



"Where quality of life is our way of life"

WINTER 2000

# MARYSVILLE MESSENGER

<http://ci.marysville.wa.us>



◆ City of Marysville ◆ 4822 Grove St. ◆ Marysville, WA 98270 ◆  
◆ Internet: <http://ci.marysville.wa.us> ◆ (360) 651-5000 ◆

Volume 12, No. 1

**AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE FOR ITS CITIZENS & UTILITY CUSTOMERS**

## City Council OKs \$48.5 million budget for Y2000

The Marysville City Council in a 4-3 vote approved Mayor Dave Weiser's \$48.5 million balanced budget for 2000 that included an \$11.5 million general fund for providing basic city operations, and a 1.42% property tax increase.

Voting in favor of the budget, requiring a 4-3 simple majority to pass, were Councilmembers Otto Herman, Mike Leighan, Donna Wright and Shirley Bartholomew. Dissenting votes were cast by Councilmembers Donna Pedersen, NormaJean Dierck and newly-elected member Jim Brennick.

After several public hearings, workshops and budget talks with City staff who were directed to provide 6% across-the-board cuts in general fund portions of their departmental budgets, the Council's action effectively shored up a revenue shortfall of \$379,000 that stemmed from passage of Initiative 695 and loss of anticipated motor vehicle excise tax revenue, City Administrator Dave Zabell said.

Councilmember Pedersen said she opposed any tax increases, citing that voters who approved I-695, a \$30 car tab initiative and mandate that tax and fee increases go to voters, were telling governments that "we need to change our lifestyle."

Mayor Weiser acknowledged the long hours spent by the Council pri-

See **BUDGET**, Page 6

## The writing is on the wall: Graffiti must go



Marysville Seniors Against Crime volunteers Dolores Rasmussen and Wil Sparring apply an undercoat to the remains of graffiti on the back wall of a local State Avenue business.

An ordinance designed to eradicate graffiti and the blight it produces among the community's private businesses and public facilities was approved by the City Council in November.

The purpose behind the new law is that while police can focus on nabbing the "taggers" responsible for the graffiti, it is much more effective to form partnerships with local businesses and community members to see that graffiti is removed at little or no cost, Police Chief Bob Carden says.

"The best way to approach graffiti removal is through voluntary compliance, providing businesses with 'low cost' or 'no cost' alternatives for removing it or having it removed within a reasonable amount of time, and," Carden emphasizes, "enacting punitive penalties *only* as a last resort. That is the essence of this ordinance."

Under the new law, owners are sent a letter giving them 30 days to clean the graffiti. If they don't, they face a fine of \$25 per day and may be liable for about \$30 per hour if City workers have to remove it. But police officials are hopeful that situations won't reach that stage.

The Police Department has been working with community leaders and business owners to ensure that graffiti abatement alternatives are in place that would be "low cost" or "no cost," using volunteer groups and organizations to pitch in as partners in the graffiti eradication effort.

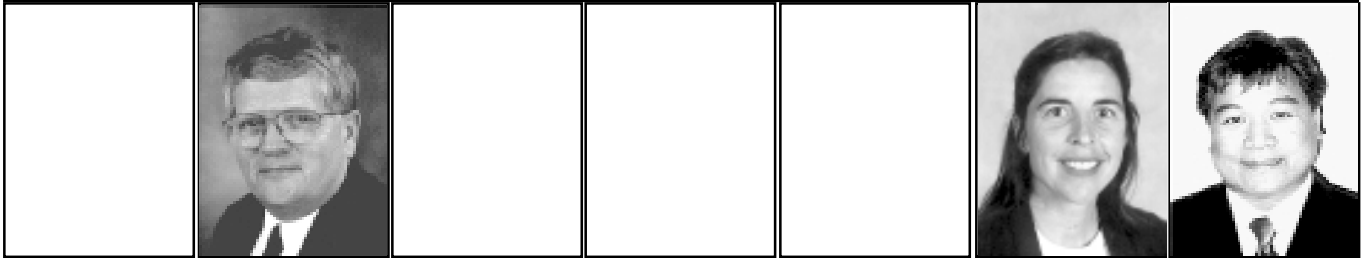
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## YOUR CITY COUNCIL

Meets 7p.m. the 1st, 2nd & 4th Monday (excluding holidays)  
in the Council Chambers, Public Safety Bldg, 1635 Grove St.



