Farmers Market Coming to Mercer Island!

The Farmers Market will begin on Sunday August 10, from 11 am to 3 pm on SE 32nd St at the north end of Mercerdale Park. Visit and shop for local produce weekly through Sunday October 12, 2008. Parking is available in the Farmers Insurance parking lot. The Mercer Island Farmers Market is organized by IslandVision and supported by grants from the Mercer Island Community Fund, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the City of Mercer Island.

For more information, please call Callie Ridolfi, Farmers Market Director at 206.232.8402
Town Center Update: Summer 2008

The Town Center projects constructed in the last several years have added over 850 new apartments, condos and senior housing in our town center, over 200 new public parking spots convenient to retail shopping, and several exciting new businesses and restaurants.

Located at 2420 76th Ave SE, Aljoya is currently finishing up construction and will have 112 independent and assisted living units when completed. A main feature of this project is that the courtyard plaza will adjoin the Sculpture Garden Park at the end of Sunset Highway. Aljoya is also funding improvements to the park including fountains and seating areas. The courtyard plaza at Aljoya will be open to the public during the day.

Located at 2441 26th Ave SE on the old Safeway site, BRE/Arterra has preliminary design approval to construct 161 apartments and 322 associated parking spaces. The first floor of the structure will have parking and street side retail and restaurant space. Additionally, the proposal includes a public plaza that when completed, will be approximately 5,600 square feet in size. The building has received final approval from the Design Commission, with construction estimated to begin in late 2008.

Monitoring construction traffic routes and street closures continues to be an important City staff function. If you have any question, comments, or complaints regarding the Town Center construction projects, please contact Matt Torpey at 206-275-7731 or via email at matt.torpey@mercergov.org

Funding for Mercer Island Parks

On May 19, Mercer Island City Council was presented with a recommendation from the Parks Levy Stakeholder Committee. The Stakeholder Committee is comprised of community members representing particular park interests such as Friends of Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island Little League, Open Space Conservancy, the Mercer Island Preschool Association and more. The committee has been meeting since December 2007 to develop a list of parks projects that could be funded through a levy lid lift and/or bond levy. With staff assistance, the committee developed and revised a ballot measure package with the goal of meeting a broad range of Mercer Island park needs as well as being appealing to the Mercer Island community.

The recommendation, which will be further considered by the City Council, included a permanent levy lid lift in the amount of $1.16 million annually proposed to support parks operations and maintenance. It includes replacement of the Luther Burbank Park Operations and Maintenance Levy which is set to expire in 2009. The recommendation also included a 20-year bond levy in the amount of $14.71 million for a number of capital projects. The total property tax impact on a $1.0 million dollar Mercer Island home would be about $250 annually. While exact timing or sequencing of project implementation has not been determined, the capital projects would be completed over a 9 year period with the more expensive projects such as Luther Burbank Shoreline Restoration and South Mercer Playfields improvements being the first priority.

Results of a recent survey indicated that there is a high level of support among Mercer Island voters for funding parks projects and various ongoing maintenance needs through a tax increase. Full results are available on the city’s website. Council will further consider the recommendation and financing options at the Mini Planning Session June 21. Once Council has deliberated and if they approve putting a measure on the ballot, the issue would go before voters in November 2008.

For more information, please visit www.mercergov.org/parkslevy.
76th Avenue Improvements in Town Center

Construction work on this roadway project, between SE 27th Street and the 3000 block, began in mid-May and is currently progressing on schedule. To date, new storm catch basins and drainage pipes have been installed along the project. Concrete curbs, sidewalks, and driveways have been removed and are in the process of being reinstalled. Asphalt paving work is scheduled for July. The City’s contractor, Construct Co., anticipates that by August 1st the project will be substantially completed and only minor construction work will remain to be finished.

