



# WCMA News

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Volume 14 No. 3, October 2002

## President's Message

First, let me say that I am excited about the opportunity to serve as your President and am very appreciative of your support. Our roles as City/County Managers and Administrators are becoming increasingly difficult as more of our communities' revenues that have historically been used to fund basic services are lost. The immediate horizon does not look any better with more revenue-reducing initiatives fast approaching. On a positive note, meaningful reform is most often successful (whether it's changing how service is delivered or fixing the problem of our local government finances) following some chaotic situation or financial decline. Many of our cities and counties are facing these types of situations now and we all will experience the impacts in the near future as the cumulative impacts of Initiative 747 are established.

I am pleased that we have taken advantage of this window of opportunity to make some meaningful suggestions. WCMA can make a difference with your continued assistance. I would like to thank Past President Bob Jean, the WCMA Board, and the general membership for further advancing the need for local government finance reform this past year. The work of WCMA is helping the Executive Committees of the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington Association of County Officials, and the Washington State Association of Counties develop a Local Government Joint Legislative Proposal. Recently, this Tri-Association adopted the following principles for local government revenue:

- 1. The Tri-Association adopts the following principles in recognition of the need to enhance local government revenues with a focus on securing additional resources for criminal justice and public health expenses. We will advance legislative solutions that assist both cities and counties. We will seek \$200 -- \$250 million in additional annual revenues for cities and counties. We will also ensure cities and counties are provided adequate flexibility in the use of current revenue sources.*
- 2. The Tri-Association will make every effort to secure sufficient resources so every city and county is able to provide basic services and to assist uniquely impacted jurisdictions.*
- 3. The Tri-Association will support legislation to reduce and/or eliminate mandates and program responsibilities or to seek reimbursement therefore, and to expand opportunities for increased efficiencies.*
- 4. The Tri-Association will assist their respective members in communicating with citizens the impact of insufficient revenues and corresponding service reductions.*

The Tri-Association, in addition to working on a set of revenue options is developing a list of efficiency options to make available to local governments based upon WCMA recommendations that were delivered to the three associations in August of this year. The draft report includes many of the measures that we

suggested (i.e., multi-year levy lid lifts, publication of bid notices on a central website, adoption of updated building codes). Not included in the draft report are the changes WCMA recommended regarding the requirement that arbitrators be mandated to use the Implicit Price Deflator for cost of living adjustments or that comparables outside of the state be eliminated for all interest arbitration. I am disappointed that these significant cost saving measures are not included in the Tri-Association draft report. However, I understand

the political obstacles in gaining broad based support for these recommendations and the effect of including them in this year's legislative package might have on other proposed cost effective measures. Having said that, I believe WCMA needs to continue to raise and advance these kinds of discussions/measures over the next several years that may be politically difficult but necessary for the long-term future of our communities. The Association of Washington Cities has looked to WCMA for leadership and ideas. It is important that we not lose momentum and build upon our past efforts to be part of the solutions regarding the financial structure of local government.

Thank you again for your support and commitment to our profession.

*Bob Stowe, WCMA President*  
*City Manager, City of Mill Creek*  
[bob@cityofmillcreek.com](mailto:bob@cityofmillcreek.com)

## Vice-President's Message:

This just in from the ICMA website:

### Best Practices 2003: Case Studies Focus on Management Excellence and Strategic Planning

Through a host of nominations and the assistance of a core group of members, ICMA is pleased to announce the case studies that will be presented at Best Practices 2003, our sixth annual symposium on excellence in local government management.

- Organization of Choice: Spruce Grove, Alb.
- Council Action Teams: San Antonio, Tex.
- Strategic Planning: Olathe, Kans.
- America's #1 Wired City: Tacoma, Wash.
- Skill-Based Pay: Maryland Heights, Mo.
- Performance Measurement: San Jose, Calif.
- Non-Profit Partnerships in Community Planning: Washington County, Ore.
- Public Involvement: Vancouver, B.C.

Best Practices 2003 will be held in Tacoma, Wash., March 20-22, 2003. Designed for teams of managers, assistants, department staff and elected officials, this event features in-depth case studies with a focus on participative learning and discussion.

For more information, contact Sallie Burnett at [bestpractices@icma.org](mailto:bestpractices@icma.org) or call 202/962-3553

Remember that the Northwest Regional Management Conference, which brings Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and sometimes Idaho, folks together is being combined with this Best Practices 2003 event. The list of items given looks very good. So please be thinking about it for your 2003 activities.

WCMA will also be having some of its regular activities there in Tacoma in March. If you have burning issues that our organization needs to consider, please get them to me soon.

And while we're on the subject of upcoming events, I need input and ideas from you about the program for our WCMA Summer Conference, August 2003 at Sun Mountain Lodge, near Winthrop. Please start ideas and concerns coming my way as soon as you think of them. I have a few ideas I'm working on but more feedback is always helpful.

*Rich Conrad, WCMA Vice-President  
City Manager, City of Mercer Island  
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## Past President's Message

I want to thank all of you who helped with the WCMA Finance Dialogue this last year. Our recommendations have been forwarded to AWC and WSAC/WACO, and were favorably received. We need to stay focused on working with our electeds to keep moving forward. I encourage you to share the report with your Legislators after the November election results are known. Remember the key message is that we have a structural problem at the local government finance level that will not correct itself as the economy recovers. Whatever mix of alternatives the electeds choose to push, we won't get anywhere without a concerted city/county effort.

On a personal level, I want to thank each of you who congratulated me by e-mail and at ICMA in Philadelphia for having received the Cookingham Award for Career Development. I was truly honored.

Thanks.

*Bob Jean, WCMA Past President  
City Manager, City of University Place  
[bjean@ci.university-place.wa.us](mailto:bjean@ci.university-place.wa.us)*

## Secretary-Treasurer's Message

The Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington (MRSC) has for many years served as the secretariat for WCMA. It's a function we very much enjoy. It's also one we want to always do well.

One of our constant concerns is keeping membership information up to date and accurate. Each time we send a general mailing or e-mail to the membership, we get some mail or e-mail that bounces. We have no way of knowing when a member changes their e-mail address, or moves, or does something else to interrupt the flow of communications. Sometimes we see a news story or hear a rumor that leads us to think something might be going on. But we don't have mind reading skills.

It's very important that members of WCMA keep us posted about changes so we can keep information flowing to you.

If you move or change something that we should know about, or if you know of someone near your location making such changes, ***please, please, please*** let us know. Thanks.

*Rich Yukubousky, WCMA Secretary-Treasurer  
Executive Director, Municipal Research & Services Center  
[ryukubousky@mrsc.org](mailto:ryukubousky@mrsc.org)*

## Need Advice or Help? Who to call?

The mayor and council have gotten fractious. Things don't look any too bright. What to do? Why, call a **Range Rider**, of course! They are:

**Al Locke**  
PO Box 13  
Allyn, WA 98524-0013  
Phone: (360) 427-4271  
[jeanyal@earthlink.com](mailto:jeanyal@earthlink.com)

**Bob White**  
6703 234<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043  
Phone: (425) 778-9394

**Stan McNutt**  
271 Ryan Loop  
St. Maries, ID 83861-7111  
Phone/Fax: (208) 245-5043  
E-mail: [rangerider@smgazette.com](mailto:rangerider@smgazette.com)

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## Editor's note:

For the first time in a while, there are reports from every one of the WCMA regions. Thanks to all, and to the regional representatives for making that happen!

Last issue of WCMA News included a photograph. For those of you who saw it, it was four old geezers hanging out together in Palm Springs, and admonishing the membership that if you stay the course, you, too, might be able to spend retirement time in warmer climates. The photograph took up so much memory that a number of you couldn't receive the newsletter at all. So a second edition leaving the photo out was prepared. Hopefully, most of you got a look at that one, if not the first one. Moral, probably no more photos, at least for now.

This issue DOES contain something new. If you get it electronically, there are several links included. You can go to what the story is telling you about. We'll see how it works. Electronics are great. And most of the time they even work -- at least some of the time. But in putting together this issue, some dark black lines have somehow appeared. Please excuse them, ignore them, and read on. Hopefully by next issue we'll have figured out how to disappear them unless they're requested.

*Ron Bartels, WCMA News Editor*  
*Public Policy and Management Consultant*  
*Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington*  
[rbartels@mrsc.org](mailto:rbartels@mrsc.org)

## WCMA Awards 2002

At the WCMA Summer Conference held at Quinault Beach Resort and Casino near Ocean Shores in August, several of our members were recognized with the annual WCMA Awards. A short summary of the material submitted follows each award below. They were:

- **Award for Excellence** (cities over 5,000)

Juli Wilkerson, Director, Economic Development Department, Tacoma

- ? Create a new image for Tacoma and use it to market the city for business investment

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Ms. Wilkerson, who has led the City of Tacoma's Economic Development Department since 1998, has helped Tacoma attain economic success, a new image as a "Wired" city, and an international reputation as a business-friendly community. In fact, her accomplishments and never-ending enthusiasm and creativity resulted in her winning several awards over the past year, including the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC) "Outstanding New Developer of the Year" award and the *Business Examiner's* "Business Person of the Year" award.

