



WCMA News

Volume 16, No. 3, December 2004

President's Message

On behalf of the WCMA Board, I'd like to wish you all Happy Holidays -- particularly comforted with the thought that your budget season is now hopefully over.

We had a Board meeting in November and I wanted to give you a brief update. Rich Yukubousky has been hard at work developing the program for the Spring Conference. It's looking like a real good one! We hope that you all have it on your schedules. It's set for March 15 - 18 at Skamania Lodge. Stay tuned for registration information. Malcolm Fleming is also working on the Summer Conference set for August 16 - 19 at Sun Mountain Lodge. Malcolm went over some site options for the 2006 Summer Conference. The one that generated the most interest was Fort Warden State Park at Port Townsend. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on this site or other ideas.

We discussed legislative priorities and decided to focus on the top three: (1) more finance related flexibility (e.g. REET, street/street light utility); (2) more economic development tools; and (3) transportation. We will be working with AWC to pursue these issues.

Bob Jean in his role as ICMA Vice-President gave us an update including an interesting organizational analysis that ICMA has been conducting. We are fortunate to have "one of our own" so involved.

Membership development and support under Andy Neiditz's leadership will continue to be a top priority. We discussed strategies for reaching out to non-members (including County Administrators and Assistants), making sure that new managers are welcomed and being more proactive in supporting members who may be going through difficult times. Your comments and suggestions regarding this matter are most welcome. On a related note, the Board was very pleased to approve Roger Crum as a new Range Rider and award him Honorary Life Membership. Roger is now back living in Spokane.

We also spent some time discussing ways to improve our relationships with the universities around the state who teach public administration or public policy. There was a general sense of a

disconnect and concern that local government was not being encouraged as a career choice. Ideas for dealing with this issue included encouraging students to attend our conferences, developing internship opportunities, and meeting with the faculties of these schools. We welcome your thoughts on this issue.

Again, Happy Holidays and we wish you all the best for 2005

Dave Ramsay, WCMA President
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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

Need Advice or Help? Who to call?

Yuk! The budget's finally done and adopted. But it was a real stretch. There's simply no money and more and more needs. 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. And now there are four of them! Count them!! Four!!! Lots and lots of experience to draw from. They are:

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From our ICMA Vice President:

By way of an ICMA Board Report, I'd like to highlight a few of the items I discussed with the WCMA Board at our November 19 meeting and then some items discussed at the ICMA Board meeting in early December. Before that however, I'd like to again thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to represent the northwest on the ICMA Board and to repeat that I see this as a 2-way representation with me sharing what I learn at ICMA but also with each of you letting me know your thoughts on how we can strengthen the profession and what I can do to improve our relationship with ICMA.

At the November WCMA Board we discussed several issues that WCMA and ICMA are working on:

- CDBG--One issue that I discussed with Dick Zais was that of what constitutes an "entitlement city" under CDBG rules. Right now you have to be over 50,000 to apply directly for your own CDBG funds. Of our 281 cities only 15 qualify. All the others have to beg the county for a fair share. Dick chairs the ICMA sub-committee in this area of the ICMA Government Affairs and Policy Committee on which I serve. The WCMA Board endorsed the idea of extending the entitlement city level to 25,000. Dick and I will be working on this with ICMA and then NLC.

- GAPC--Several of the issues being worked on by ICMA's Government Affairs Policy Committee (GAPC) include the issue of implementing the national Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) for new revenues beyond the conforming legislation issue that has been such a struggle for all of us the last couple of years. But we're all in agreement that taxes on internet sales need to be addressed in the long-term and ICMA is in the middle of this with NLC. Two related issues that are tracking with this are the Business Activity Tax (BAT) issue on wireless communications franchise taxes and then Telecom taxes. Again GAPC is working on these.
- CPM--Several cities in the Puget Sound area have joined ICMA's Center for Performance Management (CPM) and are developing benchmarking data points to use both internally and in comparative analyses. This may have some longer-term value in performance auditing if that gets legs on a State-wide basis.
- Smart Growth--ICMA is the prime contractor with the Feds on the Smart Growth Network and the whole issue of placemaking as a management skill. I'd be very interested in hearing how useful you feel this information is to you and how we might improve.
- International--Several of you are familiar with the ICMA Exchange Program but I think less so with the Resource Cities contracts with USAID and others. Is there interest among WCMA folks in learning more about ICMA's international contract work and how it benefits the profession? Did you know that ICMA members contributed over \$1.7 million of in kind value in their time in support to emerging democracies via these contracts? Did you know that the contracts offload ICMA overhead and technology costs to allow ICMA to leverage more for its member support activities than our dues pay for?

At the December ICMA Board meeting several items were discussed:

- NACO Agreement--ICMA continues to strengthen its County as well as City relationships. ICMA and NACO just formalized a Financial Services Agreement between the two organizations. This years ICMA President, Tom Lundy, is County Administrator of Catawba County, North Carolina and as well as his commitment to the profession, is interested in continuing to broaden our relationship with County managers as well as cities.
- Performance Dividend--Bob O'Neill, ICMA's Executive Director, is really driving the discussion about the value of professional management to local government and elevating this discussion nationwide. Bob shared his thoughts on this at the Summer WCMA conference.
- Membership Growth--As a part of ICMA's Next Generation strategy, we need to reach out beyond the current membership and beyond current managers if we are to continue the tradition of ethics and professionalism we value. Tom Lundy will be joining us at the

Spring Northwest Management conference and discussing how we can reach out to the emerging leaders and next generation of City and County Managers as we grow the ICMA and WCMA memberships. Several states have amended their agreements with ICMA to provide for reduced dues and other joint membership benefits. Let's discuss?

- Fund For The Profession--The ICMA Foundation Fund hit a major financial milestone this year passing the million dollar mark. That's great, but with conservative investments, this only generates \$40,000 per year. It is estimated that we need \$250,000 per year to do the job many of us would like to defend the Plan and advance local government professionalism. The ICMA Board has commissioned a report to come back to the Board and then to the membership on strategies to grow the Foundation Fund to the \$4-5 million level and ways to generate the ongoing revenue stream we believe is needed.

Please mark your calendars for the Spring Northwest Management conference with WCMA and the Oregon managers in Skamania, March 16-18. Frank Benest, City Manager of Palo Alto, California, and ICMA Board Member who led the Next Generation report work will be here with us along with ICMA President Tom Lundy to discuss all of the above and to hear from you on your thoughts about improving our profession. Happy Holidays.

