

July 2012

Area Mapping

by Peter Rimbo, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, July 2, the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) held its regular monthly meeting. Our guest speaker was Tom Carpenter, who discussed Area Mapping capabilities.

Area Mapping

Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council (FCUAC) member Tom Carpenter showcased various mapping capabilities that could enhance local residents' knowledge of the area and its many attributes. He described how high-quality community and neighborhood information could be provided to residents. This information, including any unique characteristics, can be made readily available to help raise the quality of decisions and to enhance local resident participation.

Mr. Carpenter described how the FCUAC developed a scholarship program at Green River Community College to help students in its Geographic Information System (GIS) program. This developed into a mutually beneficial relationship as students have interned with the FCUAC. The FCUAC has worked with many types of mapping capabilities including demographics, precincts, geographic boundaries, land-use, zoning, groundcover/vegetation, hydrology, transportation, hazardous areas, recreation, and historical/cultural.

For more information and to see what the FCUAC (located between Renton, Issaquah, Maple Valley, and the Area Council) has generated for its communities, please see: <http://www.myspatialhome.org/index.htm>.

Park Acquisition

King County Parks is looking into acquiring an ~3-acre parcel at the west corner of Cedar Grove Rd. and SR-169. Parks is proposing a 30-40 vehicle parking lot on approximately a quarter of the parcel to support water-based recreation users on the nearby Cedar River. At this time the Cedar River Council is addressing its support for this acquisition. The Area Council decided to contact Parks to obtain more detailed information.

Area Council Information

Your Area Council serves as an all-volunteer, locally elected advisory body to the King County Council representing all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides citizens an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and County and State government officials in attendance.

*** NOTE: If you live in the Tahoma School District outside the City of Maple Valley, you are eligible to become a member of the Area Council. Rural Area citizens interested in applying can mail a brief letter of interest to GMVUAC, P.O. Box 101, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or e-mail gmvac_chair@hotmail.com. ***

Your Area Council's next monthly meeting will be Monday, August 6, from 7:00 - 9:30 PM at the Fire Station at 231st St & SR-169.

