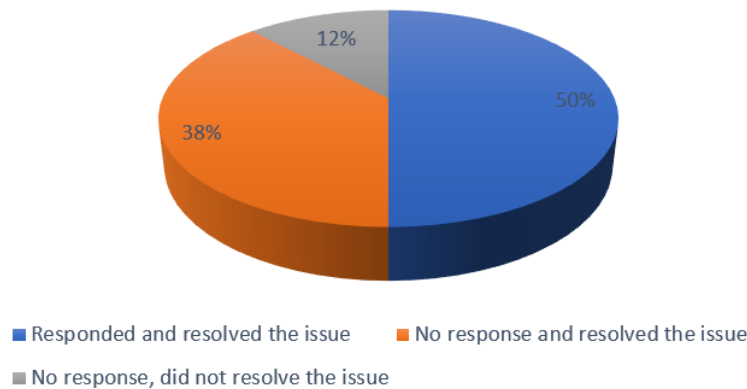
What Does the Covenant Committee Do?

Through the years, the MCCA Covenant Committee has had members come and go, but one thing has remained constant. This committee has a history of hardworking volunteers, who share one goal: to keep our community a desirable and happy, healthy place to live. The purpose of the MCCA is to protect and enhance property values for every resident. Homeowners choose to move here because of the nature preserve, trails, parks and curb appeal of our neighborhoods. Our job is to enforce the covenants to help maintain that appeal. This committee gathers monthly and discusses ideas for positive ways to work with homeowners and how to offer assistance with encouragement and understanding - all traits that make MCCA a great community.

Four years ago, I began my new position as Compliance Coordinator for MCCA as the point of contact between committee and residents. For many years, the Covenant Committee process was a three-form letter. The first letter of violation was authoritative with no concern for a resident's personal situation. The following two letters were written in legal language and seemed very authoritative. In working with the Association Director, Hilary, and MCCA attorneys, the committee decided to implement a "Polite Request" as most issues we saw were minor violations that only required clarification with a homeowner. The committee understands that certain barriers can exist with homeowners achieving compliance and we are here to assist. In many cases, these polite requests have been helpful to members who just needed a little help and guidance. We are an excellent resource in sharing information on who to call when there is an issue - whether it's a roof leak, chimney repair, or landscaping services. A polite request opens the door of communication between the Covenant Committee and the resident.

COVENANT COMMITTEE (CONT.)

At any given time, this committee has 6 to 8 volunteers. On a quarterly basis, each volunteer inspects roughly 200 homes bi-weekly in their assigned divisions. This involves either walking or driving through neighborhoods to note homes with obvious issues. After neighborhood inspections, the committee members discuss whether a polite request or violation is warranted and then the process begins. A polite request (the first of three letters) will go out to a homeowner outlining the noted violation of the MCCA restrictive covenants on their property. We allow 14 days to respond between each letter, which gives the member time to either resolve the issue or contact MCCA with a plan of action for their scheduled work. In the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the committee and I worked with over 700 members on covenant violations, 500 of which were polite requests. The results of sending a polite request have been favorable as shown below:



The 12% above who did not respond to the polite request email and did not resolve the issue received a second letter in the process. The committee then worked on a plan of action with members, tracking the process each step of the way until the violation was resolved.

In addition to regular inspections, the committee finds that some members need seasonal reminders to do the following:

- Store containers out of view.
- Clean driveways and walkways.
- Remove dead/dying trees.
- Apply for exterior changes, temporary trailers.
- Prune or trim trees.
- Clean and blow roofs.
- Pick up clutter and store equipment and items out of view.
- Clean or paint home exterior, repair or replace fence.

With regular inspections, our hope is to not only maintain the street appeal that makes MCCA a desirable place to live, but to impress upon residents that regular exterior maintenance of their home and property will protect property values.

The committee and I are here to encourage and assist MCCA members to achieve “Pride in Homeownership” because that is what makes MCCA a beautiful place to live.