*Bob Jean, City Manager, City of University Place
And ICMA Vice President*

A Special Note: Spring Northwest Conference

Mark your calendar for March 15-18, 2005. The next Spring Northwest Management Conference will be at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington, deep in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. Reserve your room now by calling Skamania Lodge Reservations at 1-800-221-7117.

Rediscover your inner manager near where Lewis and Clark passed almost 200 years ago. Learn about effective local governing bodies from Carl Neu of the Center for the Future of Local Government. Strategic leadership. Long-range thinking and teamwork can awaken the best in elected and appointed officials. Learn how to use these insights and skills to achieve performance in dealing with the forces and trends that are redefining government in the 21st century. Meet ICMA President Tom Lundy. Learn what you really need to know about the culture of the Pacific Northwest to do your job effectively. Help solve the challenge of finding and preparing the next generation of managers. Play the ethical apprentice game. Take the ICMA Applied Knowledge Assessment. Play golf, volleyball, and generally have a rip roaring good time while enhancing your skills.

Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director, Municipal Research & Services Center, and Secretary-Treasurer, WCMA

And now, the news:

Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties

Lynn Nordby, Consultant

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Mary Jo Briggs, city administrator, **Bainbridge Island**, reports that the first few months with the city have flashed by and that she's starting to feel at home. The city has launched an extensive downtown planning process with a large and diverse group of community members with an interest in the future of Winslow, the island's "downtown" and the core of its projected growth area.

Mike Quinn, city manager, **Port Angeles**, has been traveling far and wide and will have stories to tell on his return.

Dave Timmons, city manager, **Port Townsend**, reports that the city hall renovation project was finally approved. It probably deserves an award for "longest lead time". Dave says it only took 50, that's right, five-oh, years to get off the ground. Unfortunately local voters didn't buy the city's request for an increase in the local levy by a margin of 3 to 1.

On an international note Dave participated in an intergovernmental exchange with local officials in Croatia and a team from there will be making a visit to **Port Townsend** in January for about a week. Dave says that it was a very rewarding experience and that the Croatian officials were eager to learn more about our local government practices.

Region 2, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Thurston Counties

David Campbell, City Manager, City of Chehalis

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Like other cities and counties throughout the state, **Chehalis** now has an adopted budget for 2005. They went through the usual local angst of whether or not to increase the property tax levy by 1% (they did, and they still maintain a relatively large banked capacity, too). A growing sales tax component fuels the budget, but the spending decisions are always hard anyway, and sometimes even unwise in the long run.

They are also in the bidding phase now for the biggest pieces of their wastewater system upgrade -- the new treatment plant itself and a couple of large pump stations. They're also getting closer to approving a five-roundabout project as a means of alleviating traffic congestion at the northernmost freeway interchange in **Chehalis**. Federal and state grants and loans and private contributions will help finance those projects. And they've placed a general obligation bond measure on the February election ballot for a new police-fire-court building. That's the first such proposal in about 25 years.

Water rights and water quality are overriding issues in **Lacey** these days, according to Greg Cuoio, city manager. They have water right applications that have been sitting on DOE desks, unacted upon, for as long as ten years; in the meantime, over 7,000 residential lots and a number of commercial projects have been approved by the city or are in the permitting process. **Lacey** has taken a number of steps to help alleviate the problem (e.g., purchasing private water rights, adding storage capacity, adopting conservation and curtailment ordinances, etc.). The big guns are on deck (i.e., the attorneys).

As for water quality, **Lacey** has been told that they operate the largest untreated water utility in the state, with a population base of over 50,000. They've had a number of recent coliform hits and are on "super probation" with the Department of Health. The next round of positive (for coliform) tests may lead to chlorinating, which would be no small or inexpensive task, considering that they have 18 separate wells.

On a happier note, Regal is converting a former HomeBase store in **Lacey** into a 16-screen movie theater complex with stadium-style seating for almost 4,000 customers. They are also now home to a biotech company's headquarters, transplanted from Colorado, which pays well, is community oriented, and is "growing like a zucchini." Finally, a large new retail center will begin taking shape in **Lacey** early in 2005.

Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties
Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas
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Greetings! Here are a few newsy notes from our corner of the state, as we continue to sail our course on the waters of local government. The calm waters? The sometime often choppy waters? Into the municipal fog and uncharted waters of the future.

Here in **Camas**, I made some Christmas and New Year's wishes for the team. Most have been granted. Some remain as wishes for 2005. As I look out to the fog and uncharted waters of 2005, somehow I can see the course ahead and just smile.

The crew is largely the same. A change is the announced and pending retirement of Ed Ivey, city manager of **Longview**. His has been a long tenure, in an attractive community. The article from the **Longview** press gives a perspective on this major event. Thanks Ed for the years of service to **Longview** and professional management. Your contribution to driving up the averages of length of service is also acknowledged.

My sense of local government conditions this year is that budgets are rather flat, but not in "crisis". Dread and foreboding are balanced by hopes that economic activity will "grow us out of the problem". Some economic growth is evident, along with the continuing building boom.

We continue to see Oregonians émigrés, in major part attracted by a sense of better schools for their children on this side of the river.

The state and local elections have not brought huge surprises, although the decision, margin, and suspense of the governor's race will be the stuff of civics lessons for decades.

All the Best,

Lloyd

The Daily News of **Longview** carried the following story on October 15, 2004. It was sent in by Bob Gregory, the **Longview** assistant city manager.

Ed Ivey, the Longview city manager who tried to remake the local economy by championing a city-owned industrial park, will leave his post next spring after 18 years at City Hall, he announced Thursday night, October 14.

Ivey, who became Longview's chief executive in April 1987, said he will retire March 31 to spend more time with his wife, eight grown children and 20 grandchildren.

"I've worked ever since I was 16 years old. It's time I directed my attention to other things," he said during an interview earlier this week. "I've waited my whole life to ... do some of the things that I would like to do."

Ivey, 63, said he will remain in Longview for now, read more, study genealogy and continue his service as an official in the Mormon church. Ivey, who speaks Portuguese, also may participate in an overseas mission with his church, he said.

His departure leaves the Longview City Council to decide who should replace him, arguably the most important decision it has faced in decades.

Ivey is charged with overseeing all of the city's operations. He is only the second manager in Longview's history, having replaced J. Walter Barham, who held the post for nearly 20 years before retiring in 1987.

Such long city manager tenures are uncommon, officials said. Mayor Mark McCrady said top municipal executives usually keep their jobs for only five years. The men lasted so long in their posts, McCrady said, "because previous councils chose wisely."

After Ivey made his announcement at the end of Thursday's council meeting, officials gave him a standing ovation.

