Please Register Your Alarm

Do you have a house or business alarm? If so, it is important that you take a moment to fill out the form included in this edition of the Mercer Island Quarterly. The Mercer Island Police Department is currently in the process of upgrading to a new alarm tracking database. The old database was created in 1998 and has outlived its usefulness. The new system will expedite the process of contacting homeowners and business owners and identifying false alarms. For example, the new database stores alternate contact information and lists authorized visitors to your house (such as housecleaners). If your alarm is activated while you are on vacation, police and fire personnel will be able to reach you or your emergency contacts. If police find someone in your house when responding to an alarm, they will be able to identify if that person is authorized to be there or not. The database will also store information regarding gate codes so that police and fire personnel will be able to respond to alarms more efficiently.

Alarm registration is required by law. Both residential and commercial alarms are governed under Mercer Island Municipal Code 8.10: “No alarm user shall operate, or cause to be operated, an alarm system at its alarm site without an emergency response card on file with the alarm administrator.”

All information is kept confidential and is accessible only to emergency personnel. Please take the time to fill out the enclosed form and return it to:

Mercer Island Police Department
Attn: Alarms Coordinator
9611 SE 36th St
Mercer Island WA 98040

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

City to Test Recycling Program at Luther Burbank Park

The Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department, with help from the solid waste utility fund, is undertaking a pilot recycling program at Luther Burbank Park. The program has been driven by citizen input and City staff’s desire to practice and model environmental stewardship and waste reduction. If the pilot project proves successful, the City hopes to expand the program in subsequent phases to several of the larger parks.

Eight new ‘recycling only’ receptacles have been installed at key locations around the park. The receptacle lids are clearly marked ‘recycling only’ and are designed to encourage park patrons to deposit plastic, aluminum and glass cans and bottles. They are placed in tandem with existing trash receptacles. The new recycle and trash receptacles are also made from recycled materials.

The City, in cooperation with Allied Waste, King County Solid Waste Division and Seattle Goodwill, is committed to reducing waste and encouraging recycling and have employed a number of recycling strategies for several years, including:

- Paper recycling in all City buildings and offices
- Cardboard recycling at City special events
- Spring and Fall community recycling events for household items
- Annual community Christmas tree wood chipping

Contact: Keith Kerner @ 206.236.3279

Subscribe to MI Weekly!

Do you want to know more about your city government? The City’s weekly newsletter, MI Weekly, is now available by email subscription. To request a weekly email of the most current City news, please contact joy.bueling@mercergov.org or visit www.mercergov.org/miweekly Copies are also available at City Hall, the Community Center, the Luther Burbank Park Admin Building, the library, and the Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, please contact:
Joy Bueling, Communications Coordinator at 206.236.7238
Share the Road – Safe Travels on Wheels or on Foot

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 4,700 pedestrians died from traffic-related injuries in 2003, and another 70,000 sustained nonfatal injuries. Adopting good habits whether you regularly drive, walk or bike around the Island can keep all road users safe – and save lives. Below are a few safety tips. For more information and further resources, please visit www.mercergov.org/sharetheroad

Safe Driving Tips

- **Expect the unexpected.** Be prepared for a child or pet to dart into the street, a piece of furniture to fall off a truck or a drunk driver to suddenly weave in front of your car. Expect the other drivers to make mistakes and think what you would do if a mistake does happen.
- **Don’t kid yourself.** If you plan to drink, designate a driver who won’t drink. Alcohol is a factor in almost half of all fatal motor vehicle crashes.
- **Remember as your speed increases so does your braking distance.**

Safety Tips for Cyclists

- **Obey traffic signs and signals - bicycles must follow the rules of the road like other vehicles.**
- **Scan the road behind you - learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving.** Some riders use rear-view mirrors. Always check behind you when changing lanes.
- **Wear a helmet and never ride with headphones.**
- **Make eye contact with drivers - assume that other drivers don’t see you until you are sure that they do.** Eye contact is important with any driver which might pose a threat to your safety.

