



Volume 15, No. 4, December 2003

President's Message

Greetings from Mercer Island.

Doesn't seem like three months since the Sun Mountain Conference but who's counting. Since then we've had the November elections, changing the work landscape for many of our members. We've also been told the economy is turning around -- giving us hope for better times ahead. But, given the pragmatists that we are, no one is holding their breath, right?

The newly constituted WC/CMA Board met in November to lay out the 2004 work program. Since we're not shy about following in someone else's footsteps, the Board and I set out to continue on the same themes as Past President Bob Stowe -- and those before him -- launched us on in 2003: membership expansion, quality conferences and legislative activity.

During 2003, current Vice President Dave Ramsay led an effort to reach prospective new members. The membership committee's work has paid off with an increase of 22 new members, generating approximately \$2,000 in new dues income. Dave is passing off his baton to a team of four current board members to continue new member outreach.

Success in membership expansion has a direct relationship to our second theme -- quality conferences. The Board is committed to providing first rate speakers and topics at the Summer Conference at Alderbrook (August 10 - 13). The feedback from the Sun Mountain Conference confirmed that our members are willing to attend in greater numbers and pay a little more if the agenda engages and challenges. As 2004 Vice President and conference organizer, Dave Ramsay has already planned an excellent line up of speakers and activities. The Board is supporting his conference budget, relying upon a balanced mix of corporate sponsorship, reasonable registration fees and a good turn out.

Lastly, WC/CMA continues to be an active supporter of the Tri-Association legislative package. Working with their county counterparts, AWC staff have assembled a 2004 joint legislative strategy. While the Tri-Association package is rightfully modest in its expectations for the short 2004 session, WC/CMA legislative priorities are found throughout the document; particularly in

its emphasis on economic development tools, increased ability to use existing resources efficiently and tort reform. If you wish to learn more about the package and/or want to get more involved, contact Jim Justin at AWC, myself, or Past President Bob Stowe.

On behalf of the Board, I want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. We all look forward to an upbeat and prosperous 2004!

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

SAVE THESE DATES -- SUMMER CONFERENCE set for AUGUST 10 – 13.

Your WCMA Board has been hard at work planning for the 2004 Summer Conference that will be held at the newly renovated Alderbrook Resort and Conference Center on Hood Canal. We're very much hoping to have ICMA President Bob O'Neill spend some time with us. Other speakers that have confirmed include former Seattle Mayor Charles Royer, pollster Stuart Elway who will be doing his interactive version of the Jeopardy game, and Seattle PI cartoonist David Horsey. We're also developing several panels dealing with such "real world" issues as Council – Manager Relations and Tough Human Resources Issues. Manny Ocampo is already on the job getting the golf tournament ready and other entertainment is being planned as well.

We very much hope that all of you will be able to attend. Please consider bringing along some of your staff as well. We'll be sending out more information early in the New Year.

David Ramsay, WCMA Vice-President
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Special Note:

It's Not Too Soon.....To start planning for the 2004 ICMA Annual Conference in San Diego! As your representative to the ICMA Conference Planning Committee for next year, I can assure you that the San Diego Host Committee has plans for one of the best conferences yet.

The 2004 Conference will take place October 17 -- 20th at the San Diego Convention Center. The convention center is situated on beautiful San Diego Harbor, convenient to all the Conference hotels. Headquarters hotel will be the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina immediately adjacent.

The Conference Planning Committee has suggested six educational tracks, and the 2004 line-up will take advantage of San Diego's proximity to Mexico to highlight the "International" aspect of ICMA.

Watch your ICMA Newsletter for 2004 Conference information, and plan to register early. With an excellent educational line-up and numerous pre-conference and post-conference activities, you can expect this to be a very well-attended conference.

*Deb Symmonds, Deputy City Manager, Mercer Island
Member, ICMA Conference Planning Committee*

From Cascade Center

Holiday Greetings from the Cascade Center for Public Service and Leadership at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs!

In the spirit of the season, we want to wish you happy holidays and suggest you give yourself or someone who works for you the gift that keeps on giving -- training! Training is a great gift to yourself or to your employees. It's a reward and an opportunity to gain new skills for your agency.

If you don't celebrate the holidays as much as you do the dawning of a new year, sign up for a Cascade Course to launch yourself into 2004 with a commitment to renewal and pushing yourself and your agency further in excellence. As this year comes to an end, your agency may have money left over in its training budget. Instead of letting those funds go to waste, sign up for one of Cascade's 2004 courses now. The 2004 schedule and course descriptions are available online at www.cascadecourses.org. You'll see several new courses in the 2004 line-up. Call 206-685-0523 to reserve a space or you can register on-line. The early registration rate ends on **January 31**.

Click here to view the online registration forms:
http://www.cascadecourses.org/registration/on_line_forms.html

If your agency is interested in working with Cascade staff to develop a special group rate, please give us a call at 206-685-0523.

We look forward to seeing you in 2004.

Warmest regards,

Diana Gale
Faculty Chair

Public Executive Education at UW – new courses and degrees in 2004

For city and county managers, executive education is a wider, deeper pool in 2004. The Cascade Center for Public Service and Leadership at the UW's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs has a slate of new courses this year offered alongside Cascade's highly rated standard courses offered annually in managing people, budgets, conflict, and change. In addition, the Evans School's new Executive Master in Public Administration welcomes applications for its second class.

Cascade's new courses in 2004 include "Managing for Results" (offered in both Seattle and the Tri-Cities), "Leading When You're Not in Charge," "Strategic Marketing in the Public Sector," "Creating and Leading High Performance Teams," and "Creating a Practical Customer Service Strategy for Your Organization" (offered in Wenatchee).

"We've offered several of these in smaller seminars or as part of the two-week Executive Management Program and people's response has been so great that we decided to offer them as full classes," explained Diana Gale, faculty chair for Executive Education in the Evans School.

The popular Executive Management Program will be held July 12 -- 23 on the UW's Seattle campus. "EMP is an academy that has produced so many great, high achieving managers all over the state," Gale explained. "It fills up very quickly so anyone who's interested should talk with their manager about the commitment and then sign up."

To sign up for any course, go to www.cascadecourses.org. You can also call the Cascade Center office at 206-685-0523 to ask for information to be mailed or faxed to you.

Cascade Courses can count as credit toward a UW Master in Public Administration, including the new Executive MPA. The Executive MPA is a concentrated MPA program catered to advanced working leaders in the public sector. The 18-month program brings students together on campus for a week in the late summer and then for one extended weekend each academic quarter. Students read assignments, prepare projects, and connect on-line in the intervening weeks. UW faculty and practitioners teach the courses and emphasize leadership development and strategic thinking.

"In our first cohort we have 32 outstanding people who are already leaders -- police chiefs, program directors, elected officials -- but who want the extra challenge of an advanced degree," explained Executive MPA Program Director Larisa Benson. "The experiences and ideas they share with each other are as valuable as the texts we assign."

More information on the Executive MPA can be found at www.evansuw.org/mpa/program/empa.html or by calling 206-685-0523. The application deadline for this fall's class is March 1 with applications accepted up to June 1 on a space available basis.

From Seattle University

Please pass this educational opportunity on to your employees who are looking to expand their professional capacities and opportunities...

