

April 2014

Comprehensive Plan Updates

by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, April 7, the Area Council held its monthly meeting. Topics discussed were: (1) Comprehensive Plan Updates and (2) King County Town Hall Open House.

Comprehensive Plan Updates

Cities planning under the State's Growth Management Act (GMA) are required to conduct a periodic update of their comprehensive plan and development regulations. Maple Valley's last major update was in 2008, Black Diamond in 2009, and Covington more recently. Consequently, all three cities are starting the process of conducting Major Updates to their Comprehensive Plans for completion by June 2015.

The GMA sets planning goals in the following areas: Urban Growth, Sprawl Reduction, Efficient Multimodal Transportation, Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Property Rights, Timely Permit Processing, Conservation of Natural Resources, Retention of Open Space and Recreation, Environmental Protection, Citizen Participation, Adequate Public Facilities, and Historic Preservation.

On April 2 Black Diamond held its Comprehensive Plan Update kickoff Open House. Chairs of the Area Council's Growth Management Committee and Transportation Committee were in attendance to ask questions of City Staff and Technical Consultants.

Maple Valley will be holding its Comprehensive Plan Update kickoff Open House on Wednesday, April 23, starting at 6:30 PM at Lake Wilderness Lodge. Covington has yet to announce a kickoff date for its comprehensive plan update process.

The Area Council will participate in all three cities' Comprehensive Plan Updates with the aim of ensuring Rural Area citizen needs are addressed.

King County Town Hall Open House

An Annual Open House will be held for the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Community Service Area on Monday, April 21, from 7 - 9 PM at the newly opened Sheriff's Office Precinct 3 at NE corner of 231st St & SR-169.

Unincorporated Area residents will have the chance to meet with King County officials--Deputy County Executive Jarrett, Councilman Dunn, Sheriff Urquhart, and many Department Heads--to discuss issues and concerns affecting our area.

Area Council members will attend and provide comments to County officials on several local area issues.

Next Area Council Meeting

The Area Council's next monthly meeting will held Monday, May 5, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Fire Station at SE corner of 231st St & SR-169. Meetings are held the first non-holiday 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.

Your Area Council serves as an all-volunteer, locally elected advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District. Please visit: www.greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org.

*** NOTE: There currently are three positions open on the 16-member Area Council. If you live in the Tahoma School District outside the City of Maple Valley, you are eligible to apply to become a member of the Area Council. Interested Rural Area citizens can send a brief letter of interest to GMVUAC, P.O. Box 101, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or an e-mail to gmvac_chair@hotmail.com. ***