Councilwoman Ramona Leber said Ivey is an "ethical, knowledgeable" man who is "willing to please."

"Ed is just a quality person all the way around," said Leber, who has served on the council for all but five of the years Ivey occupied the manager's office.

Kurt Sacha, the city's finance director, called Ivey a mentor. "I've learned a great deal from the man," he said. "I will miss him."

Ivey's departure comes as the city replaces its most senior unelected officials. By the time he leaves in March, the city will have hired a new police chief, fire chief and city manager within eight months.

The City Council was expected to hold an executive session Thursday night to discuss whether to replace Ivey from within City Hall or begin a nationwide search. Should the council choose the latter option, McCrady said he wants to begin recruiting a new executive this month.

For almost two decades, Ivey has arrived to his wood-paneled office between 7:30 and 8 a.m. each day, staying some nights until 11 p.m. or later. He has been the city's dynamo -- aggressive, plain-spoken and earnest.

A trim but stocky man, one gets the impression that, even at 63, Ivey could, with hardly a thought, smash through a locked door with his forehead. At public meetings, or in private, Ivey's voice often rises with a kind of plaintive sincerity.

In his letter of resignation to the City Council, Ivey wrote that these have "been the happiest years of my career." He called Longview "one of the best cities in the world."

Ivey, who also has held municipal jobs in Lebanon, Corvallis, Klamath Falls --- all in Oregon --- as well as Placerville, Calif., and Walla Walla, arrived in Longview as the city began recovering from the timber industry's decline.

In the years that followed, he pursued a fiscally conservative policy. Ivey said he insisted on paying off debts in the boom years of the 1990s and clamping down on the city's finances in the tighter years that followed.

He has overseen the privatization of the city's garbage service and streamlined city government, sometimes leaving open staff positions unfilled. Most recently, he has helped guide the city through a seemingly intractable recession that will force officials to tap the city's reserve funds to remain solvent.

"He provided a very stable and conservative leadership style at a time when that's exactly what we needed," McCrady said. "When Ed clearly understands what the council's desire is, Ed will work diligently to that end."

Ivey is known to present his ideas using unfrocked, simple language. "I don't like to play

with words particularly. I would rather say what's on my mind and get it out," he said. "But I have to kind of caution myself. I have to make sure that I'm not too blunt."

During an interview, he referred to city government several times as "the family," describing how the workplace should be pleasant and amicable.

His management style, he said, is to broadly set an agenda, then "get out of the way and let them do their job." Yet, during a recent council meeting, he gently chastised a city official for contradicting a colleague.

"I do not allow the staff to disagree with one another in a public forum," he said this week. "In a staff meeting, you can say anything you want, but I think it's incumbent upon the staff to come out with a united stand when we go to the public."

Some, he continued, might accuse him of stifling their view.

"My answer would be, 'Yup, I am,'" he said.

Ivey's most notable legacy could be the Mint Farm industrial park, an unusual effort to attract new business to 450 acres in West Longview. At the direction of the council, the city opened the park in 1998. Since, it has sold \$5 million worth of property and provided just more than 50 jobs.

Ivey said the park's development "moves at the speed of a glacier sometimes"

"I'd like to be sitting here saying it's full," he said. "I get very frustrated that we can't move it more quickly."

The Mint Farm initiative forced Ivey to reinvent himself as a real estate developer. He worked to perfect the art of schmooze and began traveling the world, promoting the site to corporations.

"That was almost like starting a second career for me," he said.

In addition, Ivey made five trips to Asia, including one to South Korea and Japan as part of Governor Gary Locke's economic delegation. During a dinner meeting in Japan, he negotiated a deal on the back of a napkin with Nitta Gelatin executives, who bought land at the Mint Farm.

He also has traveled to Germany on the city's behalf, and last month he was negotiating a deal in Montreal.

"This job has opened a world that I never even dreamed that I would have open for me," he said.

Despite the fact that the park has produced few jobs, Ivey believes it will have its day.

"Part of the reason I can schmooze is I believe in my product. I'm not sure I could sell something I didn't believe in," he said. "I believe in the Mint Farm, I believe in Longview, I believe that Longview has a good future and it's a good place for companies to set up business."

"Give me a forum and I think I can be fairly convincing."

Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties
Glenn K. Rice, Assistant City Manager, City of Yakima
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Selah has plans for a new upscale health club which could give the city a lift. The development of **Selah** Fitness, a \$6.3 million, 46,000-square-foot fitness facility that will be built on the north side of North Wenas Road next to the **Selah** branch of the **Yakima** Valley Credit Union. Developers estimate the business, scheduled to open in the fall of 2005, will create about 20 full-time positions and as many part-time jobs. The facility will feature an eight-lane, 50-meter pool that will attract large swim meets to the area and spur more business.

Additionally, the Greater **Yakima** Girls Softball Association is planning to revamp the girls fast-pitch fields on the other side of North Wenas Road, which will include four playing diamonds for the association. Last year, about 500 girls ages 8-14 participated in the league.

Selah is currently constructing a new water reservoir with a capacity of 1.2 million gallons.

The 2005 budget will include one new police officer from a .3 % sales tax increase approved by the voters of **Yakima County**.

From **Toppenish** comes the report that as a result of the retirements of the fire chief and police chief in 2004, the city has reorganized the administrative structure of the two departments to provide for a single public safety director. As a result of other changes made in the reorganization, it is estimated that the city avoided approximately \$125,000 in salary and benefit costs.

Also in **Toppenish**, a major project that continues is the comprehensive review and update of the entire municipal code. This effort is about 33% complete, with completion expected by early 2006.

The city recently received the results of a study by Barney and Worth, Inc., of Portland, Oregon, to complete a tourism assessment and strategic plan. The study focuses on steps that should be taken to develop broad financial public-private partnerships in the lower **Yakima** Valley. A matching grant program was recently established with old CDBG Grant program income dollars for neighborhood revitalization projects.

According to an article in the Yakima Herald Republic, the city of **Union Gap** hired an independent consultant after police and fire employees complained that the city administrator had created a hostile work environment. The report concluded that the city administrator lacked many of the skills necessary to run a city of **Union Gap's** size. The report also suggested hiring a human resources manager, paying the mayor more than his current salary of \$600, and considering a new form of government. Additionally, by a 4-3 vote the city councilmembers passed a budget amendment, which effectively eliminates the city administrator position and utilizes the savings to pay for a financial audit of the city. To kill the amendment, the mayor would have to veto the entire budget. The city's attorney is researching the consequences of not passing the budget.