“The Mill Creek Community Association’s primary purpose with its covenants is to protect the desirability of the member’s properties. The Board of Directors has empowered its Covenant Committee to work with members to that end.”

Joan Sweeney, MCCA Compliance Coordinator, joan@mcca.info

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

A Landscape without Lawn – Start with a Good Foundation

In the October MillStream, we shared a few seasonal lawn tips on how to achieve a lush, green lawn throughout the year. We understand that some residents might be considering alternatives to lawns for various reasons. If you are thinking about reducing or replacing your lawn with a lower maintenance option, choosing tried and true plants that perform well in the Pacific Northwest is a good way to go. Layering these plants in varying heights is a simple design principle that can provide depth, scale and interest to your yard.

A good example of a first layer in a landscaped yard would be evergreen foundation plants, consisting of both **broadleaf and conifer trees**. This layer adds visual height and acts as an anchor for other plants. Depending on the size of your yard, choose one or two and select trees that will not outgrow their space. Next, choose **evergreen shrubs** and repeat throughout your yard to add structure, texture and year-round interest. The concept of “less is more” and repetition is the key for a cohesive look. **Perennials and grasses** add color and vibrancy to your landscape and stand out against the background of evergreen shrubs and trees adding an additional layer of interest. **Annual flowers** might be considered the last touch during summer months. Additionally, areas of cobble or river rock can provide interest while preventing soil from sloughing onto walkways, streets, and sidewalks. Hardscaped areas in pavers and stacker stones are other materials to consider for defining walkways and outdoor spaces.

ANY landscape will require a certain level of maintenance—watering, seasonal pruning and weeding are still required in order to keep your yard thriving and tidy.

Big box stores can be affordable options for foundation plants. Check the labels carefully to be sure the plants you’re buying are going to be successful in our area. The following local nurseries are good resources for Pacific Northwest plant varieties:

- McAuliffe's Valley Nursery – can provide excellent guidance on structure plant selection
- Snohomish Garden Center – replacements of native trees
- Big Trees – a reliable source for larger trees and hedges, specifically arborvitae and native trees
- Snohomish County Co-op – grass seed for lowest price and worth the visit

Shrub Suggestions for Minimum to Limited Maintenance

Evergreen Conifer Shrubs

- Firs, cedars, cypress, and pines – dwarf varieties. They have various “family & variety names”, and the choices are less vast than broadleaf. Important to purchase for PNW growing zone, Mill Creek, WA is 9A.

Broadleaf Shrub

- Nandina – lots of interesting color
- Barberry – not evergreen, but great summer color
- Boxwood – disease resistant varieties
- Ilex crenata – Sky Pencil Japanese Holly for foundation or hedge
- Ilex – Dwarf forms
- Pieris – many varieties for year-round interest
- Mock Orange - chartreuse
- Euonymus
- Laurel – tolerates less water, great hedge, needs pruning
- Camelia – needs pruning
- Rhododendron – tolerates less water, needs pruning
- Azalea – need more water, part shade, less pruning needed
- Acuba – color for shady areas
- Viburnum – prune to keep in space
- Sarcococca – Dry shade, winter fragrance

Reminder: All exterior changes must be applied for, including landscape redesign. If you are considering redesigning your landscape, the ACC requests that specific details of your plan be included with your application. If you are uncertain if your project requires approval, please contact the MCCA office.

NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE

It is that time of year when the NWC works on sprucing up our playgrounds, parks and common areas by removing deadwood, doing some light pruning and monitoring areas cleared of invasive species that receive sunlight due to the lack of tree canopy. Two to three years of follow up is necessary while a canopy of shade becomes re-established through planting of native ground covers, understory, and growing trees. Dormant seeds come alive when given disturbed soil and sunlight!

The NWC and the Maintenance Team began a collaboration to eradicate and prevent the return of creeping yellow buttercup along one of our trails, thereby reducing the amount of time needed for weed whacking! The area was sheet mulched, and plans are to introduce some native plants in early 2025.

