



UPDATE



DON'T MISS THE COVINGTON AQUATIC CENTER'S CELEBRATION OF "APRIL POOLS DAY" ON SATURDAY, APRIL 21!

The City of Covington is proud to host its 3rd annual "April Pools Day" at the Covington Aquatic Center, 18230 SE 240th St., on Saturday, April 21, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. April Pools Day is a fun and informative, statewide event that promotes water safety. The event is free and will feature a wide variety of programs, water games, safety events, and contests. The day begins with a free lap swim and concludes with a free public swim, so don't forget your swim suit!

Open House

to the Covington Aquatic Center and try our programs for free. Aquatic Center staff will be showcasing everything from water exercise and dive training to swim lessons and more. This is a great opportunity to sample our programs and find one that interests you. The lap swim will be held from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. and program activities from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Drowning Prevention and Water Safety

Learning to be safe in and around water means being smart – know the water, know your limits, and wear a lifejacket. Covington Aquatic Center staff will lead participants through a variety of activities and games that emphasize these crucial elements of water safety. The activities and games will be held from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and a public swim take place from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

April Pools Day at a Glance

12:00-1:00pm	Free Lap Swim
1:00-2:00pm	Free Open House
2:00-3:00pm	Free Water Safety Activities
3:00-4:00pm	Free Public Swim

Please take the time to come out to this free event and learn about water safety so you and your children can be safe in and around the water.

For more information about "April Pools Day" at the Covington Aquatic Center, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 425-413-7665.

For other City information, contact the City of Covington at: 253-638-1110 or visit www.ci.covington.wa.us.

SWIM SAFELY AT BEACHES AND POOLS THIS SPRING AND SUMMER

While water recreation provides hours of enjoyment and exercise for children, water and children can be a deadly mix when an unsafe environment, inadequate supervision or improperly used safety gear is also present.

Drowning can occur in a variety of circumstances – during water recreational activities (such as swimming and boating) or when a young child is left unsupervised for a short time in the bathtub or around the home with access to nearby pools and spas.

Unfortunately, in 2006 there were an unusually high number of drownings in the area (31 in King County alone). The highest concentration of drownings occurred during June. This very well could be due to the early, warm, dry summer we experienced during this time, which melted snow pack filling our rivers with cold, fast water.

Drowning remains the second leading cause of injury-related death among children under the age of 14, so follow these rules and suggestions:



- Always provide supervision for children when they are in or near water. Lack of supervision is the most common cause of drowning. Fence pools on all sides in order to keep children safe.
- Ensure that responsible adults are present and able to provide immediate rescue to children in need – alcohol and water activities do not mix.
- Learn how to swim and teach children to swim in areas where lifeguards are present.
- Wear a lifejacket when swimming in open water.

Wear a lifejacket while in small boats, rafting, inner tubing, and water-skiing or on a personal watercraft. Washington State law requires children 12 and under to wear a Coast Guard approved lifejacket or life vest on boats under 19 feet.

"Knowledge is a powerful tool for combating these tragedies," said Covington's Interim Recreation Manager Pat Patterson. "Knowing how and where children drown, as well as the concrete steps you can take to avoid danger and prevent accidents, may make a life-and-death difference for your family."

For more information on drowning prevention, please visit:

- **Washington State Drowning Prevention Network**
April Pools Day and Water Safety Information www.drowning-prevention.org
- **Injury and Violence Prevention, Public Health – Seattle & King County**
Pool and Water Safety <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/injury/water.htm>
- **Washington State Parks**
Boating Program www.parks.wa.gov/boating.asp

For more information about opportunities for swimming lessons, please contact the Covington Aquatic Center at: 425-413-POOL (7665).

FOR COVINGTON REPORTER DELIVERY CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT KING COUNTY PUBLICATIONS LTD.

The City of Covington would like to remind citizens to contact King County Publications Ltd., for delivery concerns regarding the Covington Reporter newspaper. You can contact the Covington Reporter Circulation Department by calling 253.872.6610 or write to: King County Publications, Ltd., 600 Washington Ave. S., Kent, WA 98032. The Reporter Newspapers are a division of King County Publications, Ltd., and are not distributed by the City of Covington. For more information about King County Publications, Ltd., please visit: <http://www.reporternewspapers.com>

LOOK WHAT'S NEW IN DOWNTOWN COVINGTON!