The submittal describes in detail the many and various things Juli has done to help bring Tacoma to its present state of success.

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- **Award for Skill in Intergovernmental Cooperation**

David Moseley, City Manager, Federal Way

- ? Chairing the King County Cities' jail negotiating team
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In June 2001, all King County cities were notified that the county was canceling their jail services contracts within 60 days. The county further notified the cities that they would continue to house prisoners after the 60-day period, but at rates and conditions the county would unilaterally impose.

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David immediately helped develop a strategy to address:

1. Extending the cancellation deadline
2. Negotiating with the county to continue to house city prisoners
3. Work on short and long term alternatives to house city prisoners

To address the first two strategies, David agreed to chair a negotiating team of city folks consisting of city managers, city attorneys, police chiefs, finance analysts, and other key city staff.

David quickly got all but two of the 39 King County cities -- including Seattle and Bellevue -- to agree to authorize his negotiating team to be the cities' exclusive negotiating agent, to which the county reluctantly agreed. The population of the involved cities ranged from less than 300 to over 560,000. David was able to get all to agree on negotiating parameters, objectives, and critical issues within the 60-day period.

With a unified city position, negotiations were undertaken. A description brings to mind terms such as arduous, difficult, glacial speed, frustrating, maddening, incredible, inconsistent, incoherent, and sometimes stupefying come to mind. Nevertheless, agreement was reached. Key elements are:

A daily cost per prisoner of \$77 instead of the \$135 - \$300 proposed by the county

Phasing out over two years city use of prisoner beds instead of immediately refusing to accept city prisoners

Maintaining a certain number of beds for medical, psychological, and other "special population" prisoners

Transferring county property to Bellevue to hold for a possible future jail site.

Through the yearlong process, David has kept the group informed through a Jail Advisory Committee that he helped create.

David's credibility among his peers and with the county has kept the process on track and focused. One of the cities that originally refused to participate is now a full supporter of the effort.

- **Program Excellence Award for Innovations in Local Government Management**

Bob Jean, City Manager, University Place

? Community Information & Involvement: Roundtable Public Hearings

University Place used a nontraditional yet effective approach to public involvement relating to issues being discussed and decided upon.

When the city council had to make a decision on traffic calming issues for an arterial road, the roundtable public hearing approach was used instead of the traditional hearing before the council. The usual process for many cities in such a situation would be to internally select its favored options, hold the required public hearings, and build the project. Bob Jean refers to this process as the "D.A.D. knows best option," which is short for "Decide, Accept, and Defend." In the traditional format, opponents and proponents stand one-by-one to voice their concerns and have no real interaction with each other or with staff. Essentially, the D.A.D. method excludes citizens from the early decision-making, creating a win-lose, adversarial situation for citizens and a lose-lose situation for the council.

In the roundtable hearings, citizens sat randomly around tables, which was the only seating available in the council chambers. Each table was equipped with markers and butcher paper, and was given questions to discuss and answer, and was then asked to report back to the council. The residents discuss the issues and become part of the solution by working out differing views with neighbors and coming up with a consensus opinion at each table. The opinions were then used by staff to formulate options for solving the traffic calming issues in a way that most citizens agreed with. Instead of creating winners and losers, the roundtable public hearing format created a less volatile and more listening-oriented environment.

This process goes beyond avoiding conflict and win-lose outcomes. The city council can be confident that the residents take an active, meaningful part in city decisions. Citizens are also more likely to support and take ownership in city decisions because they are involved in a constructive and substantive way.

All WCMA members each year receive a letter and application form calling for nominations for awards. Those received are then given to a committee comprised of three members of the Municipal Research & Services Center Board of Directors who have volunteered, who serve as judges.

Many of you have projects or processes that you're proud of. They're things that others should know about and possibly adapt to their own city's or county's needs. How better to get the word out on good things that happen? Or on successes you're pleased with?

Please consider an entry for the 2003 awards round.

Awards were also given to recognize years of service for their toils in the local government vineyard. Those receiving awards in 2002 were:

### **10 years**

Dena Laurent, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Kent  
Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, Normandy Park  
Ehman Sheldon, City Administrator, Othello

### **15 years**

Pat McDonnell, City Manager, Vancouver

Ellen Petre, Metropolitan Council Administrator, Metro King County Council, King County

**20 years**

Jay Covington, Chief Administrative Officer, Renton  
Stan Finkelstein, Executive Director, Association of Washington Cities

**25 years**

Leon Kos, City Administrator, Issaquah  
John Sherman, City Supervisor, Pullman

## From Cascade Center

### DEVELOP YOUR STAFF THROUGH MANAGEMENT COURSES

In these challenging times, it is more important than ever to give your managers the tools they need to effectively do their jobs. One way to reward and retain your employees, and to develop the next generation of leadership in your organization, is to send your staff to Cascade Center courses. Founded in 1984, the Cascade Center is the executive education arm of the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. The Center offers eleven 5-day, 3-day and 2-day courses, a two-week residential management program, and a 2-day executive refresher program. Credits received through these courses can stand alone, or can be applied to a Master of Public Administration degree. The Center is proud to count many current and former city managers among its participants.

Now is the time to start registering for 2003 courses. You can register on-line via the Center's web site at [www.cascadecourses.org](http://www.cascadecourses.org) or by calling 206-685-0523 to request a brochure and/or to be added to the Center's mailing list.

In addition to the Cascade Center's regular menu of three- and five-day management courses, *two new two-day courses will be offered in Seattle in 2003:*

- **Communicating Skillfully to Resolve Problems and Maintain Relationships**, to be taught by John Boehrer and offered May 1-2, 2003; and
- **Leaving a Legacy**, which includes a session on succession planning, to be taught by Gary Latham and offered September 4-5, 2003.

Both of these new courses are the direct result of feedback received from past participants. There is also a two-week advanced program and a two-day executive refresher. Please contact the Cascade Center at 206-685-0523 for more information. The WCMA designates funds for its members to take Cascade courses. You are encouraged to take advantage of that opportunity.

Below is the complete 2003 Cascade Center course schedule:

#### **MARCH**

**Managing the Budget Process**, March 24-28, Seattle

## **APRIL**

**Managing People to Improve Programs** , April 14-18, Seattle

## **MAY**

**Communicating Skillfully to Resolve Problems and Maintain Relationships** , May 1-2, Seattle

**Ethics, Leadership and Public Service** , May 14-16, Tri-Cities

**Effective Management and Strategic Planning in a Political Environment**, May 19-23,  
Seattle

## **JUNE**

**Resolving Conflict and Building Consensus** , June 9-13, Seattle

**Managing Organizational Change** , June 18-20, Vancouver

## **JULY**

**Executive Management Program**, July 14-25, Seattle

**Improving Operations and Customer Service** , July 28-August 1, Seattle

## **AUGUST**

**Managing Information Technology**, August 13-15, Everett

**Working Effectively with the Media, Elected Officials, and Interest Groups**, August 18-22,  
Seattle

## **SEPTEMBER**

**Leaving a Legacy**, September 4-5, Seattle

**Ethics, Leadership and Public Service** , September 10-12, Seattle

**Resolving Conflict and Building Consensus** , September 15-19, Wenatchee

## **OCTOBER**

**Managing Organizational Change** , October 8-10, Seattle

**Managing People to Improve Programs** , October 20-24, Olympia

**Executive Refresher**, October 30-31, SeaTac

## **And now, the news:**

*Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties  
Lynn Nordby, City Administrator, City of Bainbridge Island*

[lnordby@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us](mailto:lnordby@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us)

Lynn Nordby, city administrator, **Bainbridge Island**, reports that they actually delivered the 2003 preliminary budget to the city council by October 1 in response to a new budget schedule adopted by the council earlier this year. They're proposing a few staff adds but with reservations as the revenue picture for 2004 doesn't look bright. Their open space bond issue which passed last year and is yielding some beautiful dividends. Two spectacular waterfront parcels have been purchased which they hope will be part of a lasting community legacy.

And Dave Timmons, city manager, **Port Townsend**, reports that as is the scene for everyone, budgeting and contract talks top the daily routine. The council has been busy debating global issues. They were able to move forward on an additional and restoration of the city hall after a 63 year debate! The city also made the top ten list for retirement communities. But be sure you bring your trust fund!

*Region 2, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Thurston Counties*  
*David Campbell, City Manager, City of Chehalis*  
[dcampbell@myhome.net](mailto:dcampbell@myhome.net)

On the basis of recent newsletter contributions, or lack thereof, you might think that **Lacey** and the "twin cities" of **Centralia** and **Chehalis** in **Lewis County** are the only jurisdictions where WCMA members exist in Region 2. Wouldn't you like to hear from the rest of **Thurston County** and outlying forts and posts, too? Fortunately, the material submitted by Greg Cuoio, city manager of **Lacey** and J. D. Fouts, city manager of **Centralia** alone is usually enough to fill the allotted space. So here goes.

