



Volume 15, No. 1, April 2003

President's Message

It's hard to believe that it's April 2003 already. Time flies by when you are having fun. Fun in the sense of serving as the President of this association and not so much with the lack of positive action to date from the state legislature in regard to the Tri-Association proposal. Very few of the Tri-Association's proposals are still alive; however, there is still some discussion from legislators about voter approved property and sales tax options, so please contact your legislators about the need for revenues to provide local government services. I would like to thank the Staff at AWC who are once again presenting and protecting the interests of local government.

I am very pleased with the work of WCMA last year in providing ideas and possible solutions as part of the Tri-Association proposal. This has created a good foundation for future city-county legislative proposals and we should build upon the momentum created as a result of this effort. We went into this legislative session knowing that substantive changes would take a multi-year effort. Sometimes it's easy to forget the proverb that elephants are eaten one bite at a time.

Looking ahead as the legislative session is *scheduled* to adjourn later this month, I call upon the WCMA membership to develop a strategy for next year's legislative session. Such a strategy could involve similar actions as taken this past year in developing efficiency measures and revenue options for the Tri-Association proposal, or we may want to become actively involved in the legislative process. In any event, I have made contact with several of you to serve on a Local Government Legislative Strategy Committee to develop some ideas and options for the membership to consider by the summer conference if possible. If you are interested in serving on this Committee or have some ideas you would want the Committee to review and discuss, please contact me if you have not done so already. I would expect that the Committee would meet on two or three occasions, plus e-mail communications prior to the summer conference.

In other business, I am pleased to report that the WCMA Membership Committee of Dave Ramsay of Kirkland, Malcolm Fleming of Kitsap County, and Andy Neiditz of Sumner, has developed a new membership strategy that the Board has approved. As part of that plan, I have mailed letters to over sixty potential new members inviting them to join WCMA. Our regional representatives will also be contacting the potential new members in their area about the benefits of membership. If you have an assistant that should be considered as a potential member, please pass their name and other information along to me.

I would also like to report that I have nominated Steve Burkett of Shoreline as WCMA's representative to the ICMA 2004 Conference Planning Committee. Thanks to everyone who volunteered for the position. Finally, if you have not already heard it on ESPN, the Washington managers were victorious in the volleyball match against the Oregon managers. In fact we swept two games from them with only four players on Washington's team compared with 8-10 players on Oregon's side. The fewer players on one team may have even been a tactical advantage that we might want to consider for next year as well.

Enjoy the spring and I look forward to seeing you all at the summer conference!

Bob Stowe, WCMA President
City Manager, City of Mill Creek
bob@cityofmillcreek.com

Vice-President's Message

2003 WCMA Summer Conference

This is an early reminder to consider the WCMA Summer Conference in your summer planning. This year, we will be at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, Washington. The conference will run from August 19 – 22. As you probably know, Sun Mountain is a beautiful resort location in the Methow Valley of north-central Washington. The site offers a wide variety of recreational activities including hiking, mountain-biking, horseback riding, swimming, tennis. Golf, fishing and river-rafting are also nearby. We expect to have a stimulating array of speakers and panelists over the three-day conference. We also plan to leave ample time for networking with your colleagues and having fun with your family. Look for conference registration materials in June.

The Trophy Comes Home

On Friday night of the ICMA Best Practices Conference (Tacoma, 3/20-22), four courageous and undaunted Washington managers took on nine of the biggest and meanest managers Oregon could muster in the annual volleyball showdown. [OK -- it was raining like cats and dogs and there was a reception going on over at Union Station. So the reality was -- there were thirteen managers who wimped out and took the shorter walk across the street to the YMCA.] Whatever. Your four Washington stalwarts ended the Oregon volleyball juggernaut in two straight games.

President Bob Stowe proudly carried the trophy home to Mill Creek. We can expect Oregon to come prepared next year. The post-game trash-talk about "shock and awe" got their attention.

Rich Conrad, WCMA Vice-President
City Manager, City of Mercer Island
rich.conrad@ci.mercer-island.wa.us

From Cascade Center

PAY ATTENTION TO STAFF DEVELOPMENT!

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.

The Cascade Center is part of 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, including the new Executive Master of Public Administration degree, a 21-month program of study resulting in a graduate degree.

The Center is proud to count many current and former city managers among its participants.

Cascade courses cover the topics of Budgeting, Managing People, Ethics, Managing Change, Information Technology, Resolving Conflict, Communication Skills, Leaving a Legacy, Improving Operations and Customer Service, Media Relations, and Effective Management and Strategic Planning.

You can register on-line via the Center's web site at www.cascadecourses.org or by calling 206-685-0523 to request a brochure and/or to be added to the Center's mailing list.

The WCMA designates scholarship funds for its members to take Cascade courses. You are encouraged to take advantage of that opportunity.

Below are the upcoming 2003 Cascade Center courses:

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

Need Advice or Help? Who to call?

It's Spring. And maybe a full moon. And once again, the mayor and council are getting fractious. Some days, things just don't look 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
E-mail: Jeanynal@earthlink.com

Bob White
6703 234th 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

Sustainable Mountain Communities: An invitation:

The following letter of invitation was received:

Office of the Mayor, Town of Banff, Alberta, Canada

Dear colleagues:

May 20, 2003

This June, people from mountain communities around the world will meet in Banff (in the beautiful Canadian Rockies) to explore the issues of environmental sustainability for mountain areas impacted by tourism and amenity migration.

The Town of Banff and Parks Canada are collaborating with the Banff Centre and Mountain Forum to present the Sustainable Mountain Communities conference, June 14-18. This is a follow-up to the successful World Mountain Resorts & Gateway Cities Conference held in Matsumoto, Japan in 2001.

I hope that you will be able to join us in Banff to explore the conference subthemes:

- Managing quantity, type and rate of growth within legislated or naturally imposed boundaries
- Minimizing air, water and soil pollution
- Reducing resource consumption and waste
- Maintaining a sustainable tourism-based economy
- Developing and maintaining sustainable transportation for people and goods
- Providing sustainable utilities and infrastructure

Confirmed speakers include:

- Laurence Moss (USA) on amenity migration
 - Ralf Buckley (Australia) on sustainability issues in worldwide tourism
 - Dianne Draper (Canada) on water management in tourism areas
 - Romain Molitor (Austria) on the Alpsmobility project for car-free tourism
 - Timothy Duane (USA) on sustainability lessons from the Sierras
- ... and many others

We are accepting conference registrations now at

https://secure.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/mtncomm_registration.htm

and you can see conference information at

<http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/mtnconferences/suscom/>

We hope you will participate in this important meeting, and invite you to bring and present case studies and success stories from your mountain community.

Further information can be found on the website, or by contacting conference organizer Leslie Taylor by email at leslie_taylor@banffcentre.ca.

