



The City of Covington



UPDATE



COVINGTON AQUATIC CENTER NEWS-SPLASH

PUBLIC SWIMS ARE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!

Have you checked out our rope-swing recently? How about our "Speedy McBlue" waterslide or our "classic" diving board? On weekday public swims we also put out our "magic carpet", while on the weekend public swims you can try to climb to the top of "Big Red" our inflatable octopus. Public swim times are: Sundays from 1-2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m.; Fridays from 6-7 p.m.; and Saturdays from 1-2 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.



EXCITING ADDITIONS TO POOL SCHEDULE

Covington Aquatic Center now offers shallow-water exercise class five days a week – Monday through Friday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Additionally, mid-day lap swims and family swims at the Covington Aquatic Center just got longer – 30 minutes longer! For exact times, please refer to the current pool schedule.

THE CITY OF COVINGTON HONORS AMY MACLURG

Amy MacLurg is the first aquatic volunteer to win the city's "Volunteer of the Year" award. Amy wanted to be a lifeguard, as other members of her family had been, and wasn't about to let her autism stop her from fulfilling that dream. She began volunteering in spring as a junior lifeguard. Amy spends a lot of time helping to improve the community. In addition to her 476 hours volunteering at the Aquatic Center in 2010, she volunteers at a local food bank several hours each week. By



volunteering at the Aquatic Center, Amy has helped us to increase awareness of water safety, autism in our community, and our junior lifeguard program.

For more aquatic information visit www.covingtonwa.gov/cac, call 425-413-POOL(7665), or visit us at 18230 SE 240th St, Covington, WA, 98042 (Next to Tahoma High School).

A community newsletter produced by the City of Covington for residents and businesses.

March 2011 *City of Covington: Unmatched Quality of Life*

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PUBLIC WORKS 101 – TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

We have all been driving down the road or sitting in traffic thinking "they should put up a sign to take care of that" or "they should change the way this traffic signal operates and we would not have this problem". Well, Traffic Operations is the area in public works where we receive those comments and suggestions. The specific topic that we receive the most comments on is in regards to traffic signals.

In Covington city limits there are a total of 18 traffic signals, however, only half of those signals are the responsibility of the City. On State Route 516 (Kent-Kangley/SE 272nd Street) all nine of the traffic signals are the responsibility of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). According to state law, all state routes that are within city limits with a population of less than twenty five thousand (Covington has a population of 17,640), the maintenance and operation of the traffic signals, signing and lane markings are the responsibility of the state agency.

WSDOT has been actively monitoring the SR 516 corridor and making enhancements to the traffic signal programming. They are in the process of tying the signals together via fiber optic cable and running a more dynamic program to automatically adjust and compensate to varying traffic needs.

As for the remainder of the signals within the city limits, the City contracts with King County to provide the maintenance and operation of these traffic signals. Due to the size of Covington, we do not have the infrastructure to make it cost effective to have our own signal technicians.



Another area, relatively new in Covington, which is part of traffic operations is the school zone flashing lights program. In 2009, flashing beacons on the school zone signs at Cedar Valley Elementary School and Crestwood Elementary Schools were installed. These flashing beacons help notify motorists of the 20 mph speed limit when children enter and leave school grounds. These were installed as part of a state grant program and we hope to secure additional grant funds to expand the use of the beacons to additional school sites.

Thanks for joining us again as we explain the different areas of Public Works. Join us next month as we explore recycling and solid waste services in Covington.

Mayor
Margaret Harto

Mayor Pro Tem
Jeff Wagner

Council Members
Mark Lanza, David Lucavish,
Marlla Mhoon, James A. Scott,
Wayne Snoey

March 2011
City of Covington UPDATE

ART AROUND TOWN

In celebration of Youth Art Month, the sixth annual Student Art Show will be on display during the month of March. The event showcases the work of local students by displaying their artwork in various locations within the business community. This collaborative effort by students, teachers, art docents and business owners is presented by the City of Covington Arts Commission.



Participating business owners, teachers, students and their families are invited to attend the opening reception in the Covington City Hall Community Room on Thursday, March 3 at 6 p.m. Do not miss the work of student art-

ists while shopping, working, dining or doing business in Covington! Participating businesses include: Arby's, Bank of America, Benjarong Thai Cuisine, Chiropractic Today, Covington City Hall, Cutter's Point Coffee, Daniel Ross Salon, Nail Gallery & Spa, Pinnacle Physical Therapy and Valley Vehicle Licensing.

HOUSING REPAIR HELP

MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

The City of Covington was awarded a 2011 Community Development Block Grant to provide minor home repair and maintenance services to homeowners of low to moderate income living within the Covington city limits. Projects can include, but are not limited to furnace repair and service, replace hot water tanks or install earthquake straps, repair faucets, toilets, sinks, clogged drains, broken switches, doors, windows or stairs, small electrical repairs, and weather proofing. Project grants are limited to \$500 per housing project with a maximum of \$2,000 per year for each household.

Repairs will be prioritized by the scope of work and income of the household. For applications or additional information call Victoria Throm, Personnel and Human Services Analyst, at 253-638-1110 x2237.

MAJOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

If you are in need of major repairs like a new roof, replacement of a furnace, or new electrical circuit, the King County Housing Repair Program may fit your needs. This owner-occupied program provides financing for the total cost of eligible and necessary repairs up to the maximum loan amount of \$25,000. The loan is a zero percent interest deferred loan with no monthly payments because it gets repaid at time the home is sold or transferred. Emergency grants up to \$3,000 are also available for life threatening repairs.

For more information about major housing repairs, call King County Housing Repair Program at 206-263-9095.

FREE TAX SERVICES

Funding from the Wal-Mart Foundation, in partnership with United Way of King County, has made it possible for a mobile tax van to come to Covington

**TAX
PREP
HELP**

City Hall on Friday, April 1 from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, April 2 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There is an income cap for this free tax service of \$57,000 per household and required documents must be provided. For appointments and questions please call Victoria Throm at 253-638-1110 x2237.

An additional free tax service is also available at City Hall on Monday evenings from March 7 through April 11. This service is provided by a qualified local volunteer. Appointments are required also by calling Victoria.

CONGRATULATIONS

Planning Commission Chair Sean Smith who was voted the City of Covington's Commissioner of the Year for 2010.



MARCH

- 03/03 – Student Art Show Reception, 6 p.m.
- 03/08 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 03/10 – Human Services Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 03/10 – Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 03/15 – City Council Joint Meeting with Utilities, 6 p.m.
- 03/16 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 03/17 – Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 03/22 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 03/24 – Economic Development Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

For More Information on Any of These Events, Please Contact Karla Slate at (253) 638-1110 x2234 or k slate@ci.covington.wa.us