McMenamin's recently opened a new hotel and theater in historic downtown **Centralia**, offering European-style lodging. Facade renovation projects continue with the help of matching dollars from the Electric Utility Rural Economic Development Revolving Fund (say that five times real fast). The new Twin City Sport Court is one step closer to becoming the country's largest free outdoor municipal skate park with above-ground movable ramps; 42,000 square feet of concrete have been poured and a 500-member volunteer organization continues to raise money for it. **Centralia** has done several water and sewer main extension projects this year and is nearing completion of their downtown streetscape project. The annual historic downtown "Dickens of a Christmas" events take place during the week after Thanksgiving; y'all visit and shop!

In **Chehalis**, our on-again, off-again police/fire services consolidation feasibility study with **Centralia** is now on again. We might be able to report the results next year. We've got several miles of new and upsized water and sewer lines this year, primarily serving our industrial park south of the city limits (whither annexation rules?), courtesy of a new gas-fired power generation plant that is scheduled to be operating a year from now. Stop me if you've heard this before, but our budget is being hammered by insurance costs of all kinds, so we're putting cost-sharing proposals on the table for union contract negotiations this year. The ending of that story remains to be written. Our own traditional style Wal\*Mart is expanding and other freeway-oriented commercial space development is underway, too, but we also continue to work on downtown renovation and promotion.

**Lacey** is proposing a public facilities district project oriented around a 110-acre regional recreation, athletic, and special events center. (**Olympia** is proposing a conference center under the same program, and both might go forward.) They also just finished construction of a new \$1.5 million maintenance shop administrative building, with a new equipment maintenance facility under design. They acquired 35 and

21-acre parcels of land for park purposes, bringing their 12-year total to over 500 acres. **Lacey** now has a new Wal\*Mart contributing to their sales tax base, complete with a new exterior design and color scheme -- more of a Northwest look and maybe the standard for future such stores in Washington. (Greg hopes you like it.) The city has a new 2 million-gallon reservoir, \$13 million in road improvements, a new well (with water rights pending from DOE), a new two-lane roundabout, and a new water treatment system. The community is getting two new large distribution centers (with 700 jobs), a retirement community, and up to 1,500 single-family homes around a new golf course. Other than that, Greg says things are pretty slow around town.

*Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties*  
*Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas*  
[lhalverson@ci.cammas.wa.us](mailto:lhalverson@ci.cammas.wa.us)

What's newsy? What's interesting?

Here in the southwest part of the state, the cast is intact -- and that's a good thing. And the times and worries? Probably much like many other times, with some variations.

Here in **Clark County**, the managers continue. In **Ridgefield**, Randy Bombardier in his thirteenth month (seems longer), with land use, economic development, skateboard, sewer plant, and staffing entertainments. Eric Holmes, **Battle Ground**, was named interim city manager when David Mercier resigned. Eric was then confirmed as the city manager. Pat McDonnell continues at **Vancouver**, Washington's fourth largest city. Bill Barron is in his fourth year as **Clark County's** administrator. An observer can hear the squeaking of the various budgets, and feel the heat of growth issues. Mary Jo Briggs, **Vancouver** resident, is the Fairview, Oregon city manager. She reports she enjoys the work, and is glad to be back to it. Dave Mercier is back from Maine, and has been working under a contract with **Clark County** to reform the public health function from being a part of a regional health district to being a county department. Welcome back, Dave. And your correspondent is maintaining his situation as the "senior administrator" in the area, in a thirteenth year as **Camas'** first city administrator. There is discussion of creating a manager or administrator position at **Washougal**, and perhaps at **Woodland** also. Stay tuned.

In **Cowlitz County**, Doug Robinson is at **Kelso**; Bob Gregory is the assistant manager at **Longview**, Ed Ivey (city manager for life) keeps on at **Longview**, and Mike Wilson is the county administrator, at least until the money runs out. A rather veteran group, some in newer roles. **Cowlitz County** is facing substantial unemployment, and there are "city ripples" to this. As was reported in the last issue of WCMA News, Mike's position is going away.

And what do they talk about and worry about? Seems to me that money is a perennial. Its lack. With more intensity as the budget season is upon us. There is a sense of inexorability about the numbers. Managers ruminate about thin reserves, lack of revenue options, sacred cows, and spending pressures. They murmur about "Councilmember X's pet project". They mumble cryptically: "I can foresee the lines crossing . . .". We -- with confirmation from Stan Finkelstein and others -- can see the "lines crossing" and provide the warnings. Will that mean some of us are professionally fated to end up confirming the wisdom of the aphorism: "The prophet is without honor in his own land"? Enough of this cardinal worry.

What do they talk about? Money, projects, personnel, conflicts, unions, councils, other jurisdictions, the legislature, the press, D. O. E., water, business conditions and business recruitments. These at least are some of the topics. Sound familiar?

It is indeed budget season, and WCMA members in the southwest Washington area are in the same boat with others. The liturgy is familiar: cumulative effects of the various initiatives, soft economy, unrelenting expectations and costs such as "arb" driven labor contracts and increasing medical premiums. Reciting these in chant form (as at AWC regional meetings) makes it all much better. It is all so familiar. Yet this year, the budget experience is somehow more visceral. Take heart, we are on the north side of the Columbia River.

At meetings such as the AWC regional meeting in **Kelso** this week, some of the buzz was -- of course -- speculation about the elections and the new initiatives. There was speculation about the persona who will be in the legislature and the letters behind the names of leaders. Also, there was intense speculation about measures 51 and 790.

Your correspondent was pleased to receive an ICMA certificate for twenty years of service. (Twenty years, two cities, three mayors, all good). I'm working toward a thousand council meetings. (It's good to have goals).

And here's a personal report, on an interesting assignment I recently completed. The assignment was in Poland, again, and took me there for three weeks last May. (Yes, the weather was like in California). The assignment originated with a request by a rather new Polish civic group, which calls itself the "Association for Professional Local Government". The U. S. State Department was the major sponsor. The trip included talks at several universities, a speech to the association's conference, consultations with some local governments, and some exploration of sister city and exchange opportunities.

The themes were: "Professional Management"; and "Tools for Open Governance". The former is from the ICMA mantra, and the latter are a series of well-honed northwest tools for preventing corruption. We in the northwest and in the profession have much to be proud of. The Public Works Trust Fund model was also touted as a simple, workable infrastructure investment tool. I gratefully acknowledge contributions of materials which I used in the visit. The ICMA, WCMA, MRSC, PWTF and my city's parts in the materials are all appreciated.

It wasn't all presentations, interviews, consultations and "work". The trip also brought enjoyable bike rides, convivial meals, and travels to new places such as "the northeast lake country". There were tours, some art and music, and the remarkable "Polish hospitality."

When asked to do this assignment, I replied: "Yes, I would be honored, and I'll do my best".

Your correspondent is lucky, and can now say so in Polish.

Eric Holmes, city manager, **Battle Ground**, added a postscript:

Things are a bit busy here, and being short staffed, I am wearing more hats than usual.

It is interesting being in my first city manger position, in a city still relatively new to the form, and have four new council members and a more than 10% of our current total staff positions vacant, two of which

are department heads. The recruitment continues, as does the growth. The latest "preliminary" estimates from O. F. M. on population suggest we grew at greater than 10% last year, and this year new housing starts are on track for perhaps the second highest growth in the history of the community. Who says the economy is bad? The commercial side is little different, with annexations continuing to come forward (one with the prospect of an additional 400,000 square feet of new commercial (!?!), and what few places we have left filling in. On the horizon we have a movie theater and more major retailers (the street word suggests a Wal-Mart, yet to be confirmed), and even a few industrial prospects sniffing around, though still from a distance. I must say that despite the shortness on the staff side, it is still pretty fun to work in a community that is coming into its own.

*Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties*  
*Glenn K. Rice, Assistant City Manager, City of Yakima*  
[grice@ci.yakima.wa.us](mailto:grice@ci.yakima.wa.us)

The Wal-Mart Distribution Center in **Grandview** continues to make progress; however, some SEPA questions may delay the completion date.

The city of **Toppenish** has a new city manager, Scott Staples, who started in **Toppenish** on September 1, 2002. He was the city manager of **Walla Walla** for nearly nine years.

The **Union Gap** Mall is experiencing substantial growth and success. The first phase of the Valley Mall Boulevard structural overpass connecting to Third Avenue is in progress and should be completed the first quarter of 2003.

The city of **Yakima** is in the midst of expanding the **Yakima** Convention Center. This 6 million dollar addition will be completed in approximately one year. Paras Construction from Spokane is the contractor. This is the third phase of construction, addition and renovation for the **Yakima** Convention Center. When completed it will provide approximately 41,058 square feet of meeting & lobby space, and the entire facility will be 65,863 square feet for multiple public and convention uses.