And a big thank you to the volunteers who on January 20 joined the NWC on a rare day of dry weather to continue the removal of English ivy and placement of wood chips in Central Park in Evergreen! The Maintenance Team gave the project a jump start by assisting earlier in removal of some of the English ivy, spreading wood chips, and delivering more wood chips! What a difference it made!



The NWC hopes to see returning volunteers and some new volunteers on **Saturday, February 10, from 10-12**, when the plan is to finish prepping the area for native plantings on Earth Day, April 20!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

The Rotary Club of Mill Creek Supports Children's Literacy with Little Free Libraries

Back in 2021, Mill Creek Rotarian Shirley Kinsey brought the idea of Little Free Libraries to the Rotary Club of Mill Creek to support literacy among children in our area who may not otherwise have access to books. Spearheaded by Shirley, this project has become a huge success thanks to the support and hard work of many Mill Creek Rotary members and all those who have donated books to this very worthwhile project.

Back during Covid, Shirley's daughter Heidi Lane, then an associate principal, visited some of her students who lived in a mobile home park to take them books to read while they were at home. When the children refused the books that she had brought them, she asked the parents why, and was told that their children were not allowed check out books from school or public libraries because they could not pay fees for lost or stolen books. Heidi came back with some volunteers and set up bookshelves in a common area and filled them with free books for the kids to read while home during Covid.

That inspired Shirley to start the Little Free Library project with Mill Creek Rotary to support childhood literacy in our area. Shirley got to work fast and recruited Rotary members to help identify places to install the Little Free Library boxes where they were needed most and to also build them. Mill Creek Rotary installed the first Little Free Library in a mobile home park in North Bothell and filled it with quality children's books. Shirley called the Mill Creek Community Food Bank about having a Little Free Library there as well. Their answer was, "When can you start?" That was in September 2021 and gradually, the Rotary Club of Mill Creek added five more mobile home parks in Bothell, Mill Creek, and in South Everett and books continue to fly off the shelves.



Shirley Kinsey, Project Lead, along with Rotary Club of Mill Creek project volunteers Amanda Flores and Vicki Wellman

Eventually, Operation School Bell was added to the project's recipients and began giving books to in-need school children along with new clothes for school. The Mill Creek Community Food Bank and Operation School Bell distribute the largest number of books of any of the Little Free Library venues. Since then, Mill Creek Rotary has added other non-profits and Mill Creek Rotary club members continue to support the project by picking up books from those that donate, storing the books, and delivering books to the venues. The Mill Creek Friends of the Library and Roger and Susan Atlas have been major donors to the Little Free Libraries, and Mill Creek Rotarians and many others continue to donate books to this project. Without their support, this project would not be possible.

Besides the Mill Creek Community Food Bank and Operation School Bell, Mill Creek Rotary has donated books to other nonprofits such as the Everett Boys and Girls Club, Damascus House, Interfaith Shelter, Housing Hope, Cocoon House and many others. Rotary Club of Mill Creek Little Free Libraries are now in six mobile home parks in the area and has even donated Spanish and English language books internationally through the Rotary Club of Shoreline to FloreSer in Mazatlán, Mexico, an organization that helps at-risk girls who have been victims of abuse and violence.

At an average of \$10 per book, The Rotary Club of Mill Creek's Little Free Library project has given away over \$210,000 worth of books to date, and in June 2023 the club received a Rotary Grant for \$1,500 to buy new books. Since its inception, the project has given away over 21,000 books and is still going strong.

The Rotary Club Book Drive (cont.)

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Rotary Club of Mill Creek, all of those that have donated books, all those that have donated time and money, and all the non-profit organizations and mobile home parks that help Mill Creek Rotary distribute the books to children that need them.



Project volunteers Geoff Flores, Terry Klett and Josh Gregg Jr. after placing the first Little Free Library box

How Can You Help?