With warm best wishes,

Dennis Shuler, Mayor of Banff

110 Bear Street • P.O. Box 1260, Banff, Alberta T1L 1A1 • Tel: (403)762-1200 • Fax: (403)762-1260

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

Bainbridge Island has appointed an “Open Space Commission” to spend the \$8M bond issue for acquiring open space properties authorized by the voters in Nov. 2001. So far the Commission has recommended and the city council has bought a half dozen properties ranging from waterfront access to farmland. The success of the program was recently supplemented in a very positive way when a former island resident donated nearly 13 acres, valued at nearly \$700,000, which had formerly been a Christmas tree farm, to the city. The commission has been a pleasure to work with and the whole effort so far has been enjoyable. A real estate salesperson was recently heard grumbling that the “City was buying all the good properties”. Hey, what can I say? It was Will Rogers who said “Buy land; they ain’t makin’ it any more.”

Region 2, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Thurston Counties
David Campbell, City Manager, City of Chehalis
dcampbell@ci.chehalis.wa.us

J. D. Fouts reports that **Centralia's** downtown was recently listed on the state register of historic places, and they're aiming for the national register, too. Downtown businesses continue to take advantage of the city's facade improvement program, which is funded through a rural electric utility excise tax refund account. A new skate park being built in **Centralia** recently received a \$100,000 donation from a local grocery store business. Construction on the city's new wastewater treatment plant is underway and ahead of schedule. It could be done by the end of this year, with a new pump station, interceptor line, and outfall to follow. Their annual Railroad Days event takes place April 26-27.

Here in **Chehalis**, we've wrapped up new multi-year contracts with our three collective bargaining groups, but not with the kind of insurance cost-sharing that we'd initially proposed. We have acquired land for our own new wastewater plant and associated facilities, including 400 acres for a poplar tree farm to be irrigated with Class A treated wastewater. During the past year we have also both significantly increased our water treatment plant's capacity and reduced its harmful environmental impact (according to DOE). We recently went through the bidding process for a new solid waste collection and disposal contract, and we were fortunate to receive two very competitive bids.

Finally, as I write this piece, bombs, bullets, and missiles are flying in Iraq, and our aged library building has sprung a broken water pipe. But the Mariners open their regular season tomorrow, so all is not bad. Hope springs eternal.

The big news from Region 2 is Dick Cushing's pending retirement (effective July 1). Dick has been in the city management business for 34 years in Washington, including the past 17 years in **Olympia**. Before that he served in **Kent, Bellevue, Ocean Shores, and Tacoma**. He was a west coast regional vice president for ICMA in 1990-92 and president of our own WCMA in 1982 – 1983. It's a huge understatement to say Dick has served our profession well. The heck of it is, he still looks and acts

young. (He claims he was only 12 when he started.) After a break this summer, he will be looking for jobs that provide both maximum compensation and maximum time off. He and Carol (who will continue to work for a while) plan to stay in **Olympia**. He wants to stay in touch with WCMA folks and will be available for consultation around fishing and skiing outings. Dick's top work priority before he crosses over to the other side, is the Capital Area Public Facilities District, which will partially fund two projects -- an arts and conference center in downtown **Olympia** and a regional sports complex in **Lacey**.

Speaking of **Lacey**, Greg Cuoio is initiating over \$65 million worth of public projects this year. Besides the aforementioned sports complex, their construction plans include a new senior center, three fire stations, 15 parks, and six major roads projects. Someone has to stimulate the relatively lackluster economy. **Lacey** also recently purchased one of the two remaining pre-Civil War homes in **Thurston County**. It will be used for retreats, weddings, workshops, and community events, with rental income exceeding operating costs. At least that's the forecast.

From **Westport**, Randy Lewis, city administrator, reports that they are in the midst of a park project featuring a baseball field for the high school and local Babe Ruth League programs. The park will also include a walking trail, picnic area, and wetland preserve. Also in the recreation arena, **Westport** is planning to extend an existing oceanside walking trail to their bayside marina. A proposed hotel/golf course destination resort is crawling through the legal system. Finally, as always, salmon fishing is a hot topic on the coast, and indications now are that the numbers and seasons will be great this year. Mark your calendars for an early July opening.

Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties
Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas
lhalverson@ci.cammas.wa.us

And this month, Region 3 brings us a special report:

Special Report

Washington Managers Host Polish Officials

WCMA members and Washington Cities hosted a delegation of outstanding Polish visitors during the last ten days of March. The honored guests included elected and appointed officials. A total of six exemplary local Polish officials visited. The group included two mayors, a vice mayor, a council president, a treasurer, and a consultant. A hosted stop in Chicago preceded the flight to the west coast. A featured event of the visit was a presentation to the Washington and Oregon managers at their joint Spring conference. The Poles described "The Transformation" (changes in Polish Society since 1990) and the reconstruction of democratic local government in their nation. The presentation was quite well received, and individual contacts further mutual understanding. This speech supplemented the ICMA Best Practices Symposium panel on "Cross Border Co-operation".

To further understanding of US city management practices, and American conditions, the delegates had a very extensive tour. Highlights (including those who helped) included:

- VIP tour of the Everett Boeing facility
- A hosted lunch meeting with SW City managers at the historic Marshall House in Vancouver (Pat McDonnell)
- A description of “the Hillsboro story of economic development”(Charlie Cameron, David Lawrence)
- A tour of the Columbia River Gorge(Martha Bennett), dinner and Blazers/Wizards basketball game (Dave Mercier, Jim Hough, Scott Lazenby), a tour of Seattle and environs and home stays with families (Karen Haines, Carter Hawley, Rich Yukubousky)
- Portland City Hall (Ron Bergman)
- Battleground City (Eric Holmes)

In addition to a local government element of exposure to professional city managers and US best practices, there were talks about potential sister city relations, and potential exchanges. Exchanges might include students, government officials and experts, business contacts, and artistic/cultural exchanges.

The Polish visitors demonstrated great interest, and showed typical grace. They had a good time, and returned home March 30. Charlie Cameron provided an especially memorable moment and summary. Noting that the Poles seemed very impressed with what Hillsboro has done in economic development over the span of some 50 years, Charlie said: “When we think of what Polish people have done in a decade, we are the ones who are impressed. You have transformed a society, and our hats are off to you.”

The visit was generously supported by the WCMA, and other individual and organizational supporters. The support of WCMA, member city managers, and a wide network of interested persons is gratefully acknowledged.

Your Camas correspondent and tour co-coordinator,

Lloyd Halverson
City Administrator, City of Camas

Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties
Glenn K. Rice, Assistant City Manager, City of Yakima
grice@ci.yakima.wa.us

After contacting all the communities on our list of members, I received responses from **Goldendale** and **Cle Elum**. I have made additional comments about neighboring communities that you may use if you wish.

In **Goldendale** city administrator Larry Bellamy expects all three phases of a \$4 million dollar wastewater facility upgrade to be completed by September 2003. This upgrade was due to the changes in the water quality standards in the Little Klickitat River. Capital improvements in two major parks in **Goldendale** will be a major focus of the city in 2003. These upgrades include playground equipment, irrigation systems, replanting of grass and other amenities including restroom facilities and a skateboard park. A donation from the Calpine Corporation, a new tenant in the industrial park, is making this possible.