The city of **Yakima** is preparing for a rehearing early next year in front of the State Supreme Court on Grant County Fire Protection District No. 5 v. City of Moses Lake and in Yakima County Fire Protection District No. 12 v. City of Yakima. We firmly believe that it is imperative that new state legislation be enacted which ratifies and preserves existing city boundaries, provides a method of annexation for uninhabited land and provides a method of annexation which will allow the extension of urban services within our urban growth boundary, yet allow for annexation without going to an election. We are working with the Association of Washington Cities and the Attorney General's office, with respect to such legislation, which seeks to reform and clarify the annexation statutes within the state to ensure that cities may continue to grow and serve urbanizing areas in our communities.

*Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties*  
*Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco*  
[zunkert@ci.pasco.wa.us](mailto:zunkert@ci.pasco.wa.us)

The city of **College Place** has been focusing significant attention on economic development issues reports Mike Patterson, city administrator. The city is working with several retailers in attempts to develop the commercial zones within the city's limits. **College Place** has traditionally received very little income through its commercial districts. Plans should be finalized within the coming months.

The city faces a very difficult financial situation for 2003. Significant revenues from new industry are not anticipated in 2003. The city has been forced to make significant reductions in city services. Some positions have already been eliminated. Others may be eliminated in the near future. 2004 looks much brighter. Revenues are expected to increase significantly beginning in late 2003.

In **Connell**, city administrator Art Tackett reports that the waste water treatment plant is now complete! **Connell** has received a grant for \$2.5 million from the USDA for water systems improvement and a \$2.5 million loan. The first phase of Clark Street reconstruction is finished; staff will begin phase two next summer. **Connell** is in the midst of a \$500,000 sewer project right now.

In **Pasco**, city manager Gary Crutchfield reports that it (along with the three other municipalities comprising the Tri-Cities Metropolitan area) is still waiting for Ecology to issue the regional water rights permit negotiated more than 18 months ago (after four years of analysis); we are now waiting for Ecology to find a way to issue the permit prior to six other parties with prior application dates (even though an explicit provision of the "quad-cities" permit makes the water rights granted therein junior to the six applications in front of it). The water rights are becoming ever more critical, as growth associated with construction of the vitrification plant at Hanford continues to overwhelm the capacity of the Tri-Cities urban area; **Pasco** will issue permits for more than 700 new housing units this year, more than 10 times the annual average of the early '90s. Despite the enormous growth rate, the budget has not been as difficult to put together as initially anticipated; the city's total assessed value increased 11% over the prior year, principally from new construction and annexations, so property tax income should rise significantly (despite I-747). That will change, of course, when the current growth surge subsides and we become much more susceptible to the constraint imposed by I-747. Speaking of initiatives and financial constraints, the **Pasco** city council took a position unanimously opposed to I-790 after a public hearing (one of the few Councils in this area to do so). And to take advantage of the state's commitment to send a fraction of the state sales tax receipts to public facilities districts, **Pasco** created its district in July and is presently working with **Kennewick** to jointly finance the Tri-Cities Convention Center which **Kennewick** is planning to construct next year.

Bob Kelly, city manager, city of **Kennewick**, reports **Kennewick's** PFD has issued a contract for construction of a 72,000 square foot convention center with Lydig Construction of **Spokane**. Lydig teamed with ALSC Architects in a design-build competition and their plan was selected. Project cost is \$13,249,000 and the project is scheduled for completion in May 2004. In conjunction with this project the city is negotiating with a developer for construction of a convention hotel adjacent the new convention center.

The impacts of the Department of Energy's construction of a waste treatment plant to convert high-level radioactive waste at Hanford into glass are still very apparent. Construction activity remains high, although realtors are beginning to report that the market is slowing down, especially in the upper ranges. Revenues are strong and for all intents and purposes, our area is not suffering from the economic malaise other parts of the state are suffering.

Lots of energy going into preparation of our next biennial budget. Based upon strategic planning being done by council, it appears we may be issuing debt for capital projects in the next two years after about a 20-year hiatus from the bond market. A new ball field complex, lowering the levee on a portion of our waterfront and construction of a central plaza as part of the entertainment district at the convention center are major projects.

In **Richland**, city manager John Darrington reports that the revitalization of the city's "downtown" area, also called "The Parkway," is substantially complete. The project has been a partnership of the city and private business to renovate **Richland's** oldest retail/professional area; local business owners have agreed to an LID to fund the beautification and pedestrian friendly elements. The project has included replacement of 50-year-old underground utilities; installation of new sidewalks, curbs, gutters and streets; the addition of streetscaping, including street trees, benches and a fountain, and location of **Richland's** first roundabout to slow traffic in the pedestrian area of the Three Rivers Arts & Entertainment District. Traffic in other areas of **Richland** continues to challenge city council and staff. Council recently appointed an 11-member ad hoc transportation committee to recommend, within six months, a multi-modal transportation strategy for the city's central business district, including consideration of a one-way couplet. Other current municipal improvements include replacing the city's 50-year-old swimming pool and constructing a boat dock in the Columbia River along Howard Amon Park. Private development is also maintaining a brisk pace in **Richland**. The city issued more commercial building permits during the first nine months of this year than it did through all of 2001. Construction of single-family homes has also surpassed the 2001 total and will likely top the 400 mark this year. The waste glassification project at Hanford continues to bring more residents into the city and surrounding communities. **Richland** residents gave thumbs down to the city's first-ever citizen initiative in the September election. The initiative, defeated 64% to 36%, would have banned "house-banked card rooms" (commonly called "mini casinos") within the city limits. One such facility has been operating in **Richland** for four years, and a second one is proposed. In mid summer, the **Richland** city council adopted an ordinance establishing zoning standards for "mini casinos," and will seek clarifying legislation in 2003.

*Region 6, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties*  
*John Sherman, City Supervisor, City of Pullman*  
[Karen.Sires@ci.pullman.wa.us](mailto:Karen.Sires@ci.pullman.wa.us)

In **Colfax**, city administrator Emily Adams said that she had nothing new to report for the publication at this time.

**Pullman** city supervisor John Sherman reports that **Pullman** voters approved the creation of a Metropolitan Park District at the September primary election with a 60% favorable vote. This is the first new district to be created within the state since the legislature passed a law this year that allows with voter-approval the city council to act as the ex-officio board for the Metropolitan Park District. Prior to this legislative change, a separate board had to be created. \$373,515 will be generated in new revenue in new revenue in 2003 from the approval of the 50-cent per thousand assessment. This figure will rise annually with reassessments of property and as new construction goes on the property tax rolls. The 2003 budget process is going smoothly because the city council already implemented deep cuts, including layoffs, after the legislature decided to lower the backfill funding for 2003. We have six bargaining units and no labor contracts for 2003 so aren't sitting too smug just yet. Furthermore, we have been embroiled in a major controversy regarding how our Police department responded to a fight at a large party. How do we survive all this? Well for one thing the Cougs are on a roll so who cares about all these petty problems. Secondly, I made my age 55 with 25 years of service as a PERS I employee in September so I have taken out a new phone number. It is 1-800-Call Someone Who Cares.

*Region 7, Adams, Grant & Lincoln Counties*  
*Ehman Sheldon, City Administrator, City of Othello*  
[administrator@cityofothello.org](mailto:administrator@cityofothello.org)

From **Othello**, city administrator Ehman Sheldon reports that with the city's growth, impacts of initiatives is relatively minor. Their anticipated revenues for 2003 are 1.8% above estimated actuals for 2002. The staff is requesting an additional maintenance crew person as well as two additional police officers. A new position has been created called computer technician that is responsible for G.I.S., maintenance and communication. As for water and sewer, **Othello** will spend \$350,000 completing improvements to its well #8 as well as a sewer comprehensive plan and rate study. Streets will reflect a multi-year program that will improve every street in the city. **Othello** annexed property allowing the city to connect to SR17. A multi-million dollar interpretive center/rest area is planned. The city has very few buildable lots and is looking at further annexations. The mayor's primary goal is to construct a complete aquatic center. Seventy-four new lots were platted within three plats this year. **Othello** will develop an economic development plan in 2003. Wal-Mart has been in **Othello** just over a year with increased sales taxes to the budget. Ehman reports that he is enjoying his new home with the **Othello**. In an effort to create tourism the Sand Hill Crane Festival has reorganized, this is their 4th year. The opening of Coventry House Assisted Care Facility has brought a beautiful addition to **Othello**. The average 317 days of sun on the east side promotes a vibrant and exciting lifestyle.

