



Volume 16, No. 2, August 2004

President's Message

Greetings from the quiet shores of Mercer Island. (I only wish!) This marks the last time I will fill this particular space in the WCMA Newsletter. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as WCMA President and I look forward to another great year under Kirkland City Manager Dave Ramsay's leadership.

So what's happen since last August? Tim Eyman's latest assault on local government taxation has come and gone. For the first time, a campaign of voter information *PRIOR* to ballot certification – when we can actually speak our minds – was undertaken and was successful. We certainly have much to thank the librarians, firefighters and AFSCME employees for. And, of course, those thanks deservedly go to AWC as well. Via its AWC Board representation, WCMA was an ardent supporter of this early information activity. Of course, just wait until next year – son of I-864 is likely in the offing.

What else? The City family continued to struggle with Streamlined Sales Tax. AWC convened an inter-city negotiation process in order to reach a package that could be recommended during the 2005 legislative session. That process continues. The professional management skills of our WCMA members are integral to the negotiations as well as its prospects for success.

The courts made life easier for some cities by allowing (once again) the use of the petition method for annexations. But they made life less easy for others by invalidating flat-rate charges for ambulance utilities.

As a professional association, we made a good showing in Charlotte for the 2004 ICMA annual conference. We were proud of Bob Jean, City Manager at University Place, when he took the reins as one of ICMA's West Coast Vice Presidents. We joined the Oregon managers in Newport for the annual spring conference, bringing back insights, management tips and (once again) the volleyball trophy!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Alderbrook. Dave Ramsay has put together an excellent program and Alderbrook has been transformed into one of the state's premier conference centers and resorts. I'm sure you will all enjoy the conference. If you haven't registered yet, there is still time!

It's been an honor....Rich

A Special Note:

WCMA's representative to the 2004 ICMA Conference Planning Committee, Deb Symmonds, Mercer Island deputy city manager, submits the following:

WCMA President Rich Conrad has announced that the Washington City Management Association will hold a joint reception with other Northwest States Associations at the ICMA Conference in San Diego. The annual reception night will be Monday, October 18th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, so please plan to attend. For lack of a better name, we will identify the reception in the program information as the Washington/Northwest States City Management Associations. ICMA will provide the location information in the schedule material at the conference.

Now is the time to register for the 2004 ICMA Conference, Sunday October 17th through Wednesday, October 20th! Go to <http://www2.icma.org/conference2004/> and click on the link to register online. While you're there, make your hotel reservation by clicking the link for "Housing".

This year's conference theme, "Catching the Next Wave: Local Government Management and Leadership in the Global Community," seems only natural given its location and the opportunities available to increase our international contacts. Read more about the keynote sessions, more than 46 concurrent educational sessions, 30 afternoon roundtable discussions, 18 ICMA University workshops and forums, field demonstrations, and demonstrations of technology applications at <http://www2.icma.org/conference2004/>

A reminder:

There is no longer a paper directory of the WCMA members. Instead, it's readily available in electronic format. Go to <http://wccma.org>. Click on "Membership." Then click on "Directory." Type in the person's last name, the city, or what you know, and click.

Information on the website is only as good as it is provided to MRSC. It's up to you to send information so it can be up to date. Now would be a good time to take a look and send us any updates or corrections that are needed. If it needs fixing, please send the information to Donita Mowers at dmowers@mrsc.org. She'll enter the corrections as soon as you supply them. Or if all else fails, you can e-mail me the information at rbartels@mrsc.org.

The fact that some of the information we have -- such as your current e-mail address -- is no longer correct became very clear from the number of calls we got from those of you who hadn't received the information about the Summer Conference. In a number of instances, it was sent. To your old e-mail address. So of course you didn't get it.

Please, please, please, take a look and keep the membership roster information we have on you up to date.

*Ron Bartels, Editor, WCMA News
Public Policy and Management Consultant
Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington*

From Cascade Center:

As we continue to celebrate our 20th Anniversary Year at the **Cascade Center for Public Service and Leadership** at the **University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs**, we invite you to attend our remaining courses! Thank you to the hundreds of public and nonprofit managers and executives that have participated in our programs this year. On July 23rd we completed our annual Executive Management Program, and we would like to congratulate the graduates of 2004! We have also successfully launched several brand new courses to address current training needs, two of which are listed below.

We still have a few spaces available in our upcoming courses this summer and fall. If you have not yet registered, we encourage you and your staff to **register now** to reserve a space!

Register online at www.cascadecourses.org.

Creating a Practical Customer Service Strategy for Your Organization will be held **September 16-17, 2004** in **Wenatchee**. The focus of this two-day course will be to identify the core problems your agency is facing, assess the opportunities for improving service delivery, design a quality customer service strategy, identify the necessary data and technology, and decide on the essential characteristics of an implementation plan. The instructors are **Diana Gale, Ph.D.**, professor at the Evans School of Public Affairs and former director with Seattle Public Utilities, and **Pat Colson, M.Ed.**, who spent 22 years as a customer service director in local government.

Managing for Results will be held on **October 7-8, 2004** in **Seattle**. This new course topic was added to the Cascade Management Series this year in response to managers' growing interest in learning about **performance measures**. The two-day course will provide public and nonprofit managers with the tools needed to produce results and improve performance. The instructors are **Larisa Benson, M.P.A.**, and **Leslie Breitner, D.B.A.**, expert faculty at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs.

The popular course *Managing People to Improve Programs* will be taught by **Jon Brock, M.B.A.** and **John Boehrer, B.A.** on **October 11-15, 2004** in **Seattle**. This five-day course presents a realistic basis for establishing personnel policies and making decisions that advance program goals. Managers will be able to diagnose personnel problems, create a productive work environment, and make effective decisions that empower employees and strengthen programs.