**Shirley  
Bartholomew**

**Jim  
Brennick**

**NormaJean  
Dierck**

**Mike  
Leighan**

**Donna  
Pedersen**

**Suzanne  
Smith**

**John  
Soriano**

## CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### SEPTEMBER

▼ 6-1 adopted Sensitive Areas Ordinance revisions that applied to sections of the Municipal Code and required immediate revision.

▼ Approved Traffic Mitigation Ordinance, revising the Capital Facilities Plan per Planning Commission recommendation. The fee increased to \$1,542 per new p.m. peak hour trip per new residence and is based on the City's transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan, Capital Facilities Program and proposed capacity improvements within the City's planning area.

▼ After much public discussion, Council directed staff to prepare a resolution of concurrence supporting the Quilceda/Allen Watershed Plan as a useful planning document, and to work toward an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County and other jurisdictions that would aid in implementing the plan and obtaining watershed management grants.

▼ Awarded a contract to Janicki Logging & Const. Co. for \$37,166 to replace Jennings Park Bridge, & to lengthen & strengthen bridge abutments.

▼ Signed an agreement with the City of Lake Stevens to provide municipal court and jail services.

▼ Okayed a \$246,214 professional services agreement with Skillings/

Connelly for engineering design services for State Avenue from 116th-136th Street NE.

### OCTOBER

▼ Approved adjustments in solid waste, yard waste and curbside recycling rates for the first time since 1992. Increases were minor due to stable tipping fees, but future increases will be considered as part of a five-year rate analysis.

▼ Okayed a professional services agreement for \$100,000 with Bucher, Willis and Ratliff for the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan update.

▼ Approved 10% annexation notices of intent to annex into Marysville for 311 acres in the 164th Street NE area east of Interstate 5 north of Marysville & 400 acres in the 164th Street NE area west of I-5. The annexation proposals are being considered separately because the property east of I-5 is already zoned properly and accounted for in the City's comp plan, while the west side is currently not contiguous to City limits, and planning and zoning issues still must be discussed with Snohomish County.

▼ Okayed professional services agreements for biological assessments to be rendered by Adolfson Assoc. Inc.: \$5,401 for the Strawberry Fields Ath-

letic Complex and \$12,800 for the Ebey Slough Dike, which requires maintenance and repair. The Diking District will eventually pay for the assessment.

### NOVEMBER

▼ Approved a Historic Property Tax Exemption (more accurately described as a "special valuation.") In lieu of the City having no Design Review Board, the City Council voted to act as the reviewing board.

▼ Adopted a joint motion with Snohomish County approving a 2.5-acre open space application for property located in southeast Marysville. The action led to a significant reduction of taxes on the open space portion of the property.

### DECEMBER

▼ Adopted new park mitigation fees that increased from \$200 to \$963 per single-family housing unit; and \$681 per multi-family residential unit.

▼ Approved new water & sewer capital improvement fees for new connections to the City utility, which were "equity payments" calculated based on long-term capital improvement needs. Under a proposal presented by the rate consultant, new categories were also added under commercial/industrial connection charges.



**City of Marysville**  
4822 Grove St.  
Marysville, WA 98270

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Marysville, WA

## How can we help you?



The City of Marysville functions best when citizens, through public input and civic involvement, share in the responsibility of how local government performs. You are encouraged to call the Mayor, City Councilmembers or City staff with your comments, concerns and viewpoints. Let's work together for a better community.

### Mayor

**David Weiser** 651-5000 Office  
653-4277 Home

### City Councilmembers

**Shirley Bartholomew** 651-5000  
**Jim Brennick** 659-5825  
**NormaJean Dierck** 659-4594  
**Mike Leighan** 658-0209  
**Donna Pedersen** 659-7778  
**Suzanne Smith** 653-5915  
**John Soriano** 659-5314

### City Staff

**City Administrator**  
Dave Zabell 651-5000  
**Asst. to City Administrator/City Clerk**  
Mary Swenson 651-5000  
**City Attorney**  
Grant Weed 651-5000  
**Finance Director**  
Ed Erickson 651-5000  
**Parks & Recreation Director**  
Jim Ballew 651-5085  
**Police Chief**  
Robert Carden 651-5050  
**City Planner**  
Gloria Hirashima 651-5100  
**Public Works Director**  
Ken Winckler 651-5100  
**Public Works Superintendent**  
Larry Larson 651-5100  
**City Engineer**  
Owen Carter 651-5100  
**Marysville Librarian**  
Dan Howard 658-5000  
**Marysville Fire District Chief**  
Greg Corn 659-2777  
**Municipal Court Clerk**  
Suzi Larsen 651-5035  
**Municipal Court Judge**  
Larry Trivett 651-5035  
**Community Information Officer**  
Doug Buell 651-5021

