

at Chamber

The Chamber is very excited about their next luncheon - Wednesday, Nov. 21st. Lt. Governor Brad Owen will be speaking to the membership regarding "Where in the World is Washington Going."

The luncheon is at Lake Wilderness Lodge, 22500 S.E. 248th Street in Maple Valley. Reservations are requested by November 19.

Complete information is on their web site - www.maplevalley.com and www.blackdiamondchamber.org. They are looking forward to seeing you on November 21!

Free firewood for seniors

The Alliance Bible Church of Tahoma has free firewood available for qualifying seniors and/or the disabled in the Maple Valley area. Recipients will receive a delivery of dry wood in lengths of less than 16'.

Please phone requests to the church office at 425-432-9903.

Veterans honored with dinner

Laurel Chapter No. 47 Order of the Eastern Star will honor our veterans at their Annual Spaghetti Luncheon - Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 1 to 6:30 p.m. at Diamond Masonic Center, 3rd and Baker, in Black Diamond. Veterans eat free Spaghetti, Salad, Roll and Beverage. A donation of \$7 for all others.

Help yourself to FREE treats served up daily at the Messenger Cafe. Stop by today!

By Kathleen Kear
Veterans will once again be honoring veterans, who not only walk amongst us, but those who have passed on, during a special service held at Tahoma Cemetery on Veterans Day - Sunday, November 11 beginning at 11 a.m.

Those taking part in the ceremonies

By Kathleen Kear
Monday Night Football or not, approximately 250 citizens from the Maple Valley area including young people filled the chairs at Rock Creek Elementary to hear as well as speak to the on-going controversial issue of - the Donut Hole.

Not only were citizens invited to speak following remarks from Mayor Laure Iddings, King County Development and Environmental Services Harry Reinhert, King County Environmental Sustainability Director, Rob Brandon, Yarrow Bay Group's Colin Lund, and Maple Valley City Manager Anthony Hemstad on Monday, October 29, but they were also invited to fill out a Public Comment Form, which needs to be turned in to the County by December 28, 2007.

In her opening remarks, Mayor Iddings provided a recount as to why the issue continues to be of concern to the City. "We believe, as a fellow local government, that the County should be deferring to the City of Maple Valley in determining appropriate land use regulations and zoning for the Donut Hole. This property is in the heart of the City, is entirely surrounded by the City, and will become part of the City through annexation at some point in the future."

Due to the County not wishing to defer to the City, Maple Valley proposed that a joint planning process between both entities take

will include Master of Ceremony, Washington State Coast Guard Commander Gene Picjelli, Special Guest Speaker, State Department of Veterans Affairs Director John Lee from Olympia; Command Sergeant Major of the Washington State National Guard, Bill Graham; former Navy Chief Warrant Officer, Chaplain

David McQuiston; Tahoma National Cemetery Director Jim Trimbo; and Cemetery Support Group Chairman, Milton Jill.

Others participating in the ceremonies will include the Puyallup High School band under the direction of Eric Ryan; soloist, Ashleigh Goad; buglers, Reid June and Debbie June

Dawson; Washington National Guard District #4 VFW Honor Guard, and a host of veteran organizations.

A musical prelude welcoming attendees will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the main flag pole area. Community members and guests are encouraged to come early for parking.

Citizens speak out concerning Donut Hole at special Town Hall Meeting

Page 1

place - which the County is still considering. Mayor Iddings went on to state, "State Law also provides that the City can have its own land use planning tools. To make sure that the City and its residents have an appropriate voice in the future of the Donut Hole, the City is beginning its

own planning process for the Donut Hole. Tonight's forum is the start of that process. Over the next several weeks and months, we're going to be spelling out this process in more detail and getting more involvement and comments from the citizens in the Maple Valley community."

She went on to say, "As we are beginning our own land use process, we're going to be taking the information you have tonight and we're going to take that prospective and work it into our own planning

(See Citizens, page 11)



CITIZENS WERE GIVEN a chance to speak out during the recent City of Maple Valley Emergency Town Hall meeting regarding the Donut Hole.

Citizens speak out about Donut Hole

(continued from page 1)

process." Diverging from her written remarks, Mayor Iddings reassured everyone that the meeting was not about campaign strategies or election PR, rather it was chosen as this was the only week there wasn't a Council meeting and as this was such a time sensitive issue this was an opportunity to get more public input before the King County comment period ends on December 28. "It was timing, it was critical, and it was essential — and it was nothing to do with campaign strategy," said Mayor Iddings.

She also pointed out that the City was not questioning the County's ability to do what is sufficient and best for the Donut Hole property, rather what is being called into question is the land use change along with what is being done regarding the Comprehensive Planning process. Her concern is that the County is not going through the proper procedures for changing the rural zoning of property, which is currently zoned at one house per five-acres, in addition to not working with the City. She also pointed out that the County is accelerating the process, which should go through a several year process before selling the land.

"The highest and best use is being determined by the County, and the City of Maple Valley has not been able to participate in any of the land use zoning or density decisions. As a service provider, those are long term impacts for the City of Maple Valley," said Mayor Iddings.