MCCA is partnering with Rotary Club of Mill Creek in collecting children's books in support of this program. **New or gently used newborn through 8th grade books can be dropped off at the MCCA office Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM through the month of 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 Free Libraries. To learn more, please visit millcreekrotary.org.

amazon



OR Directly Purchase requested books for a child on our Amazon wishlist! [HERE](#)

MESSAGE FROM HOPE CREEK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

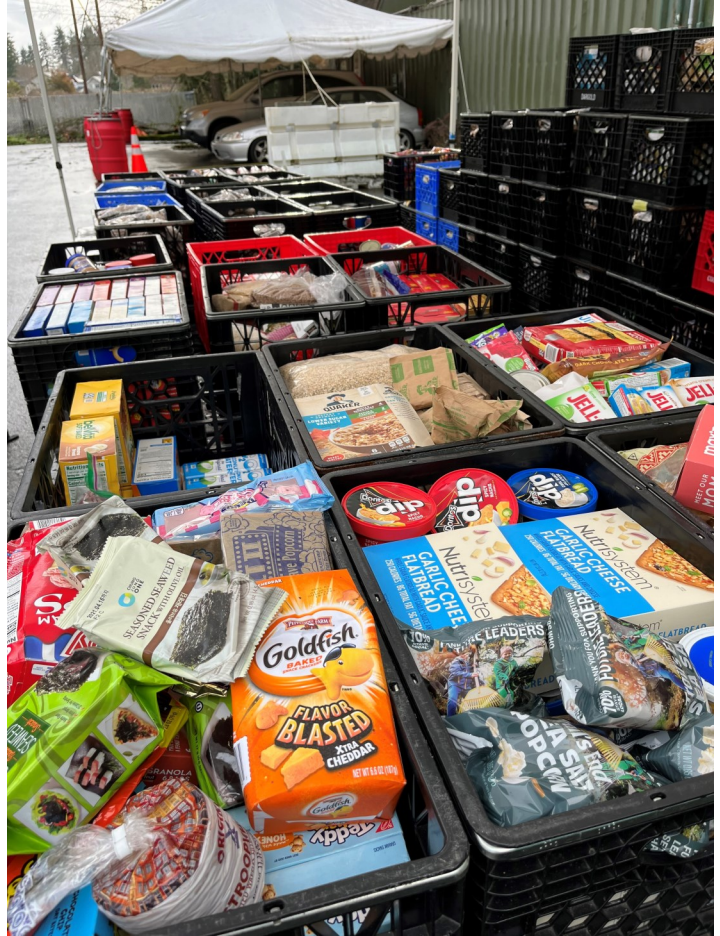
In December, I had the pleasure of joining the Hope Creek Charitable Foundation as the Director of Fundraising and Development. My previous role at Helping Hands Ministries International prepared me to take the reins at this incredible organization.

In my first week at the Hope Creek Charitable Foundation, I was supporting check-in during the evening shopping with the Food Bank. We had a client come to the check-in table to confirm her next week's appointment. She was in a dire situation, and she had to ensure at least one thing could be counted upon. As she explained to us how her life had changed rapidly in the last few weeks of December, she began to cry. She would be taking in her grandkids and this would be a financial hardship. It was clear that she would need far more support than we could be able to offer her. We, as the community, could take care of one vital resource: their meals. She left with the knowledge of a few more community resources and the understanding that food was not going to be a problem in the immediate future. For families in need, whatever situation that may be, knowing food will be on the table is a relief beyond measure. I will never forget that conversation with this client. I know our food bank and the support we offer can continue to change lives in this way.

As we enter this new year, I am grateful to share with you the ways in which our food bank has prepared it to feed the community and ways that the community can continue to support that work. Our food bank has many different avenues to feed the community. We support accessibility in various ways and work to ensure everyone has an opportunity to have access to this vital resource.

One of the major changes in 2024 will be the increase in the amount of student service through our **Backpacks of Hope program**. We will be increasing from **825 students** through the addition of three new schools to our roster from the Everett School District. It is likely **we will reach over 1000 students** before too long. This increase reminds us of the importance of sharing this more visibility with the community. Often it is that these types of services go unnoticed by the majority. It is a service that is conducted by a few delivery drivers and received by kids at home out of the public eye. Because of the hidden nature of this need, it is crucial that we share its existence. Only through highlighting these types of resources can we begin to increase their impact.