Consider applying to Seattle University's Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree program. The goal of the Institute of Public Service is to prepare our graduates to lead government and nonprofit organizations toward excellent performance, to meet high standards of trust and stewardship, and to meet the management and policy challenges of the public and nonprofit sectors.

Seattle University excels in educating and inspiring mid-career professionals to make outstanding contributions to their organizations and communities. Our MPA program is offered in a format convenient for working professionals, with classes offered on Saturdays, weeknights, or a combination of both.

Find out more -- Join Us For An Upcoming MPA Information Session

January 13th **or** February 10th, 5:30 -- 6:30p.m.

Seattle University Campus, Casey Building, Room 517

For more information or to request an application packet call (206) 296-5437.

Also, visit us on the web: www.seattleu.edu/artsci/ips

Need Advice or Help? Who to call?

It's the end of budget time. Rain. Snow. Aaaaarrrrgh! 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:

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Editor's Note:

We have to depend on all of you to point out errors, current addresses, phone numbers, correct e-mail addresses, etc. WCMA information is available at <http://wccma.org>. So please keep us posted. What we're able to provide is only as good and accurate as it's supplied to us.

*Ron Bartels, WCMA News Editor
Public Policy and Management Consultant
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And now, the news:

*Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties
Lynn Nordby, Consultant
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Bainbridge Island -- Lee Walton, interim city administrator, has just returned from another trip to Eastern Europe. Very brave to leave town before the council adopted the budget. Lee tried the innovative idea of repealing the second half cent sales tax in favor of the unrestricted optional half percent real estate excise tax. Due to the large number of fairly high value property transactions on the island, the shift would have netted the city an additional \$300K over the estimated sales tax revenue. The council ultimately rejected the idea after strong opposition was voiced during budget hearings.

Lee is looking forward to the end of another interim assignment as the city has started the recruitment process for the next city administrator.

Bremerton -- Mike Wilson, director of administration and finance, reports that the move to the new **Kitsap** Government Center is getting closer with the announcement that the "well worn" city hall is up for sale.

Clallam County -- county administrator Dan Engelbertson is preparing for working with what is probably the state's first elected planning director after a group succeeded in amending the county charter to make that "interesting" change. He says their next target is expected to be the county administrator position, changing it to an elected county executive instead.

Kitsap County -- county administrator Malcolm Fleming is enjoying the second year of the biennial budget process adopted last year. Nice not to have the whole budget process to go through for one year at least. Malcolm says he could gladly recommend it as something to give thanks for this Thanksgiving.

Port Townsend -- Dave Timmons, city manager, reports that private construction activity is picking up. MSN Money named Port Townsend as one its top ten picks for investing in a second home. Could this be why? Anyway if you haven't bought that vacation place on the peninsula maybe you should give Dave a call.

2004 will be an active year for the city too, construction wise, with city hall expansion (after only about 100 years of planning!) and a new fire station. Dave is glad to have union contracts and budget behind him too.

Region 2, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Thurston Counties
David Campbell, City Manager, City of Chehalis
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Centralia and **Chehalis** recently accepted a consultant's study that analyzed the feasibility of merging their police and fire services. Although the study concluded that full organizational consolidations were not advisable at this time, we will, with the city councils' blessings, continue to evaluate and implement greater cooperation and potential consolidation of selected functions and operations. That could involve the local fire districts, too. First to be considered will be the possibility of moving from a mutual aid environment to an automatic aid response for certain fire calls in the two cities.

Other than that joint effort, J. D. Fouts, city manager, helped negotiate the recent sale of the historic Fox Theater in downtown **Centralia**. The purchasing organization sponsors operas and other artistic performances. They plan to do a lot of interior and exterior restoration during the next year, continuing the theme of **Centralia's** ongoing downtown improvements aimed at being a destination location.

Centralia has a new Web site at www.centraliaguide.com.

Chehalis also has a new Web site (www.cityofchehalis.com), but much work on it remains to be done. Dave Campbell, city manager, reports that the 2004 budget was not too painful, thanks to new retail development in town. There are rumors of more on the horizon, too. Expensive wastewater projects are underway also, meaning that the pain of higher utility rates is not far off.

Both J. D. and Dave will be having to fill several key department head positions in their organizations during 2004. J. D.'s councilors were all re-elected, but Dave has two new ones coming on board. ("Why do they seem to be younger than they used to be?") Turnover is always a two-edged sword.

Things are lookin' good for **Lacey**. Greg Cuoio, **Lacey** city manager, reports that the city is likely to be the host to its first ever cinema by late 2004. Regal recently announced plans to convert a long-vacated Homebase store to a 16 screen stadium style cineplex. This is a perfect use for the large box store. The theatre will stimulate restaurant development in the immediate

vicinity and help other businesses in the commercial complex that have suffered for years while Homebase and Smith Furniture sat idle.

Residential development also is on the upswing in **Lacey** and its UGA. Jenamar Inc., a developer of active adult retirement communities, broke ground this summer on a 1,500 unit development around **Lacey's** very popular 18 hole links style golf course in the Meridian Campus planned community. Another 3,000 lots have been approved for development or are in the submittal stage. This residential development is stimulating significant retail interest in **Lacey's** Hawks Prairie retail business district. Hmm . . . wouldn't it be great if **Lacey** turned into a mini-**Issaquah**? Dream on broomstick cowboy?!?

Greg also reports that **Lacey** is doing its share to promote job development in the state. A recent national report lists **Thurston County** as one of the top ten counties in the nation for job creation. Nearly 2,000 new jobs have been created in **Lacey** since completion of a \$25 million interchange upgrade in 2001.

On the fun side, **Lacey** broke ground on phase 1 of its 96 acre regional athletic, recreation, and special events complex this November. The project is funded through the formation of a regional Public Facilities District (PFD) where sales tax proceeds from **Tumwater** and **Thurston County** also will help pay for development costs. The first phase project cost will total about \$12 million. Construction is expected to be complete in 2005 with soccer and softball/baseball play beginning in 2006.

Lacey will finish \$10 million of road construction projects in 2003. The city's most recent pavement management report indicates **Lacey's** efforts to improve the overall condition of its roads over the past five years has really paid off.

Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties
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Southwest Washington Notes

Greetings to our fellow city management professionals!

'Tis the season" or perhaps the "post-season". The campaigns and elections are over, the people have spoken. In our part of the state, there are major changes in the elected cast in **Camas**, **Woodland**, **LaCenter**, and **Ridgefield**. Incumbents were largely returned in **Vancouver**, **Washougal**, and **Battle Ground**. We shall see what all this portends.

Another "post season" is marked by the passage of the annual budgets. It appears most are done. The stresses and pressures abide. Still, to this observer, there seems a bit less teeth-grinding this year. And, the effects of the initiatives appear quite uneven. That is, some cities seem to be faring well, others not.

And the long economic slump appears to have turned. Here in **Camas**, we see signs of investment, employment, and more optimism. It was a long trough, especially after the '90s.

“To everything there is a time and a season.” The season for a professional manager has arrived in **Washougal**, with its population of almost 10,000. Following a very lengthy political process of creating the position, and a rigorous process of recruiting and selecting a city administrator, the announcement of the “new city administrator” is imminent. The Camas-Washougal Newspaper ran this headline recently: “City Administrator to be named next week” The wags at **Camas** city hall congratulated your correspondent, and wished him well. “So, you finally get a name”.

