



Volume 17, No. 2, August 2005

President's Message

One of the “opportunities” that comes along with being the WCCMA President is a seat on the Board of Directors for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). In addition, the Past President (our very own Rich Conrad) also sits on the Board. We’re the only two non-elected officials on the Board and I think that it says a lot about the positive relationships that we as a profession have with our Mayors and City Council Members.

I’ve just returned from the AWC Board Retreat that was held in La Conner. I found it very interesting and thought I would devote this column to some thoughts about the AWC and how it relates to our jobs. While I think we’re all fairly familiar with AWC; it’s not until you spend a focused amount of time discussing the agency and its future that you really come to appreciate the scope and value of its services.

The knowledge, skills and yes even humor of Stan Finkelstein, AWC’s Executive Director was once again very evident at the Retreat. As Stan constantly points out, we are all very fortunate to have an outstanding AWC staff led by three high quality Assistant Directors namely Mike McCarty, Operations and Services; Jim Justin, Intergovernmental Relations and Paul Chasco, Insurance Services. The talent and experience of their staff is also exceptional.

The scope of AWC’s services is very impressive. We all see the Intergovernmental Services staff in action during the Legislative Sessions. In any given session the six lobbyists are dealing with 500 – 700 measures and testifying on up to 200 of them. Interestingly, 75 – 80% of their work is on the defensive. In addition to the Weekly Legislative Bulletin and Action Calls, they also put on the Annual City Legislative Action Conference. All of these products are of top quality and this is confirmed by Legislators who consistently rate the AWC team as the best in Olympia.

Speaking of top quality, we are very fortunate to have the broad array of Member Services provided by AWC staff. This starts with the great conferences and regional meetings. The dramatic increase in attendance at the Labor Relations Institute speaks to the value of the training programs provided. In addition to on-going member support, they provide such helpful products

as the on-line salary survey, Job Net, Grant Alert and reports like the very well done State of the Cities Report. A major emphasis of the staff is on small city services. To illustrate the importance of this service, 62% of the State's 281 cities have a population of fewer than 5,000. Their issues and needs can be significantly different than medium and large cities and this can be a real challenge.

Where would we be without the Insurance Services provided by AWC? The Employee Benefit Trust provides health related benefits for 241 of our cities. Complimenting these benefits are the Wellness and Employee Assistance programs that place an important emphasis on healthy lifestyles. AWC also provides other insurance services including the Risk Management Service Agency, the Drug and Alcohol Consortium and the Worker Compensation Retrospective Rating Program. Just imagine all of our cities trying to provide this kind of coverage on our own.

The AWC Retreat was a great opportunity to learn more about these services and focus on where we can place additional emphasis. I also came away thinking about ways for WCCMA to work even closer with AWC to both benefit from their high quality services and provide support where needed. Perhaps this could be a topic for a future conference. In the meantime, we should all feel very fortunate to have such a valuable resource as AWC working on our behalf!

On a closing note, I've appreciated the opportunity to be your WCCMA President. Participating on the AWC Board was only one of the interesting activities in which I had the chance to participate. I think that we made a good start on the "Next Generation" issue and hopefully we can continue to focus on this important topic. I wish Malcolm all the best in his Presidency and look forward to working with him for the betterment of this "challenging profession of ours."

Dave Ramsay, WCMA 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.

And please don't forget:

WCMA Summer Conference, August 16-19, 2005, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop, Washington. Please call 1-800-572-0493 for reservations (though the discount reservation period has ended). Conference registration materials are available on the WCMA website.

See you at Sun Mountain!

WCMA is an affiliate of the International City/County Management Association, an organization devoted to enhancing the proficiency of city managers, county managers, and other municipal administrators, and strengthening the quality of an urban government through improved professional management.

*Ron Bartels, Editor, WCMA News
Public Policy and Management Consultant
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Need Advice or Help?

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 ICMA:

Mitch Wasserman, city administrator, **Clyde Hill**, sends the following from ICMA along, with the suggestion that it be prominently displayed. And since your editor agrees with him, here it is:

Smaller City Opportunity You Can't Refuse

Are you part of a city under 10,000 in population and believe in good management? If a little voice just said yes then I've got a great opportunity for you and your organization. Your community could be included on the ground floor of developing a Performance Measurement Program for Smaller Communities through the ICMA Center for Performance Measurement.

ICMA's Center for Performance Measurement (CPM) currently assists over 100 larger cities and counties in the United States and Canada with the collection, analysis and application of performance information. CPM has recently formed regional performance consortia to identify similarities and differences in performance on specific measures within the region, as well as compare regional performance to performance nationwide. The Seattle metro area is one of only two regional consortiums to develop thus far.

To continue efforts in encouraging performance measurement, CPM is in the process of developing CPM-Smaller Communities, an option of participation for all local governments with a population less than 10,000. CPM recognizes that smaller jurisdictions often have limited resources. Among other things there are budget and staff constraints that may make it a challenge to participate in such an in-depth program as CPM. Thus, CPM proposes to offer to small communities all the services provided to other participants, but with the following modifications:

- **Annual fee reduced by 50% (from \$5,000 to \$2,500)**
- **No fee for remote training (a savings of \$3,900 compared to on-site training)**
- **Focus on 10 or fewer service areas**
- **Emphasis on core measures (10-20 measures per service area)**

Core measures are chosen from among measures contained in the existing CPM data-collection templates. These core measures provide smaller communities with a uniform and broad set of measures from which to identify high performers and their effective practices, and provide greater consistency in the use of similar or identical measures already in use by some jurisdictions in the region or with similar populations.

We'd like your input and participation at no initial cost as we fine-tune this program. If

you think your jurisdiction might be interested in participating in CPM please send an e-mail to cpmmail@icma.org. If you have any questions or would like more information on the Center, please contact CPM staff at cpmmail@icma.org, 202/962-3562, or visit them at www.icma.org/performance.

As city managers we intuitively know how helpful performance measures can be. There is now an opportunity for smaller communities to be able to afford this important management tool and secure information on both a regional and a national basis. Contact the folks from the ICMA Center for Performance Measure

And now, the news:

Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties
Lynn Nordby, Consultant
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From **Port Angeles**, city manager Mike Quinn tells us the city has been real busy this year with a host of projects related to their growth spurt. While not much when compared with too many cities in the Puget Sound area, **Port Angeles** has added 500 new development lots in the last 18 months where they previously averaged only a dozen or less. This current spurt has overloaded their permit and inspection services where they have had to expand to keep up with the demand and good customer service. Effective June 30th, they also had their first major annexation in over a decade involving 385 acres of industrial land that will be used for an industrial park. The first tenant is the **Port Angeles** Hardwoods Mill with 100 new jobs, and they are working with other companies of interest. The city has promised to expand utilities (water, sewer, and electricity) to the area by November 1 as a \$5.5 million project. On another front, they are finishing their last international exchange with their USAID project in Berau, Indonesia this August when 10 of the officials from Berau visit **Port Angeles**. They have been helping that community in the areas of solid waste collection, drainage, and anti-litter education. This is the last of seven such exchanges between the two staffs over the last 18 months.