Improvements to this portion of 76th Avenue include replacing curbs and sidewalks, storm drainage repairs and replacements, regrading of the roadway south of SE 29th Street, and asphalt paving of the entire roadway. On-street parking is being retained as much as possible. Several existing street trees have been removed due to their root masses under the sidewalk. New trees, better suited for sidewalk areas, will be replanted in November 2008.

Residents living in the vicinity of this project will continue to experience travel delays, detours, and temporary lane closures. The City and the contractor thank you for your patience during our construction work. For questions or concerns about the project, please contact Clint Morris, Street Engineer, at 206-275-7807 or via email at clint.morris@mercergov.org. Project updates are also available at www.mercergov.org/76thAvenue. More information about other road, water system and parks projects is available at www.mercergov.org/CIP.

SE 40th Corridor Improvements Coming this Summer

The City of Mercer Island will be improving traffic flow and safety in several areas around SE 40th Street from Gallagher Hill to Island Crest Way. Preliminary work included relocation of power poles by PSE to minimize impact to trees and vegetation along SE 40th. The majority of the construction on this project will occur in 2008.

On Feb. 21, 2006, Council appropriated funding and directed staff to proceed with the SE 40th Street Corridor Study. The SE 40th Street Corridor Study documents existing traffic conditions in the area, identifies deficiencies in the free flow of traffic called “level of service”, and develops a list of alternatives for transportation system improvements to address the needs of the corridor. The study also looks at ways to minimize neighborhood traffic intrusion by Mercer Island High School traffic, the proposed PEAK project and commuter traffic, particularly in the neighborhood of 86th Ave. SE near SE 39th Street. Two public open houses were held on March 14 and March 29, 2006 to hear resident comments.

On May 15, 2006, Council directed staff to add the SE 40th Street Corridor Improvement Project to the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

The SE 40th Street Corridor Improvement Project includes:

- Replacing and upgrading the traffic signal at the intersection of Island Crest Way & SE 40th
- Installation of a new traffic signal at 86th Ave. SE & SE 40th
- Re-alignment and lengthening of the westbound left and right turn lanes on SE 40th Street at Island Crest Way
- Addition of a northbound left turn lane at SE 40th Street / 86th Avenue SE
- Planted strip to separate the road from pedestrians
- Overlay SE 40th from ICW to 86th
- Channelization modifications at Gallagher Hill Rd.

More information is available at www.mercergov.org/SE40th. For questions about this project, please contact Joan Weiser, Project Manager, 206.275.7880, joan.weiser@mercergov.org. More information about other road, water system and parks projects is available at www.mercergov.org/CIP.

Seafair Bridge Closures: July 31-August 3

The Washington State Department of Transportation will close all lanes of I-90 between I-5 and Island Crest Way several times between July 31 and August 3 to keep drivers and pilots safe while the Blue Angels practice and perform during this year’s Seafair festivities.

Mainline closures:

- Thursday, July 31: Bridge closed from 9:45 a.m. to noon and again from 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm
- Friday, Aug. 1: Bridge closed from 12:45 pm to 2:40 pm
- Saturday, Aug. 2 and Sunday, Aug. 3: Bridge closed from 12:45 pm to 2:40 pm for the full shows.
- The bridge will be closed to pedestrians and cyclists up to 30 minutes prior to posted closure times.

Express lanes and ramp closures:

- The I-90 express lanes will close at 9 am on Thursday and 10:45 am Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Most I-90 ramps on Mercer Island and on I-5 leading to I-90 will close up to 30 minutes prior to posted closures. The westbound I-90 exits to Island Crest Way and East Mercer Way will remain open, although drivers should note that heavy congestion during these closures often restricts access to the exits.

