

April 2020

MEDINA SUN



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A Short History of Medina

In the beginning, they just gave Medina away. Under the Homestead Act of 1862, settlers could stake out 160 acres of vacant land and gain ownership in a few years. For nothing! Medina, of course, had been occupied by Native Americans on and off for thousands of years, but under an 1855 treaty, all native peoples had been moved to reservations. By the time the first white settlers arrived on the Eastside in the 1870s, it was empty.

In the 1880s a few intrepid families made their way across the lake to Medina, and by 1890 there were perhaps 20 active landowners. Medina's first permanent settler was Thomas Dabney, who built the first ferry dock, at the end of NE 8th Street. He tried to name the entire community Flordeline, but three ladies, Flora Belote, Ruby Burke and Eliza Geicker, came up with a better idea: Medina.

Soon Medina had all the trappings of a real community. Passenger ferries operated from wharfs around the city. The Green Store opened in 1908, with a post office in the rear (where it remained until the 1970s). That same year, Edward Webster built two large homes on Overlake Drive (both still standing) which were the first executive estates in the city. A road network gradually took shape.

A big change came in 1910, when Medina formed its own school district and built a school at the SE corner of 84th Avenue and NE 10th Street. Many older children attended high school in Seattle.

The next big change was the introduction of a car ferry, the Leschi. Medina became the primary car link for the central part of the Eastside. Medina City Hall was originally the ferry terminal, complete with a lunch counter.

For the next 50 years, Medina gradually added new institutions—churches, an expanded school, gas station, real estate office, Overlake Country Club—but like the rest of the central Eastside, growth was slow



and the community was quiet. Social life revolved around the Medina Women's Club and the Medina Improvement Club, which hosted regular parties and dinners. And as with other parts of the Eastside, Japanese families were an important part of the community.

Then came the change that rocked not only Medina, but the entire Eastside: the opening of the new bridge across Mercer Island in 1940. The Leschi made its last run the day before the bridge opened and Medina, once the center of the Eastside's transportation network, now found itself on the periphery. The bridge would bring rapid growth to the entire area after World War II.

Next: growing up and becoming a city.

Development Services Department

Medina's Development Services Department has responsibility for the enforcement of private land use, building, drainage, and various environmental laws adopted by our City. Few changes were made in Development Services basic operations since the City incorporated in 1955. During the past two years we have been working to change the way this department has traditionally operated. Our perspective as staff and the presentation of our services is changing.

We have established a new vision, and a clarified mission. Our essential focus remains to protect the public's health and safety while working to assure preservation of the quality of life including storm water quality and clean air. New and enhanced efforts to protect neighborhoods from negative and sometimes hazardous effects of construction have been implemented. Efficiencies through electronic permitting and electronic plan review are about to be implemented. We want to deliver a service that is accurate, predictable, efficient, and logical.



Development Services consists of four staff members who are supported by professional consultants. Stephanie Keyser is our Planning Manager with responsibility for our land use code enforcement and is also staff liaison to the Planning Commission. Stephanie has been with Medina since December 2018. Amber Kellison is our new Development Services Coordinator and recently joined the City of Medina after working for the City of Covington and before that for a private construction company. Amber's responsibilities include permit tracking and routing and over time she will be working on organizational and technical projects which continue to change the way our department operates. Steve Wilcox is the Director and the Building Official. He has been with Medina since 2007. A fourth position for Deputy Building Official is currently unfilled.

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City Council Members:.....Cynthia Adkins, Roger Frey,
.....Jennifer Garone, Harini Gokul, Alex Morcos, Bob Zook
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

A Friendly Reminder to Please Pickup After Your Pets

We live in a great time to be a dog owner. More and more, we are seeing businesses and other establishments becoming pet friendly. This is good news for those of us who love our furry friends and enjoy having them with us. However, there is a danger from the dog poop that many of us leave behind. It is estimated that over 40% of American dog owners do not pick up the poop after their dogs. There are over 89 million dogs in the US, so that means that over 35 million dogs are not picked up after. It's not the dog's fault, it is the dog owner's responsibility. Please be a responsible pet owner and encourage others to do the same.



Medina Municipal Code 12.24.010
L. All dog feces shall be picked up by the owner or handler and removed from the public park and/or adjacent private property.

ECRWSS
Postal Customer



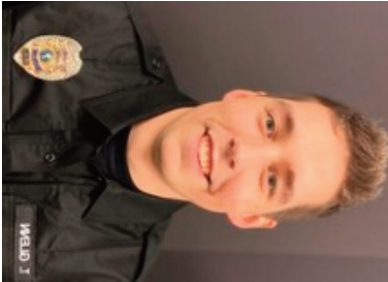
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The City of Medina hired two new police officers to bring the department back up to fully staffed. Both officers are lateral candidates with previous law enforcement experience and have the interpersonal characteristics we look for in our employees.



Police Officer Connor Bell started with Medina in February after spending over three and half years with Mesa County Sheriff Office in Colorado. Bell has been a field training officer, instructed at the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy, and is recognized for his strong community policing philosophy. Bell's experience and outward positive demeanor make him a great addition to our team.



Police Officer Tyler Glenn started his law enforcement career in Medina in March. He has over three years law enforcement experience – all with Clyde Hill Police Department. Glenn has shown a strong commitment to the Points Communities and has established himself as a positive and outgoing officer. Glenn's experience and knowledge of our community makes him a great addition to our team.

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