

MAYOR'S CORNER

Welcome to another new business

Mill Creek has attracted another member to our business community: Planet Fitness.

The new gym is in the old Safeway building in the Gateway Shopping Center at the north end of our city. Planet Fitness is known for their "judgement free zone," low prices and community spirit. Welcome to Planet Fitness and thank you for your investment in our community.

Mill Creek is fortunate to have so many varied recreational opportunities.

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BY PAM PRUITT
MAYOR OF MILL CREEK

Emergency radio system breakdowns continue

This is a scary thought: Can you remember what your computer or cell phone was like 20 years ago? Now think that we are relying 20 year old equipment for our emergency communications. That's very scary.

The Snohomish County Emergency Radio System (SERS) experienced yet another failure. This time it impacted Mill Creek, Everett, Mukilteo and Edmonds. Since the first of the year, our emergency radio system has experienced 15 separate failures. A failure is when officers cannot not reach the 911 Call Center, each other or the system's capacity is reduced.

This most recent breakdown lasted over one hour.

The Snohomish County Council has put a sales tax measure on the November ballot to purchase a new \$70 million radio system. State law assures Prop. 1 tax proceeds can only be used for emergency communications system, infrastructure and equipment.

Prop. 1 would avoid the need to increase local property taxes. Voters will decide on Nov. 6 if we are going to update our 20 year old failing emergency radio system and how to pay for it.

Until then, SERS is going to spend an additional \$125,000 this year on buying spare parts on Ebay and Craigslist. We are buying discarded parts from other agencies that have already upgraded their systems.

Snohomish County 911

Just a quick update on the dispatch center merger that was approved last year. I also served on that board.

There were two benefits of the merger: Mill Creek and other cities on the borders between the two dispatch centers had call transfer issues. Calls were being routed to the wrong dispatch center. The merger eliminated the 21-second delays.

The other benefit was cost savings. In 2019, as part of the negotiated merger, Mill Creek Police Department dispatch costs will go down \$119,373. It was a tough fight but repre-

senting Mill Creek is always worth the effort.

Thank you to Gold Creek Church

Gold Creek Church is consistently a wonderful community partner. They recently hosted the Fiestas Patrias parade in the Mill Creek Town Center. There were many wonderful people, colorful costumes and amazing horses. Thank you so much for your continuing involvement in our community.

Attention kids who love to sing

Young people from 5 to 20 are welcome to audition to be part of the 2018-19 edition of the Snohomish Youth Chorus.

Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at the Pointe of Grace Lutheran Church, 5425 Harbour Pointe Blvd. in Mukilteo.

For more information and to register, visit www.snocoyouthchorus.org. Or call 425-422-8077.



THE BEACON