



# FULLY INVOLVED

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MCLANE BLACK LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF – THANK YOU!

The McLane Black Lake Fire Department extends sincere appreciation for the community's support of our recent Levy Lid Lift. Your continued trust enables us to sustain essential fire protection, emergency medical services, and safety initiatives across our neighborhoods. As we conclude another year, I am pleased to provide an update to our residents and customers regarding the department's progress. Our success is largely due to your outstanding commitment, which enables us to provide high-quality services.

In recent years, the Fire District has adopted prudent financial strategies to provide long-term sustainability. Every two years, we invite residents to consider their support for our funding mechanisms: the regular fire protection levy and the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy. In 2025 it was time to reset the Regular Fire Property Tax Levy Lid to \$1.50 and in 2027 the Fire District will be proposing the renewal of the M&O Levy.

### HO! HO! HO! SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

Along with your firefighters from McLane Black Lake Fire Department, Santa will soon be in your neighborhood! December 1–11, Santa's team will collect food donations for the Thurston County Food Bank and the FORKids Backpack Program. Donations and events like these help support families in need and provide food for local children. Last year, Santa and his trusty firefighter elves collected **over 6,800 pounds of food** and **\$941 in cash** from your amazing donations.

Most needed items are high protein foods such as canned chili, meats, tuna, peanut butter and beans. We accept non-perishable canned and unopened dry goods such as soups, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, baby food and formula, and individual serving kid-friendly items.

Santa's routes and schedule are located inside. For more information, go to Santa Tracker at [www.mclanefire.org](http://www.mclanefire.org).



We are truly grateful for your ongoing commitment and support. With your assistance, the Fire District maintains stable funding, resulting in one of the lowest rates per \$1,000 of assessed property value in the past decade.

The Fire District recognizes the importance of investing in the workforce responsible for delivering our mission-critical services. As a combination department, we rely on both career and volunteer staff members. This year, we welcomed four new career staff members to shift operations and saw four volunteers complete our training program. Volunteer recruitment improved significantly this spring with over 18 applicants and 7 new personnel moving forward. As we plan for personnel in the new year, we remain focused on filling three vacancies to restore staffing levels to 29 and are planning for increases in career ranks to 32 full-time firefighting personnel.

Looking forward, the goal for 2026 includes implementing 24-hour staffing at Station 94 on Cooper Point, which serves the busiest area within the Fire District. The area covered by Stations 92 and 94, areas north of The Evergreen State College, Kaiser and Cooper Point Roads NW, represent more than 28 percent of the Fire District's call volume. Expanded staffing at Station 94 will help to reduce response times, provide more efficient services and increase the distribution of personnel to keep down homeowner insurance rates in this busy service area.

The approval of Proposition 1 – Levy Lid Lift not only provides critical funding but also underscores the strong partnership between the community and the Fire District. These resources enhance our ability to maintain emergency response capabilities, invest in workforce development, upgrade essential equipment, and continue training our dedicated firefighters and emergency medical responders. Through these improvements, we achieve our response time standards, elevate safety measures, and deliver exemplary service to all community members.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a safe and Happy Holidays!

Best,

Chief Leonard Johnson

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## WATCH FOR SPRING 2026 RECRUITMENT

The McLane Black Lake Fire District will be opening applications again for new volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians in the Spring of 2026. Recruitment in 2025 has been highly successful and we are looking forward to finding more community members that are ready to serve their community. The Fire District needs volunteers.

In 2025, the Fire District received over 28 applications for volunteer Firefighter positions. Of those that applied, 11 personnel have moved forward into recruit training. This fall we are moving ahead with another 7 new volunteer members for the first Recruit Academy or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training opportunities in 2026.

McLane Black Lake FD prides itself in providing mission-focused, high-quality services to our community. This is only accomplished through the combined effort of our most valued resource – our dedicated personnel. The Fire District is a combination department made up of both Career (full-time) and Volunteer Firefighters. Both are necessary to make our programs a success.



To be a volunteer for the Fire District is a unique opportunity. Not only is it away to give back through service, but it also provides individuals with experience and training that is valuable in all parts of life. Volunteers, much like career firefighters, complete the same types of training and learn the same skills.