Calpine Corporation is building the **Goldendale** energy plant and it should be operational in 2004. The **Goldendale** Aluminum Plant has announced its intention to close. Many of its longtime workers have been told they would be laid off by mid-May of 2003. Consequently, the city is heavily pursuing economic development possibilities.

Cle Elum reports that following years of planning and preparation by Trend West Resort, this project is nearing construction. The city's new water filtration plant is under construction and a new wastewater treatment plant should break ground later this year. **Cle Elum** will also be constructing a new sewer interceptor line this summer connecting Trend West properties with the new plant. Annexation of 1,100 acres within the urban growth area for this project is scheduled for election in April 2003. On a personal note, after 30 years of public service, Mike Cecka will not be around to see these improvements as he will be retiring and spending the summer with his wife on an extended tour of the country by pick-up camper and sailboat. We wish him well.

On March 25, **Yakima** appeared before the Washington State Supreme Court in its review of the constitutionality of the petition annexation process. **Yakima's** position is to reverse the early decision by the court and preserve the city's outside utilities/annexation policy. **Moses Lake** joined us on this issue and the West Valley Fire Protection District #12 argued the other side. Attorneys representing **Snohomish**, the Governor's office and the Attorney General's office presented the state's briefs on this issue, asking the court if its decision is upheld to be prospective rather than retroactive.

Yakima continues to work with **Yakima County** concerning building a large regional jail facility if sited in the city. There are several sites under discussion including the Central Washington Fairgrounds. This is an ongoing issue with several cities scheduled to send prisoners to **Yakima County**. **Yakima County** has purchased a temporary building from **Pierce County** to house prisoners and meet contractual obligations until their new structure is completed.

Yakima recently received a Well City Award by the Association of Washington Cities. This is an outstanding effort on the part of our employees, reflecting health promotion in the workforce.

Yakima is nearing the third expansion of its Convention Center and continues to be on time and on budget. PARAS Construction from **Spokane** is the contractor.

The Washington State Department of Transportation, together with the City of **Union Gap**, is looking at alternatives for access to the southern portions of Union Gap. DOT is also working with the City of **Yakima** to improve the interchange at I-82 and Nob Hill Boulevard (Highway 24) and improvements at North 40th and Highway 12.

In **Selah** a community effort is underway to build a large, first-class city pool.

The Valley Mall in **Union Gap** continues to boom. This has created new growth for the community with additional shops and businesses relocating from other communities, particularly **Yakima**. **Union Gap** will be opening Valley Mall Boulevard from S. 3rd Street east to I-82 later this spring.

Naches has a growing population and has recently experienced the new construction of a major U.S. Forest Service office.

Toppenish and **Yakima County** continue to work with the Yakama Nation reviewing the feasibility of building a major corrections center in **Toppenish**. Due to utility limitations, this does not seem possible.

A new Wal-Mart distribution center is under construction in **Grandview**. This new project is expected to add between 500-600 new jobs in the lower Yakima Valley.

Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties
Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco
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Connell's city administrator Art Tackett reports that **Connell** has finally completed the change over from the old sewer plant to the new one. The city is embarking on an \$800,000 series of street projects and \$500,000 worth of sewer line projects this year so it promises to be a busy summer.

In **Pasco**, city manager Gary Crutchfield reports that the record growth spurt experienced last year (730 new homes) continues; the rate so far this year suggests that **Pasco** will absorb more than 1,000 new homes (versus the historical annual average of about 50)! Staff is busy analyzing infrastructure capacity to fulfill growth obligations as well as revise the capital improvement program. The only real question mark will be the schools; **Pasco** may establish the first school impact fee in the Tri-Cities area. The city's budget came together very well for this year, due principally to the strong economy and surging growth (continuing benefit of the vitrification plant construction at Hanford). Construction related revenues (sales tax, permit fees, etc.) grew dramatically and a major annexation allowed the recommendation that council drop the property tax rate enough to offset the effect of a school construction bond necessary to accommodate the residential growth surge. That recommendation (approved by the council) earned Gary the honor of a local anti-tax disciple objecting to the "Crutchfield School Tax!" In the unlikely event you did not hear from the ACLU or local arts group, I have formally "apologized" to two local artists for removing their works from city hall in 1997 (removed due to strong complaints from employees and citizens alike). Contrary to the District Court, the 9th Circuit determined the hallway walls in city hall are indeed a "limited public forum"; as such, if we invite art to be displayed on those walls, we cannot determine what should or should not go on (or come off) without clear and appropriate written policy (which must reflect the court's interpretation of the First Amendment). My advice: simply purchase appropriate art for the walls and avoid the entire morass of details associated with the notion of an "arts display management policy" (seems to be an oxymoron) which both reflects the court's interpretation of the First Amendment and actually provides any degree of management authority.

In **Richland**, city manager John Darrington reports that transportation issues are in the driver's seat this year. **Richland** has a heavy percentage of commuter traffic on its two main thoroughfares. Brisk residential development in south **Richland** and new apartment complexes in the city's western portion are compounding the number of vehicles on the city's roadways. The **Richland** city council and staff are taking a fresh look at how to resolve the decades-old traffic problems. Approaches include efforts at the local, state and federal levels. Later this spring, a citizens committee will recommend a multi-modal solution to calming traffic in the central business district. **Richland** also plans public involvement in considering a citywide transportation plan. City council is again lobbying congress to appropriate

significant funding for state roadways that traverse **Richland**. While working to control vehicular traffic, **Richland** hopes to increase its Columbia River traffic when the Lee Boulevard Dock is completed this spring. The dock will accommodate local boaters and cruise ships, and **Richland** is currently marketing the area's amenities to cruise lines. Those amenities include the city's riverside parks and the recently renovated downtown area, which includes the **Richland** Arts & Entertainment District. Also along the waterfront, mixed-use growth continues at Columbia Point with the construction of more condominiums, professional buildings and perhaps another restaurant. The Public Facilities District Board is considering construction of a cultural arts facility/interpretive museum at Columbia Point. Another component of **Richland's** 2003 improvements is installation of a 42-inch sewer main to serve the growing industrial/business development area in north **Richland**. Although the economy has slowed in much of Washington, it remains on the fast track in Richland and its neighboring cities.

Duane Cole, city manager, **Walla Walla**, reports that **Walla Walla** continues to have a strong economy during these difficult times. Unemployment rates remain relatively low and sales tax continues to meet projections although it is not showing the increases seen in the past. The city has entered into a partnership with the Corp of Engineers to do a master plan for Fort **Walla Walla**. This is a 208 acre area dedicated to park and open space use. A historical military cemetery is located on the site and General Wainwright was born at the fort. Housing on the property dates to 1858 and is still occupied. The plan will cost the city about \$20,000 and should provide a guide for future development. **Walla Walla** is changing business software after 20 plus years with the same system. The council authorized staff to proceed with Eden Systems. Thanks to those Washington cities that helped us with reference checks and answers to our questions. Land use issues with our county continue, but we are hopeful that this year will bring the litigation to resolution. The supreme court decided the case regarding paying the private garbage company for lost business when an area is annexed. The city will be headed back to the superior court to determine a value, but the guidelines appear to be more concise so maybe this time we will get a decision. Finally, the city is working with the housing authority and downtown foundation to update the 1989 downtown master plan. Mixed use, upper story apartments, improvements in "close-in" neighborhoods will be considered and staff's hope is to get regulations in place to strengthen our town center.