Safety Tips for Walkers

- **Cross at marked crosswalks or intersections.** Pedestrians are most often hit by cars when they cross the road at places other than intersections.
- **See and be seen.** Drivers need to see you to avoid you.
- **Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near traffic at night.**

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**Mercer Island Guide to Food**

There are more places than ever for food on Mercer Island. Following is a current list of choices for your eating pleasure. This list was compiled by the Mercer Island GIS Department, source: www.metrokc.gov/health/foodsafety/inspections

### Town Center

**Albertsons Grocery Store**  2755 77th Ave SE  232-8244
**Alpenland Delicatessen**  2707 78th Ave SE  232-4780
**Baskin & Robbins Ice Cream**  2900 78th Ave SE  236-2781
**Bennett’s**  7650 SE 27th St #100  232-2759
**Domino’s Pizza**  7639 SE 27th St  236-6000
**Emerald City Smoothie**  7803 SE 27th St #176  275-0222
**French Market**  7525 SE 24th St  232-9810
**Gourmet Teriyaki**  7671 SE 27th St  232-0580
**Han’s Garden Restaurant**  3020 78th Ave SE  232-7889
**Haruko’s Japanese Restaurant**  3033 78th Ave SE  236-1557
**I Love Pho**  7605 SE 27th St #112  275-4300
**Islander**  7440 SE 27th St  232-6676
**Lil’ Tokyo**  2717 78th Ave SE  230-4120
**Maggie Moo’s Ice Cream & Treaty**  7808 SE 28th St #126  232-0974
**McDonalds**  2807 78th Ave SE  232-9175
**Noah’s New York Bagels**  7808 SE 28th St #124  232-8539
**Oh Chocolate**  2703 76th Ave SE  232-4974
**Pom Proem Thai**  3039 78th Ave SE  236-8424
**Qdoba Mexican Grill**  7650 SE 27th St #108  230-0072
**QFC - North**  7823 SE 28th St  230-0745
**R & R Espresso Express**  3077 78th Ave SE  236-1484
**Roberto’s Italian**  7605 SE 27th St #111  232-7383
**Shanghai Palace**  2885 78th Ave SE #101  230-8665
**Slo Jo BBQ**  7858 SE 28th St #105  275-0867
**Starbucks**  7695 SE 27th St  230-8847
**Starbucks**  7620 SE 27th St  275-3115
**Starbucks – QFC North**  7823 SE 28th St  230-0745
**Subway**  7679 SE 27th St  236-2734
**Thai on Mercer**  7691 SE 27th St  236-9990
**Tony Maroni’s Pizza**  2885 78th Ave SE #103  232-6400
**Tully’s Coffee**  7810 SE 27th St  236-2959

### North Island

**Roanoke Inn**  7825 72nd Ave SE  232-0800

### South Island

**El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant**  8451 SE 68th St #101  275-4900
**Georgio’s Subs**  8415 SE 68th St #112  275-3720
**QFC - South**  8421 SE 68th St  232-0102
**Sahara Pizza**  8425 SE 68th St #104  232-9800
**Starbucks**  8415 SE 68th St #100  586-6767
**Toshi’s Teriyaki**  8425 SE 68th St #118  232-0233
What Can Be Done About Solicitors?

Mercer Island’s ability to regulate solicitors has been limited by court decisions during the last few years. Mercer Island cannot legally prohibit all solicitation in the City because courts have held these rights are protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

If you do not wish to have solicitors at your door, post a "No Trespassing" and/or "No Solicitation" sign on your property.
If a solicitor still approaches your door after posting such signage, the solicitor is trespassing and the City can take legal action against the solicitor. To report a trespassing solicitor, contact the Mercer Island Police Department at 425.587.3400 (non-emergency) or 911. Also, citizens are encouraged to find out more about the legitimacy of an organization prior to donating funds. The State of Washington has a database of all registered charitable organizations: www.secstate.wa.gov/charities