Lynn Nordby, the Region 1 representative for WCMA (and a second generation city manager/administrator type), found the following that may be of interest. Mike Parness, the subject of the story, is now city manager of **Walnut Creek**, California, but once upon a time was one of us as administrative assistant to the mayor of **Renton**. And by the way, Mike also happens to be a second generation city manager. Here's the story that appeared in [The Contra Costa Times](#):

CITY BEAT: WEST COUNTY

Official's wit eases tensions

Walnut Creek City Manager Mike Parness has a way with crowds.

Deftly deflecting past criticism of a suggestion to sell a portion of property granted the city as

park land, he assured Walnut Heights residents that idea was "off the table" and even cracked a joke to lighten the group's once-agitated mood.

Barry Lar Rieu, whose late mother, Miriam Lar Rieu, willed the 10-acre parcel to the city, said he worried that concerts on the site might be too loud. He suggested creating a list of allowable groups, such as chamber music ensembles.

"You don't need to be too specific," Parness quipped. "We already have an ordinance against more than 12 bagpipes at one time."

Region 2, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Thurston Counties
David Campbell, City Manager, City of Chehalis
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In **Centralia**, J. D. Fouts, city manager, reports that the police department has begun the transition from one K-9 unit (dog and handler) to another. The costs of the K-9 program in **Centralia** are supported by donations from the community. Their team is the only one in **Lewis County** and is called out by other jurisdictions on occasion.

The city is in the process of updating its parks and recreation plan, taking user surveys and holding public workshops.

The downtown building facade improvement program continues to be popular and successful.

Centralia's summer activities have included music concerts in the parks, parades, and holiday vaudeville and fireworks shows.

In **Chehalis**, Dave Campbell, city manager, came oh-so-close to gaining the required 60% approval from the voters in February for a new police-fire-municipal court building. Unfortunately, 58.3% "yes" doesn't count in general obligation bond measures. The city might try to acquire the proposed site anyway, before its option expires, and address how to finance the necessary remodeling of the building that's there now at a later time.

A major annexation project has been underway in **Chehalis** for several months. Since Dave has been with the city, they have evaluated the potential annexation of the industrial park south of the current city limits several times, and it finally pencils out from a cost-revenue standpoint. It would add only about 400 new residents to the city, but would increase its square mileage by about 40% and double its assessed value. The city has served the area with water and sewer utilities for many years.

On the north end of **Chehalis**, the long-planned and much-debated new wastewater treatment plant is finally under construction; the design is nearly done for four roundabouts to relieve traffic congestion in the city's primary retail area; and a purchase-and-sale agreement has been

negotiated with a long-time local car dealership for a portion of surplus city land located adjacent to I-5. There is speculation that that could eventually result in **Chehalis** becoming the "Little **Fife of Lewis County**."

In **Lacey**, Greg Cuoio, city manager, water issues are currently dominating the landscape. As a result of total coliform readings over a number of months, they made the transition from having the largest untreated system in the state (serving 55,000 people) to delivering chlorinated water at the cost of \$2 million. The tastebud shock might have been more dramatic than the sticker shock.

On the heels of the chlorination, a shortage of water rights is now confronting **Lacey**. Rapid community growth while waiting in line at the DOE water store for ten years finally caused them this year to advise landowners and developers that they would not be able to issue certificates of water availability for new development. That pretty much caught everyone's attention. The problem continues to be worked on, but obtaining new rights is not an easy task.

Greg is comforted somewhat by the pending opening of several big box stores and other retail development; a healthy general fund budget often improves one's outlook on water-related issues.

In **Yelm**, Shelly Badger, city administrator, reports "Life is busy." She has been with the city for 20 years, and this year they retained the title of fastest growing city in **Thurston County**. Many people from Central Puget Sound are moving to Southern Puget Sound for the lower housing prices. At this time they're reviewing a proposed 220-acre development for master plan approval. It would add about 1,000 new homes over the next ten years.

On the infrastructure front, **Yelm** received funding commitments for design and right-of-way acquisition for a major road construction project aimed at increasing traffic safety and capacity. However, the money comes from the gas tax increase approved by the state legislature this year, so the fall election ballot will have something to say about that, too. Yelm has two new 500,000-gallon water tanks, one delivering potable drinking water, and one supplying reclaimed water via "purple pipe" to **Yelm** High School and other users, conserving millions of gallons of potable water every year.

Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties
Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas
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Lloyd Halverson, city administrator, **Camas**, reports that he's been overseas for a bit, so this is the reason for the late response. The co-operation with the Poles continues very well and exceeds expectations. Lloyd says, "Thanks again to WCMA for symbolic support and for the \$500 contribution toward the local government seminar (which was quite successful)."

Lloyd says further, "I can see clearly now." The popular song with these lyrics provides a summary of the success of co-operative efforts between US and Polish Cities. Two features of this July's collaboration were an English language summer camp, and a local government seminar. Both activities were held partner cities in Poland. US professionals took part in the activities, and the teamwork with Polish host communities was great. Here's a sketch of the two projects:

The local government seminar was held July 18-20 in the city of Krapkowice, Oppole Province, Southwest Poland. Local government officials, US and Polish experts were the participants. The seminar was entitled: "Improving Local Government and Growing the Economy". Bill McDonald (**Dupont** city administrator) ably contributed to the seminar. Joe Kalinowski, an experienced high tech executive, presented on the subject of what investors want and expect from localities. The seminar is an activity foreseen in a partnership agreement signed in May 2004 between partner cities including **Camas**, WA, **Hillsboro**, OR, three Polish, two German, one Czech and one Ukrainian cities. All the partner cities participated in the seminar. The seminar attracted positive attention in the regional media, and support from the US embassy. WCMA endorsed the effort and contributed \$500 toward the effort. The Oregon Association made a like contribution.

The English language summer camp was a second major collaboration. The three week residential camp was held in a partner community in Central Poland. Four professional native English-speaking teachers from **Camas** High School volunteered their time. Two **Camas** High youth assistants were part of the team. Scott Higgins, **Camas** council member was a participating supporter of the project. The students were sixty 16-19 year-olds from participating partner communities. The majority were Poles; the group also included students from partner communities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany and Ukraine. The camp built English language skills, provided exposure to US culture and was very concrete collaboration across borders, and between collaborating partner cities.

The organization of the two projects took time and great teamwork between the Polish and the US side. There were many details. The joint commitment to make it all work drove the projects to success. There was fun to it all. The projects positively touched lives and were very successful. I can see this clearly now.

Your correspondent from **Camas** (and occasionally elsewhere).

Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties
Frank Sweet, City Supervisor, City of Selah
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From **Selah**, city administrator Frank Sweet reports that they have approved a partnership with Greater **Yakima** Girls Softball Association (GYGSA) to renovate Carlon Park in the amount of

\$ 1,107,928. GYGSA has committed \$ 100,000 to the project. The project will go to bid and construction fall 2005 and be ready for play May 2006. The new complex will be four fields for girls fast pitch with all the amenities.