The **2005 course schedule** will be posted online early this fall, and the brochure will be mailed out shortly thereafter. Please let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list. See our web site for course dates, descriptions, and more information about the Cascade Center: www.cascadecourses.org. [If you have any questions, please call](http://www.cascadecourses.org) 206-685-0523 or e-mail cascade@u.washington.edu. We hope to see you in our fall courses!

Need Advice or Help? Who to call?

Spring is sprung. Summer is here! And there are all those mayors and councilmembers and commissioners out there. Our bosses. Sometimes, things don't go too smoothly. Help is needed. Or at least some good advice. You can certainly call your neighboring manager or administrator. Or . . . 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: Jeanyal@earthlink.com

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

And now, the news:

Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties
Lynn Nordby, Consultant
lnordby@msn.com

From **Bainbridge Island** comes the report that new city administrator Mary Jo Briggs was introduced to the public at a reception on the Town Square outside city hall on Friday, July 16. Also recognized for his service to the community was outgoing interim city administrator Lee Walton, who served "11 months, 21 days, but who's counting" he quipped. Lee was appointed to the interim position last summer following the retirement of the island's first city administrator, Lynn Nordby (your reporter). (Lee has already started his next interim assignment in Arlington.) Mayor Darlene Kordonowy took advantage of the opportunity to get a picture of all the city administrators who've ever served the community gathered in one place.

Mary Jo has moved into her new office and is looking forward to the opportunities the island faces in the coming years. One of them being the "Winslow Tomorrow" project intended to coordinate the need for updating the aging infrastructure of the island's Winslow business district with the need to preserve and enhance its economic vitality. We'll look forward to reports from Mary Jo as this progresses to see how the experience might benefit other communities.

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

There's a paucity of news from Region 2 -- the summer doldrums, I guess.

In **Centralia** (J.D. Fouts, city manager), the city council recently held a visioning workshop with

residents and business owners to discuss the next phase of their "Hospitality **Centralia**" program. They are in the midst of updating their comprehensive plan, which will also involve a series of public workshops. The police department received one of AWC's annual achievement awards for their citizen academy,

In **Chehalis**, city manager Dave Campbell has filled finance director, police chief, and public works director vacancies recently, the latter two by internal promotions. Their recently planted poplar trees that will be irrigated with the city's treated wastewater in the future seem to be growing well, but so are the weeds; it will be nice when the canopy forms and mowing equipment can be used between the trees to knock down the unwanted vegetation. The city council has approved a design services contract with WSDOT for up to 5 (count 'em, five!) roundabouts along the corridor at their northern freeway interchange. If that project eventually goes to construction, Dave plans to take vacation time during the drivers learning curve period (several months, at least).

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

Eric Holmes, city manager, reports that things continue fast and furious here in **Battle Ground**. With the 510 new housing starts that we saw last year, our "official" 2004 population hit 14,220. To give a little perspective, when I started here in 1997, we were 6,948, and all the growth has been from new construction. Being the double edged sword that growth is, it has brought a mixed bag to the community. On the positive side, we have completed several major capital projects across the board recently, including streets, parks, sewer and water. Also, 3 new water wells and a feasibility study for a new wastewater treatment plant. We have started design of a new police station which will likely break ground this fall. This spring marked the one year anniversary of the move into our new city hall, and we have sold the old city hall, allowing us a healthy down payment on proposed police station. In April, the city ran a parks bond and maintenance levy, both of which failed at the polls, yet we will still dedicate one new neighborhood park each of the three summer months this year as a result of development activity. We have hired 20 new or replacement people in the last year bringing our total FTE count to 68.5, but continue we to struggle with meeting the demands of growth.

From the private side of the equation, we continue to see strong growth this year (175 new housing starts so far this year), and a new commercial complex anchored by an 8 screen theater broke ground earlier this month. Activity in the city's only industrially zoned lands appears to be picking up this year, and the new owner of that area predicts an much as \$200 million in new investment over the next 10 years.

With all this going on, I look forward to a slightly slowing pace as we enter the 2005 budget season.

Notes from SW Washington July, 2004

Lloyd Halverson, city administrator, **Camas**, submits the following:

Greetings, Fellow Professionals!

In a curious time, a few newsy notes:

An item attracting attention from a variety of newspapers and media is the **Ridgefield** situation. As background, the reader should be aware that since **Ridgefield**'s overwhelming adoption of the council-manager form (about five years ago), the city has had five city managers. The stars have not aligned. Observers remark that the community is "at sixes and sevens" with itself. A local resident remarked: "We are like a bear caught in a trap, and we bite off our own leg". For a couple of past managers, **Ridgefield** has been a brutal experience. Randy Bombardier was city manager in from late '01 until early '03. George Fox has been interim city manager since March of this year. A search is currently underway.

With the backdrop of serious community discord, some **Ridgefield** citizens have attempted a bit of levity. They proposed a novel local candidate for the city manager position. Otis, a Boston terrier, is being touted as a good match for the apparent "dog of a job". The promotional effort has included unusual steps such as posters of Otis in downtown store windows, and aggressive use of the media by the candidate's supporters. **Ridgefield** business owner Earlene Griswold for example is quoted lauding Otis in a recent issue of The Reflector newspaper. Ms. Garfield said the terrier is a good candidate for the job. "We watch Otis walk to work every day", she said. As for characteristics, he (Otis) is "funny, punctual, gets along with everybody, makes his rounds around town, is good mannered, likes kids and has a good presence in the community". Another citizen cited in The Reflector article says he supports Otis "*because he is well known, is in town every day and can be trusted*". (Lloyd's Note: "Think about it".)

