

# Quarterly Message

## from Mayor Miller



**Dear North Bend Residents,**

You know the feeling you get when you answer a call for help? Whether it is providing an extra set of hands at your local food bank, meeting up with friends and businesses to pick up litter around town, or setting out your neighbor's trash and recycling when they are unable to do so, that impact has a real, tangible effect.



Big or small, working together to support others is an integral part of North Bend's highly livable community, and if you can relate to that feeling, you know that it is also critical to share and amplify these calls. This quarter, I have had the opportunity to strengthen messages with proclamations that support a variety of causes:

- **Senior Center Month**, September
- **The Week Without Driving**, September 29 through October 5
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, October



*Mayor Miller, Mayor Ross jointly proclaim Oct. as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in North Bend and Snoqualmie*

Equally exciting is meeting the people who are laying the groundwork to help. If you have not had the opportunity to do so yet, I encourage you to join councilmembers, city staff, me and your community at a City Council meeting, where you can witness these calls and people who work to support them.

### Public Safety

At the September 16 City Council meeting, we made huge strides in our work to ensure a safe and secure transition in [police services](#), shifting from the Snoqualmie Police Department to the King County Sheriff's Office. North Bend councilmembers voted unanimously to approve a new interlocal agreement (ILA) with the City of Snoqualmie. The new ILA, also approved by Snoqualmie's Council on September 15, requires the city to dismiss the lawsuit filed against North Bend, and it enables that successful transition in April, 2026.



*September 16, 2025 North Bend City Council meeting*

Arriving at this new ILA involved an extensive, data-driven process with many public meetings and discourse throughout. I am proud of my elected peers here in North Bend and Snoqualmie for working through challenges to find an equitable outcome for both cities.

We will continue to receive high quality police services that ensure our safety and well-being. In addition to receiving service from Snoqualmie police officers, you have likely noticed King County Sheriff's officers around town. They are already here, getting to know our local landscape. Please join me in welcoming them to our community.

Our regional fire service provider also has news to share. Following Fire Chief Ben Lane's announcement of his retirement from Eastside Fire and Rescue (EF-R), the organization has been hard at work in selecting the new fire chief. In September, we hosted EF-R for a full day of interviews here at City Hall, the Board of Directors has unanimously voted to appoint Assistant Chief Will Aho as the next Fire Chief. With more than 29 years of fire service, I am confident Chief Aho will continue EF-R's mission of working together as partners to provide exceptional fire, rescue and emergency medical services for all of us.



*Eastside Fire and Rescue's new Fire Chief, Will Aho*

Chief Lane has led an incredible 31-year career in fire service. We all wish him the best in his retirement.

### Parks and Trails

Accessible parks, trails, and open spaces are an integral part of North Bend, and this quarter, I am pleased to share with you a few updates.



*Snoqualmie Tribe interpretive signage at Dahlgren Family Park; photo courtesy of the Snoqualmie Tribe*

Thanks to the Snoqualmie Tribe, Dahlgren Family Park showcases a new opportunity to learn about the Tribe's deep history and connection to the Snoqualmie River through a series of interpretive signs about the canoes that are used by the Snoqualmie people, the river's connection with the

heritage of the Snoqualmie Tribe, how everyone can contribute to healing river habitats, and more. The park also features a canoe play structure beautifully painted with Tribal imagery by Snoqualmie Tribal Artist Bethany Fackrell.

Another integral partner connected to local parks, trails and open spaces is Si View Metropolitan Park District. In 2024, they accepted an incredible six-acre land donation from the Snoqualmie Valley Riding Club.



Located in North Bend on the south side of Interstate 90 near exit 31, Si View Metro Parks is right now collecting community feedback on future recreation uses for the park, planning for space that additionally incorporates educational programming and interpretive signage to commemorate the Riding Club's history and generous public gift.



Six-acre property donation to Si View Metro Parks

## Infrastructure and Transportation Improvements

North Bend is busy! Our work to enhance local infrastructure continues, and during summer months when the weather is ideal for it, we do experience layers of traffic congestion and delays that tamper the ease of getting around town, sometimes pushing close to your property or place of business.

Your patience and understanding are appreciated by everyone – crews onsite, city staff assisting and your elected officials who are out talking with residents.



Sewer ULID work on NW 8th St

In that vein, you may notice groundwork taking place at Tollgate Farm Park, and I bet you have encountered construction along portions of North Bend Way, State Route 202, NW 14th Street, Alm Way and NW 8th Street. This is part of the [Meadowbrook Sewer Utility Local Improvement District \(ULID\)](#), a project that will expand public sewer to the western portion of North Bend. I am happy to report that recent pressure testing was successful, and crews will continue work on tying in pipe, flushing and construction.

This summer, North Bend's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was presented with the WWTP Outstanding Performance Award by the Washington State Department of Ecology. As one of the top performing treatment plants in 2024, the award recognizes our team's work to regularly meet permit criteria, and monitor and report data. We are thankful for a WWTP team that is passionate, professional and fully committed to protecting our local waters.



WWTP team members, including Operator Craig Jess, Operator Bobby Spurgeon, Lead Operator James Monroe, Manager Susan Welland, City Engineer Don DeBerg, Operator Tom Glenn, previous Public Works Director Mark Rigos, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor/Parks Lead Technician Mark Pray, IT Manager Phil Davenport, new Public Works Director Tom Mohr, Operator 1 Jeff Barber

On the transportation front, the North Bend Way and Ribary Creek bridge deck projects will wrap up in October. Expect a safer walking and driving experience, with fresh asphalt overlays, deck repairs, expansion joint replacements, guardrail improvements, and concrete barrier repairs.