The following comes from Rosie Rumsey, CMC, clerk-treasurer of **Wapato**. Thanks, Rosie!

The city of **Wapato** has a few new businesses. A small Mexican restaurant, Villa Del Mar, specializing in Mexican seafood dishes in addition to all of the traditional selections opened up early summer. Also George's American-Mexican Food adds a variety of American soups, sandwiches, Americanized pastas and traditional Mexican dishes. The Northwest Learning Center has moved into the commercial business district filling one of the vacant buildings. First Choice Pawn opened its doors late June; El Ojo de Agua offers fresh fruit flavored water, fruit cocktails, and sno-cones; Lamas Pool Hall opened up July 1; and finally Faster Tune-UP opened up July 6.

The city's Community Development Block Grant Early Learning Center is finished. Washington State Migrant Council has been contracted to run the programs out of the 6,000 square foot facility. An open house is in the planning stages.

Helping combat graffiti, the city's new police chief can be seen from time to time with the trustees painting out graffiti. The city is taking on a new look.

Wapato is welcoming all **Yakima** Valley cities the weekend of July 29, 30 and 31 for the annual swim team championships hosted by the **Wapato** Whales. The chamber of commerce is sponsoring the first annual "Day of Fun in the Sun" on July 30 at **Wapato** City Lions Park. Events include the championship swim meet beginning at 8:00 a.m. and going through 11:00 p.m.; Various food vendors; artists, city wide yard sale and K-9 Union Raffle.

Last but not least, the city is in the final stages for its first **Wapato** city park plan which includes, four softball fields, two adult soccer fields, three youth soccer fields, two basketball courts bar-b-q areas throughout the 57 acre property. The city received a \$50,000 Jeldwen Grant in 2003. **Wapato** contracted out with Buchar Willis to draw up a park plan. The plan that was presented to council will be displayed in various choice locations throughout the community for public input. The comments will be taken up for consideration, back to the drawing board for final adjustments to the plan. **Wapato** hopes to approve the final plan mid fall.

The following report comes to us from **Yakima**:

Downtown **Yakima** Not Down Anymore

The mid to late 1990's were tough on downtown **Yakima**. First, major retailers J.C. Penney and Nordstrom, long-time fixtures downtown, left the market. A short time later, The Bon Marche announced plans to leave the downtown **Yakima** mall, where it had been since the 1970's, and

move to a suburban shopping center. Ultimately, due to the exodus of anchor retailers, the **Yakima** mall closed. Other small businesses dependant on the foot traffic that the mall attracted, shuttered their doors. While downtown **Yakima** wasn't dead, it certainly was on life support.

But today, new life is being breathed into downtown **Yakima**.

With strong community support, seed funding from the Washington state legislature, federal economic development incentive programs, an emphasis on historic preservation, and renewed interest from private investors, downtown **Yakima** is transforming itself into the primary cultural and entertainment destination in central Washington.

In 2004, community leaders, elected officials, business owners and others developed the multi-year, multi-phase "downtown **Yakima** futures initiative." At the core of the plan is the idea that private investment in **Yakima's** downtown would follow public investment. The first step, then, was to find a way to pay for improvements to streets, sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping that would spark development.

Yakima looked west to **Olympia** for help.

"We put a full-court press on the Legislature," said Mary Place, a **Yakima** city council member and immediate past president of the Association of Washington Cities. "We had someone from **Yakima**, whether it was an elected official, a business owner, a community booster...just someone from **Yakima**...calling legislators, appearing before committees, meeting with senators and house members, just being visible all the time," said Place. "We were committed to making our case in **Olympia** that the viability of downtown **Yakima** is important to the viability of Washington state."

The relentless efforts paid off. In April, the legislature approved nearly \$5 million dollars, some from the state's capital budget and some from the state's transportation budget, for Phase 1 of the downtown **Yakima** futures initiative.

"This money is going to change downtown **Yakima** in a big way," said George Pechtel, a member of the North Front Street Merchants Association and a key player in securing the state funding. "Our vision is to turn the downtown, particularly Historic North Front Street and **Yakima** Avenue, into a destination point for visitors and for people who live here. With the money that the legislature provided, we'll be able to get a good start," said Pechtel.

The group behind the "downtown **Yakima** futures Initiative" plans to go back to the legislature over the next 4 to 5 years to seek more funding for additional phases.

Yakima has also been aggressive in tapping others sources of public funding to kick start downtown development.

The city used a portion of its community development block grant (“CDBG”) allocation from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) to attract two major call centers to the downtown core in the last two years. Both Adaptis, a financial services support provider, and Maytag, the international appliance manufacturer, received CDBG incentive grants that are tied to the two call centers meeting annual goals for new job creation.

The city also utilized another HUD program, the “section 108” loan program, to provide a low-interest loan to a local developer who is building an up-scale hotel on part of the former **Yakima** mall property. The 100-plus room, nearly \$12 million Downtown **Yakima** Hilton Garden Inn is slated to open in early 2006.

“It’s a real challenge, given the restrictive laws in Washington state, to find ways to provide incentives for private business investment,” said the city’s community and economic development director Bill Cook. “But we have been innovative in how we have utilized our limited resources. We’re starting to see real, tangible success now. Thanks to very creative city staff and very visionary council members, we’ve been able to make the most of what we have to work with,” said Cook.

About two years ago, the city received a “renewal community” designation which allows businesses within certain areas of town, primarily the downtown core, to be eligible for federal tax breaks for expansion, purchase of new equipment, and/or other efforts that result in business growth. Several businesses have already taken advantage of the program.

The city also recently formed its first-ever historic preservation commission which will review restoration proposals from owners of historic structures. If the commission gives its stamp of approval, owners who restore old buildings downtown will be eligible to apply for property tax breaks.

“Property tax breaks can make a real difference in convincing owners to refurbish old buildings,” said Cook. “We have quite a few beautiful old buildings downtown that have been covered up for years by aluminum siding or some other less-attractive exterior. Since we first announced the formation of the historic preservation commission earlier this year, we’ve had a lot of interest from building owners who want to be part of revitalizing downtown **Yakima**,” said Cook.

There are other signs that downtown **Yakima** is rebounding as well. The non-profit Capitol Theatre board of directors, is moving forward with an ambitious plan to build a smaller, more intimate performance venue to compliment the 1500-plus seat Capitol, and to develop a plaza/shopping complex across the street from the main theatre.

An historic café is being renovated. A former church was purchased by a group of investors and has been reborn as a site for music performances (because of its excellent acoustics) and as a wine-themed tourist attraction. A wine tasting room recently opened in the 1930’s art deco Larson Building, joining 4 other wine/microbrew establishments that have all located in downtown **Yakima** in the last 3 years.

“Downtown **Yakima** is coming back to life,” said city manager Dick Zais. “The ‘downtown futures initiative,’ the HUD programs, the private investment...all of those things and more have to work hand in hand to reshape downtown **Yakima**, to take us into the next era of prosperity,” said Zais.

“Like all cities, our downtown is the core, the heart of our community. Our downtown is also the heart of central Washington,” said Zais.

