

# NORTH BEND neighbors

Welcome to the latest edition of North Bend Neighbors, your source for city information, community events and local updates

## Hometown holiday tradition: Holly Days winter festival

The North Bend Downtown Foundation invites you to join community for our annual winter festival and tree lighting on Saturday, December 6, from 5 to 8 p.m.

In addition to the official tree lighting ceremony, activities will include fireside s'mores, local live entertainment, complimentary photos with Santa – along with writing letters to Santa – and a free showing of the movie, Elf, at the North Bend Theatre.

Community will gather for the tree lighting at 7 p.m. Located in the Historic District, at the corner of North Bend Way and Main Avenue, Mayor Miller will lead in a joyful countdown to the big event.

To safely accommodate everyone, the city will close a portion of the Historic District.

**Part of North Bend Way and Main Ave will be temporarily closed on December 6:**

- *North Bend Way*; Bendigo Blvd to Ballarat Ave: 4 - 9 PM
- *Main Ave*; E McClellan St to 106 Main Ave N: 2 - 10 PM

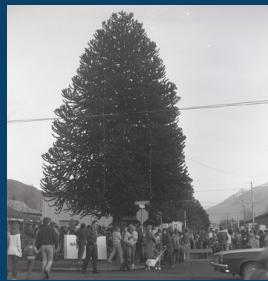


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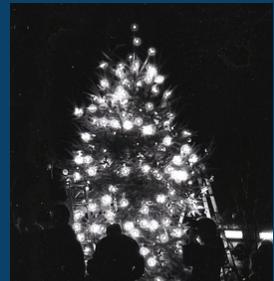
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# A look back...

## at hometown holiday tree lighting ceremonies



1983



1988



2016



2017



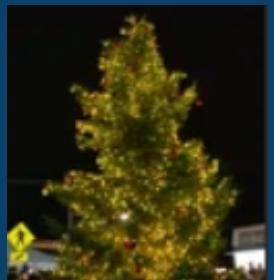
2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023



2024

JOIN US AS WE  
LIGHT THE 2025 TREE  
DEC. 6 @ 7 PM!

## Holly Days Main Stage Lineup

Presented by Simpson Group Real Estate & Birches Habitat

- 🎷 Twin Falls Middle School Jazz Band....(5:15 PM)
- ⭐ Veils of the Nile.....(5:55 PM)
- 🎵 Twin Falls Middle School Choir.....(6:40 PM)
- 🎄 Tree lighting with Mayor Miller.....(7:00 PM)
- 💃 Ignite Dance.....(7:01 PM)
- 🎅 Santa photos at Mastrogiannis, with Simpson Group Real Estate
- 🔥 S'mores and More, with street-side fire pits, by Vintage Baristas, Rotary Club of Snoqualmie Valley
- ✍️ Write Letters to Santa at DT Vintage & More

**A full day of community  
FUN on December 6**

North Bend's Holly Days winter festival brings community together! Stay for the day to enjoy a variety of community events hosted by nonprofits and local businesses.

- 🎄 Santa Breakfast at Mt Si Senior Center.....8:30-11:30
- 🎄 Annual Holiday Bazaar at Si View.....9-3 PM
- 🎄 Elf, at the North Bend Theatre.....3 PM
- 🎄 The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, at VCS....2 PM



# Police services update

## Sergeant Ed Hall selected as North Bend Police Chief

Mayor Miller announced her selection of Sergeant Ed Hall as the King County Sheriff's Office North Bend Chief of Police, effective January 1, 2026.

Hall has worked for the Sheriff's Office for 21 years, having served most recently as a Sergeant for the City of Sammamish. Prior to that, he served as a Deputy and Master Police Officer for the City of SeaTac and surrounding cities.

Following a public Open House with community and police chief candidates in November, Mayor Miller and City Administrator Amber Emery served on final police chief candidate interview panels, alongside councilmembers, staff and community representatives. Sentiments shared from interview panels and the Open House provided ample feedback during deliberation.

*“With nearly three decades of law enforcement experience in Washington State and accolades commending him for service and leadership, I am confident Sgt. Hall will nurture and protect our highly livable community. His work speaks volumes of his commitment to public safety, together with community engagement, transparency and partnership,” said Mayor Miller.*

The selection of North Bend's Police Chief is an integral component to the City of North Bend's transition in its Police Services interlocal agreement (ILA) from the Snoqualmie Police Department to the Sheriff's Office.

“Ed Hall is an excellent choice to lead North Bend's police department. His deep ties to the local community, as well as his extensive law enforcement experience makes him the perfect person for this job. I am excited for this next chapter in our partnership with the city,” said King County Sheriff Patti Cole-Tindall.

The City of North Bend will continue to contract with the City of Snoqualmie Police Department for law enforcement and police services, working together to enable a successful transition, which will begin April 1, 2026.



**Sergeant Ed Hall**

In addition to serving as a King County Sheriff's Office deputy for the City of North Bend under a previous city contract from 2004 to 2005, Hall is a lifelong Snoqualmie Valley resident. He grew up in a family rooted in public service; his father having also served as a North Bend Police Officer.

