

President's Message

From the Spring Conference I bring you some bad news and some good news. First the bad news. Despite a spirited effort, we lost the annual volleyball game to the Oregon managers. Wait 'til next year. But now on to the good news.

Thanks to **Rich Yukubousky's** hard work, we had a great conference at the Skamania Lodge. For me one of the most thought provoking and helpful sessions was presented by **Frank Benest**, City Manager of Palo Alto, California. Titled "What is Your Legacy? – Succession Planning for the Public Good," Frank focused on both the demographic realities facing our profession and what we could do to prepare those who will be taking our places.

It turns out that much of what Frank suggested is both common sense and what we should be doing anyway to help develop our staffs. The menu of strategies included:

- Job rotation and acting assignments
- Mentoring and coaching programs
- Leadership academies and assessment centers
- Site visits and talent exchanges

The challenge for all us is to make this a priority for our organization and commit the time and resources to make these strategies happen. Check out the California City Managers web page www.cal-icma.org "coaching corner" for more information.

A related topic of interest was intern positions. In his luncheon speech, ICMA President Tom Lundy stated that their research has shown that the number one reason for college students choosing local government as a career was an internship experience. This was reinforced later in the day by a panel of Assistants. We need to do more to create these opportunities.

In order to carry on this theme, our Summer Conference will bring together a panel of professors from various universities around the State. The intent will be to explore ways that we can work closer with these schools to encourage their students to consider a career in local government. Internships should play an important role in this discussion.

Speaking of the Summer Conference, we look forward to seeing you at Sun Mountain, August 16 – 19. Malcolm Fleming is putting together a great program. Consistent with the theme of career development we strongly encourage you to bring your staff along and please make a special effort to invite an intern. Who knows, we may find some awesome volleyball players amongst them!!

*Dave Ramsay, WCMA President
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A reminder:

- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference,** August 16 -- 19, 2005, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop, Washington

Save the date (August 16-19) and plan to enjoy a stimulating and thought provoking conference at relaxing Sun Mountain Lodge in sunny Winthrop. It's NOT too early to get it on your calendar. The following summary agenda describes just some of the program we have lined up for this summer's WCMA annual conference...

2005 Summer Conference

August 16 – 19

Sun Mountain Lodge

Winthrop, Washington

Keynote Speaker: ***David Horsey**, Cartoonist for the Seattle P.I. Entertaining and thought-provoking visual and verbal commentary on newsmakers and recent current events.

Life in the Spotlight—The Media, Politics and Organizational Resistance To Change: A case study of what can happen when you are hired to clean up a mess and the job is still underway when the election happens... ***Dean Logan, King County Elections Director**

Connecting with our Universities: What can we do to strengthen the ties and have more research focused on local government issues? **Panel:** ***Diana Gale PhD** (Faculty Director of the Cascade Center, Senior Lecturer at the Evans School of Public Affairs and Founder/Co-Director of the Executive Masters in Public Affairs Program at the Evans School) ***Stan Finkelstein**, (Professor at Seattle University), ***Dick Cushing** (Professor at Evergreen College).

Performance Measurement—Most of us are measuring performance; How many are actually using performance measures to regularly drive decisions and improve the way they do business? ***Larisa Benson** is Governor Gregoire's Special Assistant for Government Management Accountability and Performance.

Labor Relations—The Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC) process. Who is PERC? Are they appointed for life? How do they get appointed? Why does it take them years (literally) to make decisions? What can the WCMA and individual public leaders do to improve the chances of a positive outcome in labor relations. ***Nancy Buonanno Grennan**-King County Labor Relations Manager

Economic Development Roundtable: Review of best practices to promote a thriving local economy. **Join this panel discussion of specific projects, what made them work (or fail) and the key principles to keep in mind as we promote economic development in our cities and counties.** Panelists: *Phil Kushlan, **Executive Director of the Capital City Development Corporation, Boise, Idaho;** *Julie Wilkerson, **Director, Washington State Community, Trade and Economic Development Department;** *Peter Battuello, **Sr. Project Manager and Brownfields Specialist with Parametrix Inc.** Rob Larson, **Principle with ClearPath Inc.**

Engaging Citizens In Local Government: Across the country, governments are in the midst of a fundamental shift in the way citizens and governments interact. Frustrated with flaws in community politics, many local government managers and other local leaders have put new emphasis on mobilizing citizens for dialogue, deliberation, and collaborative problem solving. Join this panel review of best practices in Washington and elsewhere. Panelists: Selected City/County Managers/Administrators from around the Northwest

*Malcolm Fleming, WCMA Vice President
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And another 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 needed. If a correction is needed, please send the information to Donita Mowers at dmowers@mrsc.org. She'll enter the changes as soon as you supply them. Or if all else fails, you can e-mail me the information at rbartels@mrsc.org.

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?

What to do? Why, call a **Range Rider**, of course. And now there are four of them! Lots and lots of experience to draw from. They are:

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From our ICMA Vice President:

Y-ICMA?

“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” What was it about President Kennedy’s words that spoke to so many of us some 40 years ago?

I remember looking around the room in the Kennedy Library at the Boston ICMA conference following a video of President Kennedy asking that question, and not a dry eye in the room. What drew us to public service? And what will draw the next generation into our profession? Truly, it is not about the getting but the giving.

Just recently I was speaking with a neighboring City Manager whom I first met on the ICMA Public Policy Committee many years ago, and I was asking him to sign a new membership application for another City Manager we both knew. He said he’d be glad to, but he wasn’t an ICMA member any longer. I asked, “why”? Long story short, but he basically felt he wasn’t getting much from the ICMA membership anymore. I didn’t have an answer to “why ICMA”.

MY ICMA EXPERIENCES

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that my own reasons for being an ICMA member have changed over the years. It was at an ICMA conference in Seattle in 1974 when I

was a young Budget Analyst researching a project that I first learned about ICMA. That's where I met Al Locke, then City Manager in Kirkland, WA and an ICMA Vice President. It was Al who introduced me to the Puget Sound Managers group and got me thinking about a career in city management, not just government in general. Al Locke has remained a valued friend and mentor throughout.

Early in my career, it was ICMA as a technical resource that benefited me most. In Troutdale, OR, I was their first City Administrator in my first management position. The ICMA "green books" were my constant reference, from building salary plans to capital budgets, comprehensive plans to public works. I even survived terminating a Police Chief there! I still remember an ICMA film (not video or DVD) on goal-setting. At ICMA conferences I went to every session I could find, one I remember on maintaining brick streets. ICMA helped put the "meat" on grad school "bones".

After a few years, I now realize that the value of my ICMA membership was shifting from the technical "nuts and bolts" to more of the managerial and professional development nature. I still recall the keynote speeches from Tom Peters (In Search of Excellence) and Stephen Covey (Principle Centered Leadership). It was through ICMA that after about 10 years or so as a manager, I was rethinking and formulating my own local government management theories.

It was through ICMA that I had my first International Management Exchange experience. It was because of ICMA that I have gotten to know people like Ted Gaebler (Reinventing Government) and to test my own ideas about achieving extraordinary results with regular people through teamwork and good management systems. The friendships with other managers formed through ICMA have been the basis of support and encouragement in hard times, and resources on tough challenges. Of the hundreds of thousands of dollars I have contracted for consultant services, the best value for money deal I ever signed was my annual ICMA membership.