NOW OPEN in Skagen Plaza and other Retail Centers...



The Rock Wood Fired Pizza
The Shop Cuts for Men and Women
Jersey Mike's Subs



TGF Kids Cuts
Emerald City Smoothie
Allied Cash Advance



Sleep County Plus Outlet Store



Executive Tans



Nollies Boards & Apparel and Starbucks



Help U Sell



Panda Express



Covington Commercial Retail Center Phase II
Kohl's Department Store



Covington Place Retail Center
Verizon Wireless



Miscellaneous Car Club of Covington and Carl's Jr.



Covington Commercial Retail Center Phase II
Noobs State of the Art Game Center



Covington Square
Dollar Tree



Covington Place Retail Center
Monkey Dooz



Photos courtesy of Ross Junkin, Covington Construction Inspector/CIP

CITY OF COVINGTON SUPPORTS NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK MAY 13 - 19, 2007

The City of Covington is proud to announce its support of National Transportation Week, May 13 - 19, 2007, by recognizing the many facets of transportation and those who have contributed to its success.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy permanently established National Transportation Week to correspond with the third Friday in May. Since that time, our nation's leaders have enthusiastically endorsed this opportunity to reflect on the contributions made to the nation's transportation system, as well as provide an opportunity to educate the public as to the benefits of transportation and the challenges we face in the future.

Transportation infrastructure is all around us and we are definitely a country on the move. The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that since 1978, the miles of roadway constructed across the nation has only increased 1.7%, but the number of vehicles using our public roads has increased 40.6% and vehicle miles traveled has increased by 70%. Transportation related industries represent 11% of the Gross Domestic Product. For every \$1 billion invested in transportation infrastructure, 35,000 jobs are created and every \$1 invested in the highway system yields \$2.60 in economic benefits to the nation according to the US Department of Transportation.

The City of Covington annually improves the local streets network through many operational programs and construction projects. Some of Covington's projects that are underway or planned to begin over the next year include:

Under Construction:

- **256th/164th Improvements:** Widens SE 256th Street to five lanes, between 161st and 168th Place SE, and 164th Avenue SE to three lanes, between SE 263rd Street and SE 256th Street. Both widening improvements will add bike lanes, planter strips, and sidewalks. The project also replaces the traffic signal at SE 256th Street and 164th Avenue SE with a roundabout, plus signalizes the intersection of SE 256th and 168th Place SE, as well as the intersection of 164th Avenue SE and the Kentwood High School Driveway.
- **164th Avenue SE - SE 256th Street to SE 251st**

Street: Adds a left turn lane/median, separated sidewalk with landscape strip, bike lane, streetlights, underground utilities and storm drainage improvements between SE 256th Street and SE 251st Street.

Designed and Ready for Bid:

- **Wax Road/180th - SR 516 to SE 262nd Place:** Adds a left turn lane/median, separated sidewalk with landscape strip, bike lane, streetlights, underground utilities and storm drainage improvements, between SR 516 and SE 262nd Place, and a roundabout at 269th and 180th.

Final Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition:

- **SR 516 Widening and Access Control Project from SE Wax Road to Jenkins Creek:** Extends four lanes further to the east, installs U-turns at the intersection and east end of the project, plus street lights, traffic signal modifications and separated sidewalks with landscaping.

Being Designed and Right-of-Way Acquisition:

- **SR 516 From SR 18 Northbound to 168th Place SE Extending South and Covington Way:** Adds U-turns and undergrounding of utilities on SR 516. 168th Place SE will be extended south, from SR 516 to Covington Way, with a new signal at 168th Place SE and Covington Way and access control on Covington Way. 168th will be four lanes from SR 516 through a north roundabout (north of Fred Meyer) and two lanes from a south roundabout (south of Fred Meyer) to Covington Way. The street will have separated sidewalks, street lights, and underground utilities.

Our transportation network is a vital component to the well being of America and its citizens. The City of Covington encourages its citizens to join in supporting transportation employees who are dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of life for present and future generations.