Yakima's Capitol Theatre has completed phase one of a renovation and expansion project. The HVAC system and the lower level area were remodeled with added restroom facilities. They are also waiting for a \$500,000 federal grant for continued renovations. A private, non-profit group is about to acquire adjacent property for the city, which will result in a 30% expansion of the existing facility.

Yakima continues to be concerned on the affects of the Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) on their current revenue structure, particularly in light of continued economic stagnation in Eastern and Central Washington.

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.

Glenn Rice, assistant city manager for **Yakima** will be retiring on March 31, 2005, after 27 years with the city.

Yakima and **Yakima County** continue to negotiate the annexation of remaining property at the fairgrounds.

Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties

Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco

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Connell city administrator, Art Tackett, reports that things have been relatively quiet in **Connell**. They are completing a \$5,000,000 water project at this time and attempting to put the finishing touches on the 2005 budget. They are currently looking at a 2% increase. The city has designated part of the downtown as an historic district and is working with the State of Washington Archeology Office to obtain state recognition. **Connell** would like to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season.

The **Kennewick** city council approved its 05/06 biennial budget after several workshops this past fall without the benefit of the historical fixed ambulance charge; accounting for over \$800,000 per year less revenue into the General Fund, reports Bob Hammond, **Kennewick** city manager. In addition, they had several other unexpected hits on the existing budget. This all led to nine position eliminations in the general fund, no COLA's budgeted through the biennium, no increases in medical premiums budgeted, and other general cost cutting measures. Ballot measures to recoup the ambulance related revenues through lid lifts on the property taxes were resoundingly defeated in both the primary and general elections. With negotiations on-going with all unions, they expect to have to make up further shortfalls in the 05/06 budget. With that as the challenging news, they can celebrate a good opening year with their new convention center. Its events thus far are getting rave reviews and it is doing better than expected from a financial position to-date. Also, they changed management of their 6,000 seat coliseum sitting next to the new convention center and have turned a corner in making this facility closer to paying for itself. Besides the minor league hockey team, the new coliseum management is adding arena football this spring and has booked some new entertainment events. **Kennewick** continues to put major emphasis into infrastructure improvements; major accomplishments this year include the start of our Columbia River levee lowering project between our two bridges, the start of a major project to separate vehicular and pedestrian from railroad traffic on their major arterial street, several arterial street reconstruction projects including the construction of three new round-a-bouts and the start of rehabilitating and expanding their water filtration plant moving to new micro-filtration technology. They again were successful in obtaining major infrastructure grants, one which will help support traffic improvements off of HWY 395 into a new commercial business development where Home Depot and Walgreen's are the major tenants and will be open for business shortly after the first of the year. Overall, new service industry growth is driving the city's economy for the near term. They are undertaking a strategic economic development planning process that will help target primary industry for their economic driver for a future that is not as dependent on Hanford jobs.

Pasco's recent growth surge continues unabated, reports city manager Gary Crutchfield. Odds are the city will issue more than 1,000 new home permits this year, surpassing easily the record set last year at 871. At the same time, over 900 new apartment units are being constructed. All the residential growth has contributed to a 2005 budget expansion which will add 17 new positions (in addition to the 15 added this year) while also driving down the city's share of the property tax rate 10%! The city council conducted a public hearing regarding SB 6593 (siting of manufactured homes) and found clear evidence that manufactured homes tend to depreciate much faster than do site-built homes (in fact, site-built structures tend generally to appreciate, rather than depreciate); their solicitation of interest in mounting an effort to modify SB 6593 did not receive much commitment from other cities, so **Pasco** is relying on AWC to do what it can to expand local options under that law and delay the effective date. Never shy about tackling a local issue with sensitive implications, the council is in the middle of considering declaration of pit bulls (and associated terriers) as "potentially dangerous" dogs, thus requiring an enclosure, insurance, etc., -- not an easy task when the local high school mascot is the bull dog! Looks like 2005 will get off to a bang!

City manager John Darrington reports that **Richland** has tightened its financial belt by several notches for 2005. A combination of the Washington Supreme Court ruling that nullified collection of a monthly ambulance fee, a substantial setback in sales tax revenues, and increases in PERS2 and LEOFF2 rates left **Richland** reeling. Voters said thumbs down to a “levy lid lift” that would have replaced the lost ambulance fees and two ballot measures that would have built and staffed new/improved fire stations. Already, staff is projecting a \$2.5 million shortfall for 2006. To compensate, Darrington says he and his staff are continuing to rethink the way **Richland** does business as a city. **Richland** has adopted a new strategic positioning plan that gives direction and focus to future operating decisions. Senior staff and the city’s labor partners are defining core missions. Every vacant position is being evaluated in terms of the new operating parameters. However, all is not “doom and gloom” in **Richland**! Private development continues on **Richland**’s Columbia Point with the opening of Anthony’s HomePort and the Courtyard by Marriott, construction of more condominiums and professional buildings, and continued progress on the **Richland** Public Facilities District project to construct the Hanford Reach National Monument Heritage and Visitor Center, nicknamed “The Reach.” **Richland** is reaching to extend the provision of electrical service to all areas within its city limits, and this fall offered to purchase electrical facilities from a neighboring utility that serves some portions of the city. Eighteen **Richland** residents indicated their desire to serve their city by applying for the city council seat vacated by the election of longtime members Larry Haler to the Washington State Legislature. And, **Richland** is in the process of identifying its 2005 state and federal legislative priorities.

Duane Cole, city manager, **Walla Walla**, reports approval November 2003 of a 3/10ths of 1 percent increase in sales tax county wide for law and justice funding made the budget process a little easier this year. It was very odd to be in a position to allocate resources rather than proposing service reductions. This appears to be a short-term experience, but at least he says he appreciates having had the opportunity once in his career.

Senator Murray and other congressional members placed \$250,000 in the federal budget to assist with studying what to do with the historic buildings at the **Walla Walla** Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC). These funds will be a big help in providing a direction for the future of the facilities. On the veterans care side of the equation, Duane as been appointed to a federal advisory commission, one of 17 nationwide, to study the future of the **Walla Walla** VAMC. It will likely have a smaller footprint, but services should be enhanced. A local task force has put together a report -- 300 pages or so -- developed by Dr. Susan Jackson, former marine, to tell our story about veterans’ needs.

Duane reports that he is preparing for 2005 projects. It appears a request for an aquatic center could come forward as well as at least one, and maybe two, street projects. They are spending all of their money on these two projects, then they are done for a couple of years. The penitentiary expansion is over \$100 million and will be the largest public improvement in many years in **Walla Walla**. They have been good to work with and the project is exciting since it will add jobs to the community. A side benefit is funding for art projects and a state committee is working with local residents to develop this project or a number of projects.