### Other important numbers

**Senior Community Center** 651-2555  
**Marysville Fire District** 659-2777  
**City of Marysville Jobline** 651-5155  
**Police & Fire emergencies** 911

## FROM THE MAYOR

# Marysville is Y2KAOK for new year

I would like to pass along to you the citizens of Marysville my wishes for a Happy New Year. As the seconds ticked down to the year 2000, the Y2K-related computer and microchip-dependent systems breakdowns and New Year's Eve pandemonium we were warned about did not surface - not around the world, and most definitely not here in Marysville.

I am happy to report that Marysville is Y2KAOK.

The City suffered no noteworthy Y2K-related problems, and the use of the City's disaster plan and activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) proved beneficial in providing a live exercise, and pointed out some ways in which the plan can be improved.

For the past two years the City took steps to ensure our systems would endure the Y2K turnover:

- Numerous computers and system components were replaced.
- Software was upgraded.
- Control systems for infrastructure such as the Communications Center, pumping stations, traffic signals and the citywide computer network, among many others, were examined and upgraded as necessary.
- Two committees, a policy and technical committee, worked the issue for much of the year.

Most recently a final citywide audit of all city-owned systems was completed, which found the City Y2K-compliant.

At 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 31, our EOC went into a state of readiness to monitor and potentially direct the City's response to Y2K-related events, if it became necessary.

In addition to those at the EOC, the Police Department was operating at a heightened state of readiness, with added patrol, custody, dispatch and undercover officers in the field. The department did a commendable job of organizing the EOC.

Public Works also had personnel in the field, monitoring facilities and infrastructure throughout the event.

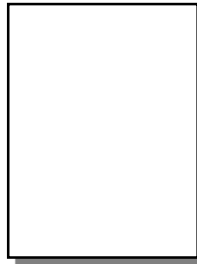
The EOC was staffed by myself, City Administrator Dave Zabell, Police Chief Bob Carden, Public Works Director Ken Winckler, Police Cmdr. Dennis Peterson, City Clerk Mary Swenson, Computer Network Administrator Marc Renner and Sgts. Darin Rasmussen and Jeff Goldman. I would specifically like to commend them and in addition, City Councilmember Shirley Bartholomew, Public Works Superintendent Larry Larson and Fleet/Facilities Manager Roger Kennedy for their long-term and event-specific efforts.

Others deserve our thanks as well.

To those employees who sacrificed their New Year's Eve so that the citizens of Marysville would be assured that their government was equipped to handle what Y2K could have brought, thank you.

And to those employees who served on the two Y2K committees, as well as those working within their departments to prepare for the turnover, we also say thanks.

Without the combined efforts of many, the passing into 2000 may not have been so uneventful.



Mayor Weiser



MARYSVILLE MESSENGER

We would like to hear your comments about this publication. Please write to Marysville City Hall, 4822 Grove St., Marysville, WA. 98270, or e-mail Editor Doug Buell at [dbuell@ci.marysville.wa.us](mailto:dbuell@ci.marysville.wa.us).

## An introduction to your new City Councilmembers:

### Jim Brennick



**Years in Marysville:** 36

**Occupation:**  
Real estate, retired  
Sno. Cty. PUD Engineer.

**Family:**  
married, 2 grown children

Having served in numerous appointed and elected positions and worked 30 years for a public agency, new Councilmember Jim Brennick brings to office extensive government experience and a pledge for "accountability."

He stepped down from the Marysville School Board after moving out of his board district, then was elected to the Council in November.

Brennick looks forward to working with the Council, staff and citizens to carry on the tradition of making Marysville a viable, family-oriented community through financial stability, strong commitment towards public safety, attracting industry and new jobs, and enhancing the viability of existing Marysville businesses. Another subject he is interested in is the idea of "park banking," pooling money paid by developers that could be used to develop larger park sites.