Region 6, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties
John Sherman, City Supervisor, City of Pullman
Karen.Sires@ci.pullman.wa.us

In **Colfax**, city administrator Emily Adams reports that progress is being made in several areas.

Colfax is finalizing a loan agreement with the Department of Ecology to upgrade/replace the wastewater treatment plant influent pumping and headworks and to add telemetry controls at the plant. The \$826,000 project will go to bid in late May. This is the final project listed on the comprehensive sewer capital projects 1996 six-year plan.

A joint committee of chamber of commerce members, city staff and residents in the community is in the planning phase of a project to enhance the three historic blocks on **Colfax's** Main Street. The project will include cleaning the fronts of the buildings, cleaning and repairing windows in the upstairs floors and hanging curtains and possibly putting silhouette figures at the windows in vacant upstairs rooms.

Ultimately, the committee plans to outline in lights the turn-of-the-century architectural features on the upper floors of the buildings.

Pullman is weathering its financial challenges according to city supervisor John Sherman. The 2003 budget reflected a cut of 9.3% in the general fund. The total number of budgeted full-time employees was cut by 10% from 2002. The 2003 budget was the culmination of years of trimming that was caused by the elimination of the MVET and the down economy. Since 1999, the number of FTE employees in our city-owned transit system has been cut by over a third. Nonetheless, the outlook for 2003 is brightening rapidly. We have downsized both our general fund and transit fund to the point where we can sustain them. We are also continuing to see optimistic signs of increased revenues in both funds. The local economy also continues to sizzle. We issued \$27 million in valuation in new building permit activity for 2002. We anticipate issuing \$40 million in valuation this year. On a personal note, I had a cyst removed in late January and missed work until early March. I am now back to almost full-time. I missed seeing everyone at the Olympia and Tacoma sessions. I look forward to seeing you at AWC in Spokane.

Region 7, Adams, Grant & Lincoln Counties
Elman Sheldon, City Administrator, City of Othello
administrator@cityofothello.org

Othello – up coming events:

Othello Cleanup week April 7-12, the city has been allocated 50 tons of free tipping fees to help “clean up **Othello**.” All yard vegetation will be taken to **Grant County** regional compost facility – free of charge. This is the second year of expanded week long program.

Sandhill Crane festival March 21-23, 2003.

SunFaire July 4th

Classic Car Show July 19th

Fiesta Amistad August 9th

Adams County Fair, second week in September

Christmas Lighting Parade December 6th

And **Othello** reports that new well #8 is now on line, producing approximately 1,000 g.p.m. The 2003 city wide sidewalk improvement plan is to begin in June, budget \$200,000. This is a nine year plan that will encompass every street in the city. Additional walk paths will be installed in Lions Park this summer. The new fire station will be completed on April 7, budget \$352,000. The water comprehensive plan to be completed by July of this year.

Othello's planning/building department reports that the city growth rate is 2.7%.

The police department will purchase of two new vehicles and work on development of a regional firing range.

The finance department will work on development of an investment policy.

Othello will have four council seats open this year which could set a new direction for the city.

Region 8, Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane & Stevens Counties
Lewis "Griff" Griffin, City Administrator, City of Liberty Lake
lggriffin@cityoflibertylake.com

From North **Spokane County**: Roger Krieger, city administrator, reports that **Deer Park** is in the final stages of plans and bids specifications for a new roadway and railroad crossing within the city. Efforts have been ongoing since 1994 to secure the crossing approval and complete the roadway segment which is anticipated to reduce congestion within the central portion of town. Grant funds have been secured from Transportation Improvement Board and Community Development Block Grants in the amount of \$600,000 to help complete the project. In addition, the city is doing site preparation for the restroom facility in one of the parks, thanks to a grant from the **Spokane County** Parks Department in the amount of \$20,000. The facility is a modular in design and constructed by a local **Spokane** supplier, CXT Incorporated.

From East **Spokane County**: Lewis G. Griffin, city administrator, sends greetings from the 2nd newest city in the state -- **Liberty Lake**. He reports that they are now 19 months old. They have added \$30 million in new construction and increased their population by 1200 since incorporation. They are nearing completion on a 0.7 mile street project at a cost of \$1.4 million and are in the planning stages of construction and rebuilding some city streets at a cost of \$700,000 to \$1 million. They acquired a 9-hole executive golf course last summer and are in the process of updating the facilities and the course. They are looking forward to a successful year in the golf business. They also recently acquired a 23-acre park from **Spokane County** which is a real benefit to our community.

Region 9, Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties
Scott Hugill, City Administrator, City of Leavenworth
cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com

Frank McWhirter, **Cashmere** city administrator, reports that they are still tying up all the many loose ends from the city's 2002 projects. The city's main arterial, Cottage Avenue, was finally completed all the way from Highway SR2/97 to the downtown. This was phase II of the initial project which was completed through the downtown in 1998. It was only possible through the help of our Washington D.O.T. local programs engineers and the Transportation Improvement Board, which granted over \$1.2 million to the projects.

Although our new water park was completed last fall, they are still working on making the facility operational, including landscaping the new picnic area surrounding the swimming pool.

Probably our most significant project was the recent completion of the new **Cashmere** community building. The new 8000 sq. ft. building is the home of music events, business meetings, service club meetings, and many town events. The new facility is located in Riverside Park, which is the park you can see driving by on SR2/97. It is our hope that it will give a boost to our downtown revitalization efforts of the past several years.

Scott Hugill, city administrator in **Leavenworth**, reports that even though the city council suggested pursuing fewer large projects in 2003 so that staff could “catch their breath,” they’re already jumping into several.

Leavenworth has been approved for a low-interest loan from the state to construct a new 750,000 gallon water reservoir in the urban growth area in 2005. Combined with requirements tied to a recently-approved subdivision, the reservoir will provide for the city’s first extension of utilities into the UGA.

In February, the city opened bids for the construction of new public restrooms downtown to accommodate tourists. The low bid was over \$200 per square foot, so they went back to the drawing board to scale it down. Hopefully the next round of bids will be much lower and they’ll be able to finish construction before the end of June.

A local non-profit group is pursuing its second “community land trust” project in **Leavenworth** to be named Aldea Village. Under the program, the non-profit group constructs homes in a planned unit development, and then sells the homes to families with incomes at or below the median level for **Chelan County**. To keep the housing costs low, the city waives utility connection and building permit fees, and the non-profit group retains ownership in the land, leasing it to the new homeowners at \$1.00 per year.