Your correspondent, on the other hand, thinks an *ideal candidate* would additionally be modeled after the Russian canine "*Laika*". As you may remember, this was a "dog-monaut", trained and assigned by the Soviets for the November 1957 Sputnik II mission into space. The mongrel hound (unkindly referred to as "muttnik") was placed in to the capsule, and wired to observe and record reactions to various experiences such as blast-off, weightlessness, oxygen deprivation, etc. The TV images from the capsule are not a pretty picture. Laika was not advised that there was no return from the mission. The dog was loyal, brave, respectful, trustworthy, stoic, etc.... ; The loyal servant of the system did her job and stayed the course. A model for city managers, Laika sacrificed, and expired without muttering a word of complaint. The dog cosmonaut was appreciated and her strange, exemplary life remembered by some (including your correspondent). In later years, this hero of outer space exploration was remembered in a cameo role and title of an obscure movie entitled "My Life as a Dog". I'm trying to visualize a new ICMA or WCCMA award "For Loyal Service, in memory of the late Laika". What would the proper setting be for such award? This has lots of possibilities.

So, if Otis, the Boston terrier is selected to be the next city manager of **Ridgefield**, I suppose he will receive a call from me as your SW WA coordinator:. "*Congratulations.....if it's what you want.*"

More news from the southwest: the other city manager professionals in the region remain at their posts (with dogged determination). The challenges are familiar: deal with budgets, help “manage” issues and do our part to ‘grow the economy’. I-864’s failure to make the ballot, and stirrings of economic investment in the state are both encouraging. Streets and wastewater treatment plants are being constructed, budgets composed, employees encouraged, meetings attended, etc. City management professionals continue on their mission.

Best regards from **Camas**,

Lloyd Halverson

P. S.: For more on Laika, go to http://www.space.com/news/laika_anniversary_991103.html

Lloyd also sends an additional article concerning a recent trip he took. Hopefully, you may have noted mention of it in the May 31, 2004, issue ICMA Newsletter.

Different Cities, Similar Challenges

Here are summaries of a city administrator's recent exposures to cities far away, whose worlds are much like ours.

ICMA Central European Study Tour. In April, the ICMA conducted a study tour of three Central European nations—Hungary, The Czech Republic and Slovakia. Ron Bergman (city of **Portland**), and Lloyd Halverson (**Camas**) participated.. The visit featured extensive contact with local government officials, as well as exposure to the sights and culture of Central Europe. It was a delight. Your correspondent again found similarities in the lives of local officials. An example is provided by the Spis area of northern Slovakia which has a beautiful, scenic environment. In some ways, the challenges of balancing local and national objectives; and balancing economic and environmental interests are reminiscent of the Columbia River Gorge situation. The visit was very interesting, and we were treated most hospitably.

NW Delegation to Poland Following the Slovakia tour, my wife, Ulrike and I, led a delegation from the Northwest on a visit to Poland. The delegation included the mayor of **Camas** and the mayor of **Hillsboro**, OR. A city council member, representatives of business, and our sister city officials rounded out the group of nine. Three Polish communities hosted the delegation. Activities were diverse. Delegates were accommodated by families, in part of the tour, which added to the cultural and personal depth of the visit. Food and drink were more than ample. One of the many of the highlights of the trip was a reception in the delegation’s honor, hosted by the US Consul General in **Krakow**. The culmination of the trip was a formal and moving ceremony which marked the signing of a co-operation agreement between the cities. There were signs it was a great visit. The hosts and visitors couldn’t stop smiling; and the delegates “couldn’t stop talking about the trip.” Thanks to WCCMA and members who assisted with the visit by the Polish officials in the spring of ’03. It was a very important part of the co-operation. We are working on concrete follow-up steps of collaboration for next year. An example is provided by a proposed “English Language Summer Camp” to be held in one of the Polish cities.

Vienna & Central Asia And a final note on this international co-operation subject: I had a delightful, surprise assignment in late June. I was invited to take part in a program called “The Vienna Initiative for Central Asia”. The program brought Central Asian local government leaders to **Vienna**, Austria, for a two-week course. The sponsors were the US Embassy, the Austrian Government and the city of **Vienna**. I was asked to do a presentation about local government in the USA, and professional management. It was an honor; and I did my best.. The “students” were local officials from places with names like Tashkent and Kazakhstan. The Central Asian officials were friendly, open, interested, and interesting. Seems like local government has similarities, and draws similar people. Even if the nearby mountains are as differently named as the Cascades, the Tatra, or the Hindu Kush, we local professionals identify with one another.

With best greetings from **Camas**, Lloyd Halverson

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

Larry Bellamy, city administrator, **Goldendale**, sends us the following:

In the midst of a hot summer, the city is still pushing projects and writing grants. We are putting the finishing touches on a new municipal well that is located about five miles north of town. Since we already have a water transmission line and an existing chlorination station, it was a logical place to test for a replacement water source. It was icing on the cake to find a producing water source. The well is projected to produce about 900-1200 gpm. This project was funded by the state Department of Ecology, the Public Works Trust Fund, the Department of Health and matching funds from the city.

A fairly major paving project that combines three projects, is in the works for August and September. These projects are made possible through two grants from the aviation division of the state Department of Transportation for a runway overlay and a separate project for a new parking area, access way and taxiway. The total came to over \$250,000. The third project is an extension to Industrial Way in our industrial park. This portion of the project is funded by a grant/loan package from the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). By bidding all the projects together, we were able to obtain a reasonable price for asphalt.

Two community development block grant (CDBG) projects are also in the works. The bidding phase of the senior center remodel project is complete, notice of award has been issued and construction should begin sometime in mid-August. The second project is the expansion of our fire hall. Initially, the cost estimate came in higher than the amount of funding available. The building committee and the architects worked to pare the building down and city staff requested an increase in funding. Just recently, the funding request was approved and work has begun to

revise the plans using the agreed upon scope reductions. Bidding on this project is scheduled for mid-August. The CDBG portion of these projects totals \$600,000. Other contributors include **Klickitat County**, the senior center and the city.