Background
In response to an Order issued by Federal District Court Judge Coughenour in the matter of Peace Action of Washington v. City of Medina enjoining its solicitation ordinance, the City Attorney's Office is working on revising the City's current solicitation ordinance. Certain provisions in the Mercer Island's ordinance are similar to the City of Medina's ordinance, including the requirement that all solicitors register with the City. The Court held that registration requirement constituted a prior restraint on First Amendment free speech. The City Attorney is reviewing case law and will work with the ACLU in proposing certain amendments for the City Council's consideration in 2007.

Contact: Comments can be submitted to attorney@mercergov.org

Sewer Lake Line Replacement Project Update

Work continues on this project which will replace a 9,000-foot segment of sewer line located in Lake Washington along the north and northwest shoreline of the Island. The line was installed in the mid-1950's and is constructed of asbestos-cement (AC) material. The existing lake line system in this location has been experiencing ongoing pipeline deterioration, capacity deficiencies and operation and maintenance problems.

Construction Schedule – Looking Ahead
Construction is now expected to begin in 2007 (pending permit approval). Construction will extend over two summers, due to the in-water work window requirements. Regulatory agencies allow work in the water only during summer months, from mid-July through September.

Planning, Environmental Review and Permitting
Project is in permitting and final design phase. Re-notification issued for City land use approvals required for the project (re-notification was required due to moving Pump Station 4) Pre-application meeting for remainder of City permits held in October. The easement process is on target. The permit application is currently undergoing review by seven different agencies, including the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington Department of Ecology and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. All permits are expected to be received by the end of the year. Construction documents are at 60% complete.

Mitigation
A project of this magnitude creates unavoidable environmental impacts that must be mitigated. The City has discussed several approaches with the permitting agencies that will help reduce these impacts. For example, the City will make improvements that protect and restore the eroding shoreline, improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve public access in two locations. Also, in order to avoid disturbing the spawning cycles of lake spawning and migrating salmon, in-water construction will occur only during approved work windows, from mid-July through September. A complete list of mitigation measures is available on the City’s website.

Please visit www.mercergov.org/lakeline or contact
Anne Tonella-Howe, Project Manager @ 206.236.7687 or anne.tonella-howe@mercergov.org.

2007-2008 City Budget
As prescribed by Washington State Law, the City Manager submits a proposed budget for City Council review and adoption. Citizens were invited to attend and participate in budget meetings throughout the past three months. The final budget approval was scheduled for the December 11, 2006 Council Meeting. Budget documents will be available for viewing at City Hall, the Mercer Island Library and the City’s website: www.mercergov.org/budget
Be sure to check out the Winter Parks and Recreation Guide!
There are many new and exciting classes that will be offered this winter season. Beat the "winter blues" and try something new! For more information and a full list of activities, stop by the Community Center to pick up a Winter Recreation Guide, available December 11, visit miparks@mercergov.org or call 206.236.3545.

For Families...
- Get Outdoors! Volunteer Park Projects throughout the Island
- Family Valentine Dance, Friday, February 9, 6:30 pm at the Community Center
- Paint Your Own Ceramics! February 7, 7 pm Community Center Art Room
- Dog Obedience Class starts March 11

55+ Activities...
- Trips to America's Car Museum, Flower World, Maltby Cafe, Snoqualmie Falls and more
- "Understanding Your Computer" Classes, January 11 through February 8, 1pm - 3pm
- Solemates Walking Group - Leave from the Community Center Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am
- Men's Exercise, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 8 am in the Community Center gym
- Pickleball, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 10 am in the Community Center gym

Activities for Adults:
- Need help with your New Year's resolution? Call 206.236,3545 to make your appointment with Personal Trainer Christi Masi
- Learn about American cinema in the new "Film Noir Cycle Class" on Thursdays starting March 8
- Learn how to sell on eBay, Monday, January 22, 5:30 pm
- Belly Dancing - Be daring and try something new this year! Tuesdays at 6 pm at the Community Center starting January 16
- The Healthy Body Program for Women - This new class will include resistance training, cardio exercise, and stretching with fitness assessments and nutritional counseling.