As the season and year change, I am keeping in mind members of our profession and families who are in Iraq. May they be looked after and protected.

Seasons Greetings, from **Camas**.

Washougal has indeed named their new -- and first -- city administrator. It is Nabel Shawa, for many years city administrator of **Long Beach**.

Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties
Glenn K. Rice, Assistant City Manager, City of Yakima
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Grandview reports construction of the Wal-Mart Food Distribution Center is nearing completion, just nine months after breaking ground. The 900,000 square foot building will be the distribution center for all Wal-Mart Super-centers in the northwest. Six hundred full-time jobs have been created, which is a tremendous economic boon to the Lower Yakima Valley. At this point in time, 4600 applicants have applied for the 600 jobs. The official opening will be early April 2004.

Selah reports that the city will go out to bid in 2004 for additions to the wastewater treatment plant. The city will be adding a dewatering system and a dryer for processing biosolids to a class A pathogen level which allows for usage on lawns, orchards, etc.

Also, **Selah** will be adopting the 2004 budget, which will reflect the first water, sewer and garbage rate increases since 2000. The city rates will still be below other communities in the valley and the state average as reported by AWC.

Sunnyside reports the anticipated opening date for the new **Sunnyside** Community Center is scheduled for the end of January 2004. The 10,000 square foot facility has been constructed at a cost of \$1.2 million with the majority of the funding derived from a CDBG grant.

Also, **Sunnyside** received \$1.5 million dollars in funds from a special appropriation in the U.S.

senate's transportation spending bill. The funds will be used to support the South First Street Reconstruction Project. This project will address a combination of critical safety and economic development considerations for the city's major arterial serving its south part.

Wapato reports construction of a disinfection de-chlorination system at the sewer plant is 70% complete. The \$600,000 project is expected to be complete by late February 2004. Construction for the new CDBG – Washington State Migrant Council Early Learning Center is scheduled to begin spring of 2004.

Wapato welcomes new incoming Mayor Jesse Farias on January 1, 2004. Jesse is a Vietnam Veteran and is **Wapato's** first Hispanic mayor.

Yakima reports the Washington State Supreme Court has yet to review the constitutionality of the petition annexation process.

Yakima hired Sam Granato from Kingsville, Texas as its new police chief.

Yakima has completed the third phase of the **Yakima** Convention Center expansion project. This \$6.2 million project added 20,000 square feet to the convention center, which was completed on time and on budget.

Yakima representatives met with Governor Locke's staff to discuss streamlined sales tax issues. The city's message was clear and firm: no action should be taken until the federal government makes a decision on Internet taxation. Most cities in the state, including **Yakima**, will experience adverse impacts and net deficits as a result of SST implementation. It also is a disincentive for future land use and planning decisions. Mitigation is critical to hold cities harmless from any financial losses. Finally, there should not be a rush to implement such a fundamental change in our state tax system without more careful evaluation and analysis of other options and mitigation measures.

Yakima city and **Yakima County** are cooperating in expanding the SunDome to seat 12,000.

Yakima County has decided on property near the Central Washington State Fairgrounds to construct a new medium security facility. Public controversy has erupted over this site decision with potential legal action.

Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties
Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco
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Bob Hammond officially took over for Bob Kelly as city manager, **Kennewick**, on September 1. There have since then been many changes in personnel responsibilities and a change in priorities. Council targeted economic development as their #1 priority and a new division was created to develop and implement an assertive program on that front.

The Three Rivers Convention Center is taking shape next to the existing Coliseum in the Vista Entertainment District. Construction of a street network around the district has recently been completed and a recent bond issuance will fund another \$2.5M in infrastructure improvements for the district. An agreement has also recently been negotiated to sell nearby city property to a developer who will build a Hilton Garden Inns Hotel to serve the convention center and other interests in the district.

The city purchased surplus DNR property and is in the design phase of a new softball complex near Southridge High School. In general, the solid local economy has resulted in continual growth and the associated construction.

Kennewick staff, who have worked collectively with others in the region, were very happy to celebrate the success of securing the Quad Cities Regional Water Right and owe a lot to **Pasco's** Bob Alberts who has been the lead in this adventure over the past six years of effort. Much work remains to implement this water right.

City manager John Darrington reports that **Richland** dedicated a site in early December for its first public facilities district project. The site on Columbia Point South will house the "Hanford Reach National Monument Heritage and Visitor Center." The PFD Board expects the center to be a catalyst for tourism by informing visitors of related opportunities and facilities that capture the region's diversity and richness. The PFD will operate the center with participation from non-profit organizations, tribal governments and possibly federal agencies. On Columbia Point North, Anthony's Homeport Restaurant broke ground in mid December, and an adjacent Courtyard by Marriott is nearly completed. Additional residential, professional and commercial development is filling the once-vacant Columbia Point.

To re-define its approach to economic development, the **Richland** city council accepted a new strategic economic development plan, prepared by Tamerica Management, Inc., late last year. Many local business representatives and citizens, as well as the city's economic development partners, contributed to the plan's development and will work together to implement it. Council plans to review and fine-tune the plan at its annual retreat early this year. Also this winter, council will consider adoption of a comprehensive, citywide, multi-modal transportation plan. Both these plans fall within the community priorities that the **Richland** city council established last fall. Instead of revising its goals for the new year, the council identified four major areas of concern in which it wants all municipal efforts to be focused. These are to strengthen economic development, be careful stewards of **Richland's** natural resources, improve the quality of life and revitalize the community. Within each priority, council identified areas of emphasis for 2004. John and his staff will work throughout the year to ensure that all city projects and efforts fall under one of the four community priorities.

Region 6, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties
John Sherman, City Supervisor, City of Pullman
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In **Colfax**, the incumbent mayor, Norma Becker, conceded defeat in the general election, congratulated her opponent, and then turned out to be the winner in a recount vote. City administrator Emily Adams states she has been keeping very busy with a variety of projects. **Colfax** was fortunate to receive a TIB grant for the second phase of the Cedar Street project. Construction work on a new well house is also underway thanks to a PWTF loan. They are also in the middle of a major wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

In **Pullman**, the incumbent mayor, Mitch Chandler, opted not to run for reelection. He became the first **Pullman** mayor to serve two full eight-year terms. The new mayor, who ran unopposed, is Glenn Johnson, the “voice of the Cougs” for home football and men’s basketball games. Things were rosy (alright I have no right to use such language since the Rose Bowl is now a distant memory but at least we won’t lose it this time) until the Apple Cup. After the Apple Cup loss people were calling for his recall before he even took office. Yes, things are a little touchy in Cougar Town (we don’t have enough fans to be known as the Cougar Nation) following the loss in the Apple Cup. Five local fans reportedly jumped off the bridge into the icy waters of Lake Washington after the game but no one here will report them missing because nobody wants to admit that they even knew anyone who went to the Apple Cup. The finger pointing and backbiting has started in earnest and closet Cougars are being exposed (it is reported that Steven Hall in **Olympia** and Jim Justin at **AWC** may be Cougars). The backbiting and finger pointing will continue and more closet Cougars will be exposed until we finally beat the Huskies. Thankfully, my “home campus” beat the Huskies although the branch campus I attended lost to them (I went to the University of California at Eugene). Just remember, even if we can’t beat the Huskies, 9-3 and a bowl is still a whole lot better than 6-6 and no bowl.