Now, after 30 years in the business, I find that my ICMA membership has again taken on another dimension. As an ICMA Board Member, the corporate responsibilities take most of my conference time; in San Diego I think I got to 3 or 4 sessions other than keynotes. So back to the question I asked at the start of this article, what am I getting out of my ICMA membership?

I now realize at this point in my career, that's the wrong question. President Kennedy had it right back then, so ask not what are you getting out of your ICMA membership, but what are you giving back to strengthen ethics and professionalism in local government?

Just as my friend Al Locke reached out and brought me into this wonderful profession, I have

been fortunate over the years and have helped 14 or more individuals who have worked for me go on to City Manager or Assistant City Manager positions. ICMA through the Association and its members has helped me grow at every stage of my career, and now, I hope, I can help give back to others coming into this profession.

YES, ICMA!

Yes, my ICMA experiences and the value of my ICMA membership have changed over the years as my needs have changed. At first I was like the kid in the candy store and couldn't get enough of the MIS Reports and conference sessions. Now I find the value in the hallway conversations and the challenging nature of keynotes. I enjoy the opportunities to meet with managers from around the world and young professionals just entering or thinking about entering the local government profession. And, candidly, I am truly enjoying the opportunity on the Board to help with the business of our Association. It is about the giving, not the getting that makes our involvement in any organization worthwhile. Yes, I am an ICMA Member, and if you are a local government manager, you should be too!

*Bob Jean, City Manager, City of University Place
And ICMA Vice President
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And now, the news:

*Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties
Lynn Nordby, Consultant
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Port Angeles, Washington, and Berau, Indonesia. An important relationship. Information about it comes to WCMA News from Sharon "Sam" Martin, the **Port Angeles** executive administrative assistant to the city manager and city council. That's all because Mike Quinn and his partner are currently in Indonesia, and will return later this month.

The whole process of the relationship between **Port Angeles** and Berau came about with the full blessing and support of the mayor and city council. They actually encouraged and gave their blessing to Mike and the staff sharing knowledge and experience with another city.

First, some background on the program. Indonesia is an independent republic consisting of more than 13,500 islands spread over 3,000 miles. Indonesia's economy is developing, and tourist services are plentiful in the major tourist areas. There was much study of the country and what the travel arrangements would be like, as well as the knowledge that crime is high there, so safety regulations were high on the list.

The Resource Cities Program is managed by ICMA (International City/County Management Association - based in Washington, D.C.) and funded by USAID, the U.S. government funding agency for international development programs. The lady who made most of the arrangements with Mike Quinn, City Manager in Port Angeles, Washington, is Carol Bartl, employed by ICMA and who is located full-time in their office in Jakarta, Indonesia. They are also referred to as BIGG (Building Institutions for Good Governance). This is the name of the ICMA project in Indonesia - BIGG includes the Resource Cities Program along with several other development programs, including one that supports the development of Indonesia's two local government associations, who are partnered with the League of Oregon Cities.

The first round of Resource Cities partnerships began at the beginning of 2002 and finished at the end of 2003. Because the program proved to be successful, they received funding for an extension from USAID for two years in order to complete another round of partnerships. This round consists of 3 partnerships extended from Phase I (including partnerships with the U.S. cities of Tigard, Oregon, Coos Bay, Oregon and Savannah, Georgia). It will also now include two new partnerships, one of which is the **Port Angeles** - Berau partnership.

A partnership takes place during approximately 18 months and includes 7 exchanges in total. 4 exchanges take place in Indonesia, 3 exchanges take place in the U.S. The first exchange, took place in Berau, included introducing both partners, deciding upon the two-year work plan and signing a memorandum of understanding. One of the final exchanges to Indonesia will include participation in a national conference there. This is where each partnership invited presents their work/results.

The exchanges included sending 3 delegates from the guest partner city to the host partner city. ICMA funds airfare, travel to and from the airport, and hotel room. They also provide a stipend (per diem) to cover meals and incidentals, etc. The city of **Port Angeles** did not fund the costs.

Michael Quinn and Mr. Glenn Cutler were chosen from the city of **Port Angeles**, Washington, to participate in this program. Mike is the **Port Angeles** city manager, with experience in both Oregon and Washington city management, and is a noted achiever. Mike brought Mr. Cutler with him, due to the nature of the work program. Mr. Cutler is the public works, utilities, and recreation director for **Port Angeles**. Their task will be to help develop public works infrastructure for Berau.

As a side note, Mike's partner, Carolyn, is a school teacher. She volunteered her services and developed an extensive program for the Berau schoolchildren to learn about waste management and she and Mike, along with Mr. Cutler, mastered a recycling program that teaches the children about cleaning up the areas needing it, the reasons why this is much healthier, and they took those materials in both the Berau language, as well as English. It really has been an exciting program that the children really took to. It is structured to last far after **Port Angeles'** last trip to Berau.

The short story of what is to be accomplished, or the purpose is to help their Berau establish certain teachings, like the waste management program, recycling. Mike's wife is also attending, as she is a school teacher and has developed a complete teaching curriculum to establish the programs and give their teachers the capability to continue the program when they are no longer there. Mike, of course, is working with the city there to build their public works department. They have already had one trip over there. The people from that city has visited here, also.

As the program arrangements were made, they decided to make the exchange much more low-keyed and so it would be a good opportunity to focus in depth on the technical aspects of one of the projects, instead of having to split it up amongst many programs, which would have been required if they had as many as 5 persons attending.

The city of **Port Angeles** is currently in the beginning their second trip to Berau, as part of a series of exchanges (May 5 - 20). They have included as part of the overall program the **Port Angeles** city engineer, Gary Kenworthy. He isn't on this trip but attended the initial one.

In August of 2004, the city of **Port Angeles** hosted the first delegation from Indonesia in between the two **Port Angeles** visits there. The learning experiences have been very exciting. The visitors went on field trips to **Port Angeles** landfill, a local waste hauler who demonstrated equipment, and the water treatment facilities. The dates of August 23 - 27 were the actual working days of the exchange in our city.

Upon returning to **Port Angeles**, Mike felt he had successfully gotten the program off to a good start. The people in Berau were receptive and friendships were also established. When any group works so hard to bring about such positive change, a deep respect grows for each other. Mike hopes other cities will eventually come forward in support of these exchanges. The world is changed to the positive with each effort.

If you have any questions for Mike, he can be reached at 360-417-4500 in **Port Angeles**.

Region 2, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Thurston Counties
David Campbell, City Manager, City of Chehalis
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J. D. Fouts, city manager in **Centralia**, reports that remodeling and reorganization of space within city hall has resulted in more and better workspace for the police department and municipal court.

The Gibson House is a new private investment in the downtown historic district. It's a mixed-use, three-story building, including an elegant restaurant, mini-casino, office space, and meeting facilities. The Washington State Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development

held its annual Downtown Revitalization Institute in Centralia shortly after the grand opening of the new building.

Centralia also recently took delivery of a new aerial ladder fire truck. In the meantime, they are still recruiting to fill their fire chief's position.

Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties
Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas
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Lloyd Halverson, city administrator, **Camas**, asks, “What’s new? What’s newsworthy?” It’s always a good question.

The legislative transportation package is new and significant. Its projects, grant programs, half-penny for cities; all of this is new and welcomed. Seems to me that AWC used skill, and SW Washington local governments were reasonably effective. Lloyd reports that he enjoyed the good teamwork among several of the cities, and especially with Eric Holmes, **Battle Ground**, and and Nabil Shawa, **Washougal**. A thin majority of legislators showed foresight and courage in passing the package. Safety was a theme of the package, which is a well-received theme.

In our “neck of the woods”(District 18), we especially appreciate the leadership of Senator Zarelli, and the “yes vote” of Representative Curtis. These gentlemen are both “R’s”, they took a tough vote, and helped the package achieve a measure of bi-partisanship. For me, the legislative process was very interesting. One lesson learned: *“Often, things that are apparently unconnected, get linked together.”*

Lloyd reports that the city management group in the SW area remains stable and therefore is either unremarkable or remarkable. He reports that Pat McDonall, **Vancouver**, and I continue efforts to drive the profession’s longevity averages up. George Fox has been confirmed as city manager of **Ridgefield**.

Lloyd observes that the graying of the profession is noticeable, and it seems ICMA and others see clearly the approaching succession quandaries. ICMA President O’Neil pointed out in the Jan. 24, 2005 ICMA Newsletter: *“In 1971, 5 percent of managers were between the ages of 50 and 60. Today it is 40 percent”* These are very powerful numbers! So, let each of us in our fifties take it upon ourselves to encourage, recruit or promote potential city professionals!

A sharing from your correspondent is a general comment on the Pacific Northwest: *How lucky we are to live and work in this region!* Its environment and beauty, general prosperity, civil and decent public culture -- all of these and more make me feel very fortunate.

Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties
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No report.

Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties
Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco
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From **Kennewick**, city manager Bob Hammond reports replacing the funding for ambulance service after the state supreme court decision last year remains a priority in **Kennewick**. Council raised the cost of ambulance transports by about 40% which is expected to recover about half of the shortfall. We were not satisfied with the bill (1635) which passed the legislature and are in the process of deciding whether or not to implement the fees allowed through that legislation (assuming signature by the governor). We continue to move forward with our bi-county police information network project to change out to a new Intergraph system from one that was home grown. There are many opinions about how well or not that is faring. The local press chooses to report the system as a failure.

Growth remains steady with most commercial growth in the service areas. We were successful in recruiting Burlington Coat Factory into one of our two vacant big box stores. When Stirling Technologies secured two large federal contracts for their turbine engines, they chose to stay in **Kennewick** and relocate to our Three Rivers District where they're building a new facility to handle double the previous production capacity. This is also the same general location as the new Three Rivers Convention Center, which continues to do good business and the Three Rivers Coliseum, where indoor football (Tri-Cities Fever) joined professional hockey as major tenants of that facility. We continue to get leaner staff-wise through attrition (2 less FTE's in the past quarter) in order to position for impending Hanford layoffs and the associated reduction in revenues that historically play through. We obtained a \$500k federal grant to help finance the next phase of our water treatment plant upgrade project (fed by Columbia River) where we are installing membrane filters that will eventually deliver 30 million gallons per day. Bringing the first phase of this project on line in April of this year helped offset the additional demand that the city's water system will have because of the drought's impact on **Kennewick** Irrigation District's deliveries (fed by Yakima River). We continue to assertively tackle the city's criminal element with the successful first year of a special criminal apprehension team (CAT) which has targeted drug and gang activities. We are discussing with others throughout the county a criminal justice sales tax measure to take to the **Benton County** voters, possibly this fall.

Pasco's residential growth continues nearly unabated (down only 10% from last year's record pace of 1,032 units), reports city manager Gary Crutchfield. Fortunately, more commercial facilities are on the horizon as **Pasco** will enjoy its own Wal-Mart by the end of this year (it is under construction now) and other "big box" retailers are actively evaluating nearby sites. The city council adopted a pit bull regulation (after two local attacks) which employs a new twist:

the owner of a pit bull can avoid the special licensing, insurance and containment rules if his/her dog successfully passes the “Canine Good Citizen Test” offered by our local animal control vendor (and sanctioned by AKC). Despite lots of initial opposition, some owners are now taking their dogs to “training” so they can pass the test by July (effective date of the new rules); we will see how this form of “relief” will work by then. Lastly, for those of you with lots of older rental units, please note the state court of appeals just ruled that **Pasco’s** rental licensing program is not unconstitutional, as was asserted by the local apartment owner’s association. We have now successfully defended the program through the ninth circuit (no small feat!) in the federal system and the court of appeals in the state system. We are increasingly optimistic that the state supreme court will likewise find the program within constitutional boundaries (assuming it is appealed). We have been operating the licensing program since 1998 (the courts’ injunction applied only to the two owners who initiated the suit) and it has proven quite effective in ridding the city of units with life-safety violations (excepting, of course, the two who sued). Looking forward to the AWC convention here in the Tri-Cities next month as well as the summer conference at Sun Mountain.

Richland continues to take steps to mitigate projected budget deficits for future years, reports city manager John Darrington. Citizens are beginning to see impacts of the most visible changes: the **Richland** Public Library shifted to its long-standing summer schedule four months early and the **Richland** Community Center cut back its early morning hours. Both facilities have increased some fees. As the year progresses, citizens and visitors will see additional impacts; the city is hiring fewer seasonal laborers, which means less frequent mowing, trimming, fertilizing, watering and picking up litter in some parks.

Richland completed and dedicated two new parks this spring. Lewis & Clark Interpretive Overlook gives visitors an opportunity to learn a bit about the corps of discovery’s venture and to gaze upon a stretch of the Columbia River that William Clark and two other expeditioners briefly visited. Jeannette Taylor Park provides the best in street and bowl skateboarding opportunities for skaters and cyclists. Private/public funding in a 6:1 ratio funded this recreational facility. A \$350,000 bequest from a longtime resident who left the money to fund a new park for children seeded the project. **Richland** continues to aggressively pursue state and federal dollars for infrastructure projects and grant monies for operational costs and special projects.

Richland is seeking state funds to help extend infrastructure in the Tri-Cities Science & Technology Park, with the intent of recruiting research and development technology companies to a “research campus.” The city continues to support Washington State University Tri-Cities’ efforts to become a four-year institution. Despite deficit projections, residential and commercial growth continues at a healthy pace, adds Darrington. Housing starts are strong and several businesses are locating or expanding in **Richland**. The city maintains its emphasis on economic diversification.

Region 6, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties
John Sherman, City Supervisor, City of Pullman
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Although Region 6 covers a huge geographic region, the only two city administrators are in **Colfax** and **Pullman**. For that reason the reporting within this space is always going to be a little sparse.

In **Colfax** city administrator Emily Adams reports that the city has just received its Certified Local Government (CLG) for historic preservation purposes. A Historic Preservation Commission is being appointed and an inventory is being conducted of historic structures.