“For **Yakima** to be healthy, for the entire **Yakima** Valley to be healthy, and for our region to be healthy, downtown **Yakima** has to be healthy. Our community...legislators, local elected officials, community leaders, business owners, investors...are all rallying to the cause. With that kind of support, downtown **Yakima** is well on its way to recovery,” said Zais.

Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties
Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco
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Art Tackett, city administrator, **Connell**, reports they are currently closing out their \$5 million water improvement project. The city has also been notified that it has received approval of its grant application from IAC for purchase of additional property and swimming pool enhancements, something that everyone in a small town looks forward to when it is 100 degrees outside. Word has been received that construction on the expansion of the Coyote Ridge Correction Center will begin sometime next spring. It is anticipated that it will take two years to construct this facility. Staff is working on a \$179 million project will be the largest construction project that the city has ever had; will probably keep the staff off of the streets. Other than that it has been a relatively quiet summer, just the usual wheat trucks falling into a sewer sink hole and other normal summer activities. Hope all of you are having a good summer.

In **Kennewick**, city manager **Bob Hammond** reports they continue scramble to make ends meet, especially within the general fund. Council chose not to pursue implementation of the new ambulance revenue legislation. Their citizens have made it clear that they want to go back to the monthly fee that was in place before the state Supreme Court determined it to be an invalid tax. Council does not see the new legislation accomplishing what the citizens desire. They are in the middle of negotiations with four of their five unions with a settlement reached with the operating engineers (made up primarily of public works and parks division employees). Growth continues with building permit activity a little lower than last year at this time but still near the historical trends of the past several years where they’ve added about \$100 million in assessed valuation annually. They depend heavily on their sales tax base and that is tracking slightly ahead of budget. Council has adopted a schedule to annex all of their remaining county island areas and a couple of larger areas just outside the present city boundary but within the urban growth area. They expect all of those areas to be within the city boundaries within the next five years. Drought is a big issue as it has grave impacts on the agriculture industry within **Benton County** and also impacts tens of thousands of homes where irrigation water is not available for yards and

other landscaping. Some turn to city water for that but they find that most will not pay the higher cost and let their yards burn up or at least apply just enough water to keep the root system alive. Recently completing the first phase of their water filter plant upgrade project has placed them in a reasonably solid position to meet water demands, primarily out of the Columbia River where the drought situation is better than the lower Yakima River. While their 6,000 seat arena continues to be a financial challenge, the situation was helped with the long term signing of their WHL hockey team with a local ownership group. Their new indoor football team, the Tri-Cities Fever, played host for the NIFL championship game (which they also won!), so that should also be a positive financially for the facility.

Growth in **Pasco** continues on a track similar to the last few years, reports city manager Gary Crutchfield, as both housing and commercial development for the first half of the year is keeping pace with the record set in 2004. The city's capital improvement plan is dominated by projects intended to ease the growing traffic congestion (but nothing like the wet side, yet). **Pasco** taxpayers scored a major win as the city and port have collaborated to jointly develop a new fire station at the Tri-Cities Airport; the project is jointly financed with the FAA and will result in a contemporary station in a strategic location for half the cost the city was facing on its own. **Pasco's** "pit bull" regulation became effective July 1 and the city has not yet been "served"; in the meantime, more than 64 pit bulls have been surrendered to (or been "found" by) Tri-Cities Animal Control by owners who do not want to provide the insurance and containment measures required. And **Pasco's** long suffering rental licensing program has another year to wait for full clearance, as the Apartment Owners Association appealed to the State Supreme Court the Court of Appeals decision which rejected all of their arguments. They hope for finality next summer, after eight years of legal battle.

Richland honored United States Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Doc Hastings during an August 2 dedication of the first phase of its State Route 240 Bypass Sound Wall, reports **Richland** city manager John Darrington. The ceremony also included groundbreaking for phase II of the three-phase project, which is designed to provide neighborhood residents with relief from the highway's noise. The Washington state congressional representatives, both of whom attended the event, were instrumental in helping **Richland** obtain federal funds for the project. Other current capital projects in **Richland** include Columbia Basin College's Health Sciences Education Center. The \$8.2 million, four-story, 65,000-square-foot facility is scheduled to open in fall 2006 and will house nearly all of Columbia Basin College's health science programs, enabling the college to double its nursing student capacity. The construction site is in core **Richland**, in proximity to the city's growing medical community. **Richland's** electrical customer load is also growing as the city extends power to customers in established neighborhoods that previously received electricity from another area provider. With current and planned electric transfers, all residents and business within the city limits will receive **Richland's** lower cost electricity. Growth is also continuing in other segments of **Richland**: the city continues to issue more building permits and more business licenses this year than in 2004, and the municipally owned and operated library set records for daily and monthly circulation this summer. With its 2005 mid-year budget tightening, **Richland** now appears in better financial condition to face 2006 and 2007. Finally, they anticipate an interesting fall as 14 **Richland**

residents, including a mother and two sons, have filed for the five open city council positions.

Region 6, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties

John Sherman, City Supervisor, City of Pullman

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In **Colfax**, city administrator Emily Adams reports that they are still waiting for word regarding their historic preservation grant.

In **Pullman**, city supervisor John Sherman reports that things are at a hectic pace in trying to meet the deadlines for the start of the WSU school year. Grand Ave. (SR 27) our main and only north-south connector through town is currently under construction. As usual, construction schedules seem to be made to coincide with making it impossible to get either to and/or through **Pullman** with either the start of school or a football game. All four of our open city council positions are being contested. We will have a primary election required as well. We are holding our half-day annual tour for the benefit of city council candidates, new employees and citizens. This is a good way we have found to provide an orientation for city council applicants as well as to allow our employees to understand more fully how they fit into the city organization. Construction activity remains very brisk. We have issued 63 single family building permits through July. Total construction valuation has already topped the \$40 million mark so far this year. In summary, things are very busy and looking to become extremely more hectic as the school year commences.

Region 7, Adams, Grant, & Lincoln Counties

Ehman Sheldon, City Administrator, City of Othello

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Valinda Knighten, clerk-treasurer, **Grand Coulee**, responded to the plea she received from the WCMA region 7 representative in this manner.

She reports she is sending a link to a story that appeared last week in the Columbia Basin Herald. It describes the project the city of **Grand Coulee** currently has underway!

<http://www.columbiabasinherald.com/articles/2005/07/15/news/news02.txt>

Mike Thompson, city administrator, reports that the city of **Warden** is in the process of drilling a new well. They have a problem with EDB in one of their primary city wells. In addition to drilling a replacement well, we have two wells to decommission, two wells to case all the way down, and rework an old well to make a monitoring well for DOE to monitor the aquifer. All of this at a cost of \$2.4 million. **Warden** received a grant from CDBG for \$1 million, and a \$1 million proviso in the state budget to cover most of the cost. The rest of it will be covered by

smaller grants and low interest loans.

The other project the city is working on is a new wastewater treatment plant. They are almost done with the engineering and design on a class A water reclamation facility. These plans will be submitted by the end of August so they can get approval for the upcoming funding cycles. This project is in the \$8 million range so they are looking for all the funding help they can find.

