

MEDINA SUN

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June 2019

Maintaining Medina

Coming to your election ballot November 2019

Medina is a special place to live

Medina's quality of life is second to none. You make this possible by engaging in the community, supporting neighbors, paying property taxes and learning about and shaping City policies. Your City government does its part by providing services—police, fire, medical aid, parks and natural areas, municipal court, permitting, etc.—and by being judicious stewards of public funds.

The City is at a financial crossroads

Rising costs are making it difficult for the City to provide the level of services our community has come to expect. To date, we've been able to balance the budget through aggressive cost-savings measures, identifying additional revenue sources and dipping into reserves. But we can no longer find efficiencies without impacting service delivery.

The 1% rule

You may find it hard to imagine that the City doesn't have enough income to sustain current service levels, particularly in this economy. While property values continue to rise, the City's tax revenues don't rise in tandem. This is because the City's tax revenues are not based on a percentage of your property value; instead, the City is authorized to collect a certain amount of property tax each year, and each homeowner pays a proportional share of that predetermined amount. Since 2001, local governments (like Medina) are not allowed to raise their portion of the property tax levy beyond one percent (1%) a year without a vote of the public. The City's total 2019 property tax income will be \$2.8 million, and a 1% increase would only yield an additional \$28,000 for the City in 2020, not nearly enough to cover the rising cost of services. Fire services alone increased by nearly double that amount in 2019.

You decide

This fall, the question of how to maintain Medina will go to voters. The Medina City Council is placing a levy lid lift measure on the Nov. 2019 ballot. If approved, the levy lid lift would provide funds to continue current service levels without significant cuts.

What's next

We know the community will have many questions about the City's financial situation, how we got here, and what this ballot measure will mean for individual Medina residents. Over the next five months, we will share factual data related to the City budget and the levy lid lift measure to ensure you have the information you need. Please visit maintainmedina.org to learn more.

City budget facts

- The City budget is lean; it funds mandated and essential services
 - \$6.4 million: Total 2019 City Operating Budget
 - 95%: Proportion of budget spent on services mandated by law and essential services that support them
 - 49%: Proportion spent on public safety—police, fire, medical aid, courts, harbor patrol
- The City is heavily reliant on property taxes to pay for services
 - 44%: Proportion of City revenue from property taxes
 - 8%: Proportion of your property taxes that stays in the City of Medina. Most of your property taxes pay for County and State services such as schools, transit, and other agencies which also help make Medina a great place to live.
 - 4th lowest in King County: Medina's current property tax rate
- We're on an unsustainable path
 - \$500,000: Projected City deficit by 2020
 - \$3.3 million: Projected City cumulative deficit by 2025

About the proposed multi-year levy lid lift

Cost on a \$2 million Medina home:

- In 2020, the levy lid lift would increase the property taxes by \$400 per year, less than \$34 per month.
- At the end of the 6-year levy period in 2025, the homeowner's annual increase will be \$589 per year, or \$49 per month.

Shredder/Drug Take Back/ E-recycling/Emergency Preparedness Day:

On Saturday, April 20, Medina PD held a Shredder/Drug-Take Back/E-cycle/Emergency Preparedness Day at St. Thomas Church. The event was tremendously successful; residents were able to safely shred documents, over 30 pounds of drugs were collected, and the electronics recycling truck was almost filled.

Appreciation goes out to Records Manager Barbara Marxer for organizing the event and Captain Dave Scherf, Sergeant Austin Gidlof, and Police Administrative Specialist Sunita Hall, Police Officer Tim Crooker for working it.



New E-Lert

Don't Miss Police Notifications and Alerts!

The Community E-Lert Program is designed to promote community safety and to alert residents of criminal or suspicious activities in our communities. Other features of the program include keeping residents aware of upcoming events and emergency preparedness.

Effective June 1, 2019, the Medina Police Department will use a new system to transmit E-Lert.

To receive E-Lert communications follow these steps:

- Go to the city webpage <https://www.medina-wa.gov/>
- Select City Government
- Under Departments, select POLICE
- Once on the Police page, select E-lert Registration, and follow the instructions \ to register.