"My goal as a Councilmember will be to work with the new Council and be an effective policy-making board," Brennick says. "With three new members on board, I will be open-minded, communicate, listen and respect the opinions of my fellow Councilmembers."

Brennick grew up in Lake Stevens, has lived in Marysville since 1963, and worked for Snohomish County PUD for 30 years, many of them spent as a senior customer service engineer, retiring in 1992.

Having been a cog in the PUD system, he says he "plans to speak with City employees about their contributions as an important cog in the functioning of our City."

Brennick's community service record includes 14 years on the Marysville School Board, 5 years on the City Planning Commission and 5 years on the Snohomish County Board of Equalization. Among his affiliations, he has served as a past member and past-president of the Maryfest Board and Marysville Jaycees, and is a member and past-president of Marysville Rotary Club.

Brennick and his wife, Sharlene, have two children and a grandchild.

### Suzanne Smith



**Years in Marysville:** 14

**Occupation:**  
Habitats Northwest, 25  
Yards Landscaping owner  
& manager

**Family:**  
Married, 2 children

Newly-elected City Councilmember Suzanne Smith hopes to bring a voice of change to the Council and ideas for better governance that hinge on more community involvement and community input.

In the aftermath of Initiative 695's mandate on government to do more with less, she believes more community involvement will be crucial to meeting that objective.

"I think I'll bring a different view," says Smith, who defeated longtime incumbent Councilmember Donna Wright in November. "I think some decisions we make as a Council should be more community-based, and I would like to see financial decisions made in a more business-like fashion. After all, we manage assets for the community and it is only appropriate that the community get the best return for their money."

Smith and her husband, Brad Johnson, Boeing Co. engineer, have owned & managed Habitats Northwest and 25 Yards Landscaping for about 14 years. Prior to starting her own business, she worked in the Marysville Parks Department as a groundskeeper/greens keeper. Smith has two children, Aaron, 16 and Tala, 4. She enjoys vegetable gardening, snowboarding & playing piano. She has lived in the Marysville area for the past 15 years.

Several issues will inspire Smith's mandate for change:

- ☐ Mitigation fees. Smith believes most mitigation fees paid by developers to help offset impacts from new residents on parks, schools and roads fall short of the mark with the true costs of growth.

- ☐ More attention on preserving wetlands and returning salmon runs to local streams, and educating the public on its role improving local water ecology.

- ☐ Increase community volunteerism to fill the void in some City programs & services in the aftermath of I-695's apparent call on government to do more with less. Holding a Volunteer Simplicity Day, or a community tree planting project to promote better air quality. All it takes is a little time and effort.

### John Soriano



**Years in Marysville:** 6

**Occupation:**  
Manufacturing Engineer-  
Project Planner,  
The Boeing Co.

**Family:**  
Married, 1 son

If it was education that drew John Soriano into a bid for a City Council seat, it's an education he will get.

"I am ready and eager to do a lot of learning," says political newcomer Soriano, the Council's first Asian-American member.

Soriano says he chose to run for office because his son, Dustin, 10, attended 4th grade last year in a portable at Allen Creek Elementary rather than a classroom. The inconveniences and ineffective climate controls didn't seem reasonable for instructors or students. After attending several Council meetings, Soriano decided that a Council seat might put him in a position to do something to improve and expand educational facilities. He won in the November elections vying for a seat vacated by longtime Councilmember Otto Herman. Soriano, who moved from Bothell to Marysville in 1993, works as a Manufacturing Engineer - Project Planner with The Boeing Co.

"I'm open-minded and not outspoken," he says. "I tend to be patient and do the research before asking questions."

Areas of importance are building & maintaining a sound local economy and seeking answers to environmental concerns.

With the voter-approved tax-revolt Initiative 695 directing local governments to live within their means, Soriano says he would like to attract more retail and commercial businesses to Marysville, and he would like to see more consumers buy from local businesses to generate the taxes needed to run government effectively.

On balancing environmental issues and development, he relates: "I'm not a biologist; I'm not a fisheries expert, but I am a native Washingtonian. I care about the environment, and preserving the character of our region," he explains, "But I'll base my decisions on technical and scientific data."

Soriano's wife, Barbara, works as a Paige in the Marysville Public Library. He is a member of the Asian-American Association of Marysville. He enjoys street and offroad motorcycling.