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

From **Cheney**, city administrator Paul Schmidt reports that an economic development summit will be held in there on August 17, 2005, to discuss strategy for “tipping” the **Cheney** community into a more diverse and sustainable economy. Based on the concept in a recent book, “Tipping Points”, major business stakeholders in the community as well as Eastern Washington University officials will gather at the summit to forge a new economic strategy.

The city and Educational Service District 101 are finalizing an interlocal agreement to provide a Safe Schools/Healthy Students Coordinator for the greater **Spokane** area. The coordinator will be funded through a federal grant and the city will provide the housing and employment amenities for the coordinator position. It is expected that the Safe Schools/Healthy Students program will be funded for three (3) years.

Cheney’s annual residential street and sidewalk improvements are currently underway, totaling approximately \$320,000 this year, with significant arterial street improvements being planned for 2006. The city’s wastewater treatment and reclamation facility future expansion will begin design late this fall with construction expected later in 2006. A very preliminary design phase II of their downtown improvement project is starting with anticipation of federal enhancement funds to anchor the improvement costs.

In short, all is busy in **Cheney**.

Griff reports that every thing is going well in **Liberty Lake**. They had a ribbon cutting on the fourth of July to open our new pedestrian bridge over I-90. The attendance was over 500 for this 8:30 a.m. event. The \$1.5 million project was long awaited. The project was started before they became a city by the county and a transportation benefit district. Once they incorporated, they became involved and helped fund and push the project through. It is a nice addition and connects the trails in the community and provides safe passage over the freeway. Funding from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and super support from Steven Gorcester, executive director of TIB made it possible. Another exciting thing in the community is the farmers market which is held every Saturday a.m., April through September. It continues to grow. The comp plan is nearing being in compliance. They will be adopting their capital facilities plan on August 2, which is the last piece of the puzzle. Once they are in compliance they plan on

devoting a lot of time to assisting their neighbors making sure their plan is also in compliance. Their construction continues to move along. A new restaurant, Caffe Liberte, will open at the end of August and Home Depot has broken ground and should be open in 6 months or so. Griff also says, “See you all at Sun Mountain!”

Region 9, Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties

Mike Cecka, Management Consultant

ceckanewhorizons@yahoo.com

Richard Brinkman, Interim Regional Representative

City Administrator, City of Leavenworth

cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com

Mike Cecka, the usual regional representative for Region 9, is “at sea” as this is written. Since Mike finished his stint as interim city administrator of **Leavenworth**, which he held while the recruitment for a permanent replacement went on, he’s done a little consulting work, and also has concentrated on a proposed cruise. He and partner Sandy are cruising on their boat Chinook to and back from Alaska as this goes to print. Mike was good enough to send a running copy of the log of the voyage through his son, who has posted it on a website. When he and Sandy put into ports along the way, they have sometimes found a cyber place for communication purposes. Mike has now given permission to let the WCMA folk know how to access it. If you’re like the editor, you’ll be fascinated. Go to <http://chinook.home.dyndns.org> and sail along. And have a great trip!

And while the editor is putting in an oar, he wants to very much thank Richard Brinkman, city administrator, **Leavenworth**, for agreeing to spell Mike as regional representative for Region 9 for this issue of WCMA News.

Editor’s comment: There **IS** life after

Region 10, Island, San Juan, Skagit & Whatcom Counties

Gary Tomsic, City Manager, City of Blaine

gtomsic@cityofblaine.com

Bill Verwolf, city administrator for **Lynden**, reports that they are under construction with an intersection signalization project, the rebuilding of fourteen blocks of Grover Street, a major sewer trunk expansion to the east of town. In addition, there is a major water storage and pumping renovation project underway. The city just opened bids for a new police station and expects to award the bids within two weeks. The downtown area is finishing a streetscape design process that will be incorporated in future street work in the area.

Gary Tomsic, **Blaine** city manager, reports that residential building activity in **Blaine** is running well ahead of past years. If building permit growth continues through the remaining part of the

summer, the city will experience a 100% increase in permits issued in 2004. Like most **Whatcom County** cities, **Blaine** has a number of development projects under review. Projects totaling over 1500 units are currently being reviewed by the city staff and planning commission. This growth is placing great pressure on the city's infrastructure, especially wastewater treatment. The design for a new plant is underway and is expected to cost around \$20 million. The first phase starts next year and the project will be completed and operational in 2009.

Blaine has a number of street projects underway and is planning a new streets levy election sometime next year to continue needed street improvements.

Phase 1 of the city's boardwalk project was bid and awarded for \$1.25 million. Work on the downtown boardwalk will commence this fall.

Tomsic also reports that the **Whatcom County** Small Cities Caucus (**Ferndale, Lynden, Sumas, Everson, Nooksack** and **Blaine**) in conjunction with the Port of Bellingham just completed a four day assessment of the cities' downtown redevelopment efforts. Funded by the Port of Bellingham, the program involved having Sheri Stuart, a consultant with the National Trust's Main Street Center spend one-half day in each of the six communities. The visits included a tour and meetings with community government and business leaders. The consultant's observations and recommendations were then presented at a meeting held in **Lynden** at the Homestead Resort.

Region 11, Snohomish County

Larry Bauman, City Manager, City of Snohomish

bauman@ci.snohomish.wa.us

From **Mill Creek**, city manager Steve Nolen sends this update:

Mill Creek Town Center is moving to completion. With the approval of the design review board of the seven buildings in phase III of the Town Center, the entire 450,000 square feet of mixed use project is expected to be near completion in late 2006. The project was planned and designed by the city and is the centerpiece of the **Mill Creek's** major economic development program.

The project lies between SR-527 and the sensitive North Creek Environmental Greenway. The original vision is being implemented by eight different developers using the city's design guidelines to design and construct streets, buildings, landscaping, and parking facilities. The project is configured in a traditional main street layout with a total of 21 buildings and three public plazas brought up close to the street, wide sidewalks, on-street parking together with structured and surface parking lots located behind buildings. The project is anchored by a 60,000 square foot Central Market grocer on one end and a 45,000 LA Fitness health club on the other.

To provide a full range transportation accessibility options, the project is connected to surrounding residential neighborhoods, city hall and the existing commercial business core with new extensions of Main Street. The North Creek Trail and sidewalks provide access to six new compact neighborhoods as well as the original residential areas. When completed in late 2006, the **Mill Creek** Town Center will be a walkable, new urban mixed use development with good linkage to surrounding uses. The **Mill Creek** Town Center was the recipient of a 2005 PSRC Vision 2020 award.

The city of **Mill Creek** buys building to relieve city hall crowding. For several years, the city has evaluated various options for relieving crowded conditions, including adding a second floor to city hall. Earlier this year the city purchased for \$3.75 million the 32,500 square foot Huntron building next door to city hall. Currently there are three commercial tenants occupying about 60 percent of the space. City staff are evaluating both short and long term options for use of the office-warehouse building. In the near term, we are considering moving some community recreation programs from city hall into the Huntron Building and to lease the balance of the building.