*Region 8, Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane & Stevens Counties*  
*Francine Boxer, Chief Executive Officer, Spokane County*  
[fboxer@spokanecounty.org](mailto:fboxer@spokanecounty.org)

**Spokane County** chief executive officer, Francine Boxer announces the **Spokane County** Medical Examiner's Office formally became a county department in August 2002. The office converted from an elected coroner death investigation system to the present medical examiner system on January 1, 1999. Two forensic pathologists originally served in the office, but were employed on a contract basis. With the changes to the department, the two pathologists are now county employees. The purpose of the change in status was to streamline the functioning of the medical examiner's office and increase efficiency. Dr. Sally Aiken was appointed as chief medical examiner and serves under Ms. Boxer and the board of county commissioners. Dr. Aiken received her medical degree from the University of Washington, and her forensic training, under Dr. Donald Reay, at the **King County** medical examiner's office. During 1990 and 1991 she assisted Washington state coroners in multiple jurisdictions while working as the Washington State forensic pathology specialist. From 1991 until 2000, Dr. Aiken was employed as forensic pathologist in Stockton, California, affording her considerable experience in examination of homicide victims. She received commendation by the Board of Supervisors of San Joaquin County, California, for her commitment and professionalism.

*Region 9, Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties*  
*Scott Hugill, City Administrator, City of Leavenworth*  
[cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com)

**Cashmere** city administrator Frank McWhirter reports that the city has taken on three highly visible projects during 2002 that are all nearing completion. They received a state TIB grant that allowed them to rebuild Cottage Avenue that goes through the heart of **Cashmere**. This roadway was the original state Route 2, before the highway was diverted around the city, and it was originally constructed of concrete in 1920. They worked to retain as many of the old maple trees that line the street as possible, as they reflect the small town atmosphere of **Cashmere**. They had the ribbon cutting ceremony September 27th and it was well attended by the TIB board and **Cashmere** citizens as well.

**Cashmere** was also lucky enough to receive an IAC grant to assist in rebuilding their 80 year old swimming pool this year. The renovation triggered another project in the city, which was to construct a new community building in the Riverside Park alongside the Wenatchee River. The swimming pool site had also been the site of a Boy Scout building that was located in such a way that it restricted the expansion of the new swimming pool. A community center building had been discussed for several years, and the city decided to go ahead with this project, reserving a wing of the new building for the Boy Scouts being moved by the pool expansion. They did not complete the swimming pool in time for the local kids to get their feet wet this summer, but they are having a ribbon cutting and open house October 24 at 5:00PM.

The community building is entering the finishing stages and is now visible from Highway 2 as you drive by **Cashmere**. They anticipate a ribbon cutting during December and plans are being made for community Christmas parties this year. In all, these projects have kept them on our toes this year, and they have resolved that next year will be mostly an operation and maintenance in **Cashmere**.

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Cathy Mulhall, administrative coordinator for **Chelan County**, reports that along with its partners **Wenatchee**, **East Wenatchee**, and **Douglas County**, they just broke ground on the construction of its new regional 911 center. The 911 center which will be known as RIVER COM will be the first multi-county/city PSAP in the state of Washington. It has been a very exciting and fast moving project. RIVER COM will start operation in January of 2004.

Right now **Chelan County** is working on a multi-year lease arrangement with the State of Washington to lease park property to OCD for migrant farm worker housing. The proceeds from the lease will offset the expenditures of their parks and recreation budget.

Cathy recently attended the Washington County Administrator's Association meeting which was part of the larger WSAC/WACO conference in **Wenatchee**. She reports that during their roundtable discussion it was disturbing to hear about the financial troubles facing our counties. At the same time, it was very exciting to see how resilient and resourceful we all can be. She heard many ideas of economizing and partnering with other municipalities to create more efficient programs. She thinks we all deserve a pat on the back for working hard in these difficult times.

And in **Leavenworth**, Scott Hugill, city administrator, tells us that the National Audubon Society has chosen the city as the site for Washington's next "Audubon Learning Center." Audubon has acquired several acres and a 100-year-old bed & breakfast next to **Leavenworth's** Waterfront Park on the Wenatchee River. The city will be working with Audubon to utilize Waterfront Park as an outdoor classroom for students visiting the Center.

**Leavenworth** voters will be considering a \$1.95 million bond issue on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot to fund the conversion of a fruit warehouse into a 15,000 square foot civic center. Although the project would be funded entirely through hotel/motel tax revenues, the challenge remains convincing voters that they are not voting to adopt a new tax on themselves.

In preparation of the 2003 budget, the council recently set the property tax levy at a rate that will utilize the city's full banked taxing capacity. This will enable them to fully fund law enforcement and fire protection costs from the property tax, even though the levy rate will be a low \$2.02 -- among the lowest in the state.

Leavenworth has begun wrangling with the **Chelan/Douglas County** Health District over their interpretation of the state supreme court's ruling earlier this year on the number of exempt wells allowed for new subdivisions. At this time, the health district is considering a policy that would allow property owners to continue submitting subdivision applications with multiple exempt wells until November 15, despite the court's ruling that subdivisions are limited to a maximum draw of 5,000 gallons per day. This policy would preclude **Leavenworth's** ability to extend utility service into the urban growth area, causing existing customers to continue fully bearing the cost of recent improvements. Any ideas?

*Region 10, Island, San Juan, Skagit & Whatcom Counties*  
*Gary Tomsic, City Manager, City of Blaine*  
[gtomsic@cityofblaine.com](mailto:gtomsic@cityofblaine.com)

In **Blaine**, city manager Gary Tomsic reports that the new fire station is under construction and will be finished next March. The city successfully passed a levy-lift for street maintenance in the last primary election. The city recently completed a design charette for an exciting new downtown boardwalk. The project is now in preliminary design.

Gary reports that he's had three auctions since completing auctioneering school this past June. **Blaine's** beautification committee held an auction in August and raised \$4800 for park improvements.

Bill Verwolf, city administrator in **Lynden**, is finishing up a very busy and successful summer. He has a new library under construction and a major overhaul of the wastewater treatment plant. **Lynden** has reconstructed its primary access into the downtown including utilities, stormwater and street paving. The city was just notified that it placed second place in the national America Blooms competition.

Steve Jilk, former city administrator in **Lynden** and current economic development director for the Port of **Bellingham**, recently completed the comprehensive economic development plan for **Whatcom County**. Steve is primary staff to the Partnership for a Sustainable Economy which includes all of the cities in **Whatcom County**, the PUD, and the port.

*Region 11, Snohomish County*  
*Dave O'Leary, City Administrator, City of Lake Stevens*  
[daveo@ci.lake-stevens.wa.us](mailto:daveo@ci.lake-stevens.wa.us)

Bob Stowe, **Mill Creek** city manager, reports that the city is proceeding ahead with some very exciting construction projects. First, the city will be building two new neighborhood parks and an active use community park. The active use community park is the first for the city. The city purchased five acres in February 2002, then later received one million dollars in assistance from the state as part of their economic stimulus package, and plans to open the park in July 2003. The park will contain a sports field with a state of the art synthetic field surface to be used for little league baseball, girl's softball, and soccer. Also included on the site is a 10,000 square foot skate park along with restrooms, concession area, etc. The total cost for the park (including land) is approximately 4.3 million with almost one-half of those expenses paid for by mitigation and state funding. The other significant park and recreation project is a proposed community center to be located in the city's new Town Center. The community center is planned to be a 35,000 square foot building that will include a great hall, kitchen, one and one-half gymnasium, small fitness room, arts and crafts room, games room, preschool activity room, and outdoor plaza areas. The proposed center will support all of the city recreation programs, and senior and youth activities. The cost is estimated to be approximately 8 million and is proposed to be financed with a voted

bond measure next year. The **Mill Creek** city council is currently discussing the merits of placing the matter before the voters next year and is also considering a recommendation to enact a 2 percent utility tax to offset the operations and maintenance expenses of the center (the city currently has no utility tax). The center's operations are expected to recover 70 percent of its expenses via fees.

Another project of significance is the **Mill Creek** Town Center, a mixed-use development that will become the heart and activity center for the community. After nearly ten years of planning and marketing the Town Center, construction has begun to clear the site, build Main Street, and construct the associated infrastructure. **Mill Creek** Town Center will feature pedestrian friendly, shop-lined streets that link new neighborhoods with **Mill Creek's** current central business district. More than 1,200 new residential units adjacent to **Mill Creek** Town Center are under construction or have been approved; thus, integrating residential and commercial uses in a walkable pedestrian environment. Strong design standards integrate all land uses in the development. Phase I will offer 233,000 square feet of retail and office uses, providing opportunities for a range of retail businesses as well as dining and entertainment. There are multiple spaces for office and commercial development on the second and third stories above the street-level retail sites. Phase II will offer similar uses, as well as a proposed community center. One of the unique features of the **Mill Creek** Town Center is its interaction with the environment. The location abuts an environmentally sensitive wetland and stream. The wetland has been preserved and the North Creek Trail has been made an integral part of the experience of shopping, working, or living at **Mill Creek** Town Center. In addition, the stream is the focus of salmon-habitat restoration efforts.