## INCLEMENT WINTER WEATHER POLICY

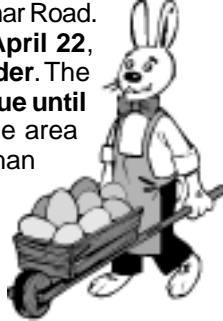
The City of Marysville values our citizens' safety. In the event that Marysville School District announces limited bus transportation or cancels classes due to poor weather, the City will close the Ken Baxter Senior/Community Center and all City recreational/athletic programs will be cancelled. For weekend adult/youth basketball game status (360) 651-5085.

## Easter Bunny is on the way Saturday, April 22

The Marysville Parks and Recreation Department, Marysville Afternoon Rotary Club and both the North and South Marysville Albertsons will be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt held in Jennings Memorial Park, 6915 Armar Road.

This year's event will be held **Saturday, April 22**, and is open to children ages **8 years and under**. The hunt will begin promptly at **10 a.m. and continue until 11:15 a.m.** All activities will be located in the area around the Rotary Ranch Petting Zoo. More than 6,000 plastic eggs filled with candy and prizes will be distributed in the various hunting areas. A six-egg limit will be enforced. Parents will be able to view all activities.

Participants are asked to bring a canned food item for the Marysville Food Bank. For more information please contact the Parks Office at (360) 651-5085.



## ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & TEENS

### Sign up for Spring 7-A-Side Youth Soccer

The Marysville Parks and Recreation Department is now taking registrations for the 2000 Spring Outdoor **7-A-Side Soccer League**. This recreational soccer program is offered in cooperation with Marysville Youth Soccer for boys and girls ages 7-15. Registration will be held Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. beginning on Jan. 24 at the Parks and Recreation office located in Jennings Memorial Park. Registration will continue until Saturday, Feb. 26.

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 22</b>	<b>Noon-4 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feb. 16</b>	<b>6-8 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 26</b>	<b>Noon-4 p.m.</b>

Coaches of established North County Youth Soccer teams may register players from their 1999 fall roster as a team. Rosters must comply with Marysville Youth Soccer Club by-laws. Individual players will be assigned to a team. **Cost to participate is \$35 for the first family member and \$30 for each additional family member.** For more information or to obtain registration forms please contact the Parks and Recreation office at (360) 651-5085.

### Softball League registration to begin Feb. 22

The Marysville Parks and Recreation Department will begin taking registration for its adult 2000 Spring Softball Leagues on Tuesday, Feb. 22. Registration can be completed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation office located in Jennings Memorial Park. Registration will continue on a space available basis until 5 p.m. Friday, March 31. Divisions will be available for Men's, Church and Co-ed teams. Men's and Church teams will receive 18 games, plus a double elimination playoff for a league fee of \$610.00. Co-ed teams will receive 14 games, plus a double elimination playoff for a league fee of \$485.00. Games will begin the week of April 17. Several different levels of play will be available to assure that all teams regardless of their ability or experience have an enjoyable season. For more information or to have a brochure mailed please call the Parks and Recreation office at (360) 651-5085.

### Ring in 2000 with kids barnyard birthday party

If you're looking for a special way to throw a birthday party in the new year that your child will never forget, the Marysville Parks and Recreation Department has a party package that's hard to beat. The package includes staff to supervise; lead games and clean up; decorations, treat bags for the children, cupcakes and beverages. Cost for the 90-minute party for 15 children is \$75 (\$5 each extra child beyond 15). For children ages 1-9. Parties are held in Jennings Memorial Barn, 6915 Armar Road. The following dates and times are available:

<b>DATES:</b>	<b>Jan. 15, Feb. 12, March 11, April 15, May 13, June 17</b>
<b>TIMES:</b>	<b>10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. &amp; 4 p.m.</b>

For a registration form please call the Parks Office at (360) 651-5085.

## City of Marysville Employee Anniversaries Congratulations!



# 10

**Kyle Anderson**, Equipment Operator - Street Department, *January*

**Steve Edin**, Human Resources Specialist -- Executive Department, *February*

**Frank Stair Jr.**, Street Laborer -- Street Department, *March*

**Dale Thayer**, Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, Public Works Dept., *March*

# 5

**Brian Lutschg**, Police Officer, *April*

## A special thanks for 115 years of public service!

City of Marysville co-workers, supervisors and elected officials ask you to join them in congratulating four employees (and their families) who are retiring after a combined 115 years of exemplary, dedicated service to the citizens of Marysville.