We set an all-time construction valuation in **Pullman** this year. Off-campus construction was well over \$50 million in valuation. However, our general fund budget for 2004 reflected only a 0.8 percent increase over the 2003 budget. Even this was a huge increase compared to the 9.3 percent decrease we had in the 2003 adopted general fund budget. (We may not have any money but we still aren’t going to consider raising revenues by betting on football games like some unnamed ex-Husky coach). The news in other city funds was much better thankfully. The total city budget for all funds increased by 27.8 percent. Many major projects are moving forward through grants and private donations. In 2004 we will again be hard pressed to keep up with the large number of city construction projects. It seems so ironic how the local economy and city construction projects continue at record-breaking levels while the general fund is being squeezed and slashed due to the impacts of the loss of MVET and the cap on property tax growth. Let’s hope the legislature will address our general fund revenue problems before we have to declare bankruptcy in the midst of prosperity. (I know that sounds like “Couging it” but we aren’t allowed to use that phrase anymore what with the new mayor and all). We hope everyone can make it to **Pullman** for the 2004 Apple Cup because we need the admissions tax revenue for the general fund. (For you Cougar fans you don’t even have to worry about jumping off a bridge

and drowning if we lose again because we don't have enough water in **Pullman** to even break your fall). Go Cougs!

Region 7, Adams, Grant & Lincoln Counties
Joe Gavinski, City Manager, City of Moses Lake
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No report.

Region 8, Ferry, Pen Oreille, Spokane & Stevens Counties
Lewis "Griff" Griffin, City Administrator, City of Liberty Lake
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From **Airway Heights**, Chuck Freeman, city manager, reports that **Airway Heights** continues to grow in all segments. The city finished the year with 26 new housing starts and has three plats under review for an additional 345 single-family units. Developers plan on breaking ground in 2004 with the first phases.

Commercial activity is breaking out with the addition of our first car lot and plans for another to follow. The city issued permits for a fast food restaurant and bakery and construction in our industrial sector is expanding with an additional 30,000 sq. ft. building for one of the West Plains Industrial Park anchor tenants adding an additional 70 employees.

The city council recently approved a contract with ALSC Architects for a feasibility study of a recreation center. The city is planning for a November ballot initiative on a bond for this proposed multi-use center. In addition, the city is wrapping up a waste water facilities plan and is in the process of establishing a steering committee of stakeholders for a 1.5-MGD treatment plant. We anticipate moving into design this fall with anticipated construction to begin in 2006.

Next year looks bright and with over \$400K in cost cutting measures in place, and sales tax collections up 11.2% over last year. 2004 is shaping up to position the city on strong financial footing that will allow us to meet our short and long term goals.

From **Liberty Lake**, Lewis Griffin, city administrator, reports that **Liberty Lake** has done well in all areas this year. We have constructed (88) eighty-eight new single-residential homes and - have broken ground for a new 550,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility for Huntwood Industries that will employ approximately 600 people when up to capacity. We have also filled some of our empty buildings, increased the employment in the city and have started our own business incubator. The city has four of the six spaces leased. This was driven by mayor Steve Peterson.

The mayor and all seven council members were re-elected, with only one council position contested.

We completed and adopted our comprehensive plan and met the city council's goal of completing it in their first term. **Spokane Valley** has filed an appeal on the **Liberty Lake** comprehensive plan with the Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board.

We are in the process of doing a feasibility study on the assumption of a local sewer and water district. This is causing some problems. The district filed their first of many lawsuits they claim they will file to prevent our takeover.

We have passed our 2004 budget with an increase of \$2 million.

Looking forward to the New Year.

From **Spokane**, city administrator Jack Lynch says, "What do they say -- change is constant?" "Well, it is here in **Spokane**."

Our organization once again is in transition as former state senate majority leader -- and now our mayor-elect -- James E. West -- prepares to take over the helm of **Spokane**. In the last month since November's general election, we have been working to create a smooth transfer of power for our citizens and employees.

Now, I should explain that this transition truly is something new for our city. In 1999, city voters approved a change in form of government from a council-manager form to a mayor-council -- or strong mayor -- form of government. The new form of government, which makes the elected mayor the city's chief executive officer, was implemented in January 2001, following the election of mayor John Powers in November 2000.

In the last three years, we have worked to put this new form of government into practice. We've worked to define the role of the strong mayor and to redefine the role of our seven-member city council. In addition to this monumental change in our government structure, voters also approved a plan to elect city council members by district, which also has been phased in over the last three years.

So today, we are addressing our first passing of the baton under this new form of government. We also will have four new faces on our city council under the leadership of council president Dennis Hession and will finally have full implementation of council districting.

I'm pleased to say that our new mayor, council, and employees are up to this challenge. Mayor-elect West has created a comprehensive transition team that includes about 70 citizens, who are looking at all aspects of our government from transportation planning to management structure to technology. These groups will report back later this month to help the mayor-elect develop his 100-day, one-year, and four-year plans and goals. He also is meeting with key department and division heads to get a better understanding of our work and our managers.

Our managers and employees, meanwhile, have compiled a book of all current issues by area and

department to share with the new administration and have worked to be a valuable resource for the transition team. Mayor Powers also pledged his assistance with the transition.

I think I speak for most of our city employees when I tell you that we are excited about our future. We accomplished a lot during the first three years of this new form of government. In particular, I'm proud of the changes we made to improve the city's financial health, including the creation of the city's first-ever general fund reserve account, and the addition of an economic development office to help encourage growth within our city limits.

From this base of strength, **Spokane** is ready to embrace new leadership and the possibilities and opportunities that will bring. Change *is* constant, but that's good. It means we won't be stagnant.

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

Scott Hugill, city administrator, reports from **Leavenworth** that work is underway on the city's \$2,174,000 civic center project that will serve as a hub for theater, conferences and festivals. The project has seen over \$300,000 in change orders due to design errors and the discovery that sewer lines supposedly installed in the 1940s were never actually constructed. Despite the challenges, the project will open this Spring.

Together with the chamber of commerce, **Leavenworth** is seeking to construct a train station to lure Amtrak to stop on its twice-daily runs just north of the city. The council recently added a train station to the capital facilities plan, and design work is underway. The Port of **Chelan County** has earmarked \$75,000 for the project.

The city council recently extended the six percent business and occupation tax on telephones to include cellular telephone service. The move is intended to replace some of the \$15,000 loss in revenue the city has seen as more people switch from traditional phones to wireless communication and low-cost long distance card services.

Leavenworth is being featured on the Arts & Entertainment (A&E) television network's "Ultimate Holiday Town USA." The program highlights Christmas celebrations in communities of less than 50,000 residents, and a film crew spent two days shooting in **Leavenworth**. A three-member panel will select the winning community from 20 finalists.

Cashmere and **Leavenworth** are working together to negotiate a new law enforcement services agreement with the **Chelan County** Sheriff. The county has provided law enforcement to the cities for several years, most recently with a plan to increase the contract by 10 percent per year until the contract reflected the true cost of service. The county sought to increase each city's contract by almost \$80,000 between 2003 and 2004, much more than the anticipated \$25,000.