Both **Pullman** and **Colfax** are very worried because **Whitman County** has to make mid-year lay-offs due to budgetary challenges. Because so many of **Whitman County's** residents live within the 16 incorporated cities and towns in the county, they did not qualify for any funding under ESSB 6550. In an effort to build its tax base, the county recently offered **Pullman** two year's worth of unallocated 0.08 sales tax dollars to extend utilities into the **Pullman-Moscow** (Idaho) corridor. This would have generated approximately \$400,000 in revenue. The county also offered to share sales tax 50-50 within the corridor. In exchange the county wanted us to agree never to annex within the corridor. Based upon a study that showed that extending water and sewer services four miles into the corridor would cost over \$14 million, and given our unwillingness to surrender our ability to annex, we turned down the county's offer.

In **Pullman**, city supervisor John Sherman reports that activity is continuing at a very brisk pace. Four of their seven city councilmembers are up for election this year. Five of their six labor contracts expire at the end of the year and accordingly are open for negotiation this year. They recently approved a three-year contract with uniformed police officers that provides for full CPI for 2005-2007 and maintenance of benefits. After getting torched in their recent fire arbitration case they decided it was best to exit stage left through a settlement that they didn't like very well but probably could live with. Under the terms of a recently approved interlocal agreement, they will be taking over fire services and ALS from the WSU fire department effective the middle of May. Eight miles to the east in neighboring Moscow, Idaho, the police employees came to a recent city council meeting to demand union recognition. Idaho is a right-to-work state and the city had denied their union recognition request. Maybe Pullman is better off with PERC than having to deal with such political pressures. Thus far the city hasn't blinked in its denial of union representation.

Construction activity remains strong in 2005 in both the housing and retail sectors. The new property coming on the tax rolls each year is helping to ease the impact of I-747. They will be receiving \$100,000 in backfill funding under the recently approved ESSB 6550. They lost \$1.3 million in their general fund due to the elimination of the MVET but a \$100,000 backfill is better than nothing. The local transportation funds in the new transportation budget will also be greatly appreciated.

Region 7, Adams, Grant, & Lincoln Counties
Ehman Sheldon, City Administrator, City of Othello
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The city of **Othello** has been courting a plastic extrusion company, currently located in **Lakewood**. The city and port district developed a site plan, infrastructure, and financing to build the 150,000 sq. ft. structure that would house the 500 employees. This week the city received a notice that the company would not be relocating for “economic stability and government outsourcing of jobs” reasons. Although this is a shock to all that worked extremely hard, there is a bright side. The city and port district have improved relations, an industrial site has been identified and community demographics have been developed. We are ready for the next company. The city council (mayor/council form of government) has asked that an ordinance be developed putting all city departments under the direction of the city administrator. Changing the form of government discussions have started although not formally yet.

Othello has twice in the last two years asked to voters to approve a 3.8 M and 2.6 M swimming pool bond. Both times it failed. The city through a citizen committee and a partnership with the park and recreation district is putting together a third bond proposal at about 2.5 M. The Columbia Basin, including several cities, are supporting GWAMA (ground water management area) to fund a study that may result in making hard decisions relative to future water resources for the area.

The area city managers/administrators from **Othello, Connell, Pasco, Kennewick, Richland** and **Prosser** meet once a month in **Pasco**. Anyone passing through contact Gary Crutchfield in **Pasco**.

Region 8, Ferry, Pen Oreille, Spokane & Stevens Counties
Lewis “Griff” Griffin, City Administrator, City of Liberty Lake
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From **Airway Heights**, Chuck Freeman, city manager, submits this:

Happy birthday **Airway Heights**! Hard to believe that our little city is turning 50. Instead of looking older with wisps of gray, **Airway Heights** is looking young and vibrant. There is a lot going on. Everywhere you turn, you see new housing, new stores and plans for so much more. Soon there will be new “Welcome to **Airway Heights**” monuments to replace the old, worn out log monuments that have served us for so long. Our 50th year celebration kicked off with a 50’s themed Soc Hop at Sunset School. This will be followed by a family friendly carnival with plenty of music and vendors June 9th – June 12th. On our official birthday, June 28th the city will dedicate a new flag pole in Sunset Park and place a time capsule in its base to be opened on our 100th birthday June 28, 2055. This will be followed with a Mystery Dinner in August, and we will end our celebrations with a Fall Fest in September.

There are five subdivisions in various stages of approval or construction with over 1,200 single housing units planned and one large apartment complex. Parker Toyota, Les Schwab and a high end hotel/motel alternative have been approved and are in the final stages of design. During the 1st quarter of 2005, the city building division has issued twenty-five building permits with a total assessed value of approximately \$1.1 million.

Additionally, the city has been chosen a 2005 and 2006 World Changer site. World Changers is a faith based organization that partners with cities throughout the world renovating low income owner occupied housing scheduled from July 2nd through July 9th. Out of the 24 applications received, we think that we may be able to work on about 12 residences. These have been placed in order of need and approved by city council, and the limitation is due somewhat to the number of student volunteers that will be available. Most of the work to be done will be new roofs and exterior painting. We have had some very preliminary response from vendors such as United Rentals, Waste Management, West Plains Lumber and United Paint for assistance with pricing for materials and services. This is very important as it allows us to work on more homes with our limited budget. Although there are student volunteers for the labor, the city has budgeted a set amount of funds for the purchase of materials. The student housing and food requirements are being managed by local churches, with the **Cheney** School District providing space for the students to stay at one of the schools in **Cheney**. This is going to be a great community development project.

We recently had the opportunity to conduct a Fairchild Focus Group meeting, attended by nine individuals from Fairchild Air Force Base and one individual from SNAP. The purpose was to develop a list of questions to provide in a survey form on our city web page. The questions on the survey will identify what facilities or community service aspects that the city of **Airway Heights** can put in place for the benefit of the base population. This could include new business, recreational or social opportunities. As the survey results are received and compiled, we will be meeting again with the focus group, city council and planning commission to review the results. The list will be used as a tool to establish a course of action on new business development or community development/revitalization based on what is felt to be most important, and what is feasible for the city to implement.

And from far east of Washington, **Liberty Lake**, Lewis "Griff" Griffin, city administrator, reports that things are going fine there. They continue to grow very fast. We issued \$62,243 in residential building permits and \$31,505 in commercial permits in the first quarter of this year. Their first big box store, Home Depot, is scheduled to start construction in June. Huntwood Industries (manufacturer of kitchen and bath cabinets) is nearing completion on their 550,000 thousand sq. ft. facility. They hope to be up and running this fall. Griff thinks they are almost complete with the appeal on their comp plan. They are still in the process of annexation of 600+ acres n/w of the city. Their city spring clean up went well with a record amount of trash hauled off. See you in June in the AWC Conference.

Region 9, Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties
Mike Cecka, Management Consultant
ceckanewhorizons@yahoo.com

Mike Cecka sends greetings from **Leavenworth**. He goes on, as many of you know, I wrapped up a 6 month interim stint for the city of **Leavenworth** earlier this spring. I really enjoyed the time back in my old office, but also liked the idea of handing things over to Rich Brinkman. **Leavenworth** was fortunate to recruit Rich away from **Wenatchee**, where he was director of administrative services, and he's doing a fine job here.