Finally, Steve reports that they are about to cut the ribbon on the Dumas Road project, which has a really attractive rock wall feature.

Rich Leahy, city manager, **Mukilteo**, reports that his assistant of 7 years, Dave Beach, has moved on to become the assistant to the city manager of **University Place**, Texas. Leahy is looking to fill the vacancy with an energetic entry-level professional who can run through brick walls. If you know anyone who fits this bill, have them contact Rich.

Mukilteo recently transferred ownership of the city-owned library building to the Library District. This will save **Mukilteo** about \$50,000 in annual maintenance costs and avoid future expansion costs.

Mukilteo recently accepted 12 acres of undeveloped property from the Department of Natural Resources. The no cost land transfer was worked out by local state legislators and requires that the property be used for recreation facilities, primarily for school-age children only. Development of the property is complicated by wetlands and newly adopted wider buffers based on "best available science." The city intends to negotiate an agreement with the Boys & Girls Club to develop a new club facility to fulfill the transfer requirements.

It looks like **Mukilteo** is finally on track to build a new city hall. After more than 25 years of leasing space for city hall at two different locations, selecting and unselecting sites, the city finally settled on a site and is designing a building that should be under construction early next year. One problem, a citizen initiative was submitted to overturn the decision to build city hall at the selected location.

From **Snohomish**, city manager Larry Bauman reports that summertime has seen some long-

germinating projects finally blossom. The city's new visitor information center, built with a combination of funds from TEA-21 and a business license assessment, opened to the public on July 9. More than 400 visitors trooped in during the grand opening day. The building's design motif follows one of the original **Snohomish** railway stations and displays inside honor the historic role the rails played in developing the city's early commercial life. The center is located near the Avenue D Bridge over the **Snohomish** River and serves as a gateway to the historic downtown. Meanwhile, mobilization is beginning for construction of the second phase of the Riverfront Trail across the street. Also funded largely by TEA-21, the project will complete the current design for this riverfront walking and cycling amenity.

On the economic development front, planning is under way by a major developer for more than 300,000 square feet of commercial space on the northwest edge of **Snohomish**. The regional retail project, known as **Snohomish** Station, realizes an important economic development goal that took hold in 2002 with the annexation of the Bickford Avenue area. Construction is expected to begin in 2006. In the historic downtown area, planning continues to move toward a sub-area amendment to the comprehensive plan for 22 acres of land along the riverfront. This area, which includes the city's 9-acre public works yard as well as some city open space and rights of way, is the last remnant of the semi-industrial uses that grew up along the river in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The concept for redevelopment includes condominiums, a boutique hotel and visitor serving commercial uses that would link to the existing historic business district.

While 2006 still promises to be a tough budget year in **Snohomish**, the light glimmering at the end of the tunnel could make 2007 a year of significant retail sales tax improvements. Until then, **Snohomish** is riding the REET wave with other western Washington cities and planning to use the increased capital funding for street and sidewalk improvements. The annual council planning and budget retreat is scheduled for July 9.

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Region 12, North King County

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

mitch@clydehill.org

From **Carnation**, Bill Brandon, city manager, sends the following:

Believe it or not, **Carnation** is one of only two cities in **King County** that does not have a public sewer system. I was hired a little over two years ago to change that situation. I was given the daunting task of completing a \$22 million project for a city with under 2,000 folks. The estimated cost per individual hook up for a residence has been estimated to reach \$155 per month. My team and I have been able to secure firm commitments for \$3.5 million thus far to buy down our loan costs, much more to go. I am also in the midst of a \$900,000 water improvement project. I am not, however, contemplating a city hall building project. I will be at the WCMA summer conference, and I am the fellow with the bib-overalls with holey knees.

Kirkland has teamed up with several cities and fire districts in north and east **King County** to study the potential benefits of regionalizing public safety dispatch for this area of the county. The stakeholders in this effort to regionalize dispatch services hope to achieve the goals of providing a higher level of service for the public while at the same time realizing cost efficiencies through economies of scale. The group is working with ADCOMM Engineering and Karen Reed Consulting to develop a model governance agreement and a business and services plan for a regional dispatch entity. This phase of work is scheduled to be completed by December 2005, at which point the agencies will decide whether to continue to move the project forward to the implementation phase.

Kirkland continues to work on the annexation issue, which has proven to be a difficult nut to crack. Their latest fiscal study shows that **Kirkland** will incur a \$5 million annual operating deficit if we were to annex the Kingsgate, Juanita, and Finn Hill neighborhoods (population

32,500). They're working with the Association of Washington Cities to develop a legislative proposal that would provide a revenue source to help fund service delivery during an annexation transition period. They are also exploring land use and phasing strategies that could help enhance annexation options.

Nine days before the deadline, **Kirkland** has successfully raised over \$200,000 to purchase three bronze wildlife sculptures located in downtown **Kirkland** near Carillon Point. These works of art had been on loan to the community for years. Last fall, the owner of the sculptures notified the city of his intention to sell them and gave us nine months to raise the money for the purchase. In response, the **Kirkland** Cultural Council launched the "Save the Animals" campaign to purchase these pieces by Dan Ostermiller, internationally known for his distinctive style of wildlife sculpting. Well over 600 donors from neighborhoods, business, citizens including youth, and even people from other communities gave both time and money to help fundraise.

From **Shoreline**, assistant city manager Julie Modrzejewski reports that in the July issue of **Seattle Magazine**, Shoreline is rated the #1 neighborhood among the top 84 neighborhoods in the **Seattle** region. The key elements that elevated them to #1 are: excellent schools and parks, low crime, and affordable housing.

Shoreline – Seattle Magazine's #1 Neighborhood!

Current Hot Neighborhoods

84 TOP SEATTLE-AREA NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD	WALKABILITY	WALK SCORE	BIKE SCORE	TRANSIT	CONV. SCORE	POP. DENSITY	POP. GROWTH	POP. CHANGE	POP. PER AC	POP. PER MI ²
1. Shoreline	95	95	95	95	95	100	100	100	100	100
2. Rainier	90	90	90	90	90	100	100	100	100	100
3. West Seattle	85	85	85	85	85	100	100	100	100	100
4. Ballard	80	80	80	80	80	100	100	100	100	100
5. Fremont	75	75	75	75	75	100	100	100	100	100

Other good news includes the results of their most recent employee satisfaction survey. With a 90% response rate, they experienced an increase on nearly every single question. The 2003 to 2005 comparisons are remarkable -- in many cases we had double-digit increases. Here's a sample of their results:

- 94% agreed “I trust the information that the city manager provides employees.”
- 96% agreed “My department head facilitates and encourages open, honest, and constructive communication.”
- 99% agreed “I have a clear understanding of how my job fits with the mission of the City.”
- 98% agreed “Employees are willing to give extra to get the job done and to be responsive.”