For **Goldendale**, community action planning has been a key community involvement tool and an important document for grant writing. The first plan was completed in 1996 and updated in 1998. A second one was completed in the year 2000. All of these plans were vital as we wrote outside funding applications for many of the projects outlined in the plans. Since it's time to review our plan, we requested a grant and were awarded \$15,000 from the U. S. Forest Service. The city plans to begin advertising for consultant selection in August. At the same time, a newly appointed economic development committee is pushing tourism and event promotion. Also, in August, a request for qualifications for preparation of a tourism strategic plan is in the works.

With funding approvals from the Transportation Improvement Board the city is preparing for two construction projects in 2005. One is the reconstruction of East Collins and the second is a pedestrian safety project on South Columbus. All the funding for the pre-construction work is in place for the East Collins project with a match from the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF). We are still wanting for a final decision from PWTF for the matching construction funds. Half of the money has been awarded for the sidewalk project on South Columbus. Hopefully, CDBG will approve the application submitted to them earlier this month. The TIB grant portion of these two projects amounts to \$600,000.

And from **Yakima**, assistant city manager Glenn Rice reports that due to busy summer activities, new information from our communities is limited. Therefore, general information is the order of the day

Yakima's Capitol Theatre is beginning a renovation and expansion project that may result in expenditures of up to \$4 million. Phase 1 is the successful acquisition of a state grant for \$450,000. This is being used to upgrade the HVAC system and also to renovate the lower level area with adequate restroom facilities. We are also in the process of accepting a \$500,000 federal grant for continued renovations within the existing theatre. Additionally, the city hopes to acquire adjacent property, which will result in a 30% expansion of the existing facility. This expansion will allow for larger and more complex theatrical presentations expected in today's market.

Streamlined Sales Tax -- **Yakima** continues to be concerned on the affects of SST on our current revenue structure, particularly in light of continued economic stagnation in Eastern and Central Washington. We remain hopeful that a compromise can be negotiated.

Downtown Redevelopment -- **Yakima** continues to work on downtown redevelopment issues on several fronts: a new hotel proposed for the central business district; historic Front Street improvements; continued development of Kiwanis Park; and expansion of the Gateway Center off I-82.

Water Shortage -- increasing hot weather, drought conditions and reduced levels in water supplies have created water rationing that is affecting many of our communities. This situation will continue to grow worse if additional storage is not developed.

Yakima County—The City of Yakima and Yakima County have agreed for the city to annex a portion of the **Yakima County** fairgrounds, for the new **Yakima** Regional Correctional Facility. This will provide access to water and sewer service and continue construction development. Additionally, **Yakima County** has entered into negotiations with the city to annex the balance of the fairgrounds.

Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties
Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco
zunkert@ci.pasco.wa.us

City administrator Art Tackett reports that things have been relatively quiet in **Connell**. They are closing out a number of street projects that were started last year and continuing the third phase of our water project, which includes working with the **Franklin County** Water Conservancy Board to transfer water rights from agriculture to municipal, construct a reservoir, and build a mainline from the wells to the central distribution system and then loop the system. This project will open up approximately 1200 acres for development. If anyone out there wants to get rid of a business let us know. In addition it adds 1866 new acre feet of water rights to the city's system. There are also some minor street repair and construction sites that we are working on. Other than that, it's been pretty quiet. Hope you all are having a nice summer.

The housing boom continues unabated in **Pasco**, reports city manager, Gary Crutchfield. The record pace of 871 new housing units last year will likely be shattered this year as 524 new houses were permitted in the first half. And after waiting 25 years for a new large apartment complex, the city has approved four such projects in the past 12 months, representing more than 1,000 new multi-family units. While all of this is occurring as intended by the city's comprehensive plan, the pace of growth has been a real challenge to local agencies; all are faring quite well except the school district which is struggling to assimilate the enrollment growth as property tax revenue growth lags. At this rate, **Pasco** will no longer be the smallest of the Tri-Cities. On a more somber note, the city council recently adopted rules to govern the operation of the new "motorized scooters" that seem to be in possession of every 10-year-old (unfortunately, a 10-year-old **West Richland** boy died in an accident while operating one of the scooters a few months ago). The council has also directed that a community notice and hearing be conducted to determine the community's acceptance of the notion embodied in Senate Bill 6593, passed by the legislature this year; SB 6593 will require cities to permit new manufactured homes to be located in any residential zoning district, effective July of next year. If the community responds as we suspect, we will be contacting other cities to develop a coalition to modify or repeal SB 6593 in the coming session. And no **Pasco** summer would be complete without renegotiating the professional baseball stadium lease with a new ownership group -- this is number five in 10 years (and you thought fire contracts were tough)!

Richland recently compiled results of its bi-annual community survey, reports city manager John C. Darrington. Since 1992, the city has mailed a comprehensive survey to approximately 1,200 households, selected at random from **Richland**'s utility billing list. This year, 34% of the surveys were completed and returned to the city. Of respondents, 88% indicated that they are satisfied with general city services. The 2004 survey also asked citizens to evaluate public safety, capital facility issues, economic development, customer service and electronic government options. The **Richland** city council will use survey results in planning for **Richland**'s future. Council and staff are also planning for the future of the municipal organization by developing a strategic positioning plan. This document will address strategic operational issues as the city moves to reshape and redefine the organization. Eventually, the document will include **Richland**'s vision statement, community priorities, mission statement, statement of values, explanation of the municipal background that led to the culture changes, new business model, strategic initiatives and definitions of success measures. Also as part of its planning process, the **Richland** city council is placing three ballot issues before voters this fall. The September primary ballot will include an issue on raising property taxes to offset the recent loss of the monthly ambulance household charge. Following the State Supreme Court ruling that **Kennewick**'s similar monthly collection was unconstitutional, the **Richland** council discontinued **Richland**'s collection. The November general election ballot will include two issues brought forward by a citizens' advisory group on fire station and fire staffing needs. The measure seeks to build one new and one replacement station and to add 12 firefighters. This year or next, **Richland** voters may also be asked to consider an aquatic center and replacement or expansion of the public library.