Leavenworth’s management team has been following-up on an employee survey taken last fall that asked employees for their thoughts on output, working relationships, training, and communication. Department directors are using the survey to facilitate discussions with small groups of employees to get their ideas on how the workplace can be improved.

The **Leavenworth** Municipal Code is getting a much-needed technical update this spring. The city attorney and city clerk have been working with Book Publishing to review and remove ordinances that have become irrelevant over **Leavenworth’s** 97-year history. Among the changes will be the removal of the requirement that no milk can be sold in **Leavenworth** unless the cow supplying the milk has been inspected by a city employee to ensure it does not have tuberculosis.

Region 10, Island, San Juan, Skagit & Whatcom Counties
Gary Tomsic, City Manager, City of Blaine
gtomsic@cityofblaine.com

In **Blaine**, Gary Tomsic reports that the new \$1.6 million fire station will be dedicated in May. Gary has hired a new public works director and a new chief of police.

Blaine, recently awarded a consulting contract to CH2M Hill to complete an update of the wastewater comprehensive plan.

Roland Signett in **Ferndale** reports that they just opened bids for their \$3.5 million mainstreet project. He also reports that they are letting bids for major improvements to the TOSCO Sports complex which will include softball, baseball and soccer fields.

Bill Verwolf reports that the **Lynden's** new \$2 million library is almost finished. The city will own the facility and the library district will operate the library. He also reports that they are near letting a contract

for the second phase of major water improvements in the city and are finishing up on a major paving project in cooperation with the State.

Lynden just introduced a six year street renegotiation plan that will be funded with a 2% increase in utility tax and the 2nd quarter cent of real estate excise taxes.

Region 11, Snohomish County

Dave O'Leary, City Administrator, City of Lake Stevens

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Dave O'Leary, city administrator for **Lake Stevens** reported that the city is nearing completion of a new contract with the **Lake Stevens** Sewer District. To Dave's knowledge, this is the only contract of its type.

The prior relationship between city and district was plagued with moratoria, stemming from a profound lack of inter-jurisdictional planning. The new agreement will resolve all that. The District has agreed to supply all capacity the city wants, as long as the city pays for it. Major capital expenditures are to be based on defined comprehensive and capital planning processes. Costs are to be financed, with each side paying its share based on each party's use of the joint facilities. A multitude of additional issues were addressed in the 1.5 years of joint staff meetings, including shifting from an ERU to a flow based system, joint meetings, and cost reimbursement for the district's M&O.

Lake Stevens just installed new drop off boxes in the library parking lot. Local citizens can now drop off their letters, utility payments and library books -- all without setting foot out of their cars. This was one of the last projects associated with the city's reconstruction of Main Street including a new sewer line, drainage systems, sidewalks and pavement.

In July, the city will play host to the first **Lake Stevens** Danon Yogurt Triathlon. This nationally televised event will attract about 1,200 athletes and support staff. Athletes will swim, bike and run on courses laid out in and around the lake area. Event organizers say that the City is being discovered as a great sporting venue. Hopefully, this kind of activity is likely to blossom.

Bob Stowe, city manager for **Mill Creek** reports that the city hired a new public works director/city engineer, Doug Jacobson, who began work at the city on October 21, 2002. Many of you know Doug Jacobson from his days as the city administrator in **Lake Forest Park** and as the city administrator/public works director at **Monroe**. Doug also was an active member in WCMA.

Bob also reports that after many years of planning and waiting, the Washington State Department of Transportation has begun a major widening of SR 527, Bothell-Everett Highway, through **Mill Creek**. This \$11,000,000 road project will be widened from two lanes to five lanes nearly two miles down the state highway. The project has been under discussion and design for over ten years and was one of the last projects funded before WSDOT's remaining construction funds were fully committed. This project has included years of discussion and debate among city staff, citizens and state personnel to find a design that balanced the needs of the state highways and the desires of the city.

The state is hoping for an accelerated construction schedule completing all work except for the final lift of

asphalt before this November. Overhead utility relocations may affect this schedule. Last summer the state constructed a sound wall on one side of the project.

Finally, the city council adopted its biennial budget without the use of any reserves. At least for the next two years, the City will be able to maintain its service levels and pursue an aggressive campaign of capital construction to several park facilities. On-time development revenue, an increase in sales tax revenue from a new Lowes store, cost containment measures, and reductions over the last five years will allow the city's service levels to continue for another two years. The cumulative impacts of I-747 will start to be a significant impact in the next biennium forcing services to be cut unless new revenue is obtained. The city is continuing to pursue economic development opportunities with the development of its town center and evaluating the financial advantages associated with annexing certain commercial/residential property within our municipal urban growth area to in part address its declining revenue base.

Mukilteo city administrator, Rich Leahy, reports that his city is one of eight PSRC 2003 Vision 2020 Award Winners for its **Mukilteo** Village Center development project. The 123-acre mixed use project used a development agreement to allow higher densities, mixed uses, and variations from normal development standards in exchange for open space, special amenities, and design upgrades. The project is about 70% developed.

Mukilteo approved an agreement with the local YMCA to construct a skate park. **Mukilteo** will fund the design and construction costs while the YMCA will contribute the land and supervise, operate, and maintain the skate park. The YMCA board must still approve the agreement.

A citizen advisory committee recommends that **Mukilteo** put an EMS levy on the ballot. After incurring a 265% increase in paramedic costs in the past two years, the citizen group thought it was about time that **Mukilteo** no longer be the only local jurisdiction in **Snohomish County** that doesn't separately fund paramedic services. The city council is reviewing the committee's recommendations.

After years of design, environmental review, and funding issues, the widening of SR 525 (**Mukilteo** Speedway) is underway. While it is a \$25+ million WSDOT Project, **Mukilteo** has been spending lots of time and energy to get WSDOT to minimize construction impacts on motorists and local businesses. Construction is scheduled to continue into late 2004.

Snohomish city manager, Larry Bauman, reports that his city has agreed to joint use of a building inspector with **Lake Stevens**, which is just a few miles up Machias Road. **Lake Stevens** will hire the inspector and **Snohomish** will reimburse them for the cost. This works well as the level of building and permitting could not keep a full time inspector busy in both cities.

This contract is the second between **Snohomish** and **Lake Stevens**. In the other agreement, **Snohomish** provides a computer tech support personnel to **Lake Stevens**. Both cities have agreed to use similar computer systems and software, including the same financial software.

This year, **Monroe** has been actively involved in the legislative process and issues. They have been tracking the legislative updates sent out by the Association of Washington Cities, and keeping their legislators informed of **Monroe's** legislative priorities.

Monroe Mayor Donnetta Walser has played an active role in the Highway 2 Coalition, proposing and seeking funding for improvements on the Highway 2 Corridor. In March, she and her husband, Fred, Chairman of the Highway Safety 2 Coalition, went to Washington, D.C., to present the Coalition's

Appropriation Budget Request for an Environmental Study for the US2/SR2 Corridor to our congressional delegation. This project took a real team effort, including input from Washington State Department of Transportation and the Highway 2 Safety Coalition. The cities of **Monroe, Sultan, Gold Bar, Index, and Skykomish** are all in agreement that there is a critical need for safety and capacity improvements on US2/SR2.