Appointment to the WCMA board is an honor and the retreat in November was expertly managed by our fearless leader Dave Ramsey. We could be in for an exciting year. Myself, if I can just figure out how to get certified, I may hang around in this business.

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 they adopted their 2005 budget and still managed to preserve some reserves. Other than that she stated things have been pretty uneventful.

The big event in **Pullman** was the Apple Cup. A lot of other stuff is going on, but compared to finally winning the Apple Cup, none of it really matters. After three consecutive 10-win seasons in which one of the few losses was to the Dawgs and after six total years of frustration, it was great to finally win one, even if it was over a 1-9 team.

Wal-Mart has announced it is going to build a superstore in Pullman. We made regional TV coverage when McDonald's finally came to Pullman many years ago. What will the world come to next? Construction activity remains strong in both residential and commercial.

We were also successful in adopting a 2005 budget and maintaining minimal reserves. Our citizens have been very supportive in the past in lifting our property tax lid, adopting a permanent fifty-cent EMS levy, and adopting a fifty-cent Metropolitan Park District levy.

We continue to work with WSU on several major undertakings. All in all, things are going great and we are looking forward to another Apple Cup next year.

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

Lewis Griffin, city administrator, sends greetings from the far east of Washington, **Liberty**

Lake!

Liberty Lake has had a good year. We are in the final stages of completing our budget for next year. We had some new wrinkles this year when the police department elected to unionize. We just completed our labor contract negotiations with them and it was not as painful as we expected. We are still in a building boom. To date this year we have completed 152 building projects, \$162,439 in residential permits and \$457,904 in commercial permits. The annexation we have been pursuing for the past three years is still on going. Our neighbors and the county have tried desperately to stop it but by the next newsletter I think the annexation will be complete. We are still looking at the assumption of the sewer/water district. We are looking forward to the New Year. The building boom is predicted to continue and we are adding five new employees.

I would like to wish all of you a very happy Holiday Season!

Lewis Griffin

Region 9, Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties

Mike Cecka, Management Consultant (and Interim City Administrator), City of Leavenworth
cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com

From **Chelan**, city administrator Dave Fonfara reports that the **Chelan** city council adopted its 2005 budget on December 9th in an action which heralds unprecedented opportunities for substantial new development for the **Chelan** community for many years to come. **Chelan** mayor, Jay Witherbee, has characterized the 2005 budget as an investment in the future which supports the sustainability of **Chelan's** economy and the continuing improvement of the quality of life in the community. The 2005 budget is based upon the city's strategic plan cooperatively developed by the city council as a strategic planning retreat held in August of 2004. **Chelan's** strategic plan is an action oriented document that focuses on four strategic planning goals including:

- Goal 1 -- To improve the operating efficiencies, cost effectiveness and management of city operations, services and resources
- Goal 2 -- To support the planning and development of projects that correct deficiencies and enhance public and private properties, facilities and infrastructure
- Goal 3 -- To establish and/or enhance public and private partnerships and citizen involvement in several identified areas of community and economic development
- Goal 4 -- To improve the quality of life and environment in the Lake **Chelan** area

Three prominent projects funded in the 2005 budget and directly linked to the city's strategic plan include:

1. Mater plan for Don Morse Park & Marina -- The city will undertake the completion of the Don Morse Park & Marina master plan. The master plan will be the guiding document for the future development/improvement of the park, marina, beach and adjoining private properties, with a goal of enhancing recreational opportunities for residents, visitors and tourists and supporting local economic development.
2. Lakeside Trail Project -- The city will complete the master plan and begin the development of a 2.25 mile trail system from Don Morse Park to Lakeside Park. Upon completion, the Lakeside Trail will provide pedestrians, bike riders and skate enthusiasts the opportunity to travel along a safe and attractive trail, enjoy great views of beautiful Lake **Chelan** and access the lake at several points along the trail.
3. **Chelan** Downtown Development -- The city recognizes the value of a vibrant and attractive downtown **Chelan** and has committed to a series of landscape, parking, signage and street improvements for 2005. These improvements will be coordinated in conjunction with a state Transportation Improvement Board grant for approximately \$200,000 for a street overlay project in the downtown area.

The city of **Chelan** has budgeted over \$350,000 for these improvements and will leverage the local dollars with a combination of grants and contributions from several community partners. Speaking of community partners, the Lake **Chelan** Chamber of Commerce, **Chelan** Business Association, **Chelan County** PUD and **Chelan County** Port District have all made commitments to support these community and economic development efforts.

All of us in **Chelan** are very excited about the future direction of our community. The opportunities are abundant, the partnerships apparent and the positive momentum is dynamic. We invite you to visit **Chelan** in order to experience first hand the exciting things happening in our city.

And then there's the word from Mike Cecka himself:

From cruising the waters of the Gulf Stream to once again navigating the shoals of municipal government -- what a change a year can make. As most of you know, my wife and I completed our road and boat tour of the country last June, and moved back into our house in **Leavenworth**. I like to think of the trip as a sabbatical, but every journey has its end, and after an absence of 7 years (house rented during that time), major cleanup and renovation was in order. My second career as a house remodeler was shortlived, courtesy of Scott Hugill's job change in favor of **Mountlake Terrace** last August. I've been serving **Leavenworth** in an interim capacity since Scott left. With Greg Prothman's able assistance, we're in the recruitment process and hopeful that the new city administrator will be ready to assume duties by mid February.

For starters, I'd like to express my appreciation to Scott for all his fine work here in **Leavenworth**, and I wish him much success in his new position. In his last year, Scott completed several significant projects, including a new skatepark, a new city pool, and a new civic center facility. Projects currently underway include a new reservoir, water and sewer extensions on the north side of the city, and purchase of additional water rights. We're negotiating with a Hollywood film company who is considering shooting a feature film here in February and March. If we're selected, they'll be bringing in a large film crew for 6 to 8 weeks, during our slowest tourist season, which would make for a nice economic boost. In case you're curious, I'm told the film will be a holiday horror show featuring a grinch who is really bad. You can let your imaginations run wild with that one.