Recognized with service award plaques for their hard work and achievements were:

**Street Superintendent Larry Gessner** - 30 yrs.

**Utility Account Representative Patty Krueger** - 25 yrs.

**Maint./Solid Waste Supervisor Gary Olsen** - 30 yrs.

**Equipment Operator Don Weiss** - 30 yrs.

*"You all leave Marysville a better place."*

## MARINERS DAY TRIPPERS



Let the Marysville Parks and Recreation Department take you out to the ball game for three outings of excitement with the Seattle Mariners in Safeco Field. Prices are \$17 per person youth or adult, or \$50 for all three games. Depart Marysville and leave the bus ride

to us for the following ball games:

MATCHUP	DAY/DATE	DEPART	GAME TIME
Ms. v. Red Sox	Wed., April 5	5:30 p.m.	7:35 p.m.
Ms. v. White Sox	Wed., May 31	2 p.m.	3:35 p.m.
Ms. v. Oakland As	Thurs., Sept. 21	5 p.m.	7:05 p.m.

Space is limited, so pick up a registration form (1 required for each individual) at the Parks Office, 6915 Armar Road, or call us at (360) 651-5085.

## ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

Have you visited the Ken Baxter Senior/Community Center lately? It's a busy place! Consider attending some of these ongoing ideas and activities below...bring a friend, or meet some new ones.

### CLASSES

Women's billiards	Acting class	Ceramics
Woodburning	Genealogy	Photography
Mah Jong	Watercolor	Woodcarving

### HEALTH & LIFESTYLE ENHANCEMENT

Senior to Senior	Computer class	Investment Wshp
Senior Health Insurance Advisors	55 Alive Driving class Feb. 9-10	Foot Care 2nd & 4th Tues.

AARP Free Tax Help    Hearing test    Nurse every Wed.

## SPECIAL INTEREST FOR SENIORS

AARP - 1st Thurs.	Garden Club	Quilt Club
Visitors Ctr. Volunteers 2nd Thursday	Needlers/Knit Crochet - Thurs.	Creative Writing
Knit Machine Club 3rd Thursday	Civilian Conservation Corps - 2nd Wed.	Senior Advisory
Bridge - Tuesdays	Pinochle - Mon. & Fri.	

### IT'S AN EVENT!

Wed. Entertainment Monday Movies	Pot Luck Trips	Socials Antique Appraisals
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## Marysville Parks & Recreation 2000 Calendar of Annual Events

For more information call 651-5085

Youth Spring Soccer registration	Jan. 22 - Feb. 26
Spring Softball registration	Feb. 22 - March 31
Safety Fair (Fire/Police Departments)	March 18
Arbor Day tree planting	April 12
Easter Egg Hunt	April 22
Rec Express registration starts	May 13
Fishing Derby	May 20
Petting Zoo opens	May 29
Summer Softball League registration	May 30 - July 2
Skyhawks Baseball Camp	June 19 - 23
Strawberry Festival (659-7664)	June 12 - 20
Strawberry Festival Grand Parade	June 17
Rec Express Summer Program	June 26 - Aug. 10
Sounds of Summer Concert Series	July 7 - Aug. 11

For complete 2000 calendar of event listings, visit our web site at: <http://ci.marysville.wa.us/parks.htm>

## You've got the time? You've got the date?

### We have just the place!

## CITY RENTAL FACILITIES FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENTS

	capacity	cost: p/hour	cost: p/day	conveniences
Jennings Memorial Park Barn, 6915 Armar Rd.	50	\$10	\$45	
Rotary Ranch Petting Zoo, 6915 Armar Rd. (seasonal)	N/A	\$10	\$45	
Lions Centennial Pavilion, 6915 Armar Rd. (seasonal)	50	\$10	\$45	
Marysville Library Meeting Room, 6120 Grove St.	120	\$10	\$45	
Ken Baxter Senior/Comm. Center, 514 Delta Ave.	100	M-Th/F-S-S \$35/45	--	

*The Senior/Community Center is available evenings & weekends only. All facilities offer hourly, half-day and full-day rates. Call (360) 651-5085 for more information.*

**LEGEND:**    restrooms    handicapped-accessible    electricity    kitchen    coffee    alcohol    (w/ permit)

## Marysville, Lake Stevens benefitting under jail, court joint venture

Marysville custody officers on Dec. 1 began booking their first inmates and Municipal Court clerks filed their first tickets under interlocal agreements to provide new jail and court services for the City of Lake Stevens.

