

Homeowners say no to towering Metro Everett height limits

By **ANGELA COOPER-McCORKLE**

EVERETT — A dozen Norton-Grand historic area residents shared their fears about future developments encroaching on their homes at a public hearing on the Metro Everett plan.

The plan would increase building height limits in a one mile downtown core abutting three historic overlay areas, including Rucker-Grand and Riverside. It would also increase population density, encourage mixed

residential and business developments and limit parking in favor of mass transit and biking.

At the Aug. 1 meeting, homeowners pled for a buffer between their houses and four- to eight-story high structures that could be built nearby if Metro Everett was approved as is.

They had some hope of success: when residents appealed to the planning commission at previous Metro Everett meetings, commissioners agreed to recommend removing the historic overlay from

the plan. With that issue addressed, neighbors focused on other concerns at the hearing.

They didn't want their neighborhood, with its character-filled, century-old homes, to be surrounded on three sides by modern construction twice as tall as theirs.

In an introduction to the topic, staffers pointed out that Everett was lagging behind growth targets set by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC): the city had accepted 8 percent of county

growth while the PSRC's target was 26 percent.

Residents were nonplussed. Many suggested that while development was necessary it should be contained downtown.

"This plan reminds me of Columbus, Ohio tenement housing There's no new parks, open spaces, nothing for kids, also no parking: you don't need a car ... you don't deserve parking," said 28-year resident James Ivory.

Neighbors encouraged councilmembers to visit Norton-Grand for them-

selves. They said no map or model could represent the encroaching growth well enough.

"Even a four story makes you feel like you're walled in, feels like a darn tunnel," said resident Mary Dean.

"The Council listened attentively to residents' concerns and residents applauded a statement of support from Councilwoman Ethel McNeal.

"We do care," she said emphatically, and promised the council would work out the issue together with residents.

The council will continue

public hearings on Metro Everett through August. The Aug. 8 meeting will focus on clinics and social services. The Aug. 15 meeting is on off-street parking, zoning along Cedar and California and other topics. The Aug. 29 meeting is scheduled for the third and final reading of the plan and a final public hearing. The three meetings are all at 6:30 p.m. at 3002 Wetmore Ave. in Everett.

Visit www.everettwa.gov/1424/Metro-Everett-Center-Plan for more information.

Chaplain Lewis was a gift to colleagues and crisis victims

By **ANGELA COOPER-McCORKLE**

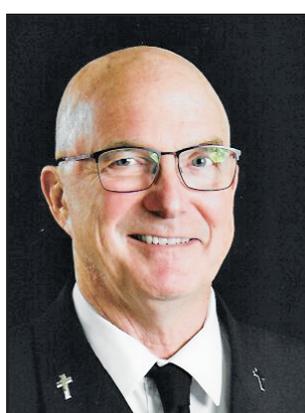
SNOHOMISH — Chaplain Howard Lewis was a fixture at Fire District 4 who befriended everyone he met said Deputy Fire Chief Mike Gatterman.

The 69-year-old passed away July 11 after a long battle with cancer, but made an indelible imprint on the community.

He was a constant support that firefighters at District 4 counted on since he became a chaplain there in 2007. He not only served grieving and traumatized families at the site of fires and emergencies, but got to know each firefighter and was there whenever they needed to talk.

"He loved that, loved serving the Lord and that was the way he gave back," Gatterman said.

He was the same at work as he was volunteering.



He was "a great person, extremely truthful, helpful ... Just his goodness to other people, it is just amazing," said Chuck Brewster, owner of L&B Auto. Brewster credits Lewis, the former owner, with making it possible for him to buy the business and succeed at it.

Brewster still sees many legacy customers from when Lewis owned the business who were devoted to the kind owner.

Customers knew even if they could not pay, Lewis

would keep their cars running so they could work and take care of family, paying him back \$10 a month or sometimes not at all.

Lewis would, and the shop still does, support the Kiwanis, Boys and Girls Club, Senior Center, and he would "do a ton for charity," Brewster said.

Lewis volunteered and served on boards at Cross-View Church, the Kiwanis Club, Harbor Sailing Club, Snohomish Senior Center, Faith Assembly Church and Automotive Service Association.

When he wasn't serving locally, he was traveling to help hurricane and disaster victims, Gatterman said.

His compassionate ear and selfless actions continue to resound in the lives of the thousands he touched through volunteerism and the countless hours of listening to and praying for those in need.

Arts cut *Continued from page 1*

for Arts fund is not intended as a job creator, but would have provided jobs to artist skilled trades such as metal fabricators, tile installers and lighting experts. In the end, the courthouse project will provide jobs to the construction industry and other trades, which Councilman Nehring will joyfully amplify. If this ordinance was to reduce an aerospace job or a job for an advanced manufacturer - he would have doubled down his effort to protect it.

I make the case that all jobs are important, even the ones provided by the creative class," Poischbeg said in an email.

The County Courthouse project is nearly \$4.7 million over budget, which eats up the approximately \$4 million contingency budgeted for

costs overruns. The overrun is because of higher-than-expected construction bids.

The arts fund pays for public art and performances, such as this summer's Music on the Plaza concert series.

Councilman Sam Low said the arts funding requirement "makes it difficult for this (courthouse) project to go forward when it's over budget."

Low, Nehring and Councilman Terry Ryan voted for the arts funding reduction while Councilwoman Stephanie Wright and Councilman Brian Sullivan voted against the cut.

Deputy Executive Eric Parks said it is the County's intention to use those funds for art, barring any major project surprises.

"I have grave concerns that you are yielding to your fears

rather than your vision," said working artist Karen Guzak, who is a Snohomish City Councilwoman at a July 25 hearing.

The "so-called fears, I call flexibility" for the project budget, Low said.

Nehring replied to a request for comment on the criticism in an email, saying, "Our primary obligation is to the taxpayer. With a project that is \$4.6 million over budget, I believe that the average taxpayer would find it completely unacceptable to spend nearly half a million dollars on art. There are many ways to incorporate art in public projects at no cost to the taxpayer, whether it be going into our schools and providing opportunities for students to contribute or opening up spaces like the courthouse so that local artists can show their work."

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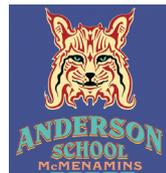
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