Preschool and Youth Activities:
- Nowhere to go on those cold and rainy days? Bring your child to the Community Center for new indoor playground program. Balls, mats, games, and more are in the gym for the little ones to run and play all winter long.
- Hooper's Basketball Classes - learn the fundamentals on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4pm
- Art for Kids is a great class to enhance your child's enjoyment of art. Classes start January 17 on Wednesdays.
- Gymnastics Classes - a great way to build strong bodies while having fun.

The Golden Era of Hollywood Musicals
Lance Rhoades, Director of Film History at the Seattle Film Institute, will present a multi-media survey celebrating The Great American Musical on January 11 at 7 pm at the Community Center at Mercer View. Lance will share his research and insights on dynamic people such as Vincente Minnelli, Lerner and Loewe, Gene Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Astaire and Rodgers. Whether they were behind or in front of the camera, it was an all out effort to create and perfect the incomparable musicals we still enjoy today. Lance will provide fascinating commentary following each of our films shown at the Mercer Island Library.

The upcoming film schedule is as follows:
January 6 American in Paris (1951)
January 20 Gigi (1958)
February 3 Top Hat (1935)
February 24 My Fair Lady (1964)
March 10 Meet Me In St. Louis (1944)
March 24 Singin' In The Rain (1952)
All films shown Saturdays at 1 pm. Admission, popcorn and refreshments are complimentary.

Visit the City website! www.mercergov.org
Great News from the Thrift Store
Just in time for the holidays...hours for retail sale and donation acceptance have expanded at MITS!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retail Sales:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday through Friday: 10 am to 7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday and Monday: Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Donations accepted during these times:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday through Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday: Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The thrift shop is operated by community volunteers. We need your help! We are looking for people who enjoy interacting with the public and are willing to be trained as a cashiers or customer service volunteers. There are three-hour shifts available in the mornings, afternoons and evenings on all retail days. To schedule an interview so that we can get to know each other, call Suzanne Philen at 206.236.3625 or visit www.mercergov.org/thriftstore.

Don’t miss the Mercer Island Thrift Shop Year-End Sale December 19 through January 6. The sale features 99¢ per pound on sale items every Saturday during the sale!

MIYFS Foundation Seeks New Members

Would you like to volunteer for an important cause? The MIYFS Foundation Board is seeking new board members. Our board consists of thirteen community members from all walks of life who bring their respective expertise to the board. The Foundation’s mission is to raise funds to increase the quantity and quality of youth and family services on Mercer Island. Each member serves for three years within the following criteria:

- Enhance community awareness about MIYFS programs
- Actively participate in and promote positive external relationships with government, the Mercer Island business community and other vital funding sources
- Serve on planning committees for fundraising events, board recruitment and/or financial management
- Establish and meet fundraising goals on annual basis, and participate in strategic long term financial planning

If you would like to complete an application, please contact Cynthia Goodwin at 206.236.3525.

Year-Round VOICE Program Up and Running Soon!

Introducing the new Youth Development Coordinator

Hello! My name is Michelle Morse, and as the new Youth Development Coordinator at YFS, I would like to introduce myself. I was a VOICE volunteer throughout high school and returned to VOICE as a project leader for a summer. I attended Barnard College, Columbia University and majored in Africana Studies and Anthropology. For the past three years, I have lived, worked, and researched extensively in Africa. Now I am so excited to return to VOICE as the Coordinator!

The year-round volunteer program will be up and running shortly. Look out for projects at Books to Prisoners, NW Harvest, MI Parks and many more. The 2006-2007 Winter Project Calendar will be coming soon.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me. You can call me at 206.236.7293, or email michelle.morse@mercergov.org. Also, be sure to check for updates on our website: www.mercergov.org/VOICE. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be, please let me know!