While the jury is still out, early signs are that the joint venture is succeeding, officials from both cities are saying.

"We love the jail agreement because it does some positive things for us," Lake Stevens Police Chief John Gray says. "It saves us money, not just as a line item in our budget, but the jail booking fee is slightly

less than Snohomish County's."

Another early telling sign is the use of patrol staff. Lake Stevens can count on 2-2 1/2 hours elapsing while an officer is booking in the county jail, Gray says. When booking in Marysville, where court and jail services are housed in a single location, the time is averaging about 45 minutes, which puts the officer back on patrol duty sooner.

Marysville Police Chief Bob Carden says Marysville will benefit from additional revenues through booking fees, daily housing fees and court fees.

Lake Stevens agrees to pay a \$30 booking fee and a \$48 daily maintenance rate for each Lake Stevens inmate booked into the jail (Marysville does not house adults charged in felony crimes, or juveniles), and \$32 for each infraction or criminal citation filed in Marysville Municipal Court. In return, Marysville provides court staff, a municipal judge pro-tem, jury and witness fees, interpreter costs, overhead and support for civil/traffic infractions, criminal actions and complaints filed by Lake Stevens.

Marysville Municipal Court Administrator Suzi Larsen says Marysville court filings averaged 219 a month in 1998, climbing to 271 per month in 1999. Lake Stevens is expected

to add 83 more cases a month, based on a review of court filings in Snohomish County District Court - Evergreen Division, which handled Lake Stevens court cases prior to the agreement with Marysville. The court will be adding a fourth assistant court clerk in 2000 to meet the increasing workload.

Larsen points out that Lake Stevens was one out of seven communities contracting with the county.

"In Marysville, they're our only client, and that means we will be able to treat them with a more tailored level of service that reflects their needs," Larsen says.

With respect to the court agreement with Lake Stevens, Gray believes it will generate

a better team approach to criminal justice between the neighboring cities, and will lead to better efficiency.

As Mayor Dave Weiser noted at a recent City Council meeting:

"Marysville benefits from an 'economies of scale.' Lake Stevens pays a smaller price for the level of service they need."



### BUDGET continued from Page 1

oritizing spending cuts vs. increases in taxes and fees. The work isn't over yet.

"We will start the budget process much earlier for 2001 to give us the time to go to the voters if the Council deems that to be necessary," Weiser says. "While I-695 was meant in part to make government run more efficiently, we will need to spend a lot of time early on adjusting to this new system."

In one of Otto Herman's last actions as a Councilmember stepping down, he methodically guided the Council through a series of motions. Eliminated through roll call votes that didn't meet 5-2 super majority requirements were a proposed admissions tax, a 6% property tax increase, and the Mayor's initial proposal for a 4% property tax.

In the final motion, the Council voted 4-3 to adopt the budget with a property tax increase using the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) of 1.42% (adding about \$45,000 toward a balanced budget), which many other cities in Washington state had adopted. The IPD is an inflation index similar to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that takes into account the price of goods in a regional market, but usually yields a smaller percentage increase than the CPI.

Departmental cuts included \$77,000 to eliminate the D.A.R.E. program and reassign the officer to patrol (existing D.A.R.E. classes will not be affected); \$52,000 in recreation services; \$20,000 that eliminated Human Services Funding Program, \$14,000 for Channel 29 video programming; and \$11,600 for hanging flower baskets.

### GRAFFITI continued from Page 1

Marysville Seniors Against Crime has rallied volunteers to remove graffiti from property within City limits, aided by donations of paint and painting products from Eagle Hardware, Fred Meyer and K-mart. Shelby Construction, owned by former City Councilmember Brett Roark, donated funds for a high-pressure washer designed to remove graffiti from untreated surfaces.

Carden says he understands that damages resulting from graffiti can be costly to property owners, and asking them to pay to have it removed is like adding insult to injury. But, he adds, that's why the City has looked to volunteers and donations to minimize those costs.

"Ultimately, it's the community at large that doesn't look good if graffiti goes unresolved," Carden says. "The impacts vary, but it is a foregone conclusion that they include reduced property values and a propensity for more gang activity."