Once you have registered, you will receive E-Lert notifications to your email address.

Please feel free to contact us at (425) 233-6420 with any questions.



Contacts:

City of Medina City Hall:.....501 Evergreen Point Road
 Medina, WA 98039
 City Hall Phone:.....425-233-6400
 City Hall Fax:.....425-451-8197
 City Hall Hours:7:30 am - 4:00 pm
 Police Department:
 Non-Emergency:425-233-6420
 After office hours:911
 Emergency:911
 Mayor:Cynthia Adkins
 City Council Members:Roger Frey, Jennifer Garone, David Lee,
Alex Morcos, Jessica Rossman, Sheree Wen
 City Manager:Michael Sauerwein
 Police Chief:Steve Burns
 City Clerk:Aimee Kellerman
 Director of Development Services:Steve Wilcox
 Director of Public Works:Ryan Osada
 Director of Finance:Julie Ketter
 Website:www.medina-wa.gov

Upcoming Events

Coffee with the City Manager & Mayor

Dates: 3rd Wednesday of each Month:

June 19, July 17, and August 21

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Location: Queen Bee – Clyde Hill

Life Guard Season at Medina Beach Park

Begins: Monday, June 24

Time: Daily: 12:00 to 7:00 PM

Ends: Sunday, August 25

Medina Days

Tuesday, August 6 – August 10

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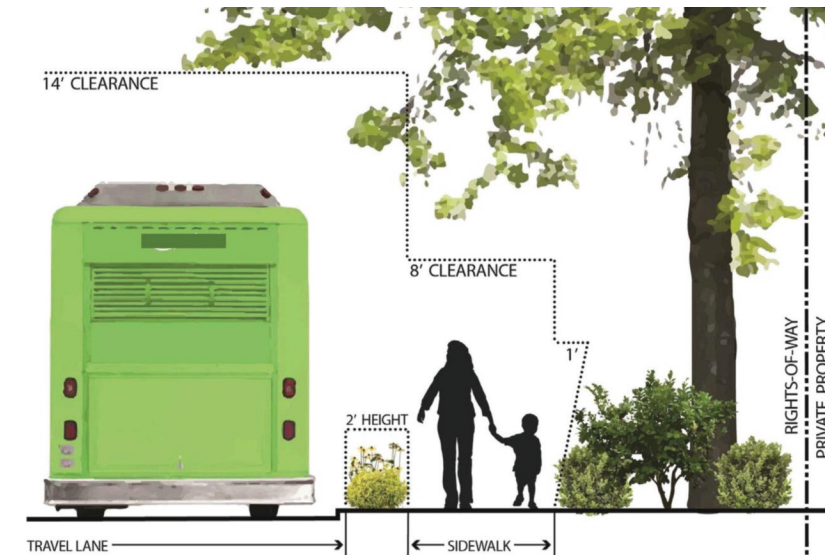
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Overgrown Vegetation?

The growing season is here and it's time to get ahead of the yearly trimming along the Right-of-Way. Did you know, per the Medina Municipal Code 20.52.420 – Owner responsibility with in city rights-of-way, that property owners are responsible for keeping the adjacent right-of-way clear of vegetation overgrowth? Keeping sidewalks and pedestrian paths clear and free from overhanging vegetation is important for the safety of the community. Please contact Ryan Osada, Public Works Director rosada@medina-wa.gov, for help or information.



MMC 20.52.420 Owner responsibility within city rights-of-way.

A. All owners of property adjoining a city right-of-way shall be responsible for maintaining all trees, shrubs, and other landscaping planted in the adjoining right-of-way by the property owner or previous owner of the property, or for which responsibility has been assumed by the owner through a recorded agreement with the city.

B. All owners of the property adjoining a city right-of-way shall ensure the trees, shrubs and landscaping in the right-of-way adjoining their property do not interfere with the free passage of vehicles and pedestrians or cause any risk of danger to the public or property.

E. For the purpose of this chapter, an owner shall be considered adjoining up to the centerline of the city right-of-way. (Ord. 923 § 31, 2015)