The list of projects for the new administrator is lengthy, and includes rehabilitating an existing reservoir and developing the design and financing package for a major downtown streetscape renovation project. The council will soon be considering whether or not to support the University of Washington's proposal to the National Science Foundation for selection of this area as the site for the National Deep Underground Science Exploratory Lab (DUSEL). This is a potentially huge project which calls for boring a pair of tunnels into Mt. Cashmere and excavation of chambers deep beneath the mountain, for the express purpose of studying neutrinos and other cosmic things. It would generate from 2 to 5 years of truck traffic hauling tunnel excavation rock out of Icicle Canyon, among other impacts. Needless to say, it is a hugely controversial topic around here. It kind of feels a bit like the third runway project with little bits of Hanford thrown in for good measure. The project has significant economic development potential on the upside, but with lots of unanswered questions at this point.

From Christmas horror films to tunnels beneath a mountain, you just never know what will arrive on the agenda in this business. I'll enjoy watching it all develop, mostly from the sidelines. Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a very prosperous and successful New Year.

Warmest regards, Mike Cecka

From **Wenatchee**, Richard Brinkman, administrative services director, reports the following:

Wenatchee has just adopted its budget for 2005, and the city is excited and optimistic about the future. Construction has just been completed on a new police station, with other recent capital projects including improvements to the city's ice arena and two major arterial streets. The city enjoyed its best budget process in several years, and is looking to add further investment as a result of the recently adopted waterfront development plan, which will provide for mixed residential and commercial uses along the city's Columbia River waterfront. In 2005, **Wenatchee** will be working to open a community center, add a large waterslide to the city pool, and update the parks and recreation comprehensive plan. The city has been successful in utilizing recreational facilities and activities to promote investment in the community, and this will be a focal point of the plan update.

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

No report.

Region 11, Snohomish County
Larry Bauman, City Manager, City of Snohomish
bauman@ci.snohomish.wa.us

From **Snohomish**, city manager Larry Bauman reports the completion of the city's improved and extended Riverfront Trail, which will eventually link to the existing Centennial Trail, which has its southern trailhead already in town. The trail system figures prominently into both recreational and economic development plans for **Snohomish**.

Bauman said that he's just completed recruitments for police chief and planning manager to start off the new year with the addition of two members to the city's management team. The management team is, by the way, considering joining with several other Puget Sound cities to enter the consortium for performance measurement that will be supported by ICMA's Center for Performance Measurement. Questions about organizational capacity are likely to drive this decision.

As with most other cities in the state, the **Snohomish** focus for 2005 will be on economic development to support continuation of services. Two major project areas will be concentrations for 2005's economic development efforts: the Bickford Corridor and the riverfront area on First Street west of Avenue D. The city's public works yard is a part of this area, and with all parcels and rights of way, the city's property includes more than 16 acres. Visitor-serving commercial uses would be targeted for this area to be compatible with the existing historic downtown. A design charrette is planned for spring 2005.

Region 12, North King County
Mitch Wasserman, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, City of Clyde Hill
mitch@clydehill.org

Joyce Goedeke, public information officer for **Bothell**, submits the following report:

In a 4-3 vote at its November 15 meeting, the **Bothell** city council moved to appoint Bob Stowe as the **Bothell** city manager effective January 17, 2005. At that time, interim city manager Manny Ocampo will resume his post as assistant city manager. Council also approved a motion to direct the city attorney to prepare a resolution for future council consideration that would honor Manny Ocampo's service to **Bothell**.

Stowe comes to **Bothell** from **Mill Creek**, where he has served as city manager from 1995 to the present time. Previous to serving at **Mill Creek**, Stowe was the **Lake Stevens** city administrator and **Dayton** interim city administrator.

Following the city council vote, interim city manager Ocampo addressed the city council noting his "appreciation for the opportunity to have served as interim city manager these past 10 months." Ocampo also affirmed his commitment to the **Bothell** council, staff, and community to make this transition as smooth as possible.

As 2005 rolls in, **Bothell** has much to reflect on over the past year. There were many changes including a major council change, city manager transition, emergent situations such as the Methodist pastor trial and Tent City4, the major comprehensive plan update, creating the roadmap strategic plan and the passing of the 2005/2006 biennium budget, to simply name a few. The one solid element throughout all of this has been the integrity and dedication from our **Bothell** city staff, especially from interim city manager Manny Ocampo.

These challenges were commendably addressed by Manny with sensitivity and political skill and strategically handled despite the vast amounts of time required along with having one less executive leadership team member on his staff.

Manny Ocampo has provided active and positive support for city council's top priority for this year: To complete the updates of **Bothell's** comprehensive plan. He has continuously and steadfastly supported and recognized the endeavors of department directors and every **Bothell** employee who worked so hard as a team with him to achieve these results.

Throughout the year, Manny was first to point out that in all these efforts it was the "team" that made it possible, and he has always credited all staff involved, as well as immediately recognize staff for the successes we have achieved.

The **Bothell** city staff commends the hard work and solid leadership of interim city manager Manny Ocampo for creating and encouraging a workplace that is of a team environment and never wavering to what is best for all **Bothell** staff and for his dedication to all **Bothell** citizens.

From **Clyde Hill**, Mitch Wasserman, city administrator/clerk/treasurer sends the following:

We were very happy that the **King County** superior court ruled in favor of our ability "to contract together by interlocal agreement for court services whether inside or outside of the municipal limits of the city that created the municipal court." The expected, but bad news is this ruling was appealed to the court of appeals. Any help in defending this case would be appreciated.

Although the income levels may be relatively high in the community we've not been able to

balance the city's budget without the use of reserve funds. We've been extremely fortunate that the value of redevelopment has been off the charts the last few years and enabled us to postpone some tough choices. The good news is that the council is on top of our situation and is waiting for the right time to make the tough expenditure or revenue decisions...more to come.

City manager Dave Ramsay reports that as **Kirkland** gets ready to celebrate its centennial in 2005, there continues to never be a dull moment around there. A major issue looming on the horizon is the opportunity for the significant annexation of areas to our north. This would take our population from 45,000 to 80,000 -- no small challenge. The biggest hurdle that they are faced with is that not surprisingly this largely residential area "does not pay for itself" in terms of revenues versus costs to provide service. A strategy that they are pursuing to close the revenue gap is the introduction of state legislation that would permit a voter-approved "utility surtax" for a fixed period. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, Dave reports that they continue to be involved in a number of multi-agency partnerships with their fellow cities in NE **King County**. One of the stars of the show is the e-gov alliance that is so ably led by our very own Rich Conrad, city manager, **Mercer Island**. The potential for these on-line services seems limitless with the latest customer being the **Snohomish County's** building department.

