spaghetti feed on Saturday, Feb. The dinner will take place from 0 to 8 p.m. at the Cedar Grange the corner of S.E. 218th St. and y 169. The cost is $5 per adult $3 per child under 12. Children ler 3 are free.

The proceeds from this event l help support the various ivities the scouts are involved in oughout the year.

Troop 594 is very active in Maple Valley community. eir most recent contribution is purchase and installation of electronic gate at the Maple lley Food Bank, which has been ugued by robberies and vandalism er the past few years. Some of scouts from the troop have rformed Eagle projects in the ea. These have included building nches at the Arboretum, creating wilderness path at Glacier Park, d re-siding a portion of the Cedar range building.

Please help support this troop attending the dinner. Tickets are vailable at the door, or from any roop 594 Boy Scout.

Chamber Events

February 6 – Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, *at 1:30 a.m.* at Windermere, MV

Special Events to look forward o in the future:

February 7 – Fishing Derby Meeting, *at 1 p.m.* at LW Lodge

February 8 – Business Development Committee Meeting

February 20 – Chamber Membership Luncheon, *at 11:30 a.m.* at LW Lodge

April 25 and 26 – Hooked on Fishing

Be sure to check the Chamber web site for more information on these and other upcoming events! ***www.maplevalley.com*** and ***www.blackdiamondwachamber.org.***

If you have an event you would like listed, please log onto the Chamber Web site ***www.maplevalley.com*** , click on the

Kelley Jensen and Steve Galassi. Not pictured – Marc Donnell and Michael Seery.

Donut Hole-King County-Yarrow Bay land deal stopped for now

By Kathleen Kear

Breaking news coming from the Seattle Times on Saturday, January 26, reported that King County's land deal with Yarrow Bay for the purchase of the Donut Hole had been halted.

The report by Times reporters Lauren Vane and Jim Brunner also stated that other prospective buyers had been in contact with the County over the recent weeks showing interest in the 156 acre Summit Pit property – also known as the Donut Hole. According to the report, the County and Yarrow Bay could not come to an agreement on a price for the deal, which was to possibly include a swap of 276-acres of forestland for preservation, known as Icy Creek.

The Donut Hole is currently owned by King County and used as nine holes of Elk Run Golf Course and a King County Roads Maintenance facility. It is rural although it is entirely surrounded by the City of Maple Valley.

The following is a statement in its entirety released by the Executive's office:

"This week, King County Executive Ron Sims informed the King County Council that he is directing his staff to begin preparing for a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the Summit Pit site. The decision is a result of several recent unsolicited acquisition offers for the Summit Pit site received from other developers and interested parties.

"Executive Sims believes it is in the best interests of the County to solicit sale of the property through a competitive RFP process rather than continuing direct negotiations with Yarrow Bay.

transmitted to council for approval in June 2007, Executive Sims believes that significant unique circumstances exist that would allow for conservation of valuable habitat resource land through the Summit Pit deal and that this represents a very rare opportunity for the County to obtain significant financial returns and accomplish key policy objectives.

"As recognized by the Unique Circumstances Ordinance, significant unique circumstances existed in the potential transaction with Yarrow Bay allowing for conservation of valuable habitat resource land that is at risk of development. For this reason direct negotiation with Yarrow Bay was legal and justified.

"The potential transaction we all envisioned provided an opportunity for the County to achieve a number of high priority policy goals: 1) preservation of valuable resource lands threatened to soon be lost to development; 2) the sale of Transferred Development Rights (TDRs) from the King County TDR bank that currently holds 1,124 TDRs; and 3) the creation of needed affordable housing in south King County.

"The RFP process I am undertaking will aim to solicit not only the highest financial return for Summit Pit, but will also reflect the County's desire to meet these important policy objectives.

"While significant unique circumstances still support direct negotiations with Yarrow Bay, given the importance of this potential transaction, our inability to reach agreement with Yarrow Bay, and the newly voiced interest of other parties, we believe it makes sense to proceed with an RFP process to ensure that the county is absolutely receiving the best combination of value and achievement of policy goals that the market will provide.

"Moving forward with an RFP process does not in any way negate or terminate the authority provided in the Unique Circumstance Ordinance. That option is still available to the county in the event we are unable to have a successful competitive RFP process. The anticipated timeline for this process is being developed.

