

**January 2013**

## **Fire Levy; School District Boundary** by Peter Rimbo, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, June 7, 2013, the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) held its first regular monthly meeting of 2013. Major topics were: (1) Fire Levy; (2) School District Boundaries; and (3) Citizens' Survey.

### **Fire Levy**

Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety Deputy Chief Matt Cowan and Commissioner Mike Scott discussed the upcoming Fire Excess Levy (Maintenance and Operations) on the ballot April 23.

Since the last levy was passed, the size of the Fire District in terms of manpower has decreased through attrition, cross-department transfers, and reductions. Deputy Chief Cowan stated the Fire District has made prudent cuts to ensure it has enough funds to see it through 2013, but without the levy funds will be forced to reduce staffing levels and, possibly, close a station. The Area Council asked about response times (will go up without the levy) and home insurance rates (could go up without the levy). Several recent levies have failed.

To address declining assessed property valuations, the Board of Commissioners has approved a plan for a 3-yr \$1.5 million per year levy. A supermajority vote will be required. A formal Information Package will be forthcoming from the Fire District. The Area Council endorses the Fire Excess Levy to address maintenance and operations issues.

### **Tahoma School District Boundaries**

The Enumclaw School District (ESD) is planning to file a petition to expand its boundaries. The proposed boundary line change would result in the Tahoma School District (TSD) losing ~55 acres of land and its associated property tax revenue--planned to be all commercial. The land is along TSD's southern boundary just west of SR-169.

The Area Council has been in contact with TSD Superintendent Mike Maryanski who has stated: "We currently oppose the transfer of territory and believe that it is not supported under the current guidelines." The Area Council agrees with Superintendent Maryanski and opposes the proposed boundary line adjustment.

The Area Council formally expressed its opposition to the proposal to both the ESD and the TSD at separate School Board meetings on January 8. In particular, the Area Council requested that TSD receive appropriate compensation for any proposed boundary line adjustment.

### **Citizens' Survey**

The 2013 Ballot and Citizens' Survey was approved and will be mailed in February to all rural unincorporated area residences located within the Area Council's coverage area--the Tahoma School District minus the City of Maple Valley. The one-page Survey includes questions on King County services, transportation, land-use and permitting, and levies and taxes. Space is available for written comments. Also included is a brief ballot section for Area Council elections. The Area Council expresses its thanks to all who take a moment to fill out and mail back their Surveys.

The Area Council has held such elections since its inception. Citizens' surveys have been conducted for over thirteen years to gain an understanding of citizen opinions on issues of importance to our Rural Area. A summary of survey responses will be posted on the Area Council web site and in local newspapers. These results also will be shared with our King County and State officials. Results will be shown as percentages of total votes cast.

[View the 2009 Citizens' Survey Results.](#)

### **Next Area Council Meeting**

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 government officials in attendance. Next monthly meeting: Monday, February 4, from 7:00 - 9:30 PM at the Fire Station at 231st St & SR-169.