The SR 520 bridge will remain open. Drivers wishing to cross Lake Washington using I-90 should drive across the lake at least an hour before the announced closure times. Further information and updates will be posted here: www.mercergov.org/seafair.
New Boating Program at Luther Burbank Park!
Youth Sailing Camps in partnership with Sail Sand Point
Jr Opti Camp (Ages 6-8 years) $226/wk
7/7-7/11 Mon-Fri, 9:00am-12:00pm & 1-4 pm
Opti Camp (Ages 8-13) $351/wk
8/4-8/8 and 8/11-8/15 Mon-Fri, 9 am-4 pm
Youth Kayak Camps - Ages:11-15 years, $301/wk
7/21-7/25 Mon-Fri, 9:30 am-12:30 pm & 1:30-5:30 pm
8/25-8/29 Mon-Fri, 9 am-12:30 pm & 1:30-5:30 pm
Adult Kayak Tours - $71/day
7/19 Sat, 10 am-1:30 pm
8/23 Sat, 2:30 pm-6 pm
Specialized Recreation Day Sails - $21/day
7/25 Fri, 11 am-4 pm
8/22 Fri, 11 am-4 pm
For more information, call Dannie 206.275.7891
Register at the Community Center: 206.275.7609

Nate Robinson Basketball Camp
New York Knicks guard and former University of Washington star Nate Robinson will host his first-ever "Nate Robinson Basketball Camp" at Mercer Island's Community Center at Mercer View benefiting Mercer Island Parks and Recreation.
The Nate Robinson Basketball Camp will provide boys and girls ages 6-16 with a structured basketball learning experience that encourages team participation and personal development. Robinson will be in attendance everyday instructing campers and helping them with basketball fundamentals. The camp will include guest speakers, low coach-to-camper ratio, several games per day and daily contests.
The cost of the four-day camp is $275. Campers will receive a reversible jersey, autographs, snacks, NY Knicks prizes and much more. Many of Robinson's NBA friends are scheduled to appear at the camp including Portland Trail Blazers guard Brandon Roy, NY Knicks teammate Jamal Crawford and Sacramento Kings center Spencer Hawes.
When: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 - Friday, August 1, 2008, 9 am – 4 pm
Where: Community Center at Mercer View
Contact: 206.275.7609 or www.miparks.net

New Play Structures in Mercer Island Parks
The City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department has completed the installation of three play structure replacements as part of the 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Program. Aging play equipment at Secret Park, First Hill Park and The Park at the Lid has been replaced. With help from the community and the Mercer Island Preschool Association, each park received a unique structure designed with the site in mind to maximize youth play opportunities. Community suggestions guided the selection of replacement equipment, as well as work done at the parks to improve visibility and safety through vegetation management. At Secret Park, swings and a play structure replace equipment damaged in the December 2006 windstorm. At First Hill Park a tree house is the theme for the play structure, the park also has a new slide and swing set. The Park at the Lid playground off West Mercer Way has a colorful new play structure with a ‘Seattle Skyline’ theme. For information about other parks projects, visit www.mercergov.org/CIP.

Improvements Coming to the Lakeridge Elementary Sports Field
Included in the 2007-08 biennial budget is a project to make minor improvements to the Lakeridge Elementary sports field. The adopted budget included $20,750 for this project. Later in 2007, the results from the ballfield study supported the idea of making these needed improvements as well as additional improvements at Lakeridge. Anticipating an expanded project scope, the City applied for and received a $28,000 Youth Sports Facility Grant from King County to help make additional repairs to this field. Planned repairs will now include leveling the field surface, drainage and irrigation improvements, turf rehabilitation, a new baseball backstop on the north field and an improved skinned north infield with new bases. These repairs will be made in priority order as funding allows.
In addition to the King County Grant, other organizations including the Boys and Girls Club (Little League), the Mercer Island Youth Soccer Association and Mercer Island Boys Lacrosse have committed to contribute additional funds totaling $9,750 to the project. The Mercer Island School District has also committed to contribute labor (valued at $6,000) toward the completion of the project. Once completed, the total value of the improvements at Lakeridge Field will be $64,500. The City's original level of funding ($20,750) has not changed.
The Lakeridge Elementary School sports field will be fenced off with temporary fencing right after school is out in mid June. The bulk of the work will be completed by city and school district maintenance staff starting in July after Summer Celebration and continuing through the beginning of September. The school district and the local sports organizations have agreed to keep the field closed until new turf is well established. The goal is to open the field on March 1st for the school’s use (recess and PE classes) and for the 2009 Little League season. There will be a grand reopening ceremony to thank all of the organizations who contributed to the project. For more information, contact Project Manager Mike Elde at 206.275.7872
Mercer Island Arts Council Summer Events