In light of tightened budgets and anticipated delays in road construction projects, we are working to keep Highway 522's much needed improvements in the forefront.

The city council has approved development guidelines for major commercial development of the North Kelsey area just off Highway 2. An environmental review will be under way soon, and marketing the 60-acre area will be underway this fall.

Monroe's first comprehensive utility rate study to look at their water/sewer rates and water/sewer capital fees is nearing completion. Taking into consideration our rapid growth and our infrastructure needs, this study will help us determine the steps needed to take to fund major utility projects to 2020.

Like many cities and towns nation-wide, **Monroe** is experiencing budget constraints. They are working hard to find creative ways to respond to the needs of their citizens and to maintain the level of services they have come to appreciate and depend upon.

Region 12, North King County

Mitch Wasserman, City Administrator/Clark-Treasurer, City of Clyde Hill

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From **Bothell**, city manager Jim Thompson reports that his city is unstoppable! Their staff is working hard on various projects both internally and externally. Here's a sampling:

- “Experience **Bothell**,” the customer service-focused program, has provided workshops to all employees teaching them how to have fun while at work. Now, the team is taking the program a step further by proceeding with “Discover **Bothell**,” a new angle that takes staff on a field trip: They will stop at various city facilities (locations they don't normally visit outside their immediate work area such as a public works shop), tour project/construction locations and learn about city operations and happenings in an interactive way.
- **Bothell** recently hosted an Innovation Groups workshop on “Promoting Organizational Excellence.” The majority of senior and mid-management level staff attended it, learning different principles and approaches on topics such as staff retention and keeping the energy in the workplace.
- After much research and input from community members, developers and internal staff, the community development department implemented 30 new improvements to its permit process. Improvements range from credit card acceptance to increasing self-service capabilities via the **Bothell** web site.
- **Bothell** was awarded the “Centennial Clean Water Fund” grant, the largest grant given by the Washington State Department of Ecology in 2002, with funding beginning in 2003 through

2008. The grant amount is \$498,000 and will be used by the city over the next five years to study and address water quality issues within **Bothell's** North Creek and its tributaries. Thanks to this substantial grant, **Bothell's** North Creek Action Plan program will be initiated this summer.

Thanks to the hard work of the staff, **Bothell** continually finds innovative ways to improve its city services both for its community and staff.

On March 31st **Clyde Hill** celebrated its 50th birthday. About 400+ people joined in on the fun. We celebrated with an open house, lots of home baked cookies, cake, historical items, pictures, police and fire displays, a laser shooting gallery and an opportunity to look through night goggles. Some of the best fun we had was gathering items for a time capsule ... did you know that 90% of all time capsules buried in the ground are lost or destroyed? ... we put ours in the wall. All the folks on our staff wrote letters to our future counterparts in 2053. It was fun writing that note, hopefully when it's opened and read 50 years from now I will sound somewhat intelligent. We took lots of pictures of places and things throughout the community and everyone that attended the open house got their picture taken as well. All pictures were placed on a CD and put in the time capsule ... we also put a CD drive in the capsule ... they should get a big laugh from that.

We are also on the doorstep of executing a few utility conversion projects throughout the community. It is absolutely unbelievable the amount of frustration the utilities can bring to bear on these undergrounding projects. It shouldn't be this difficult for us to pay them to update their completely depreciated facility...something is terribly wrong here. If you hoped the new PSE tariff was going to help these situations you will be surprised by the reality of the process. I guess more patience and perseverance are in order.

Dave Ramsay, city manager, Kirkland, tells us there's never a dull moment on the shores of Lake Washington. They're still basking in the glow of our successful November park bond and levy. Now to the implementation with the initial project being the acquisition of Juanita Beach Park from **King County**. The park crews have been doing a thorough Spring cleaning and getting lots of rave reviews. Other park bond projects include open space acquisition, a neighborhood park and a series of school-city park partnerships

They're involved in an innovative housing program with the goal of diversifying the types of housing available. There will be two demonstration projects of compact single family homes (1,500 sq. ft.) and cottages (1,000 sq. ft.) that have such features as common courtyards and clustered garages. There's lots of interest in how they will turn out.

They're real pleased to have won two awards recently. The first is the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2020 Award that recognized their "Community Conversations – **Kirkland 2022**" Project that was a community visioning effort involving over 950 participants. The second was the AWC WellCity Award that we won for the fourth year in a row.

And on a greener (maybe) note, Kathie Oeser of our office has left to join her husband Greg Prothman in their consulting firm. She has done a great job for us and we wish her all the best!

Region 13, South King County
Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, City of Normandy Park
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The **Burien** city council will be calling for developer qualifications to redevelop the city's 10-acre downtown property as a mixed-use Town Square. The council is also expected to create a developer selection advisory committee to evaluate the submissions for this key public/private partnership. The call for qualifications and brief schematic approach to this redevelopment has a proposed deadline of June 30. Advisory committee interviews are tentatively set for August 31 with the screening committee scheduled to make its recommendations to the council on Sept. 30, 2003.

These actions build on a consistent 10-year effort since the city's incorporation in 1993 to revitalize its aging downtown commercial area, which once served as the shopping center for southwest **King County**. The city will substantially complete by late June its reconstruction of SW 152nd Street, the main thoroughfare for its downtown business district. The year-long upgrading will improve the traffic and pedestrian safety and create a modern attractive shopping area for this 10-block stretch which formerly had the highest accident record in **Burien**.

The **Burien** Town Square borders SW 152nd Street and includes the current city hall. Besides purchasing 6.4 acres of adjacent property last year, the city signed a letter of intent with the Puget Sound Educational District related to its purchase of the PSED's two-acre parcel at the corner of SW 152nd Street and 4th Avenue SW. The city has adopted a policy framework, design guidelines, and a work program to transform its Town Square into an inviting place with park and open space, distinctive retail, business and professional offices, and residential and recreation uses. The "**Burien** Downtown Plan" won the Vision 2020 Award from the Puget Sound Regional Council in 2000 for its excellent development framework.

Enumclaw has just finished taking ownership of a pool and golf course from **King County**. This comes on the heels of a property tax ballot measure to pay for the operating subsidy of the pool that passed by an amazing 87%. The city will be opening bids on its \$1.6 million downtown streetscape project. This project will provide a much needed facelift to the downtown core including new streets, decorative sidewalks, landscape strips, street furniture and pedestrian lighting. They have also awarded a design contract to Cosmopolitan Engineering to provide final design drawings and specifications for the city's new \$16 million nutrient removal wastewater facility. Lastly, the police department recently completed narcotics K-9 school with the newest member of the force, a yellow lab named Shadow. Shadow finished first in his class and has already made contributions to the city's narcotics investigation team.