Having wrapped up her remarks, King County Development and Environmental Services staff member, Harry Reinert, was next to speak. Giving a quick overview of Comprehensive Planning and how it would impact the Donut Hole, Reinert stated that there was a proposal to change the zoning to R-8 (eight units

that we can get back to the Mayor and the citizen's here as well. So that's under review right now, and we're taking it very, very seriously." Making just a short statement for the Yarrow Bay Group was Colin Lund, Director of Development, who echoed Brandon's comments by saying that Yarrow Bay was negotiating with the County, but does not know if they will be able to purchase the property. In his very brief comments, Lund stated that he and his staff member were at the Maple Valley meeting to just listen.

Pointing out that the R-8 zoning designation for the Donut Hole property was just a floor to start with, Maple Valley City Manager Anthony Henstad went on to state that the level could be significantly added to, raising the level to R-12 or higher densities. Commenting on the City Bay on the issues before them, he said, "We would love to get to the point where we are planning together for the future impact that will be coming on the City."

While referring to the 4-Corners area, which is adjacent to the Donut Hole, Henstad said, "The City has been spending a lot of time and money trying to make sure that we get this right. You only have one chance to get it right, and then we have to wait for another generation before it would potentially redevelop. Where the streets go — and the whole feel of the City — we have to get right now. So as we're planning this, it's somewhat ridiculous when next door there's 160 acres that might develop with very little input from us — or planning from us. So again, bottom line is we really need a commitment from King County for joint planning and early annexation of this land as early as possible — ideally, immediately upon the time that this land changes from rural to urban."

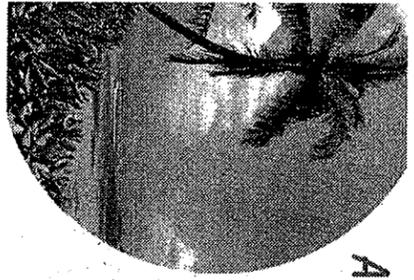
35 years." Hobart resident, Rick Downer, drew a loud round of applause and cheers when he stated, "It seems really convenient to me that King County can take this land — and it's worth a little bit of money as it is now — but they can just by signing a piece of paper, change it and put 40 times as many houses on the property as can be allowed there now. I wish I could do that. But you know I can't do that — in fact King County last year said I can't use 65 percent of my land any more. You know, the County give us the County takeh away — they give us the taxes and they take away our rights."

Yet another citizen, Bill Hanson, who is a developer/property manager, stated "They [King County] want to jam down our throats their beliefs and their philosophies. So here we are — a violation of Growth Management Act — and I've talked to my attorneys — land use attorneys — about it, and there is a lot of concern about it. I think the City needs to take the action they need to do to make this stop now."

Many more comments were made by not only adults, but also through a couple of students, concerning schools and possible overcrowding, transportation short falls, EIS on the Donut Hole property, retaining the golf course, ball parks, open space, having a safe walkable community, entertainment for young people so they do not have to drive so far, and a call for Yarrow Bay to do the right thing.

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Go to page 3 to continue column 1

column 1

stated that there was a proposal to change the zoning to R-8 (eight units per acre) as part of an urban planned development (UPD). King County is also planning on lowering the size limit for UPS's from 200 acres (currently) to 100 acres — which would allow the Donut Hole to fall under these rules. Following the end of the comment period (December 28) regarding Comprehensive Planning Update proposed changes, the plan — with any changes — would then go to the Executive, who would recommend his changes to King County Council by March 1, 2008. The Council would then go through a review process that includes more public meetings/comments before making a decision to pass the Plan in Fall 2008.

King County Environmental Sustainability Director, Rob Brandon, is the key negotiator on the Donut Hole. He said King County has been trying to figure out what to do with the property for a number of years. He stated that in the last year and a half, the County has been looking at a "higher and better use for that property," but that it has not made any decision yet nor have County officials signed any "purchase and sale agreement" with Yarow Bay, the sole developer King County is negotiating with.

Brandon indicated that the County is still in the process of talking with Yarow Bay as it works through the due diligence process.

"We're getting closer, we're getting much closer. We're getting to a point where we will know whether we're going to have a buyer for this land and if we're going to be able to sell it," said Brandon. He speculated that finalizing any agreement was still 2-4 months away.

Also stating that he wants the City involved in some sort of joint process, he said, "We're looking at that very carefully because we do want to do some kind of process. We don't know exactly what that is going to be. We're looking at it now, going through it, trying to figure it out so

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Dr. Cinnamon the Administrator

the time that this was submitted rural to urban."

Following remarks from each of the entities involved in the ongoing Donut Hole issue, community members were then invited to share their remarks, which were recorded for the record. Leading off the remarks was Bill Woodcock, who was representing the Greater Maple Valley/Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce. As was done at the County's Comprehensive Plan meeting held at Kenridge High School on October 16th, Woodcock simply read the Chamber's statement (published in the October 23 issue of the VOICE) into the record once again.

Reading from his prepared statement, Scott Jonas asked a number of questions as well as challenged the County on several issues. "It is important to note that we are not only Maple Valley residents with a vested interest in what will happen with the 'Donut Hole', but we are also King County residents as well," said Jonas. "You could say that we along with all of the other King County residents already own the 'Donut Hole' — I have been paying taxes in King County for

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Page 3

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Return to page 3 to complete the article

column 2

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