Another aspect of service our food bank engages in is home delivery. This type of service provides access to families who are unable to shop in the evenings, and to those who are disabled. True service to the community can only be received by those needing it when it comes in an accessible format. Accessibility is at the heart of the Hope Creek Food Bank's mission: feeding the community.



Collection of non-perishable food items for the food banks storage containers



Sean Casey collecting the bags for Backpacks of Hope program

The community of Mill Creek has come together in incredible ways to ensure resources like the food bank are well stocked and well supported. We just purchased three more shipping containers to hold the non-perishable food we store within the food bank. This will help us to keep it easily accessible for us to disseminate to clients. Our methods of serving the community span various areas and we serve through:

- Grocery pick-ups
- Markey night shopping
- Backpacks
- Baby Bungalow
- Home Delivery
- Assisted Shopping

If you would like to learn more about these resources, or how you can support their existence, please contact me at morgan@hopecreekcf.org

Thank you for being a generational giving group and a prominent supporter of the food bank's efforts. Whether you are thinking about giving financially or in food donations for the first time, or have spent many hours supporting the food bank, I would love to connect with you in this new year.

I would like to leave you with this age-old adage that I feel encapsulates the ways in which the food bank's donors often represent: "Blessed are those who plant trees under whose shade they will never sit." Your support is noticed and appreciated deeply. Thank you.

Morgan Crosby
 Director of Fundraising and Development



Hope Creek Charitable Foundation

p: (360) 722-9812

w: hopecreekcf.org

e: morgan@hopecreekcf.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF MILL CREEK



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS. ONE CUP AT A TIME.

Join your neighbors and police officers for coffee and conversation.



**Thursday
March 7, 2024**



Mill Creek Town Center
15217 Main Street



8:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to break down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve by removing agendas and allowing opportunities to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.



QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Mill Creek Police Department
rod.fleming@millcreekwa.gov
(425) 745-6175

millcreekwa.gov/police

coffeewithacop.com

MESSAGE FROM SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

Winter Weather

Prepare and care for yourself and your family before, during, and after a winter storm.

- Stay ahead of winter weather by downloading free weather alert apps on your phone or by following your local news channels.
- During and after a storm, stay home or limit travel, especially following snow and ice.
- Create a home emergency kit to include a few days' worth of food, toilet paper, and medications. Don't forget your pet's needs.
- Home fires are more likely to occur in the winter months. Working smoke alarms save lives, test them monthly, and replace alarms every 10 years. Be sure you have smoke alarms on every level of your home and in each sleeping area.
- Portable heaters should be plugged directly into the wall outlet, avoid extension cords and power strips. Allow for a 3-foot clearance of anything that can burn. Never leave a portable heater on when sleeping.
- Power outages are a common occurrence in the Pacific Northwest. Stock up on flameless candles and flashlights and dress in layers while you wait for the power to be restored. If you have an emergency generator, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- If you have a fireplace or wood stove, only use dry, seasoned wood. Fire logs, found in most grocery stores, offer a longer-lasting fire that burns cleaner. Fireplaces and wood stoves should be cleaned and inspected regularly.
- Other helpful supplies to have on hand include sand, rock salt, and snow shovels.



MILL CREEK GARDEN CLUB

Ahhh – just when we thought we were going to skirt the winter extremes of an El Nino year, Mother Nature reminded us of who’s in control.

Thank goodness for the wisdom of our January luncheon’s guest speaker, Cleo Raulerson. Her first bit of advice was: after thoroughly watering our plants/perennials to then tuck them under porches, in garages, or cover with sheets to protect them from the low temperatures in coming days. So, our gardeners are waiting to see if their rapid actions were effective.

Our officers and members trust that you all had the most enjoyable of Holidays. Now on to the more leisurely activities of winter and dreaming of our 2024 gardens. Perusing catalogues might be one of your approaches for inspiration or visiting [Seattle’s NW Flower and Garden Festival, February 14-18](#).