Joni Earl, executive director, **Sound Transit (ST)**, reports they are continuing to be extremely busy. All that activity includes building projects, delivering more service, and most notably advancing the conversation about a potential phase 2, called “ST2”, set of projects and services. On the project side, construction is going well on the light rail project -- all 14 miles are in construction, the football-field size tunnel boring machine arrived in July, it will take 2 months to re-assemble it, then they start boring into Beacon Hill probably in October. They have started construction in the **Tukwila** area along I-5, so this will be very visible for the public, which is great. On July 14, the **ST** board formally adopted the project scope, schedule and budget for the airport link extension of 1.7 miles, which will open in late 2009. Thanks to great work with the Port of **Seattle** and the city of **SeaTac**, they now have a 15.7 mile light rail system funded and moving forward. They added a second Sounder commuter rail round-trip in early June, and are happy to report that they have seen about a 40% increase in ridership on that line with the additional service. They broke ground on a couple of their bus capital projects since the last newsletter, and have several projects near completion in the next 6 months. Things are exciting!

On July 7th, the **ST** board adopted an amended long-range plan for regional transit, out to 2030. This plan takes into account an expected 1.2 million more people in the region by 2030 with an accompanying 45% increase in employment and a 45% increase in vehicle miles traveled. Huge numbers! Now that the plan is adopted, they have “launched” their **ST2** process around the three-county region hoping to have a draft set of project and service priorities by year-end, with the goal of being on the fall 2006 ballot. It’s an aggressive schedule.

On a personal note to those of you who have been in the business “*a long time*”..... Vernon Stoner (deputy executive director of **ST**) is getting married in September! Joni asks that you don’t let him know she I told you).

From **Woodinville**, city manager Pete Rose reports that they are spending a summer of “white knuckle” bid openings, as three have made it barely under the engineer’s estimate and one had to be rejected. The bid climate required them to re-calibrate their CIP this spring and the petroleum prices and steel prices are making the new estimates obsolete already. This is hard news for a council in a small city, because there are comparatively few construction projects as the years come and go.

Two development agreements are nearing the public hearing stage: one is for the new **Woodinville** Wine Village, an 18 acre mixed use development with five small wineries sited across the river from Chateau Ste. Michelle. It was reported in the last edition. The other is an agreement with Sound Transit to jointly develop a transit-oriented housing project at the **Woodinville** park & ride. This is very good negotiating experience for a small city staff.

The **Woodinville** and **Redmond** joint fireworks show was a rousing success. The site and event template of the annual **Woodinville** show turned out to be easily expandable and the communities had a great experience, with about 20,000 having an enjoyable time sitting out on the JB Sod Farm lawns.

The **Woodinville** council is working on a CIP that is a major investment strategy to go into borrowing and selected tax and fee increases in a major way for the first time in its short history. This is to enable a few large, but important projects -- primarily streets with big intrinsic payoffs -- to be put in place soon rather than queuing up in pay-as-you-go priority. Three of the four council seats are contested, so they'll see how election year politics colors that approach.

As reported earlier, public works, parks and planning staff have been working on five master plans. A non-motorized transportation plan and parks, recreation and open space plan from that list has been adopted, lightening the load a bit.

Region 13, South King County

Merlin MacReynold, City Manager, City of Normandy Park

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From **Burien**, Gary Long, city manager, reports that the city council on June 13 approved a milestone \$135 million project agreement with Town Square developer Urban Partners that clears the way for the next steps in the public-private project in downtown **Burien**. Urban Partners' plans call for two city blocks of condominium and rental housing, with retail and mixed uses on the northern parcels of Town Square along SW 150th Street. The site of the former Gottschalks building facing SW 152nd Street is set aside for a multiplex theater or housing, with possible retail/restaurant/office uses. The development agreement was the final of three contracts that the council has approved to implement the Town Square project. Developer agreements for the street construction and the library/city hall were approved June 6. Construction on Town Square is set to begin in 2006.

Problems with the water system and building structure at the **Burien** Highline Senior Center forced the city to move programs to other locations. The senior lunch/nutrition program was moved for two weeks to North **SeaTac** Park Community then again July 5 to a nearby church. Other programs at the senior center were permanently moved to the **Burien** Community Center in late July. The lunch program will move to the Community Center in early September.

The **Burien** parks department teamed with Discover **Burien** and the **Burien** Arts Association to

put on a vastly expanded strawberry festival attended by record crowds on June 18 and 19th. Thousands also lined both sides of SW 152nd Street on a sunny July 4th for the annual Independence Day parade that featured Gov. Christine Gregoire sporting an "I Love **Burien**" t-shirt. The popular annual Concert in the Park series was enjoyed by many on Thursday evenings at Lake **Burien** School Park.

The **Burien** city council on June 6 approved a resolution declaring beaches at Seahurst and Eagle

Landing parks as marine reserve areas to help protect the marine habitat at the parks. The resolution prohibits the intentional taking or damaging of shells, rocks, plants, driftwood, shellfish or animals dead or alive from beaches that have been designated marine reserve areas. The council directed that the beaches be posted as "No Take" areas.

From **Federal Way**, David Moseley, city manager, reports that on June 21st, the city broke ground on our new 72,000 square foot state-of-the-art community center. Bids for the project were opened in late May, and they were pleased that four of the five bids came in under budget. The low bid was 14.2 million, which is \$300,000 below the engineer's original estimate. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2006.

The city is negotiating with the Pacific Harbors Council of the Boy Scouts of American for the possible purchase of the Camp Kilworth property. Camp Kilworth is a 25-acre site on Puget Sound that has been used by the Boy Scouts since the 1930s. The Pacific Harbors Council announced earlier this year that it wishes to sell the underutilized property.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held this month for the completion of our Pacific Highway South phase II project. The project continued the road and pedestrian improvements on Pacific Highway South from S. 324th to S. 340th Street. Some of the needed improvements include new curbs, sidewalks, planter strips, planted medians, and widening the street to allow for an HOV lane in each direction. Phase III of the project will begin next summer and will continue the improvements from S. 284th to Dash Point Road.

Recently the city's downtown redevelopment consultant, The Leland Consulting Group, presented market study findings that indicated a strong demand within the greater **Federal Way** trade area for substantial new development in the retail, hospitality, office and housing sectors over the next ten years, noting particularly that market support exists for "lifestyle center" retail tenants on the order of 200-275,000 square feet.

In addition, the consultants presented recommended strategies that would help lead the city in the direction of achieving desired redevelopment through a combination of incentives, regulatory changes, and public-private participation strategies.

Their next steps will be to identify potential redevelopment project types, potential locations and concrete next steps towards securing and constructing a mixed-use, retail/housing/office/hotel

project in the **Federal Way** city center.

From **Normandy Park**, Merlin Macreynold, city manager, reports that the city, representing a group of smaller cities (10,000 or less population) in **Pierce** and **King County**, made a recommendation to the Small Cities Advisory Committee at the AWC conference. The two main proposals from the group consisted of requesting that AWC change its definition of small cities to 5,000 populations versus their current definition of 3,000. The other was to actively lobby the legislature to provide equalization funding to cities that were severely impacted by the loss of equalization funding. They have not heard the outcome concerning the AWC small cities definition, but there was some relief from the last legislature for the equalization cities. The legislative action certainly did not help all those cities that lost equalization funding, and that was a disappointment, but in general it was a positive move and Merlin wants to thank AWC for their assistance and efforts during the session.