Duane Cole, city manager, **Walla Walla**, reports responding to a proposed change in the mission at the Jonathon Wainright Veterans Medical Center, the city is leading an effort to clearly identify a future vision for the local VA. This vision includes remodeling the quarters into useful facilities for the public's use -- barracks for local military members or an army museum may be possibilities. The local task force was formed to advise and inform the VA and the congressional delegation of local issues important to the veterans and **Walla Walla**.

Through a public and private partnership with the local community, a nationally recognized planning consultant has been working hard for the past year to help **Walla Walla** develop a world-class downtown plan. It is great to be recognized as a Great American Main Street community, it is an even greater challenge to take the downtown to the next level of world-class downtown. Just doing the plan has resulted in renewed interest and investment in the downtown area -- and the next few months the elected officials will get involved by adopting standards and financing plans to kick-start the next set of great projects for the community. A copy of the plan is available on the city's web site.

The tourism strategic plan has been completed and the tourism commission is forming a local convention and visitor's bureau in order to hire a tourism coordinator. This would remove the city from providing the actual marketing programming to a role of contracting for these services with a non-profit corporation. This relationship will play to the strengths of the city and the non-profit by focusing the tourism energy with those who are in the business, and allowing the city to be in a contract monitoring mode with council goals being met and the funds appropriately spent.

Highway 12 – The highway improvements from **Pasco** to Wallula Junction are funded and the EIS and route identification to 9 mile from **Walla Walla** will be completed soon. This is an incredible achievement for all concerned and the city is a pleased with the results.

Internally the city is seeking efficiency through the development of technology and employee training on how to use technology. The city staff has about 60% of the Eden software up and running with payroll and utility billing coming on-line toward the end of this year. The city is also close to getting the geographic information systems on line so everyone can access the mapping capabilities.

Region 6, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties
John Sherman, City Supervisor, City of Pullman
john.sherman@pullman-wa.gov

In **Colfax**, city administrator Emily Adams reports that she is keeping very busy with various city projects including upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant; a new T.I.B. funded street project; and the construction of a new well house. A major renovation project for downtown **Colfax** was recently announced that includes participation by the city, Port of **Whitman County**, and the private sector.

In **Pullman**, city supervisor John Sherman reports that many city projects are underway as well. As usual, the intent is to have every key street within the community torn up to coincide with the beginning of the school year. Our philosophy is that if students won't obey speed signs we will at least make it more difficult for them to speed. It's kind of our take on the whole "traffic calming" concept.

Spirits remain very high regarding the football season. We will be playing the Huskies on our home turf this year so maybe we will be willing to trade another 10-win season (ho-hum after three 10-win seasons in a row) for a much desired win in the Apple Cup.

In July we launched a new multi-agency joint E-911 dispatch center. WHITCOM now provides dispatching services by interlocal agreement for the funding partners of **Pullman, Whitman County, WSU, Asotin County, and Moscow, Idaho**. The full system was activated in July and seems to be working well. We also had a binding interest arbitration settlement for fire. Employees will receive 4 percent for 2003, 4 percent for 2004, and 100 percent of CPI for 2005. The city had proposed full CPI for all four years. We did, however, get comparable jurisdictions that we wanted which should help us in future arbitrations. Local revenues are coming in above projection at mid-year so there is some good news. Local private sector construction activity is still going strong as well.

Region 7, Adams, Grant & Lincoln Counties
Joe Gavinski, City Manager, City of Moses Lake
jgavinski@ci.moses-lake.wa.us

and/or

Ehman Sheldon, City Administrator, City of Othello
administrator@othellowashington.us

No report.

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

Dateline: **Spokane Valley**

Washington's newest city is up to its bank accounts in capital construction projects this summer. Of the \$30 million in expected expenditures, most civic attention is focused on CenterPlace, the 53,000 square foot regional center for educational, senior citizen and community programs that rises daily along the banks of the Spokane River. CenterPlace is situated within a 54 acre city park recently completed with the assistance of a \$1.4 million grant.

Citizens, elected officials, planning commission members and staff are moving forward with the compilation of the city's first comprehensive plan that will replace the interim plan that relied upon work performed by **Spokane County**. Some of the neighborhood based outreach meetings have drawn 80 – 100 participants who energetically throw themselves into a tabletop exercise to identify the top three citywide and top three neighborhood issues to be addressed in the comprehensive plan. Everyone is assigned to a group facilitated by a member of the planning commission. Each table elects a "mayor" who reports group findings to the audience as the culminating event of the evening. The reports have been colorful, entertaining and thoughtful.

Area managers and administrators get together every three months or so to for mutual support, briefing each other on local and regional issues, and for the good of the order.

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

Mike Cecka tells us he's completed his attempt at going around the world. Or at least around a part of the world. Upon receiving the appeal for input to the WCMA 2004 Compensation and Benefits Survey, he responded:

Hi Ron,

I'd be happy to fill out your annual salary survey, but with my fixed retirement income, I'm afraid I'd screw up the averages, so I'll just skip it. We returned from our travels around the first of June, and have been busy ever since remodeling and refitting our house in Leavenworth. After 7 years of renting it out, it was definitely in need. Afraid I won't be able to make the summer conference at Hood Canal, with all the chores around here. Please give my regards to all at the conference. If you're ever passing through Leavenworth, feel free to drop in.

Best regards, Mike Cecka

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

News from the Far North

Gary Tomsic, city manager in **Blaine**, is very happy to report that the city has received a \$1.3 million loan/grant funding package from Whatcom County Economic Development Initiative program to help fund the city's \$1.8 million boardwalk project. The EDI program's source of revenue is rural sales tax. The **Blaine** boardwalk is the center piece for the downtown revitalization effort underway in **Blaine**.