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

The city managers/administrators in **Whatcom** and **Skagit Counties** have begun meeting once a month. The first meeting was hosted by Roland Signett in **Ferndale**. Bill Verwolf hosted the second meeting in **Lynden**. Jon Aarstad has invited us to **Burlington** for our next meeting. Though the lunches have no set agenda, we find that issues are not a problem to come up with. It has been very enjoyable.

The six small cities in **Whatcom County** have been meeting monthly for several years. The meetings are attended by the mayors and city manager/administrators. Recently, the small cities group developed a partnership with the Port of **Bellingham** to for the Small Cities Partnership for Sustainable Economic Development. To kick the new organization off, a countywide planning conference was held in **Lynden** where each city presented their economic development goals and some challenges. Out of that meeting a report was prepared and an action plan for the next year approved.

Region 11, Snohomish County
Dave O'Leary, City Administrator, City of Lake Stevens
daveo@ci.lake-stevens.wa.us

Lake Stevens reports that the city has requested a CDBG grant in the amount of \$638,720 for a senior center. The seniors currently share city hall space with the entire community, and their opportunity to expand programs has been severely limited. The new center will provide room to grow. The seniors are working with the city to secure a grant to convert a 2780 sq. ft. house and attached three-car garage into the new senior center. Preparation of the grant application includes:

- Identifying all legal permitting and process requirements for the intended use.
- Creating a lengthy list of projects associated with the needed improvements.
- Estimating accurate costs of the improvements.
- Assembling environmental, financial and other information required by the grant application.
- Packaging and presenting the grant application.

Assuming the grant application is successful, the funding will cover the cost of the improvements. The seniors will then lease the property from the city for \$1 per year for 25 years. They will agree to abide by the grant terms, which limit the use to activities that benefit seniors. Like LSJAA, they will agree to cover their own maintenance costs.

Other planned improvements include constructing a parking lot and drainage facilities, and developing a walking trail to and into the heart of Eagle Ridge Park.

City representatives have visited with neighborhood residents to explain plans and ask for their

suggestions. Subject to ensuring security with fencing, most seemed pleased that the city will be dedicating the property to public/recreational purposes.

Lake Stevens reports a new addition to the city hall front counter is a passports office. Local residents can now use this facility to submit their passport initial or renewal applications.

The **Lake Stevens** police department continues to enforce their helmet law. Many children (under 18 years old) forget that helmets are required when they ride skate boards, bicycles, scooters, etc. Generally, the second time they are caught without a helmet, their skateboard, etc. will be confiscated. Their parents must pick it up at the police station.

Lake Stevens is one of the few cities, if not the only one in Washington, that requires kids to wear helmets when using wheeled vehicles like bikes and skateboards. The city is currently examining helmet requirements for kids that use a new class of transport established in the 2003 Legislature (HB 5450). These are called “motorized foot scooters” and “Neighborhood Electric Vehicles.”

Rich Leahy, city administrator, reports that even though **Mukilteo** is the only city in **Snohomish County** that doesn't have an EMS levy or fund EMS services with a dedicated revenue source, city voters failed to approve an EMS levy twice in the past 3 months. While the measure was supported by 52% of the voters on the September and November ballots, it fell short of the required 60% approval rate. Failure of the levy created a \$450,000 general fund operating deficit, which the city council basically solved by using reserves instead of making on-going reductions.

The city's new police station and new public works facility are just about complete. The city will move into the new buildings in February, 2004, which will allow it to eliminate rent payments it has been making for these facilities for more than 20 years.

Mukilteo is negotiating with the **Snohomish County** airport regarding development of the National Flight Interpretative Center/Museum of Flight/Boeing Tour Center project. The project is complicated because it straddles the city/county boundary and the only way to gain access to the project is through **Mukilteo**. The project is expected to be a regional tourist attraction that will attract 250,000-500,000 annual visitors.

Region 12, North King County

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

mitch@clydehill.org

With 2003 coming to an end, **Bothell's** year-in-review has much to offer! Consider the following highlights:

- **Bothell** staff designed, constructed and implemented its own decant facility saving an estimated \$20,000 in taxpayer funds and receiving national recognition and media coverage for it;

- **Bothell** was sought out by a location scout as a place for Toyota to shoot some of its new national commercials that began airing in November due to its “nice-looking, clean, small-town America” look and feel;
- Despite major cutbacks and a 10 percent personnel layoff in 2002, **Bothell** still managed to provide high quality customer service and implement and expand new programs such as the parks & recreation after-school program, where students have the opportunity to take various classes and participate in activities giving them a safe and educational place.

City manager Jim Thompson reports that not only has the **Bothell** staff performed at exceedingly high levels this past year, but the citizens have stepped up to the plate in their local government involvement as well. For example, the SR-522 corridor project (study on how to address future traffic demands on SR-522) is a complex issue. In order to help the citizens fully understand the study and feasibility, **Bothell** created a 10-member citizens advisory group to act as a community education tool, consisting of residents, business members, community leaders. The group became educated on the presented alternatives and their impacts, created a recommendation to present to **Bothell** city council and also shared information with their neighbors and fellow citizens providing community outreach in the most proactive way -- neighbor-to-neighbor.

Jim also reports that as they head into 2004 and beyond, **Bothell** city council will experience change. With four new council members on board and declining revenues, the council will have much education and high impact decisions to make. It is up to the staff to provide the educational tools and information they need and he is confident in our council and staff to lead them into the future.

From **Clyde Hill**, city administrator Mitch Wasserman reports that in September they held their 50th birthday celebration with the community. It was a big success. One thing about those types of successes though, these projects have a way of continuing from year to year. Mitch guesses that they'll call next year's event the 51st Birthday celebration?

Clyde Hill is on the final steps of a few utility conversion projects that have been challenging the staff and community since the spring. Mitch believes there is a light at the end of the tunnel but they still need about a week of good weather in December...What are my chances of getting that? On the coattails of these undergrounding projects is yet another neighborhood organizing a utility conversion project. This has the potential of a joint LID with **Bellevue**...Could be fun.

Although the income levels may be relatively high in the community the city's budget does not reflect good financial times. Mitch reports they've been fortunate that redevelopment has been good the last few years and enabled them to postpone some tough choices. The good news is that the council is on top of the situation and is waiting for the right time to make the tough expenditure or revenue decisions. The bad news is that they expect the decisions to be necessary next year.

Kirkland now offers curb-side recycling of food waste, electronic scrap, and used clothing.

Each resident received a 2-gallon kitchen food waste bucket for collecting fruit, vegetable, meat and dairy scraps, as well as food-soiled paper, such as paper towels, napkins and paper take-out boxes. The food waste is emptied out of the buckets into the gray yard waste carts and mixed with leaves, grass, etc. Electronic scrap is collected at the curb-side and sent to a major electronics recycler. Used clothing is collected, sorted, and recycled or sold to a major retail outlet.

All of **Kirkland's** curbside garbage and recycling is collected from wheeled carts provided by Waste Management. The new state-of-the-art collection trucks use robotic arms to lift and empty the carts into the trucks. The new trucks also significantly decrease pollution by using ultra-low sulfur fuel and particulate exhaust traps.

From **Medina**, city manager Doug Schultze reports that in July 2000, Medina Store was closed when the property owner terminated the lease agreement with the tenant. At the time, Medina Store was one of the longest operating businesses and oldest buildings on the Eastside. As such, Medina Store operated under a conditional use permit for over 40 years, since **Medina** has no commercial land use districts. **Medina** Municipal Code language states that a conditional use permit expires if the permit use is discontinued for 90 days.