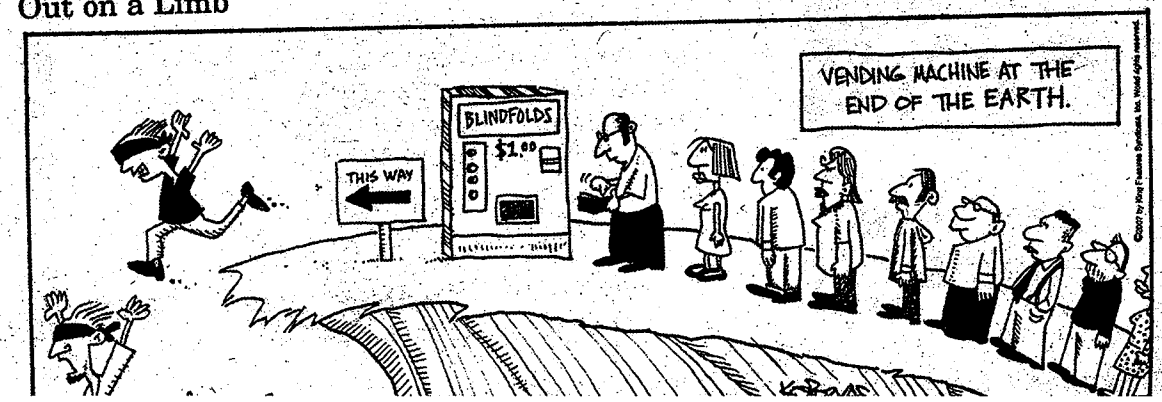
"The sale of Summit Pit under any scenario will require the relocation of the King County Road Services Division roads maintenance operations from Summit Pit. This relocation is consistent with the long term vision of citing the regional roads maintenance operating headquarters, recycling facility, and stockpiles of gravel, sand, and other road maintenance materials to an area less likely to disturb residents and more compatible with surrounding land uses. We will continue to move forward with relocation planning and the RFP process simultaneously.

"We have continued to meet and work with the City of Maple Valley. Most recently, we offered to include them in the development of the RFP, have our technical staff in the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) work with their planning staff, and pursue mutual interests related to the potential Summit Pit sale and development. This offer was well received by Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Manager."

King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn praised the Executive

(Continued on page 3)

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas



The Den
Youth Center

Teens hang out for fun

Events & Activities

The Den is THE hangout spot for teens in 6th through 12th grades *after school Tuesdays through Thursdays from 2:30 to 7 p.m. and on Fridays* and *Saturdays from 2:30 to 10 p.m.*

All participants must check in and have a current **Registration Packet** on file. Your annual registration fee of $35 includes photo ID with carabineer & free unlimited access to

- Drop In Activities
- Computer Lab
- Game Room

Rates are for Tahoma School District residents. A non-resident annual registration fee of $50 applies. Financial aid scholarships are available. Additional activity fees may apply. For more information visit ***www.maplevalleycc.org***.

Buses to The Den

Cedar River Middle , Bus #32
Tahoma Middle, Bus #48
Tahoma Junior High, Bus #05

Winter Break Activities

Root Beer Floats & Bingo – Here's a chance to test your luck at Bingo, win a prize and enjoy a thirst-quenching and delicious root beer float. Don't miss the party! *Tuesday, Feb. 19th at 4:30 p.m.* FREE with registration.

Teen Bunco Night – Beware! This is not your parents' bunco! Win prizes at our first Bunco Night at The Den! Easy to learn and fun to play! *Wednesday, Feb. 20th at 4:30 p.m.* FREE with registration.

Tournament Night – So you think you've got game? Prove it at our single elimination tournaments in pool, foosball, air hockey, ping pong, DDR, and guitar hero. Prizes awarded! *Thursday, Feb. 21st at 3 p.m.* FREE with registration.

Horror Movie Night – Come meet your friends at The Den for a marathon night of wide-eyed, edge-of-your-seat, scary bone-chilling movies including The Ring, The Grudge, Tremors, and Dark Water. Den or School ID required. *Friday, Feb. 22nd at 7 p.m.* FREE – Open to the public.