Mostly Music in the Park

- Sunday, July 20 – Portage Bay Big Band
- Thursday, July 24 – Craicmore (Celtic)
- Sunday, July 27 – How’s Bayou (Zydeco)
- Thursday, July 31 – Lost in The Fog (Bluegrass)
- Sunday, August 3 – Billy Joe and the Dusty 45’s (American Rock & Roll)
- Thursday, August 7 – Rouge (French Cabaret)
- Sunday, August 10 – Hot Club Sandwich (Django Jazz)
- Thursday, August 14 – Orchestra Zarabanda (Kinetic Cuban Dance)
- Sunday, August 17 – Emerald City Jugband

All concerts 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Mercerdale Park. Free admission. In case of rain, concerts will be cancelled and possibly rescheduled. For more information call 206.275.7609.

Indoor Gallery at the Community Center at Mercer View

- Monday, June 9 – Friday, July 18
  Multimedia exhibit by professional and beginner artists who participated in the many different art classes at the Community Center at Mercer View has offered over the past years. Meet the artists reception Thursday June 19, 5:30-7:30 pm.

- Monday, July 21 – Friday, August 29
  Photography exhibits by well-known local nature photographers; Dusty Cavaliere and Caryl Utigard. Meet the artists reception Thursday, July 31, 5:30-7:30 pm.

- Monday, September 8 – Friday, October 17
  Group exhibit by Women Painters of Washington

Shakespeare in the Park “Summer Outdoor Theater”

Pre-play Lectures - Featuring Perry Lorenzo
This arts lecture will provide fascinating history and insights on the two Wooden O Theatre productions for our Shakespeare in the Park series. Both lectures will be held at the Luther Burbank Amphitheater.

- Romeo and Juliet Lecture – Saturday, July 19, 5:30 pm
- Midsummer Night’s Dream Lecture – Saturday, August 2, 5:30 pm

Wooden O Theater Shakespeare in the Park

Roman and Juliet
July 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 at the Luther Burbank Amphitheater at 7 pm
July 12 at Mercerdale Park (Summer Celebration) at 5 pm

Midsummer’s Night Dream
July 24, 25, 27, 31 and August 1, 2 at Luther Burbank Amphitheater at 7 pm
To be determined: A showing on August 3 will be either at 2 pm or 5 pm at the Luther Burbank Amphitheater.

3rd Thursday Art Walks in the Town Center 5:30 to 8 pm
Join your neighbors in Mercer Island’s Town Center for the 3rd Thursday Art Walks, happening throughout the summer! This year, an exciting theme has been chose for each event. See you there!

- June 19 – Color M.I. Beautiful...enjoy themed planters in the Town Center
- July 17 – Fun in the Sun...come see what the Fun Mobile has to offer
- August 21 – Merchant Street Bazaar...surprises galore!

Summer Celebration
Community Parade Participates

WANTED!
It’s time to round up your partners and saddle up for this year’s “Happy Trails” Parade, 10 am on July 12, 2008! Dust off the hat and pull out the boots! Go to www.misummercelebration.com and complete your parade application. No entry fee! All ages invited! Deadline for Parade Entries: Friday, June 20, 2008

Contact: Diane Mortenson, 206.275.7861
diane.mortenson@mercergov.org

Look Who Has
Joined the Parks
and Rec Team!
Watch out for Leap this summer, you never know where he’ll be! Having a Birthday Party at the Community Center? Why not have Leap join you?
Call 206.275.7609 for more information.