Hall now lives with his family in the nearby community of Fall City. He received his bachelor's degree in the Administration of Criminal Justice from Washington State University.

# Please help us Light Up North Bend!

Light Up North Bend brings homes, businesses, and nonprofit organizations together for a bit of healthy competition.

Are you decorating your home, business or nonprofit for the holiday season? If so, please register for this fun holiday lighting tour, and be entered to win a gift certificate to a North Bend business of your choosing!



Register here: <https://bit.ly/4rQkmx1>



## TAKE A TOUR OF NORTH BEND HOLIDAY LIGHTS, STARTING DECEMBER 15

Once judging is complete, enjoy a Light Up North Bend Holiday Tour Map, where all participants' displays will be mapped out for guided personal tours around our North Bend community.

Register using the fillable [Light up North Bend registration form \(PDF\)](#). Drop it off at the City Hall front counter or email [bkeveren@northbendwa.gov](mailto:bkeveren@northbendwa.gov).

Participating homes, businesses and nonprofits must be decorated and ready by **December 8** at 5 p.m. Judging will occur December 8 through 14 with the help of North Bend city commissioners and other local leaders.

**...Did we mention prizes?** The Neighborhood division winner will get bragging rights (to be judged on the number of houses lit up). Winners of each category in Single-Family, Multi-Family and Business Divisions will receive a \$50 gift card to the North Bend business of their choosing.

### The Light Up North Bend Holiday Tour Map

After judging wraps up, we will share a map for a *Light Up North Bend Holiday Tour*. Enjoy twinkling, decorated, participating properties!

### Beginning December 16, find the map:

- [www.northbendwa.gov](http://www.northbendwa.gov)
- on [Facebook](#)
- on [NextDoor](#)
- on [Instagram](#)
- on [X](#)

**Divisions:** Single-family home; Multi-family (apartment, condo, townhome); Business; Neighborhood

### Single-family, Multi-family & Business categories:

- VMA: Best Use of Music
- Hollywood: Best Theme
- Griswold: Best 'Overuse' of Lights

# North Bend City Councilmember Alan Gothelf not seeking re-election after 19 years of service

At the December 2 City Council meeting, the Council, Mayor Miller, and staff thanked Councilmember Alan Gothelf for 19 years of service to North Bend.



Gothelf chose not to file for reelection, ending his service on December 31, 2025.

"It's an incredible privilege to have had you here,"

commented Mayor Miller. "You have a heart for service. It's undeniable, and that's what it takes to do these jobs."

In addition to serving as Mayor Pro Tem in 2011, 2018 and 2024, Gothelf participated in four city council committees, notably adding valuable input to the Public Health and Safety Committee.

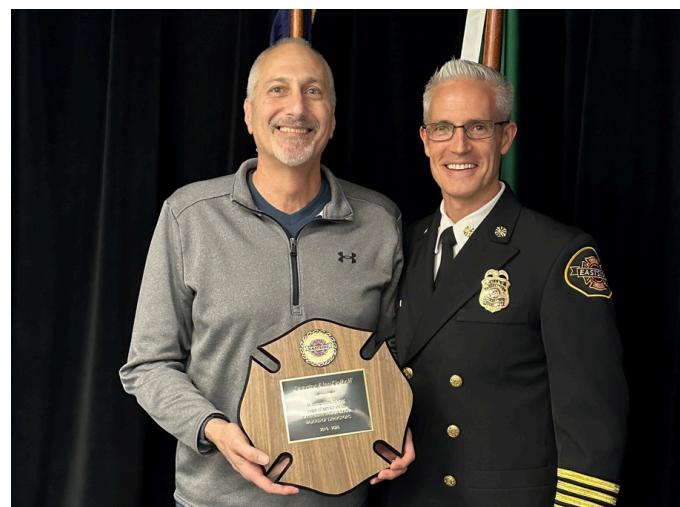


Read the news release:  
<https://bit.ly/3MhwuXk>

In November, Gothelf was presented with a plaque by Fire Chief Ben Lane, recognizing 15 years of service with Eastside Fire and Rescue.

Gothelf served as a liaison on other committees, including the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, Snoqualmie Valley School District, the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee, and the King County Emergency Management Advisory Committee.

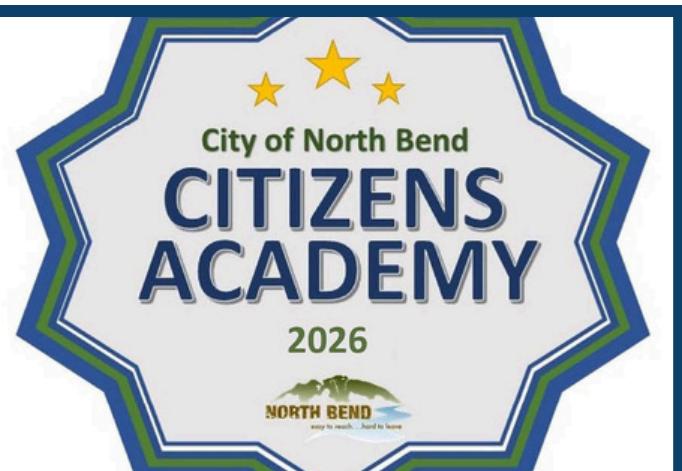
On November 4, 2025, residents elected Rob McFarland to Councilmember Gothelf's seat, filling the vacated City Council Position No. 2.