There are three major projects in **Federal Way**. First, they continue with our street improvements in the downtown area. They are currently under construction with Pacific Highway/SR 99 Phase 1 improvements and plan on beginning Phase 2 this summer. Second, the city council is considering the purchase of an existing building for a new city hall that will consolidate city functions and staff into one building. If the council completes this purchase it will take approximately one year to complete rehabilitation of the building for city use. Third, in last years budget the city council approved funds to construct a multipurpose facility that will include a community center, senior center and aquatics facility. They have begun the public process on this project and hired a firm to help us with the planning phase. They plan on opening the new facility in 2006. Of course, in addition to these major projects they continue to try to keep the potholes filled and the parks mowed.

Normandy Park celebrates its 50th anniversary on June 8th. This is a special opportunity to get our residents involved and informed about their city and city government. They will be having an open house

and barbecue at city hall on Saturday, June 7, to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

The single biggest issue the **Normandy Park** faces in the next two years is the continuing reduction in city revenues because of citizen initiatives and ever increasing costs. The city will begin reducing services and possibly staff in 2004 because they know that if nothing changes, they will face a \$300,000 to \$600,000 deficit in 2005. This is a major problem for our city budget of just over \$3 million. The city administration is working on a phased approach in cuts that will seek to minimize the impacts in hopes of buying time to allow for any changes at the state level and our local economy that may change the revenue situation.

Normandy Park has been working on an economic redevelopment plan for their two commercial centers along 1st Avenue. The planning commission is currently working on a draft plan that calls for more intense development of mixed commercial and residential uses at both of these sites. This is also an effort to make the city less property tax dependent and to diversify the city's revenue sources in the long run. More importantly, they hope it will allow our residents to take care of more personal business and find entertainment opportunities without leaving the city, and may be without even getting in their car.

The 1st Avenue Enhancement Project will putting sidewalks, turn lanes, planter stripes and bicycle lanes on both sides of 1st Avenue from 174th to the north city limits. This project is being funded by a state Transportation Improvement Board Grant and a very low interest Public Works Trust Fund loan. This is the planned first phase of a three to four phase project that will span the full length of 1st Avenue within the city. The second phase will focus on our commercial areas. The frontage improvements should encourage the redevelopment anticipated by their economic plan by taking care of the frontage improvement costs that are usually born by the developers.

The city is involved with surrounding jurisdictions in the Miller Creek Basin Plan that is currently being started. Over the last ten years this planning effort has started and died three different times hopefully the time has come when it will really happen. The basin plan will provide the information and analysis necessary to decide how best to address surface water management problems, such as flooding, poor water quality, erosion, and the degradation of fish habitat. This is very important to the city as they receive the down stream impacts of the other jurisdictions for both Miller and Walker Creeks. Both Walker and Miller Creeks are important salmon bearing streams and resources in **Normandy Park** that need to be protected for future generations.

Normandy Park continues to fight the unnecessary expansion of SeaTac Airport through the Airport Community Coalition. This continues to be the highest priority goal for the city. The Supreme Court will be hearing the lawsuit concerning the PCHB 401 permit decision later this year and they believe that they will prevail based upon the very solid legal and expert record we have developed.

In **SeaTac**, one of the major accomplishments of 2002 was creating a "home" for city hall that would best serve the citizens. They were able to move-in on schedule in late November, followed by an official flag raising ceremony and facility dedication on November 26th. An open house celebration was held on February 27th in conjunction with the city's 13th birthday. City Hall is located at 4800 S. 188th Street.

On December 27th the Port of Seattle, on behalf of both the airport and **SeaTac**, nominated the 1997 City-Port Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for a Vision 2020 Award to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). September 2002 was the five-year anniversary of the ILA and both agencies feel that the agreement has proven to be a flexible and durable model for intergovernmental cooperation and could be instructive for other public agencies. One proof of the document's effectiveness is that the ILA's multi-

layered formal provisions for resolving disputes have never been applied. Instead, elected officials and staff of both agencies have crafted agreements to various issues, which have probably saved hundreds of thousands of dollars from legal processes that could be channeled instead into productive measures which benefit the public.

Police Chief Somers reported some good news about crime reduction in **SeaTac** as reflected in the 2002 year-end report. Part I Crime, a category of the most serious crimes, is down 11.3% from 2001. Part II Crime and traffic accidents have both seen modest reductions. Dispatched calls for service also saw a decline of 4.3%. These accomplishments are impressive in light of the fact that crime in many other areas has been increasing. Chief Somers feels that the effort focused on repeat offenders and high crime areas has paid off.

The Port of Seattle bid the landscape improvements at the South 182nd Street airport entrance (Flag Pavilion). The project includes a welcome sign for the Port of Seattle at the airport entrance and a welcome sign for the city, similar to the sign at South 188th Street and Military Road, as you leave the airport and enter the city. The total project construction is expected to cost \$193,573. This is the first construction project to get started from the \$10 million agreed to in the 1997 city/port interlocal agreement for perimeter port landscaping. The project should break ground in mid-April and be completed by the first of July.

On March 20th, the Parks and Recreation Department celebrated 10 years of providing activities and programs at the North **SeaTac** Park Community Center. Attendees enjoyed entertainment, prizes, refreshments, and staff and volunteer recognition. Use of this wonderful facility has had a tremendous impact on the community and the number of recreation services that have been offered.

Professor John Kasarda will consult with the city over a two-day period, April 23-24. Professor Kasarda will assess long-range plans of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and **SeaTac** in the light of the "aerotropolis" model he has created, and recommend economic development and tourism opportunities for the city to emphasize its strategic efforts to capitalize on projected trends in air travel demand. The meeting on April 24th will be open to the public.

SeaTac received a 2002 Commuter Challenge Diamond Award for assisting employees with their commute. Strong public/private partnerships like ours have taken thousands of cars off the roads each day, reduce air pollution, increased business productivity, boosted employee morale and saved taxpayers millions of dollars. By motivating our employees to ride or drive with someone else, take the bus, ride a bicycle, walk, telework, or compress their workweeks, we are helping to keep our region moving.

Region 14, Pierce County
Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor
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Gig Harbor folks are planning ways to cope with Narrows Bridge construction schedules now that Narrows Bridge Contractors (Bechtel Corporation) is hard at it. By September, approach traffic revisions and overpass should be constructed on the **Gig Harbor** side of the bridge. The first of the caissons are already in position. At the end of construction: two bridges, three 12' lanes toward **Tacoma**, three 12' lanes toward the peninsula (lanes are currently 10' wide).

Various elements of the town are anticipating a future with significant tolls. Medical facilities are

growing; a new middle school is under construction; and retail is expanding. An 80,000 sq. ft. YMCA is fund raising; a community center (Boys and Girls Club, Senior Center and Red Cross station and kitchen) is fund raising; and a new historical society heritage center is fund raising. The city is planning improvements on two new passive recreation parks (20 acres, 2 waterfront), and voters will be considering a mid-sized school bond and a park district (non-city) bond in the near future.