Mercer Island Arts Council Presents:
Into the Ring with Perry Lorenzo ~ Subscription Series
Join Perry Lorenzo, Seattle Opera’s Education Director for a unique opportunity to prepare for Seattle Opera’s, 2009 summer production of The Ring. Fans travel to Seattle from around the world to experience the Seattle Opera’s productions of Richard Wagner’s epic opera, The Ring. Cost of each lecture is $15; enjoy all four for a discount.

- September 25, November 13, February 16 and April 23. All series lectures are held at the Community Center at Mercer View at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be served - for more information and tickets call: 206.275.7609

The Mercer Island Arts Council was established in 1985. Its mission is to nurture, promote, and support high-quality cultural arts activities for the community. Committees of the Arts Council, working with the support of Parks and Recreation staff, provide community activities such as art galleries, concerts and plays and literary events as well as support local artists with grants and acquire public art for the city. More information: www.mercergov.org or call 206.275.7609.
Mercer Island Quarterly


Mercer Island: A Community That Cares
A message from Derek Franklin, Youth and Family Services Administrative Manager

As a Youth & Family Services counselor on the Island, I witnessed firsthand the challenge of teaching teenagers to make healthy choices and resist early alcohol use. I was also impressed by the determination and creativity of Island parents when it came to teaching their kids resilience in the face of the alcohol industry's media campaigns and social drinking pressures. Yet parents are fighting influences that are both powerful and very real. Despite the best efforts of their families and friends, I witnessed too many island kids risking their health and futures with early and heavy alcohol use.

The underage drinking problem in our community is also real: in 2006, 49% of 12th graders reported regular alcohol use and 50% had smoked marijuana. Yet only 36% of those students reported that adults in their neighborhood strongly disapproved of underage drinking (2006 WA Healthy Youth Survey). Research also indicates that youth in affluent communities are at greater risk for alcohol problems than is widely assumed. The problem is complex and woven throughout very successful communities such as our own.

I often wondered how to make an impact on our underage drinking problem. How could I respond more positively to get at the source of the problem, rather than just reacting to the latest party bust? In family therapy, this proactive notion is called “second order change” - a change made not only to individual behaviors, but to the complex functioning of the family unit that allows unproductive family group behavior to continue. This concept may be applied to our community. If citizens joined with Island institutions and officials in a coordinated effort to impact policies, belief systems, and programs, there could be a powerful, systemic impact on underage drinking.

Then, in late 2007, I assumed a new role in the department and became involved with the Mercer Island Communities That Care Coalition (CTC). I quickly understood that such a change was already underway. CTC is a coalition of Island parents, youth, officials, clergy, professionals, businesses, YFS staff, school administrators, police and concerned citizens who have come together to reduce underage drinking by making changes to the community on a systemic level. This “environmental strategy” of CTC holds that effective prevention requires altering belief systems that support alcohol use. This means addressing complex factors such as social norms, mass media messages, as well as accessibility of alcohol. Recent CTC efforts include hosting a Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking at IMS and sponsoring a Social Hosting campaign to highlight issues related to providing alcohol to minors. Also, the CTC Youth Committee is creating youth activities as “cool” options to drinking. The pieces of the solution to underage drinking are already present in our community, and the collaboration is underway.

To join CTC or with questions, contact Sharon Broz, CTC Project Coordinator at 206.275.7743.

Mercer Island Thrift Shop Seeks Volunteers

Are you looking for a fun summer activity? Just imagine...the sun is shining, you hop on your bike and ride down to the Thrift Shop to help sort donations for a couple hours, then buzz on over the Baskin & Robbins for an afternoon ice cream - a perfect summer day! What could be better? A current Thrift Shop volunteer recently commented, “I volunteer at the Shop because it's fun, I can get cool stuff and I have made many new friends.” Would you like to join our volunteer team? The Thrift Shop is currently seeking

- Friendly people who like to be social and greet customers
- Cashiers who work well with people, money and details
- Retired engineers and other geeks who enjoy testing electronics
- Kids and adults of all ages who like to sort through donations and organize

If you would like to learn more about volunteering at the thrift shop, please call Suzanne Philen at 206.275.7753.