This has freed me up to resume my retirement career, sort of. I still have an involvement with the city of **Leavenworth**, in a volunteer capacity, as chair of the **Leavenworth** Centennial Committee. Our hundredth birthday will occur on September 6, 2006, and we will be holding a big celebration on Labor Day Weekend, 2006. We've got lots of things in the works, and a fun, energetic group working to put it all together. I find I really enjoy going to city council meetings, taking a seat in the audience until it's my turn to report on the project, and then being free to walk out the door.

Thanks to Greg Prothman, I will be maintaining a bit of connection with the profession. After completing the **Leavenworth** interim, Greg invited me to help out with some of his executive searches. I've assisted with a couple of final interview processes, and am doing occasional reference check calls. One recent finalist groups listed a reference from the midwest. The reference was a headhunter himself, and he commented that managers from Washington State have a reputation for excellence in other parts of the country. Comments like that, as well as the esteem of elected officials and peers as expressed in their conversations with me, make this work particularly gratifying.

Just to show that it's not all work and no play, my wife and I will depart June 5 for Alaska, via the Inside Passage. We'll be cruising our 26 foot MacGregor north, as far as Glacier Bay. We plan to take 80 days, and expect to cover about 1500 nautical miles. We'll be able to check e-mail from time to time, so correspondence is invited. (Address is ceckanewhorizon@yahoo.com). I'll answer as soon as possible, and will try to keep Ron Bartels updated on progress.

And Rich Brinkman, new city administrator, brings further word from **Leavenworth**:

The number one priority of the **Leavenworth** city council for 2005-2006 is the downtown improvement project that will include street reconstruction, new sidewalks, additional parking, and a Bavarian street light system. A committee comprised of city and chamber of commerce representatives has initiated the planning stage of the project, with the hope of initial construction beginning in 2006.

Additionally, the city council is currently considering policy on non-motorized vehicles for hire, an ordinance pertaining to flags, flagpoles, towers, tower structures, and related public displays, and an additional utility discount for very low-income residents. City council considerations in the near future will include domestic water reservoir improvements, revisions to sewer surcharges, and an employee wellness program.

The city pool will open early this year to introduce kayak sessions, and the city is working with the **Leavenworth** Rotary Club on improvements to the city's Enchantment Park.

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

Gary Tomsic, city manager in **Blaine** reports that, like all the cities in **Whatcom County, Blaine** is paddling as fast as it can to keep up with the development pressure. The city currently has more than a thousand lots in various stages of review. In addition to the residential pressure, interest in the downtown continues strong. Virtually every parcel of property in the central business district has sold in the last year. The area is beginning to develop into a mixed use area with retail and condominiums. The great water views are making for a hot residential market.

Blaine continues to work toward the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility. The first phase of the project will be under construction this summer. The city just selected the engineering team to complete the final design of the high tech facility.

The first phase of the downtown boardwalk will be bid in the early summer. The city and the Port of **Bellingham** are cooperating to fund a preliminary study to construct a pedestrian overpass from the downtown district to the harbor.

Greg Young, city administrator of **Ferndale** reports that the city and the Lummi Nation have proposed to combine forces for the purpose of fostering economic development. This alliance was recently approved by both councils in the form of an *Accord for Economic Development*. The accord sets out the agreement between the parties to work together for the betterment of both communities.

This historic agreements attempt to find common ground, and was begun by the Lummi purchase of a piece of land near the Slater/Interstate 5 freeway interchange. The tribe is working to convert the land from “fee simple” to “trust”. The conversion of the land to trust status will enable the Lummi to do more on the property than if it was kept in its current legal state. Currently the Lummi have proposed a commercial retail development on the site and a large directional sign advertising the tribal casino a few miles to the west. Given the off-freeway location of their casino, a directional sign makes good business sense.

The land the tribe has purchased is located in an area where the city has spent large sums of money in the last few years to construct roads, utilities, and to generally make the area attractive for new commercial and industrial development. While these efforts have been very successful, the interest by the tribe and the possible trust conversion of a portion of the land could possibly take this property off the tax rolls, thus offsetting some of the investments the city had completed.

The result of this situation lead the city to begin talking with the Lummi about how they both interact and how we might be able to achieve more through cooperation than by conflict. This idea of collaboration originated with our planning director, Tom Black, who had worked for the Lummi and recognized the positive aspects of a collaborative relationship. Based on his initial contacts, the city has been meeting with representatives of the tribe from a couple of months -- the accord is the result of these meetings.

Much work continues to be done. The accord states that we will work together to develop an interlocal agreement that will detail the issues related to trust conversion and the resulting mitigation that might offset the loss of revenue to the city. With this said, it is also understood that a Lummi development in the area of Slater and I-5 will provide jobs and generally increase the economic activity in this portion of the city. We will be working in the coming months on drafting the interlocal agreement that will discuss these and other issues.

Young states that “the ability to work together will be a testament to our ability to unite for a common goal. At the heart of each community there exists a desire to better the lives of our citizens. One way this is achieved is through economic development. Time will tell how successful we will be but we know for certain that many positive results have been achieved through our drafting of the accord.”

In **Lynden**, city administrator Bill Verwolf reports that they are starting up a busy construction season. The final phases of increased storage and conversion to a pumped pressure system that will give higher water pressure is under contract. **Lynden** is installing a new signal at Main Street and 3rd Avenue and the last phase of sewer upsizing to allow development in the east side of the city is will be contracted this month. In addition, thirteen blocks of Grover Street is being rebuilt.

Lynden recently converted their old library building into new council/court chambers and meeting rooms. The city also purchased a building for a new police facility which will be renovated this summer.

A new streetscape plan for **Lynden's** historic downtown is currently being developed in conjunction with a group of business owners.

Welcome also to Eric Stendal who is the new city administrator for the city of **Mount Vernon**.

The managers and administrators in **Whatcom County** are happy to have Malcolm Fleming as a new colleague. Malcolm is the former **Kitsap County** administrator and was appointed chief administrative officer by **Bellingham** Mayor Mark Asmundson.

Malcolm is a graduate of Harvard's JFK School of Government and has 18 years of public policy analysis and municipal management experience.

Region 11, Snohomish County

Larry Bauman, City Manager, City of Snohomish

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No report.

Region 12, North King County

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

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From **Kirkland**, Dave Ramsay, city manager, reports that they're thinking green these days.

They have a number of efforts underway to build on their proud tradition of a great parks system. The successful 2002 park bond unleashed a number of property acquisitions and park improvement projects. The most high profile of these is a master plan for the renovation of Juanita Beach Park that will be the new star for their series of waterfront parks. State funding of \$500,000 for creek restoration will help jump start this project. Under the umbrella of the city - school park partnership program they are working with the school district to convert their playgrounds into parks that are used by the kids during the day and the community on evenings and weekends. It's a great way to add park space without expensive land acquisitions. Recently they entered into a partnership with the Cascade Land Conservancy that they're calling "Green **Kirkland**" that includes a \$400,000 grant. Using a combination of volunteers, city staff and contracts, this stewardship program will focus on removal of invasive plants like ivy and blackberries from their open space lands and parks and follow-up with new plantings. All of these efforts are generating a lot of positive interest and they believe will have some real long-term benefits.

