

April 2025

MEDINA SUN

See this in color at: www.medina-wa.gov

Join Medina's Emergency Preparedness Network: MERRT Radio Team Opportunity

One of the great benefits of living in Medina is the willingness of the community members to engage with one another and serve their community in a multitude of ways. One of those ways to get involved is to participate in the Medina Emergency Radio Response Team (MERRT)! In 2007, several of the licensed amateur radio operators in Medina began an emergency traffic network ("net"). The group expanded our mission: volunteering our skills to assist and support you in the use of your public service radio by establishing a similar regular net meeting for you and fellow radio volunteers, the Medina Public Service Radio Group, now known as the Medina Emergency Radio Response Team (MERRT).

As part of MERRT, you will have the opportunity to participate every Sunday night at 7pm in a handheld radio exercise with many other community members who share a common interest in emergency preparedness and community engagement. If you or someone you know might be interested in obtaining a radio and in participating on the radio team (MERRT), contact Medina Police Captain Austin Gidlof via email at agidlof@medina-wa.gov. More information about the MERRT program can be found on the Police Department's website as well.

City Manager Steve Burns to Retire After 10 Years of Dedicated Service

On January 13, 2025, City Manager Steve Burns has announced his retirement from the City of Medina, effective June 6, 2025.

Steve's journey with Medina began on September 2, 2014, when he was appointed Chief of Police following a distinguished 25-year career with the Washington State Patrol. In December 2021, after City Manager Michael Sauerwein's resignation, the Medina City Council appointed Steve as interim city manager. Recognizing his leadership and dedication, the council unanimously voted six months later to make him the permanent city manager.

Throughout his tenure, Steve has made a lasting impact on Medina, serving with integrity, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to the community. Known for his positive energy and strong engagement with residents, staff, and local jurisdictions, he has helped shape Medina's future in meaningful ways.

To honor Steve's service, the community is invited to a retirement celebration on:

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

5-7PM | Overlake Golf & Country Club

As Medina prepares for this transition, the City is partnering with GMP Consultants to identify its next city manager. For more details visit <https://gmphr.applicantstack.com/x/detail/a2nm8xmprqxc/aa0>

We extend our deepest gratitude to Steve for his years of dedication and leadership and wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement!

Medina Burglary & Auto Theft Suspect Apprehended in Multi-Agency Operation

The Medina Police Department is happy to announce that the suspect in at least two burglaries and one theft of a motor vehicle that occurred in Medina in December of 2024 has been apprehended. A joint Seattle Police, Medina Police and Federal Law Enforcement Investigation identified and eventually captured the suspect during a joint operation on February 27th. The suspect faces upwards of 35 felony charges for crimes committed in Seattle, Medina and Sammamish.



Welcome to Spring 2025 & the first City Council quarterly column!

You already know Medina is a special place, especially at this time of year with our abundant green spaces, and photogenic wildlife including charismatic coyotes, bold bobcats and demure does. We are fortunate to live in a community with our very own zip code and Post Office, a dedicated police force and engaged community partners. Medina operates under a Council-Manager form of government (RCW Title 35A) with seven elected volunteer council positions working alongside our volunteer Planning Commission, Park Board, Emergency Prep Committee and Civil Service Commission. Every two years the council elects our mayor.

Our unique geographic position, perched between two of the largest cities in the state, makes it increasingly challenging to manage regional growth impacts in order to preserve and protect Medina's special character. But we are trying hard, and we need your help. The Council and Planning Commission are tackling state mandates around Middle Housing, and we have heard from you on topics that need more attention including leaf blower noise, waste management, light pollution, school traffic, construction impacts and overall public safety priorities. Over the next months we will complete our City Manager recruitment process and continue our work on housing using your responses to the Middle Housing Survey to guide us.

Medina has a vibrant and united mix of neighbors; we value the voices of all residents whether you've lived here for decades or days. It is our commitment to find more and better ways to hear your feedback and to follow up.

We hope you'll feel comfortable and invited to reach out to all council members at council@medina-wa.gov. You can also find individual council and staff contacts at our website www.medina-wa.gov.

We look forward to expanding on these conversations in future newsletters and in person, improving our service to you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jessica Rossman, Deputy Mayor Randy Reeves & Council Members Joseph Brazen, Harini Gokul, Mac Johnston Michael Luis & Heija Nunn

Contacts:

City of Medina City Hall:501 Evergreen Point Road
 Medina, WA 98039
 City Hall Phone: 425-233-6400
 City Hall Hours:7:30 am - 4:00 pm
 Police Department:
 Non-Emergency: 425-233-6420
 After office hours: 911
 Emergency: 911
 Mayor: Jessica Rossman
 Deputy Mayor Randy Reeves
 City Council Members: Joseph Brazen, Harini Gokul,
 Mac Johnston, Michael Luis, Heija Nunn
 City Manager: Stephen R. Burns
 Police Chief: Jeffrey Sass
 City Clerk: Aimee Kellerman
 Director of Development Services: Steven R. Wilcox
 Director of Public Works: Ryan Osada
 Director of Finance: Ryan Wagner
 Website: www.medina-wa.gov

Spring Shredder Day

Another great way to engage with your community and meet a few members of the Police Department is to stop by one of our two Shredder Day events each year! These events are held each April and October at Medina Park and offer an opportunity to bring household documents to be shredded as well as unneeded medications for disposal and electronics for e-recycling. This is a free service provided by the Medina Police Department, and the next event is on Saturday, April 19th! Look for our social media publications for further details. If you haven't already, this is a great time to sign up for our E-lets to stay in-the-know about community events, police activity and safety resources! Visit our website for further details.

Saturday, April 19th!

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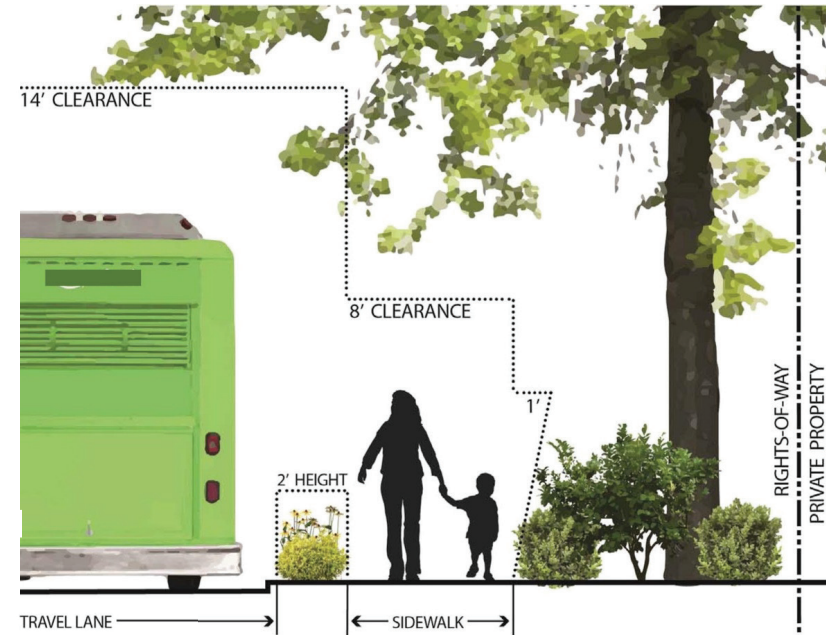


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Overgrown Vegetation

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 16.52.220** – Owner responsibility within 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 16.52.220 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.