Food Pantry Dwindles in Summer Months

The Mercer Island Food Pantry is located at the Luther Burbank Administration Building in Luther Burbank Park. The Pantry is used by approximately 60 families per year. During summer months, stock of non-perishable food supplies dwindles. Please consider making a donation of non-perishables this summer. We are regularly in need of the following:

- Cereals
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Rice-a-Roni products
- Rice
- Hearty soups
- Toiletries
- Oatmeal

More information: 206.275.7611

Food and Fireworks at Summer Celebration

In conjunction with the annual fireworks on Mercer Island this summer, the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation will have fireworks of its own with a Barbecue Benefit. The feed will take place prior to the fireworks, held as part of the annual Summer Celebration, on the evening of Saturday, July 12, at Luther Burbank Park. The menu will include barbecue pork and beef, baked beans and other traditional western barbecue items. Tickets will be available for advance purchase or at the event and proceeds will benefit Mercer Island Youth and Family Services. More information: 206.275.7611

Visit the City website! www.mercergov.org

Printed on recycled paper.
Meet the New Mercer Island Firefighters!

Scott Logsdon, Firefighter
Started with MI Fire January 7, 2008
Graduated from Washington State University in 2000 with a degree in Business. Since graduating from college, worked in real estate and continued to pursue the goal of being a firefighter. Obtained EMT certification in 2005 Volunteer Firefighter for the city of Kirkland for over 2 years. Attended the Washington State Fire Training Academy to obtain Fire and Hazardous Material certifications. “Ever since I was a little kid I have had interest in being a Firefighter. It is a very exciting and rewarding job that is consistently offering new challenges, and at the end of the day you know you have made a positive impact on other people's lives. I was very fortunate to be hired by Mercer Island. It is a strong community and a fantastic place to work and I am proud to be a part of this team.”

Scott Logsdon, Firefighter

Tom Guttu, Firefighter
Date started with MI Fire April 25, 2008
Education and/or firefighting experience: Fire science Degree courses from Everett Community College, 4 Years Volunteer experience North Highline Fire, EMT, Washington State Fire Training Academy, Rescue Systems 1, Rescue 2, Ropes and Rigger. “I chose to become a firefighter because I want to have the opportunity to impact somebody's life in a positive way. I have always known firefighters to be the most positive role models in a community and that's who I want to be. Firefighting is a very physically and mentally demanding profession where being on your toes is a must. I couldn’t see myself wanting to do anything else. I chose Mercer Island Fire Department because I saw an opportunity for me to have a closer relationship with my community.”

Mark Givens, Firefighter/EMT
Started with MI Fire January 7, 2008
Graduate of Pacific Lutheran University with a B.A. in education. Completed EMT training in March 2007. Graduated from Washington State Fire Training Academy in April of 2008. Taught K-6 Physical Education at Brier Elementary School for about eight years prior to becoming a fire fighter. “I left a career that I enjoyed to peruse my life long dream of becoming a firefighter. I am very lucky and proud to have been hired by Mercer Island and have the privilege to work for a great department and serve the Island community.”

For more information about the Mercer Island Fire Department, visit www.mercergov.org/fire.

Boater Education Requirements

Boatersafety

More information about boat er safety is available on the City’s website at www.mercergov.org/boatersafety

Mercer Island Marine Patrol’s Newest Addition

The Mercer Island Police Department is proud to announce the addition of its newest marine patrol vessel Patrol 14, a 31’ SafeBoats International WAC (walk around cabin). This brings the department’s fleet to three vessels, including the primary vessel, Patrol 11, a 31’ Almar and the fast-response 23’ SafeBoats TT.