Tubing at Snoqualmie – We're heading to the snow! Pre-registration required. Download waiver and permission forms from ***www.maplevalleycc.org***. *Saturday, Feb. 23rd from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.* $20/person.

Teen Concert – Local bands take to the stage! Come hear the best in the Valley! Tickets are available for purchase at The Den. Free popcorn! Other snacks for sale. Den or School ID required. *Saturday, Feb. 23rd at 7 p.m.* Fee: $3 in advance/$5 at the door.

Teen Movie Night – E-mail ***meganm@maplevalleycc.org*** to suggest a movie. Free popcorn! Other with your friends! Buy your tickets in advance at The Den or during lunch periods at TJHS beginning 3/3. Den or School ID required. *Friday, March 7th from 7 to 9:30 p.m.* Fee: $3 in advance/$5 at the door.

Children & Family

Family Night – See the newest movies on our BIG SCREEN and enjoy a craft with your child. Now serving Frankie's Pizza, salad and dessert. This Friday's movie: ***The Aristocats*** (re-release). *Friday, Feb. 8th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.* Fee: $5/adult and $2.50/child.

Toddler Time – Get your wiggles out! Drop-in play group for ages 0-5 with parent/caregiver.

GMVCC – *Tuesday/Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.*

G Hansen – *Monday/Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.*

Fee: Only $2 per family.

Valentine Dance & Dinner – Join us for a special semi-formal evening with dinner, dancing, crafts and professional photographer. *Wednesday, Feb. 13th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.* Fee: Pre-register $15/family of 3, $25 at door and $3/additional child. Photo packages are available at an additional charge.

Scrapbook Night – Bring your scrapbook projects! Enjoy demos, workshops, dinner and uninterrupted time for *your* projects. *Friday, Feb. 22nd from 6 p.m. to Midnight.* Fee: $5 in advance/$7 at door/$6 dinner.

Children's Museum – Explore, play and learn together with your children on our winter field trip to KidsQuest Children's Museum. *Tuesday, Feb. 26th from 12:30 to 2 p.m.* Fee: Pre-register $4/person.

SafeSitter® – Save your spot! Register for this popular class for 11 through 13 year olds. *Saturday, Feb. 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.* Fee: Pre-register $40/person.

Visit ***www.maplevalleycc.org!***

DeMolay teen dance to be held Feb. 29

The DeMolay ***Hearts and Clovers Teen Dance*** will be held *Saturday, Feb. 29, from 7 to 10 p.m.* at the Black Diamond Masonic Hall, 32523 – 3rd Ave (3rd and Baker), Black Diamond. Cost $5 per person.

Come out and celebrate Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day in one shot. Prizes will be given out for best dressed for the holidays. This is open to all teens.

Remember all DeMolay functions are smoke free, drug, alcohol and weapon free events. So come out and have a fun time.

If you have questions, please call Frank Rinehart at 360-886-1474 or e-mail him at ***farinehart@msn.com***

Donut hole deal stopped for now

(Continued from pae 1)

for his decision to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) as well as called on the Executive to make the City of Maple Valley a formal part of the RFP process.

"This is a positive step in the Donut Hole debate," said Dunn. "The Executive can now take a step back and get a new perspective on this process. I think that's the best thing for everyone at this point. Now is the time to bring Maple Valley to the table," Dunn said. "The RFP should include the City in a meaningful way. There is no way that we can consider any development that doesn't address the very real impacts to the City of Maple Valley. The RFP should reflect that reality."

The City of Maple Valley was encouraged by the development.

Mayor Laure Iddings observed, "While this RFP appears to be a step in the right direction it still seems quite premature to be doing this right now. What's the rush? This land is still rural today, there have not been the usual studies on its best potential land use if it became urban. These studies on the impact of developing the donut hole should be done first before zoning is set and before it is sold."

City Manager Anthony Hemstad added, "Certainly the City of Maple Valley should be an integral part of the RFP process and how any development fits in with overall City plans should be central to the success of responders to the RFP. We are encouraged that King County has agreed to look at our suggestions but "looking at" and "acting on" can be very different things.

"The unique circumstances about the Donut Hole remain that it is smack in the middle of Maple Valley yet the City doesn't control the zoning there. Therefore we need a commitment from the County that there will be annexation as quickly as possible and that the City have a meaningful role in deciding what takes place on the Donut Hole."

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