I’m looking forward to meeting and working with VOICE volunteers this year!

~Michelle Morse

Mark Your Calendar!
MIYFS Foundation Event - Giving from the Heart Breakfast - Thursday, February 15, 2007

Visit the City website! www.mercergov.org
Washington State Ranked 7th in the Nation for Identity Theft: How to Protect Yourself

Identity theft rings are a growing problem in Washington State, which is currently ranked 7th highest in the nation for identity theft crimes. Identity theft crimes are often tied directly to drug use and highlighted a case in which a ring leader recruited several drug users to steal mail, purses, wallets and database information to commit hundreds of identity theft crimes.

Several career criminals in our area who are directly related to identity theft have been successfully prosecuted recently, including a case which Mercer Island’s Sergeant Robarge investigated and filed. Some offenders are facing enhanced sentences. One offender will be sentenced to approximately 19 years in prison due to the severity and number of his crimes committed in the Seattle metropolitan area.

Tips for Preventing Identity Theft:

- Request a credit check each year and review the credit check for red flags, such as credit accounts which are not familiar.
- Be vigilant for bills that do not arrive on time, unexpected credit cards or account statements, denials of credit for no apparent reason and calls or letters about purchases you did not make.
- Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information.
- Protect your social security number and never give the number out as an identifier. Do not give out personal information.
- Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails and do not use obvious passwords such as your birth date, mother’s maiden name or your social security number.

For more information, visit: www.atg.wa.gov

High School Neighborhood Parking Update

Parking in the high school neighborhood has been an ongoing concern for the City, the School District and surrounding neighbors. Current parking restrictions do not allow anyone to park on several neighborhood streets near the high school between 7 am to 4 pm on school days. To gauge interest in creating a “restricted parking district” (RPD), the City and School District held an open house on October 17. Over 120 people attended the meeting and many comments have been collected since the meeting. Comments were been mixed and ranged from support of the RPD (30%) to those who would like the “no parking on school days” restriction to remain as is (45%).

At the November 6 Council Meeting, Council passed a motion to “maintain the status quo.” Action on an RPD will be delayed until more is known about how the PEAK Project will impact the High School neighborhood. The “no parking” signs posted in the neighborhood surrounding the high school site will remain as they are now, prohibiting parking between the hours of 7 am to 4 pm on school days, and that enforcement will be increased. Council also directed staff to look at whether or not there is a need for “no parking” signs in additional areas near the high school.

For comments or questions regarding parking in the high school neighborhood, please email nancy.fairchild@mercergov.org

Holiday Safety Tips

The Mercer Island Fire Department wishes everyone the best of holidays and a happy new year. We also ask everyone to take a little extra care and attention to make it a safe holiday:

- Select a fresh Christmas tree. Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Bounce the tree trunk on the ground to see if many needles fall off. Before placing the tree into the base ask the lot attendant to cut a small section off the butt of the tree to expose a fresh trunk.
- Care for your tree. Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. There is no other treatment or additive other than keeping the stand filled with water each day that will help the tree resist ignition. If you can squeeze the needles and they crack and crumble in your hand the tree must be removed.
- Maintain holiday lights. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Do not leave holiday lights unattended.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.

Contact: Rod Mandery, Fire Marshal
206.236.3515
Toilets - Friend or Foe?
Did you feel flushed the last time you looked at your water bill? If your water usage and the corresponding charges were unusually high, a running toilet might be the culprit. Many people do not realize that a running toilet can send thousands of gallons of water as well as your money down the drain – literally. For example, a typical household of two uses about 4,500 gallons of water per month. A household with a running toilet can use over 30,000 gallons of water per month.

Mercer Island residents are sometimes unaware of the problem until they receive their water bill. “The [running] toilet is in a location of the house that made it difficult to notice the issue,” commented one resident. Another explained, “My husband and I were out of town over the summer. When we came home, our bathroom toilet handle was stuck down.” Residents like these might receive water bills that are 5 to 7 times higher than usual.