Pedestrian connectivity and stormwater drainage improvements are on the horizon for the Old Silver Creek neighborhood, with the 5th Street, 6th Street and Main Avenue Improvements project. By January 2026, these streets will have curb, gutter and sidewalk, drainage swales, stormwater catch basins and a storm pipe network. Additionally, a portion of Main Avenue near the intersection with the Snoqualmie Valley Trail will be slightly lowered to increase sight distance and enhance pedestrian safety.



5th St, 6th St, Main Ave Improvements

## New Business

Our business community is growing here in North Bend, and services are expanding throughout the valley. Your support is an integral part of our local economy, creating both opportunity and demand. This summer we welcomed a host of new businesses to town, including:

- Alpine Mechanics PT and Performance
- Works from the Heart
- North Bend Golf Club
- Arete Coffee at The Line
- Mastrogriannis Distillery, Winery's Tasting Room (October 4)

Equally important are services that support the Snoqualmie Valley on many levels, such as:

- Groundbreaking, Snoqualmie Valley Health Expansion "Hub"
- Mammography services launch, Snoqualmie Valley Hospital
- Grand opening, Snoqualmie Valley School District's Early Learning Center



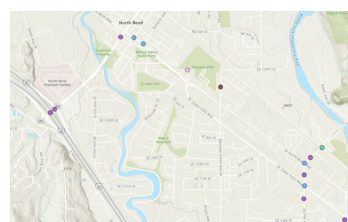
Snoqualmie Valley School District's Sept. 2 Early Learning Center grand opening in North Bend

## Community Development Projects, Opportunities for Feedback

I understand the importance of governmental customer service and signage regulations that match the needs of our business community. We know that existing regulations no longer fully reflect the variety of sign types found in North Bend, so we launched an online survey that asks local businesses for feedback on signage, and we are checking in on the customer service we provide as businesses take off and grow. If you are a local business owner, please consider sharing your thoughts by October 8 via the [survey](#).



This summer, the Community and Economic Development Department jumped at the opportunity to host two volunteer interns here at City Hall. Paige and Chase are North Bend residents and Western Washington University students with a passion for city planning. They helped develop an update to the city's sign regulations, land use definitions, and more. They also assisted in gathering information for our new cycling and mountain biking mobility plan, called [Bike North Bend](#).



[Interactive biking comment map](#)

When complete, Bike North Bend will serve as a plan that assesses and evaluates our existing cycling landscape, making recommendations to enhance rider confidence and safety. Following a recently completed community survey and ample staff outreach, we will host an open house for more discussion and connection.

## Budget

The City continues to safeguard the public trust by actively monitoring and managing its financial resources. Key efforts this quarter include:

- A comprehensive stormwater rate study, with updated stormwater rates taking effect October 1
- Ongoing rate studies for the city's water and sewer utilities
- An annual audit of city finances that is underway by the Washington State Auditor's Office
- Council workshops that are focused on developing a long-term financial plan for the General Fund

## Government Organization Update

Public Works Director and Deputy City Administrator Mark Rigos joined us for his final City Council meeting on September 16, where councilmembers and staff expressed their appreciation for 11 years of service to North Bend. Mark contributed to a variety of significant projects that will continue to serve our community well into the future, such as wrapping up ULID 6, securing an intertie agreement with Sallal Water Association, three roundabouts, and every year, he has helped guide us safely through our mountain town weather.



Mark Rigos, Mayor Miller on Sept. 16

I have enjoyed working with Mark over the years, and I was pleased to present him with a plaque thanking him for his service. We wish him well in his future endeavors.



Public Works Director, Tom Mohr, hard at work in his new position

I am thrilled to announce that our new Public Works Director will be Tom Mohr, elevated from his role as Deputy Public Works Director. Tom's deep knowledge, collaborative spirit, and focus on service have not only strengthened our Public Works team these past 16 years, but have also built trust and pride throughout our community. As Director of Public Works, Tom will continue to guide critical projects that maintain and enhance our quality of life.

## Community Engagement

If you know, you know... Fall in North Bend involves gatherings both big and small, with family, friends and neighbors. Every season brings new opportunities for connection, and this fall is no different. I first felt that crisp rustling of autumn in September with North Bend Art and Industry's annual Snoqualmie Valley Art Studio Tour, and it returned with the North Bend Downtown Foundation's cherished Sip Suds and Si walk.



Snoqualmie Valley Art Studio Tour, and seven years of Sip, Suds and Si in North Bend

I look forward to a collective Valley-Wide Volunteer Day with you and Love Snoqualmie Valley on October 4, followed by JazzClubNW's North Bend Blues Walk.

As days shorten, and that alpine glow arrives just that bit earlier each evening, we will meet again for another lively Trick-Or-Treat Street and the Great Si View Spooktacular on October 25. Remember your treat bags and consider beginning your holiday shopping early by supporting the many local businesses who participate.

Whether you have costume suggestions, a city topic to discuss or simply wish to connect over coffee, I welcome your ideas and your candor. Please stop by my next meet-up event on October 15, at Huxdotter Coffee at 9 a.m.

In November, registration will open for the city's annual [Citizens Academy](#)! This course offers an in-depth look into city operations, and it shares paths to a variety civic engagement opportunities. I attend many sessions and truly enjoy the opportunity to get to know our participants.



Graduates of the 2025 North Bend Citizens Academy

Your contributions, input and care leave a legacy in our highly livable community. Keep up the good work, and happy fall, North Bend.

Warmly,

Mayor Mary