Gary also reports that the city has completed its comprehensive sewer plan and has identified the site for a new state of the art MBR water reclamation facility. A unique feature of the proposed facility is that it will incorporate in its design the reconstruction of an exact replica of the famous Semiahmoo lighthouse.

Blaine's primary construction project for the summer is a new express feeder electric power line which loops the city's distribution system. Costing nearly \$5 million, the project has five miles of new line, vaults etc.

Matt Sullivan, **Everson** city administrator, reported in our last newsletter that the city would, over the next couple of years, be experiencing some "major" growth. Matt is happy to be wrong. **Everson** is currently experiencing what Matt describes as "massive" growth. They have already approved a twenty-one home subdivision and are working on approving/developing three more fifty-plus home subdivisions within the next several months. They are swamped with developers, contractors, engineers, and planners, but are very pleased to be growing and developing our community. With the growth, they have to take a look at the infrastructure and assess the need for more water storage, wastewater treatment plant expansion, and related service rates. Thankfully, they have had the expert services of Rollin Harper at Sehome Planning and Marc Curtis at Wilson Engineering to guide them through these major undertakings.

On another note, businesses in **Everson** are responding to their residential growth and at one point they had more restaurants opening than open. The main street is starting to come alive as more and more business from doctors to restaurants start popping up. As they look to the future **Everson** will become the hub of the Nooksack Valley and hopefully, a destination location

In our neck of the woods, we are happy to welcome Greg Young to the fold. In early June, Mayor Jerry Landcastle announced Greg as the new city administrator in **Ferndale**. Greg comes to **Ferndale** with extensive municipal experience. He worked for the State Auditor's Office and was finance and planning director for **Ocean Shores**. Greg was the city administrator in **La Conner** and in charge of economic development and grant administration in **Marysville**.

Greg reports that **Ferndale** continues to grow and prosper. The city just completed the reconstruction of its Main Street replete with a new bridge over the Nooksack River. The project included the widening and upgrading to the bridge, widening and reconstruction of Main Street, the installation of the requisite ornamental street lights and the addition of bike lanes through the downtown core. While local businesses had to suffer from temporary shutdowns of the bridge, business is now brisk and the city is looking forward to its improved downtown look for many years to come. In addition to the downtown improvements, the commercial area of the city adjacent to Interstate 5 continues to grow with the near completion of a new Walgreen's shopping center. On the residential side of the equation, the city is in the analysis phase of a proposed 100-acre annexation that should continue **Ferndale's** population growth as this potential new area of the city begins building housing. As the slogan adopted during our Main Street & Bridge Project states – "**Ferndale** Is Open!"

The administrator/managers in **Skagit** and **Whatcom Counties** continue their bi-monthly meetings. Gloria Rivera, city administrator in **La Conner** hosted the last meeting on July 23.

Region 11, Snohomish County
Bob Stowe, City Manager, Mill Creek
bob@cityofmillcreek.com

There is a great deal of activity in **Mill Creek** these days. The city's Town Center is under construction with several buildings now open for business. It is expected that 50% to 60% of the project will be completed by the fall of 2004 with the remaining buildings constructed and occupied in 2005. Some of the national retailers that have a signed lease or issued a notice of intent include: Town and Country's Central Market (56,000 S.F specialty grocery store to serve as the southern Town Center anchor tenant), LA Fitness (45,000 S.F athletic/fitness facility to serve as the northern Town Center anchor tenant), University of Washington Bookstore, Pier 1, Jamba Juice, Starbucks, Cold Stone Creamery, Panera Bread, and several other local and regional restaurants and retailers. The city is continuing its efforts to recruit desired retailers to the Town Center.

The city recently held two town hall type meetings regarding city services, its financial condition, and priorities for the upcoming biennial budget. Invitations were sent to leaders of the

community to attend the town hall meetings along with attendance confirmed with follow-up phone calls. Fifty participants attended the town hall meetings in which electronic keypads were used to answer approximately 60 questions related to city services, priorities, and taxes/fees. The use of this technology was a huge hit with the participants as it allowed them to see responses immediately in context with those of the other participants. A power point presentation on city services and relevant financial issues, including the impacts of possible future initiatives such as I-864 was presented before the keypad question session. The meeting finished with a question and answer session between participants and the city manager. Survey responses were also provided to each participant prior to the end of the meeting.

The city is informing residents about two ballot measures that will affect their level of taxation this year which include a library annexation election in September and an EMS levy in November. For many years the city manager has recommended that the city remove library funding from the city general fund in light of the imbalance between revenues and expenses and allow voters the option to continue the service as part of an annexation to the library district. In recognition of a gap between revenues and expenses of \$700,000 to \$900,000, the city council decided to place the library annexation on the ballot this September and remove library services from the city's general fund. This will reduce the city's expenses approximately \$530,000 annually and will cost taxpayers \$200 per year based upon a \$400,000 home value. The city EMS levy is a continuation or maintenance of an existing 25 cent per 1,000 AV levy.

Larry Bauman, city manager, **Snohomish**, reports that **Snohomish** is working with the Oldani Group on the recruitment of a new police chief, and is beginning an extensive outreach process with the city council, a community focus group, police department employees and key city managers regarding the development of a profile for the recruitment. It's been a busy summer for our project managers, with major overlays of the Avenue D and Second Street, **Snohomish's** most significant arterials, and construction of the extension and rebuilding of the existing Riverfront Trail along the Snohomish River. They are working with historic downtown **Snohomish** (a downtown parking and business improvement district) regarding a proposal to plan and design a public dock that would have intermodal connection to the new trail system. They are also in the process of negotiating with BNSF for a new trail corridor that will close the gap between the trailhead of our piece of the Centennial Trail and the Riverfront Trail. In the meantime, they are finishing a funding strategy for a consent decree-required set of upgrades to our wastewater treatment plant and elimination of combined sewer overflows. Construction is scheduled to start this fall on **Snohomish's** \$9.2 million Cemetery Creek Sewer Trunk Line, which will serve all of the city's existing and anticipated UGA during the next 20 years. Two new commercial annexations that would be served by the trunk line extension are set to go forward via assessed valuation petitions for council approvals within the next 60 days. A recent management team retreat highlighted economic development efforts as one of the highest priorities for emerging budget issues in the 2005 budget.