Even with the variety of public construction projects taking place in **Mill Creek**, Bob reports that service levels will remain the same for the next biennium without the use of reserves (due to some one-time development revenues). However, the city's financial forecast models have projected a rapid decline of revenue requiring significant service level changes without the provision of any new revenue to support basic services.

From **Snohomish**, city manager Larry Bauman (who started in May) submitted a recommended budget for 2003 that reduced \$500,000 worth of expenditures in the current year budget in order to balance the new \$11.7 million operating budget. The proposed budget includes reducing or eliminating a number of positions, including a six-month delay in hiring a police officer position (now vacant), the end of the city's police cadet program, and reducing by about half the hours for both utility clerk and a clerk II in city hall. This year's budget review includes an expanded format for detailed capital projects, providing council and citizens with a clearer view of what projects are funded and when the work is scheduled to be done.

On the positive (revenue) side of the ledger, the city has seen some modest but pleasant surprises in property tax and sales tax revenues (primarily due to very conservative initial estimates). Also on the horizon is the potential of an additional \$400,000 to \$500,000 in sales tax and property tax revenues if voters on November 5 approve the annexation of a new commercial area to **Snohomish**. The area purportedly contains only about 14 registered voters but several businesses including the Bickford Ford Motors. This will be one of the first annexations by election within **Snohomish County** since the supreme court invalidated annexation by assessed valuation petitions.

Of course, **Snohomish** is also keeping an eye on the future initiatives -- especially Tim Eyman's not-yet-qualified Initiative 267 that would require all sales taxes on motor vehicles to be deposited in a state fund for road, street or highway construction and maintenance -- stripping away vehicles sales tax as a general fund revenue source.

The city's number of public facilities continues to grow with the support and fund-raising efforts of other agencies and local groups. The new **Snohomish** library being built by the Sno-Isle Library District is under construction, the largely citizen and business-funded skatepark has been in operation since March, and the privately supported \$1.6 million youth activities center to be built next door has raised more than \$1 million of its required funding. The downside is that more than 20 percent of the land in the city is now tax-exempt. There's always a cloud for every silver lining.

*Region 12, North King County*

*Mitch Wasserman, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, City of Clyde Hill*

[mitch@clydehill.org](mailto:mitch@clydehill.org)

The city of **Bothell** has initiated a new customer service workshop for employees called "Experience **Bothell**". Instead of listening to someone ramble on about how to provide it, it is geared to small groups of employees from each department, getting together and sharing information about their experiences, mingling with employees they normally wouldn't have a chance to meet, and as one employee said, "Remembering why they got into this business." Almost 70% of all employees have attended and are asking for more. The workshops are geared around the Pike Place Fish Market philosophy and utilize their training videos. Several other cities have been interested and have attended sessions and asked for assistance on setting theirs up. The training team, consisting of one employee from each department, is now putting together a "Discover **Bothell**" tour. The tour will consist of a tour of all city facilities including stops along the way to see how and what city employees are doing. It has turned out to be an exciting way to learn more about each other and to provide one more layer of knowledge for all employees. For more information, contact Cecelia Duncan, Sr. Management Analyst at 425.486.3256 or [Cecelia.Duncan@ci.bothell.wa.us](mailto:Cecelia.Duncan@ci.bothell.wa.us).

Jack McKenzie, town administrator, tells us that the big activity in **Hunts Point** right now is preparing for the replacement of **Hunts Point** Road. The original road was constructed in 1921 of concrete. It has required very little maintenance in the last 81 years but is breaking up pretty badly due to the heavy construction equipment serving the new large houses being built. The new road will be financed with a local improvement district based upon the 98 properties that front (back) the road. Construction is to begin in April 2003.

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From **Kenmore**, city manager Steve Anderson sends the following reports:

**DISINCORPORATION PETITION CIRCULATED:** We are doing such a great job in the community with our park master plan and downtown master plan effort, the cell tower siting moratorium, code compliance efforts and the card room moratorium that a petition is now being circulated calling for the council to place disincorporation on the ballot in November 2003. I've always heard threats in new cities about doing disincorporation but never thought it would happen, and certainly not in **Kenmore**. The people voted to incorporate, and they have every right to vote to disincorporate. Let's hope cooler heads prevail and that the petition process is unsuccessful. We need to be doing a better job of community outreach, the council's number one goal for 2002-2003.

**BUDGET STATUS:** We are experiencing the affects of the county and state budget difficulties. Our human services funding requests increased to \$168,000 for 2003 from \$112,500 in 2002. The proposed budget has no money designated to support the on-going operation of the Northshore Pool in **Bothell** (**King** County) nor St. Edward Park Pool in **Kenmore** (State), both of which face closure in January and June respectively. Passage of Initiative 776 will reduce our street fund revenues by \$170,000 annually,

resulting in an increased subsidy from the general fund to maintain current level of service. Council reviewed this possibility at the mid-year retreat and is not convinced that they will increase the subsidy. Rather, they may look to other solutions to make up the shortfall, including decreasing the overlay program, preserving some streets with slurry seal instead of the asphalt overlay, using REET dollars instead of general fund, etc.

**PARK MASTER PLAN:** The planning commission has completed its work on the draft park master plan and has forwarded it to council for their review and consideration. We anticipate the council will have conduct a public hearing in November and adopt the plan late November, early December. The plan recommends a maintenance and capital spending strategy that will be funded by a maintenance levy, voted debt and increased impact fees.

**DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN:** The planning commission is wrapping up work on the downtown plan, hoping to have a recommendation to council by year end. The commission has revised the focus from recommending a site for locating community facilities (community center, library and city hall) in the designated downtown to recommending criteria for selecting a site. This change provides additional flexibility to the community to take advantage of any unique opportunity for locating these facilities. We continue to work with the library district on this project. The commission will be concentrating on the rezone and design guidelines into November. We look forward to receiving the commission's recommendation for council review and consideration.

**ENGINEERING SERVICES:** We have been evaluating our engineering needs and how best to provide this service -- remain a contract city or bring the service in-house. The consultant's study that we recently received indicates an economy if we bring one and one-half FTE in-house and continue to contract the other four FTEs. We will be making our recommendation to council during the 2003 budget process.

Community Conversations is a city-wide public participation event during the month of September focusing on what we want **Kirkland** to be like in 20 years. It is part of the city of **Kirkland**'s process to review and amend its comprehensive plan, the city's long range plan for the year of 2022.

A short [10 minute video](#) is provided on the city's website to stimulate **Kirkland** citizens' thinking about **Kirkland's** future and answer three questions about what their preferred future of **Kirkland** will look like. All of the responses to the questions will be used to consider changes to the city's adopted vision statement and 13 framework goals in the comprehensive plan. On Tuesday, November 12, 2002, **Kirkland** will host a city-wide follow-up meeting. At the meeting, the city will summarize and discuss the responses received at the various Community Conversation discussions, written responses from the cable channel program and from the internet questionnaire, and what possible changes may be made to the city's comprehensive plan. The latest edition of **Kirkland** Fire & Building Department's newsletter The Hose and Hammer is now available for download (PDF 673kb). It may also be accessed by going the city's webpage at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us). The Hose and Hammer is packed full of safety tips and timely information of interest to our community. The newsletter has been very well received because of its content and format. The content is relevant to seasonal happenings like daylight savings time, winter safety and electrical hazards for holiday decorations. The format is easy to read with lots of graphics and photos.

Doug Jacobson, city administrator, **Lake Forest Park** reports that the city has broken ground to construct a public works department facility. The facility will house the personnel and equipment for the department that jointly serves the residents of **Lake Forest Park** and **Kenmore**.

Final planning is being completed for the assumption on January 1<sup>st</sup> by the city of the significant portion of the sanitary sewer facilities in **Lake Forest Park**. In late October the city opened the first public access to Lake Washington in **Lake Forest Park**. The Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve is a one-acre parcel that contains the mouth of Lyon Creek. The acquisition and site development cost approximately \$1,500,000 and the City received grants from six different state and county programs totally \$1,300,000.

This summer they also completed the second phase of improvements to Animal Acres Park. Animal Acres Park is a 2½ acre parcel within walking distance of Brookside Elementary School.

With the assistance of a **King County** and state grant the city has purchased 7 acres of undeveloped property that is significantly impacted by sensitive constraints for the creation of a permanent open space and preserve. The city is working closely with a local citizens group, the **Lake Forest Park** Stewardship Foundation, to make minimal public access improvements to the property.

The city continues to work on an update of the comprehensive plan adopted in 1996. Public hearings will be held in November. This is the first significant amendment to the plan that was adopted for a planning area larger than the final boundary of **Lake Forest Park**. A major issue being addressed is the city's commitment to facilitating the construction of new senior housing in the community. In general it sounds good to most people as a goal until the project is proposed for their neighborhood. The first proposal for a senior housing overlay zone that would allow the existing zoning densities to be used on a site to build a 130 unit, three story project has resulted in significant neighborhood opposition.