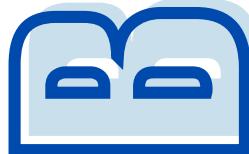
Pictured here: Councilmember Alan Gothelf and Retired Fire Chief Ben Lane

**2026 SESSION**  
**FEBRUARY 2 - MARCH 30**

Registration is now FULL.  
 Submit an application to  
[bkeveren@northbendwa.gov](mailto:bkeveren@northbendwa.gov)  
 to join a waitlist for a future course.



# 12 calendar of COMMUNITY EVENTS



**DEC 5**  
6 - 9 PM

**HOLLY DAZE EVE**  
Downtown North Bend

**DEC 5 & 6**  
8 PM

**THE LARRY FULLER TRIO, LIVE AT JAZZCLUBS NW**  
Boxley's

**DEC 6**  
8:30 - 11:30 AM

**SANTA BREAKFAST**  
Mt Si Senior Center

**DEC 6**  
9 - 3 PM

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**  
Si View Community Center

**DEC 6**  
5 - 8 PM

**HOLLY DAYS WINTER FEST & TREE LIGHTING**  
Downtown North Bend, corner of NB Way & Main Ave

**DEC 8**  
4 - 6 PM

**SNOQUALMIE VALLEY CENTER FOR CREATIVITY**  
RIBBON CUTTING, at 1533 Bendigo Blvd N

**DEC 9**  
5 - 7 PM

**COMMUNITY AFTER-HOURS: UGLY SWEATER & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE**, at Volition Brewing

**DEC 10**  
11 - 12 PM

**MEET UP WITH MAYOR MILLER**  
Bread & Bone

**DEC 6 - 21**  
5 - 7 PM

**SANTA TRAIN AND YULETIDE EXPRESS**  
North Bend Train Depot

**DEC 15 - 25**  
5 - 7 PM

**LIGHT UP NORTH BEND HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR**  
Businesses, nonprofits & homes in North Bend

# Snowplow Map & winter street treatment



As winter weather makes its way to our mountain town, we remind residents to be aware of city snowplow routes, and we ask for your help as crews work to keep us safe.

To understand the order in which city streets are plowed, check out the [2025/2026 Snowplow Route Map](https://bit.ly/4pP2eSm) (<https://bit.ly/4pP2eSm>). It details Priority 1, 2, and 3 routes and priority access point locations.

In consideration of public health and our environment, the city refrains from the heavy use of chemicals and geo-melts on our roadways. This is done out of caution for the Snoqualmie aquifer (located directly beneath many city roads), drinking water quality, and potential adverse impact on public health. The city uses two de-icer materials: a sand/salt mix and Ice-Slicer.

Crews closely monitor local weather systems and deploy the materials according to the Snow Removal Policy, which factors in cost, environmental impact, location, and public safety. Learn more about the De-Icer Program by viewing the [Snow Removal Policy](https://bit.ly/44laQ4M) (<https://bit.ly/44laQ4M>).

## Help keep city streets accessible

 Try not to park on city streets and in cul-de-sacs during a snowstorm

 Don't attempt to stop snowplow drivers. If you are behind a snowplow, slow down, give them a little extra room

 Don't shovel snow from sidewalks and driveways into city streets

 Pile snow shoveled from driveways on the right side facing the street

 Shovel catch basins in front of your home

 Keep trash cans on sidewalks! Remove them right away after collection



Learn more: <https://bit.ly/4rAgYWO>



## KEEP AN EYE OUT! ILLEGAL DUMPING OF WASTE INTO LOCAL SEWER SYSTEM

- Report it: (425) 765-0531
- Look for license plate, truck details
- Don't approach the driver

**Thank you for helping to protect our  
waterways and infrastructure**



**Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) staff have identified several instances of suspected illegal dumping of septic or portable-toilet (sani-can) waste directly into city manholes. This practice is strictly prohibited. It poses significant risks to public health, the environment and essential city infrastructure.**

Septic and portable-toilet waste can overwhelm or kill the biological organisms that clean wastewater inside the treatment plant. When these systems fail, it can lead to permit violations and environmental impacts to local waterways. Additionally, as the waste has not been screened or inspected for contaminants, this can cause severe damage to pumping equipment throughout the collection system and the WWTP.

Repairing this damage can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Your vigilance helps protect our waterways, our infrastructure, and our public health.

Thank you for helping keep our community safe.

### How to report suspicious activity

- *If you see a septic truck, portable-toilet service vehicle, or any other hauler dumping into an open manhole or storm drain, call the WWTP emergency line right away: (425) 765-0531*
- *Note details if it is safe to do so:*
  - Company name on the truck, license plate, time and location can assist with enforcement
- *Never approach or confront a driver*