The property owner submitted an application for a new conditional use permit approximately one year after closing the store, which included plans to demolish the existing structure and replace it with a replica. In addition, the proposed business included a deli counter, espresso service, and a dry cleaning/laundry pick up. Eventually, the permit was denied by the hearing examiner after finding insufficient documentation from the applicant.

A revised application, new hearing examiner, and a new architect in 2002 ended up with the same results. This time, the hearing examiner's decision suggested that **Medina** Municipal Code did not give the hearing examiner authority to grant a conditional use permit for the proposed use.

Community support eventually influenced action by the city council to create what has been called an "Historical Use Permit." Three years, two hearing examiners, no less than a dozen hearings, and three attorneys later, the **Medina** city council granted an Historical Use Permit for the property on December 8, 2003. The city staff, planning commission and city council faced many challenges throughout this process, but with tremendous public participation found a solution that met the desires of the community and provides appropriate mitigation to adjacent property owners.

This issue of WCMA News brings word from Joni Earl and Vernon Stoner, executive director and deputy executive director at **Sound Transit**.

Sound Transit.....where to start. This has been a big year for our agency. It marks the first time since the 1996 vote, that we have all three lines of business -- express bus, commuter rail, and light rail in operation in the district. It also marks the first time we have had construction

projects underway in all 5 subareas of the district. Most notable, after three years of audits by all levels of government, internal reviews, management changes, reorganizations, etc., we received our \$500 million full funding grant agreement from the Federal Transit Administration for the central link light rail project, and broke ground for construction on November 8th!!!!!! We have issued contracts, totaling \$94 million for the first two segments of construction, and \$131 million for manufacture of 31 light rail vehicles.

By the time this goes to print, we will have announced our agreements with BNSF railroad for extension of commuter rail service from **Everett to Seattle** and **Tacoma to Lakewood**, another major milestone. Our first train from **Everett to Seattle** should be operating by the end of 2003.

We started light rail in **Tacoma** August 22nd, and the 1.6 mile downtown system has exceeded our 2010 ridership projections. This system connects all three of our lines of business at the **Tacoma** Dome station area in **Tacoma** where light rail connects to commuter rail, ST express buses and **Pierce** Transit buses, and private buses. We are proud to be part of the renaissance of downtown **Tacoma**.

Our Regional Express (REX) department has major construction underway with HOV direct access ramps under construction on I-405 to **Bellevue**, and two on I-5 near **Lynnwood** and **Mill Creek**. Next year, REX will have 14 projects under construction with 5 completed by the end of 2004.

As you can see, we have been very busy, working to rebuild our credibility through performance. We appreciate the partnerships with the many local jurisdictions we work with, and we have especially appreciated all the personal and professional support we continue to receive from many of you.

Joni and Vernon say, "Here's to a great 2004!"

On **Sound Transit** there's more! The November 2003 issue of Washington CEO has the executive director, Joni Earl, on its cover. And what's been done at **Sound Transit** since her arrival there is detailed in the cover article. For a look go to <http://washingtonceo.com>. Click on the large cover photo of Joni. Then click on the article title, "Rapid Transition." Read all about it!

Linda Herzog sends greetings to the WCMA family from her new "dream job" at **University of Washington**. She says:

Like all "best laid plans," mine was to stay in touch with all the great people I know from municipal-government-land, but the plan has gone awry. I am, indeed, working at my dream job. Perhaps as importantly, I have the concurrence of my co-workers that I may work 75% time. What that means is that while I'm working, I work a regular schedule just like always (what is that, 60 hours a week or so??), then when I want to take vacations they can be really long, or I can take them more often. Who could ask for more? Work that satisfies the soul, VERY smart

and committed co-workers, and enough time off to actually have a LIFE on the side. I am blessed!

I am working with Charley Royer and Cindy Curreri at the Urban Health Initiative, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through the University of Washington. Our big deal is to apply research-proven strategies to dramatically improve conditions for kids in the most troubled urban environments (Detroit, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Oakland and Richmond, VA). We'll know if we have been successful when, 10 years into this, those five cities can show visible improvement in the statistics on juvenile violent crime, drug use, pregnancy, school failure, etc. As associate director for this initiative, I am a small cog. But if our cities are successful, we will all feel like we've really made a difference. You can tell I'm pretty enthusiastic about this work! You can read more on our web site: www.urbanhealth.org.

I must say that I miss city work. I had lunch with a former co-worker just a couple of days ago, and I couldn't get enough of the stories about what is happening in that environment. But I have had a "soft landing" and am grateful that everything has turned out so well.

I hope everyone can have a joyful holiday season. Miss you all and wish you a successful and gratifying 2004.

Linda can be reached at lherzog@u.washington.edu.

Region 13, South King County
Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, City of Normandy Park
merlinm@ci.normandy-park.wa.us

From **Burien**, Gary Long, city manager reports:

City shapes redevelopment for area near airport... The **Burien** city council adopted new zoning and design standards on Nov. 17 for 160 acres near **Sea-Tac** Airport, which is affected by aircraft noise and known as the northeast redevelopment area (NERA). Uses could include offices, high tech industry, light industry, flight kitchens and air cargo facilities, auto rental agencies, artists' studios, and convenience markets and restaurants serving the employees in the area. The Port of **Seattle** has already purchased some of the land as part of its second and third runway projects.

Town Square's development plan scheduled for review in mid-May... The community will look over the development plan for **Burien's** town square in mid-May, according to the memorandum of understanding approved by the city council on Nov. 24. The town square site lies north of Southwest 152nd Street between 4th and 6th Avenues Southwest. The understanding sets the timeline for Urban Partners LLC of Los Angeles to prepare its design concept and development plan. The plan will integrate a public plaza with quality retail, office, residential, educational, and civic uses on the city's eight-acre parcel, which is the heart of its downtown revitalization work. The Puget Sound Educational Services District's building and two acres of land on the

most prominent corner of the town square property also provided a purchase option to the city if it can relocate elsewhere on the site. Under the memorandum of understanding, the developer would present its design concept at a public workshop about Apr. 15 and its revised development plan about May 15. This schedule fits with the city's original plan to allocate six months for the developer's planning of the integrated design configuration, the public amenities, and the financing to carry out this major revitalization of downtown **Burien**.

Earthquake and Storm Repairs. The city will also be reconstructing a portion of Maplewild Avenue due to damage caused by the 2001 Nisqually earthquake that closed the arterial and left fourteen homeowners "red-tagged". Two other major road projects will include two miles of reconstruction and undergrounding of utilities on First Avenue S and Sylvester Road in **Burien**.

From **Federal Way**, David Moseley, city manager reports:

Three major projects in **Federal Way** are proceeding "on time and within budget", as the ol' phrase goes. In September the city completed phase I of the Pacific Highway (SR 99) reconstruction and we have now begun phase II of this important transportation project. As reported in previous reports, the city purchased a nine-year-old, 87,000 square foot building for our new city hall. The building will require extensive renovation for city use and the council has approved the final redesign. We anticipate beginning to move into the new facility in July 2004... Finally, the council has approved the conceptual design for the new 77,000 square foot multi-purpose community center that will be construction on city land at Celebration Park. We anticipate construction to begin in 2005 and to open the facility in late 2006.