Mercer Island began its Marine Unit in 1983 after receiving services from King County’s Marine Unit for 10 years. The City of Mercer Island decided at that time to begin its own unit to provide 24-hour rescue capabilities. The program first trained a handful of officers on the operations of the city-owned maintenance and sewer department vessel known as “The Pumpkin” for its large cabin shape and orange coloring. The Police Department quickly saw a need for a dedicated police vessel and in 1984 took ownership of a 26’ Munson which was christened “Patrol 11.” Today, the Marine Patrol includes a full-time sergeant, marine technician and part-time, seasonal officers. In addition, several emergency boat operators are trained in the operation of the boats, which ensure 24-hour coverage for emergency responses.

Today’s Patrol 11 and the new Patrol 14 provide a full range of marine patrol services. Both vessels are outfitted with emergency medical supplies—the equivalent of an aid car or ambulance in King County. The third vessel in the fleet, Patrol 12, is a fast-response vessel in an emergency and is effective as an enforcement vessel in high traffic areas. Mercer Island Marine Patrol works closely with its neighboring marine agencies on Lake Washington and also contracts to provide marine services for the communities of Renton, Medina, Hunts Point, and Yarrow Point.

The primary educational program of the Mercer Island Marine Unit is its kindergarten water safety course. This past winter, they visited over 40 kindergarten classes in the area, reaching nearly 1000 children.

The Marine Unit also taught the Washington State Parks Department’s “Adventures in Boating” course to those citizens fulfilling the requirement for their mandatory Washington State boater education card. Beginning on January 1, 2008 boaters 12 years and over in Washington State are required to take or have taken a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and Washington State approved boating education course to operate a boat with a motor rated over 15 horse power. In 2008, this requirement applies to persons under 21 years of age with full implementation being phased in over the next several years.

To receive a Boater Education Card, boaters must complete the course then submit a copy of their course certificate along with the State Parks application. Boaters also have the option to fulfill boater education requirements online.

What you can do to boat safer:

- Wear a life jacket
- Never boat under the influence
- Take a boating safety course

More information about boater safety is available on the City’s website at www.mercergov.org/boatersafety
Assessing Island Landscapes to Improve Summertime Water Use

Recently, the City invited 300 of the top water use households on the Island to participate in the Landscape Assessment Program. The program helps Mercer Island residents reduce water usage while enhancing their landscape. This is the seventh year the City has offered the Landscape Assessment program.

Why conserve water?
While this year’s outlook for summertime water supply looks good, we still need to carefully manage and conserve our water resources to meet the needs of our growing region. The region’s fresh water supply water comes primarily from two sources: the Cedar River Watershed and the Tolt River Watershed, both located in eastern King County. The watersheds are large, uninhabited land areas that gather and store rain and snowmelt. Year-round, 26 cities and water districts rely on a limited supply of stored water from these two sources to meet most of the daily needs of business, government, institutions, and 1.3 million people in our region. In addition to providing clean, clear, reliable drinking water, the watersheds also provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Historically, Mercer Island has been one of the region’s bigger water users during the summer “demand” season.

How the Landscape Assessment Program Works
At no charge, noted landscape professional Howard Stenn of Stenn Design will perform an extensive assessment of resident irrigation systems, soil conditions, plantings, landscape maintenance and outdoor watering practices of those households invited to participate in the program. The assessment typically lasts two to three hours. Mr. Stenn then presents his findings to the participating resident and makes recommendations that will lower water use, prevent pest and disease problems and reduce maintenance needs. Residents who have taken advantage of the Assessment program in the past have found it to be valuable. Contact: Suzanne Riddell at 206.275.7784

Pay Your Utility Bill Online!
You can now pay your City of Mercer Island Utility bill online, anytime, using your Visa® or MasterCard® credit or debit card. You can also view your billing, payment and water consumption histories. To use this service, go to the City website www.mercergov.org and click on the link on the left side of the homepage that says “Pay Utility Bill.”