Code enforcement continues to be a challenge for their city and he is very pleased that **Des Moines** has been cooperative in allowing them to utilize their code enforcement officer one day a week. This will be a very important step for their city and he appreciates the cooperation of the **Des Moines** city manager and staff.

The Puget Sound Growth Management Hearing Board decision concerning **Normandy Park's** comp plan and zoning last month was very concerning to the city. They also believe it should be disconcerting to all cities with the county UGA. The main issue was the board's "bright line" zoning of no less than 4 dwelling units per acre within the county UGA. They believe that the board has clearly gone beyond their authority concerning the GMA and its goals. They are currently exploring their options.

If you happen to be in their city any Sunday in August please go to Marvista Park and enjoy their Music in The Park events. They start at 5 p.m. and the city arts commission has done a great job providing a wide variety of family oriented music that everyone will enjoy.

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

University Place is now ten years old. And the following article appeared in [The Tacoma News Tribune](#):

UPlace marks 10 years of successful cityhood

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Last updated: July 27th, 2005 02:40 AM (PDT)

The citizens and leaders of **University Place** can be forgiven if they're in a boosterish mood this

summer. With the 10th anniversary of cityhood approaching, they've got a lot to feel boosterish about.

Many new cities were created in Western Washington after the 1990 Growth Management Act encouraged communities to incorporate. Not all fared equally well, but University Place has been a textbook case of how to do cityhood right.

To appreciate its success, you have to know what it started with. **University Place** did possess a strong sense of community that largely revolved around its excellent schools. But it was short on almost everything else that defines a city: parks, sidewalks, streetlights, a well-defined "downtown" and pedestrian-friendly streets.

The GMA was right: Counties aren't cut out for running cities. Under **Pierce County's** governance, **University Place** had become a hodgepodge of subdivisions, some so badly planned that schoolbuses had troubling turning around in them. Such thoroughfares as Bridgeport Way West, 67th Avenue West and Grandview Drive West were downright dangerous; drivers blasted through them, sometimes at highway speeds.

All that has changed in 10 years – changed dramatically for the better.

Under the new City Council and administration of City Manager Bob Jean, **University Place** tamed its arterials with innovative "traffic calming" measures, including roundabouts, that slowed cars and cut the rate of injury accidents. It expanded police protection, launched recreational programs, built sidewalks, created crosswalks, installed streetlights and inaugurated community festivals.

The new city began grabbing what it could of the area's remaining open spaces: It started with two tiny parks and now has 13, including two yet undeveloped. Bridgeport has been transformed into an attractive boulevard, and the stretch between 40th and 35th now has the look and feel of an authentic city center.

All this has been accomplished with overall tax rates no higher than would have been levied under the county. Grants, partnerships, volunteers and private donations made modest capital and community-improvement funds go very far indeed.

Ten years ago, the city of **University Place** began life short on capital assets but long on community spirit. It has since proven, abundantly, which was more important.

From the counties

*Claire Hauge, Director of the Office of Financial Management, Cowlitz County
President, Washington County Administrative Association (WCAA)*

hauec@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Dan Powers, human resources director of **Okanogan County** (and former WCAA president), retired on June 30, 2005, after 22 years of service with the county. Dan's replacement is Nanette

Kallunki, Administrative Coordinator, 123 5th Avenue N, Room 150, **Okanogan**, WA. 98840; phone (509) 422-7104; E-mail: nkallunki@co.okanogan.wa.us

Upcoming Meetings....

WCAA's 2005 fall quarterly meeting will be held in **Vancouver**, WA, on September 22, 9:00 a.m. - noon, as a concurrent session at the WSAC fall conference. Tentative agenda items include a report from WSAC on legislative issues and WSAC service & business efforts; reports from Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) and Washington Counties Insurance Fund/Pool (WCIF), county reports and budget roundtable.

WCAA's 2006 Annual Meeting will be in **Leavenworth**, WA, March 22-24, 2006; agenda under construction!

One final note:

Thanks to all those who have responded to the request for information for the WCMA Compensation and Benefit Survey for 2005. Copies are intended to be available at the summer conference at Sun Mountain. For those not able to attend, please let MRSC know that you'd like to receive a copy, and one will be mailed to you. Contact Ron Bartels at rbartels@mrsc.org.

Transitions

Eric A. Anderson, city manager, Des Moines, Iowa, has been appointed city manager of Tacoma.

David Beach, formerly assistant to the city administrator of Mukilteo, is the new city manager of West University Place, Texas.

Ray Corpuz, formerly city manager of Tacoma, has been appointed city manager of Seaside, California.

Linda Herzog is back. She's currently serving as assistant to **Jay Covington**, chief administrative officer of Renton, for a six month period.

Dena Laurent is active again among us. She's a volunteer, assisting **Jay Covington**, chief administrative officer of Renton, with keeping track of the agenda, roster, and such, of the King County managers/administrators group. So what's that called? Since the person who chaired the King County group used to be know as the King, Assistant King, maybe??

Bill Malinen is the new assistant administrator of Lynnwood, and was formerly the city manager of Fife.

Steve Nolen, who had served as assistant administrator of Lynnwood, is the new city manager of Mill Creek.

Jerry Osterman is active among us again. He's serving as interim city manager of Mountlake Terrace while they recruit for the position.

Jim Reinbold, formerly one of us as city administrator of Cheney, and more lately a councilmember in Cheney, and head of security at the Cheney School District, has resigned as councilmember and his day job, and has been named to be the assistant city manager of Fife. Jim currently serves as a board of directors member of MRSC, where he will remain for the completion of his term.

WCMA Election (2005)

The results of the election are in. Those elected are:

President Malcolm H. Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Bellingham

Vice President Duane R. Cole, City Manager, City of Walla Walla

Board of Directors

John C. Darrington City Manager, City of Richland

Donald D. Krupp Chief Administrative Officer, Thurston County

Cathy Mulhall County Administrator, Chelan County

Mary P. Swenson Chief Administrative Officer, City of Marysville

Ben Yazici City Manager, City of Sammamish

The gavel will pass and the newly elected folks will take their places during the Summer Conference at Sun Mountain. The President and Vice President each serve for a one year term, while the Board of Directors serve for two years.

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

Board of Directors

(2003 – 2005)

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

John Sherman, City Supervisor, Pullman
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Andrew Neiditz, City Manager, Lakewood
(253) 589-2489 aneiditz@cityoflakewood.us

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

(2004 – 2006)

Duane Cole, City Manager, Walla Walla
(509) 527-4522 dcole@ci.walla-walla.wa.us

William McDonald, City Administrator, Dupont
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Debra Symmonds, Deputy City Manager, Mercer Island
(206) 236-5325 deb.symmonds@ci.mercer-island.wa.us

Ex Officio members

Stan Finkelstein, Executive Director, Association of Washington Cities
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L. Joe Miller, RangeRider
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2005 Calendar

- **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

WCMA News is a publication of the Washington City/County Management Association. President, David Ramsay;
Editor, Ron Bartels

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