Deb Symmonds, deputy city manager, **Mercer Island**, offers these words of wisdom:

Management Thought of the Month

Take These Steps to Positively Influence Negative Thinkers

Who are the negative thinkers on your staff? In Motivation Levitation, management consultant Douglas T. Webb says you can find out simply by asking workers how things are going. The more-positive members of your staff will focus on something good in their lives, while the more-negative employees will start listing their worries and concerns. Anyone can have a bad day, so make your inquiry several times over the course of a few weeks to get a feel for each person's norm.

Once you've identified negative thinkers, consider why they're negative. Often it's because they feel so overwhelmed by duties and concerns that they overlook the sunny side of life. Motivate them to be more positive by following these steps:

1. Talk through their concerns. Responsibilities and worries almost always seem bigger than they are when they're floating around in our heads. But on further examination, we may find they're not really so overpowering. Help negative workers put their concerns in perspective by getting them to slow down and discuss them one by one.
2. Encourage workers to prioritize. You've seen those posters about being so far behind you won't catch up until you're dead. Negative thinkers often feel that way -- largely because

they're overwhelmed by all the items on their never-ending to-do lists. But how many of their to-dos really must be done Right Now? Work with these employees to help them prioritize what matters -- then scratch the rest from their list.

3. Stress the importance of discipline. Many negative thinkers are wheel-spinners -- people who spend a lot of energy but never get anywhere. Their inability to finish tasks and their tendency to procrastinate bog them down and make it difficult for them to look up. Set up interim goals or require daily verbal progress reports to encourage them to stay focused.

4. Help them look on the bright side. Get negative workers talking about positive things by pointing out their admirable qualities and asking them to share the good feelings they've derived from past accomplishments. Make a mental note each time you get a positive response at the mention of a specific task or project. That's where you can direct their attention the next time negativity gets them down.

John B. (Jack) Collins, who has been executive director of the non-profit Northwest Small Cities Services organization, sends the following:

Jack Collins recently retired as Executive Director of the non-profit Northwest Small Cities Services, after serving there for 16 years. He will be succeeded by Cynthia Stewart. He served as deputy mayor, Seattle, 1979-84; city administrator, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 1977-79; city administrator, Ontario, Oregon, 1972-77; and administrative assistant and personnel officer, Eugene, Oregon, 1962-67.

Jack will continue to serve as the part-time administrative project manager for the Town of Woodway. (He was appointed by Mayor Carla Nichols.) He is also enjoying his recent appointment to the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners. (He was appointed by Mayor Greg Nickels.) He will continue to enjoy the monthly meetings of and occasional lunches with the **King County** managers and administrators.

Shoreline reports the following:

They have set up a community priorities process. In early October, staff held two community meetings -- the first one included a randomly selected group of residents and the second included community members. During these sessions, over 70 participants had an opportunity to determine which city services to put into one of four "buckets" -- with bucket one being the highest priority services and bucket four being the lowest -- using new "pulse pad" technology (on loan from AWC), which enabled us to present instantaneous results for everyone to view. The overall results of the exercise were not too surprising, with public safety services being most highly valued. Although there were some differences between the results of each group, they were not significantly different. This was the beginning our long range financial planning community involvement process, and they are planning to do more of these types of exercises in 2005.

A north city business district improvement project has been established. The **Shoreline** city council approved a revised design for the north city project along 15th Avenue NE between NE 172nd St. and NE 180th St. The redesign for the north city business district includes four lanes -- two in each direction -- as opposed to the three lanes in the original design. The rest of the project remains the same and includes underground utilities, six-foot sidewalks with four-foot amenity zones, curb bulbs and on-street parking on both sides and new street signals. In August, council decided not to award the construction contract for the original design due to high bid costs and public concerns about the three lane design.

The **Shoreline** city council approved the negotiated purchase and sale agreement to purchase 204,000 sq.ft. at the Echo Lake site for \$4.7 million dollars. This includes a site for city hall, a new city park and buffer around the south end of Echo Lake and associated common area in a proposed new development on the site. Although this is a big step forward, it is not a done deal. During the next 90 days they have to continue our due diligence and make a decision by mid-March whether we want to proceed with the purchase or to back out and look for a different site. During the next 90 days they will be negotiating development agreements with the owners of the property and possibly the YMCA. They will be evaluating environmental issues, soil conditions, development costs and a more specific budget for the site. The current schedule proposes beginning construction in the fall of 2005 and completing the project sometime in 2007. The project budget at this point is estimated at \$21.2 million dollars. They will finance the project by using approximately \$11.4 million in savings the city has accumulated over the first 9 years of its existence and borrowing approximately \$10 million by selling municipal bonds.

From **Woodinville**, city manager Pete Rose reports the following:

- **Tent City:** The past four months have been dominated by dealing with Tent City 4 and its service and political externalities. Tent cities are homeless encampments that move quarterly. It is political activism to the extent that its sponsoring agency, SHARE/WHEEL gets the issue in the headlines when it is able to contrast a site selection with traditional suburban values. **Woodinville** offered a piece of unused public property, which crossed a political Rubicon in regional politics. It was the right decision for its citizens, as the offered church site would have made a more difficult campsite and angry neighborhood. The lawsuits and camp are both gone now, but the out-of-town opposition lingers in trying to exact a political price. That "price" is working the system to make the host city defend itself, which cost about \$35,000 out-of-pocket and another \$55,000 in redirected staff time. **Woodinville** has developed a final report and is considering a moratorium to re-tool a temporary use permitting process that was a poor framework for rating a homeless encampment. **Woodinville** is also contributing to the work of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), which is trying to come up with a model process and ordinance.
- **CIP & Budget:** The most recent budget was balanced with the 1% property tax increase. Combined with a request for other operating budget reductions, the city council sent those funds over to the CIP. Most of the CIP has been tied up with large central projects to overcome the

traffic and public facility problems that spurred incorporation in 1993. The current council is highlighting several themes through its budget and CIP strategies: balance big project investment with neighborhood improvements; acquire open space to stave off the impacts of housing density; and to find creative ways to have the street grid precede downtown development. It also showed a willingness to borrow against CIP revenue to speed up some projects. This council is also looking to do more planning on a city-wide basis prior to doing more sub-area plans. It has funded a strategic visioning study and an economic development study to develop a more detailed set of data and preferences from which to make future decisions.