We are pleased to announce our 8th annual Garden Tour and Artisan Market will be held Saturday July 20, 2024. There is still one spot open if you’d like your garden to be on the tour. Contact us at www.millcreekgardenclub.com to apply.



Officers. L-R Debby Cox, 1st VP; Judy Morrier, President; Jackie Fields, 2nd VP; Nancy Hedges, Treasurer; and Linda Meyer, Secretary.



February’s Prize Rock

During the ongoing 40th anniversary celebration of our club, we will be hiding painted rocks around Mill Creek’s parks, trails, walkways, and shopping centers. The one pictured here will win you a prize if instructions on the back are followed. Rocks will be in place by February 1. HAPPY HUNTING! The daffodil bulbs planted last fall by our volunteers at Mill Creek’s entrance at 164th Street have emerged!!

Potential members are always welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month through May 2024, at Shawn O’Donnell’s Everett Conference Room. Visit our [website](#) and leave us a message. Check-in opens at 10:30 and reservations are required. Lunch costs are \$25 for members and \$28 for guests. Our guest speakers will



MCGC Members at December Luncheon

be Lorene Edwards Forkner a Seattle Times columnist, “A Color Recipe for the Spring Garden” (February), and Martha Clatterbough, Snohomish County Master Gardener, “Bugs – The Good, Bad & Ugly” (March).

Marilyn Hanan-hoover, MCGC Publicity Chair
www.millcreekgardenclub.com

MILL CREEK WOMEN'S CLUB

Thanks to our generous Mill Creek Women's Club members, our annual Fundraiser in November was very successful. This year's theme was "Gather for Giving" and was held at the Mill Creek Country Club. Members had the opportunity to visit with friends and support our charities. According to Margaret Durkee, the club's Philanthropy Chair, the fundraiser raised \$24,500. We were able to fulfill wishes of both of our chosen charities. We presented a check to Cocoon House for \$10,000. Cocoon House conducts outreach to and provides short- and long-term housing for homeless and at-risk young people. Our other charity, Domestic Violence Services, also received a check for \$10,000. Domestic Violence Services is the only program in Snohomish County providing emergency shelter and comprehensive services to all victims of domestic abuse. Other donations were made to the Mill Creek Food Bank and Dawson Place.

It's great to hear about the Mill Creek Women's Club and its commitment to enhancing the community through friendship and philanthropy. Creating opportunities for women to come together, socialize, and engage in philanthropic activities is a wonderful way to strengthen community bonds and make a positive impact. If there's anything specific you'd like to know or discuss about the Mill Creek Women's Club, feel free to let us know!

The MCWC holds meetings every month where our members and their guests enjoy programs and speakers and, of course, lunch! Our Christmas lunch in December featured the Memphis Belles. The Memphis Belles is a female vocal group that sing and dance to iconic music. We were treated to a seasonal show that featured our favorite Christmas tunes.

We plan eventful programs and speakers for the enjoyment of our members and guests. The MCWC offers many ways to connect with other members. We have in-person socials, Bunco, Book Clubs, Craft Groups, Card Game Groups, and other specialty groups. Love to entertain or cook? There are cooking classes being offered that are some of our most popular gatherings.

Our meetings for the next 3 months include the following:

March 16

In March the Mill Creek Women's Club will welcome Jesse Jones, a consumer advocate and Investigative Reporter on KIRO 7. He covers local news, consumer issues and scams in the Puget Sound Area. We will hear his interesting stories about problems that he helps to solve for viewers. This program will be held at Shawn O'Donnell's from 11-1 with doors opening at 10:30.

April 20

The April program will be a fun morning when Chicos representatives present clothing from their Spring and Summer collections. Clothing will be modeled by some of our members!