From **Normandy Park**, Merlin MacReynold, city manager reports:

Construction of the 1st Avenue enhancement project is well underway that provides bicycle lanes, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and turn lanes on this main street for our city. The October 20th storm provided additional challenges for this project as a 36-inch culvert under the road collapsed. Walker Creek, a salmon-bearing stream passed through this culvert. Through a great deal of cooperation from the federal highway department and the state TIB they covered the full cost of replacing. Additionally, we managed to upsize the 36-inch culvert to a 60-inch culvert, which is fish passable. What initially looked like a budget buster at \$560,000 ended up being a cooperative effort that enhanced Walker Creek's fish habitat.

Additionally, this month the city council acted upon the creation of a stormwater utility and fee. This has been something the administration has been working on for the past few years and the council passed it unanimously. This was a very positive step for **Normandy Park** to take and a pro-active approach to our many stormwater issues and challenges.

Region 14, Pierce County
Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor
hoppenm@cityofgigharbor.net

On one front, the city of **Gig Harbor** needs a new chief of police. After eight years with **Gig Harbor**, police chief Mitch Barker leaves for the city of **Vancouver** for an assistant chief position, supervising over 180 personnel, a bit of an increase from 13 (instead of a population of 6,500, a population moving toward 300,000 -- an interesting change!).

On another front, the city council is considering increasing the square footage building size maximum in the B-2 retail sales zone to 65,000 square feet and removing such limits entirely in the downtown business zone. In part, these policy changes are an outgrowth of local confidence with design review guidelines. **Gig Harbor** anticipates lifestyle retail developments in the north and south business areas. Already, local development interests are working with future lessees. Alternatively, downtown re-development will focus on boutique retail, tourism and the arts.

Bob Jean, city manager, **University Place**, is the ICMA nominating committee's choice to stand for election as the West Coast Vice President of ICMA.

The **University Place** city council recently selected Robert B. Aikens & Associates, LLC, of Troy, Michigan, as the preferred developer for the city's Town Center Project. Aikens is one of three developers who submitted a response to the city's request for qualifications. Some of Aikens' projects include: Village of Rochester Hills, Rochester Hills, MI; Shops at Bay City, Bay City, MI; and Acadiana Mall, Lafayette, LA. In its deliberations, the city council noted Aikens' strong retail background, the company's financial strength and its history of maintaining ownership of its projects. The council was also impressed with the large number of community events Aikens sponsors at its developments, reflecting the company's desire to seamlessly blend its developments into the social and architectural fabric of the community.

The **University Place** retail consultant, Bob Gibbs, remarked that there are only 10-12 experienced 'lifestyle retail developers' in the country right now and their project received proposals from three of the best. The city conducted a thorough evaluation of each of the firms, including a financial analysis, background and reference checks, and site visits. The Town Center Project is a public/private partnership that includes over 300 high-quality residential units, located above approximately 300,000 square feet of specialty shops, restaurants and a parking garage. The project will include a new public plaza and will be anchored by the **University Place** library, city hall, public safety building and Homestead Park. The next step in the process is the execution of an exclusive negotiating agreement in December, followed by the negotiation of a MOU/preliminary development agreement in early 2004, and a final development agreement in the summer of 2004. Construction is anticipated to begin next summer and be completed late 2006/early 2007.

From the counties

On December 17, 2002, **Clark County** committed a percentage of its sales tax revenue to the city of **Vancouver**. The county's sales tax contribution will help finance the city's hotel-conference center.

Both the city of **Vancouver** and **Clark County** collect a 0.033 percent sales tax credit distributed by the state, which is a rebate from state sales tax dollars collected locally. This revenue stream was authorized by 1999 legislation that allows cities and counties to receive such a tax credit if it is used to help pay for sports arenas, conference centers, and other large projects.

The agreement between the city and the county calls for the county to turn over 97 percent of its 0.033 percent sales tax revenue to the city for construction and operation of the conference center. The percentage will be adjusted based on sales tax fluctuation. Over a 25-year period, the county's sales tax contribution, which will apply only to the conference center and not to the hotel's development or operation, is expected to be \$16 million.

The remaining 3 percent of the county's sales tax revenue will be used to renovate the **Clark County** Fairgrounds. The first step in the \$36.5 million plan for the fairgrounds is construction of a new \$18.5 exhibition/exposition hall. Work on that facility has already begun and is expected to be completed in late 2004. With the exception of three existing buildings, which will be retained, all other buildings that currently constitute the fairgrounds site will be replaced by structures designed for year-round use.

*Bill Barron, County Administrator, Clark County
President, Washington County Administrative Association*

From out of state

Mike Cecka, now retired as city administrator of Cle Elum, stays in touch from time to time. He, his wife Sandy, their truck, trailer, and motor sailboat are on a massive trip, essentially circling the U.S. At the end of October, Mitch Wasserman received this message from them:

Hi Mitch,

Great hearing from you. I'm glad Ron forwarded our last e-mail to you. Technology continues to frustrate me. Our cell phone e-mail lashup still doesn't work, thus I'm replying from the public library in Beaufort, NC. If you checked the photos, you probably got the first few to open, but there's apparently problems with the bulk of them, which we are still trying to solve. Hope we can get it fixed.

We are currently anchored in a cove near downtown Beaufort, stayed there last night and will stay tonight too. Took the dinghy into town to spend the day. Weather fantastic and the town is very interesting, and historic. We are about 200 miles into our Intracoastal

Waterway cruise. We put in near Norfolk, VA and are heading south. We find ourselves in the midst of an incredible migration of cruising yachts, both power and sail, all heading south for Florida. On some inlet crossings we can see as many as 20 sailboats all heading in the same direction. We are about the smallest boat in the migration. Other night we tied up at a marina with about 25 other boats. Smallest power cruiser was 45 feet and smallest sail other than us (26 feet) was about 35 feet. Our boat looked really funny next to all those other boats. No matter, we are comfortable, happy, and having a ball. Remarkable sights around nearly every bend. We saw swamp cypress along the Dismal Swamp in Virginia and NC, starting to see Spanish moss and palmetto. Spotted our first gecko today. Lots of brown pelicans here.

We stayed in Elizabeth City, NC a couple of nights, which Hurricane Isabela hit hard. That City calls itself the Harbor of Hospitality, and it is a name that really fits. They are in the ICW, and they have a beautiful town dock with overnight moorage, free. A guy hangs out there and helps you with your bow line when you come in. A local group of volunteers, called the Rose Buddies, come down to the dock every evening around 4ish, and they put on a wine and cheese party for all boaters, all complimentary. All the ladies are presented with a rose. Then there was Norma. We are finding that everyone who stops in Elizabeth City knows Norma. She's a one woman welcome committee who stops by and greets incoming boaters, offering rides to shopping, showers, etc. We were really swept off our feet by that community and its people. Norma ushered us to a Ghost Walk which was really fun. Met one of the original Tuskegee airmen during one of the presentations.