Work has begun on a \$3,200,000 infiltration/inflow identification and rehabilitation project. It is funded with grant from **King County** wastewater division to reduce the sanitary sewer overflow and backup problems experienced. The project will take approximately two years to complete.

**Lake Forest Park** has received notice that we have received grant funds from three state grant programs and **King County** Metro Transit to construct a new traffic signal at the intersection of Bothell Way (SR 522) and NE 153<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Doug indicates this is his last report as the city administrator for the city of **Lake Forest Park**. He has accepted the position of director of public works/city engineer in the city of **Mill Creek** and look forward to a long and challenging career with our WCMA president Bob Stowe. For those of you who have known Doug for many years, remember that he graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in civil engineering and practiced as an engineer for 12 years. After serving 18 years as a city administrator in **Monroe** and **Lake Forest Park**, he has always had some involvement in some of the engineering activities in **Monroe** and **Lake Forest Park**, and has made a decision to return to public works and civil engineering. He will miss the fellowship and support the members of WCMA have provided through good times and bad. He hopes to stay in touch with many of you. And he says to stop by **Mill Creek** city hall for a cup of coffee if you are ever in the neighborhood.

Doug Shulze, city manager, **Medina**, reports that they had a wonderful summer at **Medina** city hall on the shores of Lake Washington. Reconstruction remains one of the high priority issues in **Medina**. The city council recently conducted public hearings on a proposed ordinance that would have significantly

reduced the maximum structural lot coverage on residential lots over 16,000 square feet. The ordinance would have affected over 60% of the lots in **Medina**. If anyone experiences difficulty with public input and participation in public meetings, I have a few tips for successful methods to increase attendance at city council meetings. The city council has decided to take the testimony under consideration and re-visit the need for the ordinance. A common theme of residential site plan review was developed from the public hearings. City staff is in the process of researching the feasibility of using a site plan review process for residential development.

From **Mercer Island**, Rich Conrad, city manager, reports that just like everyone else, **Mercer Island** is working through an upcoming budget cycle where revenues are down, expenses are up and the next few years don't look very bright.

Nevertheless, undaunted, they are forging ahead with plans for a new community center, a maintenance levy for a large county park soon to be transferred to the city and, perhaps, a bond/levy election for a new pool. Anything wrong with this picture?

On a brighter note, the E-Gov Alliance -- jointly created with a number of east **King County** cities -- is thriving. They are now issuing electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits via a multi-city internet portal. Currently, **Mercer Island**, **Bellevue**, **Kirkland**, **Sammamish** and **Issaquah** are set up for the on-line permits. Very soon they'll add **Woodinville**, **Kenmore**, **Snoqualmie**, **Burien** and **Bothell**. They invite anyone to visit the site at [www.MyBuildingPermit.com](http://www.MyBuildingPermit.com).

They are also pushing forward with our second portal service in which we are providing eight cities' parks and recreation program data in a searchable format. Hopefully, by the end of next year they will be offering on-line recreation class registration via the Alliance's portal for all the Alliance members. The site can be found at: [www.MyParksandRecreation.com](http://www.MyParksandRecreation.com). For more information about the E-Gov Alliance you can visit [www.eCityGov.net](http://www.eCityGov.net). Otherwise, don't hesitate to call Rich at (206) 236-3570.

**Shoreline** city manager Steve Burkett is pleased to announce a couple of relatively new additions to the city manager's staff. Bob Olander, formerly city manager in **Des Moines**, WA, has joined the city in the newly established position of deputy city manager. Bob will oversee planning and development services, public works, and parks and recreation. Julie Modrejewski also joins the team from Rockville, Maryland, where she served as assistant to the city manager. In her role as assistant city manager she will be responsible for personnel, city clerk, customer response team and general organizational development. Steve indicates he now feels comfortable finally being able to leave the office once in a while.

Reconstruction of Aurora Avenue and construction of the new Interurban Trail are two of the largest projects in **Shoreline**. Phase 1 of Aurora, from 145th to 165th, is nearing the end of the EIS process, with construction scheduled for 2005. The current plan envisions an approximate width of 110 feet with 2 general purpose lanes and one BAT lane each way, a 14 foot median, and a pedestrian and amenity zone of about 11 feet. Another exciting project is construction of a bicycle-pedestrian trail along the old interurban (now **Seattle** City Light) right-of-way, roughly paralleling Aurora through out the length of **Shoreline**. This project is expected to start construction in 2004. These projects will bring significant transportation, safety, business, visual, and recreational enhancements to **Shoreline**.

Pete Rose reports that things are "business as UNusual" in **Woodinville**. Regional issues with jails, courts and transportation take up more of the agenda than usual. On top of that, the likelihood of the new **King County** regional wastewater plant being located in the **Woodinville** potential annexation area is great. For apparent lack of fatal flaws, it is likely that this will be the last site standing in the elimination

process. This is a situation that is “The Perfect Storm” in siting strategy. **Snohomish County** has previously fought **Woodinville** attempts to annex into the area. The petition method for annexation of this industrial area is in limbo. If that continues, **Woodinville** will be the most impacted incorporated jurisdiction but will not issue a permit. Meanwhile, the local residents outside the UGA have only their county council as elected representatives, and those council members are avoiding *ex parte* communications because they are in the chain of command for the appeal process. The result is that the process can marginalize those of us with the most to lose.

**Woodinville** was the first to turn in its comprehensive plan update to the state, but all is not calm in local land use planning. **Woodinville** is in the latter stages of a downtown subarea plan. It is being challenged by a citizen group led by former planning commissioners as being too development friendly.

The city budget had a mid-year correction of 8 ½ percent due to sluggish sales tax and permit receipts, and the 2003 budget will hold the line on that correction. We are among those hoping the economic downturn is at the bottom.

Housing starts have become closer to normal as the year has unfolded. Commercial construction had nearly halted for the first four months of the year, but it is rebounding through two large projects. Waste Management Inc. has broken ground on a 70-75,000 square foot recycling facility that will be the second largest indoor single line waste recovery center in the country, according to their sources. A large athletic club has also broken ground on a facility, the final size of which is unknown at this time because they are trying to decide whether to include a pool. The Northshore School District is in negotiations with them on that subject in response to **King County’s** announced closure of the pool at which its competitive swimmers train. It would be a unique public/private partnership in which the district invests in the capital project in exchange for a number of years of service.

*Region 13, South King County*

*Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, City of Normandy Park*

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**Burien** seized the opportunity in August to fulfill its long-time goal for a Town Square when it bought or obtained options on 10 acres of centrally located downtown property. The Town Square along SW 152<sup>nd</sup> Street will be a gathering place for activities and a catalyst for redevelopment of **Burien’s** retail center.

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The city acquired the centerpiece for Town Square by purchasing the 5.6-acre Bell-Duffy property with Gottschalks and Bartell Drugs that these families had owned for almost 50 years. **Burien** also acquired an option to purchase the adjacent Puget Sound Educational Services District (ESD) property. The city will fund these acquisitions from its capital improvement program and the proceeds of future bond issues.

**Burien** is now exploring how collaboration and pooling resources can integrate arts, cultural, educational, and public services in Town Square, city manager Gary Long says. Participants in these discussions include the **Burien** Fire District, Highline Community College, Highline Historical Society, **King County**, the **King County** Library System, the Port of Seattle, the Puget Sound Education Service District, and local art and cultural groups. Long expects this downtown planning phase to be finalized by year’s-end. **Burien’s** downtown plan won the Vision 2020 Award in 2001 from the Puget Sound Regional Council for outstanding planning.

The city began reconstructing downtown SW 152<sup>nd</sup> Street in July, a 12 to 14-month project to increase safety and update the roadway corridor. Working closely with the Discover **Burien** business group, the city is encouraging storefront improvements and business stability during and after the renewal period.

From **Federal Way**, city manager David Moseley reports that roadway construction, county pool assumption and budget issues are the key issues in there. They are now on the fourth project in their downtown street reconstruction and beautification work. The work done so far looks great and improves circulation but they've got about another 3 years of construction work. With **King County** closing pools, this issue has reared its head in **Federal Way**. The council will decide in the budget whether and how to raise taxes to assume the county pool. They were able to present the council with a current service level budget within current revenues with no cuts required. The council is looking at some new services (like the pool) which, the council has been told, will require new revenues and staff has identified potential revenue sources.

From **Kent**, Dena Laurent, assistant chief administrative officer, reports that while **King County** continues to grab headlines for its budget cuts, **Kent** is cutting roughly double **King County's** cut, with a \$6.8 million reduction from a \$63 million general fund. Included in the cuts are 29 eliminated position and six frozen positions. However, these budget reductions are not getting in the way of an expected council adoption of a 3-year, 5%-5%-5% water rate increase. This increase will help the water fund stay even with cost increases and improvement needs for the near term. Progress also continues with the downtown, mixed-use redevelopment project, **Kent Station**. Negotiations with the developer for the initial land sale are moving along with the developer's planned submission of plans in late October or early November. The project is slated to bring 300,000 square feet of retail and entertainment uses to **Kent's** urban center in its first phase.