Region 12, North King County

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

mitch@clydehill.org

Dave Ramsay, city manager, reports:

We in **Kirkland** have been "acting locally and thinking regionally." We're currently involved in a couple of interesting regional opportunities. The first is the pursuit of a regional public safety communications center. This is a joint effort involving the cities of **Bellevue**, **Mercer Island**, **Medina**, **Clyde Hill**, **Kirkland** and the **Woodinville** Fire District. We've just finished a feasibility study that concluded that this concept has some good potential. The next step will be the development of a business plan that will really get into the specifics of governance and operations. At this point, we're optimistic that we can make it work.

Expanding on the notion of regionalism to east of the Cascades, we're also "exploring opportunities" of working together with the city of **Walla Walla**. This past March a group of **Kirkland** city council members and staff had a wonderful visit to **Walla Walla**. We met with **Walla Walla** council members, city staff (city manager Duane Cole outdid himself at playing host!) and economic development officials to both tour and discuss ideas for mutually beneficial cooperation. We came away really impressed and excited about the opportunities to work together. The **Walla Walla** representatives just finished making a return visit to **Kirkland** where we continued the conversation. Among the many ideas generated were establishing a "city-to-city relationship," joint tourism promotion, cultural exchanges, economic development strategy sharing and promoting **Walla Walla** wines in **Kirkland**. All in all lots of interest and energy was generated by these two visits and we're both excited about pursuing these opportunities.

From Joni Earl, executive director, and Vernon Stoner, deputy executive director, at **Sound Transit** comes the following report:

Sound Transit is moving ahead aggressively with the construction of the 14-mile initial segment of the central Link light rail project. We broke ground last November, and now have 2/3 of the construction under contract.

Dogs in the park has been the hot topic in **Medina** recently. **Medina** Park is a 15 acre property with walking paths, a couple small ponds, a tennis court, and playground equipment. A few picnic tables and benches are scattered across the park. Most of the park is flat open space, which has been enjoyed by dog owners as an off-leash area for their pets to run freely. The **Medina** park board occasionally discusses the complaints received from park users who encountered an off-leash dog that was not under voice command of a handler. City manager Doug Shulze comments, "By the way, in my experience as a dog owner, voice command only works in a small confined space when I have food to use as a bribe!"

A few months ago, the park board recommended changes to the park rules, which would restrict off-leash use of the park to approximately 9 acres and prohibit off-leash dogs from the 6 acres near the playground and tennis court. Sounds like a reasonable compromise. Right? Well, at least 500 people who signed a petition opposing the changes disagreed. Approximately 125 people, 2 major newspapers and 4 local television news channels in a room with a capacity of

just under 70 on a nice summer evening because dogs won't be allowed to run off-leash in 6 acres of a 15 acre public park was a career moment to remember! Although the city council agreed with the park board recommendation and adopted the ordinance, they enjoyed the experience so much that they plan to review the ordinance in a year.

Pete Rose reports that **Woodinville** is still going through the throes of completing several master plans. Two down, three to go. A tourism task force has begun to bear fruit in the form of voluntary agreement on a lodging tax. This will fund a number of marketing ideas, including soon-to-be unveiled "wayfinding" signs to the **Woodinville** tourist attractions; promotion of some weekend events focused on large attendance at the "big five" (Molbak's, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Columbia Winery, Red Hook, and Willows Lodge/Herb Farm); and a central tourism web site through the chamber of commerce.

Region 13, South King County

Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, City of Normandy Park

merlinm@ci.normandy-park.wa.us

Gary Long, city manager, reports that **Burien** sponsored an outdoor meeting Wednesday, Aug. 4, at the exact site of the city's planned town square development to give citizens an opportunity to see plans, ask questions and to provide suggestions on the public open space in the heart of town square. The crowd was treated to free hot dogs and ice cream and enjoyed live music in a carnival-type atmosphere. People were able to talk with city planners and developers of town square about the project. The locations of some of the new buildings, including city hall and the library, were outlined on the pavement for people to see.

The city plans town square as a mixed-use development of eight acres it has purchased in downtown for new civic facilities, a public square, and retail, housing, office and perhaps hotel facilities. Construction could begin within a year. The development is part of a 10-year effort since **Burien** incorporated 11 years ago to revitalize its aging downtown commercial area.

Burien's parks department teamed up with the Highline School District this summer to offer a unique camp aimed at the community's large Hispanic population. Elementary school-aged children who speak conversational Spanish were invited to participate in the free Hispanic Youth Program held at a local school. Four schoolteachers from Mexico taught the program in Spanish and led sessions in arts, crafts, music, theater, sports, folklore and other activities celebrating the Mexican culture. The children's parents participated in free English as second language classes while the youth sessions were being conducted. The program aimed to strengthen the cultural ties of Mexican students and their families in **Burien** by teaching them about their own rich heritage.

And from **Normandy Park**, Merlin MacReynold, city manager, reports that the 1st Avenue enhancement corridor project has been completed, thank goodness. It took about 6 months longer than what was projected. In the midst of it they did manage to replace a 36-inch culvert that collapsed after the October 20th record rainfall with a fish friendly 60-inch culvert at no

additional cost to the city. The federal highway department and the state transportation improvement board were extremely helpful with the culvert replacement. Total cost of the project was \$5.2 million. They are now in the process of seeking funding for phase two of this project. Phase two has a projected cost of approximately \$12 million.