The way the program works, once graffiti is observed, a Notice of Graffiti Removal is sent to the responsible person or property owner requesting that the nuisance be removed within 15-30 days, weather permitting. It is during this time that the City will provide the receiver with removal alternatives. An appeal process is available before the Hearing Examiner to challenge the City's action. If the City is required to remove the graffiti and abate a graffiti nuisance, the City bills the cost to the responsible party.

## New drug house nuisance abatement program puts traffickers on notice

A new drug nuisance abatement program championed by Mayor Dave Weiser is giving the community another tool to close the doors on homes that are suspected havens for illegal drug activity, resulting in the removal of unrest these gathering places create for law-abiding neighbors.

The program achieved its first success in September when Marysville Police and Snohomish County SWAT teams raided a suspected drug house at the corner of 47th Avenue NE and Ninth Street and proceeded with abatement, resulting in the arrest of five people, seizure of alleged drug materials and recovery of a massive cache of allegedly stolen goods.

“State law has provided us with a tool to deal with residences notorious for ongoing drug activity, and we intend to implement it (the program) aggressively,” Mayor Weiser says. “If you’re involved in illegal drug activity, we’re putting you on notice that sooner or later we’re going to come knocking on your door.”

For some, that could be sooner. Police are targeting five residences in

Marysville that show typical signs of probable drug trafficking, Police Chief Bob Carden says. Signs include repeated complaints of suspicious activity, and substantial vehicle traffic coming and going at all hours.

State law provides a useful tool for dealing with properties that are being used for drug trafficking. The law includes an opportunity for landowners to abate drug nuisances themselves. Formal abatement is a tool that Marysville police intend to use as a last resort when the owner of the property is uncooperative or making no effort to abate the nuisance without litigation. Carden says he is optimistic that landlords will cooperate, and lawsuits will be avoided.

Weiser concludes: “It will take a proactive approach and teamwork between police, City Attorney Grant Weed, Marysville Fire District, Marysville Code Enforcement Officer Paul Rochon and law-abiding community members to make the drug nuisance abatement program work.”

To report suspicious activity that might be linked to drug dealing, use or possession please call 911.

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#### WINTER QUARTER

**“Law & Order: An Inside Look at Marysville’s Criminal Justice System”**  
Wed., Feb. 16 7-9 p.m.

**“An Intro to Community Policing: Innovation Through Police & Citizens Working Together”**  
Thurs., Feb. 17 7-9 p.m.

#### SPRING QUARTER

**“Access Marysville: The Internet & How It’s Changing the Way the City and School District Do Business”**  
Wed., April 12 7-9 p.m.

**“On the Menu: Parks & Recreation Introduces A Feast of Activities to Tempt Even the Most Immovable Couch Potato”**  
Thurs., April 13 7-9 p.m.

*Classes held in Marysville School Dist. Service Ctr. 4220 80th St. NE*

## New Librarian sees Library’s role as ‘quenching thirst for knowledge’



New Librarian Dan Howard

When you talk about librarians, a common stereotype that often comes to mind is someone who prefers books to people. That’s not how you describe Marysville Public Library’s new Librarian Dan Howard.

“We need to focus on caring about people, providing them with good, courteous service and making sure they are happy customers,” says Howard. He started his new job at the library in November. He will oversee a staff of 33 and a facility that now averages 600,000 books and other library materials checked out per year.

Howard’s philosophy about libraries is that they exist to “try to quench the thirst for knowledge.”

Books and other materials libraries house help individuals reach a little higher, become better informed, and have a more thorough understanding of the world, Howard says.

After pursuing a musical career in the Seattle area as a guitarist in the ’70s (he still plays), he refocused his attention from music to books, earning his master’s degree in Librarianship from the University of Washington.

Prior to arriving in Marysville, Howard opened the new Sno-Isle Mukilteo Library 1-1/2 years ago, raising it from scratch, hiring staff and filling it with books. Before Mukilteo he served as Assistant Managing Librarian at Lynnwood Library, Sno-Isle’s main reference facility.

While traditional library roles such as promoting reading and literacy remain important, future needs of our patrons require continued innovation, Howard says.

Howard hopes to expand the number of monthly Library’s Internet Surfing School classes, and develop an Infant Reading Program, which would invite parents and caregivers to start reading to infants early. Studies show it’s good practice for early development of cognitive thinking.

He would also like to see the library represented more out in the community and at civic events. Howard and his wife, Sharon live in Seattle with their children Alexander, 19 and Sapphire, 12.