From **Medina**, Doug Schulze, city manager, sends the following report:

Medina is gearing up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its incorporation. With the help of volunteers and event planners, special activities are being planned, which will take place throughout the summer. During the past 50 years, the city has been served by sixteen mayors and ten city managers. **Medina** city hall is still located in the building that once served as a ferry terminal for passengers using the Lake Washington ferry "Leschi" for the 10-minute trip between **Medina** and Leschi Park in **Seattle**.

Reconstruction activity seems to never end in **Medina**. In addition to the typical (?) residential projects, construction of a new **Medina** Elementary School is scheduled to begin shortly after the close of the 2004 - 2005 school year. The project will start with demolition of the current structure, which will be replaced with a completely new \$12 million structure. The new school is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2006 - 2007 school year.

From Sound Transit, and from Joni Earl, executive director, comes the following:

Sound Transit is cooking! Our 2004 ridership for all services exceeded 10 million for the first time, with much more service to come. Our first 14 miles of light rail construction is all under contract, and bids came in six percent *under* engineer's estimate overall. The project is currently trending about 10% under total budget, with 15% of the construction complete. And we are on schedule. At the end of the year, we announced that we have reached agreement with the Port of **Seattle** and the city of **SeaTac** to extend the light rail project another 1.7 miles to the **SeaTac** airport, and be able to open the line by December 2009 in time for the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, B.C. In addition to light rail construction, track and signal improvements for commuter rail are continuing, and we are in the planning and design stage for our **Mukilteo**, South **Tacoma** and **Lakewood** commuter rail stations. We have completed two very successful HOV direct access projects in **Lynnwood** and **Bellevue**; and three more are in construction: Ash Way (I-5); Eastgate (I-90); and **Federal Way** (I-5). Plus other park and ride and transit center projects are in construction or about to go out for bid. It is fun to be building these great projects for the region's mobility. Plus all this construction work is about family wage jobs.

The Sound Transit board just issued a draft long-range plan for 2030, and we are starting a series of public open houses around the region to get public input. The board is slated to adopt the final long-range plan on June 23rd. That is when the real fun begins! We will then start the dialogue with jurisdictions and stakeholders and the general public, on ST2 – which will be the actual project list that may go to the voters in 2006. Lots more to come.

I get to work with so many of the city managers and city administrators in the region, and I want to thank all of you for working with us to make these projects happen.

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

Like all of your cities, there is no lack of things to do in **Woodinville**. Here are a few of the activities.

Bids were awarded for construction of 17 acre resource park near the skate park. This will have about a mile of trails, an outdoor classroom, interpretive signage and creek overlooks. We turned out to be the first to be caught by our new critical areas ordinance. Construction will begin as soon as the hearing examiner has granted the variance for placing boardwalks in the stream setbacks. If you are considering using the reinforced, recycled plastic "lumber" product in a future project, check with us in about three months.

Excitement abounds among wine tourists in anticipation of the new **Woodinville** Wine Village, an 18 acre mixed use development with five small wineries sited across the river from Chateau Ste. Michelle. The excitement is currently more muted among senior staff, who are finding that negotiating the development agreement is about as much fun as digging a ditch and goes about as fast.

The wine village has provided the impetus to resolve the worst traffic choke point in the city with an integrated three roundabout system. The European feel of the roundabouts will work well in the tourist district. The developer and city council were easy sells. We hope WSDOT will cooperate in the same spirit.

Woodinville and **Redmond** city councils have agreed on a joint fireworks show using the site and event template of the annual **Woodinville** show. Staff is working out the logistics and details to get residents from two the cities bussed into one access-challenged site that sits between them.

I am close to finalizing two key land purchases. One is the final parcel to finish off the civic campus and allow about three years of development to give the city hall, community center and community playfields their near-finished look. The other will enable a connecting grid road to ease downtown traffic and foster further commercial and mixed use development.

Public works, parks and planning staff are working on no fewer than five master plans in their “spare” time.

Region 13, South King County

Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, City of Normandy Park

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From **Federal Way**, David Moseley, city manager, reports that they celebrated their 15th anniversary on February 28. It was a great opportunity to look back at everything the city has accomplished over our first decade and a half. They have improved the city’s physical appearance, managed growth, reduced traffic congestion, added parks, reduced crime, and promoted economic development -- just to name a few! Councilmembers and staff are very pleased and look forward to the challenges of the next 15 years.

City staff are busily preparing for Han Woo-Ri, the Northwest Korean Sports and Cultural Festival, this week. Funded by lodging tax revenues, this half-million dollar event will bring performers and athletes from South Korea and other parts of the United States to **Federal Way** to celebrate Korean culture May 12-15. They hope Han Woo-Ri, which is roughly translated as “all united together”, will become a signature annual event for the community.

Speaking of community, they are also waiting for bids to come in for our \$20 million community center project. The center will replace a temporary building the city purchased after

incorporation and an aging “Forward Thrust” pool they acquired from **King County** a few years ago. The new center will feature two swimming pools, gymnasiums, community rooms, a fitness center, and a senior citizen lounge, among other amenities. It will be located in Celebration Park, which is just southwest of their city center.

In addition, staff and contractors will work on a variety of transportation, parks, and surface water projects this summer. Their business community and residents are very happy that we are taking a year’s breather from our efforts to redevelop Pacific Highway the entire length of **Federal Way**. They expect to finish phase two this month, and construction on phase three won’t start until next year.

From **Normandy Park**, Merlin MacReynold, city manager, reports that they have just completed the city’s ninth year of a totally performance pay system for the non police employees. Their current system eliminated all steps and COLA adjustments and employees receive pay increases based upon their evaluations in the first quarter of each year. The system and evaluation forms are much the same as when they started nine years ago. The police officers that are a part of the Guild CBU negotiated out of the system about five years ago.

The city established an economic redevelopment plan for parts of 1st Avenue for **Normandy Park** at the end of last year, and they are already beginning to see the fruits of that labor. A local developer has submitted plans for a mixed use development at about 198th and 1st Avenue, and another is in discussions with them about the site at 200th and 1st Avenue. Mary Ausburn, their new planning and community development manager is very encouraged and has her hands full at this point.

Normandy Park became a city in 1953, Merlin finds that he is surprised and pleased to say that he now hold the record for the longest tenure of any city manager for the city.

From **Renton**, Derek Todd, the assistant there, tells us that even though Jay Covington, chief administrative officer, did not want him to send out this information, he decided that insubordination isn’t necessarily a bad thing. Besides that, says Derek, “We’re pretty proud of him!” The news release from The Municipal League of Seattle is as follows:

The Municipal League of **King County** will recognize Jay Covington, City of **Renton** Chief Administrative Officer, as their 2005 Public Official of the Year during a Civic Award Ceremony on Tuesday, May 17th.

Awards will be presented to the honorees during a Civic Award Ceremony held on Tuesday, May 17th, at 7:30 a.m. at the Westin Hotel in Seattle. If you would like additional details about the event or this award, please contact the Municipal League at 206-622-8333.

Since 1960, the Municipal League has recognized citizens, government leaders, and organizations that work hard to improve the quality of life in the Puget Sound Region.

