Thank you to AGC

Thank you to the Associated General Contractors of Washington for their support of the Toys for Tots program. Each year they host a holiday celebration where the toys are collected. Toys for Tots is a terrific program and I salute AGC for its support.
Grant for playground equipment presented to Hawthorne Elementary School

On December 10, I was honored to be part of the ribbon cutting for new playground equipment at Hawthorne Elementary School. Nearly 90% of the students at this school qualify for free or subsidized lunches. When I read that they had been trying to raise money for several years to replace broken and dangerous playground equipment, I called Superintendent Dr. Gary Cohn and offered to help. Snohomish County, through our Small Capital Projects grants, was able to contribute $16,000 to help the Hawthorne PTA complete its fundraising for new playground equipment.

Other Projects receiving funding included:

Projects receiving funding:

- Brier Elementary School/Brier Elementary School PTA: Two soccer goals with nets and accessories: $1,436
- City of Arlington/Arlington Lions Club: Concrete curb border for playground area in Terrace Park: $5,000
- City of Bothell Parks & Recreation/Friends of the North Creek Forest: Development of forest master plan: $10,000
- City of Mountlake Terrace Parks & Recreation/Girl Scout Troup 43752: Phase II of Matt Hirvela Bicentennial Park Trail: $5,000
- Everett Public Schools/Cedar Wood Elementary School PTA: Musical outdoor playground equipment at Cedar Wood Elementary School: $8,507
Everett Public Schools/Hawthorne Elementary School PTA: Removal of existing and replacement of playground equipment: $16,000

Everett Public Schools/Lowell Elementary School: Playground equipment: $5,000

Glacier Peak High School/Snohomish Youth Soccer: Purchase of new soccer goals: $4,013

Lockwood Elementary School/Lockwood PTA: Playfield fence: $10,000

Sultan School District/Sky Valley Arts Council: Outdoor playground tennis, basketball and pickleball court rehabilitation: $5,000

Community Transit Van Go program

Twelve non-profit groups in Snohomish County will receive used vans from Community Transit at no cost. These vans will provide more than 26,000 trips to foster children, the homeless, disabled veterans, low-income residents and more thanks to Community Transit’s Van GO program.

This year, I was pleased to be able to recommend the Mountlake Terrace Senior Community Group and its partners the First Baptist Church of Mountlake Terrace and Girl Scout Daisy Troop #50529 to receive one of the 12 vans.

Mountlake Terrace Senior Center provides services to the seniors of Mountlake Terrace and the surrounding communities including nutrition programs, health and wellness classes and entertainment. First Baptist will transport children from a local elementary school to its Wings of Reading Enrichment Program. The Daisy Troop will use the van for monthly community service-focused field trips. Together the three groups will utilize this van to provide almost 2,000 trips over the next year for the Mountlake Terrace community.

Congratulations to all the organizations that received one of the Community Transit surplus vans!

EASC's monthly economic indicators for November has been updated. Data reveals that the Snohomish County
unemployment rate for November continues to drop, reaching 4% in October 2016, down from 5% a year earlier. This was helped by a growing workforce and record employment.

Jobs in Snohomish Co. grew year-over-year by 1.8%, with gains in Construction, Professional and Business Services, and State and Local Government.

Other positive indicators show that shared hotel/motel tax, an indicator of tourism and economic health, grew 6.8% from October 2016-2015. Taxable retail sales grew by 7.9% from Q2 2016 - Q2 2015, reaching $3.394 Billion, with the biggest percentage gains in the fast growing smaller cities and towns.

Also of note, total wages in Snohomish County grew by 6.7% Q2 2016 - Q2 2015, with business establishments holding steady at 20,479.

Community Transit Aims to Enhance Customer Experience

As part of an ongoing effort to improve its service to customers, Community Transit has hired Molly Marsicek to lead a new Customer Experience Department.

Marsicek will oversee Community Transit's Customer Care division, which responds to customer calls and emails. She also will oversee customer outreach, the vanpool program, and customer-facing technology solutions.

Marsicek is joining the agency as it prepares to implement a new customer comment system that will enable better communication about customer issues across departments.

"Transit provides such a major value to people and the community," said Marsicek. "I am excited to be part of this team that does so much good for people."

Winter Storm Preparation

Winter weather is here now. It is recommended to have extra supplies on hand for the Winter Storms. Be ready by preparing your own list now. Here are some ideas for your list:

Items ready for your home-
Flashlights and a portable radio with extra batteries on hand.

- Stock up on prepared foods. Buy a manual can opener if you don't already have one.
- Have a fresh supply of bottled water. Stock up one gallon of water per person per day.
- Keep your first aid kit full, and be sure to keep your medications up to date.
- Have an out of state contact that your entire family can call in an emergency.
- Keep extra blankets and heavy outdoor coats available.

Items ready for your automobile:

- Keep your gas tank full.
- Make sure your car is properly tuned and running well.
- Warm clothes, blanket, boots and gloves for each passenger.
- Bottled water, snack bars.
- Full medical kit.
- Fully charged cell phone.
- Road flares, jumper cables and an ice scraper.
- Flashlight with batteries.
- Tires with proper tread depth and properly inflated.

Plan ahead and be safe!

**Department of Emergency Management**

Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management (D.E.M.) is a great resource for information regarding emergencies and preparedness for emergencies.

The D.E.M. mission statement reads; The Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management coordinates emergency management in partnership with the whole community to lessen the impact of disasters on people, property, the environment, and the economy.

Please visit the D.E.M. website to learn more about how to protect your families and neighborhoods; http://snohomishcountywa.gov/180/Emergency-Management

The Preparedness link is; http://snohomishcountywa.gov/622/Preparedness

**District Events:**
BOTHELL

Bothell - 7th Annual Icicle Shoot-out Basketball Tournament January 28 - January 29, 2017 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Washington Tournament Association host annual boys and girls basketball tournaments from October to July each year. 7th Annual Icicle Shoot-out basketball tournament offers four game guarantee for boys and girls divisions, 4th grade to 8th grade. Tournament games will be played at Lynnwood High School and Lakeside High School. Team entry fees are $250 per team. Registration deadline is January 20, 2017. The 2016 tournament had record 59 basketball teams competing, so don't delay to register for this popular youth basketball tournament.

- 18218 North Road, Bothell, WA 98012
- (206) 523-4293

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

SJHA Arctic Blast Hockey Tournament January 13 - January 15, 2017

Tournament is open to Bantam and Midget teams registered with USA Hockey or Hockey Canada.

- Tournament is limited to a total of eight teams in each age group. Multiple divisions in each group may be formed based on registered teams and/or relative skill level.
- Each team will receive at least four games and a maximum of six games.
- All games will be played at one of the following rinks: Olympicview Ice Arena and Lynnwood Ice Center.
- All teams are required to stay at designated SJHA Host Hotels.
- All teams will be required to provide official roster.
Entry fees are non-refundable.

All games will be governed by USA Hockey rules and regulations.

One ice scrape will be allotted for each game.

Locker room facilities will be provided.

22202 70th Avenue W, Mountlake Terrace, WA