



# City Manager's Friday Newsletter

## ***City Attorney Grant Weed Selected as State "Super Lawyer"***

The magazine Law & Politics has again named Grant Weed, who serves as City Attorney under contract with the City of Snohomish, as one of the state's "Super Lawyers."

For the fourth year, Mr. Weed was named as one of the Super Lawyers in the specific category of Government/Cities/Municipalities. The firm of Weed Graafstra and Benson, located in Snohomish, has provided contract services as the City Attorney for Snohomish for more than four decades. Mr. Weed has personally served as the City Attorney for 23 years.

The Law & Politics website describes the process for selecting its Super Lawyer list in the following way: "In selecting attorneys for Super Lawyers, Law & Politics employs a rigorous, multiphase process. Peer nominations and evaluations are combined with third party research. Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis.

"The objective is to create a credible, comprehensive, and diverse listing of outstanding attorneys that can be used as a resource for attorneys and consumers searching for legal counsel.

"The Super Lawyers selection process involves three basic steps: creation of the candidate pool; evaluation of candidates by the research department; and peer evaluation by practice area."

## ***Rezone Suggestion Replaced by Potential Code Amendment***

Many citizens attended the June 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting to participate in the discussion regarding a potential rezone along the 400 block of Avenue D. The goal of the map change was to allow the

expansion of one of the businesses in that area. The current zoning along the 300 and 400 blocks of Avenue D is single family residential, and existing businesses there may remain indefinitely, but may not be expanded further.

The City Council chose not to consider the map change. Instead, the Council directed City staff to prepare draft code language that could allow businesses to be expanded—after thorough public comment and with unique conditions and limitations. One method suggested by Council to accomplish these objectives was to create an overlay planning area for these two blocks on Avenue D.

The process for changing the City's land use regulations requires that public hearings be conducted before decisions are made. If you are interested in being notified directly of future meetings and events associated with this legislative action, please send your name, address, and email address to: Corbitt Loch, Planning Director, at [loch@ci.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:loch@ci.snohomish.wa.us), or 116 Union Avenue, Snohomish, WA 98290.

## ***Applicants Sought for Snohomish Planning Commission***

Applicants are being sought to fill a vacancy on the City of Snohomish Planning Commission. The applications are due to be received by 4:00 p.m. on June 26, 2009, at City Hall, 116 Union Avenue in Snohomish.

The term runs for six years, and the Commission considers and reviews land-use, regional and comprehensive plan issues, and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding both code and policy matters related to land use and community planning. The Planning Commission may recommend moratoria and/or interim land-use controls and hold public hearings as deemed necessary by the City Council.

**June 12, 2009**

[www.ci.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us)

Members of the Planning Commission must live within the existing City limits or within the City's urban growth boundary as defined by the most current adopted Community Development Plan Map. All City board and commission members are volunteers serving without compensation.

The vacancy was created by the retirement from the Commission by Kathleen Lince, who served as a Board Member for five years.

Applications are available at City Hall and may also be downloaded from the City web site: [www.ci.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us).

### ***Building Inspection Appointments Mean Better Service***

The Planning and Development Services Department continues to offer specific appointment times for building inspections. Most jurisdictions offer only a four-hour "window" during which the inspector will arrive. This means that contractors sometimes sit idle for hours when work cannot proceed without a required inspection. Likewise, in those communities homeowners may have to take a half-day off from work to be home throughout the four-hour time slot.

Snohomish's telephone inspection request line invites citizens to indicate their preferred time of the day for the inspector's visit. Whenever possible, we accommodate the permit applicant's request. Our inspections are typically conducted the next business day. For those times when the demands for inspections exceed our staffing capacity, the City has a contract inspector on call and also a mutual-aid agreement with the City of Monroe. For more information, contact Corbitt Loch at (360) 282-3170 or [loch@ci.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:loch@ci.snohomish.wa.us).

### ***Blackmans Lake Water Quality Report***

Blackmans Lake is one of the City's finest water features. About forty percent of the shoreline is in public ownership. Both Hill Park and Ferguson Park provide many hours of recreation for City residents and visitors.

The Snohomish County Surface Water Management Division regularly tests the lake for water quality, as it has for many years. Its latest report shows the following results:

#### *Water Clarity*

Between 1989 and 2008, there has been a slight but statistically significant improvement in water clarity.

#### *Phosphorus – A Measure of Pollution*

Phosphorus concentrations are slowly increasing. Higher phosphorus concentrations can lead to increased algae growth, which then dies and robs the lake water of the oxygen that fish need to live. This is one of these most serious threats to the lake's health.

#### *Where Phosphorus Comes From*

Higher phosphorus concentrations in the upper waters of the lake indicate that it and other plant nutrients are washing into the lake with rainwater from land within its watershed. Major sources of these nutrients come from fertilizers, pet wastes, and soil erosion from land clearing and construction.

#### *Chlorophyll a – A Sign of Algae Growth*

Chlorophyll a values in Blackmans Lake are moderate. However, the 2003 and 2006 averages were substantially higher and in the range found in dying lakes. Similar values were present in 1994. High chlorophyll a concentrations further indicate that algae are obtaining needed nutrients from runoff into the lake.

#### *Blue Green Algae Blooms*

Blackmans Lake experiences periods of intense blue-green algae growth called blooms. Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, are a type of algae that have the potential to produce toxins. If toxins are present, they can cause serious illness in humans and pets that drink or play in the affected water. In December 2008, a blue-green algae bloom was identified in Blackmans Lake. Preliminary tests indicated the toxin levels in the lake exceeded the State recreational standard. Lake users should avoid contact with the water and keep pets away from the lake when it is experiencing a blue-green algae bloom.

#### *Aquatic Plants – Good News*

A survey of aquatic plants growing in Blackmans Lake in August 2008 found a healthy mix of plant

communities. There are large patches of native yellow waterlily (*Nuphar*) near the shore. The main underwater plants are *Nitella* and *Chara*, as well as *Najas*, *Elodea*, and pondweed (*Potamogeton*). Patches of the fragrant waterlily (*Nymphaea*) were the only invasive aquatic plants found in the lake.

#### *How You Can Protect the Lake*

If you live on land that drains into the lake, please eliminate or limit the fertilizers and other chemicals you use on your yard, pick up all pet wastes so they don't flush phosphorus into the lake, and don't let muddy water run off your property. These are major sources of the phosphorus that is finding its way into Blackmans Lake. Your care can make a real difference in keeping the lake healthy for future generations.

#### *For More Information*

To find out more about Blackmans Lake, visit [www.lakes.surfacewater.info/](http://www.lakes.surfacewater.info/) or call Snohomish County Surface Water Management at 425-388-3464.



### ✧ ✧ Calendar 2009 ✧ ✧

#### ***Rails & Trails Advisory Committee***

Monday, June 15 - 4 p.m.

Snohomish Library  
311 Maple Avenue

#### ***City Council***

Tuesday, June 16

Joint Workshop with EDC - 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting - 7 p.m.

Gilbertson Board Room  
1601 Avenue D