Recent cruises have included Lake Champlain and Acadia Maine in September. Great places. Don't know which has been our favorite so far; Isle Royale on Lake Superior is very close to the top. We're really loving these southern waters. Kind of feel at home, since the water color is just like Starbucks Coffee. No kidding, very dark brown, almost black. We'll continue on down the ICW to South Carolina and Georgia, with St. Augustine, FL as our goal. Stops in Charleston and Savannah along the way. We'll park boat at marina at St. Gus and rent a car for a backtrack to retrieve truck and trailer. After reuniting with boat, we'll drive down to south Florida for a cruise of the everglades. In mid Feb. we will find a good weather window and jump across to the Bahamas, which will be big time adventure.

Thanks for the update on what you're up to. Please forward this message to Ron Bartels (I don't trust my forwarding skills and addresses aren't handy). I've been keeping him posted, and I'll tell him to look for something from you. We'll continue using caution as conditions require, and hoping for clear skies and fair winds.

Warmest regards, Mike and Sandy

So you see, there *can* be "life after". If you'd like to try to make contact with them, try e-mail at ceckanewhorizon@yahoo.com.

Marketa Oliver, who was active in WCMA and served for 10 years as assistant to the city manager in Yakima, and is now city administrator of Windsor Heights, Iowa, was recently named one of the “Forty under Forty” by the Des Moines Business Record. Each year the Business Record recognizes 40 area individuals under the age of 40 considered to be future leaders. Marketa also was awarded the Matt Parrot Integrity Award, which recognizes the relationship between integrity and leadership.

Jim Rumpeltes, who was active in WCMA as county administrator in Clallam County, is now the city manager of Surprise, Arizona.

Ehman Sheldon, presently in Ad-Diwaniyah Province, Iraq, on a six months assignment through ICMA, reports that the population is 300,000, and that there is a council of 19 members. In addition, there are 35 neighborhoods (small cities) for which he is setting up councils. Training, education, and “selections” (they are not supposed to use the word “elections”) are their business. Ehman sent along two photographs. One shows him doing his “advisor” thing at a council meeting, and the other shows him with one of the council members. The photos are not included here, since the last time a photo was included in an issue of WCMA News, a whole host of folks couldn’t open it because the file was too large. If you’d like to have the photos forwarded to you separately, contact the editor at rbartels@mrsc.org, and tell him you’d like to see Ehman’s photos from Iraq.

And here’s his input received December 8, 2003:

Hi Ron,

We have been evacuated three times, mortared once and small arms fire is constant at night but does not appear to be directed at us either at the office or at the villa -- so all is well and safe for today. This is a one day at a time gig. I am thoroughly enjoying working with the Iraqi people and the neighborhood councils; I will never complain about a U.S. city council again. Our little office has grown from 4 expatriates to 11 now so it is getting quite a challenge to coordinate the use of vehicles, guards and shooters. Please send me e-mail with newsletter when you publish.

I have also asked my wife, Sandy, to include you in her weekly newsletter to my family about my activities.

Ehman Sheldon
Government Specialist
Local Government Project (LGP)
Ad -Diwaniyah Province
South Central Region, Iraq
ICMA Contractor

On December 15, 2003, Ehman reports that his regional office is in Hilla, Iraq. He sent the following article from The New York Times to describe some of what’s going on: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/14/weekinreview/14burn.html?ex=1072435452>. To contact with Ehman directly, his current e-mail address is esheld01@lgp-iraq.org.

New WCMA Members

WCMA's membership committee and the regional representatives have been hard at work enticing folks to become members. As was announced in the last issue of WCMA News, as of April 3, 2003, the following people had become members:

Kristin Banfield
City Administrator
City of Arlington

Eric Holmes
City Manager
City of Battle Ground

William Brandon
City Manager
City of Carnation

Kathleen Holscher
City Manager
City of Union Gap

Charles Bush
Intergovernmental Management Analyst
City of Bellevue

Samuel Johnston
City Administrator
City of Shelton

Nihat Dogan
Senior Consultant
Financial Consulting Solutions Group, Inc.

Jack Lynch
City Administrator
City of Spokane

Mary Ann Duncan-Cole
City Administrator
City of Stevenson

Julie Modrzejewski
Assistant City Manager
City of Shoreline

Joseph Gavinski
City Manager
City of Moses Lake

Bruce Rayburn
City Manager
City of SeaTac

Karen Haines
City Administrator
City of Lake Forest Park

Dave Schmidt
City Administrator
City of Buckley

Ron Henrickson
Administrator
Mason County

Elizabeth Spencer
Deputy City Manager
City of SeaTac

Since that time, there have been six more new additions:

Wes Crago
City Administrator
City of Ephrata

William J. McGill
Director of Information and
Administrative Services
City of Issaquah

Robert Hammond
City Manager
City of Kennewick

Nina Regor
Deputy City Manager
City of Spokane Valley

Charla Hattendorf
Executive Analyst
Snohomish County

Matt Sullivan
City Administrator
City of Everson

Please welcome them!

Transitions

Wes Crago is now the city administrator of Ephrata.

Dick Cushing, recently retired city manager of Olympia, just couldn't stay away from local government. He has joined Waldron & Company in a senior development role as Vice President, Public Sector.

Tom Fitzsimmons, one of our former members and a past president of WCMA, and most recently director of the Department of Ecology, has been named chief of staff by Governor Gary Locke.

Steve Hall, for many years assistant city manager of Olympia, has been named as the city manager there.

John Hawley, finance director of Lake Forest Park, was one of two from the WCMA ranks who worked through ICMA and went to Iraq as advisors. The stint was to be for a six month period. But after a major explosion in a building next door, in which John was not injured, he has returned. The news story that appeared in the local paper about John's departure can be found at <http://www.enterprisepapers.com/index.cfm?action=story&storyid=20039101841843>. John's post was in Nasiriyah. That was the site of a recent attack. The story covering his return can be found at http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/148030_hawley13.html. **John** is back at work in Lake Forest Park.

Linda Herzog has left her position as assistant city manager of Mercer Island and is now in her "dream job" at University of Washington. See the news from Region 12 for more.

Steve Nolen, formerly with King County, and most recently serving as assistant city manager of Covington, is the new administrative assistant in Lynnwood.

Jerry Osterman, retired city administrator last of Chelan, has been called out of retirement to serve as interim city administrator there.

Scott Rohlfs, city manager, Lakewood, had originally planned to retire in August, 2004. Since the city has now decided to form its own police department, the city council there has requested that he continue for an additional six months, until February 28, 2005, to help see them through the transition from sheriff contract to their own department.

Nabiel Shawa, long time city administrator of Long Beach, has been named the new -- and first -- city administrator of Washougal.

Ehman Sheldon, city administrator of Othello, is the other WCMA member who has taken on a six months assignment through ICMA serving as an adviser in Iraq. Ehman's e-mail address is esheld01@lgp-iraq.org.

Matt Sullivan is the new -- and first -- city administrator for the City of Everson.

Eric Swansen, who was senior management analyst in Shoreline, is now the city manager of Farmersville, CA.

Dave Weiser, who has been mayor of Marysville for the past 12 years, has become the new city manager of Ocean Shores.

Bob White, who has served as a Range Rider for twelve years since his retirement as city manager of Mountlake Terrace, has announced his "fadeout". His comment to the WCMA board was that with recent and new retirees among our ranks, he feels sure there are plenty of opportunities for replacements. And his final comment for the membership is: "Thanks to all from Marge and I for the associations with you over the past two score years. I can't think of anything I'd prefer to have done!!! And the memories are great!!!"

WCMA Officers and Board Members

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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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