- **Critical Areas Ordinance:** Local politics began and ended with stream buffers due to narrow stream corridors in **Woodinville** with lots of private property ownership along them. As of this writing, it is docketed for second reading. The approach is balanced, which gives property development a chance to reduce stream buffers on Type 1 streams in exchange for substantial buffer enhancement to get one reduction and a scientific study to prove the full reduction will fall within a riparian restoration threshold. In **Woodinville**, if there is no incentive to redevelop property, the habitat will remain degraded until further notice.
- **Annual Comp Plan Docket:** This was **Woodinville's** largest since incorporation, due to a large number of citizen-initiated applications. A request for adding residential in the Tourist Business Zone (near Red Hook, Chateau Ste. Michelle, etc.) became synonymous with the **Woodinville** Wine Village, a proposed 18 acre mixed use development with five small winery pads, tourist retail and high-end condos. This was the application to change the zoning code to add the residential. The planning commission approved it after slapping on a development agreement requirement with several key criteria that must be achieved. The most important criterion is that residential cannot be on the ground floor, which is to be reserved for the other permitted uses (presumably tourist retail). The city council has wrestled with this issue because the large development precedes the major planning referenced above. It is hoping to decide before the end of the year.

Region 13, South King County

Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, City of Normandy Park

merlinm@ci.normandy-park.wa.us

From **Burien**, city manager Gary Long reports that they have recently completed a draft annexation study and presented it to the city council December 13th for public review and comment. The purpose of the study is to determine the financial impacts of annexation on city funding. If **Burien** does nothing, city and fire district costs will increase by an estimated \$2.5M; if **Burien** annexes North Highline and doubles its size to 63,000 people, it will need to find \$2.5M to extend the same level of service to North Highline it offers to **Burien**. Much more work needs to be done to complete the study and come up with financing alternatives. The council's work schedule has this as a high priority for continued fact gathering, community discussion, dialogue with all interested agencies including **Seattle**, **King County** and the Special districts serving **Burien** and North Highline.

From **Normandy Park**, city manager Merlin MacReynold announces that he's very pleased to announce that Joyce Papke has agreed to join the city team as assistant city manager and finance director. Joyce brings a wealth of local government finance and management experience that will help move the city to a new level of performance.

Normandy Park has hosted two meetings of Puget Sound small cities (populations under 10,000) this year, one in September and another in November. The purpose of the meetings was to explore common issues and opportunities. At the November meeting it was determined that a white paper should be developed that provided recommendations on the two highest priorities of those that had attended. Currently city administrator Mitch Wasserman of **Clyde Hill**, councilmember Michael Deckert from **Edgewood**, and myself are working on the white paper. The white paper will be presented to the Small Cities Committee of AWC at the Legislative Conference in February.

The city of **Des Moines** will be providing municipal court services to **Normandy Park** starting January 1st. This was a major move by both **Normandy Park** and **Des Moines**. **King County** District Court had been providing municipal court services to **Normandy Park** for over 40 years, but had become too expensive and administratively challenging. Jennifer Hensen, the court administrator for **Des Moines** and Rick Kieffer, the police chief for **Normandy Park**, did a commendable job in making this a win for all concerned.

The **Normandy Park** city council unanimously passed the two-year budget presented to them by the administration at their November 9th meeting. The city is in good financial shape for at least the next couple years, but will eventually face serious revenue and budget problems in the future should all things stay the same.

Region 14, Pierce County

Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor
hoppenm@cityofgigharbor.net

Region 14 reports some interesting developments. In **Gig Harbor**, Mark Hoppen, city administrator reports that progress is being made toward the development of a community center, including a Boys and Girls Club, senior center and local recreational headquarters, and toward the city's first YMCA. Costco is planning on developing in the north part of the city. Also, city voters approved a \$3.5 million bond for acquisition and initial development of a waterfront park at the site of the last intact boatyard on **Gig Harbor** Bay, Eddon Boat Company, known from 1950 to 1978 as Mark Hoppen's family home.

Jim Bacon, city manager, **Puyallup**, is busy planning the development of a combined senior center and senior housing complex on the block of the old city hall and senior center. Demolition of the old city hall is slated in the next year or so. Also, just across the street from the new Pavilion Building, which is available for civic events, weddings, and more, is the site of **Puyallup's** city municipal building, still a few years from construction. In another civic building next to the Pavilion Building is a restaurant in the round, From the Bayou.

In **Sumner**, Andy Neiditz, city administrator, reports that they are developing a town center plan that presents the vision and strategies for **Sumner's** 210-acre town center, an area that includes its Main Street and Sounder Station vicinity and that intends to reinforce **Sumner's** small town character. Also, **Sumner** is busy developing the design and implementation of its Eastside Park.

In **Tacoma**, Jim Walton, city manager, indicates that **Tacoma** has opened its new Convention Center with five floors of quality convention capacity and with an absolutely outstanding view from the fifth floor. **Tacoma** is experiencing a rebirth of downtown housing developments that accompany the widely acclaimed physical redevelopment of the downtown, including the highly successful light rail spur from downtown to the Sounder rail site.

And in **University Place**, Bob Jean, city manager, notes that Trader Joes opened its first **Pierce County** store. Trader Joes, in its largest retail site to date, has had the best opening period receipts of any of their store openings to date. Despite revenue challenges over the past few years, **University Place** reports a balanced budget, and renewal of its police contract with **Pierce County** through 2011. Cirque Park, a new 28-acre facility is developing on schedule. The skateboard park, one of the first improvements at Cirque Park, is a great success in its first year of operation.

From the counties

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

No report.

Transitions

Mike Caldwell, who at one time was executive assistant to the mayor in Lynnwood, will serve as the interim city manager of Mill Creek.

Mike Cecka simply couldn't stay away, and is presently serving as administrative consultant (interim city administrator) of Leavenworth.

John B. (Jack) Collins, who has been executive director of the non-profit Northwest Small Cities Services organization, has retired. He continues as part-time administrative project manager for the Town of Woodway, and was recently appointed to the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners.

Roger Crum, who had been city manager of Spokane before leaving there to become city manager of Evanston, Illinois, has now retired and has returned to live in Spokane. Roger was recently recognized as an Honorary Life Member of WCMA, and is the newest RangeRider.

L. Joe Miller, now retired and living in Medina, who had been the long-time city manager of Bellevue before leaving for a number of other ventures, has been designated as a RangeRider by the WCMA board. Joe was at one time the president of WCMA, and was also the president of ICMA.

Joyce Papke, who had been deputy finance director of Bellevue, is now the interim finance director of Normandy Park. As of January 1, 2005, she will become assistant city manager there.

Mike Patterson, city administrator of College Place, is now the city manager of Redmond, Oregon.

Bob Stowe is leaving his position as city manager of Mill Creek to become the city manager of Bothell.

Matt Sullivan, city administrator of Everson, has resigned.

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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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