Fire District volunteers receive stipends and benefits for their service. The stipend program reimburses members quarterly based on points earned through activities. Volunteers are also eligible for retirement and disability coverage, as well as additional insurance for accidental injuries or death both on and off duty.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

To become a volunteer, individuals must meet certain requirements, which include:

- › Being at least 18 years old
- › Possessing a valid driver's license
- › Passing a background check and medical examination
- › Pass a physical agility test (CPAT)
- › Completing required training courses
- › Demonstrating a commitment to serving the community

If you are interested in volunteering, the Fire District has many opportunities for you. Just visit our website at [www.mclanefire.org](http://www.mclanefire.org) or contact us at [hiring@mclanefire.org](mailto:hiring@mclanefire.org) to get started on this rewarding journey.

## ANTICIPATED TIMELINE FOR RECRUITMENT

- › Application Period Open & Review – January 2026
- › Testing, Physical Agility (CPAT) and Interviews – March 2026
- › Medical & Psychological Evaluations – May 2026
- › New Member Orientation – July 2026
- › Pre-Academy for Fire or EMT Training – August 2026

# WEBSITE UPDATE

## Big News! Our Website Is Getting a Makeover

We are redesigning the McLane Black Lake Fire District website with YOU in mind!

- › Easier to navigate
- › Mobile-friendly
- › Accessibility-focused
- › More ways to stay informed



We will be rolling out our new website in the first quarter of 2026.

# STORM SAFETY

Rain and strong winds are a regular part of living in Western Washington. Will you be ready when the next big storm hits? We hope you'll use the tips below to make sure you and your family are prepared.

## BEFORE

- › Keep your emergency kits handy.
- › Learn what to do if there is an outage.
- › Unplug sensitive electronic equipment such as computers.
- › Know which natural gas appliances will continue to operate if there is an outage:
  - › Natural gas water heaters
  - › Gas log fireplaces
  - › Gas ovens and ranges. If it uses electric ignition, have matches nearby to light the flame.
  - › Natural gas barbecues. Remember: never bring a portable grill indoors.
- › If you're using a generator, follow manufacturer's instructions.

## HAVE A PLAN

Keep yourself and your family safe during emergencies resulting from earthquakes, storms and other natural disasters that may cause power outages or interruptions of your energy service.

- › Keep emergency food and supplies on hand.
- › Know how to manually open and close electric doors, such as your garage door.
- › Know how to properly shut off your natural gas and electricity.
- › Create and practice an evacuation plan.
- › Prepare to assist your neighbors, people with special needs, the elderly and pets.
- › Identify an out-of-town contact. Someone from out of the area may have an easier time relaying a message.
- › Make sure everyone in your family knows the phone number of your out-of-town or emergency contact.
- › Know how to send a text when phone calls can't get through.

# WINTERIZE Your Home



## Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food, water and supplies for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a portable waterproof container
- ☐ Cash and change
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies, personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- ☐ Mess kits, Paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



# TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.®

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CALL 360-866-1000 FOR INFORMATION

- › Blood pressure checks
- › Custom address signs
- › Facility use
- › Sandbags
- › Notary Public
- › CPR classes
- › Residential Knox Box

We are a Toys for Tots drop-off location. Toys will be picked up **December 12, 2025.**