Each year, civic award nominations are solicited from Municipal League members and the community at large, evaluated by the League's nominations committee, and then approved by the board. The Municipal League Public Official of the Year is an elected or appointed public official or department head who, in addition to routine service, brings one or more outstanding innovations or contributions to their organization.

The League's 2005 Civic Awards showcase the efforts of private and public individuals who inspire, support, and lead in the effort to improve local government. In addition to the Public Official of the Year, their other 2005 awards include Public Employee of the Year, Business of the Year, Organization of the Year, James R. Ellis Regional Leadership Award, and the Doug Mason Memorial Award. For a list of the honorees, visit <http://www.munileague.org/awards/2005/default.htm>.

The specific citation from the Municipal League is:

Public Official of the Year: Jay Covington, CAO, City of Renton

Jay Covington has served for twelve years as Chief Administrative Officer for the City of **Renton**, where he has been active in developing and promoting the long-term economic vitality of the community. In addition to his duties with the city, Jay has served as a Board member, Vice President, and President of the Washington City/County Management Association, and as a Board member of the Association of Washington Cities. He has received several awards for intergovernmental cooperation, and he currently chairs the **King County** City Managers/Administrators Group.

Way to go, Jay!

And of course, **Renton**, having a capability with press releases, put out the following:

Renton's Chief Administrative Officer selected as 2005 Public Official of the Year by Municipal League of **King County** Award to be presented in mid-May

RENTON - As the City of **Renton's** Chief Administrative Officer, Jay Covington, is charged with providing overall management, strategic leadership, and direction to the City. However, he also serves a leader in salmon habitat restoration, helps secure emergency communication facilities and networks in South **King County**, supports community-based partnerships, provides opportunities for at-risk youth, encourages community philanthropy, and has helped guide regional jail issues. While Covington considers this all part of his job, the Municipal League of **King County** has recognized these efforts by selecting him as their 2005 Public Official of the Year for his work to improve local and regional government services.

"Jay's unique ability to bring government entities together to work toward common goals benefits the entire region," said Renton Mayor Kathy Keolker-Wheeler. "His leadership is highly regarded and we are fortunate to have him serving the citizens of **Renton**."

Since coming to work for the City of **Renton** in 1990, Covington has been instrumental in shaping the **Renton** community. He asserts his most successful achievement is working with the City's elected leaders to create a concise Business Plan that provides the strategic framework for a long-term focus. "If you can focus your strategies for several years at a time ... you begin to line up your resources, and it's amazing the kind of change you can effect," notes Covington.

Covington was instrumental in creating a successful economic development program for **Renton**, including creating a more responsive, consistent, and streamlined permitting process that is held up by the Governor's Competitiveness Council and others as the model for regulatory reform.

His initial work in the early 1990's on the Downtown **Renton** Association paved the way for the aggressive redevelopment efforts resulting in over \$25 million in new private and public investments in **Renton's** downtown core. The re-energized downtown now includes a regional transit center, a park-like piazza, a community Performing Arts Center, a city-owned parking garage, new restaurants, and several mixed-use development projects containing housing and retail. Additionally, he supports the nationally recognized "**Renton. Ahead of the Curve**" community marketing campaign.

These efforts, combined with a diversified employment base, have helped Renton lead the region in economic growth. Since 1994, the City's sales tax collections have increased 75% to \$16.6 million and total assessed value has grown 85%, from \$3.4 billion to \$6.4 billion. Renton's population has also jumped 26% to over 55,000 residents living in the fifth largest city in **King County**.

In late 2003, Covington worked out a development agreement with The Boeing Company as it relates to redevelopment and infrastructure investment on their property. These regulations set the stage for what will one day be a vibrant mixed-use community as Boeing consolidates its operations.

Covington is known in **Renton** for his support of community-based partnerships. He helped create the **Renton** Community Foundation in 1998, and he continues to serve as a Board member (to date, that organization has raised over \$5 million in local charitable contributions that have been reinvested in the **Renton** community). He was a founding Board member and officer for Communities in Schools of **Renton**, where he continues service as a Board member to champion the connection of community resources with schools to help young people. "Next to ensuring that traditional city services are delivered efficiently and effectively, it is also vital that our next generation is raised to become successful, productive adults," observes Covington. In 1999, Covington helped develop a unique partnership between the community, the City, the **Renton** School District, and the **Renton** Community Foundation to secure a Community Performing Arts Center for **Renton** that included a \$1.5 million fundraising effort. "When public agencies are able to leverage resources and coordinate common spaces and facilities, we can deliver extraordinary value to our community," said Covington.

He is also active in the local Chamber of Commerce, has served as a Board member, and in 2001 received the Chairman's Award for his volunteer service to the Renton business community.

Regionally, Covington has served on a number of County-wide task forces charged with improving local service efficiency and effectiveness. He was instrumental in negotiating a jail contract with **Yakima County** on behalf of 35 **King County** cities. The contract with **Yakima County** collectively saves the 35 cities approximately 3 million dollars annually and guarantees booking capacity with **Yakima**.

Covington has been involved in the management of this region's salmon recovery efforts for years. Shortly after Chinook and other salmon species were listed as threatened, Covington helped develop basin-wide interlocal agreements to govern and direct efforts to protect and restore salmon habitat in the central Puget Sound and provide funding oversight for salmon habitat planning, projects, and activities. He currently serves on the Management Committee, Steering Committee, and Forum for Water Resource Inventory Area 9 in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed.

Covington's leadership was instrumental in gaining and maintaining support for constructing a new state-of-the-art facility for Valley Communications Center, the regional 9-1-1 center in South **King County** serving 27 public safety agencies, including the City of **Renton's** Police and Fire Departments. Nearly 650,000 citizens in an area of approximately 350 square miles, including several South **King County** communities, benefited from his efforts and will be able to enjoy a reliable emergency communications center designed to support 20 years of service.

Professionally, Covington is a member of the International City/County Management Association and has served as a Board member, Vice President, and President of the Washington City/County Management Association, where he received several awards for intergovernmental cooperation. He was also a Board member of the Association of Washington Cities and currently chairs the **King County** City Managers/Administrators Group to discuss current and emerging issues common to cities.

Covington grew up in Southeastern Idaho, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Finance and a Master of Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University, where he graduated with honors. He is active as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America, and serves as lay minister for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He and his wife, Sharee, have one son, Cody, who is eleven.

The Municipal League will present the 2005 Public Official of the Year award during a Civic Award Ceremony on Tuesday, May 17th, at 7:30 a.m. at the Westin Hotel in **Seattle**. Other awards to be presented at the Ceremony include Citizen of the Year, Public Employee of the Year, Business of the Year, Organization of the Year, the James R. Ellis Regional Leadership Award, and the Doug Mason Memorial Award. For more information about the Municipal League visit www.munileague.org.

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

From **Dupont**, Bill McDonald, city administrator, sends this report. The city of **Dupont** is growing at a torrid pace. The unofficial April 2004 number is 5412 residents. That is up from 4400 in 2003. They will be over 6000 by the end of the year. They added 85 million dollars in residential and commercial new construction value in 2004. The city is starting a process to design a civic center that will house all city facilities. The first installment will be a critically needed public safety building for the police and fire departments. The city council will appoint two new councilmembers in June as a "reward" for crossing the 5000 population threshold. A new golf course is under construction and will open in 2007

May 10th, 2005, the **Fife** city council appointed Steve Worthington as city manager. Steve has served as acting city manager since the former manager, Bill Malinen, departed in January. Steve has been with the **Fife** since 1998 as community development director and was previously with the **Cheney** in the same role.