So how do you catch a running toilet?
- Periodically check all toilets in the house and listen for the sound of running water.
- If you are unsure, drop a small amount of dye (such as food coloring) into the tank. Do not flush the toilet. If the dye eventually appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.
- If you find a running toilet, have it fixed by a plumber as soon as possible to avoid wasting water.

Running toilets are a fairly common problem and usually due to toilet parts that have worn down over time. So, check your toilets and you just might see those high water bills take a plunge. For further water conservation tips, please visit www.mercergov.org/conservation

Flu Season Precautions for You and Your Family
With flu season upon us, recommended precautions for Pandemic Influenza are pertinent precautions for the common flu. To help protect yourself and others from contracting the flu it is important to remember to:
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue and then throw it away.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water (in a pinch alcohol based hand sanitizers will work).
- Limit touching your eyes and mouth. Germs are easily spread from hand to mouth or eye contact.
- Stay home when you are sick. Drink plenty of fluids and rest.

To care for an individual with the flu:
- Keep the person comfortable
- Give liquids
- Keep tissues in the trash
- Fever is a sign that the body is fighting the illness
- If symptoms become worse call your health care provider

What is the difference between the flu season and Pandemic Influenza? Pandemics occur when there is a new strain of flu virus that people have not been exposed to before that spreads rapidly. Without exposure human bodies do not build immunities to the virus. Likewise without exposure it is difficult to develop a vaccine. It could take up to six months to develop a vaccine after a new pandemic virus emerges.

What can you do to prepare? As with any other emergency situation having your emergency kits prepared will help. Remember to be prepared for at least a week. Items specific for pandemic to include in your kit:
- Have enough food and water available to sustain each person in the household for a week or more.
- Keep extra prescription medications available.
- Make sure to include flu relief items in your first aid kit (ibuprofen, acetaminophen, etc).
- Blankets
- Trash bags
- Toiletries
- Pet supplies
- Cash

While we have not yet had an outbreak you can keep up to date and learn more by visiting these sites: www.doh.wa.gov/panflu, www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap, www.pandemicflu.gov, www.cdc.gov/flu/pandmic www.who.int

New Hours for the Police Records Department

Monday through Friday
8 am to 5 pm,
closed on weekends.

Did you fill out the alarm registration form included in this edition of the Mercer Island Quarterly? Please return it to: Mercer Island Police Dept, Attn: Alarms Coordinator 9611 SE 36th St Mercer Island WA, 98040. Thank you for your help and cooperation!
Argosy Christmas Ship Festival Makes Scheduled Stop at Luther Burbank Park Beach
December 17, 2006

In the spirit of the holiday season, Island residents are invited to join in a community welcome of Argosy's Spirit of Seattle – the official Christmas Ship that will make a scheduled stop at Luther Burbank Park Beach on Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 pm. The Christmas Ship with a flotilla of other lighted boats will arrive around 5:50 pm at the park beach and depart at 6:10 pm for its next scheduled waterfront destination.

Enjoy the Christmas Ship decorated with hundreds of shimmering white lights and miles of holiday garland. Aboard the ship, hear the voices of the Con Brio Women’s Choir as they sing holiday greetings that will be broadcast from ship to shore. To celebrate this festive holiday evening, the Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Department will provide a community bonfire on the beach; and complimentary hot beverages and cookies will be served with special thanks to Starbucks Coffee and Albertsons on Mercer Island. Attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift that will be donated to a local charity by the staff at Starbucks Coffee.

Event parking is available in the north and south lots at Luther Burbank Park and at the Community Center at Mercer View. A limited number of parking spaces for the disabled are located in the north parking lot at Luther Burbank Park. The terrain of the park is uneven and walking shoes are suggested along with flashlights – as the park will be dark.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 206.236.3545, visit www.miparks.net or via email at miparks@mercergov.org