May 18

In May we are excited to welcome Nate Jester, a Seattle magician and mentalist known for his specialization in magic, illusion, and comedy. His performances aim to provide a thought-provoking experience for a sophisticated audience, delivering unforgettable moments. Nate Jester has entertained crowds of various sizes in different countries, including China, Ukraine, Hungary, Las Vegas, and across the United States. Additionally, his appearances on America's Got Talent, Bravo, Netflix, and Oprah's The Life You Want Tour suggest a broad recognition of his talents.



Nate Jester, Magician and Mentalist

We hope that you will consider joining us for the 2023-2024 season. The membership fee is \$65 per year. We hope to meet you in person.

Debra Lowry, MCWC Publicity Chair

To learn more about the Mill Creek Women's Club, email membershipmcwc@gmail.com.

MILL CREEK LIBRARY



Sweet Stuff in Store at the Mill Creek Library!

Oscar nominations are out! During February, movie-loving Mill Creek Library customers can grab a ballot and predict who will win in major award categories. The two customers with the most accurate ballot on Oscar Day (March 10) will be Academy Award winners—they'll get free movie tickets, thanks to the Friends of the Mill Creek Library.

Also during February, our library staff members, Cindy & Hong, display a celebration of the Lunar New Year. This year we welcome the Year of the Dragon, which will begin on February 10.

For Teens & Tweens:

Teen Nights (an after-hours program where teens take over the library!) on Fridays, February 9th & March 8th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Fun with Physics program on Saturday, February 17th from 1-2:00 PM with the Jackson Highschool AP Physics Club.

Finally, our annual Holi Storytime has become quite a community family event. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday, March 20 in the library for a storytime and craft from 6-8:00 PM.

Embracing diversity, fostering inclusivity, and dedicated to accessibility—our library is a place where everyone is welcome and belongs. Come visit us or grab your library card and start exploring today at 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

FRIENDS OF MILL CREEK LIBRARY

Webster defines community as “a unified body of individuals, such as the people with common interests living in a particular area.” Members of the Friends of the Mill Creek Library share the common interest of promoting literacy in our community. Sometimes, opportunities to support literacy come from unexpected sources.

Due to events that began in February 2022, many Ukrainian families relocated to the Mill Creek area. In the weeks that followed, Mill Creek Library staff began noticing Ukrainian families utilizing library resources. Community Librarian Christa Werle recognized an opportunity to promote literacy within this newly arrived population. She imagined that people came quickly and with few possessions; children’s books might not make the cut when packing for rapid relocation to a place over 5,000 miles away. Perhaps basic books for those just learning English would be helpful and provide some sense of comfort.

At the same time as the library became aware of “new” Ukrainian patrons, the Mill Creek Community Food Bank began serving about 30 Ukrainian families each week. This is where multiple communities overlapped and created a larger “unified body of individuals” with similar, synchronistic interests to serve multiple needs in one place. After exploring which books might fulfill the goals of promoting literacy and providing a sense of community and belonging, the Friends were approached regarding providing the funding for the books, which we gladly provided.



Over the next several months, over 150 books in Ukrainian or English and Ukrainian were given to kids and teens at the food bank, an unexpected bonus along with food aid. Within each was placed a bookplate welcoming these families to the Mill Creek community. Books such as Kolobok: The Small Round Bun served to tell stories these children would have heard at home in Ukraine, while creating the foundation for English learning in a new home, a different community enlarged and enriched by their presence.

If you would like to be part of this community and help us encourage and facilitate steps towards greater literacy, there are a number of ways to get involved. You can drop off book donations in the lobby of the Mill Creek Library, and you can purchase donated books there (proceeds go to support literacy programs locally). If you would like to be a member of the Friends, please get in touch at friendsmillcreeklibrary@gmail.com.

NORTHWEST STREAM CENTER

White Birds of Winter

The **White Birds of Winter** are here! Thousands of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans and Snow Geese have migrated from Alaska and Canada to feed in the farm fields of Washington.

On Thursday, February 1 at 7 pm, Wildlife Scientist Martha Jordan will share entertaining stories and spectacular images of these magnificent birds at the Northwest Stream Center Visitors Building located in Snohomish County's McCollum Park, 600 128th Street SE, Everett WA 98208. Register online through the Adopt A Stream Foundation's *Nature Store*, www.streamkeeper.org/thenaturestore, or call 425-316-8592 to reserve your spot: \$7 general admission; \$5 Adopt A Stream Foundation Members.