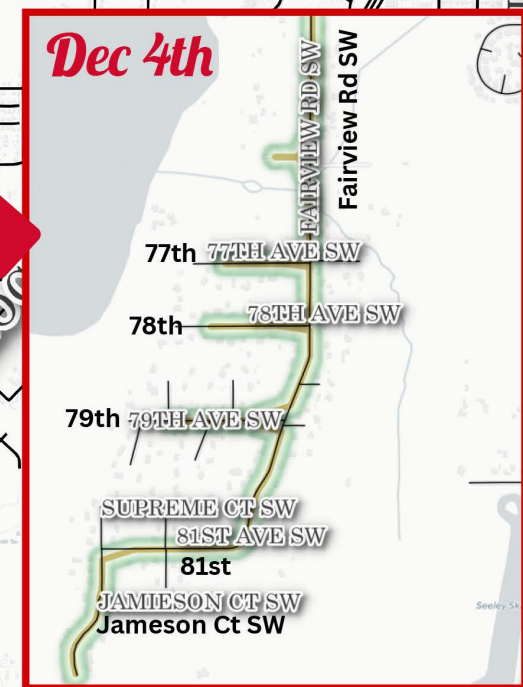
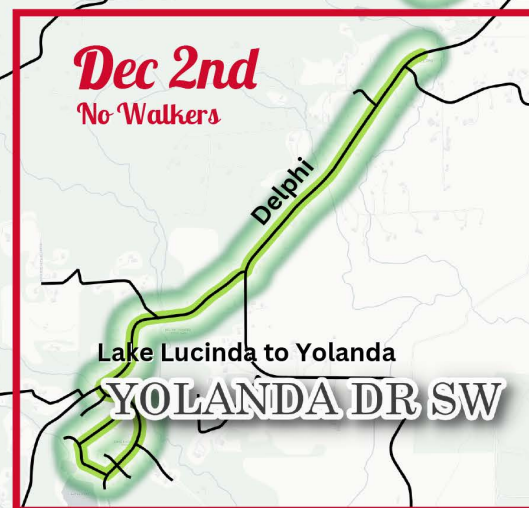
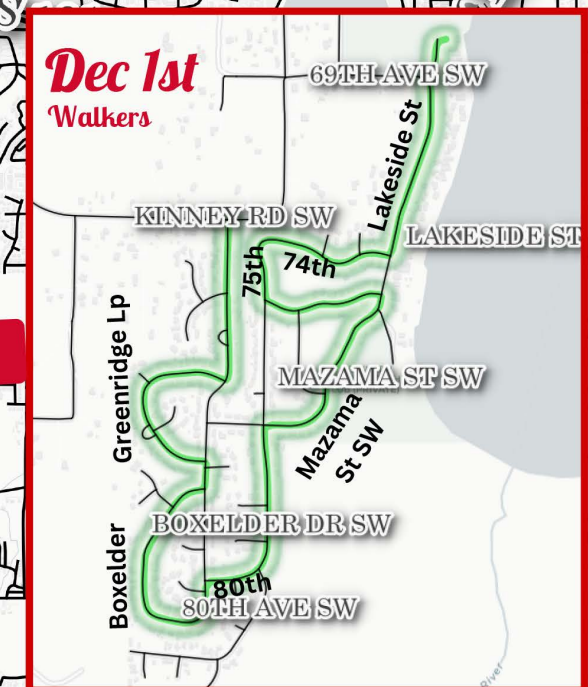
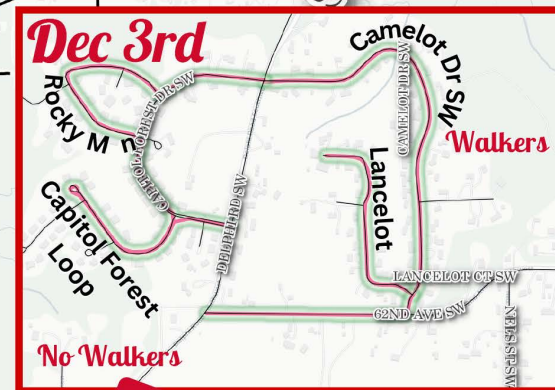
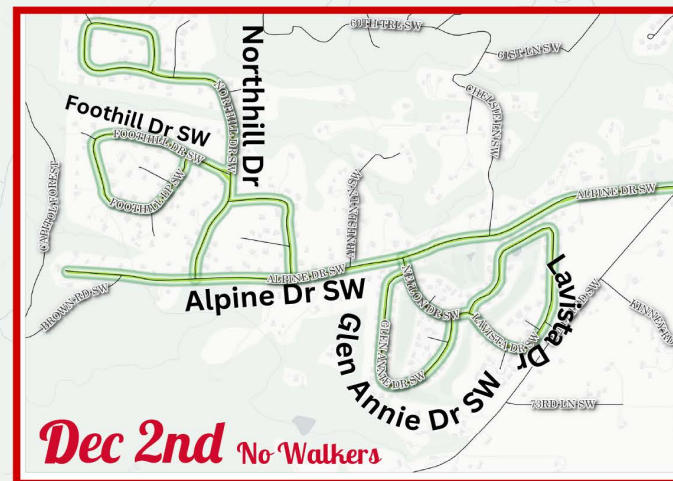
TOYS FOR TOTS DROP-OFF LOCATION HEADQUARTERS STATION 91