From **Tukwila**, John McFarland, city administrator, reports that for the first time in its contemporary history, it is faced with significant budgetary decisions. Staff reductions in 2003 will number 8 personnel (achieved through attrition) and the imposition of a limited utility tax will be necessary to avoid negative cash flows by 2004. On a very positive note, work continues on the planning for **Tukwila Village**, a 12-acre mixed-use development involving a public/private partnership. The city will soon launch a demonstration project designed to ultimately bring broadband fiber-optic connectivity to every address. And finally, the selection process for a new city administrator progresses, with the announced retirement of John McFarland this coming February.

And in **Normandy Park**, city manager Merlin MacReynold reports that like everyone else, the administration and city council are now focused upon budgets and revenues as we are going through our budget process for 2003/2004. We have tightened up, but are not taking any drastic actions at this time and project that we should be in good shape for the next three to four years. Unfortunately, if the state does not do something about the loss of equalization funding and the citizen initiatives continue to have success at the polls, in the not to distant future we will be taking some pretty drastic actions in terms of service changes and layoffs. The 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Enhancement Project continues to wind its way through the state process and we plan to go out to bid in February and start building in May. The 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Enhancement Project is a corridor project in cooperation with the cities of **Burien** and **Des Moines**.

The public process for the **Normandy Park** Economic Redevelopment Plan is almost complete and will go to the council for review in November at a special meeting. This is an effort by our city to begin to create planned commercial development in **Normandy Park** along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Additionally, the city has sold its sewer utility to Southwest Suburban Sewer District. Both the city council and the sewer district board have taken action and the actual transfer will take place at the end of the year. This service change was a win for the city, the city customers and the sewer district. Sewer rates will be reduced by 27 percent for the city customers and service will be improved. The city retained approximately \$1.2 million dollars. The district was able to expand their service area and improve their bonding capacity. It was a good long term business decision for **Normandy Park**.

**Normandy Park** continues to be an active part of the Airport Communities Coalition (ACC) and prevent the Port of Seattle from building the third runway at SeaTac International Airport. This has been a costly and long battle but the recent decision by the Pollution Control Hearings Board was the biggest win the ACC has ever had and the impacted communities are very encouraged.

*Region 14, Pierce County*

*Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor*

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Mark Hoppen, city administrator, **Gig Harbor**, reports that the city recently held a grand opening for a new 36,000 square foot civic center. The new facility, designed for full occupancy in 20 years, was designed by *Burr Lawrence Rising and Bates*, a firm best noted for sustainable school architecture. With big glue-lam beams, shed roof structure, and some rather unusual maritime art, the new municipal services center celebrates the maritime past of the city in both structure and materials. Also, the city is about to complete the acquisition of the last remaining open waterfront property in its downtown core. The 300 front foot park, Skansie Brothers Park, is immediately adjacent to the city's Jeresich Park and dock. The property includes an old historic house and a netshed on piles. Acquiring an historic 17 acre farm last year, and the new maritime park in the near future, **Gig Harbor** will have preserved prime examples of its agrarian and maritime past.

From **Tacoma**, Ray Corpuz, city manager reports on their Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training Program (LEAP):

Empowering a well-trained workforce; creating opportunities for workers

The question: How does a city respond to a local construction boom when the workforce is aging? Over the past several years, **Tacoma's** Museum of Glass, **Tacoma** Art Museum, **Tacoma** Convention and Trade Center, University of Washington-**Tacoma**, Sound Transit **Tacoma** Link light rail and a host of other public and private development projects have helped transform downtown Tacoma into a vibrant hub for entertainment, tourism and education -- and construction jobs. But the local labor force was aging just as construction was hitting a growth period. So **Tacoma** had to look at ways to bring new workers into the construction field.

The answer? **Tacoma's** Local Employment and Apprenticeship Program (LEAP) has leveled the playing field for citizens seeking employment opportunities. The program helps more **Tacomans** get family-wage jobs working on city public works projects and adds to the pool of available construction workers. In fact, LEAP employees worked 81,621 hours and earned \$1.8 million between January 1, 1999, and March 31, 2002.

How does it work? The mandatory LEAP program requires contractors or service providers to contract with state-approved apprentices and/or **Tacoma** residents for 15 percent of a city of **Tacoma** project's

total labor hour goal on civil projects over \$250,000, building projects over \$750,000 and related service contracts.

The contractor can use subcontractor hours toward meeting the goal, and the contractor must provide a Local Resident/Washington State Apprentice Verification Form for every person from whom the contractor will claim credit. Contractors who do not meet the goal receive a \$1.50 penalty for each unmet labor hour.

The city's finance department implements the program with a full-time coordinator who oversees the daily operations. The coordinator works closely with contractors and contractor associations, labor, community-based organizations, citizens, educational institutions, public agencies and city of **Tacoma** staff to meet LEAP objectives.

What are the results? From January 1, 1999, through March 31, 2002, LEAP was included on 59 city of **Tacoma** projects valued at just over \$142 million. LEAP employees worked 15 percent of that -- 81,621 hours -- and earned just over \$1.8 million. LEAP qualified 410 workers during the same time period as apprentices and journey-level workers.

What's the future of LEAP? The city of **Tacoma** finance department expects the numbers to go up as LEAP gets involved in the new **Tacoma** Convention and Trade Center project.

Through LEAP, apprentices and local residents will work a total of 45,900 hours on the project. The hours could translate into as many as 20 jobs and reflect 15 percent of the project's total labor hour goal. Work on the convention center through LEAP will give apprentices the experience they need to build a strong construction career.

Other developments for LEAP include a partnership driven workforce delivery system that links together all workforce employment agencies and stakeholders through a Web-based collaboration.

For questions about LEAP, please call city of **Tacoma** LEAP Program Coordinator Peter Guzman at (253) 594-7933.

*From the counties*  
[glenc@co.klickitat.wa.us](mailto:glenc@co.klickitat.wa.us)

Glen Chipman, Director of General Services for **Klickitat County**, submits this report on behalf of the Washington County Administrative Association (WCAA).

Members of the Washington County Administrative Association (WCAA) gathered in Wenatchee, October 2. The WCAA fall meeting is traditionally a roundtable discussion of the issues facing counties. Once again the central themes seemed to be budget woes, labor issues, and legislative matters. Maureen Morris of the Washington State Association of Counties reviewed the latest draft of a proposed legislative package of the newly formed coalition known as the Tri-Association (AWC, WSAC, WACO). Rich Yukubousky, Executive Director of MRSC, also gave an update on resources available through MRSC.

Board elections were held during the fall meeting to adjust for the loss of Dick Brown who was serving as WCAA President when he passed away earlier this year. The new officers are President Bill Barron, **Clark County**; Vice-President Glen Chipman, **Klickitat County**; and Connie Robins, **Lewis County**.

As recommended by those attending the Wenatchee meeting, the winter meeting has been moved up a week as to not conflict with the NACO meetings. The WCAA winter meeting (annual meeting) will be held February 19-21, 2003 in Leavenworth at the Enzian Inn.

## Transitions

**Doug Jacobson** has resigned as city administrator of Lake Forest Park to return to his professional roots as director of public works/city engineer of Mill Creek.

**John McFarland**, city administrator of Tukwila, who will be retiring shortly, was accorded recognition by being named an honorary life member of WCMA at the last meeting of the WCMA board.

**Julie Modrejewski** has been appointed assistant city manager of Shoreline. She was formerly assistant to the city manager in Rockville, Maryland.

**Scott Staples** has been appointed city manager of Toppenish. You'll remember Scott as city manager of Walla Walla. He then took a side trip out of state to serve as city manager of Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

## WCMA Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Bob Stowe, City Manager, Mill Creek (425) 745-1891 <a href="mailto:BOB@cityofmillcreek.com">BOB@cityofmillcreek.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Rich Conrad, City Manager, Mercer Island (206) 236-5325 <a href="mailto:rich.conrad@ci.mercer-island.wa.us">rich.conrad@ci.mercer-island.wa.us</a>
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<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director of MRSC (206) 625-1300 <a href="mailto:ryukubousky@mrsc.org">ryukubousky@mrsc.org</a>

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Bob White, RangeRider (425) 778-9394

## 2003 Calendar

- **Northwest Regional Management Conference** combined with ICMA Best Practices 2003, March 20 – 22, 2003, Tacoma, Washington
- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 18 -- 20, West Coast Grand Hotel (Formerly Inn at the Park), Spokane, Washington
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference**, August 20 – 22, 2003, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop, Washington
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, September 21 – 24, 2003, Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

## 2004 Calendar

- **Northwest Regional Management Conference**, March 15 -- 18, 2004, Agate Beach Holiday Inn, Newport, Oregon

- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 16 -- 18, Ocean Shores, Washington
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA)**, August, date and location to be announced
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, October 17 – 20, 2004, San Diego City/County, California

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