For more information about National Transportation Week, please visit the National Transportation Week website at: www.ntweek.org. This website has been created to provide an opportunity for the transportation community to join together for greater awareness about the importance of transportation.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK Public Works: Moving Life Forward MAY 20 - 26, 2007

In accordance with the tradition of the American Public Works Association, those who work in professions that provide and maintain public facilities and services will be honored during National Public Works Week, May 20 - 26, 2007.



Median Strip Planting

Public works professionals include those who manage water, sewer, public transportation, and solid waste collection, as well as those responsible for public building and grounds maintenance. They are, in fact, the people who maintain and improve the systems and services that are vital to a community's health, safety, and comfort.

In the City of Covington, the Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of most of the city streets, sidewalks, storm sewer facilities, street lights, signs and some traffic signals. Covington's public works professionals respond eagerly to all emergency situations created by natural disasters, flood producing rainfall, crippling ice and snow events, and high wind events, which are becoming more frequent in Covington.

The City of Covington provides the equipment and skilled individuals who quickly identify and rectify many of the day-to-day problems that arise. The City is very aggressive in its approach to plan, schedule and carry out the preventative maintenance of new and existing systems throughout the Covington community. The City of Covington also has Interlocal Agreements for contract services with King County Road Services and the Department of Natural Resources. The protection and conservation of native wildlife, which flourishes in our streams, creeks and local eco-systems, are partly a result of the City's tremendous efforts to clean our storm waters, and maintain littered areas. We stay on top of local health issues, such as keeping the community up to date on the West Nile Virus with a mailing to Covington residents, and we investigate and treat local ponds and marshy areas with baits, that are human and animal friendly, to ward off mosquito infestation.

Public Works and Emergency Management Director David K. Delph stated, "The Covington Public Works Department would like to thank the citizens of Covington for allowing us the privilege to serve them. The feeling of safety, contentment and pride are experienced from a clean and well-maintained city."

To learn more about "National Public Works Week", please visit the American Public Works Association (APWA) website at: <http://www.apwa.net/>. To learn more about the Covington Public Works Department, please visit the Public Works and Emergency Management Department section of the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.covington.wa.us/departments/pubworksemergency.cfm>

CITY OF COVINGTON ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

The City of Covington is accepting nominations for the 2007 City of Covington "Citizen of the Year" award.

The City of Covington will be honoring a Covington citizen who has who has worked to better our city and the lives of those who live here over the past year. The nominee must be a resident and must have contributed to the community in a positive manner in activities supporting the City's Vision Statement. In addition, this resident may have been active in youth services, senior services, or some other kind of community service.

Nomination forms are available at the following places: City Hall front counter, City Hall Council Chambers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Covington Library and City of Covington website at www.ci.covington.wa.us. Please send or deliver your completed nomination forms to: City of Covington, Attention: Interim Recreation Manager, 16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100, Covington, WA. 98042. **Nominations must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 7, 2007, for consideration.** For additional information, please call Pat Patterson at (425) 413-7665, Ext. 303.

Please help the City of Covington select the "Citizen of the Year" by nominating a resident who will be recognized for his or her contributions to our community.

SE 256TH ST/164TH AVE SE STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE



New Sidewalk on South Side of SE 256th Street



New Traffic Signal at SE 256th Street & 156th Avenue SE

Work on the SE 256th Street/164th Avenue SE Street Improvement project continues to proceed on schedule. At this point, the contractor has completed approximately 42% of the total work on the project. With a total contract amount of \$10.4 million, including the water main improvements funded by the Covington Water District, approximately \$4.3 million has been paid to the contractor through February. A major portion of the work that occurred over the last two months involved the installation of the 16-inch water main on 164th Avenue SE, and the 8- and 12-inch water mains on SE 256th Street. This work included installation of the ductile iron water main pipe, plus fire hydrants and various fittings and valves, and is about 80% complete. Underground utility work also continued with the installation of another 15,000 feet of conduits in approximately 1,500 lineal feet of utility trench. The phone and power companies are now pulling wire through their new conduits and are preparing for conversion from the overhead utility poles to the underground systems. The span-wire traffic signal at the intersection of 156th Ave SE and SE 256th Street is energized and in full operation. The City contracts with King County Department of Transportation Signal Division to operate and maintain the signals in the City. Sidewalk is now in place on SE 256th Street

from 156th Avenue SE to just west of 164th Avenue SE, providing an important pedestrian link to Kentwood High School and Mattson Middle School.