Steve Bennett, planning and community development manager for **Normandy Park**, has been stolen from us by **Lake Forest Park**. Steve has been the planning manager for **Normandy Park** for over 6 years and will be greatly missed. Merlin says Karen owes him on this one.

Like everyone else they are busy developing the city's budget. At this point they are not planning any significant budget changes over the next two years. Last year they reduced the current years budget by approximately 10 percent, and that and our reserves has bought them 2 to 4 years, all things remaining the same. In the mean time, they will be working upon a citizen information strategy that seeks to better inform and educate the residents about their city, how it works, and the challenges it faces.

The airport communities coalition, of which **Normandy Park** is a member, has recently moved into the permit enforcement mode and actions. They lost their appeal to the state supreme court and the Port of Seattle has received the required 401 and 404 permits. Additionally, with the most recent loss at the state supreme court the member cities are currently exploring an alternative future for the organization than that of the past twelve years.

Unfortunately, Merlin tells us he will not be seeing all of us at the WCMA summer conference, as the city cannot afford to send him. He indicates he cut this in the existing year budget as one of the reductions. Have a great time; the classes and location look great.

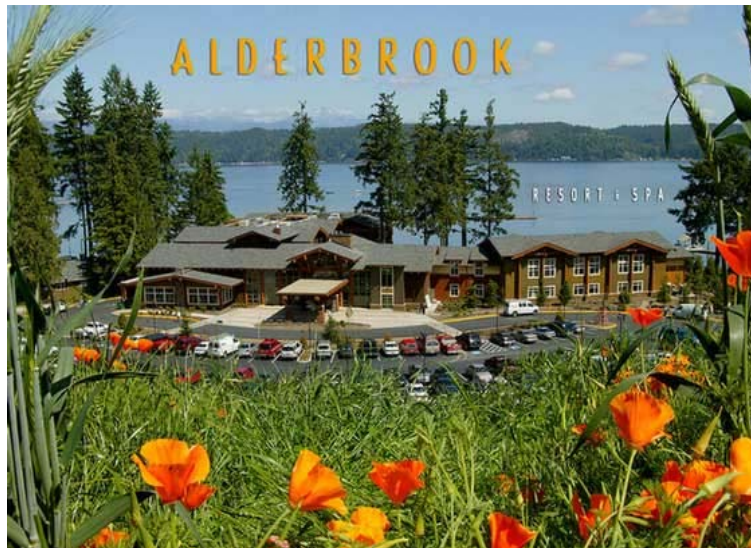
Region 14, Pierce County
Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor
hoppenm@cityofgigharbor.net

No report.

From the counties
Glenn Chipman, Chief Financial Officer, Klickitat County
President, Washington County Administrative Association
GlenC@co.klickitat.wa.us

No report.

See you at Alderbrook!



Transitions

Kristin Banfield, who has been serving as city administrator in Arlington, has stepped back to being interim assistant city administrator there.

Mary Jo Briggs is the new city administrator of Bainbridge Island. Most recently, she was city administrator of Fairview, Oregon. Prior to that she was with Vancouver, Washington.

John Fischbach is the new county administrator of Jefferson County. Most recently he was city manager of Fort Collins, Colorado. Prior to that, he had been city manager of Vancouver, Washington.

Rob Hendrickson is now the interim city manager of Newcastle. He has been the finance director there.

Dave O'Leary is now the city administrator of Shelton. He was formerly city administrator in Lake Stevens.

Lee Walton, who most recently served as interim city administrator of Bainbridge Island, has moved on to be the interim city administrator of Arlington.

Juli Wilkerson, formerly Tacoma's economic development department director, is now the director of the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

WCMA Officers and Board Members

President	Rich Conrad, City Manager, Mercer Island (206) 236-5325 rich.conrad@ci.mercer-island.wa.us
Vice President	David Ramsay, City Manager, Kirkland (425) 828-1111 dramsay@ci.kirkland.wa.us
Past President	Bob Stowe, City Manager, Mill Creek (425) 745-1891 bob@cityofmillcreek.com
Secretary-Treasurer	Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director of MRSC (206) 625-1300 ryukubousky@mrsc.org

Board of Directors

(2002 – 2004)

Malcolm Fleming, County Administrator, Kitsap County
(360) 337-7146 [mfleming@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:m Fleming@co.kitsap.wa.us)

Derek Matheson, Assistant City Manager, Federal Way
(253) 661-4671 derek.matheson@ci.federal-way.wa.us

Dorothy Tryk, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Thurston County
(360) 709-3063 trykd@co.thurston.wa.us

(2003 – 2005)

Glenn Rice, Assistant City Manager, Yakima
(509) 575-6123 grice@ci.yakima.wa.us

John Sherman, City Supervisor, Pullman
(509) 338-3212 John.Sherman@Pullman-Wa.gov

Andrew Neiditz, City Administrator, Sumner
(253) 891-3329 aneiditz@ci.sumner.wa.us

David Timmons, City Manager, Port Townsend
(360) 379-5047 dtimmons@ci.port-townsend.wa.us

Ex Officio members

Stan Finkelstein, Executive Director, Association of Washington Cities
(360) 753-4137 stanf@awcnet.org

Al Locke, RangeRider
(360) 427-4271 jeanynal@earthlink.com

Stan McNutt, RangeRider
(208) 245-5043 rangerider@smgazette.com

2004 Calendar

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

2005 Calendar

- **Northwest Management Conference (Oregon and Washington)**, March 15 -- 18, 2005, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington
- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 21 -- 24, Tri-Cities
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference**, August 16 -- 19, 2005, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop, Washington
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, September 25 -- 28, Minneapolis/Hennepin County, Minnesota

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Please send news articles to:

WCMA Newsletter c/o MRSC
2601 4th Avenue, Suite 800 • Seattle, WA 98121-1280
(206) 625-1300 Phone • (206) 625-1220 Fax
or e-mail rbartels@mrsc.org