



MI WEEKLY

A Weekly Update from the City of Mercer Island

JANUARY 6, 2010
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Calendar

Event details are available on the calendar on the City's website.

January 10

12 pm Play Away the Winter Blues

January 12

7 pm Utility Board Meeting

January 16

9 am First Aid and Adult CPR

January 18

HOLIDAY—CITY OFFICES CLOSED

January 19

7 pm Regular City Council Meeting

7 pm Senior Commission Meeting*

*Senior Commission Meeting may be rescheduled

January 22-24

City Council Annual Planning Session

January 24

12 pm Hot Spot Basketball

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Pearman to Serve Second Term as Mercer Island Mayor

On January 4, 2010, the Mercer Island City Council unanimously re-elected Jim Pearman to serve as Mayor and El Jahncke to serve as Deputy Mayor. Pearman has served on the city council for the past eight years and as Mayor for the past two years; Jahncke has served on the city council for the past ten years and as Deputy Mayor for the past two years. Re-elected Councilmembers Dan Grausz and Mike Grady were also sworn at the January 4 council meeting.

The City of Mercer Island operates under the council/manager form of government. In this form, the city council hires a city manager to act as chief executive of the city. The city manager reports directly to the council and carries out their policy directions. The Mayor is elected from among the seven councilmembers for a two-year term. The Mayor presides at all council meetings, votes as a councilmember and does not have any veto power. Councilmembers are elected for terms of four years. All receive a monthly salary of \$200, except the mayor, whose monthly salary is \$400.

Other Council Meeting Topics

Other meeting topics at the January 4 council meeting included an interlocal agreement with the school district for high school stadium use and a report on recommendations for reducing underage drinking.

Under council direction, city staff have been working with the Mercer Island School District to work out issues regarding the high school stadium. On January 4, the City Council authorized the City Manager to sign and execute the interlocal agreement between the City of Mercer Island and the Mercer Island School District for the improvement, scheduling, use and operation of the Mercer Island High School Stadium and other facilities.

In order to reduce under age drinking and drug use on Mercer Island, staff presented recommendations for potential roles for council in messaging, parent/education information, and fines and fees. Staff also recommended that the council make a semi-annual invitation to YFS Advisory Board youth leader to address the Council on youth well-being and reducing underage drinking; conduct annual community dialogue on reducing underage drinking; and have the Mayor present a CTC Annual Youth Prevention Champion Award at the end-of-year senior awards assembly at MIHS. On January 4, the City Council adopted the staff recommendations.

The Mercer Island City Council is interested in hearing the voices of all the residents of the community and encourages citizen involvement. The next regular meeting is on January 19. Regular meetings start at 7 pm. Agendas are posted to the City website the Friday before the council meeting. Council meetings air live on the night of the meeting and are then repeated at 10 am and 7 pm everyday on MI-TV Channel 21. Council meetings are also now available for viewing online! Visit www.mercergov.org/MITV for more details.

Also In This Issue

- **Parking Changes in the Town Center**
- **Pongo Speaks—Special Event January 8, 2010**
- **More Ways to Have Fun**
- **Mercer Islanders Needed for Census Jobs**
- **Tree Chipping Through January 10**

Parking in the Town Center? Be Sure to Read the Signs!

Early in 2009, Mercer Island City Council passed an ordinance which realigned parking in the major Town Center areas to better meet the needs of our residents who want to park and shop at Town Center businesses. The north side of SE 28th St., between 78th Ave. SE and 80th Ave. SE, was restriped, and many parking spaces in the core of the Town Center have been changed from "Permit Only" parking to "Two Hour Limit." Now that there has been some time to get used to the changes, enforcement will begin in January 2010. Residents, customers and commuters will need to pay attention to signage when they park on the street in these areas. Questions or concerns can be directed to Nick Afzali, Transportation Manager at (206) 275-7704 or Joyce Trantina, (206) 275-7720. To view a map and further information, please visit www.mercergov.org/TownCenterParking.

Pongo Speaks

Friday, January 8, 2010 at 7:00 pm

Youth Theatre Northwest,

8805 SE 40th St, Mercer Island

Youth Theatre Northwest proudly announces a vital partnership with the dynamic youth arts agency, Pongo Teen Writing. Based in Seattle, Pongo Teen Writing has provided arts-based curriculum for distressed and/or institutionalized teens for 14 years. Primarily working in our region's juvenile detention centers, Pongo helps troubled youth express the hard truths of their experiences through creative writing and honest, heart-felt poetry.

On January 8, talented youth and other performance artists will bring these wrenching—yet empowering—pieces to the stage. Admission is free. Due to language, violence and subject matter, Pongo Speaks is recommended for ages 12+. For more information, contact Youth Theatre Northwest: 206-232-4145. Pongo Speaks is produced in partnership with Mercer Island's Boys and Girls Club, Mercer Island Parks and Recreation and Mercer Island Youth and Family Services.

Register for Winter Parks and Recreation Programs!

Go to www.myparksandrecreation.com, find your Recreation Guide on-line at www.miparks.net, or call 206.275.7609



Hot Spot Basketball Competition

Sunday, January 24

12 pm to 1:30 pm

The Annual Hot Spot competition event is a basketball skills competition which involves shooting from five spots marked on the basketball court. Last year, Mercer Island had two athletes that won the State

competition, so come show us what you've got!! Ages 7 to 14 yrs., girls and boys. FREE, at the Community Center Gym.

Beginning Salsa Dancing

Wednesdays, January 20 – February 17

7:45 pm to 8:45 pm

This class introduces you to the rhythm and timing of the music, as well as the technique in leading and following. No partner needed Fee: \$50/5 wks, in the Community Center Dance Room.



Subscribe to MI WEEKLY

MI Weekly, the City's weekly newsletter is published each Wednesday. To request a weekly email of the most current City news, please contact joy.johnston@mercergov.org or visit www.mercergov.org/miweekly.

Copies are also available at various locations around the Island. More information: Joy Johnston, Communications Coordinator 206.275.7791.

More Ways to Get News:

<https://twitter.com/mercergov>

<http://www.youtube.com/MercerIslandGov>

Mercer Islanders Needed for Census Jobs

The US Census Bureau needs more Mercer Island residents to apply for Census jobs. The pay is \$17.50 an hour.

A testing date has been set for Mercer Island City Hall. Please call 425-749-5111 to sign-up for an Application and Testing Session on **Friday, January 15 at noon in the City Hall Council Chambers**, 9611 SE 36th St, Mercer Island.

Other dates also available. For more information about working for the Census, application and practice test, please visit: <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs> or call the Bellevue 2010 Census office at 425.749.5111. Nationwide, Census applicants can call 866-861-2010

Holiday Tree Chipping

Through January 10, the City of Mercer Island will be offering its annual holiday tree chipping service. Bring your undecorated Christmas tree to the City's Maintenance Shop at 9601 SE 36th St. and it will be chopped into useful materials for the City's parks, trails and open spaces.

Details:

- No flocked trees or artificial trees.
- Please remove stands.
- Remove all ornaments and lights.
- Deliver your tree only during daylight hours.
- Christmas trees only, please.

For more information about tree chipping, please contact the City's Maintenance Department at 206-275-7608.

Your City
Council...

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To learn more about the Mercer Island City Council, please visit the City website. Council Meeting agendas and supporting documents are uploaded to the website the Friday before each meeting.