Lakewood has been working with MBK Northwest to redevelop the former underperforming **Lakewood** Mall into the vibrant, new **Lakewood** Towne Center. The city is an integral part of the development as the new **Lakewood** city hall is located in the Towne Center campus and served as a catalyst for the project. Work began in the fall of 2001 with the demolition of most of the **Lakewood** Mall as well as a face lift of the remaining buildings. In August 2002 **Lakewood** celebrated the grand opening of five new stores (Old Navy, Michaels, Ross, GI Joes and Bed, Bath and Beyond) that make up phase one of the Towne Center's redevelopment. **Lakewood** Towne Center enjoyed a very good holiday shopping season with stores meeting or exceeding their sales projections.

Progress at the Towne Center continues. Work is well underway on Phase II of the redevelopment project. The grand opening of the newest phase of the Towne Center is set for this summer. The new phase includes space for new stores, Petsmart and Pier 1 Imports, as well as new space for Burlington Coat Factory and Office Depot which will be relocating. After Burlington Coat Factory and Office Depot have relocated the buildings they currently are located in will be demolished to make room for more new stores. The former Lamonts building near Michael's is also undergoing a renovation. It will house Marshalls.

The redevelopment of this commercial center at the heart of **Lakewood** represents the city's strong commitment to economic development. **Lakewood** has worked closely with MBK Northwest to streamline the development process and to create a community hub that **Lakewood** can be proud of.

The **Lakewood** Veterans Memorial Committee and the greater community are working to build a memorial to honor our veterans of the armed forces. The committee consists of interested citizens and veterans committed to recognizing the contribution of the many men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. The memorial, located on the grounds of **Lakewood** city hall, will be a timeless design to remind us of the sacrifices and services of its military community -- past, present and future. It will serve as a link between **Lakewood** and the large number of active duty, former and retired military personnel in our community. The military is the hub of our community with an exceptionally large number of active duty, retired and former military personnel calling **Lakewood** and **Pierce County** home. More than 96,000 veterans reside in **Pierce County** with over 10,000 living in **Lakewood**. The memorial is the creation of Gig Harbor artist and military veteran Jim Mattern. The cost of the memorial is approximately \$150,000 and the Committee has reached the 70% mark with their fundraising efforts. **Lakewood** contributed the initial \$40,000 to kick off the project as part of the city's commitment to public art. The Memorial will be dedicated with a ceremony on Memorial Day, May 26, 2003. The dedication ceremony will be a celebration of patriotism and a salute to the veterans in our region.

Sumner has been negotiating for many months with three federal agencies (the Army Corps of Engineers, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service) on the permitting for a new North **Sumner** Interchange on the Valley Freeway (SR-167); the impact to fish habitat in the context of the ESA has been a tough hurdle to cross. We've reached an agreement in principle, and it appears now that WSDOT will go to bid on the project this month. The interchange, a \$17 million project, is crucial to the increased truck traffic in **Sumner's** north end industrial area.

Three new employers have come to **Sumner** in the last several months, with about 600 total new employees. They are Shining Ocean, a fish food products company relocating from Seattle, J.C. Penney distribution relocating from Tukwila, and Simmons Mattress relocating from Auburn.

The city also hosted a two-evening "**Sumner** University" session for citizens to learn more about their city (Local Gov't 101). Over 60 citizens attended both sessions.

From **Tacoma**, city manager Ray Corpuz sends this report:

This month the **Tacoma** reached the halfway mark in its 18-month implementation of the Business Systems Improvement Project (BSIP). BSIP is a 19-month, \$50 million software project to replace the city's entire computer infrastructure and standardize its business processes. The project will replace computerized and manual financial management, human resources, work management and customer information systems with an enterprise system from SAP, a global software company. Among the many benefits the system will offer to its citizens and employees are:

- Utilities customers will have 24/7 access to the utility, logging onto the Internet to pay bills, request or cancel service.
- City engineering groups can realize efficiencies on construction projects, tracking them through planning, scheduling, procurement, billing and more.
- City purchasing agents will maintain tighter controls by tracking the entire purchasing cycle: from purchase order, to goods received, to invoice verification, to accounts payable.
- Public works and utilities field crews will fully automate crew and equipment scheduling.

As we go-live this October, America's #1 Wired City is again on the cutting edge, implementing one of the largest, most complex systems in the world.

In a message from **Tacoma** earlier, in which Ray was inviting us all to participate in the ICMA Best Practices sessions held there last month, he also mentioned other good things there:

While you're here, you can also take in all that's happening in **Tacoma** -- the redevelopment of our waterfront including the Museum of Glass and Chihuly Bridge of Glass, the **Tacoma** Link light rail, the renovation of historic buildings in our core, the near-completion of the new **Tacoma** Art Museum and the construction of our new Greater **Tacoma** Convention and Trade Center opening in 2004.

Transitions

Dave Beach, management analyst in Mukilteo, has been elevated to assistant to the city manager.

Bill Brandon is the new city manager of Carnation, effective March 17. Bill was formerly city manager of Happy Valley, Oregon.

Jeff Butzlaff, who was assistant city manager of Lakewood, is now the city manager of Mount Shasta, California.

Mike Cecka, city administrator of Cle Elum, has retired. Mike was recently recognized as an Honorary Life Member of WCMA.

Dick Cushing, Olympia city manager since 1986, has announced his retirement. **Dick** is a former vice-president of ICMA, a past president of WCMA, and had served in Tacoma, Bellevue, Ocean Shores, and Kent. **Dick** was recognized by the board as an Honorary Life Member of WCMA.

Bob Hammond, formerly public works director, has been selected as the new city manager of Kennewick.

Bob Kelly, city manager of Kennewick, has announced that he will retire on August 31.

L. Joe Miller, who served as Bellevue city manager from 1961 to 1977 will receive the Legacy Award at the Best of Bellevue awards ceremony April 9. The award citation says:

As city limits expanded enormously during those years, he guided development of roads, emergency services, utilities and recreational facilities, including parks and a public golf course. Advance Bellevue credits Miller for giving Bellevue its current shape and form and leading it from infancy to a mature city.

Joe is an Honorary Life Member of WCMA, a past president of WCMA, and a past vice-president and president of ICMA.

Jill Monley has left her position as deputy city manager in Richland to try her hand at “not working for a while.” She’s moved to Bend, Oregon. **Jill** was also recognized by the board as an Honorary Life Member of WCMA.

Kathy Oeser, who has been serving as senior management analyst in Kirkland, has left to join her spouse, **Greg Prothman**, in the activities of The Greg Prothman Company.

Dennis Richards, formerly administrative services director of Sammamish and former city manager of Fircrest, reports that he’s back carrying a badge and a gun as a member of the U. S. Marshal’s Service in Tacoma. He’d been a police lieutenant in Vancouver before becoming police chief in Gig Harbor.

Mike Wilson is now the director of administration/finance for Bremerton.

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2003 Calendar

- **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 10 -- 13, Alderbrook, Union, Washington
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, October 17 – 20, 2004, San Diego City/County, California

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