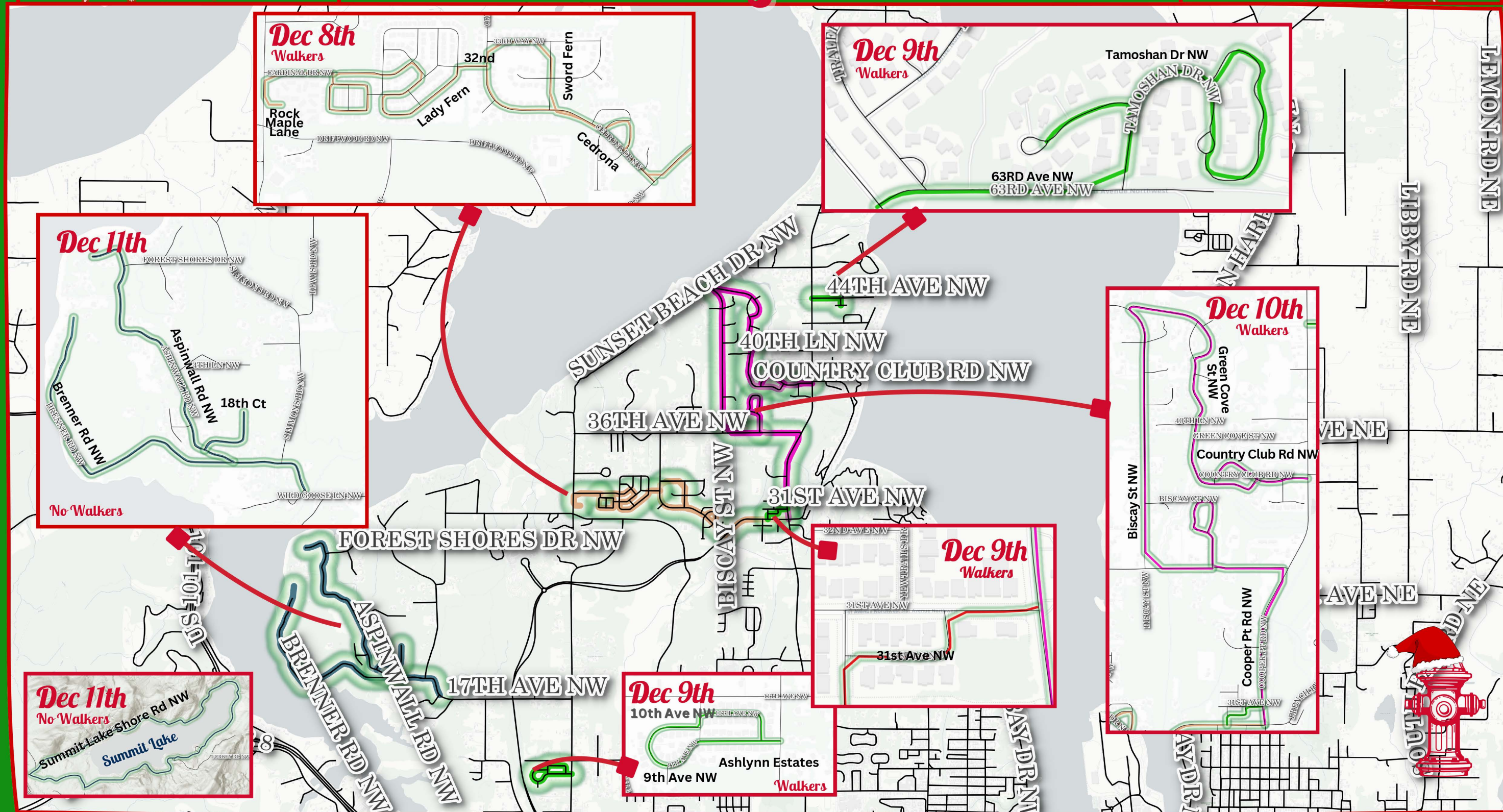
# Santa Sleigh Routes



5:30 - 9:00 PM



McLane - Black Lake Fire Department



**5:30 - 9:00 PM**

# McLane - Black Lake Fire Department

MCLANE BLACK LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

125 DELPHI RD NW  
OLYMPIA, WA 98502

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OLYMPIA, WA  
PERMIT #107



INSIDE THIS EDITION

Message from the Chief .....1

Santa Claus is Coming to Town .....1

Volunteers Needed & Recruitment Info .....2

Website Update .....2

Santa Sleigh Routes.....Insert

Storm Safety .....3

Emergency Checklist .....3

Community Resources .....3

Toys for Tots Dropoff .....3

Upcoming Event.....Back Cover

UPCOMING EVENTS

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Station 91 - January 9

**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
March 2026

**BICYCLE RODEO**  
May 2026

**OPEN HOUSE**  
October 2026