Martha, who is the Director of the NW Swan Conservation Association (<https://nswans.org>), will explain the myths and share the facts about these beautiful birds. During this *Streamkeeper Academy* event, which is geared for middle school students to adults, you will learn about swan and snow geese life history, biology, and some identification tips.

You will also learn the best places to view them now in Washington State. Martha will shed some light on the problems and controversies (including lead poisoning and habitat destruction) migratory birds face on their Washington State wintering grounds. Through her beautiful photographs, Martha will teach you how to tell these birds apart plus you will be able to pick up a free *Swan Identification Pamphlet* before your next local bird watching excursion.

Proceeds from White Birds of Winter benefit NW Swan Conservation Society and the Adopt A Stream Foundation's *Streamkeeper Academy*.



Snow Geese by G. Plowman



Flight of Trumpeter Swans by G. Plowman



Martha Jordan with a Cygnet

MCCA MEMBER DIVISIONS

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Aspen
 Chatham Park
 Cottonwood
 Cypress
 Douglas Fir
 Evergreen
 Fairway
 Fairway Fountains
 Heatherstone

Holly
 Huckleberry
 Juniper
 Laurel
 Magnolia
 Red Cedar
 Spring Tree
 Sunrise
 Sun Rose

Sweetwater Ranch
 Swordfern
 Vine Maple
 Wildflower Park
 Willow
 Woodfern
 Winslow

TOWNHOMES

Amberleigh
 Belvedere Place
 Emerald Heights
 Fairwood Greens
 Pembroke
 The Pointe

CONDOMINIUMS



Country Club Estates
 Copper Tree
 Country Place
 Fairway Village I&II
 Lakewood
 Mill Lane
 Mill Run I&II
 Miller's Village I&II
 St. Moritz
 Stratford Greens
 The Masters
 Trillium Court



APARTMENTS

The Ardent Apartments
 Cogir of Mill Creek
 Laurels at Mill Creek
 Parkwood at Mill Creek
 The Station at 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
-  security@mcca.info

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



2023-2024 Board of Directors

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-  [Kristi Zevenbergen](#), Treasurer
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-  [Covenant Committee](#)
-  [Noxious Weed Committee](#)
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Clubs

-  [Mill Creek Garden Club](#)
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MILL CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

IT'S NOT A CLUB, IT'S A LIFE *style*

WELCOMING NEW FRIENDS
Join the fun at Mill Creek Country Club
Stop by to say "hello" or contact us for more information.
www.millcreek.cc | 425.743.1444



THANK YOU, FOR MAKING US ONE OF THE BEST AGAIN!



We're proud to announce we've been honored as a **#BestofSeniorLiving award winner** by A Place for Mom for the *second year in a row*. Top reviews from our residents and their families showcase the outstanding care our staff provides to keep our seniors safe, healthy and happy. This exclusive designation honors only the **top 2-3%** of senior care providers across the United States and Canada so we're thrilled to be on this list.



Learn more about the awards: aplaceformom.com/awards

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SIGN UP TODAY
ALL SKILL LEVELS ARE WELCOME

Let's Play Ball!

2024 SPRING SEASON

REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 1!

www.millcreeklittleleague.com



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.

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	December
Player Evaluations*	February
Play Begins**	March
MCLL Day / Pictures	April
Spring Season Ends	June
Post Season Tournaments	July

*Farm & above only
**Days determined by coach

GO CREEK!

REGISTER HERE



www.millcreeklittleleague.com



Kiwaniis®



Join Kiwanis and give back to your community while making friends and having fun in our organization!
 We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:00pm-7:00pm, City Hall South located at 15728 Main Street Mill Creek, WA 98012.
We'd love to see you there!



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Rotary



Contact the Membership Committee:
millcreekrotary@frontier.com