Fife's growth continues in manufacturing and commercial businesses. Three additional vehicle dealerships have opened this year and a recent annexation added a new RV dealership into the city. Residential building is well underway with a new single-family building permit on the average being submitted each day. Soon, the less than one thousand existing single-family homes in **Fife** will be matched with newly constructed single-family homes.

From **Gig Harbor**, city administrator Mark Hoppen reports that they are anticipating a new Costco; a new Franciscan hospital, St. Anthony's; and a new lifestyle retail center, including a structured parking garage, a ten-theatre complex, a woman's health center and spa, and a major bookstore, as well as several eating establishments and other assorted retail operations. Earlier this year, the city obtained additional water rights, sufficient for the next dozen or so years. The mayoral seat and four council seats will be up for election in November. The State of Washington Office of Archeology and Historical Preservation awarded two special awards this year: one for the restoration of the State Capitol Building; the other for the preservation of the Eddon Boat property in downtown **Gig Harbor**. Local voters passed a \$3.5 million bond to acquire the historic boatyard. By the way, the Ed in Eddon was my dad, and the boatyard property was my home until my dad sold it in the mid '70s.

Scott Huntley is communications supervisor for **Tacoma** and contacted us to be sure we were aware of an initiative that has been taken there by Jim Walton, city manager. It's called "Breakthrough Change," and can be accessed through the **Tacoma** website. To take a look, go to:



Breakthrough
Change.doc

This one gives a general view of the program. The other item is more on the same subject, and can be found at:



Change teams
refining scopes, appri

As you know, the **Tacoma** website is very sophisticated.

From the counties

*Claire Hauge, Director of the Office of Financial Management, Cowlitz County
President, Washington County Administrative Association
haugec@co.cowlitz.wa.us*

Newly elected president of WCAA (Washington County Administrative Association) Claire Hauge, director, office of financial management for **Cowlitz County**, reports as follows:

Thanks Ron for contacting WCAA and allowing us to connect with WCMA. Here is a short summary of what our group has been up to recently:

Washington County Administrative Association (WCAA) is an affiliate organization of Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) whose purpose is to "promote effective administrative systems, including: county program management, budgeting, finance, and additional functions that cross departmental lines." This year we have 36 members representing 26 counties, MRSC and WSAC. Our members have a wide range of duties including county management & administration, operations, finance and budget management, human resource management, legislative analysis and lobbying, capital asset management, policy development, and much, much more! The membership drive is continuous; there is still time for those counties that haven't yet sent a representative to join. WCAA has a lot to offer and chances are that our members have something to learn from you!

WCAA held its annual winter meeting in Leavenworth March 23-25, 2005. Officers were elected: Claire Hauge (OFM Director, Cowlitz County), President; Doug Cochran (County Administrator, Yakima County), Vice President; and Larry Keeton (Chief of Staff, Lewis County), Secretary/Treasurer. Out-going President, Glen Chipman (Chief Financial Officer, Klickitat County) will also serve on the Executive Board. The program speaker was Attorney Hugh Spitzer of Foster Pepper & Shefelman, PLLC, who provided a very informative history of county government in Washington State. Mr. Spitzer practices law in Seattle, specializing in public finance and municipal government. Round table and general discussions were enlightening as well.

Next meetings:

June 9, 2005 in Ellensburg, WA; the round table discussion will include a legislative wrap session including the new face of mental health and the 2005-2007 state budget, impacts to counties.

September 20-23, Vancouver, WA; quarterly business meeting & fall budget roundtable.

March 22-24, 2006, Leavenworth, WA: annual business meeting & training.

Transitions

The Tacoma City Council has selected **Eric Anderson** as the new city manager. He is currently city manager of Des Moines, Iowa. Newspaper reports indicate a next step will be the negotiation of an employment agreement.

Richard Brinkman is the new city administrator of Leavenworth. He was formerly the director of administrative services for Wenatchee

Mike Cecka has returned to retirement following a stint as interim city administrator of Leavenworth.

Mike Caldwell is serving as the interim city manager of Mill Creek.

John Doan, former assistant city administrator of Sumner, is now the city administrator there.

Connie Fessler, city manager of Mountlake Terrace, has resigned.

Malcolm Fleming, WCMA Vice President, is now the chief administrative officer of Bellingham. He was formerly county administrator of Kitsap County.

George Fox is now the city manager of Ridgefield.

Bob Gregory, formerly assistant city manager of Longview, is now the city manager there.

Claire Hauge, director, office of financial management for Cowlitz County, is the new president of WCAA, the Washington Counties Administrative Association. She replaces **Glen Chipman**, chief financial officer, Klickitat County, in that role.

Scott Hugill, administrative services director of Mountlake Terrace, has agreed to serve as interim city manager for one month.

Al Locke has returned to the northwest from his annual soujourn to Palm Springs. He also reports having a new e-mail address. It's aljeaneynel@earthlink.net. And don't forget, he's one of the rangeriders.

Bill Malinen departed as city manager of Fife in January.

Andy Neiditz, who was formerly city administrator of Sumner, is the new city manager of Lakewood.

Lynn Nordby, formerly city administrator of Bainbridge Island, and now a consultant with MuniFinancial, has been designated an Honorary Life Member of WCMA.

Glenn Rice, assistant city manager of Yakima, has retired. That's after 26 years with Yakima. He was also recently designated an Honorary Life Member of WCMA.

Ehman Sheldon, city administrator in Othello, has once again agreed to be the regional representative for WCMA in Region 7, which is comprised of Counties.

Eric Stendal is the new administrative officer of Mount Vernon.

Frank Sweet, city supervisor of Selah, has agreed to take on the regional representative function for District 4 of WCMA, which is Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties. He replaces Glenn Rice.

Lee Walton is serving as the interim city administrator of Arlington.

Steve Worthington initially served as acting city manager of Fife, and has now been named the permanent city manager. He was formerly community development director of Fife, and occupied the same position in Cheney before that.

WCMA Officers and Board Members

President	David Ramsay, City Manager, Kirkland (425) 587-3001 dramsay@ci.kirkland.wa.us
Vice President	Malcolm Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, Bellingham (360) 676-6979 malcolm@cob.org
Past President	Rich Conrad, City Manager, Mercer Island (206) 236-5325 rich.conrad@ci.mercer-island.wa.us
Secretary-Treasurer	Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director of MRSC (206) 625-1300 ryukubousky@mrsc.org

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(2003 – 2005)

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2005 Calendar

- **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

2006 Calendar

- **Northwest Management Conference (WCMA and Oregon ICMA)**, March 14 -- 17, 2006, Welches Lodge near Mount Hood
- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 2- -- 23, 2006, Red Lion Grand Hotel, Spokane
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference**, August 22 -- 26, 2006, Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, Washington
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, September 10 -- 13, 2006, San Antonio/Bexar County, Texas

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