So how much work is represented by \$4.3 million? Included in the work completed through February is the installation of 8,400 square feet of walls (representing approximately 66% of that work); 9,000 lineal feet of storm drainpipe, 95 catch basins and manholes, and one large stormwater treatment vault (99% of the storm drainage work); 10,000 lineal feet of illumination and utility trench (55%); 99,000 lineal feet of utility conduit (92%); 2,800 lineal feet of curb and gutter (23%); 1,900 lineal feet of sidewalk (17%); and other miscellaneous and associated items, including placement of asphalt treated base (ATB) and hot mix asphalt (HMA).

Work that will proceed during the coming months this spring includes more grading and underground utility work, installation of water mains, walls, curbs, and sidewalk. Also, some asphalt treated base will be placed as areas are finished with curb and gutter.

CONTACTS:

Over the next one and a half years, City staff will be providing monthly updates regarding this project (and other projects) through articles in this newsletter, official news releases, and the project's website: <http://www.g-o.com/covington/main.html>. Citizens are encouraged to periodically view the website for updates and to provide feedback to the City staff regarding the project. Specific comments can be addressed through the Covington Connection link on the project website, or the City's main web page at <http://ci.covington.wa.us/connection.cfm>.

2007 SPRING RECYCLING COLLECTION EVENT SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2007

The City of Covington and King County Solid Waste Division will host a Recycling Collection Event on Saturday, April 28, 2007 from 9 am to 3 pm, at Kentwood High School, 25800 164th Avenue SE, Covington. Some of the items that will be accepted include the following:

Tires • Motor oil, filters, & antifreeze • Lead acid batteries • Household batteries • Cardboard Household goods and clothing • Porcelain toilets and sinks • Propane tanks • Bulky wood Appliances and scrap metal • Refrigerators/freezers • Electronic equipment • Television sets

Some items may be dropped off for free while others have a small fee. Cash only will be accepted at the drop off location. Fliers with more information will be mailed to all Covington residents several weeks prior to the event. You may also view the flier on our website at www.ci.covington.wa.us.

Recycling is good for the environment and extends the life of the landfills. It also keeps garbage bills down. Please do your part and keep recycling.

CITY OF COVINGTON ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION OPENINGS

The City of Covington is currently accepting applications to develop a pool of applicants who are interested in serving on one of the City's Commissions as openings become available:



City Of Covington Arts Commission At Work

The Planning Commission:

A 7-member commission which provides guidance and direction for Covington's future growth through continued review and improvement to the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, zoning code, shoreline management, environmental protection and related land use documents. Applicants should have an interest in environmental affairs, planning and land use. The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Parks and Recreation Commission: A 7-member commission which serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council regarding the provision of recreational programming and development of parks and other natural resources within the City. Applicants should have an interest in developing City parks and recreation. The Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Covington City Hall.

Youth and Family Services Commission: A 7-member commission that makes recommendations to the City Council on Human Service issues and assesses the needs of families within the community. Applicants should have an interest in youth and family affairs, as evidenced by training, experience, interest or actions. The Youth and Family Services Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Covington City Hall.

Arts Commission: A 7-member commission charged with assessing the artistic and cultural needs of the city, for the health and livability of the community. Applicants should have an interest in graphic and visual arts, performing skills and crafts. The Arts Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Covington City Hall.

Covington Economic Development Council (CEDC): A twelve-member organization which acts in an advisory capacity to the Covington City Council and the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in striving to improve the Covington economy by facilitating and encouraging the development of economic opportunities in the industrial, commercial business services, professional services, retail and public sectors, and helps to create a stable, healthy and diversified economy and employment base. Five members are appointed by the City Council and five members are appointed by the Chamber Board of Directors. In addition, one ex-officio member (non-voting) is appointed from the City staff by the City Manager and one ex-officio member (non-voting) is appointed by the Chamber Board. The CEDC meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

All City of Covington commission positions offer education and fulfilling opportunities to become involved in city government. Applications for Covington Commissions are accepted on an ongoing basis. Interested persons may locate a City of Covington Commission application form on the City's web site at: www.ci.covington.wa.us or contact the City of Covington at 253-638-1110.

The City of Covington is built on community involvement and the City's board and commission members are the key to a successful local government.